Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms

Thousands of synonyms defined, discriminated and illustrated with quotations. Plus antonyms, analogous words and contrasting words.

To help you use the right word in the right place.
Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms

“A must for every writer's library.”—THE BOSTON GLOBE

“An easy-to-use aid to precise word use.”—THE WRITER

This 942-page volume shows you how to use the right word in the right place, quickly and clearly.

The alphabetical arrangement saves hunting through an index and its easy-to-use cross-reference system pinpoints related words.

Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms contains synonymies in which words of similar meaning are defined and discriminated and illustrated with thousands of pertinent quotations from both classic and contemporary writers, showing the language in actual precise use.

Antonyms, analogous words, and contrasted words provide additional information on word relationships.

And the introduction presents an informative and helpful survey of the history of synonomy.
FROM MERRIAM-WEBSTER

• THE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY
Webster's Third New International—A masterpiece of modern defining—more than 460,000 entries, with 200,000 usage examples and 1,000 synonym articles. 3,000 terms illustrated. Simplified pronunciation key and clear, informative etymologies. The standard authority.

• DECK SIZE DICTIONARY
Webster's Ninth New Collegiate—The newest in the famous Collegiate series. Almost 160,000 entries and 200,000 definitions. Entries for words often misused and confused include a clear, authoritative guide to good usage. For an exclusive feature—entries are dated. How old is a word? When was it first used? The answer is here, but in no other American dictionary.

• GEOGRAPHY
Webster's New Geographical Dictionary—World facts at your finger tips! More than 47,000 entries and 217 maps provide basic information on the world's countries, regions, cities, and natural features. A convenient source of detailed information about the world you live in.

• BIOGRAPHY
Webster's New Biographical Dictionary—A unique one-volume reference work providing essential information on more than 30,000 men and women—of all eras, all parts of the world, and from all fields of endeavor. Pronunciation is given for each name and end-of-line division is clearly indicated.

• SPORTS
Webster's Sports Dictionary—The only book of its kind, it explains and defines the equipment, signals, and language used in over 100 sports—from airplane racing to yachting. Filled with actual quotations from athletes and sportwriters, original drawings, and diagrams.

• THE OFFICIAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE DICTIONARY
Webster's Official Crossword Puzzle Dictionary—Over 120 specialized lists that will bring the puzzle solver and the answer word together quickly and easily. Three column format.

Merriam-Webster Inc.
Springfield, MA 01102
These special features make Webster's New Dictionary of Synonyms easier to use, more precise and complete than any reference of its kind:

1. Each discrimination begins with a brief common definition.
2. Special applications and shades of meaning are given for each discriminated word in an article.
3. For quicker reference every discriminated word is listed in alphabetical order.
4. Antonyms and contrasted words are also listed.
5. Quotations from outstanding writers illustrate how a word is and has been used.
6. Convenient cross-reference system aids in locating related words.
7. Detailed discussions of each word in a group show how to use exactly the right word in the right place.
8. Analogous words with closely similar meaning are grouped together.

persevere

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

Ana *continue, abide, endure, last
Con vary, *change, alter: waver, vacillate, falter, *hesitate

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

persist 1 *persevere
Ant desist—Con discontinue, cease, *stop, quit
2 *continue, last, endure, abide
Ant desist—Con *stop, cease, discontinue

A Genuine MERRIAM-WEBSTER®
More people take our word for it.
Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms

A DICTIONARY OF DISCRIMINATED SYNONYMS WITH ANTONYMS AND ANALOGOUS AND CONTRASTED WORDS

MERRIAM-WEBSTER INC., Publishers
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.
A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

*A Merriam-Webster*® is the registered trademark you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 1984 by Merriam-Webster Inc.
Philippines Copyright 1984 by Merriam-Webster Inc.

ISBN 0-87779-241-0

Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms principal copyright 1968

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

24RMcN92
## CONTENTS

**Preface** ........................................... 4a

**Introductory Matter**

- **Survey of the History of English Synonymy** ........................................... 5a
- **Synonym**: Analysis and Definition ..................................................... 23a
- **Antonym**: Analysis and Definition ..................................................... 26a
- Analogous and Contrasted Words ......................................................... 30a

**Explanatory Notes** ........................................... 32a

**A Dictionary of Discriminated Synonyms** ........................................... 1

**Appendix**: List of Authors Quoted ........................................... 887
WEBSTER'S NEW DICTIONARY OF SYNONYMS is newly edited and entirely reset but based upon Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms, which rapidly became a favorite book among readers and writers who wish to understand, appreciate, and make nice discriminations in English words that are similar in meaning. The earlier book filled a widespread need for a work devoted to synonymy with accessory material in the form of word lists of various kinds. The editors of this new and revised edition have rewritten and sharpened the discriminations, have increased the number of articles, and have more than doubled the number of authors quoted. Particular attention has been given to updating the quotations so that they accurately reflect today's English.

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

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

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

PHILIP B. GOVE
Editor in Chief
INTRODUCTORY MATTER

SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH SYNONYMY

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

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

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

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

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

---

1 Mrs. Piozzi in her own preface (p. vii) mentions Girard and says, “I should be too happy, could I imitate his delicacy of discrimination, and felicity of expression.”
Introduction

is the story of the milliner's apprentice who saved her chicken bones to feed a horse. Johnson contended that such an action showed that she was ignorant, but Mrs. Piozzi maintained that it proved her senseless. "I thought her an idiot [sic]" was, for her, the last word on the matter.

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

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

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

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

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

"Fondness," says the Definer, "is the hasty and injudicious determination of the will towards promoting the present gratification of some particular object."

"Fondness," said Dr. Johnson, "is rather the hasty and injudicious attribution of excellence, somewhat beyond the power of attainment, to the object of our affection."

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

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

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

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

TO ABANDON, FORSAKE, RELINQUISH, GIVE UP, DESERT, QUIT, LEAVE ... though at first sight apparently synonymous, conversing does certainly better shew the peculiar approbation, than books, however learned; for . . . familiar talk tells us in half an hour—That a man forsakes his mistress, abandons all hope of regaining her lost esteem, relinquishes his pretensions in favour of another. . . .

we say a lad of an active and diligent spirit, or else of an assiduous temper, or sedulous disposition. . . . we say that reports are confirmed, treaties ratified, and affairs settled.

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

The gentleman who discharges a gaming debt in preference to that of a tradesman, apparently prefers honour to another virtue, justice. . . .
Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are two things to notice here that are important. Perry was not merely greatly extending the traditional definition of synonym (as one of two or more words of identical meaning or of apparently identical meaning) and broadening it to include a group of words which have resemblances in meaning, but was doing so in what seems to be a misunderstanding of Dr. Johnson's purposes in adding such words to his definitions and in ignorance of what he supplied as a corrective. The fact
The work is, as a whole, uneven, but a few articles in it are not only better than any others written up to this [i.e., the definition]."

I cannot hope to satisfy those, who are perhaps not inclined to be pleased, since I have not always been able to satisfy myself. To interpret a language by itself is very difficult; many words cannot be explained by synonyms, because the idea signified by them has not more than one appellation; nor by paraphrase, because simple ideas cannot be described.

That was the difficulty. Synonyms would not perfectly satisfy the need either when the word defined had many meanings or when the word defining had more significations than the one intended, for in either case one must be too broad and the other too narrow. Then, too, "simple ideas" (really those involved in simple words such as be, do, act) were beyond definition, as Johnson saw it.

The rigour of interpretative lexicography requires that the explanation, and the word explained, should be always reciprocal; this I have always endeavoured but could not always attain. Words are seldom exactly synonymous; a new term was not introduced, but because the former was thought inadequate: names, therefore, have often many ideas, but few ideas have many names. It was then necessary to use the proximate word, for the deficiency of single terms can very seldom be supplied by circumlocution.

So Johnson wrote and so Perry quotes in his preface. But instead of continuing Johnson's statement to its end, Perry broke off with "circumlocution," thereby giving the reader some reason to infer that Johnson thought the method of definition by synonym preferable to that of definition by paraphrase. He had failed to notice or possibly had deliberately ignored that this was not in any sense Johnson's meaning, that both methods were faulty, but that there was a remedy for the imperfections of each. Johnson's addition to this last sentence, "nor is the inconvenience great of such mutilated interpretations, because the sense may easily be collected entire from the examples," makes that point clear. Perry may have been obtuse rather than disingenuous when, for the most part, he omits the examples (citations) of Johnson and enters synonyms, which are not, in Johnson's language, "exactly synonymous" but only "proximate words." But he may have known what Dr. Johnson meant, though his explanation is by no means clear:

...we by no means contend, that the whole of the explanations collected under such initial words as...we call RADICALS, are all strictly synonymous; neither, on the other hand, can we agree with those who roundly assert, that there are not two words in the whole English language of precisely the same signification; but this we take upon us to say, that we have no less than Dr. Johnson's authority for their selection and disposition as explanatory of their meaning... .

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

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

William Taylor (1765–1836), the author of the first of these books, is better known as the translator of Burger's Lenore, Lessing's Nathan the Wise, and Goethe's Iphigenia in Tauris and as one of the leading promoters of knowledge of contemporary German literature during the romantic era. His English Synonymes Discriminated is the result of his studies in German, French, Italian, and other languages and of his conviction that no English work the equal of certain foreign treatises on synonyms had as yet been written. The work is, as a whole, uneven, but a few articles in it are not only better than any others written up to that time but the equal of any that were to be written for over ninety years. A favorite theory of his was that if one is thoroughly grounded in the original meaning of a term, one "can never be at a loss how to employ it in metaphor." Consequently, etymologies became for him an important means of showing this original meaning. They formed not an invariable part of his discrimination but a very useful part when they were needed. Usually, also, he knew when his etymology was grounded on fact and when it was merely hypothetical. His method at its best is exemplified in the article covering austere, severe, and rigid, which we give here in abridged form:
Austerity (says Blair²) relates to the manner of living: severity, of thinking, rigour, of punishing. To austerity is opposed effeminacy: to severity, relaxation: to rigour, clemency. A hermit is austere in his life; a casuist, severe in his decision; a judge, rigorous in his sentence.

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

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

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

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

To severity is opposed remissness.

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

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

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

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

Crabb's English Synonymes Explained is both the most laborious and the most ambitious work of its kind. In spirit and objective it is a far remove from Mrs. Piozzi's British Synonymy, few as are the years which intervened between their publication. For Mrs. Piozzi represented the old temper where sprightliness, elegance, and ease were paramount and Crabb the new temper in which the world had grown solemn and serious under the influence of many currents, such as the pressure of momentous events, the influence of Continental (especially German) thinkers, and the spread of all the new ideas spoken of collectively as romanticism. When the best philosophers and philosophic poets of the age were seeking to answer the questions what is beauty, what is poetry, what is art, what is genius and were discriminating the beautiful and the sublime, the naïve and the sentimental, imagination and fancy, the ugly and the grotesque, what synonymist could in conscience say that "synonymy has more to do with elegance than truth"?

Crabb was undoubtedly concerned with truth rather than elegance. He was stimulated by the thinking of his age and, like many persons of his time, responded with joy to the new philosophy that deepened and enriched the concepts of beauty, poetry, and truth. Although he was in no sense a philosopher, he had a smattering of philosophical knowledge, a small philosophical vocabulary, and a deep love of philosophical distinctions. He was also interested in philology as it was understood in his time. In the study of synonymms he found satisfaction of all these interests, all the more so since he had come to regard synonymms not as words of the same meaning but as "closely allied" words between which there are "nice shades of distinction." Discrimination not only gave him profound intellectual satisfaction: it also afforded him great opportunities. In his introduction he wrote:

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

² Hugh Blair, rhetorician, 1718–1800.
gentleman. which the words named or to which they were applied was characteristically infixed. He could not, for un-
anticipated objections he wrote, “a writer, whose business it was to mark the nice shades of distinction
between words closely allied, could not do justice to his subject without entering into all the relations of
society, and showing, from the acknowledged sense of many moral and religious terms, what has been the
general sense of mankind on many of the most important questions which have agitated the world.”

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

There are minute philosophers, who. . . deny that we possess any thing more than what this poor composi-
tion of flesh and blood can give us; and yet, methinks, sound philosophy would teach us that we ought to
prove the truth of one position, before we assert the falsehood of its opposite; and consequently that if we
deny that we have any thing but what is material in us, we ought first to prove that the material is suf-
icient to produce the reasoning faculty of man. . . . [He continued this line of argument through several sentences.]
But not to lose sight of the distinction drawn between the words soul and mind, I simply wish to show
that the vulgar and the philosophical use of these terms altogether accord, and are both founded on the true
nature of things.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are other devices used by Crabb which in later and defter hands proved valuable, but these three are the ones on which he has exerted his powers and with which he had greatest success. That the success was not complete is not entirely his fault. The English language is not a symmetrical language: it was never intended to be prodded into shape by the pen of the lexicographer or of the synonymist. No method is uniformly successful: every method must achieve a degree of fluidity before it can be turned to use. What was eminently true in Crabb's case is still eminently true, but some writers of today have learned to bow to necessity, a lesson which many early synonymists could not learn easily or gracefully.

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

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

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

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

Crabb's supremacy as a synonymist seems not to have been seriously threatened by a slight book which appeared in 1851, won general praise, and has been listed in practically every bibliography since that time. This book, usually called "Whately's book on synonyms," has never, so far as we know, been properly esteemed for its own values, nor has its true author ever been adequately recognized. Credit for its authorship is often given to the famous logician Richard Whately (1877–1863), Anglican archbishop of Dublin; rightly, it belongs to his daughter, Elizabeth Jane Whately. A modern but undated edition (before 1928) from the Boston house of Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard confuses both details of title and authorship by calling it on the title page "English Synonyms Discriminated, by Richard Whately, D.D." It has two prefaces, one the editor's preface signed, in the characteristic fashion of Anglican bishops, "Richard Dublin"; the other the preface by the author, which is unsigned.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. A clearer conception of the ways in which synonyms differ:

(a) Because of differences in implications.

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

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

(b) Because of differences in applications.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More than this, Roget did not call the words he selected synonyms, when they were of the same part of speech and belonged in the same column. That he understood “synonyms” as denoting words of equivalent meaning is evident in his reference to the discrimination of “apparently synonymous” terms. There can be no question that he thought word-finding lists of synonyms and of “apparently synonymous” terms would be too meager to suit the purposes he had in mind.

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

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

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

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

There is no evidence that Smith realized that he was changing the time-honored definition of synonym. His chief object in phrasing his definition of synonym was to set that term in opposition to antonym, which he regarded as its antithesis. Nevertheless, in so doing, he introduced a subtle and important change in the
definition. His statement reads as follows:

Words which agree in expressing one or more characteristic ideas in common [with the entry word] he [i.e., Smith himself] has regarded as Synonyms, those which negative one or more such ideas he has called Antonyms.

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These synonymies, with slight changes in phrasing and many additions, served for the two ensuing complete revisions of Merriam-Webster dictionaries, Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary of 1864 and Webster’s International Dictionary of 1890, both under the editorship of Noah Porter. In these books the articles on synonymy, instead of being grouped in the front matter, were distributed through the main vocabulary. In the publishers’ statement in the 1859 edition of the American Dictionary, note was made of the great advance in Goodrich’s synonymies over those of preceding writers:

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By 1909, the date of publication of the next complete revision of the Merriam-Webster® dictionaries (the first edition of Webster's New International Dictionary), there had been time for consideration of these matters and for a more sober judgment. The Goodrich synonymies clearly needed revision on account of the growth of the language and, partly, because the synonym lists could be enriched. The work was entrusted to John Livingston Lowes (1867–1945; then at Washington University, St. Louis, but later at Harvard University) under the advisory supervision of George Lyman Kittredge (1860–1941) of Harvard. They were to deal only with general senses, but a few technical articles written by specialists were to be submitted to them, so as to insure uniformity in manner and method. The articles thus prepared were included in

Certain points of agreement were established by Lowes and Kittredge early in the course of their partnership. Very early in the writing of these articles Lowes called Kittredge's attention to the Fernald list at adequate and the Century list, adequate, sufficient, enough. "Is not the Century's list adequate?" he wrote. "I did not notice the test my question affords, but none of the other words in the Standard's list can be substituted for 'adequate.' Are they not better distributed among other articles? The longer I study the material, the more strongly I feel that more articles, each discriminating fewer words, are advisable. The longer articles are, as a matter of fact, confusing, and seem to have led often to strained attempts to find a single common factor for words which fall more naturally into several groups." Kittredge agreed fully. Thus, the Webster tradition of discriminating synonyms that are synonyms in the accepted sense was followed. Looser synonyms or closely related words were still given in the word-finding lists, and these also were revised by Lowes, whose interests, however, were concentrated on the articles discriminating synonyms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

SYNONYM: ANALYSIS AND DEFINITION

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

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

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

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

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

As the demand grew for a large number of synonyms, even agreement in one or more characteristic ideas tended to break down. Twenty-five and more years later certain synonymists of repute were offering groups of words as synonyms of one word rather than of one another and were not restricting those words to one sense of their key term. For instance, one synonymist of this period gave as the synonyms of *stain* *blot*, *color*, *discolor*, *disgrace*, *dishonor*, *dye*, *soil*, *spot*, *sully*, *tarnish*, *tinge*, *tint*. It is true that not all are discriminated, *blot*, *disgrace*, *dishonor*, *soil*, *spot*, *sully*, *tarnish*, and *tint* being omitted, but even so, they are all given in alphabetical order as synonyms and without explanation. In the list as it stands some words are synonyms of *stain* in the sense of to discolor, some in the sense of to impart color to or suffuse with color, and some in the sense of to bring reproach upon; but others have only a slight idea in common with *stain* in one of its senses. Such lists are far from rare in the very late nineteenth century or the early twentieth century: to the consultant who seeks another and closer word for the one which occurs to him, they must be hopelessly confusing. They have no value in teaching the precise use of language: their only merit is to indicate some of the words which may be used when one feels the need of a word like *stain* in any of its senses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modern unabridged dictionaries, without exception, define antonym with comparative strictness. It is “a word of opposite meaning” (Webster’s New International Dictionary, Second Edition9), “a term which is the opposite or antithesis of another, a counter-term” (Oxford English Dictionary), “a word directly opposed to another in meaning; a counterterm: the opposite of synonym” (Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary), “a counterterm; an opposite; an antithetical word: the opposite of synonym” (Century Dictionary), and “a word that is an opposite in meaning of a particular word” (New Century Dictionary). In all of these definitions, the burden is on the word opposite or opposed; and, it should be added, all differences of opinion as to the criteria for determining antonyms are due to uncertainty as to what is meant by opposite or opposed. The physical connotations of these words always stand in the way of a strict definition of their abstract senses. How complex is the concept of opposition may be seen from the following analysis of its physical connotations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other classes are the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE TREATMENT OF ANTONYMS

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

ANALOGOUS AND CONTRASTED WORDS

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

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

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

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

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

| **acustomed** | wonted, customary, habitual, usual |
| **acoustic, acoustical** | auditory |
| **adamant, adamantine** | obdurate, inexorable, inflexible |
| **adept** | expert, wizard, artiste, artist, virtuoso |
| **adept** | proficient, skilled, skillful, expert, masterly |
| **affection** | feeling, emotion, passion, sentiment |
| **affection** | disease, disorder, condition, ailment, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome |
| **aggravate** | 1. heighten, intensify, enhance |
| **aggravate** | 2. exasperate, irritate, provoke, rile, peeve, nettle |
| **alarm** | 1. (Alarm, tocsin, alert) agree in meaning a signal that serves as a call to action or to be on guard especially in a time of imminent danger. (Alarm) is used of any signal that arouses to activity not only troops, but emergency workers (as firemen, policemen); it suggests a sound such as a cry, a pealing of a bell, a beating of drums, or a siren; sound a fire alarm. (Tocsin) may be either an alarm sounded by bells usually from the belfry of a church or, more often, the bells sounding an alarm. (Tocsin tolled their last alarm—Campbell) but is used figuratively for any sort of warning of danger. (Alert) a military term for a signal to be on guard and ready for expected enemy action, is often used for any warning of danger. (Sirens sounded an air-raid alert) (the Weather Bureau issued a tornado alert in early afternoon . . . . The alert was cancelled after 5 P.M.—Springfield Union) |
| **ardor** | fervor, enthusiasm, zeal, passion |
| **articulation** | 1. integration, concatenation (see under INTEGRATE vb) |
| **aspiration** | reflection, animadversion, stricture |
| **aspiration** | (Anal) *libel, lampoon, pasquade, squib, skit* abuse, vituperation, infective, obloquy; *detraction, backbiting, calumny, slander, scandal |
| **aspiration** | (Con) praise, laudation, extolling, eulogizing or eulogy |
| **assortment** | see corresponding adjective assorted at MISCELLANEOUS |
| **assurance** | alleviate, relieve, mitigate, lighten, allay |
| **assurance** | exacerbate, intensify |
| **austere** | severe, stern, ascetic |
| **austere** | luscious (of fruits); warm, ardent (of persons); feelings); exuberant (of style, quality) |

---

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

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

Words given in these finding lists are divided into groups. Each group consists of words discriminated (or related to those discriminated) in a single article. The groups are separated from one another by boldface colons. Words within each group are separated by commas. The place of entry of the article discussing each group is indicated by an asterisk or a “see” reference (see §7).

In the lists of Antonyms italic notations in parentheses indicate the limited use or application in which the preceding word is to be taken.
A DICTIONARY
OF
DISCRIMINATED SYNONYMS
WITH ANTONYMS
AND ANALOGOUS AND CONTRASTED WORDS

abaft
abaft, aft, astern are nautical terms meaning behind or to or at the rear of. Abaft and aft are applied to objects or their positions in a ship. Abaft (opposed to afore) commonly suggests position relatively nearer the stern or rear part of the ship 〈his station is abaft the foremost〉 〈the wave struck her abaft the beam〉 Aft (opposed to forward) suggests position actually in that part of the ship to the rear of the midship section 〈they went aft to hoist the main-sail〉 〈a cabin aft of the lounge〉 Astern (opposed to ahead) chiefly implies position outside and to the rear of a ship 〈the wake astern of a ship〉 〈a brisk breeze astern〉

Ana after, rear, back, *posterior, hind, hinder
Ant afore —Con ahead, forward, *before
Abandon vb 1 Abandon, desert, forsake mean to quit absolutely. Abandon implies surrender of control or possession often with the implication that the thing abandoned is left to the mercy of someone or something else 〈the ghost of grandeur that lingers between the walls of abandoned haciendas in New Mexico—Mary Austin〉 〈in the frantic rush to escape the insane had usually been forgotten and abandoned to horrible deaths—Heiser〉 Abandoned, forsaken, deserted, forsaken, and abandoned suggest position relatively nearer the stern or rear part of a ship 〈the wake astern of a ship〉 〈a brisk breeze astern〉

Ana after, rear, back, *posterior, hind, hinder
Abandoned: forsaken, deserted, abandoned

Ant before —Con ahead, forward, *before

abase
abase, abase, demean, debase, degrade, humble, humiliate are synonymous when they denote to lower in one's own estimation or in that of others. Abase suggests loss of dignity or prestige without necessarily implying permanency in that loss. When used reflexively it connotes *keep, retain: treasure, prize (see APPRECIATE): *maintain, assert, defend: inhibit, bridle, curb (see RESTRAIN)

Ana license, *freedom, liberty: relaxation, laxity or laxness, looseness (see LOOSE)
Ant self-restraint —Con repression, suppression (see SUPPRESS): self-possession, aplomb (see CONFIDENCE): poise (see BALANCE, TACT)

Abandoned, reprobate, profligate, dissolute fundamentally mean utterly depraved. Abandoned and reprobate were originally applied to sinners and to their acts. One who is abandoned by his complete surrender to a life of sin seems spiritually lost or morally irreclaimable 〈I disdain . . . to paint her as she is, cruel, abandoned, glorying in her shame!—Cowper〉 One who is reprobate is abandoned and therefore rejected by God or by his fellows; reprobate implies ostracism by or exclusion from a social group for a serious offense against its code 〈don't count on my appearing your friend too openly . . . remember always that I'm a reprobate old clergyman—Hugh Walpole〉

Profligate and dissolute convey little if any suggestion of divine or social condemnation but both imply complete moral breakdown and self-indulgence to such an extent that all standards of morality and prudence are disregarded. One who is profligate openly and shamelessly flouts all the decencies and wastes his substance in dissipation 〈rescue the Empire from being gambled away by incapable or profligate aristocrats—Froude〉 One who is dissolute has completely thrown off all moral and prudential restraints on the indulgence of his appetites 〈see them spend—Shaw〉

Ana depraved, debauched, perverted, debased (see under DEBASE); degenerate, corrupt (see VICIOUS): wanton, lewd, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous (see LICENTIOUS)
Ant redeemed, regenerate —Con saved, rescued, reclaimed, delivered (see RESCUE)

Abase, demean, debase, degrade, humble, humiliate are synonymous when they denote to lower in one's own estimation or in that of others. Abase suggests loss of dignity or prestige without necessarily implying permanency in that loss. When used reflexively it connotes
humbly, abjection, or a sense of one's inferiority; in this reflexive use humble is often used interchangeably <whosoever exalted himself shall be abased (DV and RV humbled); and he that humbled himself shall be exalted —Lk 14:11> Demean implies less humility than abase but is stronger in its implications of loss of dignity or social standing <it was . . . Mrs. Sedley's opinion that her son would demean himself by a marriage with an artist's daughter—Thackeray> Debase emphasizes deprecation in value or quality; it is more often used of things <debase the currency> but when used of persons it commonly connotes weakening of moral standards or of the moral character <officeholders debase themselves by accepting bribes> <struggle with Hannibal had debased the Roman temper—Buchan> Degrade stresses a lowering in plane rather than in rank and often conveys a strong implication of the shameful condition of the to which someone or something has been reduced <that she and Charlotte, two spent old women, should be . . . talking to each other of hatred, seemed unimaginably hideous and degrading—Wharton> Often (especially in degradation) it connotes actual degeneracy or corruption <it was by that unscrupulous person's liquor her husband had been degraded—Hardy> Humble is frequently used in place of degrade in the sense of demote when the ignominy of the reduction in rank is emphasized <we are pleased . . . to see him taken down and humbled—Spectator> When it is employed without any implication of demotion, it often suggests a salutary increase of humility or the realization of one's own littleness or impotence <it was one of those illnesses from which we turn away our eyes, shuddering and humbled—Deland> Occasionally it implies a lowering in station <in such a man . . . a race illustrious for heroic deeds, humbled, but not degraded, may expire—Wordsworth> Humiliate, once a close synonym of humble, now comes closer to mortify, for it stresses chagrin and shame <when we ask to be humbled, we must not recoil from being humiliated—Rossetti> Anna cringe, truckle, cower, *fawn, toady: grovel (see WALLOW): abash, discomfit, disconcert, *embarrass; mortify (see corresponding adjective at ASHAMED) Anna extol: exalt (especially oneself) —Con magnify, aggravandise (see EXALT): elevate, *lift, raise: laud, acclaim, *praise abash discomfit, *embarrass, disconcert, faze, rattle Anna fluster, flurry, *discompose, perturb, disturb, agitate; chagrin, mortify (see corresponding adjectives at ASHAMED) Abound: confound, dumbfound, nonplus (see PUZZLE) Abate 1 *abolish, extinguish, annhilate Ann end, terminate (see CLOSE): *annul, void, abrogate: cancel, obliterare (see ERASE): *nullify, invalidate Ant perpetuate —Con *continue, last, persist, abide 2 reduce, diminish, *decrease, lessen Anna retard, slow, slacken, *delay: *moderate, temper: mitigate, lighten, alleviate (see RELIEVE) Ant augment: accelerate (pace, speed): intensify (hopes, fears, a fever) —Con *increase, multiply, enlarge: aggravate, heighten, enhance (see INTENSIFY): *speed, quicken, hurry 3 abate, subside, wane, ebb all mean to die down in force or intensity; all imply previous approach to a high point and present movement or decline towards a vanishing point. Abate, however, stresses the idea of progressive diminution in intensity while subside suggests falling to a low level and cessation of turbulence or agitation <the wind is abating: the waves are subsiding> The revolutionary spirit has abated—Grandgent> The child's quick temper subsided into listlessness under the fierce Italian heat—Replier> Wane adds to abate the implications of fading or weakening; it tends, therefore, to be used of things that have value or excellence as well as force and intensity <after the first flush of excitement, the interest of doctors, nurses, and patients all began to wane—Heiser> Ebb adds to abate the suggestion of recession or of gradual loss; it is idiomatically associated with things subject to fluctuation <ebbng vitality is often a warning of illness> <there were many, many stages in the ebbing of her love for him, but it was always ebbing—D. H. Lawrence> Anna dwindle, diminish, *decrease Ant rise: revive —Con *increase, augment: *expand, swell, dilate: mount, soar, tower, surge (see RISE) Abatement *deduction, rebate, discount Ant addition —Con increment, accretion, accession (see ADDITION): increase, augmentation, enlargement (see corresponding verbs at INCREASE) Abbeviate *shorten, abridge, curtail Anna reduce, *decrease, lessen, *contract, compress, shrink, condense: attenuate, extenuate (see THIN) Ant elongate, lengthen —Con *extend, prolong, protract: enlarge, *increase; *expand, amplify, dilate abdicate, renounce, resign are synonymous when they are used in the sense of to give up formally or definitely a position of trust, honor, or glory, or its concomitant authority or prerogatives. Abdicate is the precise word to use when that which is relinquished involves sovereign or inherent power; it is applied specifically to the act of a monarch who gives up his throne, but in extended use it may also be applied to any act involving surrender of an inherent dignity or claim to preeminence (the father image of the chancellor casts a long and overpowering shadow over a people which has in the past abdicated its political thinking and social sovereignty to the paternalistic leader—Handler) Renounce is often used in place of abdicate <the king renounced his throne> especially when sacrifice for a greater end is intentionally implied. So strong is this implication and also that of finality in renounce (see also ABJURE) that it and its derivative renunciation often connote self-denial or surrender for the sake of moral or spiritual discipline. Consequently one renounces not only a right, a title, an inheritance, but also some desired or desirable possession <she remains . . . the sort of woman who has renounced all happiness for herself and who lives only for a principle—T. S. Eliot> Resign is used in reference chiefly to positions held on tenure and formally relinquished; ordinarily it implies asking permission to leave a position or office before the expiration of a term. Anna *relinquish, surrender, abandon, leave Ant assume: usurp —Con *arrogate, appropriate, confiscate Abdomen, belly, stomach, paunch, gut are synonyms when naming the front part of the human trunk below the chest <crawl on his stomach> <crawl on his belly> <an appendectomy scar on his abdomen> In technical usage abdomen more specifically denotes the cavity below the diaphragm (and sometimes above the brim of the pelvis) together with the structures in that cavity and the walls (often the front wall) enclosing it <a pain in the abdomen> <the risks inherent in all surgery on the abdomen> Stomach in non-technical use is interchangeable with abdomen but technically it is restricted to the saccular abdominal organ in which the earlier processes of digestion take place <a blow to the stomach> <the digesting mass or chyme in the stomach> is continually churned . . . by muscular activity of the walls—Potter> Belly and paunch are decidedly informal terms that, when used in place of abdomen, suggest roundness and protuberance <fell flat on his belly in the

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
abduct, *kidnap are sometimes employed without distinction as denoting to carry off (a person) surreptitiously for an illegal purpose. In general use, *kidnap is the more specific term because it connotes seizure and detention for ransom. In law, however, the reverse is true, for the verbs acquire their meanings from the rigid technical definitions of *kidnapping and *abduction. *Kidnapping is the legal term of wider application, implying that a person has been seized by violence or fraud and detained against his will or that of his legal guardian. *Abduction is the carrying off of a girl (usually one below the legal age of consent), either against her will or with her consent, for marriage or seduction. Consequently in law *kidnapping and *abduction can be used interchangeably only when the person carried off is a girl below a fixed age, or when seizure and detention are against her will and the motive is marriage or rape. *Ana *seduce, entice, *lure, inveigle *Con *rescue, ransom, redeem, deliver *Aberrant atypical, *abnormal *Ana divergent, *different, disparate: *irregular, anomalous, unnatural: *exceptional: singular, peculiär, odd, *strange, eccentric *Ant true (to a type) —*Con *usual, wonted, customary: normal, *regular, typical, natural *Aberration 1 *deviation, deflection *Ana abnormality, aberrancy (see *ABNORMAL): *error, blunder, mistake, slip, lapse: *fault, failing: abnormality (see PARADOX) *Ant conformity: regularity —*Con normality (see REGULAR): norm, *average, mean: agreement, correspondence, accord (see corresponding verbs at AGREE) 2 *Aberration, *Derangement, *Alienation, as here compared, denote mental disorder. *Aberration while usable to designate any form of mental unsoundness typically denotes a minor or transitory disorder insufficient to constitute insanity. *Derangement applies to any functional mental disturbance whether permanent or not. *Alienation implies an estrangement from a normal or usual mental or emotional state (I had been two or three nights without sleep, and I had fallen into the state of alienation that fatigue brings on—Webber) and in forensic use specifically denotes a state <I had been two or three nights without sleep, and I had fallen into the state of alienation that fatigue brings on—Webber) and in forensic use specifically denotes a state of mind (see ABNORMAL) that is abnormal, divergent, different, disparate: irregular, anomalous, unnatural: exceptional: singular, peculiar, odd, strange, eccentric.

*Ana *abnormality, aberrancy (see ABNORMAL): *error, blunder, mistake, slip, lapse: *fault, failing: abnormality (see PARADOX) *Ant conformity: regularity —*Con normality (see REGULAR): norm, *average, mean: agreement, correspondence, accord (see corresponding verbs at AGREE) 2 *Aberration, *Derangement, *Alienation, as here compared, denote mental disorder. *Aberration while usable to designate any form of mental unsoundness typically denotes a minor or transitory disorder insufficient to constitute insanity. *Derangement applies to any functional mental disturbance whether permanent or not. *Alienation implies an estrangement from a normal or usual mental or emotional state (I had been two or three nights without sleep, and I had fallen into the state of alienation that fatigue brings on—Webber) and in forensic use specifically denotes a becoming or being insane. *Ana *insanity, lunacy, mania, dementia: *delusion, hallucination, illusion: *mania, delirium, hysteria, frenzy *Ant soundness (of mind) *Abet *incite, foment, instigate *Ana *aid, assist, *help: back, *support, uphold: cooperate, concur (see UNITE): forward, further, promote (see ADVANCE) *Ant deter (with a personal subject) —*Con *frustrate, thwart, foil, balk, circumvent *Abettor accessory, accomplice, *confederate, conspirator *Abeyant dormant, quiescent, *latent, potential *Ana deferred, suspended, postponed, stayed, intermitted (see DEFER): suppressed, repressed (see SUPPRESS) *Ant operative: active: revived —*Con live, dynamic (see ACTIVE): *living, alive: renewed, restored, refreshed (see RENEW) *Ana *abhor, abominate, loathe, detest, *hate *Ana *despise, contempt, scorn: shun, avoid, eschew (see ESCAPE) *Ant admire (persons, their qualities, acts): enjoy (things which are a matter of taste) —*Con *like, love, relish, dote: cherish, treasure, prize, value (see APPRECIATE): court, woo, solicit (see INVITE): esteem, respect, regard (see REGARD) *Abhorrence detestation, loathing, abomination, hatred, hate (see under HATE vb) *Ana *distaste, repugnance, repellency (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT): horror, dismay (see FEAR) *Ant admiration: enjoyment —*Con esteem, *regard, respect: liking, relish (see LIKE vb): love, affection, attachment *Abhorrent 1 abominable, *hateful, detestable, odious *Ana *contemptible, despicable, scurrvy: execrable, damnable *Ant admirable: enjoyable —*Con grateful, agreeable, *pleasant, pleasing, gratifying, welcome: *delightful, delectable 2 *repugnant, repellent, obnoxious, distasteful, invidious *Ana *antipathetic: uncongenial, unsympathetic (see INCONSONANT): foreign, alien (see EXTRINSIC) *Ant congenial —*Con attractive, alluring, captivating (see under ATTRACT): tempting, enticing, seductive (see corresponding verbs at LURE) *Abide 1 *stay, wait, remain, tarry, linger *Ana *dwell, *reside, live, sojourn, lodge: *stick, cleave, cling, adhere *Ant depart —*Con go, leave, quit: *move, remove, shift 2 endure, last, persist, *continue *Ana *stay, remain, linger; subsist, exist, live (see BE) *Ant pass vi —*Con *flee, fly, *escape: *frit 3 endure, *bear, suffer, tolerate, stand, brook *Ana submit, *yield, bow, defer: acquiesce, accede, consent (see ASSENT): accept, *receive, take *Con withstand, oppose, combat, *resist: *decline, refuse, spurn: shun, avoid, evade, elude (see ESCAPE) *Ability, capacity, capability are often confused in use. *Ability primarily denotes the quality or character of being able (as to do or perform) and is applied chiefly to human beings. *Capacity in its corresponding sense means the power or more especially the potentiality of receiving, holding, absorbing, or accomplishing something expressed or understood and is said of persons or things. Thus one may speak of a child's ability to learn but not of the hall's ability to seat 2000 persons; on the other hand, a child's mental capacity and the hall has a seating capacity of 2000 are both acceptable. In general, ability suggests actual power, whether native or acquired, whether exercised or not (once more he had shown his ability to handle a delicate situation to the credit of his government and himself—W. C. Ford) Capacity on the other hand stresses receptiveness, or in reference to man's intellectual, moral, or spiritual nature, more explicitly, responsiveness, susceptibility, or aptitude. *Capacity therefore suggests potential, as distinguished from actual or, especially, manifest power. Thus, ability to weep, the ability to work, the ability to pay, are not respectively identical in meaning with the capacity for tears, the capacity for work, the capacity for payment. The phrases of the first group mean that one can weep (because his tear glands are normal), one can work (because strong or trained), one can pay (because he has the money): those of the second group indicate, in the first case, a special sensitiveness to what is pathetic; in the second case, a readiness to work as hard as is necessary on any or every
occasion: in the third case, the qualities of mind and character that promise earning power and imply a recognition of one's obligations (if Peter had a capacity for friendship, these speechless years had made it dumb—Deland) we do not acquire the ability to do new deeds, but a new capacity for all deeds. My recent growth does not appear in any visible new talent—Thoreau.

The capacity of American idealism to survive a major disillusionment—MacLeish Capability is the character in a person (less often, a thing) arising from the possession of the qualities or qualifications necessary to the performance of a certain kind of work or the achievement of a given end (testing the capability of the ear to distinguish pitches) (no applicant will be considered who does not offer proof of capability). As applied exclusively to persons, capability may mean competence, often special competence. This connotation is usually supplied or enforced by the context.

Ana *power, strength, might, force, energy: proficiency, skill, adeptness (see corresponding adjectives at proficient): aptitude, talent, genius, faculty (see gift); competence, qualification (see corresponding adjectives at able).

Ant inability, incapacity —Con impotence, powerless-ness (see corresponding adjectives at powerless): incompetence, incapability (see corresponding adjectives at incapable).

abject *mean, ignoble, sordid

Ana servile, slavish, menial (see subservient): miserable, wretched: cringing, truckling, cowering (see fawn); groveling (see wallow): abased, demeaned, humbled, humiliated (see abase).

Ant exalted (in rank, state, condition, mood, behavior): imperious (in manner speech, attitude) —Con arrogant, lordly, overbearing, supercilious (see proud); domineering, *masterful: aristocratic, patrician (see corresponding nouns at gentleman).

abjure, renounce, forswear, recant, retract are synonyms when they mean to abandon irrevocably and, usually, with solemnity or publicity. Except in the extended senses of abjure, renounce, and forswear they all imply the recall of one's word. Abjure and renounce are scarcely distinguishable when they imply solemn repudiation as of an oath or vow (he shall, before he is admitted to citizenship, declare on oath in open court that he shall in all honor and conscience do him service and, that he shall, before he is admitted to citizenship, declare on oath in open court that he... and that no other person shall ever be...). In their extended senses, however, abjure distinctively suggests deliberate rejection or avoidance while renounce specifically connotes disclaiming or disowning (abjure force, renounce one's principles) (if a man is content to abjure wealth and to forego marriage, to live simply without luxuries, he may spend a very dignified gentle life here—Benson) (be he was later to renounce impressionism and to quarrel with most of the impressionists—Read) (forswear often adds to abjure (especially in the reflexive use of the verb or in the participial adjective forswn) the suggestion of perjury or of culpable violation of a solemn engagement (I have sworn to obey the laws, and I cannot forswear myself—Blackie) It often means little more than to swear off (Mr. Dulles grants by implication that the Peking regime is the government of China. He insists that it forswear the use of force in advancing its ambitions—New Republic). Recant and retract stress the withdrawal of something professed or declared; recant always and retract often imply admission of error. One recants, however, something that one has openly professed or taught, as religious or scientific doctrines; one retracts something one has written or spoken, as a charge, a promise, an order (if Christians recanted they were to be spared, but... if they persisted in their faith they were to be executed—Latourrette) (a word informs your brother I retract this morning's offer—Browning).


Ant pledge (allegiance, a vow): elect (a way of life, a means to an end, an end) —Con plight, engage (see promise): *choose, select, opt: own, avow, *acknowledge.

able, capable, competent, qualified are close synonyms when they denote having marked power or fitness for work and are used attributively. Placed after the noun, able (followed by to and infinitive) and capable (followed by of) suggest mere possession of ability or capacity without any clear indication of its extent or quality (they must be capable of living the life of the spirit... they must be able to cope intelligently with weighty problems of public policy—Grandgent). In general competent and qualified in predicative use suggest mere fitness in the one case and sufficient training in the other (a servant competent to take full charge) (headmasters and education authorities want to be able to distinguish between those who are qualified to teach... and those who are not—Huxley). On the other hand all four words are manifestly richer in implications when (especially in attributive use) they are thought of as characterizing persons or their activities. Able then suggests ability markedly above the average; it often connotes power of mastery; it does not exclude the connotation of promise even when the emphasis is on performance (able boys and girls will... submit willingly to severe discipline in order to acquire some coveted knowledge or skill—Russell). Capable stresses possession of qualities such as adaptability, resourcefulness, versatility, industry, or efficiency and seldom indicates, apart from its context, the specific ability involved (pretty and charming, but stupid... because she believes men prefer women to be useless and extravgant; if left to herself she would be a domestic and capable person—Millay). Competent and qualified are used especially to characterize a person or his activities in relation to a specific calling (a competent housekeeper) (a qualified accountant). Competent implies the ability to satisfy capably all the special demands or requirements of a particular situation, craft, or profession, but it does not necessarily imply, as qualified usually does, compliance with set standards such as special training and the testing of one's competence at the end of such training (a qualified engineer) (a competent portraitist knows how to imply the profile in the full face—Huxley).


Ant inept (by nature, training): unable —Con *incapable, incompetent, unqualified: inefficient, *ineffective: mediocre, fair, indifferent (see medium): maladroit (see awkward).

abnegate sacrifice, *forgo, eschew, forbear.


Ant indulge (in) —Con gratify, delight, regale, rejoice, gladden, *please: *satisfy, content.


Ana forgoing, forbearance, eschewal (see corresponding verbs at forgo): abstinence, abstemiousness, continence, *temperance: restraining, curbing, bridling (see restrain).

Ant indulgence, self-indulgence —Con intemperance, incontinence (see affirmative nouns at temperance).

abnormal, atypical, aberrant mean deviating markedly from the rule or standard of its kind. All are used in the sciences, as in biology and psychology, to express non-
abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate
share the meaning
detestable, hateful, odious, abhorrent

abode
dwelling, residence, domicile, habitation, home,
Ana

usual
atypical

abolish
adjectives at USUAL): monstrous, prodigious

Abnormal frequently connotes strange-

abnormal

Ant

Abnormal

abnormal...
abrate, *excoriate, chafe, fret, gall mean to affect the surface rubbing or scraping by something hard or harsh: when the surface rubbed or scraped is soft, injury results, but when it approaches the other in hardness, a smoothing or polishing (as by grinding) may be achieved (the palms of his hands abraded by gravel) the ship's side was abraded in the collision (loose sand grains . . . may be hurled against projecting masses of rock with such force as to abrade . . . their surfaces by a natural sandblast—Scientific Monthly) an abrasive is a substance used in abrading steel Excoriate which literally implies a stripping or wearing away of the skin or hide usually suggests a peculiarly painful effect on something soft or tender made by something (as an abrasive or abrasion or a corrosive substance) that removes or destroys a protective layer such as the skin or mucous membrane (the ends of his fingers were excoriated by acid) my lips . . . were excoriated as with vinegar and gall—Bronte Chafe suggests a slight but persistent and painful or injurious rubbing of one thing upon another (objected to wearing wool which she said chafed her skin) (the hawsers were so chafed by rubbing against the wharf that they required replacement) Fret suggests an eating into or wearing away (the river frets away the rocks along its banks—T. H. Huxley) dripping water fretted a channel through the stone Gall is used especially with reference to animals and, less often, to persons: it implies a superficial injury such as an abrasion or blister made by friction (an ill-fitting saddle galled the horse's back)

All have extended usage with an implication of irritating or wearing. Abrade and chafe usually suggest a persistent cause (took refuge in a subdued blubbering, which soon abraded the teacher's nerves—Perelman) a theater that is so physically uncomfortable as to chafe the playgoer's disposition even before the curtain rises—N. Y. Times Excoriate is used rather specifically of a censuring so severe as to cause real distress or mental anguish (when his programs fail, the implementation, not the directive will be excoriated; the subordinates and volunteers, not the dictator will suffer—Straight) (excoriated the morality of the Gilded Age and yet was fascinated by some of its surface trappings—J. D. Hart) Fret and gall typically imply a causing of emotional wear and tear (the galling frictions are in the world today—Benedict) (that hidden bond which at other moments galled and fretted him so as to mingle irritation with the very sunshine—George Eliot) Ana *scrape, scratch, grate, grind, rasp: injure, damage, impair, mar: irritate, exasperate

abridge *shorten, curtail, abbreviate, retrench Ana condense, *contract, compress, shrink: cut, slash: limit, restrict, reduce, diminish, decrease Ant expand: extend —Con amplify, swell, distend (see expand): lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract (see extend): enlarge, augment, increase

abridgment, abstract, epitome, brief, synopsis, conspectus mean a condensation of a larger work or treatment, usually one already in circulation. Abridgment implies reduction in compass with the retention of relative completeness (the current acting versions of many of Shakespeare's plays are abridgments) an abridgment of a dictionary Abstract implies condensation of a lengthy treatise or of a proposed lengthy treatment and stresses concentration of substance (abstracts of state papers) an abstract of a lecture Epitome implies concentration of the essence or pith of something (as a long poem, essay, or treatise) into the briefest possible statement usually so as to acquire a value of its own (the Paternoster, Christ's prayer, which is . . . [an epitome] . . . of all the psalms and prayers written in the whole scripture—Hooper) Both abstract and epitome are used also in extended senses in reference to persons or things, the former stressing one or other (of the persons or things referred to) as a summary, the latter as a type representing a whole (a man who is the abstract of
abscess, boil, furuncle, carbuncle, pimple, pustule

of all faults that all men follow—Shak.> (a man so various that he seemed to be not one, but all mankind's epitome—Dryden> Brief is usually narrowly applied in legal use to a concise statement of a client's case made out for the instruction of counsel in a trial (called specifically trial brief) or to a statement of the heads or points of a legal argument submitted to the court (brief of argument).

Synopsis and conspectus imply the giving of the salient points of a treatise or subject so that it may be quickly comprehended. Synopsis, however, often suggests an outline or series of headings and conspectus a coherent account that gives a bird's-eye view (provide in advance a synopsis of the lectures) (the book will serve as a conspectus of Chinese history)

Ana digest, précis, *compendium, sketch, syllabus
Ant expansion —Con paraphrase (see TRANSLATION):
*development
abrogate 1 *annul, vacate, quash, void
Ana *abolish, extinguish, abate
Ant institute (by enacting, decreeing) —Con *ratify, confirm; establish, *found
2 *nullify, annul, negate, invalidate
Ana *abolish, annihilate, extinguish: *destroy, demolish: *ruin, wreck; cancel, obliterate, blot out (see ERASE)
Ant establish, fix (a right, a character, a quality, a custom) —Con settle (see SET): uphold, *support
abrupt 1 *steep, precipitous, sheer
Ana perpendicular, *vertical, plumb
Ant sloping —Con *level, flat, plain, plane, even, smooth: slanting, inclined (see SLANT vb)
2 sudden, *precipitate, headlong, impetuous, hasty
Ana quick, speedy (see FAST): hurried, hastened (see ANIMA)
Ant establish, fix (a right, a character, a quality, a custom) —Con settle (see SET): uphold, *support
abscess, boil, furuncle, carbuncle, pimple, pustule all denote a localized swollen area of infection containing pus. Abscess is the most general term, applying to a collection of pus surrounded by inflammation whether in the skin or in the substance of a part or organ and whether discharging through an opening or fistula or being gradually reabsorbed (an abscess at the root of a tooth) (a line of small abscesses where his belt had chafed him)
Boil and furuncle both mean a swollen painful nodule in the skin caused by bacteria that enter skin glands or hair follicles and set up a purulent infection which terminates by rupture of the skin and discharge of a core of pus and broken-down tissue cells. Though boil is commoner in general use, furuncle is often preferred in medical communication. A carbuncle is a large and severe boil that occurs especially on the back of the neck, is often accompanied by fever, and ultimately discharges through several openings. A pimple or pustule is a small superficial pus-containing elevation of the skin that usually subsides without rupturing: more specifically pimple is used of the typical lesions characterizing acne while pustule implies no specific syndrome.
abscond decamp, flee, fly, *escape
Ana depart, leave, quit, *go
Ant give (oneself) up —Con stay, wait, remain, abide: confess, *acknowledge
absence *lack, want, dearth, defect, privation
Ana *need, necessity, exigency: deficiency (see corresponding adjective at DEFICIENT); destitution (see corresponding adjective at DEVOID); void, vacuum (see HOLE)
Ant presence —Con abundance, copiousness, plenty (see corresponding adjectives at PLENTIFUL)
absent adj preoccupied, *abstracted, absentminded, distraught
Ana engrossed, absorbed, *intent, rapt: heedless, inadvertent (see CARELESS); oblivious, unfurnished, *forgettable
Ant attentive —Con *thoughtful, considerate: attending, listening, hearkening (see ATTEND)
absentminded absent, *abstracted, preoccupied, distraught
Ana inattentive, thoughtless, inconsiderate (see affirmative adjectives at THOUGHTFUL): heedless, inadvertent (see CARELESS); unobserving, unseen, unperceiving, unnoticing (see affirmative verbs at SEE)
Ant wide-awake —Con *watchful, alert, vigilant: attentive (see THOUGHTFUL)
absolute *pure, simple, sheer
Ana *perfect, whole, entire: *real, true: *abstract, ideal: *consummate, finished
Ant mixed, qualified —Con incomplete (see affirmative adjective at FULL): imperfect, unentire, unintact (see affirmative adjectives at PERFECT)
2 Absolute, autocratic, arbitrary, despotic, tyrannical,
Tyrannous mean exercising power or authority without external restraint. Absolute does not of itself add any further implication to this general denotation. It is restricted in application chiefly to words for authority or for one in authority (an absolute monarch) (absolute control) (they held their subjects with an absolute hand as all communist leaders do—F. M. Brown> Autocratic implies assumption or exercise of absolute power or authority: though it is not necessarily opprobrious, it often connotes egotistical consciousness of power and haughty imposition of one's own will (let the Emperor turn his nominal sovereignty into a real central and autocratic power—Belloc> Arbitrary implies the exercise and usually the abuse of power in accord with one's opinion of the moment, free of such reasoned guides as constitution and laws which make for consistent and reasonably predictable action (all the constitutional safeguards of English freedom were swept away. Arbitrary taxation, arbitrary legislation, arbitrary imprisonment were powers claimed without dispute and unsparring used by the Crown—J. R. Green> Despot and tyrannical are stronger than autocratic, despotic implying the arbitrary and imperious exercise of absolute power or control and tyrannical the abuse of such power or control frequently through harshness, oppression, or severity (the most despotic system of government that history has ever known, Bolshevism, parades as the very incarnation of the principles of equality and liberty of all men—Von Mises> proofs . . . that the people, when they have been unchecked, have been as unjust, tyrannical, brutal, barbarous, and cruel as any king . . . possessed of uncontrollable power—Adams> how could I have borne to become the slave of her tyrannical humors?—Burney> Tyrannous is more frequently used of things than of persons (a . . . skeptical smile, of all expressions the most tyrannous over a susceptible mind—George Eliot)
Ana *totalitarian, authoritarian: *dictatorial, magisterial: domineering, imperious, *masterful
Ant restrained: limited —Con circumscribed, restricted (see LIMIT vb): irresponsible, unanswerable, unenamable (see affirmative adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)
3 *ultimate, categorical
Ana ideal, transcendent, transcendental (see ABSTRACT): independent, autonomous, *free, sovereign: *infinite, eternal, boundless
Ant conditioned —Con relative, *dependent, conditional: circumscribed, limited, restricted (see LIMIT vb)

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

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


absolve  exonerate, acquit, *exculpate, vindicate

	*pardoning, amnesty


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


Ant  *absorb, like, take in, contain, take up, incorporate, embody (see IDENTIFY)


ant  *exclude, expel: *throw, cast


ant  *forswear, eschew


ant  *hold (to a promise, an obligation): charge (with a sin, the blame, the responsibility) —Con  blame (see CRITICIZE)


ant  *abstain, *restrain, forbear


ant  *forgo, eschew, abnegate: *decline, refuse, spurn, reject: desist (see STOP)


ant  *pamper (see INDULGE): *satisfy, satiate, sate, surfeit, cloy, gorge, glut: gratify, regale (see PLEASE)
abstract

Kant's philosophy, are transcendental ideas.

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

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

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

Ana sketch, précis, aperçu, *compendium, digest

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

abstract vb *detach, disengage

Ana separate, part, divorce, divide: purloin, filch, *steal

Ant insert, introduce —Con interpolate, insinuate, interpose (see INTRODUCE): *replace

abstracted, preoccupied, absent, absentminded, distraught are comparable when they mean inattention to what presently claims or demands consideration. Abstracted implies absorption of the mind in something other than one's surroundings, and often suggests reflection on weighty matters <then he sat and thought . . . in the concentrated, abstracted way he has . . . almost forgetting my presence—Rose Macaulay> Preoccupied implies unreadiness for any new demands on one's attention because one is already busy with other thoughts or occupations <Edna was so preoccupied with misgivings as to whether he wanted to marry her that she had never faced squarely the more important problem of whether she wanted to marry him—Barnes> Absent stresses inability to fix the mind on present concerns; it often connotes mental wandering rather than concentration on other things <Sir Joshua . . . was quite absent all the day, not knowing a word that was said to him—Burney> Absentminded implies that the mind is fixed elsewhere; it suggests abstractedness or preoccupation more than absentness <she would make some absentminded, irrelevant remark, as if she had not heard him—Röliga> It often implies a mental habit rather than a present mood <absentminded professor> Distraught suggests inability to concentrate and also implies an agitated state of mind caused by worry or perplexity <oh, if I wake, shall I not be distraught, environed with all these hideous fears?—Shak.> (distraught with grief for the dead queen—Millay)

Ana *intent, engrossed: oblivious, unmindful (see FORGETFUL): ignoring, overlooking, disregarding (see NEGLECT vb)

Ant alert —Con wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: attentive, *thoughtful, considerate: observant, noting, noticing, seeing (see corresponding verbs at SEE)

abstruse *recondite, occult, esoteric

Ana *complex, complicated, intricate, knotty: *abstract, ideal: enigmatic, cryptic, dark, obscure

Ant obvious, plain —Con evident, manifest, clear, palpable: *easy, simple, facile: *clear, perspicuous, lucid

absurd silly, preposterous, *foolish

Ana humorous, ridiculous, *laughable, droll, funny, comic: *irrational, unreasonable: asinine, silly, fatuous, *simple

Ant rational, sensible —Con reasonable (see RATIO-NAL): *wise, sane, judicious, prudent: *logical

abundant copious, ample, *plentiful, plenteous

Ana bounding, teeming, overflowing (see TEEM): *produse, lavish, luxuriant, lush, exuberant

Ant scarce —Con infrequent, rare, uncommon: *meager, scant, scantly, skimpy, exiguous, sparse: *deficient

abuse vb Abuse, misuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat, outrage all denote to use or treat a person or thing improperly or wrongfully. Abuse and misuse are capable of wider use than the others, for they do not invariably imply either deliberateness or wantonness <I can't abuse your generosity to that extent. You're doing more than enough for me already—Mackenzie> (it turns a man's stomach to hear the Scripture misused in that way—George Eliot> Abuse, however, commonly suggests perverseness of the ends for which something was intended <the constitution leaves them [the states] this right in the confidence that they will not abuse it—John Marshall> Sometimes it implies excess in use that injures or impairs <abuse one's strength> Misuse, by contrast with abuse, emphasizes the actual mistreatment or misapplication rather than its results (the intent of this regulation is highly commendable, namely to keep the Indians from being misused—Hitchock) Mistreat, maltreat, and ill-treat usually imply a fault or an evil motive in the agent, such as meanness, culpable ignorance, or spitefulness <many more patients die from being mistreated for consumption than from consumption itself—Lyton> (the meter, though a well-known English critic has maltreated it of late, is a very fine one—Saintsbury> (have small compunction in ill-treating animals, because they have no souls—Reppier> Outrage implies abuse so violent or extreme as to exceed all bounds <a act that outraged nature and produced the inevitable tragedy of the play—Auchincloss>

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

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

abuse n Abuse, vituperation, invective, obloquy, scurrility, billingsgate can all denote vehemently expressed condemnation or disapproval. Abuse, the most general term, implies the anger of the speaker and stresses the offensiveness of the language (the extended vocabulary of barrack-room abuse—Kipling) (those thunderous combinations, that jeering and abuse which make Milton's prose such lively reading—Huxley> It may, however, imply hardly more than expression of personal disapproval or displeasure (a vague term of abuse for any style that is bad—T. S. Eliot> Vituperation suggests the overwhelming of someone or something with a torrent of abuse <presidents were nagged beyond endurance, and senators, and congressmen: no one could escape the vials of her vituperation—Pattie> Invective implies vehemence and bitterness in attack or denunciation and, often in distinction from abuse, connotes a command of language and skill in making one's points. It is the precise term when the attack is public and made in a good cause (John Bull stopped at nothing in the way of insult; but its blazing audacity of invective never degenerated into dull abuse—Reppier> Obloquy suggests defamation and consequent disgrace (those who . . . stood by me in the teeth of obloquy, attack and open sneer—Wilde> Scurrility stresses coarseness or indecency of language and emphasizes the quality of the abuse rather than the attack in itself (he was . . . interrupted in his defense by ribaldry and scurrility from the judgment seat—Macaulay> Billingsgate stresses more strongly than any of the other words the offensiveness, often foul or obscene, of the language of an attack <the more I humbled myself the more he stormed . . . provoking me with scandalous names that I could not put up with; so that I . . . returned his billingsgate—Smollett>

Ana aspersion, reflection, stricture, *animadversion: reviling, railing, rating, berating (see SCOLD vb): vilification, malignation (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN)
abusive, opprobrious, vituperative, contumelious, scurrilous

apply chiefly to language or utterances and to persons as they employ such language: the words agree in meaning coarse, insulting, and contemptuous in character or utterance. Abusive means little more than this <abusive language> <an abusive master> <abusive satire> All the other terms carry specific and distinctive implications.

Opprobrious suggests the imputation of disgraceful actions or of shameful conduct: it implies not only abusiveness but also severe, often unjust, condemnation <they desecrate the shrine . . . in every conceivable way . . . and level the most opprobrious language at the goddess herself—Frazer> Vituperative implies indulgence in a stream of insulting language especially in attacking an opponent <the vituperative controversialists of the seventeenth century> <to restrain this employment of vituperative language—J. S. Mill> Contumelious adds to opprobrious the implications of insolence and extreme disrespect and usually connotes the bitter humiliation of its victim <with scoffs and scorns and contumelious taunts—Shak.> {I . . . expose a chain of causes and effects that Roosevelt himself, if he were alive, would denounce as grossly contumelious to his native purity of spirit—and perhaps in all honesty—Mencken> Scurrilous often approaches vituperative in suggesting attack and abuse but it always implies gross, vulgar, often obscenely ribald language <they never fail to attack the passengers with all kinds of scurrilous, abusive, and indecent terms—Fielding> may plaster his clean name with scurrilous rhymes!—Tennyson

A complimentary: respectful —Con flattering (see corresponding noun at COMPLIMENT) panegyrical, eulogistic (see corresponding nouns at ENCOMIUM) praising, lauding, extolling, acclaiming (see PRAISE vb)

abusive adj

1 *quality, character, attribute, property

impede, obstruct, block, *hinder: *hamper, clog

accident n

1 stress, accentuation, *emphasis

Ant beat, pulse, throb, pulsation (see under PULSATE): *rhythm, cadence, meter

2 intonation, *inflection

Ant pronunciation, enunciation, articulation (see corresponding verbs at ARTICULATE)

accentuation accent, stress, *emphasis

Ant *rhythm, cadence, meter: pronunciation, enunciation, articulation (see corresponding verbs at ARTICULATE)

Ant inaccentuation —Con evenness, steadiness, uniformity (see corresponding adjectives at STEADY)

accept *receive, admit, take

Ant adopt, embrace, espouse: acquiesce, *assent, agree, subscribe

Ant reject —Con *decline, refuse, repudiate, spurn: *disavow, disown, disacknowledge (see affirmative verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE): *deny, contradict, negative: ignore, disregard (see NEGLECT)

acceptance, acceptance have both at one time or another carried the meanings: the act or fact of accepting or the state of being accepted. Present usage, however, restricts their denotations. Acceptance only is used to denote the act of accepting (a blind acceptance of authority—Inge) or the state of one who accepts something, especially something inevitable or inescapable (all settled back into a sad sort of acceptance of the situation—Deland) Both acceptance and acceptance may be used to denote the state of being accepted or especially of being approved or believed (metrical forms are conventional, and therefore rest . . . on acceptance—Lowes) Acceptation tends, however, to confine itself to denoting the sense in which a word or expression is generally received (not . . . a cultivated man in the ordinary acceptance of the words—Elliot

acceptation 1 *meaning, sense, signification, significance, import

2 *acceptance

access n

1 ingress, *entrance, entrée, entry

Ant approaching or approach, nearing (see approach vb): *admittance, admission: *way, route, passage: *door, portal, gate, gateway

Ant outlet —Con departure, withdrawal, retirement (see corresponding verbs at go): retreat, recession (see corresponding verbs at RECEDE)

2 accession, attack, *fit, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion

Ant onset, onslaught, assault (see ATTACK): seizure, clutch, taking (see corresponding verbs at TAKE): twinge, *pain, twitch, pang, throe

accession 1 *addition, accretion, increment

Ant discard

2 access, attack, *fit, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion

Ant see those at ACCESS 2

accessory n

1 appurtenance, adjunct, *appendage

Ant concomitant, *accompaniment: *addition, accretion, increment

2 accomplice, abettor, *confederate, conspirator

Ant principal

accessory adj

1 contributory, *auxiliary, subsidiary, adjuvant, ancillary, subservient

Ant secondary, collateral, tributary, *subordinate: concomitant, concurrent, coincident (see CONTEMPORARY): incidental, adventitious (see ACCIDENTAL)

Ant constituent, integral: principal (in law) —Con *inherent, intrinsic, constitutional, ingrained: essential, indispensable, requisite, *needful, necessary: fundamental, vital, cardinal (see ESSENTIAL)

accident 1 *quality, character, attribute, property
accidental

Ana mark, *sign, note, badge, token, symptom: characteristic, peculiarity (see corresponding adjectives at CHARACTERISTIC)

Ant substance (in philosophy)

2 *chance, hazard, luck, fortune, hap

Ana contingency, fortuity, adventitiousness (see corresponding adjectives at ACCIDENTAL)

Ant design, intent — Con calculation, circumspection (see under CAUTIOUS): *plan, plot, project, scheme: *intention, purpose

3 Accidental, casualty, mishap are synonyms when they designate chance or a chance event bringing injury or loss. Accidental is broadest in its application, being used of events that involve persons or things, or injuries or losses, serious or slight (he was crippled by the accident). A railway accident (owing to an accident to the machines one department was closed down) Casualty commonly implies destruction, especially of life, and is chiefly applied to an individual whose death, serious injury, or even desertion constitutes a loss to a military (or similar) force engaged in hazardous activities (the regiment suffered heavy casualties) As applied to insurance accidental and casualty are usually distinguished: accidental insurance is a provision against injury to oneself through accident; casualty insurance is a provision for indemnification for loss from accident (as fire or burglary) and especially for damages incurred through one's liability for injury or loss to others. Mishap as a rule is applied only to slight accidents, especially those involving disappointment or frustration (a day seldom passes without one mishap or another)

Ana *disaster, catastrophe: mishance, *misfortune, mishap

accidental, casual, fortuitous, contingent, incidental, adventitious

The last five of these words are synonyms of accidental but not always of one another. Accidental denotes simply either happening by chance (an accidental meeting) or not of the real or essential nature of a thing (the essential and the accidental values of a college education) Casual, fortuitous, and contingent come into comparison with accidental in the first of these senses; incidental and adventitious chiefly in the second sense. Casual so strongly stresses absence of prearrangement or premeditation that it tends to obscure the implication of chance (a casual discovery) (it was no casual encounter. He had been enticed into the place . . . with some sinister and perhaps deadly purpose — Froude) As applied to persons, their actions, their clothes, it often implies heedlessness or indifference (this strange landscape, which seemed so dull to the casual view — Routke) (the rector] had been very casual about visiting his parishioners — MacKenzie) Sometimes it is the appearance of carelessness or nonchalance and not the reality that is suggested (this sense of an audience made him deliberately casual in his bearing — H. G. Wells) Fortuitous so strongly implies chance that it sometimes connotes the absence, or seeming absence, of a cause (the good frame of the universe was not the product of chance or fortuitous concourse of particles of matter — Hale) Contingent implies both possibility and uncertainty, the former because that which is so described may come about, the latter because the outcome is unpredictable owing to the possible operation of chance, of unseen causes, or of the possible influence of unforeseen events. Contingent is therefore always applied to what may come (the contingent advantages of a new law are to be distinguished from those that are immediate and certain) men are inclined . . . to resist a truth which discloses the contingent character of their existence — Niebuhr (such arguments yield a provisional and contingent justification of moral beliefs — Sat. Review) Incidental may or may not imply chance; it typically suggests a real and often a designed relationship, but one which is secondary and nonessential. An incidental advantage or gain is one that may have been foreseen or sought after but not regarded as of first importance; incidental expenses are those that must be provided for in a budget because they are normal contingencies though they cannot be enumerated under any of the usual headings (the Irish question is only incidental to the larger question — J. R. Lowell) (although a great deal is heard about consumer and real estate credit controls, they are incidental to the control of overall bank credit — Eccles) Incidental sometimes implies contingency that amounts to a strong probability (ills incidental to old age) (labor problems incidental to rapidly expanding factories — Amer. Guide Series: Mass.) Adventitious conveys no necessary suggestion of chance but it does imply a lack of essential relationship. Something adventitious does not belong to the original and intrinsic nature of a thing but has been added (in works of imagination and sentiment . . . meter is but adventitious to composition — Wordsworth)

Ana haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss, chance: unintended, undesigned, unpurposed (see affirmative verbs at INTEND): contingent, *dependent, conditional

Ant planned: essential — Con intended, designed, purposed (see INTEND): plotted, projected, schemed (see corresponding verbs under PLAN n): *inherent, constitutional, intrinsic, ingrained: *innate, inborn

acclaim vb extol, laud, *praise, eulogize

Ana *applaud, cheer, root: *exalt, magnify: glorify, honor (see corresponding nouns at FAME)

Ant vituperate — Con revile, berate, rate (see SCOLD): *execrate, objure, damn: denounced, censure, reprobrate (see CRITICIZE)

acclaim n acclamation, *applause, plaudits

Ana homage, *honor, reverence: renown, glory, éclat (see FAME): cheer (see corresponding verb at APPLAUD)

Ant vituperation — Con obloquy, *abuse, inveotive: condemnation, denunciation, reprobation, censure (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

acclamation acclaim, *applause, plaudits

Ana, Ant, Con see those at ACCLAIM n

acclimatize acclimatize, *harden, season

Ana accustom, *habituate: *adapt, adjust, conform

Ant accommodate 1 adjust, *adapt, conform, reconcile

Ana *yield, submit, bow, defer: modify, *change, alter, vary: temper, *moderate, qualify

Ant constrain — Con *strange, alienate

2 *oblige, favor

Ana *help, aid, assist: gratify, gladden, *please: *indulge, humor

Ant incommode — Con *inconvenience, discommode, trouble: annoy, harass, harry, *worry: vex, irk (see ANNOY)

3 hold, *contain

Ana lodge, house, board, shelter, *harbor, entertain: take (in), *receive, admit

accompaniment, concomitant denote in common something attendant upon or found in association with another thing. Both may imply addition, but they vary chiefly in the kind of relationship connoted between the principal and the attendant things. Accompaniment often suggests enhancement by the addition of something appropriate (the piano accompaniment for a violin solo) (the usual accompaniments of a turkey dinner) (fame is not always the accom-
accomplish — mean to go or be together with; they differ chiefly in their implications as to the nature or purpose of the association.

Accompany implies companionship and often, with a personal subject, equality of status (accompanied a friend). Used of things, it stresses closeness of association (train accompanied by wind). The lightheadedness which accompanied his pail—Kipling. Attend commonly implies the subordinate or inferior status of the accompanying person or thing (the prince was attended (rather than accompanied) by an equerry, a secretary, and a courier).

Sometimes it suggests a service or courtesy (the General attended her himself to the door—Austen). Sometimes it connotes following or coming in the wake of someone or something (a train of mourning friends attended his pail—Gray). The Nemesis that attends upon human pride—Dickinson. Conduct usually retains an implication of guidance even when the subject is impersonal (conduct a blind man across the street). Occasionally the emphasis is not on guidance but on conveyance or transmission (metals that conduct heat). Escort and convoy add to accompany the implication of protection. Both words and their corresponding nouns often suggest the use of an armed force as a guard, but there is a tendency to prefer escort when persons and convoy when things are protected. Also, escort is more often used for journeys on land and convoy for journeys by sea (for sea journeys).

A version or story is a version or report of events in their order and extended account or report of events in their order of occurrence (for 'tis a version of the state of the nation—Bryce). A chronicle is a detailed account of the conference) A chronicle is a detailed account or report of events in their order and extended account or report of events in their order of occurrence (for 'tis a chronicle of day by day, not a relation for a breakfast—Shak.). A version or story is a statement of purported facts. Version always and story often imply contrast with another statement of the same events and, usually, difference in details. But whereas version commonly implies difference of detail or of interpretation owing to limitations in each point of view, story often implies actual or suspected falsification (the Democratic and the Republican version of the state of the nation) (the witness had been primed to tell a different story) (he returned after a week’s absence with a story of having been held captive by kidnapers).

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

Anachronism

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**acquire** obtain, *get, gain, win, secure, procure  
*Ant* forfeit —*Con* alienate, *transfer, convey: *relin- quish, surrender, abandon, yield  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>acq</th>
<th>uirement, acquisition, attainment, accomplishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| acq| uirement, acquisition, attainment, accomplishment de- note in common a power or skill that is the fruit of exertion or effort; in this sense they are often used in the plural.  
Acq| uirement implies achievement as a result of continued endeavor and self-cultivation rather than of natural gifts or talent <a woman of considerable information and literature; acq| uirements not common amongst . . . ladies—Edgeworth>  
| Acq| uirement may add to acq| uirement the implications that the thing acquired is an addition or gain and that the endeavor to acquire has been characterized by avidity and stress <perhaps it was a mistake to force her into the rigid groove of classical learning . . . from it she got very unusual acq| uirements, but overstimulation broke her health—Parrington>  
| Acq| uirement is therefore used largely in interrogative sentences  
| Acquisition may be defined as the act by which an individual acquires a property or right, such as ownership, possession, or enjoyment. It refers to the process of obtaining or acquiring something.  
As applied to an acquired power or skill, acquisition usually stresses the inherent value of that power or skill <absolute disinterestedness is a rare acq| uirement, even in historians>  
| Acquisitive grasing, avaricious, greedy, *covetous avar| i| s| qua| dius| are| sive, owning, enjoying <corresponding verbs at HAVE>  
| Acquit 1 absolve, exonerate, vindicate, *exculpate  
*Ana* discharge, *free, release, liberate: *excuse, pardon, forgive, remit  
*Ant* convict —*Con* condemn, *sentence, doom, pro- scribe, damn: denounce, blame (see CRITICIZE)  
*Ant* ac| cid 1 *bitter  
*Ana* pungent, piquant;biting <see INCISIVE>; *offensive, repugnant, loathsome  
| Acronymy, acer| bity, asp| erity agree in denoting temper or language marked by irritation or some degree of anger or resentment. Acronymy implies bitterness or ill will and also greater stinging or blistering power in what is said than the others <the controversial writings of the seventeenth century are notorious for their acr| omy—Quiller-Couch>  
Acer| bity implies sourness as well as bitterness, sometimes as shown in words or mood, but more often as manifested in a morose, embittered nature <the judge’s smile seemed to operate on her acer| bity of heart like sunshine upon vinegar, making it ten times sourer—Hawthorne>  
Asper| ity retains implications of harshness and roughness chiefly in reference to style <the elderly ladies in his audience had been shocked by the asp| er| ities of the new style in music—Copland>  
In general use asp| erity stresses quickness of temper or sharpness of resentment but it rarely suggests bitterness <told him with some asp| erity to mind his own business>  
*Ana* bitterness <see corresponding adjective at bitter>; ill will, malignity, malignancy, spite, spleen, *malice, malevolence: rancor, animus, animosity, antipathy (see ENMITY)>  
*Ant* suavity —*Con* urbanity, diplomacy <corresponding adjectives at SUAVE>; courtesy, civility, politeness <see corresponding adjectives at CIVIL>  
| Across, crosswise, crossways, athwart are synonymous when they mean so as to intersect the length of something.  
Across and athwart may be used as prepositions as well as adverbs but carry the same implications in either part of speech. Across usually implies extension or passage from one side to the other <this board will not go across>  
<he could not get across the river that night> Crosswise and crossways stress intersection at right angles and usually suggest a horizontal direction <the stripes run acrosswise>  
<the defect lies crossways to the grain of the wood>  
| Act 1 *action, deed  
*Ana* performance, accomplishment, achievement <see corresponding verbs at PERFORM>; *feat, exploit  
| Act 2 statute, law, *bill  
*Ant* vb. 1 *Act, behave, work, operate, function, react are comparable when used with reference to the way in which a person or thing does what is expected or responds to external influences or circumstances. Act is not only the most general word of this group but also the most general of all English intransitive verbs except those (as be, exist, belong) which assert being, a state of being, or relation. Act is therefore used largely in interrogative sentences when knowledge of the specific nature of the action is
sought or in declarative sentences with a qualifying adverb, adverbial element, or adjective complement (how did the child act when you called him?) (he acted as if he were about to cry) (he acted frightened) (how should this powder act when mixed with water?) (this medicine acts as a poison to some persons) Behave is widely applied chiefly to persons and their conduct with reference to a standard of what is right or proper or decorous (one must keep one's contracts, and behave as persons of honor and breeding should behave—Rose Macaulay) However, in or parallel to technical use behave often approaches act in generality (study how steel behaves under stress) (how the thyroid gland behaves during emotional excitement) (two men may behave like a crowd . . . ) when their emotions are engaged—Conrady Work, operate, function agree in meaning to act in the way that is natural or intended (the Swiss clock had long since ceased to work—Bennett) (but she had not thought. Her brain would not operate—Bennett) (they have functioned as observers rather than participants—J. M. Brown) In distinction from one another work may, especially when qualified, suggest success or effectiveness (the fact that a theory has actually worked is a better recommendation for its soundness than any amount of ingenious dialectic—Huxley); operate stresses efficient activity rather than achievement except when followed by on or upon (the revolutionary spirit, ceasing to operate in politics—Macaulay); function implies activity with reference to the accomplishment of the end or office for which a thing exists or is designed (consciousness ceases altogether at death, when the brain no longer functions—Grant Allen) (rules of the game which must be observed, if society is to function at all—Galsworthy) React, a word of rapidly shifting implications, is often used as though it were a close synonym of the preceding words, especially of act or behave (at this threat the civil service reacted in the way which is always open to any civil service, under any regime—C. P. Fitzgerald) In discriminating use it always suggests recoil or rebound; often more narrowly, but still consistently, it implies reciprocal or counteractive influence or a reverse effect (home and the school react (act reciprocally) on each other) (whilst most people’s minds succumb to inculation and environment, a few react vigorously: honestly and decent people coming from thievish slums, and skeptics and realists from country parsonages—Shaw) As a result of use in chemistry and psychology, react now often implies a favorable or desired response (children react (respond favorably) to kind treatment) 2 Act, play, impersonate are synonyms when they mean to assume the appearance or role of another person or character. Act usually and play frequently imply feigning for theatrical representation (act Hamlet) (play the melancholy Dane) Even the idiom “to play one’s part” has a theatrical origin and still connotes performance and a contribution to an ensemble. Whether impersonate implies simulation for the sake of theatrical representation or for deception can be gathered only from the context (an actor who impersonates women) (he was arrested for impersonating an officer) acting adj *temporary, supply, ad interim, provisional action 1 Action, act, deed agree in designating something done or effected. Action refers primarily to the process of acting; act and deed to the result, the thing done. An action is usually regarded as occupying some time and involving more than one step; an act is more frequently thought of as momentary or instantaneous and as individual (the rescue of a shipwrecked crew is a heroic action; the launching of the lifeboat, a brave act) (a course of action) (the springs of action) (an act of vengeance) A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
actor, player, performer, mummer, mime, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trouper denote in common one who, for the entertainment or edification of an audience, takes part in an exhibition simulating happenings in real life. An actor makes a profession of taking part in such exhibitions (as in the theater or on television) (an ambition to be an actor) A player acts in a stage play either as a professional or as an amateur (all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players—Shak.) Performer is a wider term than the others of this group. It emphasizes actual participation in an exhibition before an audience and may denote not only an actor or player but any public entertainer (as a dancer or musician) (in theatrical speaking, if the performer is not exactly proper and graceful, he is utterly ridiculous—Steele) Mummer, mime, and mimic may all denote a performer who projects a character by means of body movements, expression, and gesture usually without the use of speech. Mummer is used more particularly of comic and amateurish performers or maskers, usually at some festival or holiday celebration (here and there the beat of drums . . . the antics and grimaces of mummers held the crowd [for a moment before some fantastic festival car—A. M. Bacon] When used of the professional actor its connotation is often derogatory (dubbing, that mummer's trick with the mouth which has . . . been responsible for an endless succession of vaudeville acts—Rogow) Mime is used of both the performer and the performance (mime and mimicry are confused in the public mind . . . Chaplin is a mime, but those who imitate him are mimics. A mime does not copy . . . but invents characters who have their own life . . . quite apart from their creator—Enters) and is especially applicable to the stylized gestural language of narrative dance (as ballet) (was a great mime and did not follow the then traditional ballet-mime (pantomime), but . . . in ballet gave first-class dramatic performances—Nicolaeva-Legat) Mimic more particularly stresses imitation and often comic exaggeration of qualities (had accents so grotesque that not even Molly, an able mimic, could copy them—Stafford) (mimic . . . Entertain by presenting exaggerated imitations—Dict. of Occupational Titles) Thespian is equivalent in meaning to actor but in connotation is often mock-heroic (the gossip columns, where a well-known Silk might yet be observed in solemn conclude with a distinguished Thespian—Wills) An impersonator is a performer who assumes the character of another (as a public figure, a class of persons, an animal) whom he imitates by makeup and in speech and action (a female impersonator) (a noted impersonator of Abraham Lincoln—A) A trouper is a member of a group and especially a traveling group of actors staging a play or repertory of plays. The term often connotes the seasoning or the sense of obligation to audience and the sense of characterizations of an experienced actor (no real trouper while conscious will ever confess himself too sick to go on—Ferber) actual (see special)

Ant

acute *sharp, keen

Ana *material, physical, phenomenal, objective: particular (see special)

Ant *abstract, transcendent: spiritual, divine (see Holy): theoretical, speculative, academic: fabulous, fictitious, mythical

actuality *existence, being

Ana realization, actualization, materialization, externalization, incarnation (see corresponding verbs at realize): attainment, achievement (see corresponding verbs at reach)

Ant potentiality, possibility (see abstraction, ideality, transcendence (see corresponding adjectives at abstract)

actualize *realize, embody, incarnate, externalize, objectify, materialize, hyponatize, reify

actuate 1 *move, drive, impel

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

2 *activate, motivate

Ana influence, affect, sway: incline, dispose, predispose: induce, prevail

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

acumen penetration, *discernment, insight, perception, discrimination

Ana shrewdness, sagacity, perspicacity, astuteness (see corresponding adjectives at shrewd): sharpness, keenness, acuteness (see corresponding adjectives at sharp)

Ant obtuseness —Con dullness, stupidity, slowness, denseness (see corresponding adjectives at stupid): blindness, purblindness (see corresponding adjectives at blind)

acute 1 *sharp, keen

Ana *incisive, trenchant, cutting: penetrating, piercing (see enter)

Ant obtuse —Con *dull, blunt: *stupid, slow, dull, crass, dense

2 Acute, critical, crucial. Acute most commonly indicates intensity, sometimes rapid, of a situation demanding notice and showing signs of some definite resolution (intimately associated with Indian affairs was the pressing question of defense . . . Pontiac's rebellion made the issue acute—Morison & Commager) when the food shortage became acute in New Haven, the junior class of Yale College was moved to Glastonbury—Amer, Guide Series: Conn. Critical may describe an approach to a crisis or turning point and may imply an imminent outcome or resolution (the war has reached a new critical phase . . . we have moved into active and continuing battle—Roosevelt) (the critical lack of rubber in the last war was finally beaten by the development of synthetic rubber plants capable of turning out 1,000,000 tons a year—Collier's Yr. Bk.) Crucial applies to an actual crisis situ-
adapt

1 Adapt, adjust, accommodate, conform, reconcile

Adamant, adamantine obdurate, inexorable, inflexible

Adage

Ant

Adaptable pliant, ductile, plastic, pliable, malleable

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

Ant inadequate, unadaptable—Con intractable, refractory (see unrruly), unconforming, nonconforming, irrefragible (see affirmative verbs at adapt)

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

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

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

Ant subtract, deduct—Con lessen, *decrease, dimin-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
addendum, 19

addendum: abstract, *detach

addendum: supplement, *appendix

addict: *habituate, accustom, inure

Anna: *incline, dispose, predispose, bias: devote, apply, address, *direct

Ant: wean —Con alienate, *estrange: *detach, disengage: disline, indispose (see affirmative verbs at INCLINE)

addict: Addict, votary, devotee, habitué designate a person who by habit and strong inclination indulges in something or the pursuit of something. Addict implies excessive, continuous, and often compulsive indulgence typically in harmful but sometimes in harmless things (a drug addict) a detective-story addict. Votary and devotee retain some of the implications of their religious senses such as enthusiasm, often amounting to fanaticism, and zeal. They rarely suggest attachment to that which is degrading or debasing but they do not invariably imply attachment to that which is uplifting (a votary of science) a devotee of vegetarianism) any worthy object of study, pursued disinterestedly does not permit its votary to be very seriously narrowed by his zeal —Inge Habitue implies frequent attendance at a place but it connotes habitual indulgence in a pleasure (a habitue of the theater is a devotee of the drama) (a habitue of a gambling house is a gambling addict)

addition, accretion, increment, accession agree in denoting a thing that serves to increase another in size, amount, or content. Addition implies union with something already existing as a whole or as a unit (the built an addition to his house last year) (the office boy, a recent addition to the staff, was busy with the copying press —Archibald Marshall) Sometimes improvement rather than increase is stressed (the paintings were an addition to the room) Accretion implies attachment from the outside; it may be used of the process as well as of the thing added (a rolled snowball grows by accretion) It often suggests additions made to an original body over a considerable period of time (the professional historian, whose aim is exact truth, should brush aside the glittering accretions of fiction that have encrusted it —Grandgent) Nearly always it implies the addition of unessential or alien matter (all progress in literary style lies in the heroic resolve to cast aside accretions and exuberances —Ellis) Increment usually implies addition bit by bit in consecutive or serial order (the salaries are raised by annual increments) one move in the endless ebb and flow of action and reaction, the infinitesimal increments of which we call Progress —Lowes Sometimes it signifies increase in value (benefited from an unearned increment in the value of his land resulting from growth of the city) Accession denotes something acquired that constitutes an addition to contents, holdings, or possessions (recent accessions to a library) (the greatest accession of positive knowledge has come in our own time —Inge)

additive: summative, *cumulative, accumulative

Anna: aggregative, conglomerative, agglomerative (see corresponding nouns at AGGREGATE): constituent, component, elemental (see corresponding nouns at ELEMENT)

addle: muddle, *confuse, fuddle, befuddle

Anna: confound, dumbfound, nonplus, bewilder (see PUZZLE) amaze, astonish, astound (see SURPRISE) fluster, flurry, agitate, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)

Ant: refresh (mentally) —Con *quicken, enliven, vivify, vivat.

address: vh 1 *direct, devote, apply

Anna: bend (see CURVE): appeal, pray, sue, plead (see under PRAYER): aim, point, level (see DIRECT)

2 Address, accost, greet, salute, hail mean to speak to

or less often to write or make a sign to a person in recognition or in order to obtain recognition. Address usually implies formality and definite purpose; it also frequently suggests length of speech or communication (address a petition to Congress) (how does one address a governor?) (it was Franklin, the thick chief mate, who was addressing him —Conrad) Accost adds to address the idea of speaking first or without being introduced; it implies absence of formality and often suggests boldness or sometimes evil intent (he accosted a passerby and asked for money) (the women. . . were accosted by two men who wanted to walk with them —Anderson) Greet usually implies friendliness, goodwill, or cordiality; it is the precise word when welcoming is to be suggested (the whole town appeared at the station to greet them) (my lord, the Mayor of London comes to greet you —Shak.) Salute commonly stresses ceremoniousness or observance of courtesies demanded by custom (the wife of his brother . . . must be saluted every day; but his paternal and maternal kinswomen need only be greeted on his return from a journey —William Jones) (then I salute you with this kingly title: long live Richard, England’s royal king —Shak.) Specifically salute applies to formal or prescribed acts of recognition (the soldier saluted his superior officer) (the president was saluted with 21 guns) Hail implies heartiness, joyousness, and often noisiness (the smiled and saluted and saluted to those who hailed him —Masefield) It often stresses the idea of calling out especially from a distance (hail a cab)

Anna: *speak, talk, converse: court, woo (see INVITE)

address: n 1 *tact, savoir faire, poise

Anna: dexterity, facility, ease, *readiness: adroitness, cleverness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEVER): graciousness, affability (see corresponding adjectives at GRACIOUS): suavity, urbanity, diplomacy (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE)

Ant: maladroitness, gaucherie —Con awkwardness, clumsiness, ineptness (see corresponding adjectives at AWFULL): boorishness, churlishness (see corresponding adjectives under BOOR)

2 *speech, oration, harangue, lecture, talk, sermon, homily

adduce, advance, allege, cite may be used interchangeably in the meaning to bring forward by way of explanation, proof, illustration, or demonstration; however, they usually are clearly distinguishable in their implications and in their idiomatic associations. One adduces facts, evidence, instances, passages, reasons, arguments when one presents these in support of a contention (at the close of the chapter Aquinas solves an objection adduced as damaging evidence against his position —Clark) (in the light of the parallels which I have adduced the hypothesis appears legitimate —Fraser) One advances something (as a theory, a proposal, a claim, an argument) that is in itself contentious when one presents it for acceptance or consideration (once or twice psychoanalysts have advanced that idea to me as a theoretical possibility —De Voio) (if such a proposal was not seriously meant, why was it advanced at all? —Hartmann) (half a century later when the Bourbon claim to the Spanish succession is advanced —Bello) Allege may indicate a bringing forward or stating as if needing no proof (younger scholars nevertheless can allege a very strong point on their side —H. M. Jones) It may on the other hand stress doubt about an assertion or convey a warning about or a disclaimer of responsibility for the truth of matter under discussion (those whose senses are alleged to be subject to supernatural impressions —Le Fanu) Its participial adjective alleged, especially, often serves as a disclaimer of responsibility for the assertion an alleged miracle —the
adherent
ad interim
*temporary, provisional, acting, supply
adhesion
adj
adj
adj
adj
adj
adj
adj
adj
adj
adj
adjust

\textbf{adherent} (the presence, real or alleged, of some hostile group—Dewey) One cites only something concrete and specific (as a passage from a book or a definite instance) when one adduces it in support of a contention; one cites by quoting a passage to give an authority; one cites an instance that serves as a precedent or illustration; one cites definite facts in support of something (as a claim or proposal) advanced \(\langle\) the very real difficulties of modern physical science originate, in large degree, in the facts just cited—Jeans\rangle

\textbf{Ana} *exemplify, illustrate: *remark, comment, commentate, animadvert

\textbf{adept} \textbf{n} *expert, wizard, artiste, artist, virtuoso

\textbf{Ant} bungler —\textbf{Con} dabbler, tyro, *amateur, dilettante: *apprentice, *novice, probationer

\textbf{addept} \textbf{adj} *proficient, skilled, skillful, expert, masterly

\textbf{Ana} *conversant, versed: efficient, effective: *dexterous, adroit, deft: competent, *able, capable, qualified

\textbf{Ant} inadvert, inept: bungling —\textbf{Con} amateurious, dabbling, dilettantist (see corresponding nouns at AMATEUR): *awkward, clumsy, maladroitr

\textbf{adhere} *stick, cohere, cling, cleave

\textbf{Ana} *fasten, attach, affix: unite, link, combine, *join

\textbf{Con} *separate, part, sever, divide: *detach, disengage: disunite, disjoin (see affirmative verbs at JOIN)

\textbf{adherence, adhesion} are usually distinguished in current use. In spite of exceptions the tendency prevails to use adherence when mental or moral attachment and adhesion when physical attachment is implied \(\langle\) they gave their adherence to the cause of reform \rangle (the adhesion of lung tissues to the pleura) Sometimes, however, adhesion is used in place of adherence when the writer feels that the physical connotations of the former will add emphasis \(\langle\) the iron force of adhesion to the old routine—Arnold\rangle

\textbf{Ant} inadherence, nonadhesion

\textbf{adherent} *follower, disciple, partisan, satellite, henchman, sectary

\textbf{Ana} supporter, upholder, backer, champion (see corresponding verbs at SUPPORT)

\textbf{Ant} renegade —\textbf{Con} apostate, recreant (see RENEGADE): deserter, forsaker (see corresponding verbs at ABANDON): adversary, *opponent, antagonist

\textbf{adhesion} *adherence

\textbf{Ant} nonadhesion, inadhesion

\textbf{adjoin} \textbf{n} *appendage, appurtenance, accessory

\textbf{Ana} *addition, accretion: appanage (see RIGHT): attach, *grant: *allot, assign

\textbf{adjudicate} *judge, arbitrate

\textbf{Ant} joined, connected (see JOIN vb): attached (see FASTEN)

\textbf{Ant} detached, disjoined —\textbf{Con} removed, *distant, remote, far

\textbf{adjudge} adjudicate, *judge, arbitrate

\textbf{Ant} rule, *decide, determine, settle: award, accord, *grant: *allot, assign

\textbf{adjunct} *appendage, appurtenance, accessory

\textbf{Ana} *addition, accretion: appanage (see RIGHT): attachment, affix, fixture (see corresponding verbs at FASTEN)

\textbf{adjudication} 

\textbf{Ant} entertain, *beg, beseech, implore, impounce, supplicate

\textbf{Ana} pray, plead, appeal (see under PRAYER): request, *ask: bid, enjoin, charge, *command

\textbf{adjust} 

\textbf{Ant} 1 Adjust, regulate, fix share the meaning to set right or to rights. Adjust implies modification to meet a need. To adjust a thing one brings it by some change into its exact or proper position or condition or into its right relationship with other things. One adjusts a telescope when one changes the distance between its eyepiece and its object glass so as to bring it into focus; one adjusts the temperature of a house when one changes the setting of a thermostat. Often adjust implies rectification or correction \(\langle\) adjust an error in an account \rangle (adjust a loose screw in a machine) \(\langle\) adjust spectacles that are not properly centered \rangle; frequently it suggests straightening out or settling \(\langle\) adjust a difficulty with a neighbor \rangle (adjust a claim for insurance) \textbf{Regulate}, on the other hand, usually implies the maintenance of something in a desired condition. To regulate something (as a mechanism, a device, an organ) one uses or serves as the means of making it work or operate regularly, uniformly, or accurately; thus, one regulates a clock when one adjusts its mechanism so that it will keep accurate time \(\langle\) some drugs regulate the beat of the heart by slowing it up, others by hastening it, until its rate of speed is normal \rangle One also regulates something that is produced or effected by a mechanism or a bodily organ when one uses the means to keep it at a fixed or uniform rate or degree \(\langle\) regulate the temperature of the house by setting the thermostat at the desired mark and keeping it there \rangle Fix is an informal and imprecise equivalent to these words. It is often used where adjust or regulate would be more explicit and effective \(\langle\) the optician will...
adjuvant

fix her glasses <please fix the clock > (he will fix up matters for us>) In distinctive use it implies restoration to good order or a state of repair <these shoes are not worth fixing > (fixed the leak in the roof)

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

Ant derange —Con disarrange, *disorder, disturb: up-set, *discompose

2 *adapt, accommodate, conform, reconcile

Ana *harmonize, attune: correspond, conform, accord, square (see AGREE)
adjuvant adj *auxiliary, contributory, ancillary, accessory, subsidiary, subservient

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

Ant counteractive —Con neutralizing, negativing (see neutralize): obstructing, hindering, impeding (see hinder vb)

administer, dispense come into comparison because they are used in certain idiomatic phrases, similar in wording but not always equivalent in meaning, such as administer justice or dispense justice; administer a medicine or dispense medicines when he compounds them; dispenses when he gives the prescribed dose directly to the patient; one dispenses medicines when he compounds them according to the prescription of the physician. Similarly, one administers a blow or a rebuke when he deals it out directly to the individual. Dis pense, in comparable phrases, retains its implication of distribution; one dispenses advice when he metes it out to those who in his opinion need it; one dispenses alms when he manages their distribution.

admiration 1 *wonder, wonderment, amazement

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

Con indifference, unconcern, aloofness (see corresponding adjectives at indifferent): boredom, *ledium, ennui

2 esteem, respect, *regard

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

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

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

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

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

admittance 1 *admittance

admire 1 *receive, accept, take

Ana allow, permit, suffer (see let): *habor, entertain, shelter, lodge, house

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

2 *acknowledge, own, confess, avow

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

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

3 enter, introduce

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

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

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

admixture 1 *mixture, composite, blend, compound, amalgam

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

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

admonish chide, *reprove, reproach, rebuke, reprimand

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

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

ado fuss, pother, flurry, bustle, *stir

Ana trouble, pains, exertion, *effort

Con quietness, stillness, silence (see corresponding adjectives at still): calm, serenity, tranquillity (see corresponding adjectives at calm)

adolescence *youth, puberty, pubescence

Ant senescence

adopt, embrace, espouse mean in common to make one's own what in some fashion one owes to another. One adopts something of which one is not the begetter, inventor, or author or which is not one's own naturally <adopt the style of Swinburne> <adopt the British pronunciation of a word> (the Ralstons gave up old custom reluctantly,

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
but once they had adopted a new one they found it impossible to understand why everyone else did not immediately do likewise—Wharton> Embrace implies willingness to accept or it may suggest eager or joyful acceptance <embrace an opportunity> <embrace Christianity> (she embraced with ardor the fantastic ideal of the cleaning up of England—Rose Macaulay) One espouses that to which one attaches oneself as closely as to a wife, giving it support or sharing the same fortunes and participating in the same experiences <espouse a friend’s quarrel> (the spirit of uncompromising individualism that would eventually espouse the principle of democracy in church and state—Parrington) 

Ana appropriate, *arrogate, usurp; *assume, affect 
Ant repudiate: discard —Con reject, spurn (see DECLINE): renounce, forswear, *abjure

adoration worship, veneration, reverence (see under REVERE)

Ana *honor, homage, obeisance: praise, laud, extolling (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE) 
Ant blasphemy —Con execration, cursing (see corresponding verbs at EXECRATE): profanation, desecration, sacrilege

*adore worship, venerate, *revere, reverence

Ana laud, *praise—extol: *exalt, magnify
Ant blaspheme —Con execrate, curse

2 Adore, worship, idolize in their nonreligious senses mean to love or admire excessively. Adore commonly implies emotional surrender to the charms or attractions of an object of love or admiration; it often connotes extreme adulation if the object of love is a person (this inability ... to project his personality is a serious weakness in a country which likes to adore its leaders—Dorothy) With other objects it may connote no more than a hearty liking <like gourmet and yellow flies, sows adore eating truffles—Lauber> Worship usually implies more extravagant adoration or more servile attentions than adore; it also commonly connotes an awareness of one’s own inferiority or of one’s distance from the object of one’s love (he worships his wife) <small boys who worship astronauts>

Idolize often implies absurdly excessive adoration or doting love <Idolizing money in life and poetry—New School Bulletin> Sometimes, however, it comes very close to adore (a spoiled child is one that has been idolized by his parents)

Ana love, dote (see LIKE): admire, esteem (see under REGARD n)

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

adorn, decorate, ornament, embellish, beautify, deck, bedeck, garnish mean to add something unessential in order to enhance the appearance. These words and especially the first five are often used interchangeably; certain distinctions, however, are apparent in precise use especially when the subject of the verb is the thing that enhances rather than the agent or enhancer. An element that adorns not only serves to heighten the beauty of its background or setting but also is beautiful in itself <few nobler poems than those wherein the simple joys of rising morning are celebrated—Lyon> (bedecking a broiled salmon with lemon slices and chopped parsley)

Adorn, decorate, ornament imply adding something unessential in order to enhance or beautify a thing. When the subject of the verb is the thing that enhances rather than the agent or enhancer, or is the source or origin of the enhancing or beautifying, the verb enhance or beautify is used. Enhance often emphasizes something already attractive while beautify often emphasizes something in need of improvement (the effect of a thing. One who embellishes modifies his material, especially by adding adventitious or sometimes gaudy or fictitious ornament for the sake of effect <embellishes his style with imagery> (feats of virtuosity ... with which she embellished the usual routine of the role—Sargent>) Embellish often suggests disregard for truth <that theme is then expertly embellished by the Communists to prove that Wall Street is on the warpath against the Kremlin—Fischer> One that beautifies either enhances the beauty of something or counterbalances its plainness or ugliness <an embellment swathed and beautified by clambering roses> (the eternal orbs that beautify the night—Shelley) One that decks or bedecks contributes to the gaiety, splendor, or, especially in the case of deck, showiness of appearance <deck oneself with jewels> <decking with liquid pearl the bladed grass—Shak> (he likes to deck out his little person in splendor and fine colors—Thackeray)

Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify
Ant diminish, *deface: mar, spoil, impair, *injure: deform, distort, contort

adroit 1 *dexterous, deft, handy
Ana *agile, nimble: expert, masterly, adept, skilled, *proficient: effortless, smooth, facile, *easy
Ant maladroit —Con clumsy, *awkward, inept

2 *clever, cunning, ingenious

Ana *shrewd, astute, perspicacious: *intelligent, quick-witted, smart: artful, crafty (see SLY)

Ant stolid —Con *impassive, apathetic, phlegmatic: *stupid, slow, dull, dense

adulation flattery, *compliment

Ana praise, laud (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE): *applause, acclaim: fulsome, unctuousness (see corresponding adjectives at FULSOME)
Ant abuse —Con obloquy, vituperation (see ABUSE): censure, condemnation, reprobation, criticism (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

adult adj *mature, grown-up, matured, ripe, mellow
Ana developed, ripened, aged (see MATURE vb)
Ant juvenile: puerile —Con *youthful, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden: adolescent, pubescent (see corresponding nouns at YOUTH)

adulterant n *admixture, alloy

adulterate, sophisticate, load, weight, doctor mean to alter fraudulently especially for profit. Adulterate, the usual and technical term, especially when used with reference to foodstuffs and drugs, implies either the admixture of ingredients of similar appearance to increase the bulk or of a harmful substance as a preservative or as a restorer or improver of appearance <adulterate maple syrup with beet-sugar syrup> (line juice adulterated with five percent sulfuric acid, jellies with formaldehyde, peas with copper—Heiser>) In its extended use adulterate implies spuriousness or loss of purity: such implications come out strongly in unadulterated, which is the equivalent of pure and sheer in their hyperbolic senses <that book is unadulterated trash> In meaning sophisticate is essentially identical with adulterate but its use is restricted almost entirely to raw drug and essential oil trade <rose oil is sophisticate with geraniol—Shreve> Load implies the admixture of something to add weight whether as an adulterant or in the normal course of manufacture <numerous adulterants have been used to load tea to increase its weight—Uker> (most kinds of paper are loaded in some way or other) The process ... was first practiced ... to save
pulp...but it was found that restricted quantities of loadings improved the paper—Jennett. Weight is used interchangeably with load but is applied more especially to textiles—(silk weighted with salts of tin)—Doctor implies tampering sometimes by adulteration but more often by alterations or falsifications which give an illusion of genuineness, of superior quality, or of great value—doctoring.

Doctoring poor wine with essences and brandy—doctored his accounts to hide his thefts—Ana.

*debase, vitiate, corrupt: pollute, defile, taint (see CONTAMINATE)

Ant. *improve, better

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

Ana. unfaithfulness, inconstancy, untruthfulness (see affirmative adjectives at FAITHFUL); infidelity, disloyalty (see affirmative nouns at FIDELITY)

adumbrate—suggest, shadow

Ana. symbolize, typify, emblematize (see corresponding nouns at SYMBOL); signify, denote, mean (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST)

Ant. revelation—Con. disclosure, revealing, divulging, discovering (see corresponding verbs at REVEAL)

advance vb 1 Advance, promote, forward, further all mean to move or put ahead, but they come into comparison chiefly when they imply help in moving or putting (something) ahead. Advance usually implies effective assistance, as in hastening a process (the warm rains greatly advanced the spring crops) or in bringing about a desired end (the pact should advance peace among nations) or in exalting or elevating a person, especially in rank or in power—Ahasuerus...advanced him...above all the princes—Esth 3:1. The implication of moving ahead is dominant in promote when the word means to advance in grade or rank, especially in a predetermined order (promote a pupil to the next grade in school) (promote a member of a college faculty from associate professor to full professor). When the dominant implication is assistance, promote may suggest open backing or support (the objects for which a corporation is created are universally such as the government wishes to promote—John Marshall). It may, especially when the subject names a person, his influence, or his acts, imply actual advance by encouraging or fostering (a sound forest economy promotes the prosperity of agriculture and rural life—Gustafson).

It may, when said of a thing such as a practice, a policy, a habit, imply subservience to an end that may not be intended (the habit of regarding the language of poetry as something dissociated from personal emotion...was promoted by the writing of Greek and Latin verse in school—Babbitt). In one or two collocations forward implies not assistance but effective carrying out (forward a shipment by express) (please forward all letters during my absence). In its more common sense forward is often not clearly distinguishable from advance, except that it is seldom if ever used with reference to persons—(Marie de Médecis had advanced Marillac by marrying him to one of her maids of honor...yet...she only forwarded the marriage because she wanted to do the girl a favor—Bello). Further, less than any other word in this group, implies movement ahead and, perhaps more than any other, emphasizes the assistance given, especially in the removing of obstacles, either to a person in an undertaking or to the project he undertakes (her sole object...was to further him, not as an artist but as a popular success—Brooks). Bodies like the French Academy have such power for promoting it [genius], that the general advance of the human spirit is perhaps, on the whole, rather furthered than impeded by their existence—Arnold.

Ana. *help, aid, assist: hasten, accelerate, quicken, spur: elevate, raise, lift

Ant. retard: check—Con. *hinder, impede: restrain, curb: *arrest: *delay, slow

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

Ana. develop, *mature: *intensify, heighten

Ant. recede—Con. retreat, retrograde (see RECEDE); retire, withdraw (see go)

3 *advocate, allege, cite

Ana. *offer, present, proffer: propose (see corresponding noun at PROPOSAL); broach, *express, air

advance n 1 progress (see under ADVANCE vb 2) (development, evolution: improvement, betterment (see corresponding verbs at IMPROVE)

Ant. recession, retrogression—Con. retrograding, re-treating (see RECEDE)

2 *overture, approach, tender, bid

Ana. *proposal, proposition: offer, proffer (see corresponding verbs at OFFER)

Ana. analogous words

Ant. antonyms

Con. contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
advanced 1 forward, precocious, *premature, untimely
Ant backward — Con retrogressive, retrograde, regressive (see backward)
2 radical, *liberal, progressive
Ana daring, venturesome, *adventurous
Ant conservative
advancement, preferment, promotion, elevation designate the act of raising a person in grade, rank, or dignity, or the honor that comes to one who is so raised. **Advancement** is the general term of widest application <lose all hope of advancement> **Preferment** especially in older use often comes close to advancement <tis the curse of service, preferment goes by letter and affection, and not by old gradation, where each second stood heir to the first—Shak.> It now more often implies choice, especially from a series of candidates or possibilities <a military record was the surest road to military preferment among vigorous frontiersmen—Coulter> <obedience spelled preferment in the civil service—Schumpler> **Promotion**, usually but not invariably, implies gradation or raising according to a fixed plan, often involving the passing of tests or the meeting of qualifications. It is the specific word in education to designate the end-of-the-term advance of pupils to a higher grade or in any field where members of a force or staff are given positions of higher rank with increased remuneration. **Elevation** is applicable only when the advance is marked in honor or dignity <the prime minister’s elevation to the peerage> <the bishop’s elevation to the cardinalate> **The many men of talent who owed their elevation to Wolsey—Froude>

Ant degradation: reduction (in rank or status)

advantage 1 Advantage, handicap, allowance, odds, edge denote a factor or set of factors in a competition or rivalry giving one person or side a position of superiority over the other. **Advantage** is the general term, and implies superiority of any kind <the adult, with trained powers, has an immense advantage over the child in the acquisition of information—Elliot> **A handicap** is something, typically an artificial advantage, designed to equalize competition; thus, in golf, the handicap assigned a player is the difference between the average of a certain number of his best scores and par for the course; for instance, if the player’s best-score average is 75 and par is 72, his handicap is 3, and when he plays in a handicap match the player is allowed to deduct three strokes from his total score. **An allowance** is an advantageous handicap stated as a deduction of some sort. In horse racing an allowance is a deduction from the weight that the rules require a horse to carry, granted to a horse considered to be at a disadvantage. **Odds** usually implies a material advantage as in strength, numbers, or resources. It is often used of such an advantage possessed by the opposite side <managed to beat the odds against him—O’Leary> **The peculiarly British quality . . . of sticking out against odds—Contemporary Review> **Advantage** is often stated as a difference, odds as a ratio <one boxer has an advantage of ten pounds in weight> <one army has odds of two to one over the other> **Odds** may also denote an equalizing concession made to an inferior competitor; it then differs from handicap and allowance in that the concession is made by the superior competitor and not assigned by a third party <each side feels that it cannot allow any odds to the other—Bryce> **Edge** may be an equivalent of advantage or odds but usually implies a slight but decisive superiority <here we have the edge on our rivals, not only because of our superior location, but also because we are reputedly reckless about reducing prices—Publishers’ Weekly>

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

adversary *opponent, antagonist

adverse 1 Adverse, antagonistic, counter, counteractive

Ant

adventurous: cautious

adversary *opponent, antagonist

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

Ant unadventurous: cautious

adverse

adversity *misfortune, mischance, mishap

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

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

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

2 *refer, allude

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

Con ignore, disregard, overlook, *neglect

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

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

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

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

Ana *publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda

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

Ana admonition (see corresponding verb at REPROVE): warning, forewarning, cautioning (see Warn): instruc-tion, teaching (see corresponding verbs at TEACH)

2 intelligence, *news, tidings

advisable *expedient, politic

Ana prudent, *wise, sensible: *beneficial, advantageous, profitable: practical, *practicable
advise 26

*advise* 1 counsel (see under *advice 1*)

An

Admonish (see *reprove*): warn, forewarn, caution:
*induce, persuade*

Con

consult, *confer, advise*

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

Ana

discuss, debate, argue: converse, talk (see *speak*): deliberate (see *think*)

Con

counsel (see under *advice 1*)

3 notify, *inform, apprise, acquaint*

Advised

deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied

Advocate

n
*lawyer, counselor, barrister, counsel, attorney, solicitor*

advocate

vb
*support, uphold, champion, back*

Ana

defend, justify, vindicate, *maintain: espouse (see *adopt*): promote, forward, *advance*

Ant

impugn — Con

assail, *attack: combat, oppose, fight (see *resist*)

Aeon

age, era, epoch, *period*

aeronautics, advocate

vb
*deliberate, considered, premeditated, designed, studied*

aerate

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

Aerial

adj
*airy, ethereal*

Ana

immaterial, incorporeal (see *material*: impalpable, *imperceptible, imponderable*

Aeronautics, aviation

to have to do with the operation of aircraft. Aeronautics is primarily a science dealing with the operation of any kind of aircraft (engineers specializing in aeronautics) Aviation is an art, science, or practice concerned with the operation of heavier-than-air aircraft (skill in aviation develops only when theoretical knowledge is supplemented by practical experience) Unlike aeronautics it has extended use in which it may denote aircraft or their manufacture, development, and design (his aviation had sunk or damaged 52...vessels—Newsweek) (recent advances in American aviation)

Aesthete, dilettante, connoisseur

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

Aesthetic

*artistic*

Ant

unesthetic

Affable

*gracious, cordial, genial, sociable*

Ana

courteous, polite (see *civil*): open, candid, *frank:* *amiable, obliging, compliant: talkative, loquacious:* *suave, urbane*

Ant

reserved — Con

uncommunicative, taciturn, reticent, *silent: curt, brusque (see *bluff*): surly, glum, crabbed (see *sullen*)

Affair

1 Affair, business, concern, matter, thing come into comparison only when they are little more than vague or general terms meaning something done or dealt with. Some or rarely all are used interchangeably in certain similar collocations such as his own affair, business, concern: public and private affairs, concerns, matters, business: a sorry affair, business, matter, thing; affairs, matters, things are in good condition. However, a degree of precision is possible, for each word carries distinctive implications which are not always obscured. Affair suggests action or performance; it may imply a process, an operation, a proceeding, an undertaking, a transaction (seeing a book through the press is a laborious and time-wasting affair—T.H. Huxley) In the plural it often denotes transactions of great importance such as those involved in the management of finances or in the carrying on of diplomatic negotiations (men of affairs) (he had married a rich woman and administered her affairs. He was not supposed to have any affairs of his own—Mary Austin) Business usually stresses duty or office; sometimes it suggests an imposed task (because a Thing is every Body's Business, it is no Body's Business—Steele) (the flight of his imagination is very swift: the following of it often a breath—Heiser)
affect

less business—Day Lewis

differs from the latter word in implying both the pressure or control of some force that is either not resistant or is in itself irresistible, and resulting change or fluctuation in character, opinions, or decisions of the person concerned

Affect suggests personal or direct relationship: it often implies an important bearing on one's welfare, success, or interests; thus, something is not one's concern because it has no bearing on one's interests, welfare, or success

Sometimes concern is preferred to affair when that which requires attention involves a degree of anxiety or solicitude

affection

Austen) 3 Affect, effect are often a source of difficulty because both verbs imply the production of an effect and take as their corresponding noun the same word, effect. Affect, the verb (see AFFECT 1), distinctively implies the action or operation of an agent rather than of an agent; it therefore means to influence (moisture affects steel) (high prices affect our pocketbooks) (the climate has affected his health) Effect, the verb (see PERFORM), implies the achievement of an end in view, and requires as its subject an intelligent agent or the means he uses to attain his end: it therefore means to bring about (the prisoners effected their escape) (the new system of accounting will effect a reduction in costs) Since the noun effect may be applied to any result whether brought about unconsciously or consciously, it serves equally well whether it names a result of the influence of one thing upon another or of directed effort.

affinity

Analogous words: affinity — related, like, similar

Affinity 1

affectionate

affectionate

3 Affect, effect are often a source of difficulty because both verbs imply the production of an effect and take as their corresponding noun the same word, effect. Affect, the verb (see AFFECT 1), distinctively implies the action or operation of an agent rather than of an agent; it therefore means to influence (moisture affects steel) (high prices affect our pocketbooks) (the climate has affected his health) Effect, the verb (see PERFORM), implies the achievement of an end in view, and requires as its subject an intelligent agent or the means he uses to attain his end: it therefore means to bring about (the prisoners effected their escape) (the new system of accounting will effect a reduction in costs) Since the noun effect may be applied to any result whether brought about unconsciously or consciously, it serves equally well whether it names a result of the influence of one thing upon another or of directed effort.

Affect suggests personal or direct relationship: it often implies an important bearing on one's welfare, success, or interests; thus, something is not one's concern because it has no bearing on one's interests, welfare, or success

Sometimes concern is preferred to affair when that which requires attention involves a degree of anxiety or solicitude

Affect, the verb (see Affect 1), distinctively implies the action or operation of an agent rather than of an agent; it therefore means to influence (moisture affects steel) (high prices affect our pocketbooks) (the climate has affected his health) Effect, the verb (see PERFORM), implies the achievement of an end in view, and requires as its subject an intelligent agent or the means he uses to attain his end: it therefore means to bring about (the prisoners effected their escape) (the new system of accounting will effect a reduction in costs) Since the noun effect may be applied to any result whether brought about unconsciously or consciously, it serves equally well whether it names a result of the influence of one thing upon another or of directed effort.
affirm

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

afflict, try, torment, torture, rack mean to inflict upon a person something which he finds hard to bear. Something or someone that causes pain, disability, suffering, acute annoyance, irritation, or embarrassment may be said to affect a person. A person who feels pain, disability, or suffering may be said to be affected by something. Affect is a verb that means to influence when he affects something; or to feel strong feelings about something. An affect is a designed and usually an open mark of disrespect. An affront is a designed and usually an open mark of disrespect. An affront is an outrage upon one's personal dignity. An affront is an outraged who, I beseech you, would be pleased to give me a share of the comfort, advice, and assistance which you so much need.
### afraid, brazen (Shameless)

**Ant** gratification — *Con* deference, *honor, homage*; adulation, *compliment, flattery*

**afraid** *fearful, apprehensive*

**Analogous words**

- *effect* (result, consequence, up-effect, after-effect, aftermath)
- *behind* (after, behind)
- *afar* (behind)
- *fearful* (apprehensive)

**After, before**

- *before* (ahead, forward)
- *after* (behind, rear, posterior, hind)

**Prepositions, and Adjectives**

- *behind* (prep, adj, adv)
- *aft* (behind)
- *abstaining* (behind)
- *after* (behind)
- *ahead* (behind)

**Antonyms**

- *before* (ahead, forward)
- *after* (behind)

**Analogous words**

- *fearful* (apprehensive)

**Usage**

- *behind* (prep, adj, adv)

**Example**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Age**

- *n* (behind)

**Antonyms**

- *before* (ahead, forward)

**Usage**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Example**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Aging**

- *n* (behind)

**Antonyms**

- *before* (ahead, forward)

**Usage**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Example**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Ageing**

- *n* (behind)

**Antonyms**

- *before* (ahead, forward)

**Usage**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Example**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Aget**

- *n* (behind)

**Antonyms**

- *after* (behind)

**Usage**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Example**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Agent**

- *n* (behind)

**Antonyms**

- *after* (behind)

**Usage**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)

**Example**

- *behind* (in time, place or order)
it connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint 

Deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomerate and agglomeration connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomerate and agglomeration connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomerate and agglomeration connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomerate and agglomeration connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomerate and agglomerate composed of irregularly shaped fragments scattered by volcanic explosions as distinguished from conglomerate, an aggregate composed of rounded, waterworn stones.

Ana union, unity, integrity: unification, consolidation (see corresponding verbs at COMPACT): complex, system, organism, network

Ant constituent

Aggregation *aggregate, conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomeration and aggregation in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomeration and aggregation connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal

Agglomerate, agglomeration conglomerate, conglomeration, aggregate, aggregation

Agglomerate and agglomeration in general use seldom imply coherence of parts; they suggest either a huddling together of things that do not move but are invigorating or exhilarating. Agglomerate and agglomeration imply the formation of a whole by parts or particles that are not merged into each other.

Agglomerate and agglomeration connotes responsibility to the person whose powers are deputed, rather than to the organization from which these powers ultimately derive. The governor-general of Canada may appoint deputies to exercise his powers or functions locally or temporarily. A vicar-general is a deputy of a bishop. Proxy implies a substitution of persons when a promise or pledge is solemnly made or a vote, as at a stockholders' meeting, is to be cast. In a marriage service a proxy for the bride or groom or in the baptismal service a proxy for a godparent merely utters the promises in the name of the absent person, the latter assuming the obligation of fulfilling them.

Ant principal
brisk air—George Eliot

Spry stresses alacrity arising from vigor or health; however it is frequently applied to those from whom alacrity or briskness of movement is not to be expected (the old lady is as spry as a cricket)

〈she is down one day, and up and spry the next〉

Ana *dexterous, adroit, deft: quick, fleet, speedy (see FAST): limber, lissome, *supple: *lively, sprightly

Ant torpid —Con *lethargic, sluggish, comatose: inert,

*inactive, passive, supine

agitate 1 *shake, rock, convulse

Ana *stir, rouse, arouse: *move, actuate, drive, impel

Ant quiet, hush, still

2 perturb, *discompose, upset, fluster, flurry, disturb, disquiet

Ana *irritate, provoke, rile, exasperate, peeve: *worry, harass, plague: *annoy, vex, irk, bother

Ant calm, tranquilize —Con *pacify, placate, appease, mollify

3 argue, dispute, debate, *discuss

Ana controvert (see DISPROVE): assail, *attack: *consider: air, ventilate, broach (see EXPRESS)

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

Ana *motion, movement: *stir, bustle, ado: disturbance, perturbation, disquiet (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

Ant tranquility

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

agog *eager, keen, anxious, avid, athirst

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

Ant aloof —Con *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, detached, uninterested, disinterested

agonize *write, squirm

Ana suffer, endure, *bear: torment, rack, torture, *afflict

agonizing *excruciating, racking

Ana torturing, tormenting, racking (see AFFLICTION): *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent

Con *comfortable, easy, restful: comforting, solacing, consoling (see COMFORT)

agony suffering, passion, *distress, misery, dolor

Ana pang, throe, ache, *pain, twinge: *trial, tribulation, affliction, visitation

Con *rest, repose, ease, comfort: solace, consolation (see corresponding verbs at COMFORT): relief, assuagement, mitigation (see corresponding verbs at RELIEVE)

agrarian, agricultural are sometimes confused because they carry common implications and are used to qualify like terms (as an agrarian or an agricultural society, an agrarian or an agricultural crisis, an agrarian or an agricultural policy). Both terms have reference to land, the conditions under which it is held, and its profitable use.

Agrarian usually stresses the economic or political issues involved in the ownership of land, in the conditions of tenancy, and in the right of the individual to the profits of his labor on the land (agrarian crises were frequent in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when the issue of tenant rights became acute) Agricultural stresses rather the successful and profitable use of land for the production of crops and the breeding of animals (agrarian crises are likely to occur when overproduction and a restriction of markets coincide) When, however, agricultural interests are at stake and political action is held to be necessary, a party formed to promote these ends may be called an agrarian rather than an agricultural party, and a measure advocated as an agrarian rather than an agricultural measure.

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

Ana *grant, concede, allow: accept, *receive: admit,

*acknowledge

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

2 Agree, concur, coincide are comparable when they mean to come into or to be in harmony regarding a matter of opinion or a policy. Agree implies unison in thought or a complete accord: even if the context suggests previous discussion, the word usually indicates that argument is ended (this is a point upon which all persons agree) (agree upon a price) Concur usually implies reference to a specific or definite agreement or suggests a thinking, acting, or functioning cooperatively or harmoniously toward a given end or for a particular purpose (for the creation of a masterpiece literature two powers must concur, the power of the man and the power of the moment—Arnold) Coincide implies an agreement amounting to complete identity of opinion. Only occasionally is it used of persons; more frequently opinions, judgments, wishes, or interests coincide (I had hoped that our sentiments coincided—Austen) (private groups whose interests did not coincide with national defense—T. W. Arnold) Often coincide implies an agreement in time of occurrence (less often an agreement in place occupied) and therefore frequently stresses synchrononousness of events (the fall of Granada and the discovery of America coincided) (see coincident under CONTEMPORARY)

Ana *unite, cooperate

Ant differ: disagree —Con *contend, fight, battle: dispute, argue, debate (see DISCUSS): quarrel, wrangle, squabble, bicker (see under QUARREL n)

3 Agree, square, conform, accord, harmonize, correspond, tally, jibe mean to exist or go together without conflict or incongruity. One thing agrees with another when their comparison or association reveals no discrepancy, no inequality, or no untoward effects (the conclusion agrees with the evidence) (the two accounts agree in every particular) (pronouns must agree with their antecedents in person, number, and gender) One thing squares with another when there is exact, almost mathematically exact, agreement between the two (force facts to square with a theory) (the corporation must, if it is to survive, square itself with the basic beliefs of the American people—Lindeman) One thing conforms to or with another when there is likeness or agreement in form, in nature, or in essential character (since theology was philosophy’s queen, medieval philosophy conformed to that system which Augustine employed in his theology—H. O. Taylor) (my views of conduct . . . conform with what seem to me the implications of my beliefs—T. S. Eliot) One thing accords with another when there is perfect fitness in the relation or association as in character, spirit, quality, or tone (the speaker’s remarks did not accord with the sentiments of those who listened to him) (the common doctrine of liberty accorded with the passions released by the Revolution—Parrington) One thing harmonizes with another when, in spite of their real and often marked differences, their combination or juxtaposition produces an agreeable or aesthetic effect (from the waves, sound . . . broke forth harmonizing with solitude—Shelley) (the need for the United States to harmonize its practices in foreign affairs must closely resemble than in the past with its professed ideals—Dean) One thing corresponds to or with another when, however far apart or however close the two things may be, they belong together because they match each other, complement each other, or answer to each other. Sometimes correspond implies agreement (fulfillment seldom corresponds to anticipation) (I should never correspond to your pattern of a lady—George Eliot) Sometimes it implies an analogous
relation of the bird's wing corresponds to the human arm.

Sometimes it implies commensurateness (incomes do not always correspond with the efforts or skill that appear to be involved—Hobson) One thing tallies with another when the correspondence is so close that they either complement each other or agree with each other (pain and pleasure no more tally in our sense than red and green—Brownings) jibe is sometimes equivalent to agree, sometimes to harmonize, and sometimes to accord (his actions do not jibe with his words) (this looks jibed with the stage driver's description of him—Luke Short) Ant differ (from) —Con negative, counteract, neutralize: negate, nullify

agreeable  grateful, pleasing, pleasant, gratifying, agreeable

Ant repugnant, repellent, obnoxious, disagreeable —Con repugnant, repulsive, unpleasant, disagreeable

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
airy, aerial, ethereal can all mean as light and insubstantial—Woof

Airfield is used of an open area of land with one or more runways and limited or no facilities for shelter or maintenance of planes. However, in strict usage, airfield is applied only to the part of an airport on land where planes land and take off. An airstrip is a specially prepared usually hard-surfaced strip of land with few or no facilities for sheltering or maintenance of planes and is often located in an advanced military position or in a remote area for occasional or emergency use. Landing strip in one of its meanings is synonymous with airstrip and in the other meaning with runway. A flying field is an airport or military airdrome, but the term is sometimes applied especially to a small airfield for privately owned planes or to a temporary airfield. A landing field is a land area clear and cleared of tall trees and other obstructions for flying operations.

airy, aerial, ethereal can mean as light and insubstantial as air. Airy seldom suggests a transcendent quality; in its widest sense it implies little more than immateriality (the poet's pen . . . gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name—Shak.) When applied to persons, their words, or their manners, it may imply an affectation of grandeur or putting on airs (replied with airy condescension) mere affectation of nonchalance (airy refusal to take good advice) When used of motion or movements, it suggests lightness and buoyancy (the slight harebell raised its head, elastic from her airy tread—Scott) Aerial in figurative use is found chiefly in poetry where it usually connotes impalpability, extraordinary delicacy, or elusiveness, and is applied to things rather than to persons (mountains . . . fair of aspect, with aerial softness clad—Wordsworth) (the aerial hue of fountain-gazing roses—Shelley) (divine and aerial distinctions—Milman) Ethereal implies not the atmosphere surrounding the earth but the rarefied air once believed to fill the heavenly regions and so imputes a celestial or supramundane character to the person or thing it qualifies. Sometimes it suggests an unearthly translucency (fire . . . without heat, flickering a red gold flame . . . ethereal and insubstantial—Woof) (so . . . ethereal in appearance with its cloud colors, that . . . even . . . the most beautiful golden shades . . . seemed heavy and dull and dead-looking by comparison—Hudson) Sometimes, especially when referred to persons, their words, or their thoughts, it suggests disembodied spirit or aparness from material interests (the ethereal quality of Shelley's poetry) (at times he tends to fall into excessive subtlety, to be too vaporous and ethereal—Babbitt)

ana (a superheated atmosphere) Ether usually suggests a medium more rarefied than air or one far more delicate or subtle formerly held to fill the upper regions or interstellar space. In technical use it also denotes a hypothetical medium for the transmission of transverse waves which is characterized by continuity and extreme tenuity and which permeates all space. Strictly, ozone is a triatomic form of oxygen that is a faintly blue pungent irritating gas found especially in the upper levels of the air and used commercially chiefly in disinfection, in oxidation, and in bleaching. In general use it denotes air that is notably pure and refreshing (the fresh crisp ozone of morning—Halsey)

Alarum n 1 Alarm, tocsin, alert agree in meaning a signal that serves as a call to action or to be on guard especially in a time of imminent danger. Alarm is used of any signal that arouses to activity not only troops, but emergency workers (as firemen, policemen); it suggests a sound such as a cry, a pealing of a bell, a beating of drums, or a siren (sound a fire alarm) (the dog's barking gave the alarm) Tocsin may be either an alarm sounded by bells usually from the belfry of a church or, more often, the bells sounding an alarm (the loud tocsin tolled their last alarm—Campbell) but is used figuratively for any sort of warning of danger. Alert, a military term for a signal to be on guard and ready for expected enemy action, is often used for any warning of danger (sirens sounded an air-raid alert) (the Weather Bureau issued a tornado alert in the early afternoon . . . . The alert was cancelled after 5 p.m.—Springfield Union) It may also denote the state of readiness called for by the signal or warning or the period during which this is maintained (an abandon-ship alert was signaled. Warning for that . . . was to be four blasts of the ships whistle—Lowell Bennett) (a peacetime round-the-clock alert against surprise aerial attack—N. Y. Times)

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

Alarming vb *alarm, frighten, fright, scare, startle, terrify, affright, terrorize, alarm

Alchemy n Magic, thaumaturgy, wizardry, sorcery, witch-
**alcoholic**

ery, witchcraft

**alcoholic** *n* *drunkard, inebriate, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler

**alert** 1 *watchful, wide-awake, vigilant

Ana *agile, nimble, brisk: wary, circumspect, *cautious

Con *heedless, *careless: unconcerned, aloof, detached, *indifferent

2 clever, *intelligent, smart, bright, quick-witted, brilliant, knowing

Ana *sharp, keen, acute: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: *shrewd, perspicacious

Con *languid, lackadaisical, listless: *lethargic, sluggish: *stupid, slow, dull, dense

**alert** n *alarm, tocsin

**alias** n *pseudonym, nom de guerre, incognito, nom de plume, pen name

**alibi** n *
pseudonym, nom de guerre, incognito, nom de plume, pen name

**alibi** n *pseudonym, nom de guerre, incognito, nom de plume, pen name

**alien** adj *foreign, extraneous, *extrinsic

Ana *external, exterior, outside (see corresponding adjectives at OUTER): adventitious, incidental, *accidental: *repugnant, repellent, abhorrent: incompatible, incompat- 
groous, *inconsonant

Ant akin: assimilable —Con *relevant, material, pertinent, germane: compatible, *consonant, congruous, con- genial: kindred, cognate, *related

alien n *foreigner, *stranger, outlawer, outsider, immi-
grant, émigré

Ant citizen —Con subject, national (see CITIZEN)

**alienate** 1 *transfer, convey, deed

2 *strange, disagree, unacquainted

Ana convert, proselyte or proselytize (see corresponding verbs at CONVERT): *separate, part, sever, sunder, dis- volve

Ant unite: reunite —Con reconcile, conform, accom-
modate, adjust, *adapt: associate, link, *join

**alienation** 1 derangement, *aberration

Ana *insanity, lunacy, mania, dementia: imbecility, idiocy, moronity (see base words at FOOL)

2 *solitude, isolation, seclusion

alienist psychiatrist, psychopathologist, *neurol- ogist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst

**alight** vb 1 *descend, dismount

Con mount, *ascend, scale, climb

2 *alight, light, land, perch, roost share the meaning to come to rest after or as if after a flight, a descent, or a fall. Alight suggests previous controlled or gentle movement through the air or open space (as of a flying bird or a float- ing snowflake) <skylarks *alight on the ground> Light, sometimes the equivalent of alight, more often presupposes a falling or jumping than flying or floating, and some- times merely a wandering or roving <he sprang from the roof and lighted on his feet> <we came smack down on the animal tent; when we lit the tent began to tear— Sandburg> Land applies to a boat coming to land or an airplane grounding. Though often used interchangeably with light, it may connote arrival at a destination and some- times driving force or power <the airplane landed in a swamp> <he fell headlong and landed on his face> <his blow landed in the spot he aimed at> <he has landed where he hoped, in an executive position> Perch and roost basically imply alighting of birds, but perch suggests settling on something elevated to which the claws may cling (as to a pole, bar, or twig) and roost, the settling for rest or sleep, especially by domestic fowl, on the perches and in the shelters prepared for them. So perch often implies elevation of position and tenuousness of grasp or hold <twenty or more [rooks] perched aloft, cawing and con- versing comfortably—Jefferies> <a lofty perpendicular cliff . . . with a castle . . . perched on the distant top— Lucas> Roost, when used of persons, often suggests a position like that of roosting fowls <boys roosting on the rail of a fence>

Con *rise, arise, soar, ascend, rocket

align *line, line up, range, array

Ana *order, arrange, marshal: regulate, fix, *adjust

Con *disorder, disarrange, derange, unsettle

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

Ana *same, selfsame, equivalent, identical

Ant different —Con *distinct, separate: *different, divergent, diverse, disparate, various

**aliment** *food, pabulum, nutriment, nourishment, sustenance, pap

Con *poison, venom, bane

**alive** 1 *living, animated, animal, vital

Ana *active, dynamic, live, operative: *lively, vivacious, sprightly: being, existing (see BE)

Ant dead, defunct —Con *lifeless, inanimate, deceased (see DEAD): inert, *inactive: torpid, comatose (see LETHARGIC)

2 *aware, awake, sensible, cognizant, conscious

Ana alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: *intelligent, knowing, quick-witted

Ant blind (to): anesthetic (to) —Con *indifferent, uncon- 
cerned, aloof; insensitive, *insensible, impassible

**alkaline** basic are closely related and in many aspects of their use synonymous terms. Both are opposites or correlatives of the adjective acid and denote some aspect of relationship to bases (alkalies). Distinctively, alkaline suggests the properties (as neutralizing acids, turning litmus paper blue) of bases <alkaline taste> <alkaline solution> <alkaline earth> <a strong alkaline reaction>

Basic relates more directly to the bases themselves, es- pecially in implying derivation from or capacity to react as a base <a basic salt> <basic dye>

all adj 1 *whole, entire, total, gross

Ana complete, plenary, *full

2 All, every, each, when applied to the individuals of a group, imply inclusion of the entire membership with no excep- tions. All is applied to the aggregate of individuals and implies consideration of it as a unit without regard to the individuals as distinct persons or things (all men are mortal) <all books are written to be read> Every is applied to any of the individuals comprising the group, regarded not as a concrete person or thing but as the type or representative of the entire membership (every man is mortal) <every book published should be worth reading>

Each is applied to any or every individual of the group, but unlike every it implies reference to him or to it as a distinct, recognizable, and therefore concrete person or thing <he knows the weaknesses of each batter on the team> <each book on this shelf is worth reading> <each person in this club must pay his share of the expense>

Ant no

**all-around** *versatile, many-sided

Ana complete, *full: apt, ready, *quick

allay *relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage, mitigate

Ana abate, lessen, *decrease, diminish: mollify, *pacify, appease: *moderate, temper

Ant intensify —Con *provoke, excite, stimulate: *stir, rouse, arouse: aggravate, enhance (see INTENSIFY)

allege *adjudice, cite, advance

Ana affirm, assert, declare, profess, avouch, avow: re- cite, recount, rehearse, state (see RELATE)

Ant contravene: (in law) traverse —Con *deny, con- tradict, gainsay, negative, impugn: *disprove, refute,
allegiance

fealty, loyalty, *fidelity, devotion, piety

Analogous words

faithfulness, steadfastness, constancy, staunchness (see corresponding adjectives at FIDELITY): obeisance, deference, homage, *honor: obedience (see corresponding adjective OBEDIENT): *obligation, duty

Ant

treachery: treason —Con traitorousness, perfidy, faithlessness, disloyalty, *fidelity, devotion, piety

Analogous words

deference, homage, *honor: obedience (see corresponding adjective OBEDIENT): *obligation, duty

Ant

treachery: treason —Con traitorousness, perfidy, faithlessness, disloyalty (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS): disaffection, alienation

see also explanation notes facing page 1

allot

mean to give as one's share, portion, role, or place. Allot implies more or less arbitrary or haphazard selection and in itself conveys no suggestion of a fair or equal distribution (this original and modest suggestion of a fair or equal distribution is brought about by the wider meaning of the word allot in its broad sense). Allot stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; Assign stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; Allocates stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment

Analogous words

mean to give as one's share, portion, role, or place. Allot implies more or less arbitrary or haphazard selection and in itself conveys no suggestion of a fair or equal distribution (this original and modest suggestion of a fair or equal distribution is brought about by the wider meaning of the word allot in its broad sense). Allot stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; Assign stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; Allocates stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment

Ant

unallied —Con alien, foreign, extraneous (see EXTRINSIC): *different, divergent, diverse, various, disparate

Analogous words

mean to give as one's share, portion, role, or place. Allot implies more or less arbitrary or haphazard selection and in itself conveys no suggestion of a fair or equal distribution (this original and modest suggestion of a fair or equal distribution is brought about by the wider meaning of the word allot in its broad sense). Allot stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; Assign stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment; Allocates stresses authoritative and usually fixed allotment

Ant

withhold, detain, retain, hold, hold back, *keep
allow 36

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

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

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

**Allow** 1 permit, suffer, *let, leave

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

**Ant** inhibit —**Con** *forbid, prohibit, enjoin: *prevent, admit, *acknowledge, confess: acquiesce, accede, admit, *agree, consent, concede: *grant, *appropriation, subsidy

**Allowance** 1 *ration, dole, pittance

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

2 **Allowance, concession** both signify a change made by way of compromise or adjustment. Allowance usually implies a modification or variation of a requirement or a standard made for a good reason (as probable contingencies or mitigating circumstances) (make allowance for the current in steering toward the opposite bank) (make allowance for his inexperience) (make allowance for wear through friction in designing the parts of a machine) (if business imposes its restraints and its silences and impediments, Mr. Darnay as a young gentleman of generosity knows how to make allowance for that circumstance—Dickens) **Concession** implies that the change has been made reluctantly and usually as a favor or indulgence (they would make no concession to a candidate’s youth and inexperience) (the sole concession to leisure allowed me out of the year was one month on a farm—Heiser) (any concession to fashion was, they felt, unre光明 to their age—Sackville-West)

**Ana** adjustment, accommodation, adaptation (see corresponding verbs at adapt): modification, variation (see under change vb)

3 *advantage, handicap, odds, edge

**Alloy** *admixture, adulterant

**Allude** *refer, advert

**Ana** *suggest, imply, hint, intimate

**Allure** *attractive, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, captivating (see under attract vb)

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

ally colleague, *partner, copartner, confederate

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

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

almost *nearly, approximately, well-nigh

**Alms** benefaction, contribution, *donation

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

alone adj 1 Alone, solitary, lonely, lonesome, lone, lorn, forlorn, desolate may all refer to situations of being apart from others or emotions experienced while apart. Alone stresses the fact of physical isolation and also may connote feelings of isolation from others (the captain of a ship at sea is a remote, inaccessible creature, something like a prince of a fairy tale, alone of his kind—Conrad) **Solitary** may indicate a state of being apart that is desired and sought for (Netta loved these solitary interludes . . . She could dream things there and tell herself stories there, untroubled—Powys) It often connotes sadness at the loss or lack of usual or close connections or consciousness of isolation or remoteness (being solitary he could only address himself to the waiter—Wood) (an only child, he was left solitary by the early death of his mother . . . whose loss he felt severely—Fulton) **Lonely** may simply indicate the fact of being alone but more often suggests isolation accompanied by a longing for company (he was lonely, but not in an unhappy sense . . . it was no hardship for him to be alone—Canby) (his grim look, his pride, his silence, his wild outbursts of passion, left William lonely even in his court—J. R. Green) (he felt more lonely and forsaken than at any time since his father’s death—Archibald Marshall) **Lonesome**, often more poignant, suggests sadness after a separation or bereavement (you must keep up your spirits, mother, and not be lonesome because I’m not at home—Dickens) (her flight . . . yet smote my lonesome heart more than all misery—Shelley) **Lone** especially in poetic use may replace either lonely or lonesome (in his lone course the shepherd oft will pause—Wordsworth) (the mother’s death and I reckon it’s got no father; it’s a lone thing—George Eliot) **Lorn** suggests recent separation or bereavement (when lorn lovers sit and drop—Praed) **Forlorn** indicates dejection, woeful, and listlessness at separation from someone dear (as forlorn and stupefied as I was when my husband’s spirit flew away—Hardy) (as forlorn as King Lear at the end of his days—G. W. Johnson) **Desolate** is most extreme in suggesting incon solable grief at loss or bereavement (you have made no concession to a candidate’s youth and inexperience) (the sole concession to leisure allowed me out of the year was one month on a farm—Heiser) (any concession to fashion was, they felt, unbecoming to their age—Sackville-West)

**Ana** adjustment, accommodation, adaptation (see corresponding verbs at adapt): modification, variation (see under change vb)

3 *advantage, handicap, odds, edge

**Alloy** *admixture, adulterant

**Allude** *refer, advert

**Ana** *suggest, imply, hint, intimate

**Allure** *attractive, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, captivating (see under attract vb)

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

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
aloof} Lonesome has much the same suggestion as related to a lonesome road doth walk in fear and dread—Coleridge) Desert indicates either that a place is abandoned by people or that it is so barren and wild as never to have attracted them as if nothing had life by, in that lifeless desolate spot—Trollope

Ana *single, sole, lone, unique: deserted, abandoned, forsaken (see ABANDON): isolated, secluded (see corresponding nouns at SOLITUDE)

Ant accompanied —Con attended, escorted, convoyed, chaperoned (see ACCOMPANY): aided, assisted, helped (see HELP vb)

2 Alone adj & adv *only
alooft *indifferent, detached, uninterested, disinterested, unconcerned, incurious

Ant familiar, close —Con friendly, neighborly (see AMICABLE): intimate, confidential, chummy (see FAMILIAR)

also, too, likewise, besides, moreover, furthermore denote in addition and are used when joining (not necessarily in the same sentence) one proposition or consideration to another. Also adds to a statement something that may be affirmed equally with what precedes (that where I am, there ye may be also—In 14:3) Every simile ought not only to be well adapted to the subject, but also to include every excellence of description—Goldsmith Too is less formal than also, and adds with a lighter touch (like Twilight's, too, her dusky hair—Wordsworth) I can like now, and admire you too, sir—Thackeray Likewise is more formal and slightly more explicit than also; it sometimes implies specific likeness or connection between the ideas which it unites (I have not seen—you likewise may have seen—Wordsworth) <Greek, was your ambition>

Moreover is more emphatic than besides, and often serves as a transitional word between sentences: it often implies that the stronger of two considerations is yet to be presented (the mountain was steep and rugged; moreover, its sides were coated with ice) Furthermore is sometimes the most formal of these words; its chief use, however, is in a chain of additions where besides or moreover has already been used (he is well-liked; moreover, he is absolutely dependable; furthermore, there is no one who can take his place)

alter 1 *change, vary, modify
Ana adjust, accommodate, *adapt: qualify, temper (see MODERATE); transform, metamorphose, convert

Ant fix —Con *set, settle, establish: preserve, conserve (see SAVE): *continue, last, endure, abide, persist

2 *sterilize, castrate, spay, emasculate, mutilate, geld, capone

alteration change, variation, modification (see under CHANGE vb)
Ana adjustment, adaptation, accommodation (see corresponding verbs at ADAPT): transformation, metamorphosis, conversion (see under TRANSFORM)

Ant fixation: fixity —Con permanence, stability, perdurability (see corresponding adjectives at LASTING): continuation, endurance, persistence (see corresponding verbs at CONTINUE)

altercate vb quarrel, wrangle, squabble, bicker, spat, tiff (see under QUARREL n)

Ana fight, *contend, battle, war: dispute, debate, agitate (see DISCUSS)

Ant concur —Con *agree, coincide: conform, reconcile, accommodate, *adapt

altercation *quarrel, wrangle, squabble, bicker, spat, tiff


Ant concurrence: accord —Con agreement, coincidence (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): *harmony, concord, consonance

alternate adj *intermittent, recurrent, periodic
Ana alternating, rotating (see ROTATE): *reciprocal, corresponding, complementary

Ant consecutive —Con successive, sequential (see CONSECUTIVE)

alterate vb *rotate
Ana recur, *return, revert: oscillate, fluctuate, sway, waver (see SWING)

Con *follow, succeed

alternative n *substitute, supply, understudy, double, stand-in, pinch hitter, locum tenens

 alteration vicissitude, *change, mutation, permutation
Ana rotation (see corresponding verb ROTATE): oscillation, fluctuation, wavering (see corresponding verbs at SWING): turning, revolving, rotating, wheeling (see TURN vb): recurrence, return, reverision (see under RETURN vb)

alternative option, *choice, preference, selection, election
although *though, albeit
altitude *height, elevation
Ana highness, tallness, loftiness (see corresponding adjectives at HIGH): *summit, peak, apex

Con depth, profundity (see corresponding adjectives at DEEP)
altruistic benevolent, *charitable, humanitarian, philanthropic, eleemosynary

Ana self-abnegating, self-denying (see corresponding nouns at RENUNCIATION): generous, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, *liberal

Ant egoistic —Con egotistic, self-loving, self-esteeming, conceited (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT): self-indulging, self-pampering (see base words at INDULGE)
amalgam *mixture, admixture, compound, blend, composite

amalgamate blend, commingle, merge, coalesce, fuse, *mix, mingle

Ana combine, unite, link, associate, *join: consolidate, unify, *compact

Con disintegrate, crumble, decompose (see DECAY): disperse, dissipate, *scatter: *separate, part, divide

amalgamation *consolidation, merger

amass *accumulate, hoard

Ana collect, *gather, assemble: *heap, pile, mass, stack
Ant distribute —Con dissipate, *scatter, disperse: dispersion, divide, deal, dole (see DISTIBUTE)
amateur, dilettante, dabbler, tyro denote a person who follows a pursuit without attaining proficiency or a professional status. Amateur may denote one who has a taste or liking for something rather than an expert knowledge of it; in this sense it is distinguished from connoisseur an amateur of cameos | affected the pose of the gentleman amateur of the arts—F. H. Ellis} Amatur is also applied to a person whose participation in an activity requiring skill is due, to a personal rather than a professional interest. It usually but not invariably implies a lack of mastery. This latter implication is not often found in sports, where a technical distinction between an amateur
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>amative</th>
<th>ambiguous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amorous, amatory, *erotic</td>
<td>equivocal, cryptic, enigmatic, vague, *obscure, dark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatory *erotic, aphrodisiac, amative, amorous</td>
<td>Ana dubious, *doubtful, questionable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amative 38 ambiguous</td>
<td>Ant explicit  — *clear: express, definite, specific, categorical (see EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatory * erotic, aphrodisiac, amative, amorous</td>
<td>Ant explicit  — *clear: express, definite, specific, categorical (see EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove *novice, apprentice, probationer</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove 38 ambiguous</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amatove</td>
<td>Ant lucidity: explicitness — Con  clarity, perspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR): definiteness, specificity, expressiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPLICIT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
ambition, aspiration, pretension mean strong desire for advancement. Ambition has personal advancement or presumption as its end; it may be praiseworthy but is sometimes inordinate (ambition for fame) (ambition to hold office) (ambition to acquire wealth) (vailing ambition, which o’erleaps itself—Shak.) Aspiration implies as its object something felt to be above one, the striving after which is uplifting or ennobling (aspiration after knowledge) (that spirit of his in aspiration lifts him from the earth—Shak.) Aspiration, however, is sometimes used especially in the plural in a derogatory sense of ambition which is felt to be unwarranted or presumptuous (his aspirations must be nipped in the bud) Pretension (see also CLAIM, PRETENSE) may be preferred to aspiration in this latter sense, for it carries a hint of presumptuousness and, therefore, of lack of real claim to the powers which fulfillment of the ambition or aspiration requires (they are always looked upon, either as neglected, or discontented because their pretensions have failed—Montagu) More often pretension implies less driving power than ambition or aspiration and suggests the guidance of mere desire rather than the possession of the necessary gifts (it was the undergraduate literary club, whose membership included all nice boys with literary pretensions—Marquand) Amanda urge, lust, desire: eagerness, avidity, keenness, anxiety (see corresponding adjectives at EAGER): spur, goad, incentive, motive Con contentment, satisfaction (see corresponding verbs at SATISFY): resignation, patience: indolence, fainency, sloth (see corresponding adjectives at LAZY) ambitious 1 Ambitious, emulous both mean extremely desirous of something that will give one power, fame, success, or riches. Ambitious often implies inordinate, sometimes presumptuous, eagerness to advance oneself or to attain something beyond one’s present reach; it may, in addition, connote aggressiveness in the pursuit of one’s ends (the noble Brutus hath told you Caesar was ambitious: if it were so, it was a grievous fault—Shak.) Emulous stresses the desire to equal or surpass others; it can suggest covetous rivalry or merely the spirit of competition (men of pedigree . . . emulous always of the nearest place to any throne, except the throne of grace—Cowper) Ana *eager, avid, anxious, keen: aspiring, panting, aiming (see AIM vb): daring, venturesome, *adventurous Ambitious, pretentious, Utopian are comparable when they are applied to such matters as plans, designs, programs, or policies and mean straining or exceeding the capacity of their authors or executants. Something is ambitious which is either so far beyond what can with certainty be accomplished that its realization or execution is doubtful or which, if realized, is accomplished only by excessive effort or by testing one’s powers to the utmost (the philosopher has the ambitious aim of unifying, or harmonizing, these points of view—Inge) (his last novel was his most ambitious and possibly his best) Something is pretentious which so far exceeds one’s powers or resources that any attempt to carry it out reveals one’s inadequacy, inexperience, or lack of sufficient skill; in this sense it often but not necessarily implies ostentation (the program was too pretentious for so young a violinist) (see ambitious which is utterly impracticable or unattainable under present or sometimes, any conditions. Utopian, if it does not suggest an idealistic approach, invariably implies indifference to actualities (the reformers started out with an ambitious program which its critics called utopian; time has shown that it was too pretentious) Ana audacious, bold (see BRAVE): daring (see ADVENTUR-ous): ostentatious, *showy Ana modest —Con lowly, *humble: *moderate, temperate Amble vb *saunter, stroll Ana loiter, dawdle (see DELAY): meander, ramble, roam (see WANDER) Ambulant ambulatory, peripatetic, *itinerant, nomadic, vagrant Ana bedridden (of patients) Ambulancy adj ambulant, peripatetic, *itinerant, nomadic, vagrant Ambulatory n *passage, passageway, aisle, gallery, cloister, arcade, hall, hallway Ambuscade *ambush Ambush vb *surprise, waylay Ana *attack, assault, assail: trap, entrap, snare, ensnare, capture, *catch Ambush n Ambuscade, ambush mean a device to entrap an enemy by lying in wait under cover for an opportune moment to make a surprise attack. Ambush, however, is also used to designate an act of lying in wait or in concealment (as for spying, frightening, or obtaining an advantage); when used of nonmilitary activity it sometimes connotes unfairness or cowardliness (ambushes of cutthroats—Thackeray) (when he was a boy he had . . . spied on the Pecos men . . . He had lain in ambush for two nights on the mountain—Cather) Ambuscade usually implies the legitimate strategic disposition of troops in concealment, but in military use is more often applied to the body of troops or to their position than to the trap (the knights and gentlemen volunteered for an ambuscade to cut off the convoy—Froude) (feared in every wavering brake an ambuscade—Tennyson) Ana trap, snare, * lure: *attack, onset, onslaught, assault Ameliorate *improve, better, help Ana amend, remedy, reform, rectify, *correct: mitigate, alleviate, *relieve, lighten Ant worsen: deteriorate v —Con *injure, harm, hurt, damage, impair, mar, spoil: *intensify, aggravate Amenable 1 answerable, liable, accountable, *responsible Ana open, subject, *liable: *subordinate, dependent, subject Ant independent (of): autonomous —Con autocratic, arbitrary, *absolute: *free, autarchic 2 tractable, *obedient, docile, biddable Ana pliant, adaptable, pliable (see PLASTIC): responsive (see TENDER): sensitive, open (see LIABLE): submissive, *tame, subduced Ant recalcitrant, refractory —Con intractable, *unruly, ungovernable, headstrong: *fierce: *obstinate, stubborn, mulish Amend reform, *correct, rectify, revise, emend, remedy, redress Ana *improve, better, ameliorate: *mend, repair: elevate, raise, *lift Ant debase: impair —Con corrupt, vitiate, deprave, debauch, pervert (see DEBASE): *injure, mar, spoil, damage, harm, hurt Amends redress, *reparation, indemnity, restitution Ana compensation, recompense (see corresponding verbs at PAY): atonement, expiation (see under EXPiate) amenity 1 Amenity, luxury both denote something (as an object, a feature, a quality, or an experience) that gives refined or exquisite pleasure or is exceedingly pleasing to the mind or senses. Amenity typically implies a delightful mildness, gentleness, or softness, especially in contrast to an uncomfortable or distressing harshness, roughness, or crudeness (many English go to the Riviera in the winter because of the amenity of its climate) It may imply no

Amenity, luxury both denote something (as an object, a feature, a quality, or an experience) that gives refined or exquisite pleasure or is exceedingly pleasing to the mind or senses. Amenity typically implies a delightful mildness, gentleness, or softness, especially in contrast to an uncomfortable or distressing harshness, roughness, or crudeness (many English go to the Riviera in the winter because of the amenity of its climate) It may imply no
more than a vague conducing to physical or material comfort or convenience (every amenity... including... show- 
ers, central heating, and first-class cuisine—H. G. Smith) Luxury stresses keen, often voluptuous, enjoyment and unalloyed gratification of the mind or senses, usually without a special suggestion of opulence in the thing enjoyed or sensuality in the pleasure (and learn the luxury of doing good—Goldsmith) (Mark decided to walk back by the road... instead of indulging himself in the luxury of once more rejoicing in the solitude of the green lanes—Mackenzie) (a dressing room with a marble bath that made cleanliness a luxury instead of one of the sternest of the virtues—Shaw)

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

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

2 *courtesy, attention, gallantry

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

Ant acerbity, asperity: rudeness—Con clumsiness, moroseness, crabbedness, surliness (see corresponding adjectives at SULLEN): *acrimony: *affront, insult, indignity: discourtesy, incivility, impoliteness (see corresponding adjectives at RUDE)

amerce fine, mulct, *penalize

amercement fine (see under PENALIZE)

amiable, good-natured, obliging, complaisant mean having or manifesting the desire or disposition to please. All may refer either to moods or to temperaments. Amiable usually implies friendliness, affability, or kindliness, qualities that inspire liking (from what he said of Miss Darcy, I was thoroughly prepared to see a proud, reserved, disagreeable girl. Yet he... must know that she was amiable and unpretending as we have found her—Austen) Often, however, the word suggests little more than a sweet temper (preferred an amiable softness to a tragic intensity—Glasgow) Occasionally it additionally connotes lack of firmness or strength (she suddenly married a poor, good-for-nothing, amiable fellow—Deland) Good-natured implies a disposition not only to please but to be pleased; consequently it often connotes undue compliance or indifference to imposition (he was too good-natured a man to behave harshly—Macaulay) *horsey and practical jokes... at weddings... require good-natured toleration—Sumner) Obliging stresses a readiness to be helpful, or to accommodate to the wishes of others (Keepell had a sweet and obliging temper—Macaulay) (he always had the courtesy to answer me, for he was a most obliging fellow—Keith) Complaisant implies a courteous or sometimes a weakly amiable desire to please or to be agreeable (her importunity prevailed with me and I am extremely glad I was so complaisant—Montagu)

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

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

amicable, neighborly, friendly are applied to the attitudes and actions of persons, communities, and states that have intercourse with each other and mean marked by or exhibiting a colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Liaison implies duration but not necessarily permanence in the attachment; it is commonly used to designate the relation between a man and his mistress. Intrigue emphasizes the clandestine element in the relation and is often closer to amour than to liaison in its other implications. Affair is the least specific term and often suggests equivocal rather than definitely illicit relations or may be used without imputation of impropriety.

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

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

**ample** 1 *spacious, capacious, commodious*

*Ana* expanded, distended, swelled or swollen, inflated (see EXPAND): *large, big, great

*Ant* meager: circumscribed —*Con* limited, restricted, confined (see LIMIT vb): contracted, compressed, condensed, shrunked (see CONTRACT vb): scant, skimpy, exiguous, spare (see MEAGER)

2 abundant, *plentiful, plenteous, copious

*Ana* *liberal, generous, handsome, bountiful, bounteous: *profuse, lavish, prodigal

*Ant* scant, meager —*Con* *skimpy, scrumpy (see MEAGER): stingy, niggardly

**amplify** *expand, swell, distend, dilate, inflate

*Ana* develop (see MATURE): enlarge, augment (see INCREASE)

*Ant* abridge, condense —*Con* *shorten, abbreviate: *contract, compress

**amplitude** *expanse, spread, stretch

*Ana* largeness, bigness, greatness (see corresponding adjectives at LARGE): spaciousness, commodiousness, capaciousness (see corresponding adjectives at SPACIOUS): magnitude, extent, *size: *bulk, mass, volume

*Ant* straitness: limitation —*Con* restriction, circumscription (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT)

**amulet** charm, talisman, *fetish

**amuse** divert, entertain, recreate mean to cause or enable one to pass one's time in pleasant or agreeable occupations. Their corresponding nouns amusement, diversion, entertainment, recreation are also synonyms denoting such an occupation or its effect. Although these words are used more or less interchangeably, they have fundamentally different implications. Amuse and amusement stress the engagement of one's attention, especially during hours of leisure, in the source of interest or engagement. They do not necessarily imply play or sport; nevertheless they often suggest light, purposeless, trivial, or laughter-provoking pastimes (what he wanted was to be amused, to get through the twenty-four hours pleasantly, without sitting down to dry business—Macaulay) *I don't write because I've got things to say . . . I write because it amuses me—Rose Macaulay* *may speculate, for amusement, whether it would not have been beneficial . . . to Britain in particular, to have had a more continuous religious history—T. S. Eliot* Divert and diversion, on the other hand, stress the distraction of the attention from something (as routine interests or worry) which is occupying it and its capture by something different, especially by something that enlivens or promotes gaiety (after the novelty of their surroundings had ceased to attract and divert the lepers, they often became homesick—Heiser) *only men of leisure have the need for beautiful women to divert them—Buck* *I believe that the drama has something else to do except to divert us—T. S. Eliot* *there is a place for farce and diversion in experience—Dewey* Entertain and entertainment imply the activities of others to provide amusement or diversion. The words therefore suggest more or less formal expedients or more or less formal circumstances, which are usually implied in the context *Mrs. Brown will entertain the Burton's over the weekend* (a church entertainment) *entertainment is what schoolboys are now led to expect . . . they are disappointed if the school is not a hall of unbroken amusement—Grandgent* Recreate and the far more common recreation usually imply a change of occupation or an indulgence in diversions for the sake of relaxation or refreshment of body or mind (*The Lord Chancellor was recreating himself, after a long stretch of arduous business, with a journey in Scotland—Maritaine*) *just to sit in the sun, to bask like an animal in its heat—this is one of my country recreations—L. P. Smith* *entertainment, absorption (see corresponding verbs at MONOPOLIZE): play, sport, fun, jest: dispersing, frolicking, rollicking, romping (see PLAY vb): jollity, *mirth

*Ant* bored —*Con* tired, weary, fatigued: *depress, oppress: irk, vex, *annoy

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

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

*Ant* boredom —*Con* *tedium, ennui: languidness, listlessness, spiritlessness (see corresponding adjectives at Languid): languor, *lethargy

**anachronism**, **solecism** are occasionally used interchangeably to mean something that does not properly belong to the setting or background in which it is placed and that is incongruous with it. More specifically, anachronism implies a mistake in associating things which do not belong to the same time or age (an automobile in a story of American Civil War times would be an anachronism) (an eighteenth-century Chippendale chair is an anachronism in a seventeenth-century Jacobean room) When applied to something that does exist at the time under consideration, anachronism implies that the thing is behind the times or antiquated and useless (born a thousand years . . . too late and an anachronism in this culminating century of civilization—London) Solecism, on the other hand, implies lack of concord or consonance through an association of things that does not accord with some standard (as of decency, propriety, or logic). One who in affectation introduces foreign words into English speech commits a solecism in language (*I feel certain that a solecism of this kind—the introduction into a particular rite of features not sanctioned by the texts—would have seemed a shocking thing to . . . so accurate a scholar—L. P. Smith*) *it is a solecism in Belize to describe people by their color . . . the colony prides itself . . . on absolute freedom from any taint of racial prejudice—Norman Lewis*

**anagogic** *mystical, mystic, cabalistic

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

**anaglogia** anesthesia, anodynia (see under ANODYNE 1)

*Ana* anodyne, anesthetic

*Ant* irritated

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

*Ana* corresponding, convertible (see RECIPROCAL): kindred, *related, allied, cognate

**analogues** counterpart, *parallel, correlate

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

2 Analogy, simile, metaphor designate a comparison between things essentially or generically different but strikingly alike in one or more pertinent aspects. Analogy is the general term since the simile and the metaphor are kinds of analogies: it is, however, usually restricted in its application to a comparison which brings out the analogy (for this
sense see likeness) between two things for the sake of elucidating something hard to understand. (God cannot be described except by analogy) (the supreme example of analogy in English is Pilgrim's Progress). This overwhelms us with direct analogy, that is to say, the personification of allegory.—Stevens

A simile is an imaginative analog used largely for the sake of literary effect by carrying over the emotion aroused by one image or idea to the other with which it is compared. A simile (for example, "fishing is at best almost as unpredictable as New England weather," "blue were her eyes as the fairy-flax, her cheeks like the dawn of day," "a job full of more headaches than a case of bourbon") is often brief but it characteristically indicates (as by the use of like, as, so) that comparison is intended of the simile, we say that two essentially unlike things are explicitly compared . . . and we are to understand that, though some likeness is suggested between the two, the likeness is not literally intended—Margolis

A metaphor differs from a simile in not stating explicitly that it is an analogy: it therefore imaginatively identifies one object with another (as in "a heart of stone," "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet," "the moon was a ghostly galleon") and ascribes to the first one or more of the qualities of the second or invests the former with emotional or imaginative associations attached to the latter (though by metaphor we point to objects and convey emotions, what we chiefly do is to convey knowledge by forging new symbols that are themselves patterns of meaning—Waggoner

analysis resolution, dissection, breakdown (see under ANALYZE)

Anal separation, division (see corresponding verbs at SEPARATE): disintegration, decomposition (see corresponding verbs at DECAY)

Ant synthesis —Con uniting or union, combining or combination (see corresponding verbs at JOIN); integration, concatenation (see under INTEGRATE)

analytical subtle, *logical

Ana acute, keen, *sharp: profound, *deep: penetrating, piercing (see ENTER): organizing, ordering, marshaling (see ORDER vb)

Ant creative, inventive, constructive

analyze, resolve, dissect, break down mean to divide a complex whole or unit into its component parts or constituent elements. When their corresponding nouns (analyze, resolution, dissection, breakdown) denote such a division, they are similarly applied and are distinguishable by the same implications. Analyze and analysis presuppose a personal agent and stress division for the sake of determining a thing's true nature or the inner relationship of its parts (analyze a sentence) (analyze the plot of a novel) (Liebig, by analyzing foodstuffs of every kind, came to the conclusion that the principal elements of food are proteins, fats, and carbohydrates) (he would take a place or a fork or a bell, set it to ringing by a blow, and analyze the combination of musical notes which it emitted—Darrow) (analysis of material objects into electrons and protons—Inge) Sometimes these words specifically suggest an intent to discover or uncover qualities, causes, effects, motives, or possibilities often as a basis for action or for a judgment (analyze the condition of a business before investing in it) (analyze the potential market for cotton) (I could not then so far analyze all that is roughly lumped together as "religion" I could not then so far analyze all that is roughly lumped together as "religion"

Anarchic anarchistic, anarchist (see under ANARCHY 1)

Anarchism *anarchy

Anarchist anarchic, anarchistic (see under ANARCHY 1)

Anarchistic anarchic, anarchist (see under ANARCHY 1)

Ant authoritarian

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

2 Anarchy, chaos, lawlessness denote in common absence, suspension, breakdown, or widespread defiance of government, law, and order. Anarchy is the total absence or suspension of government (by the adoption of the Constitution our country passed from weakness to strength, from anarchy to order, from death to life—Muzzey)
Chaos is the utter negation of order (a process calculated to reduce the orderly life of our complicated societies to chaos—Huxley) Lawlessness signifies a prevalent or habitual disregard of law and order rather than their absence or suspension (the traditional lawlessness of the frontier community) When anarchy and lawlessness (or their adjectives) are used of actions rather than of a state of things, there is often little distinction of meaning (the hydrogen atom was not conforming to the canons of the classical music of physics, and yet it was not anarchic in the least, for . . . it was flawlessly obeying the laws of a different music—Darrow) (illusion is not lawless: It is a world apart, if you please, but within it are its own necessities, which exact inexorable adherence to their mandates—Loves)

*anathema 1 *abomination, bête noire, bugbear

2 *curse, malediction, imprecation

* ana denunciation, condemnation, reprobation, censure (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

* anathematize curse, damn, *excoriate, objurgate

* anatomy *structure, skeleton, framework

* ancestor, progenitor, forefather, forebear mean a person from whom one is descended. Ancestor, especially in genealogical and in historical use, implies lineal descent through one's father or mother (he had three ancestors who were judges) but it is seldom applied to a grandparent. In more general use, ancestor (especially in the plural) may imply kinship through collaterals or through race (the gentleman will please remember that when his half-civilized ancestors were hunting the wild boar in Silesia, mine were princes of the earth—Benjamin) Ancestor often suggests knowledge of identities and family pride in them as persons (ancestor worship) (they had plenty of money, but apparently no ancestors) Progenitor differs from ancestor chiefly in its connotations rather than in its implications. It does not exclude parents or grandparents; it usually carries no hint of family or racial feeling, and it often suggests a reference to heredity or the transmission of characters (do as your great progenitors have done, and, by their virtues, prove yourself their son—Dryden) (men resemble their contemporaries even more than their progenitors—Emerson) Whenever an evolution is suggested, ancestor and progenitor may be used of living things or of nonliving things (as races, social castes, or literary or artistic forms) that are subject to development; they then often denote one or a kind to group from which a later or a presently existing kind or group has been derived (the wild ancestors of our domestic animals) (Fielding was . . . the progenitor of the modern realistic novel—New Yorker) Progenitor, even more than ancestor, names the ultimate source or root (he sang of the nuptials of Janus and Comesena, progenitors of the Italian people—Quiller-Couch) Forefather is used less often than ancestor in historical writing but is probably more common in poetic and in general use, especially when simplicity of life, strength of family feeling, or persistence of a family in one locality is connoted (each in his narrow cell forever7 laid, the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep—Gray) (think of your forefathers! Think of your posternity!—J. Q. Adams) Forebear is not only less rich in its implications than forefather, but it is also less connotative of sentiment (the land had been owned by his forebears for generations) (his forebears emigrated from Scotland around 1800)

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

* ancestor descendant: posterity

* anchor vb moor, *secure, rivet

* anachronism *historical error

* anchorite hermit, eremite, *recluse, cenobite

* anatomic *analgeasia, anodynia (see under anodyne 1)

* anemia bloodless, *pale

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

* ancillary *a story, tale, yarn, narrative

* anemia *an incident, episode, event, *occurrence: narration, relation, recital (see corresponding verbs at relate)

* anamnesis *bloodless, *pale

* anastomosis *full-blooded: florid

* anesthesia *anaesthesia, anaodynia (see under anodyne 1)

* anesthetic *adj insensitive, *insensible, impassible

* anemic *insensible, impassible

* anger *dull, obtuse: *impassive, apathetic, stolid: insensitive

* ant *alive —

* anesthetic *full-blooded: florid

* ant *dull, obtuse: *impassive, apathetic, stolid: insensitive

* anesthetic *n *anaodynia, analgesic

* anger *alive —

* anesthetic *stimulant

* anesthésie *backer, *sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor

* anger *backer, *sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor

* anesthésie *anger, ire, rage, fury, indignation, wrath denote emotional excitement induced by intense displeasure.

* anger *backer, *sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor

* anesthésie *anger, ire, rage, fury, indignation, wrath denote emotional excitement induced by intense displeasure.

* anger *backer, *sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor

* anesthésie *anger, ire, rage, fury, indignation, wrath denote emotional excitement induced by intense displeasure.
anger

a display of that feeling in looks, acts, or words (Belinda burns with more than mortal ire—Pope) (Then, my lad, ye've come to tell me a lie!) Farmer Blaize looked straight at the boy, undismayed by the dark flush of ire he had kindled—Meredith. Rage adds to anger the implications of lost self-control and of violent boiling over of feeling: it often connotes variously a sense of frustration, a temporary derangement of the mind, or a determination to get revenge (terrible and impotent rage—Wilde) (his first hot anger against the beast had changed into a cold rage at all costs he must get it—Cloete). Fury is overriding destructive rage verging on madness (what fury drove us into saying the stupid, intolerant, denunciatory things we said?—L. P. Smith) (the war against physical evil, like every other war, must not be conducted with such fury as to render men incapable of the arts of peace—Russell). Indignation implies depth and intensity of anger, often righteous or generous anger, aroused by something one considers mean, shameful, or otherwise unworthy of a man or men (whose souls no honest indignation ever urged to elevated daring—Shelley) (the question now placed before society . . . is this: Is man an ape or an angel? I, my lord, I am on the side of the angels. I repudiate with indignation and abhorrence those newfangled theories—Disraeli). Wrath may imply either rage or indignation as its emotional basis, but more strongly than either of these it suggests existence of a grievance and a desire or intent to avenge or punish or to get revenge (the wrath of God) (let not the sun go down upon your wrath—Eph 4:26) (nursing her wrath to keep it warm—Burns).

Anger, incense, enrage, infuriate, madden. All these verbs carry in common with anger, their general term, the denotation to make angry or to rouse to anger (laugh then at any, but at fools or foes: these you but anger, and you mend not those—Pope) (angered by his son's repeated disobedience). Incense implies hotness of anger, especially as provoked by something excessively irritating and offensive (Mr. Critchlow, aged and unaccustomed to interference, had to render accounts of his trusteeship to this young man, and was incensed—Bennett) (magistrates and populace were incensed at a refusal of customary marks of courtesy and respect for the laws—Inge). Enrage suggests a violent display of wrath or fury (I pray you, speak not . . . question enrages him—Shak). Infuriate may imply a sense of being outraged or sometimes no more than of being thoroughly irritated or exasperated (how it infuriates a bigot, when he is forced to drag into the light his dark convictions!—L. P. Smith) (his colleagues and his subordinates had been alternately delighted and infuriated by his assumed reluctance to deal with any practical question—Sackville-West). Madden is often not distinguishable from infuriate (can it be fancied that Deity ever vindictively made in his image a mannikin merely to madden it?—Poe) (like the former it may imply merely excessive annoyance or vexation (maddening delays)).

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

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
remark or statement that is an adverse criticism. Animad-
version (compare animadvert at Remark) implies as its
motive deep-seated prejudice or ill will or a tendency to
carp or cavil (given to animadversions on the clergy)
Matt's animadversions hurt me more. In part they
appeared to me unjust, and in part ill-natured—Cowper
Stricture implies censure, which may be either ill-natured
or judicious (foreign strictures on the dress, looks, and
behavior of the English abroad—Arnold) the lash of
the merciless Genius... whose strictures are founded
in argument, enriched with learning, and enlivened with
Lucy Gibbon) Aspersion imputes a slanderous character
to the criticism (who by aspersions throw a stone at
the head of others, hit their own—Herbert) (at Cam-
bridge they tell me) while you speak very well, you
write less expressly... you will not set the aspersion
down to me—Quiller-Couch) Reflection often implies
indirect aspersion or a defamatory imputation which
may be inferred from what has been said (he cannot
restrain himself from reflections on kings and priests
when he is most contending for them—Hallam) (the
reflections on certain named persons' chastity and hon-
est—Geographical Jour.)
Anna criticism, reprehension, censure (see correspond-
ing verbs at CRITICIZE): observation, comment, *remark:
captiousness, faultfinding, caviling, carping, censorious-
ness (see corresponding adjectives at CRITICAL)
Ant commendation —Con praise, laudation, extolla-
tion, acclaim (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE): *ap-
probation, approval
animadvert comment, commentate, *remark
Anna *criticize, reprehend, censure, reprobate: deprecate,
*disapprove: deprecate, disparage, *decry
Con ignore, disregard, overlook (see NEGLECT): *com-
mend, applaud, compliment
animal adj *carnal, fleshly, sensual
Anna physical, corporeal, *bodily: bestial, *brutal
Ant rational —Con intellectual, *mental, psychic: spir-
itual (see HOLY)
animalism *animality
Anna sensualism, voluptuousness (see corresponding ad-
jectives at SENSUOUS): lustfulness, lasciviousness, lecher-
ousness (see corresponding adjectives at LICENTIOUS)
animalism, animalism are not always clearly distinguished
when they are used to denote animal nature, character,
or springs of action in a man or in men. Animalism is
often preferred when it is desired to suggest likenesses
between men and animals rather than differences, and
animalism when one wishes to convey in addition all
the derogatory implications of sensuality or sensualism
he disliked union with a woman whom he had never seen;
and, when he begat his first child in mere
captiousness, faultfinding, caviling, carping, censorious-
ness (see corresponding adjectives at LICENTIOUS)
animalism was a natural and necessary revolt. . .. against that
naturalism which threatened to end in sheer animalism—
Kingsley
Anna virility, maleness, masculinity (see corresponding
adjectives at MALE)
animate adj *living, alive, animated, vital
Anna physical, corporeal, *bodily: animal, *carnal, fleshly
Ant inanimate —Con lifeless, *dead
animate vB *quicken, vivify, enliven
Anna *vitalize, activate, energize
2 *inform, inspire, fire
Anna motivate, actuate, *activate: *move, drive, impel, actuate: *stir, rouse, arouse
Ant inhibit —Con *restrain, curb, check: *frustrate, thwart
animated 1 alive, *living, animate, vital

Anna active, live, dynamic: vitalized, energized, activated
(see VITALIZE)
Ant inert —Con *inactive, passive: lifeless, inanimate, *dead
2 *lively, vivacious, sprightly, gay
Anna buoyant, volatile, effervescent (see ELASTIC): *agile,
brisk, spry, nimble: *spirited, high-spirited
Ant depressed, dejected —Con *languid, listless, spirit-
less, enervated: *lethargic, torpid, comatose
animosity animus, rancor, *enmity, hostility, antipathy,
antagonism
Anna hatred, hate, detestation, abhorrence (see under
HATE vb): vindictiveness, revengefulness, vengefulness
(see corresponding adjectives at VINDICTIVE): *malice,
ill will, malevolence, spite
Ant goodwill —Con *friendship, amity, comity: friend-
liness, neighborliness, amicableness (see corresponding
adjectives at AMICABLE)
animus animosity, rancor, *enmity, hostility, antipathy,
animosity
Anna ill will, spite, spleen, grudge (see MALICE): prejudice,
bias (see PRECEDITION)
Ant favor —Con *predilection, partiality: *sympathy,
annals chronicle, *history
annex vB *add, append, subjoin, superadd
Anna *join, unite, connect, link, associate: attach, affix,
*fasten
Con *detach, disengage, abstract: divorce, *separate, part
annex n Annex, extension, wing, ell designate an addition
to a main (and, often, the original) building. An annex may
be attached to the main building or it may even not be adja-
cent to it. When used of an addition to a hotel, an office
building, or a commercial or educational establishment it
usually implies a provision for expanded activity. An exten-
sion is attached to a main or central building; when it pro-
jects from the central building and is connected with it at
only one point it is called a wing: when it extends at right
angles from one end of the building it is called an ell.
Anna *addition, increment, accretion
annihilate extinguish, *abolish, abate
Anna obliterate, efface, expunge, blot out, cancel, *erase:
extinguish, *abolish, abate
Ant create, *invent, discover: *make, form, fashion,
forge, shape: *renew, restore
annotate, gloss and their corresponding nouns annotation,
gloss mean, as verbs, to add or append comment, or as
nouns, an added or appended comment intended to be
helpful in interpreting a passage or text. One annotates a
text (as of a literary work) when one furnishes it with
critical, historical, or explanatory notes (as footnotes,
marginal notes, or notes in an appendix) (annotate the
works of Milton) (an annotated edition of Shakespeare's
sonnets) The subject of an annotation may be any word,
passage, or detail which is capable of being explained to
the advantage of the reader or student. One glosses a word
or phrase which is obscure in meaning because foreign,
obsolete, rare, or technical by providing its definition (as
under the advantage of the reader or student. One glosses a word
or phrase which is obscure in meaning because foreign,
obsolete, rare, or technical by providing its definition (as
under HATE vb): vindictiveness, revengefulness, vengefulness
(see corresponding adjectives at VINDICTIVE): *malice,
ill will, malevolence, spite
Ant goodwill —Con *friendship, amity, comity: friend-
liness, neighborliness, amicableness (see corresponding
adjectives at AMICABLE)
Anna active, live, dynamic: vitalized, energized, activated
(see VITALIZE)
Ant inert —Con *inactive, passive: lifeless, inanimate, *dead
2 *lively, vivacious, sprightly, gay
Anna buoyant, volatile, effervescent (see ELASTIC): *agile,
brisk, spry, nimble: *spirited, high-spirited
Ant depressed, dejected —Con *languid, listless, spirit-
less, enervated: *lethargic, torpid, comatose
animosity animus, rancor, *enmity, hostility, antipathy,
antagonism
Anna hatred, hate, detestation, abhorrence (see under
HATE vb): vindictiveness, revengefulness, vengefulness
(see corresponding adjectives at VINDICTIVE): *malice,
ill will, malevolence, spite
Ant goodwill —Con *friendship, amity, comity: friend-
liness, neighborliness, amicableness (see corresponding
adjectives at AMICABLE)
animus animosity, rancor, *enmity, hostility, antipathy,
animaus
The perfidy of the transaction would have been universally acknowledged—John Marshall. To **abrogate** is the act of one having force and authority, and often legal jurisdiction. A ruler or an arbiter as well as a court may **abrogate** something (as a law, a treaty, or a convention) previously effective and in effect or in intent abolish it. We are not . . . called upon to **abrogate** the standards of values that are fixed, not by you and not by me, but by . . . time—Lowes. **Void** in legal context retains much of its basic meaning, to make empty or null. It is often interchangeable with **annul** (the state supreme bench . . . voided the referendum—Aswell & Michelson). Unlike the latter it need not imply the action of a legally competent authority (it is the insanity of the testator that voids his will, not the act of a court). Only competent legal authority can **vacate** or make ineffectual or invalid something that previously was effective or valid (**vacate** proceedings after the discovery of fraud). (**vacate** a grant of crown property) **Quash** is a strictly legal term applied chiefly to indictments thrown out of court as defective.

**anodyne** 1. **Anodyne**, analgesic, anesthetic all denote something used to relieve or prevent pain, all are freely used both substantively and adjectivally, and all have a related noun, **anodynia**, **analgesia**, **anesthesia**, denoting the corresponding state. **Anodyne** is the oldest and most inclusive of these terms; it may be applied to any agent used primarily to relieve pain whether by dulling perception of pain or by altering the pain-causing situation (as by local stimulation of blood flow), often has a literary or popular rather than medical connotation, and is the only one of these terms given broad figurative use (see **ANODYNE 2**). **Analgesic** is narrower in scope; it is applied especially to a medicinal substance or preparation used locally or systematically to dull the perception of pain (as by action on the nervous system) usually without other major disturbance of consciousness. An **anesthetic** is a medicinal agent that produces insensibility both to pain and to all other sensations either of a particular part or area (local anesthe sia) or of the whole body (general anesthesia); **anesthetic** is the one term to use of an agent designed to prevent anticipated pain (as from surgery) as distinct from one designed to assuage existent pain; thus, one is administered an **anesthetic** before a tooth is pulled and given an **analgesic** to relieve pain after the **anesthesia** has worn off. 2. **Anodyne**, **opiate**, **narcotic**, **nepenthe** mean something used to dull or deaden one’s senses or one’s sensibility and are often used adjectivally. **Anodyne** is frequently used as the opposite of **stimulant** (had . . . made **anodyne** translations from Homer and Sophocles in “rhymic” and sleepy prose—Santayana). It usually suggests something that allays excitement or mitigates mental distress often by inducing forgetfulness or oblivion (this kind of religion cannot be anything better than an **anodyne**; but an **anodyne** is unfortunately just what many people want from their religion—Inge). (mutiny among the crews of Columbus was too much of a menace for the comforting daily sight of drifting vegetation not to be a very real mental **anodyne**—Beebe). **Opiate** usually is applied to something that induces a dream state and a delusion of happiness; it also commonly suggests indifference to actual evils and a false sense of security or well-being with consequent stilling of all disturbance—T. W. Arnold. **Opiate** means anything that induces a dream state or a delusion of happiness; it also commonly suggests indifference to actual evils and a false sense of security or well-being with consequent stilling of all disturbance.
the arts find in music, poetry, painting, and the novel escapes, as narcotic as they are delightful, from the pressures and exigencies in which we are involved—Edman> (the promise that religion offers of a larger reward is less likely to serve as a moral stimulant than as a moral narcotic—Garvin) Nepenthe, the designation of a legendary drug or potion of the ancient Greeks, said to allay pain and sorrow, is used in modern English with the implication of something sweet and pleasurable substituted for something painful (after the fiery stimulants, compounded of brimstone and bigotry, offered by the polemic theologians, the gentle sedative of Montaigne's conversation comes like a draft of nepenthe—Preserved Smith) It is also freely used to denote the state of placid peace resulting from the use of a nepenthe (only . . . in idle chatter and consoling gossip and scandal, and in the more unendurable cases in drink, can they find nepenthe—Nathan) Ant stimulant: irritant anodynia analogia, anesthesia (see under ANODYNE 1) anoint *oil, cream, grease, lubricate anomalous *irregular, unnatural Ana *abnormal, aberrant, atypical: *monstrous, prodigious: singular, unique, peculiar, *strange Con normal, natural, *regular, typical: *usual, wonted, accustomed, customary anomaly *paradox, antimony answer n reply, response, rejoinder, retort (see under ANSWER vb 1) Ana defense, vindication, justification (see corresponding verbs at MAINTAIN): refutation, rebuttal (see corresponding verbs at DISPROVE) Con question, query, inquiry, interrogation (see corresponding verbs at ASK): summoning or summons, call (see corresponding verbs at SUMMON) answer vb 1 Answer, respond, reply, rejoin, retort (and their corresponding nouns answer, response, reply, rejoiner, retort) mean to say or write or sometimes to do something (or something that is said, written, or done) in return (as to a question, a call, a request, or a charge). One answers or makes an answer to a question, call, or appeal, or to the person or thing questioning, calling, or appealing, when one gives the attention or service demanded by one's situation or office or required by courtesy (answer a question) answer the telephone <answer the doorbell) In specific collocations the words carry more definite implications; thus, in answering an accusation one gives a detailed and sometimes, by suggestion, a successful defense; in having the answers to all the problems one has their correct solutions (he could talk; he could assert; produce opinions and information, but he couldn't meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay) One responds or makes a response to a person to whom endeavors to elicit an answer or to a thing which serves as a stimulus when one reacts, often spontaneously and usually without resistance, to the influence (respond immediately to an appeal for help) (an unsatisfactory response to a call for recruits) (when she smiled, even strangers responded) (is it true that antiquated legal ideas prevent government criticism, or attack when one responds with an answer that is in effect a retaliation, or a counter charge, criticism, or attack (it amused me . . . to read the interview and learn that I had . . . uttered a number of trenchant sayings upon female novelist. But the amusement changed to dismay when the ladies began to retort—Quiller-Couch) Ana *acknowledge, recognize: *disprove, refute, rebut: defend, justify, vindicate, *maintain Con question, *ask, interrogatory, query, inquire, quiz: *summon, call 2 meet, *satisfy, fulfill answerable *responsible, accountable, amenable, liable Ana obliged, constrained, compelled (see FORCE vb): subject, *subordinate antagonism antipathy, *enmity, hostility, animosity, rancor, animus Ana opposition or opposing, resistance, withstanding, contesting, fighting, combating, conflict or conflicting (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): strife, conflict, difference, variance, dissension, contention, *discord Ant accord: comity —Con *agreement, understanding: concord, *harmony, consonance antagonist *opponent, adversary Ana foe, *enemy: rival, competitor (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL): assailant, attacker (see corresponding verbs at ATTACK) Ant supporter —Con ally, *partner, colleague antagonistic counteractive, counter, *adverse Ana opposing, resisting, withstanding, contesting, fighting, combat, conflicting (see corresponding verbs at RESIST) Ant resist, withstand, contesting, fighting, combating, conflict or conflicting (see RESIST): incompatible, discordant, *inconsonant: hostile (see corresponding noun at ENMITY): *antipathetic, averse Ant favoring, favorable —Con propitious, auspicious, benign (see FAVORABLE): advantageous, *beneficial antagonize *resist, withstand, contest, oppose, fight, combat, conflict Ana *attack, assail, assault: *offend, outrage, affront, insult: *incite, foment, instigate Ant conciliate —Con *pacify, placate, propitiate, mollify, appease antje stake, pot, *bet, wager antecedent n *cause, determinant, reason, occasion Ana precursor, *forerunner: progenitor, forebear (see ANCESTOR) Ant consequence —Con *effect, result, issue, sequel,
Anthropology, ethnology, archaeology are clearly distinguishable sciences, but they are often confused by laymen because the investigations of scholars in these fields are largely concerned with ancient or primitive races. Anthropology is a general term covering many sciences which deal with the physical and cultural evolution of the human species from prehistoric times to the present. One branch of anthropology is ethnology, which is concerned with ancient or primitive cultures and civilizations and a study of their material remains (as artifacts, monuments, and traces of agriculture).

Anthropomorphous

Antecedent adj *preceding, precedent, fore-going, previous, prior, former, anterior

Ant subsequent: consequent

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

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

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

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

Anthropoid, anthropomorphic, anthropomorphous all mean resembling man. Anthropoid in its basic meaning is used primarily of certain apes (as the chimpanzee and gorilla) and certain prehuman primate fossils that approach modern man in structure (the anthropoid apes of the Miocene) In extended use the reference to manlike apes rather than man predominates; thus, an anthropoid pelvis is a human pelvis that in shape and proportions resembles that of an anthropoid ape (the revolutionary thug who has the fine art of bursting Razumov's eardrums . . . is an anthropoid forerunner of thousands who have gone one better than that in the police states—Pritchett)

Anthropomorphic and the less common anthropomorphous are used interchangeably when implying a physical resemblance to man (the anthropomorphic deities of primitive peoples) (an anthropomorphous carving) and both may replace anthropoid in its basic meaning especially when it is desired to avoid taxonomic implications (anthropomorphous apes—Darwin) (Darwin himself carefully described men and apes as having evolved separately from some common "ancient . . . anthropomorphic sub-group"—High School Biology) Anthropomorphic is the preferable term to modify a noun denoting something immaterial or to attribute human personality or quality as distinct from human physique (expectancy is too anthropomorphic a concept . . . its use leads the reader to attribute to animals what in fact only occurs at the level of human beings equipped with language—Charles Morris) (the categories of cause, force, law, are anthropomorphic in origin and were thus originally metaphors—Cohen)

Anthropology, ethnology, archaeology are clearly distinguishable sciences, but they are often confused by laymen because the investigations of scholars in these fields are largely concerned with ancient or primitive races. Anthropology is a general term covering many sciences which deal with the physical and cultural evolution of the human species from prehistoric times to the present. One branch of anthropology is ethnology, which is concerned with ancient or primitive cultures and civilizations and a study of their material remains (as artifacts, monuments, and traces of agriculture).

Anthropomorphous, anthropomorphous

Antic n monkeyshine, caper, *prank, dodo

Ana *trick, wile, artifice: *caprice, freak, vagary, whim: gambol, frolic, romp (see under PLAY vb)

Antic adj grotesque, bizarre, *fantastic

Ana preposterous, absurd, *foolish: ludicrous, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical, *laughable

Con *serious, solemn, somber, grave, sedate: sensible, prudent, *wise: conventional, formal (see CEREMONIAL)

Anticipate 1 forestall, *prevent

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

Averse

Antipathy

Antediluvian

Antecedent

Ant

Anterior

Anthropoid

Anthropomorphic

Anthropomorphous

Antic

Ana

Antic

Ant
pathy: *predilection, partiality, prepossession: *attachment, love

2 Antipathy, aversion are closer synonyms than their corresponding adjectives when they denote the state of mind created by what is antipathetic to one. Antipathy distinctly implies an emotional state, often a settled emotion, which prevents reconciliation or contact or which more often definitely implies hostility (see enmity). Aversion on the other hand suggests a predisposition or an unwillingness to meet, encounter, or entertain, which shows itself in avoidance or rejection rather than in hatred; thus, one has an antipathy to cats who is violently repelled by them and drives them from his presence; one has an aversion to cats who merely avoids contact with them.

Ana, Ant, Con see those at antipathy 1
antipodal, antidean antithetical, contrary, *opposite, contradictory, antonymous
antipode antithesis, contrary, opposite, contradictory, antonym (see under opposite adj)
antiquated archaic, obsolete, antediluvian, antique, *old, ancient, venerable
Ana superannuated, *aged
Ant modernistic: modish —Con modern, new-fashioned, novel, newfangled, *new: *stylish, fashionable, smart
antique ancient, *old, venerable, antiquated, antediluvian, obsolete, archaic
Ant modern: current
antiseptic adj germicidal, bactericidal, disinfectant (see under antiseptic n)
antiseptic n Antiseptic, germicide, bactericide, disinfectant all denote an agent that interferes with the growth and activity of microorganisms. An antiseptic is an agent that prevents or arrests the growth and activity of microorganisms, especially disease germs, without necessarily killing them. The word is used especially of substances mild enough to be used on living tissue. Germicide is used of an agent that kills microorganisms and especially disease germs. It is commonly applied to strong chemicals which cannot safely be used on living tissues. A bactericide is a germicide that destroys all kinds of bacteria (but does not necessarily kill bacterial spores). A disinfectant is an agent that frees from infection and especially a chemical germicide used to kill disease germs and other harmful microorganisms in sources of infection (as drains, sickrooms, clothing, bedding, laboratories, and stables). Disinfectant may be used of substances (as chloride of lime) which destroy disagreeable odors by interfering with the activity of the bacteria causing putrefaction. The same distinctions hold for the corresponding adjectives antiseptic, germicidal, bactericidal, disinfectant.
antisocial asocial, *unsocial, nonsocial
Ana anarchic, anarchistic, anarchist (see under anarchy): misanthropic, pessimistic, *cynical
Ant social
antithesis 1 contrast, *comparison, parallel, collation 2 opposite, antipode, contradictory, contrary, antonym (see under opposite adj)
antithetical *opposite, contrary, contradictory, antonymous, antipodal, antipodean
antonym opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithesis, antipode (see under opposite adj)
antonymous *opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithetical, antipodal, antipodean
anxiety worry, *care, concern, solicitude
Ana *distress, suffering, misery: *fear, dread, alarm, panic: *apprehension, foreboding, misgiving: doubt: *uncertainty, mistrust
Ant security —Con *certainty, assurance, certitude:

*confidence, self-possession, aplomb: composure, *equanimity, sangfroid
anxious 1 worried, concerned, solicitous, careful (see under care n)
Ana *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: uneasy, jittery, *impatient: perturbed, agitated, upset (see discompose)
Ant composed —Con *cool, unruffled, imperturbable, unflappable, collected: *confident, assured, sanguine, sure
2 *eager, keen, agog, avid
Ana desiring or desirous, wishing or wishful, craving (see corresponding verbs at desire): yearning, longing, pining (see long vb)
Ant loath —Con reluctant, hesitant, *disinclined, indisposed, averse
apartment *room, chamber
apathetic phlegmatic, stolid, *impassive, stoic
Ant alert (sense 1): aghast —Con stirred, roused, aroused, awakened (see stir vb); vigilant, *watchful, wide-awake
apathy phlegm, stolidity, impassivity, impassiveness, stoicism (see under impassive)
Ana inertness, inactivity, passiveness, supineness (see corresponding adjectives at inactive): indifference, unconcern, aloofness, detachment (see corresponding adjectives at indifferent): *lethargy, torpidity, torpor
Ant zeal: enthusiasm —Con ardor, fervor, *passion: anxiety, concern, solicitude (see care n)
apve vb *copy, imitate, mimic, mock
Ana caricature, burlesque (see under caricature n): emulate, *rival
apercu sketch, précis, survey, digest, pandect, *compendium, syllabus
Ana epitome, brief, abstract, *abridgment
aperitif *appetizer
aperture, interstice, orifice denote an opening allowing passage through or in and out. Aperture is applied especially to any opening in a thing that otherwise presents a solid or closed surface or structure; it may be applied both to an opening that is a flaw (as a crack or cleft) or to one that is structurally essential <daylight filtered through small apertures in the dungeon's outside wall> <windows are apertures to admit light and air> <the aperture of a camera> <pores are minute apertures in the skin that are the openings of skin glands> Interstice is applied to any unfilled space or gap or interval especially in a fabric (in its widest sense) or in a mass. It is especially applicable to any of the openings in something that is loose in texture, coarse-grained, layered, or piled up <the interstices between the stones of the wall were not filled with mortar> <a mesh is one of the interstices in a fish net> Interstice is also used of time in the sense of an empty interval <what... do they do... in all the mysterious interstices of their lives—L. P. Smith> Orifice is applied to any opening that serves chiefly as a mouth or as a vent <the orifice of the bladder> <the orifice of a chimney> <the orifice of a wound> <horror... when Mongibello belches forth from all its orifices its sulphurous fires—Borrow>
Ana perforation, puncture, bore, prick (see corresponding verbs at perforate): *hole, hollow, cavity: slit, slash, cut (see corresponding verbs at cut)
apex 1 Apex, vertex are so often used interchangeably with reference to the tip or top point of a cone, a pyramid, or a conic section that a fundamental difference in
implications is often ignored. Apex has particular reference to the sharpness or angularity of the point or tip; it may or may not in its literal application to things imply that this is the highest point (the apex of the heart is its lower and pointed end) (the apex of a lung is its upper cone-shaped end) Apex may also refer to the converging point of two lines whether they extend in a vertical plane or not (apex of a leaf) (apex of a vein in a mine) Apex as a rule, and apart from some technical senses in mathematics, implies a base (real or assumed) and therefore a top or highest point. This implication is retained when the word is applied to concrete things; thus, the vertex of the head or of the skull is the highest point or the upper end of its axis; vertex in astronomy is the zenith either with reference to the observer or to the particular body under observation. 2 peak, *summit, culmination, pinnacle, climax, acme, meridian, zenith, apogee aphorism apothegm, epigram, *saying, saw, maxim, adage, proverb, motto aphrodisiac *erotic, amatory, amorous Ant anaphrodisiac apiece *each, severally, individually, respectively aplomb assurance, self-assurance, self-possession, *confidence, self-confidence Ana coolness, collectedness, nonchalance, imperturbability (see corresponding adjectives at COOL): *equanimity, composure, sangfroid: poise, savoir faire (see tact) Ana shyness —Con embarrassment, discomfiture (see corresponding verbs at EMBARRASS): confusion, befuddlement (see corresponding verbs at CONFUSE): perplexity, bewilderment, distraction (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE) apocryphal appareil apparition, apparition (see corresponding verbs at APPAREIL); apparition implies that one has been, at least apparently, in something (as an act, a policy, or a view). In general use apparition implies that one has been, at least apparently, in something (as an act, a policy, or a view). In general use apparent 1 Apparent, illusory, seeming, ostensible mean not really or actually being what it appears to be. Something is apparent apparently as well as he was —Con as well as he was: —Con as well as he was (Shak.) In its older sense, still found in very discriminating use, it implies no admission of guilt or error but a desire to make clear the grounds for some course, belief, or position that appears wrong to others (capologies for various ... doctrines of the faith—Newman) Apologia is often used in place of apologetics in this latter sense (Basil de Selincourt's apologia for Ruskin in the Contemporary Review—The Nation) (Viscount Grey of Falldon ... the other day delivered an apologia for democracy—N. Y. Times) Excuse implies an intent to remove or avoid blame (as for a neglect of duty, a failure to accomplish an end, or a violation of a rule, law, or custom) ("Achilles will not to the field tomorrow"—"What's his excuse?"—Shak.)
real, our apparent worldliness—Mackenzie} Something is illusory that is the result of a false impression and acquires a character or appearance other than that found in the real thing or that seems to exist when it is actually nonexistent. The deception may be the result of one’s sense limitations (as in an optical illusion), of a misleading appearance assumed by certain natural phenomena (as a mirage or will o’ the wisp), of one’s own state of mind which colors or alters the objective reality, or of the strong stimulation of the imagination (as by a work of art) that causes one to accept as real something purely imaginary (lengthwise stripes give an illusory height to the figure) (illusory pools of water on a highway) (a lover often attributes an illusory beauty to his beloved) (the beautiful is in a certain sense illusory, or rather contains an element of illusion—Alexander). Something is seeming that is so like the reality in appearance that it may be mistaken for it. Seeing usually implies a character in the thing observed rather than, as with the two preceding words, a defect of observation. Often it suggests an intent to deceive or delude (Miss Wilmot’s reception [of him] was mixed with seeming neglect, and yet I could perceive she acted a studied part—Goldsmith) (the whole of Burn’s song has an air of straight dealing . . . but these seeming simplicities are craftily charged . . . with secondary purposes, ulterior intimations—Montague) Something (as an aim or motive) is ostensible that is explicitly declared, professed, or avowed or that has the outward marks of the character ascribed to it yet has in fact another hidden aim, motive, or character; thus, to say that the ostensible purpose of a naval review is the celebration of a national holiday may imply the presence of another, deeper, and more significant purpose not revealed (as mobilization for war) (natives from independent and feudatory courts whose ostensible business was the repair of broken necklaces . . . but whose real end seemed to be to raise money for angry Maharanees or young Rajahs—Kipling)

Ant real—Con actual, true (see REAL): intrinsic, *inherent, essential

apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade, revenant mean a visible but immaterial appearance of a person or thing, especially a likeness of a dead person or of a person or thing that is not physically present. Apparition, phantasm, and phantom all stress the illusory character of what appears to the sight. Apparition often connotes suddenness or unexpectedness of coming (enter the ghost of Caesar . . . I think it is the weakness of mine eyes that shapes this monstrous apparition—Shak.) while phantasm often suggests the workings of a disordered or overexcited imagination (horrible forms, what and who are ye? never yet there came phantasms so foul through monster-teeming Hell—Shelley) and phantom a dreamlike character and form without substance or shape without body or mass (so live and laugh, nor be dismayed as one by one the phantoms go—E.A. Robinson) Wraith specifically denotes an apparition of a living person that appears to a friend or relative and portends the former’s death but is also used of an apparition of a dead person (she was uncertain if it were the gypsy or her wraith—Scott). In extended use it stresses the insubstantial and evanescent character of the apparition (O hollow wraith of dying fame, fade wholly, while the soul exults—Tennyson) The remaining words in their literal senses all denote an apparition of a dead person. Ghost and spirit are the familiar and general terms for a disembodied soul; specter (not necessarily human) connotes more of the mysterious or terrifying (ghosts, wandering here and there, troop home to churchyards—Shak.) (I am thy father’s spirit, doomed for a certain term to walk the night—Shak.) (grisly specters, which the Fiend had raised—Milton) (lo! when the service was ended, a form appeared on the threshold . . . why does the bridegroom start and stare at the strange apparition . . . ? Is it a phantom of air . . . ? Is it a ghost from the grave . . . ?—Longfellow) Shade usually connotes impalpability but it stresses personality rather than mode of appearance (mighty heroes’ more majestic shades—Dryden) (followed . . . by the shade of their dead relative—Frazer) Revenant, when it denotes a ghost, carries none of the implications of the other terms for a disembodied spirit except the return from the grave; it is therefore used often in straight prose or where a term without emotional connotations is desirable (thus, our revenant from a hundred years ago would find us occupied yet with measuring intensities of force—Darow) (I felt for a queer moment of hallucination more of a ghost than the ghost I had come to visit—a revenant out of a rowdy present into the more stately epoch—L.P. Smith)

An illusion, *delusion, hallucination

appeal n plea, *prayer, petition, suit
Ant entreaty or entreaty, beseeching, supplicating or supplication, imploring (see corresponding verbs at BEG): soliciting or solicitation, requesting or request, asking (see corresponding verbs at ASK)
Con demanding or demand, exacting or exactation, claim (see corresponding verbs at DEMAND): protesting or protest, objecting or objection, kicking (see corresponding verbs at OBJECT)
appeal vb plead, pray, sue, petition (see under PRAYER)
Ant implore, *beg, beseech, entreat, supplicate: solicit, request, *ask
Con *demand, exact, claim: protest, kick, *object
appear 1 Appear, loom, emerge mean to come out into view. In use, however, they are only rarely interchangeable. Appear is weakest in its implication of a definite physical background or a source; consequently it sometimes means merely to become visible or to become apparent (see EVIDENT) (one by one the stars appeared in the sky) (nothing appears in the testimony to cause doubt of the defendant’s guilt) Sometimes it means to present oneself in public in a particular capacity or to be presented or given out to the public (Clarence Darrow appeared as counsel for the defendant) (Booth appeared nightly as Hamlet for the last two weeks of his run) (the new biography of Lincoln will appear next month) (weeklies usually appear on Thursday or Friday) Loom means appearing as through a mist or haze (a smear of . . . lead-colored paint had been laid on to obliterate Henchard’s name, though its letters dimly loomed through like ships in a fog—Hardy) (between the bed and the ottoman . . . the cot loomed in the shadows—Bennett) Because things seen in a fog are often magnified by their indistinct outlines, loom, especially when followed in figurative use by large or immense to fancy low or when followed by up, suggest apparitions and sometimes appalling magnitude (some mornings it [a mesa] would loom up above the dark river like a blazing volcanic mountain—Cather) (that which loomed immense to fancy low before my reason lies—Browning) Emerge definitely implies a coming out into the open from something that envelopes: the word therefore presupposes a period or condition of concealment, obscurity, gestation, or insignificance (the sun emerged from the clouds) (after a long hunt for him, we saw him emerging from the crowd) (that part of northern Ohio where the Bentley farms lay had begun to emerge from pioneer life—Anderson) (Lord Sligo emerges from this account as an able and conscientious administrator—Times Lit. Sup.)

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

*come, arrive: issue, emanate, rise, arise, *spring
Ant disappear: vanish — Con depart, retire, withdraw, *go, leave
2 *seem, look

appearance, look, aspect, semblance denote the outward show presented by a person or thing. Appearance often carries no additional implications (<jude not according to the appearance—Jn 7:24> <in drawing, represent the appearances of things, never what you know the things to be—Ruskin>). The word, however, frequently implies an apparent as opposed to an actual or genuine character and therefore often connotes hypocrisy, dissembling, or pretense when used of persons or their actions (<to be able to tyrannize effectively they needed the title and appearance of constitutional authority—Huxley> <they spent their lives trying to keep up appearances, and to make his salary do more than it could—Cather>). Look is often indistinguishable from appearance except that it more often occurs in the plural <never judge a thing merely by its looks> They are not interchangeable, however, in all instances. When a personal impression or a judgment is implied, appearance is the precise word (<Aristotle, while admitting that Plato’s scheme has a plausible appearance of philanthropy, maintains that it is inapplicable to the facts of human nature—Dickinson> <when the emphasis is upon concrete details (as of color, shape, or expression) observable to everybody, look is a better choice—He had the look of a man who works indoors and takes little exercise> <I choose my friends for their good looks, my acquaintances for their good characters, and my enemies for their good intellects—Wilde>). Specifically look is often applied to a person’s expression as manifest in his face or posture (<she had a look about her that I wish I could forget—the look of a scared thing sitting in a net!—Millay> Aspect, like look, stresses the features of a person or thing but when applied to persons, it usually distinctively suggests the characteristic or habitual appearance and expression, especially facial expression (not risking a landing because of the fierce aspect of the natives—Heiser> <he was a very handsome man, of a commanding aspect—Austen>). Aspect often specifically implies reference to a facet or to the features that give something (as a place, an age, or a situation) its peculiar or distinctive character (<the aspect of affairs was very alarming—Dickens> <fifty years from now, it may be, the olive tree will almost have disappeared from southern France, and Provence will wear another aspect—Huxley> <democracy . . . has different aspects in different lands—Sulzberger>). Semblance basically implies outward seeming without necessarily suggesting the characteristic or habitual appearance and expression, especially facial expression (not risking a landing because of the fierce aspect of the natives—Heiser> <he was a very handsome man, of a commanding aspect—Austen>). Aspect often specifically implies reference to a facet or to the features that give something (as a place, an age, or a situation) its peculiar or distinctive character (<the aspect of affairs was very alarming—Dickens> <fifty years from now, it may be, the olive tree will almost have disappeared from southern France, and Provence will wear another aspect—Huxley> <democracy . . . has different aspects in different lands—Sulzberger>). Semblance basically implies outward seeming without necessarily suggesting the characteristic or habitual appearance and expression, especially facial expression (not risking a landing because of the fierce aspect of the natives—Heiser> <he was a very handsome man, of a commanding aspect—Austen>). Aspect often specifically implies reference to a facet or to the features that give something (as a place, an age, or a situation) its peculiar or distinctive character (<the aspect of affairs was very alarming—Dickens> <fifty years from now, it may be, the olive tree will almost have disappeared from southern France, and Provence will wear another aspect—Huxley> <democracy . . . has different aspects in different lands—Sulzberger>).

appease *pacify, placate, mollify, propitiate, conciliate

appellation *name, title, designation, denomination, style
append *add, subjoin, annex, superadd
Ant affix, attach, *fasten

applaud 1 Applaud, cheer, root mean to demonstrate one’s feeling, especially one’s approbation or joy, audibly and enthusiastically. Applaud specifically and usually implies hand clapping (<it is not the custom to applaud preachers> <the audiences at grand opera are asked to applaud only at...>
applause, acclamation, acclaim, plaudits denote public expression of approbation. Applause usually suggests loudness or liveliness of demonstration and often carries its literal implication of clapping hands (she waited until the applause died down) (round after round of applause greeted him). However, it may be used to designate any other noisy or emphatic expression of approval (as stamping of feet, cheering, or waving of flags) (applause rang out from a hundred thousand throats—Froude) Acclamation adds to applause the implications of eagerness, enthusiasm, and often unanimity of assent: it often retains its basic implication of crying out (he was nominated to the office by acclamation without a ballot, and with emphatically voiced approval) (his speech was received with acclamation) Acclaim is more poetic than applause, though often interchanged with the latter; it sometimes carries implications of loftier deeds and more enduring esteem than acclamation (the heroes were hailed with acclaim) (his poetry met with universal acclaim) Plaudits, though literally equal to applause, may suggest polite or gracious rather than demonstrative expressions of approval (the colonel bowed and smiled with very pleasant good nature at our plaudits—Thackeray) Acclaim is more poetic than applause, though often interchanged with the latter; it sometimes carries implications of loftier deeds and more enduring esteem than acclamation (the heroes were hailed with acclaim) (his poetry met with universal acclaim) Plaudits, though literally equal to applause, may suggest polite or gracious rather than demonstrative expressions of approval (the colonel bowed and smiled with very pleasant good nature at our plaudits—Thackeray) Acclaim is more poetic than applause, though often interchanged with the latter; it sometimes carries implications of loftier deeds and more enduring esteem than acclamation (the heroes were hailed with acclaim) (his poetry met with universal acclaim) Plaudits, though literally equal to applause, may suggest polite or gracious rather than demonstrative expressions of approval (the colonel bowed and smiled with very pleasant good nature at our plaudits—Thackeray) Acclaim is more poetic than applause, though often interchanged with the latter; it sometimes carries implications of loftier deeds and more enduring esteem than acclamation (the heroes were hailed with acclaim) (his poetry met with universal acclaim)
appraise 54

apprehend 1 arrest, detain, attach
Ana seize, *take: capture, *catch
Con release, discharge, liberate, *free

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

Ana understand, appreciate: grasp (see take 1): perceive, observe, notice, note (see see)
3 divine, anticipate, foresee, foreknow
Ana fear, dread (see corresponding nouns at fear): forecast, predict, forebode, *foretell

apprehension 1 arrest, detention, attachment (see under arrest vb)
Ana seizing or seizing, taking (see corresponding verbs at take): capturing or capture, catching (see corresponding verbs at catch)
Con releasing or release, discharging or discharge, liberation (see corresponding verbs at free)
2 comprehension (see under comprehend 2)
Ana understanding, appreciation (see corresponding verbs at understand): perceiving or perception, observing or observation, noticing or notice, noting (see corresponding verbs at see)

3 Apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment denote fear (or an instance of it) that something is going wrong or will go wrong. Apprehension usually implies fear that obsesses the mind and keeps one anxious and worried (be under apprehension concerning a child's health) (peasants who have survived a famine will be perpetually haunted by memory and apprehension—Russell) Foreboding particularly designates oppressive anticipatory fear or superstitious, unreasonable, or inadequately defined fear; thus, one may relieve a person's apprehensions yet find it hard to dispel his forebodings (there was a sadness and constraint about all persons that day, which filled Mr. Esmond with gloomy forebodings—Thackeray) Misgiving suggests uneasiness and mistrust rather than anxiety or dread; it is often applied to sudden fears (as a suspicion that one is making a mistake, a doubt of one's capacity to accomplish what one has undertaken, or a disturbing loss of courage) (in the midst of my anecdote a sudden misgiving chilled me—had I told them about this goat before?—L. P. Smith) this self-confidence had given place to a misgiving that he had been making a fool of himself—Shaw Presentiment implies a vague feeling or a dim, almost mystical, perception of something (not necessarily unpleasant) that seems bound to happen; however, because it frequently suggests an element of anticipatory fear and, in many cases, of foreboding, it comes into comparison with the other words of this group (the delicious repose of the soul...had been shaken...and alarmed with dim presentiment—George Eliot

Ana *fear, dread, alarm, panic: worry, anxiety, *care
Ant confidence —Con *trust, faith: assurance, self-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**apprehensive** *anxious, worried, solicitous* (see under CARE n): *nervous, uneasy, jittery* (see IMPATIENT)

**ant** confident —**con** assured, sanguine, sure (see CONFIDENT): *unruffled, imperturbable, unfappable, composed, cool, nonchalant

**apprentice** *novice, noviceit, probationer, postulant, neophyte*

**ana** beginner, starter (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN): *tyro, *amateur

**apprise** *inform, advise, notify, acquaint

**apprehensive** *fearful, afraid

**approximate** *novice,附近, approximate mean to come near, approach

**approach vb** 1 Approach, near, approximate mean to come or draw close (to). Approach is by far the widest in its range of application. Very often it implies a coming close in space (he left the group and approached us) (the storm was approaching). Often also it suggests a drawing close in time (it was approaching three o'clock) (the day of the wedding approached). Sometimes a closeness in order of thought or in an intellectual relation (as likeness or identification) is implied (her interest in others sometimes approaches intrusiveness) (students are expected to approach the standard set for them by their teachers) (many words of distinctly different origin gradually approach each other in meaning). Though the word retains its implication of coming close, often it also implies actual or imminent contact; to approach a man with a proposal is actually to make advances to him; to approach a topic is actually to enter upon a discussion of it. Hence, approach often stresses the manner or method of beginning, especially one calculated to evoke the response or effect desired (he did not know how to approach the subject) (every problem in science, every problem in physics he approached) (many words of distinctly different origin gradually approach each other in meaning).

**appropriate vb** *preempt, *arrogate, confiscate, usurp

**appropriation** *grant, subvention, subsidy mean money or property given or set apart by an authorized body for a predetermined use by others. Appropriation is the comprehensive term used in government, business, or an institution controlling large sums of money for the amount formally and officially allotted to any one of its departments, projects, services, or beneficiaries in advance of the expenditure of that money (every department must keep within its appropriation) (since the bill just signed carries no appropriation for the new bridge, it is obvious that construction will not begin this year). Grant usually applies to a gift made by a government or by a corporation (as an educational or charitable foundation) to a beneficiary on the condition that certain terms be accepted or certain engagements fulfilled. The beneficiary may be a specific institution, a corporation, or even an individual; the gift may be a sum of money, but when the government is the benefactor, it is often a tract of land or a valuable franchise (grants of land from the federal government were made to various railroads building new lines and to various colleges and universities providing agricultural and industrial courses in the mid-nineteenth century) (foundations that make grants to institutions engaged in health and medical research). Subvention is more re-
stricted than grant since it always implies pecuniary aid especially to a person or institution in straits; it more often applies to a grant-in-aid to an artistic, literary, or scientific undertaking than a commercial one (opera in many places is possible only because of a subvention)

Subvention applies to a grant made to an individual or a company to enable him (or it) to carry on some work regarded as advantageous to the public but not for one reason or another self-supporting. Subvention is often preferred when the grant is made by an educational or charitable foundation or similar agency; subsidy, when it is made by the government (the Carnegie Corporation makes subventions to libraries and educational institutions) (the British government provides subsidies for mail-carrying vessels)

approval *approbation

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

Ana commending or commendation, applauding or applause, compliment (see corresponding verbs at COMMEND): endorsing or endorsement, sanction (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)

Ant disapprove —Con criticizing or criticism, reproof, censure (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE): disapprovem, depreciation, derogation (see corresponding verbs at DECRY)

approve, endorse, sanction, accredit, certify mean to have or to express a favorable opinion of. Approve often means no more than this (daring them . . . to approve her conduct —Conrad) Sometimes, however, it suggests esteem or admiration (Jane secretly approved his discernment —Rose Macaulay) Endorse adds to approve the implication of backing or supporting (as by an explicit statement): it is therefore used chiefly in reference to things requiring promotion or publicity (endorse a person’s candidacy) (endorse the platform of a new political party) (endorse a brand of cigarette) Sanction not only implies approval but also authorization (the school dances were sanctioned by the board of education) The one that sanctions may be not only a person or group but something that provides a standard by which something can be approved and authorized or disapproved and discountenanced (proposed laws not sanctioned by public opinion) (some churches permit divorce, but do not sanction remarriage) (these statements are sanctioned by common sense—Joseph Gilbert) (the court has also sanctioned recently some federal efforts to protect Negroes in the South from violence—Barth) Accredit and certify usually imply official endorsement and conformity with certain standards. Their selection is dependent on idiom rather than on distinctions in meaning (an accredited herd of dairy cattle) (certified milk) (an accredited school) (a certified teacher) (a certified public accountant) (labels by which brain merit is advertised and certified—medals, honors, degrees—Wolf) Accredit, however, is sometimes used generally as implying public approval or general acceptance (if any . . . break away from accredited custom—Inge) (sages so fully accredited as Mr. Bertrand Russell—Montague)

Ana *commend, applaud, compliment: *ratify, confirm

Ant disapprove —Con reject, refuse, repudiate, spurn (see decline): condemn, reprehend, *criticize

approximate vb *approach, near

approximately *nearly, almost, well-nigh

Ant precisely, exactly

aptitude bent, turn, talent, faculty, *gift, knack, genius

Ana *taste, gusto, zest: propensity, *leaning, penchant, flair

Ant inaptitude

aquatic, lacustrine, fluvial, fluviatile, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal all refer to water and especially to a body of water but all except aquatic are highly specific in their applications and all are more or less technical terms in the geographical and biological sciences and in geology. Aquatic may imply a habitat in water, but as applied to animals and plants it often means living in water (but not necessarily submerged) or on the water or around a body of water. It is specifically applicable to any plant (as the water hyacinth and the water lily) that has its roots in or below water. It is also applicable to any animal that frequents the water, especially to a swimming bird or mammal (as a gull or an otter). A frog is more often described as an amphibious animal but as compared to a toad its habits may be said to be aquatic. Lacustrine relates only to a lake; it is used in biology (lacustrine shells) (lacustrine fauna and flora), in geology (lacustrine deposits), and in archaeology.
aqueduct

〈the lacustrine period, a prehistoric period when dwellings were erected over lakes〉 Fluvial and fluviatile are used interchangeably to suggest the action, operation, or influence of flowing water though geologists perhaps somewhat prefer fluviatile and biologists distinctly prefer fluviatile (a fluviatile plain) fluviatile communities generally have a smaller standing crop of phytoplankters—

Park When denoting a specific relationship to a particular stream or a relation to streams as such as distinct from their action or effects fluviatile is the term of choice international fluviatile law coastal and fluviatile shipping Welles sketched a geographical interpretation of the history of civilization through three stages: the fluviatile, the thalassic, and the oceanic—Sat. Review (London)

In reference to salt water marine (see also marine) marine is the comprehensive term, applicable not only to things that pertain to the open ocean but to those that pertain to contiguous salt or brackish waters (as bays, harbors, salt marshes, or salt ponds) marine shells marine vegetation marine deposits When specific reference to the open ocean or to mid ocean is intended, oceanic is the preferred word oceanic fauna oceanic currents oceanic storms When reference is to seas or gulfs, as distinguished from the ocean, thalassic is often the term preferred especially by historians thalassic empire These terms, however, are neither so definitely restricted nor so precise as the succeeding terms, which usually name definite zones of the ocean. Neritic refers only to the belt of shallow water surrounding a landmass. Pelagic, which in general use implies definitely the open sea or the high seas pelagic sealing, in its stricter technical application has reference in its extent only to the realm of the open ocean and in its depth only to so much of the water covering that expanse as is penetrable by light. Below the pelagic zone in the deeper parts of the ocean lies the abyssal zone, where no plant life exists and animals are carnivorous and are usually blind or luminous.

aqueduct channel, canal, conduit, duct

Arab Arabian adj, Arabic, *Arabian Arabic Arab, Arabian, Arab are not freely applicable to the same things and are, consequently, often a source of confusion. Arabian is used chiefly with reference to a place, the large peninsula in southwestern Asia which includes the modern kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thus, one speaks of the Arabian peninsula, desert, kingdoms, flora, fauna, history, intending in each case to convey a consciousness of geographic relationship. Arab is used chiefly with reference to a people who still dwell in Arabia or their descendants who are common in northern, eastern, and central Africa, in Madagascar, India, and the Malay Archipelago, and in some parts of Syria and Persia. The word, therefore, often implies characteristics or habits associated with Arabs (as a nomadic life, equestrian skill, or Muslim practices) Arab customs Arab descent Arab harem Distinctively, an Arabian horse is a particular horse bred in or imported from Arabia whereas the Arab horse is the kind of horse bred and used by Arabs; an Arabian caravan travels in Arabia, an Arab caravans is made up of Arabs. Arabic refers usually to a language, originally the language of the Arabs, but now used in several countries whose inhabitants are not exclusively Arab in origin (as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and northern Africa) the Arabic language Arabic is also applicable to a culture associated with the use of the Arabic language or to any manifestations of that culture Arabic architecture Arabic numerals Distinctively, Arabic literature is the literature of Arabs whereas Arabian literature is produced specifically in Arabia and Arabic literature is written in Arabic.

Arabian adj Arabian, Arab, Arabic are not freely applicable to the same things and are, consequently, often a source of confusion. Arabian is used chiefly with reference to a place, the large peninsula in southwestern Asia which includes the modern kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thus, one speaks of the Arabian peninsula, desert, kingdoms, flora, fauna, history, intending in each case to convey a consciousness of geographic relationship. Arab is used chiefly with reference to a people who still dwell in Arabia or their descendants who are common in northern, eastern, and central Africa, in Madagascar, India, and the Malay Archipelago, and in some parts of Syria and Persia. The word, therefore, often implies characteristics or habits associated with Arabs (as a nomadic life, equestrian skill, or Muslim practices) Arab customs Arab descent Arab harem Distinctively, an Arabian horse is a particular horse bred in or imported from Arabia whereas the Arab horse is the kind of horse bred and used by Arabs; an Arabian caravan travels in Arabia, an Arab caravans is made up of Arabs. Arabic refers usually to a language, originally the language of the Arabs, but now used in several countries whose inhabitants are not exclusively Arab in origin (as Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and northern Africa) the Arabic language Arabic is also applicable to a culture associated with the use of the Arabic language or to any manifestations of that culture Arabic architecture Arabic numerals Distinctively, Arabic literature is the literature of Arabs whereas Arabian literature is produced specifically in Arabia and Arabic literature is written in Arabic.

Analyst *judge, arbiter, umpire, referee arbitrary autocratic, *absolute, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous Ana *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial, oracular: domineering, *masterful, imperious, peremptory, imperceptive Ant legitimate —Con *lawful, legal, licit arbitrate adjudicate, adjudge, *judge Ana mediate, intervene (see INTERPOSE) *decide, determine, settle; conciliate, placate, appease (see PACIFY) arbitror *judge, referee, arbiter, umpire arc *curve, arch, bow arcade 1 arcature, *colonnade, portico, peristyle 2 gallery, cloister, ambulatory, *passage, passageway arcane *mysterious, inscrutable Ana occult, esoteric, *recondite: cabalistic, anagogic, mystic, *mystical arcature arcade, *colonnade arc n *curve, bow, arc arch adj *saucy, pert Ana roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous, *playful mocking, deriding or derisive, twitting (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE) archaeology *anthropology, ethnology archaic obsolete, antiquated, antique, *old, ancient, antediluvian, venerable Ant up-to-date —Con fresh, novel, *new, newfangled, new-fashioned, modern, modernistic: fashionable, modish (see STYLISH) architect *artist, artificer, artisan architectonic adj architectural (see under ARCHITECTURE) architectonics n *architecture architectural architectonic (see under ARCHITECTURE) architecture, architectonics and their corresponding adjectives architectural and architectonic are often indistinguishable, but they tend to diverge in emphasis. The nouns mean the science of planning and building structures (as churches, houses, bridges, and ships) that involve problems of artistic design, engineering, and adaptation to the ends in view. In general use architecture and hence architectural often suggest that artistry or beauty in design is the end and goal of the architect; in technical use they stress design as the result of attention to practical as well as artistic ends and imply that the profession is both a science and an art. Architectonics and its corresponding adjective architectonic place the emphasis on constructive skill; they suggest attention to the framework, skeleton, or supporting structure, sometimes without reference to the details necessary for the completion or elaboration of the structure; when one speaks of Chartres Cathedral as a triumph of architecture, he calls attention to its beauty of design and ornamentation; but when one speaks of it as a triumph of architectonics, he calls attention to it as a great work of engineering where the supporting parts of pillars, props, and ribs are united so as to form a single skeleton capable of carrying the enormous weight of stone roof and high towers yet permitting many windows in its enclosing walls. Architectonics and its adjective are far more common in extended use than architecture and architectural, for the latter seldom escape their suggestions of building with stone, wood, or steel. Architectonics and more especially architectonic, on the other hand, often are referable to a system of ideas or philosophy or to a work of art and especially to an epic or a poetic drama where there is not only perfect articulation of parts but their combination into an integral or organic whole *creative energy ... is . . . architectonic, and it imposes upon the lyric impulse an ordered sequence and an organic unity—
arctic frigid, freezing, frosty, icy, gelid, glacial, *cold, chilly, cool

Ant torrid

ardent passionate, fervid, per fervid, fervent, *impassioned

Ana *intense, fierce: enthusiastic, zealous (see corresponding nouns at PAssion): *eager, avid, keen; glowing, flaming (see BLAZE vb)

Ant cool —Con *cold, frigid: composed, imperturbable, nonchalant (see COOL); dispassionate, impartial (see FAIR); apathetic, *impassive, phlegmatic

ardor fervor, enthusiasm, zeal, *passion

Ana excitement, stimulation, quickening, galvanizing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): eagerness, avidity (see corresponding adjectives at EAGER): zest, gusto (see TASTE)

Ant coolness: indifference —Con unconcernedness or unconcern, aloofness, detachment, uninterestedness, disinterestedness (see corresponding adjectives at INDifferent): listlessness, languidness or languor, lackadisicality (see corresponding adjectives at LANGUId)

arduous *hard, difficult

Ana laborious, toilsome (see corresponding nouns at WORK): exhausting, wearying or wearisome, tiring, fatiguing (see corresponding verbs at TIRE): *onerous, exacting, oppressive

Ant light, facile —Con *easy, simple, effortless, smooth

area 1 Area, tract, region, zone, belt mean an extent of space especially of ground or surface that is distinguishable from its surroundings in appearance or in certain distinctive features. Area still carries its original implication of clearly marked bounds, but it may be used with reference to a space defined on a map or chart as well as to one the limits of which are actually visible (an oasis is a green or fertile area in a desert) (there are vast uncultivated areas even in the most populous of the states) (two colors—apricot and green, not intermingled but lying in solid areas of light and dark)—Cather

Tract, on the other hand, stresses extent rather than limits; it is therefore preferred to area in designating a space that might otherwise be described as an expanse or is thought of as widespread or far stretching and uniform in character (beyond the area of small farms lay larger tracts that were immensely productive—Anderson) (a tract of grass, furze and rushes, stretching away to the western horizon—Shaw) Tract is often used in an extended sense in reference to anything that has extent or duration (wide tracts of life—Day Lewis) (a large tract of unwritten history—T. S. Eliot)

Region suggests reference to some definite place or locality (as on the earth’s surface, in the atmosphere, or in the human body) distinguished from other localities by certain features or by being subject to a particular condition or influence (the upper region of the air) (the Finger Lakes region of central New York State) (what region of the brain is the seat of consciousness?)

Zone denotes an area or region that suggests a girdle or an encircling band especially on a map or chart (the torrid, arctic, and temperate zones) (parcel post zones) (the pelagic zone of the ocean) In broader use it is often applied to an area that forms a band or strip and is distinctly set off from its environs by some peculiarity of feature (the firing zone of a battlefield) (the business zones of a city) (that milky way which nightly as a circling zone thou seest powdered with stars—Milton)

Basically belt is a synonym of zone: distinctively, it implies an area characterized by the presence of some distinguishing natural feature (as a particular flora or mineral) (the corn belt of the U.S.) (a coal belt) In strict technical usage belt is applied to an area less extensive than a zone (a belt of conifers extending into the northern mixed forest zone)

Ana *locality, district: *expanses, stretch

2 extent, *size, dimensions, magnitude, volume

argot cant, jargon, slang, *dialect, lingo, vernacular, patois

argue 1 debate, dispute, agitate, *discuss

Ana *prove, demonstrate: *disprove, refute, rebut, controvert: expostulate, protest, *object, demonstrate

2 bespeak, prove, attest, betoken, *indicate

Ana *show, manifest, evidence, demonstrate, evince: imply, *suggest, intimate

argument 1 proof, *reason, ground

Ana proving, demonstrating or demonstration (see corresponding verbs at PROVE): disproving or disproof, refuting or refutation, rebutting or rebuttal (see corresponding verbs at DISPROVE)

2 Argument, dispute, controversy mean a vigorous and often heated discussion of a moot question. Argument usually stresses the appeal to the mind and the use of evidence and reasoning to support one’s claims; it implies the hope of each side to prove its case and to convince its opponents (if Winthrop had not by force of argument... obtained the lifting of duties from goods sent to England... the Boston colony would have been bankrupt—Replier) In informal use it may be indistinguishable from dispute (obeying orders without argument) Dispute fundamentally implies the contradiction of something maintained by another and therefore a challenge to argument (the decrees of a dictator are not subject to dispute) When applied to a verbal contention, dispute suggests not only a challenger and one challenged but an effort on the part of each to get the upper hand. Hence it often implies more or less anger or disturbance of the peace (a dispute begun in jest... is continued by the desire of conquest, till vanity kindles into rage, and opposition rankles into enmity—Johnson) (“You dislike an argument, and want to silence this,” “Perhaps I do. Arguments are too much like disputes”—Austen)

Controversy emphasizes a profound difference of opinion not so often between persons as between parties; the term is applied chiefly to debates over issues of importance or of widespread interest involving two or more religions, governments, schools of thought, or political parties and carried on mainly by writings addressed to the public or by speeches on public platforms (the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy) (when a thing ceases to be a subject of controversy, it ceases to be a subject of interest—Hazlitt)

Ana *argumentation, disputation, debate: controverting, refuting, rebutting (see DISPROVE): contention, dissonance (see DISCORD)

3 theme, *subject, matter, subject matter, topic, text, motive, motif, leitmotiv
one's opponent and by defending one's own from his attacks. Disputation, however, is more often applied to a formal exercise common in medieval universities and still found in some modern universities in which a thesis is tested by the ability of its proponent or defender to sustain it in the face of severe critical attack; debate, to a two-sided contest between persons or teams which is governed by strict rules of procedure and in which the victory goes to the person or team regarded by the appointed judges as manifesting the greater ability. Forensic in its academic use is applied to an argumentative exercise intended to convince its readers or hearers; the word suggests emphasis on the qualities of successful legal argument such as the ability to marshal evidence, to make telling points, to persuade as well as to convince. Dialectic is a term more common among philosophers than in general or academic use. It is usually applied to a method of reasoning especially by weighing and resolving contradictory or juxtaposed arguments, the aim of which is to reach the truth by the correct application of the rules of logic, but is sometimes applied to argument or argumentation that merely observes what its writer believes to be the laws of reasoning (Newman's masterly English, and his competent, if not supreme, dialectic—Saintsbury)

Aristocracy

Aristocracy often refers to an ideally superior caste in rank just below the nobility but often having in its membership persons of equally high birth or breeding. County, however, carries a suggestion of an association of the family with the county or section and usually of ownership of an estate in the country (the gentry and the nobility were on friendliest terms) (the newcomers were slow in being accepted by the county) (the advantage claimed for this plan is that it provides us with a gentility that is, with a class of rich people able to cultivate themselves by an expensive education—Shaw) Elite is referable not to a social rank but to those members of any group or class who stand out as its flower or the ones most frequently sought after (the elite of the nobility) (few others of the mathematical elite—Darrow) When used without qualification elite usually means the group regarded as the highest, especially as judged by social or cultural standards (it is the business of the college to produce an elite—superior men—North American Review) Society is applied to that portion of a community which marks itself apart as a leisure class much given to formal entertainments, fashionable sports, and other pursuits characteristic of an active social life (society is now one polished horde, formed of two mighty tribes, the Bores and Bored—Byron) (there are only about four hundred people in New York Society—McAllister)

Aristocrat

Aristocrat, nobility, gentry, county, elite, society denote a body of persons who constitute a socially superior caste. Aristocracy often refers to an ideally superior caste and therefore does not invariably apply to a fixed or definite group of persons (there is a natural aristocracy among men. The grounds of this are virtue and talents—Jefferson) Usually the term connotes superiority in birth, breeding, and social station and is applicable to all those persons generally recognized as first in family and in personal importance (he comes of the Brahmin caste of New England. This is the harmless, inoffensive, untitled aristocracy—Holmes) However, in countries where there is a privileged and titled class, the nobility, aristocracy is often used to designate the same group with this difference in implication: that nobility stresses rank inferior to that of royalty but superior to that of all other classes, and aristocracy stresses the possession of power over the people through ownership of land and through long-established and generally acknowledged superiority (the word cousin in the mouth or from the pen of a royalty signified a recognition of rank superior to nobility—Bellou) (the distinguishing characteristic of an aristocracy is the enjoyment of privileges which are not communicable to other citizens simply by anything they can themselves do to obtain them—Hallam) However, nobility in British use does not include titled commoners (as baronets and knights). These latter are thought of as members of the aristocracy. Gentry and

Armed
a close synonym of ordnance in this latter sense, but it suggests actual warfare and therefore implies group service in the management of mounted firearms. It sometimes, like the broader sense of ordnance, comprehends also the mounts, ammunition, and other items essential to the work of the branch of an army dealing with the operation of heavy guns (called also the artillery). Ammunition, though once used as a general term nearly equal to munitions, is now restricted in its application to the projectiles used in warfare (as bullets, shells, grenades, or bombs) and their necessary propellants, detonators, fuses, and primers.

**Arrive**
- arrive
- arrive
- arrive

**Army**
- army
- army
- army
- army

**Arson**
- arson
- arson
- arson
- arson

**Arrest**
- arrest
- arrest
- arrest
- arrest

**Arson**
- arson
- arson
- arson
- arson

**Arrangement**
- arrangement
- arrangement
- arrangement
- arrangement

**Armament**
- armament
- armament
- armament
- armament

**Arms**
- arms
- arms
- arms
- arms

**Armistice**
- armistice
- armistice
- armistice
- armistice

**Arrive**
- arrive
- arrive
- arrive
- arrive
arrest

**Ana** seize, *take: *catch, capture: *imprison, incarcerate, jail

**Con** discharge, release, liberate, *free

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

**Ana** seizing or seizure, taking (see corresponding verbs at **TAKE**: capturing or capture, catching (see corresponding verbs at **CATCH**)

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

**arresting** striking, remarkable, *noticeable, outstanding, salient, signal, prominent, conspicuous

**Ana** impressive, *moving, touching, affecting, poignant: fascinating, attractive, enchanting (see under **ATTRACT**)

**Con** *common, ordinary, familiar: hackneyed, stereotyped, *trite

**arrival, advent** denote in common the reaching of a destination. **Arrival** implies precedent travel or movement (<the arrival and departure of trains> <the morning of my arrival> **Advent** is sometimes applied to an important or even momentous arrival (look forward to the advent of the Messiah) Except when it connotes birth, it usually stresses appearance on the scene more than the coming or reaching of the end of a journey (life . . . with the advent of an attractive young woman took on acknowledged connotations of interest—Mary Austin)

**Ana** coming (see **COME**: appearing or appearance, emerging or emergence (see corresponding verbs at **APPEAR**)

**Ant** departure —**Con** going, leaving, withdrawing or withdrawal (see corresponding verbs at **GO**)

**arrive** *come

**Ant** depart —**Con** *go, leave, withdraw, retire

**arrogant** *proud, haughty, lordly, insolent, overbearing, supercilious, disdainful

**Ana** imperious, domineering, *masterful, peremptory, imperative: pretentious, ostentatious (see **SHOWY**)

**Ant** meek: unassuming —**Con** *humble, modest, lowly: yielding, submitting or submissive, deferring or deferential (see corresponding verbs at **YIELD**)

**arrogate vB Arrogate, usurp, preempt, appropriate, confiscate** mean to seize or assume something by more or less high-handed methods. **Arrogate** (commonly followed by to and a reflexive pronoun) implies an unwarranted and usually an insolent or presumptuous claim to something assumed, frequently to the exclusion of others (by arrogating to himself too much, he was in danger of losing that degree of estimation to which he was entitled—Johnson) (be arrogated to himself the right of deciding dogmatically what was orthodox doctrine—Macaulay) (the exploitation of the tourists was a monopoly which the most active of the children had arrogated by force and cunning to themselves—Huxley) **Usurp** stresses unlawful or wrongful intrusion of oneself into the place held by another (as through law, custom, or natural right) and the seizure for oneself of the territory, power, authority, prerogatives, or rights pertaining to such place (<usurp a throne> <the dictator usurped the powers not only of the king but of the parliament> <literature, or culture, tended with Arnold to usurp the place of religion—T. S. Eliot> **Preempt** implies beforehandness in taking something desired by others and keeping it in one's own possession. Historically it implies the right to purchase or acquire (as land or property) before others and often on more favorable terms: this implication is now sometimes found in discriminating figurative use (<prose has preempted a lion's share of the territory once held, either in sovereignty or on equal terms, by poetry—Lowes>) In current use it more often suggests arrogation or usurpation than lawful methods such as purchase (<when the townspeople arrived they found that the visitors had preempted all the parking places> <the best of the slogans suggested had already been preempted by a rival manufacturer> <in the game of bridge, to preempt is to make a bid aimed at shutting out shifts by the partner or bids by the opponents> **Appropriate** more often suggests conversion to one's own use than a setting apart for a particular or peculiar use. However, the latter implication is often retained (<congress appropriated three billion dollars for flood control>) It usually suggests an acquiring for oneself or an annexing sometimes by lawful but often by unscrupulous or even by unlawful means (<growing plants appropriate whatever elements they need from the soil and the air> <a plagiarist appropriates the ideas of others> <if we could by any means appropriate to our use some of the extraordinarily digestive power that a boa constrictor has—Meredith>) **Confiscate** implies seizure (as of others' property or goods) through an exercício of authority; it does not, like appropriate, suggest conversion to the use of the one exercising authority; thus, one might note that the sheriff appropriated the liquor confiscated when the still was raided, if he took for his own use without authority what had been taken from another in a proper exercise of authority (<the teacher confiscated all packages of chewing gum> <if miners, or any other sort of workers, find that the local authorities will confiscate the incomes of the ratepayers to feed them when they are idle, their incentive to pay their way by their labor will be . . . perceptibly slackened—Shaw>)

**Ana** seize, *take, grab

**Ant** renounce: yield —**Con** *relinquish, surrender, cede, resign

**arsenal** *armory, magazine

**art n** 1 **Art, skill, cunning, artifice, craft** can mean the faculty of performing or executing expertly what is planned or devised. **Art** is not actually a comprehensive term but is so variable in its implications that it is interchangeable with any one of the others and capable of carrying its specific implications; hence the last four words are synonyms of **art**, but they are not always closely synonymous with each other and may even at times be used in distinction from each other. The earliest and still common implications of **art** are those which are now associated specifically with **skill**: technical knowledge, and proficiency or expertise in its exercise or practical application (<true ease in writing comes from art, not chance, as those move easiest who have learned to dance—Pope> <'tis hard to say, if greater want of skill appear in writing or in judging ill—Pope>) Both words are also used concretely with these implications (<there's a great art in doing these things properly. I have often had to carry off a man of fourteen stone, resting him all the time...> <able boys and girls will...> <successful ability, skill—Rusell>) **Art** also at times comes close to **cunning** where it adds to skill such implications as great or recondite knowledge, inventive or creative power, and capacity for perfection in execution. This sense prevails especially in the phrase "a work of art." Sometimes either word may be substituted for the other without change of meaning (<high ribbed vault... with perfect cunning framed—Wordsworth>) (<praised be the art whose subtle power could stay yon cloud, and fix it in that glorious shape—Wordsworth>) **Art** may be used interchangeably also with **artifice** (see also **TRICK**) when the latter stresses skill and intelligence in contriving, devising, or constructing, and suggests lack of creative power. In this sense both **art** and **artifice** in their emphasis

**See also explanatory notes facing page 1**
3 Art, science designate a branch of learning. Art as it is found in the phrases the liberal arts, bachelor of arts, master of arts refers to one of the fundamental branches of learning regarded as necessary to every educated person and serving as an instrument for his advancement in knowledge not only generally but specifically in his professional studies. In the Middle Ages the liberal arts were grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy; with these as a foundation, a student was ready to proceed with his studies in philosophy, theology, law, or medicine. In modern times the liberal arts, as interpreted by various colleges giving arts degrees, may be the disciplinary or instrumental branches of learning as distinguished from those that are technical or professional in their character or may comprise the cultural arts, as distinguished from the vocational studies. Science was also used in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance of a branch of learning. It had obvious relation to the palate, at the place where the tongue has, more specifically by the adjustment of the tongue with relation to the palate, at the place where the tongue has, for that sound, its maximum elevation <many foreigners use a / by the tip of the tongue against the GRATE)>

During the classical Latin period it was for Rome both an science and a science. It was not identical with a branch of learning as to a pursuit for which one is prepared by the study of an art or science; thus, questions arise as to whether architecture is an art or a science, that is (1) whether its essential demands of the architect are inventiveness, taste, and technical skill, or a knowledge of the principles of physics, engineering, and related sciences; (2) whether the end to be served is to give aesthetic pleasure or to produce something useful <rhetoric was for Rome both an art and a science. . . . It had obvious utilitarian value, and its materials were not only exact logical concepts, but the sonorous words and the noble rhythms which were the glory of their tongue—Buchan>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
organized, systematized, methodized, ordered (see ORDER vb)

Con dissected, resolved, analyzed (see ANALYZE): separate, distinct, discrete

articulation 1 integration, concatenation (see under INTEGRATE vb)

Ana organization, systematizing, methodizing (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): system, organism, economy, scheme, complex

2 *joint, suture

artifact product, *work, production, opus

artifice 1 *art, cunning, craft, skill

Ana ingenuity or ingenuity, cleverness, adroitness (see corresponding adjectives at CLEVER): adeptness, proficiency, expertise (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT)

2 *trick, ruse, wile, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy, feint

Ana *deception, chicanery, chicane, trickery: *deceit, guile, duplicity, dissimulation

Con *mean, instrument, instrumentation, vehicle, channel: *device, contrivance: expedient, shift, makeshift (see RESOURCE)

artificer artisan, *artist, architect

Ana craftsman, handicraftsman, mechanic, workman (see WORKER)

artificial, factitious, synthetic, ersatz mean not brought into being by nature but by human art or effort or by some process of manufacture. They are not often interchangeable because of differences in some of their implications and in their range of application. Artificial is far more extensive in scope than the others. It may be applied to anything that is not produced by natural conditions but is in some sense a human creation (most of the inequalities in the existing world are artificial—Russell) (the family is a natural society, the state is an artificial society) in law a corporation or an institution that may be the subject of rights or duties is called an artificial person in distinction from a human being, who is a natural person. Artificial is also applicable to something produced by human effort that has its counterpart in nature (civilization may be said to have begun when the artificial heat and light of burning fuel were first used to supplement the natural heat and light of the sun) Artificial is applied also to things which imitate and sometimes serve the same purposes as something found in nature but which are of quite different origin and constitution and usually of inferior worth (artificial flowers of wax) (artificial jewels made from colored glass) Artificial is also applicable to persons or to their acts, utterances, and behavior; it then implies lack of naturalness or spontaneity and often connotes affectation, conventionality, or formalism (set him to write poetry, he is limited, artificial, and impotent; set him to write prose, he is free, natural, and effective—Arnold) (the strained artificial romanticism of Kotzebue's lugubrious dramas—Kruta) Factitious is applied largely to such intangible things as emotions, states of mind, situations, relations, reasons, which are not naturally caused or are not the product of real circumstances but are invented or worked up for one's own ends or purposes (create a factitious demand for shares of a stock) (the vogue was short-lived because factitious) (his trick of doing nothing with an air, his salon manners and society smile, were but skin-deep, factitious—Watson) (they stood for Parliament and played the game of politics upon factitious issues—H. G. Wells) Synthetic is applicable to an end product so far removed from its ultimate natural source that it has become a wholly different thing (synthetic perfumes originally dug from the ground as coal)

It is preferred to artificial when the noun modified denotes a class to which the thing in question actually belongs and it is free from the implication of inferiority that commonly clings to artificial; thus, artificial silk is not silk since it is woven from synthetic fibers which are fibers man-made from substances that are not themselves fibrous. To some degree differences in usage are purely idiomatic; thus, one ordinarily refers to synthetic rubber but artificial food coloring, synthetic fabrics but artificial flavoring. Ersatz is frequently used as a synonym of artificial or synthetic always, however, with the implication of use as a substitute; it is used chiefly with the name of a natural product (ersatz coffee) (ersatz butter) (ersatz wool) thereby implying imitation and inferiority and, often, suggesting a cheap or disagreeable origin (the search for ersatz... materials was unceasing. Sugar from sawdust; flour from potato meal; gasoline from wood and coal—Gunter)

Ana fabricated, manufactured, fashioned (see MAKE vb); simulated, feigned, counterfeited or counterfeit (see corresponding verbs at ASSUME)

Ant natural —Con genuine, veritable, bona fide, *authentic: *real, true, actual

artillery ordnance, *armament, matériel, munitions, arms, ammunition

artisan 1 artificer, *artist, architect

2 mechanic, workman, workingman, *worker, operative, craftsman, handicraftsman, hand, laborer, roustabout

artist 1 *artist, *artificer, artisan, architect mean one who makes something beautiful or useful or both. In their wider senses the words are often confused. The earliest and the continuing implication of artist is skill or proficiency (see artist under EXPERT); it was formerly applied to anyone who made or did things requiring learning and skill; thus, a teacher, a philosopher, a physician, a scientist, an alchemist, or a craftsman was called an artist (the wise and fool, the artist and unread—Shak) (/I will give you more directions concerning fishing; for I would fain make you an artist—Walton) Gradually, however, the word has come to be associated with those whose aim is to produce something which gives aesthetic pleasure, first with musicians, dancers, actors, and later with poets, painters, and sculptors. The two ideas of skill and the aim to give pleasure were combined, so that since the early nineteenth century artist (when it does not mean specifically a painter) is usually applied to a gifted person who works in the fine arts and especially to one who reveals his skill, taste, and power to create beautiful things (of the faults of Scott as an artist it is not very necessary to speak—Chesteron) (the counsels of Marcus Aurelius... are more fit for a moralist than for an artist—Conrad) Artificer still retains its earliest meaning of one who makes something by means of art and skill. Originally it was applied especially to mechanics. In current use it suggests craftsmanship and is applied especially to those who work in some plastic material which responds to the exercise of skill, taste, and ingenuity in contrivance (a fine cook and artificer of strange English dishes—Bennett) (the teacher has been only one of the artificers in the making of this changing personality—H. Suzzallo) Artisan was formerly and is still sometimes applied to the practitioner of any art and especially an industrial art chiefly in distinction from an artist (the Germans... are better artisans than artists; better at handicrafts than at head craft—Cotgrave) This difference between artisan and artist widened as artist came to imply the power to create or produce beautiful things and became restricted in its application to a worker in the fine arts. In current use artisan is a general term almost equal to workman and names one engaged in a craft, a handicraft, or a trade; it comprehends in its range

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
all the skills often subsumed as skilled labor. In extended use it is still often contrasted with *artist, the latter now implying imaginative power and a passion for perfection, the former mere mechanical industry (free verse is not yet out of the experimental stage, and the artists who practice it have still the *artists in their own craft to reckon with —Lowes) Architect has never lost its basic implication of a master builder, though it has come to stress more the designing of something to be built than actual participation in its erection. Specifically it designates a person whose profession it is to plan buildings or structures in detail and to exercise supervision over their construction in order to see that the design is executed in every particular. In extended use the word usually implies the power to conceive a thing as a whole and in detail in advance of its coming into being as well as to control its execution. It is often applied specifically to God as the Creator. Although it comes close to *artist in its implications of imaginative power and constructive ability, it differs from the former in its greater emphasis upon design than upon execution <the poet is an artificer by profession, an architect experimenting with a variety of materials, concerned with ... new designs—Day Lewis> *artiste craftsman, workman (see WORKER): creator, *maker: *writer, composer, author

2 *artiste, virtuoso, *expert, adept, wizard

*artistic, aesthetic are often understood as equivalent terms, especially when used in such colloquations as the *artistic or aesthetic temperament; *artistic or aesthetic satisfaction; *artistic or aesthetic standards or values; for *artistic or aesthetic reasons. But *artistic may stress the point of view of the artist or of one who actually produces a work of art, who thinks in terms of technique, of the relationship of details to the design of the whole, or of the effects to be gained and who therefore regards beauty as a thing that results from his attention to these matters and that is his creation. By extension *artistic may imply also the point of view of one who studies or judges art objectively from the artist's angle. On the other hand aesthetic stresses the point of view of one who contemplates a finished work of art or beauty that exists and who thinks in terms of the effect it has upon him and especially of the sensations it stimulates and the feelings it excites. Strictly, the *artistic temperament shows itself in an urge to fashion or to express and to create out of materials, words, or sounds the beautiful thing that the artist designs or conceives: the aesthetic temperament shows itself in responsiveness to beauty wherever it is found, and by contrast, in aversion to that which is ugly. *Artistic satisfaction is the gratification that comes to one who can look at a work of art (his own or another's) and call it good: aesthetic satisfaction is the content that accompanies the enjoyment of beauty for its own sake and independently of all other considerations. For aesthetic, largely because of its connection with aesthetics, the branch of philosophy dealing with beauty, usually implies a distinction between that which is beautiful and that which is moral or useful or merely pleasing. *Artistic standards are therefore the tests of perfection in a work of art which artists and critics have accepted: aesthetic standards are the usually subjective criteria which have been set up by aestheticians or by the individual to enable him to distinguish the beautiful from the merely pleasing or gratifying. *artless natural, simple, ingenuous, naive, unsophisticated, unaffected

*An spontaneous, impulsive: candid, open, plain, *frank: straightforward, aboveboard, forthright

*Ant artful: affected —*Con *sly, cunning, wily, insidious: designing (see INTEND) as since, *because, for, inasmuch as

*ascend 1 *rise, arise, mount, soar, tower, rocket, levitate, surge

*Ana elevate, raise, rear, *lift: *advance, progress

*Ant descend

2 *Ascend, mount, climb, scale mean to move upward to or toward a summit. Ascend is the most colorless of these terms, for it implies little more than progressive upward movement <ascend a mountain> <the car rapidly ascended the steep grade> It may be specifically used of movement along a river in the direction of its source <the Amazon can be ascended by seagoing ships 2300 miles> Mount usually implies getting up on something above the level of the ground and is therefore preferred to *ascend in some collocations; thus, one *mounts or less commonly *ascends a platform or a scaffold but one may *ascend or *mount a throne while one invariably *mounts a horse. Climb usually suggests effort and ascent by the use of various means (as the hands and feet or gears or extra power) <climb a tree> <climb the social ladder> <to climb steep hills requires slow pace at first—Shak.> Scale adds to climb not only the suggestion of progression by steps but that of great difficulty; it is referable therefore to feats of climbing <scale a wall> (a ladder quaintly made of cords ... would serve to scale another Hero's tower—Shak.)

*Ant descend

*ascendancy *supremacy

*AnA dominance, predominance (see corresponding adjectives at DOMINANT): command, sway, domination, control, *power, authority: sovereignty (see under FREE adj)

*ascension, ascent denote the act of moving upward or the movement upward. Ascension may occur where there is no implication of effort or difficulty in rising, and where there is usually the suggestion of movement activated by some property in the thing which ascends (a balloon ascent) In religious use ascension refers specifically to the translation of the risen Jesus into heaven. *Ascent, on the other hand, is preferred when there is any implication of effort or of a human agent or operator (during their ascent of the mountain) (the scientists effected an ascent to the stratosphere) (her rapid ascent in the social scale) (make an ascent of three miles in an airplane)

*ascend *ascension

*ascertain determine, *discover, unearth, learn

*AnA inquire, query, interrogate, *ask: study, contemplate, weigh, *consider: observe, survey (see SEE)

*Con *conjecture, surmise, guess: presume, assume (see PRESUPPOSE)

*ascetic adj austere, *severe, stern

*AnA disciplined, trained, schooled (see TEACH): self-denying, self-abnegating (see corresponding nouns at RENUNCIATION): abstaining or abstinent, forbearing (see corresponding verbs at REFRAIN): abstemious (see corresponding noun at TEMPERANCE)

*Ant luxurious, voluptuous (see SENSUOUS) —*Con *sensuous, sensual, epicurean, sybaritic: dissolve, *abandoned

*ascetic n Asetic, mystic and their derivative nouns asceticism, mysticism though not true synonyms are not always clearly distinguished, partly because of overlapping implications but largely because the first two are often applicable to the same person. Historically many of the great mystics have been ascetics. But ascetic suggests an austere mode of life in which everything that does not contribute to or may interfere with the end in view (usually spiritual or sometimes intellectual perfection) is sacrificed, and certain acts (as fasting and mortification) are practiced not for their own sake but for their disciplinary effect especially in strengthening one's powers of contemplation. Mystic, on
the other hand, suggests the possession of a power (as a high capacity for contemplation) or of an inner revelation, by means of which one overpasses the limits of human reason and by spiritual insight comes to a knowledge of that which is divine or supernatural. Ascetic and mystic, therefore, when applied to the same person, regard him from different points of view; the former implies that he practices austerities believed favorable to spiritual contemplation; the latter, that he has had the mystical experiences that are the end of contemplation. But the two terms do not necessarily imply each other; ascetic, even when applied to those who aim at spiritual perfection, does not connote attainment of mystical knowledge: mystic, on the other hand, does not in itself imply a connection with an ascetic life. Although asceticism and mysticism may denote doctrines or practices, their chief differences are apparent when they denote the theory upon which such doctrines and practices are based. Asceticism often designates the theory that abstinence from otherwise lawful acts or pleasures and the practice of austerities are conducive to spiritual and intellectual perfection; mysticism, the theory that immediate knowledge of God or ultimate reality is attainable through a faculty that transcends the reason and makes no use of ordinary human perceptive or ratiocinative powers (one is sometimes tempted to think that to approve mysticism is to preach asceticism. Certainly many mystics have been ascetic. But that has been the accident of their philosophy and not the essence of their religion—Ellis)

**Ana** anchorite, hermit, eremite, cenobite (see RECLUSE); monk, friar, nun, *religious

**Ant** bon vivant —*Con* *epicure, gourmet, gourmand, glutton: sensualist, voluptuary, sybarite (see corresponding adjectives at SENSUOUS)

**asceticism** mysticism (see under ASCETIC n)

**ascribe, attribute, impute, assign, refer, credit, accredit, charge** mean to lay something (creditable, discreditable, or neutral) to the account of a person or thing. The first four of these words are often used interchangeably without marked loss in precision, but they have distinctions in discriminating use. One **ascribes** to a person or thing something which is not outwardly apparent but which may be inferred or conjectured (as a motive, a feeling, an opinion, or a value) (whatever else might be in her head, it was ... neither love, nor romance, nor any of the emotions usually **ascribed** to the young—Sackville-West) Also, one **ascribes** something whose origin is unknown or disputed to its conjectured source, cause, or author (a poem formerly **ascribed** to Chaucer) (that conceit always **ascribed** to a lack of intelligence—Brownell) One **attributes** to a person or thing something (as a quality, a character, or a value) believed, usually on good grounds, to belong to it or to be appropriate to it, or something for which that person or thing is judged to be responsible or accountable (if he did anything virtuous it should only **attributed** to him; he should only accentuate his embarrassment—Mackenzie) (a combination ... might have **attributed** to it ... the character of a monopoly merely by virtue of its size—Justice Holmes) (the French had then given up their conventional trick of **attributing** Eleanor's acts to her want of morals—Henry Adams) One **imputes** when one so definitely **ascribes** something to a person or, less often, a thing that the ascription is impressed on that person or thing. For this reason **impute** commonly but not invariably implies accusation and, often, its resulting stigma (how dare you, sir, **impute** such monstrous intentions to me?—Shaw) One **assigns** something to a person or thing when one deliberately and often as a result of critical study places it in a class (as of values, things, or occurrences) (more than one rejoinder declared that the importance I here **assigned** to criticism was excessive—Arnold) (the temple of Baal Lebanon, which is **assigned** to the eleventh century B.C.—Clodd) Also, one **assigns** a reason for something when one definitely fixes or states the ground, excuse, or motive for that thing (it is impossible to **assign** any reason for his failure) Sometimes **assign** suggests allegation, but this connotation is usually derived from the context (whatever reason of discontent the farmers **may assign**, the true cause is this—Coleridge) One **refers** a thing or rarely a person to the class to which it belongs or to its origin when, after tracing it back, one assigns it to its proper category or to its ultimate cause or source (the aurora borealis is **commonly referred** to the class of electric phenomena) (I am convinced that at least one half of their bad manners may be **referred** to their education—Quiller-Couch) One **credits** someone with something or someone who ascribes the thing to some person or thing as its author, its agent, its source, or its explanation (people **credited** Moriaty's queerness of manner and Woody ways to the solitude—Kipling) (I am sure both parties **credited** them with too much idealism and too little plain horse sense—Rose Macaulay)

Sometimes **credit** suggests unwarranted belief (Aunty Rosa had **credited** him in the past with petty cunning and stratagem that had never entered into his head—Kipling) One **accredits** a person (rarely, a thing) with something (as a statement, an accomplishment, or a quality) or **accredits** something to a person when one accepts him as author, agent, or possessor (when a person stimulates us ... we **accredit** him with an attractive personality—Weaver) (savings accumulated in good times ... must doubtless be **accrued** with some expectation of future ... dividends—Hobson) (several Bangor houses have been **credited** to Bulfinch—Amer. Guide Series: Me.) Like credit, **accredit** is typically used of favorable attributions. One **charges** something on or upon a person or thing when one fixes the responsibility for a fault, crime, or evil on him or it (crimes as base as any treated on me?—Cowper) (the tyrannies ... **charged** upon the New England oligarchy—Parrington)

**Ana** attach, *fasten, affix: *conjecture, surmise, guess: allege, advance, *adduce, cite

**ash,** cinders, clinkers, embers mean the remains of combustible material after it has been destroyed by fire. Ash, especially as the plural ashes, implies perfect combustion and a powdery residue consisting only of incombustible and thoroughly disintegrated mineral or earthy substances (devices used to trap fly ash) (wood ashes are used as a fertilizer) (the house and its furnishings were reduced to ashes) Sometimes the singular ash suggests a solid mass, not yet disintegrated (the ash of a cigar) Cinders carries the implication of either incomplete combustion or incombusibility and is applied to a residue, usually of a coal fire, consisting of coarse particles which, if the combustion is incomplete, are capable of further burning (sift the ashes from the cinders) or which are the remains of incombusible impurities in the fuel and may also be called clinkers. Strictly, a cinder is a fused or vitrified stony mass such as is formed in burning impure coal or in smelting metals containing impurities, or is ejected from a volcano; thus, cinders composed mainly of small clinkers are often used for surfacing paths, driveways, and tracks for foottraces. Embers is applied to the still glowing or still smoldering remains of a fire just before it is reduced to ashes or cinders.

**ashamed,** mortified, chagrined mean acutely or manifestly ashamed, mortified, chagrined

|||
sometimes with a sense of guilt and always with the awareness of being discredited or disgraced by one's own or vicariously another's shameful or indecorous act, behavior, or situation (he sees that he has nothing to be ashamed of in you—rather everything to be proud of—Meredith) (suddenly Joe began to cry. He was ashamed and did not want his wife to see—Anderson) One is also ashamed who by anticipating such feelings is reluctant or unwilling to do something that seems shameful (what shall I do? for my lord takeeth away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed—Lk 16:3) One is mortified whose embarrassment and humiliation are mixed with a strong sense of being put in a false or disagreeable light and who suffers more because of loss of esteem or a hurt to his own pride than because of the shameful or indecorous character of the act, behavior, or situation; thus, one might say that the boy was not ashamed of his conduct (because he did not consider it wrong) but he was mortified when he was suspended from the team (because others viewed his conduct in a light that resulted in injury to his pride and position) (“Don’t spare him; let the university expel him! . . . Let Robert be ashamed, if you would save his soul alive!” . . . Robert was sullen and mortified, but, alas, not ashamed—Delany) One is chagrined whose embarrassment and humiliation are accompanied by vexation or annoyance (Tony, somewhat chagrined at his mistake, said he should like to see the other pictures—Archibald Marshall) (I was as much chagrined as they were flabbergasted by this involuntary outbreak—L. P. Smith) 

**Ana** embarrassed, discomfited, abashed (see EMBARRASS); humiliated, humbled, abased (see ABASE); abject, *mean: *intelligent, clever, knowing, smart: *rational, reasonable

**Ant** proud —— **Con** vain, vainglorious (see under PRIDE); arrogant, overbearing (see PROUD)

ashen ashy, livid, pallid, wan, *pale

**Ana** *ghastly, grim, macabre:* blanched, bleached, decolonized (see WHITEN)

ashy ashen, livid, pallid, wan, *pale

**Ana** (see those at ASHEN)

asinine *simple, fatuous, silly, foolish

**Ana** *stupid, crass, dumb, dense, dull, slow: puerile (see YOUTHFUL);* irrational, unreasonable

**Ant** sensible, judicious — **Con** *wise, sane, prudent, sapient, sage:* intelligent, clever, knowing, smart: *rational, reasonable

**ask** 1 Ask, question, interrogate, query, inquire, catechize, quiz, examine mean to address a person in an attempt to elicit information. Ask is the general or colorless term for putting a question (ask and you will find) (ask the price of an article) (ask your brother if he will join us) (none of them understood how to ask the question which they were trying to answer—Ellis) Question usually suggests asking one question after another as in teaching or in searching out the ramifications of a topic (questions a suspect) (Socrates, interrogating his disciples to lecturing them) Interrogate stresses formal or systematic questioning (they examined many witnesses ... whom they interrogated, not only upon the express words of the statute, but upon all . . . collateral or presumptive circumstances—Burnet) Query usually strongly implies a desire for authoritative information or the resolution of a doubt (should not one query whether he had not those proofs in his hands antecedent to the cabinet?—Walpole) It is specifically so used by proofreaders (do not query a misspelled word in ordinary text . . . Never query style to the author—Manual of Style) Inquire has for its fundamental implication a search for the facts or the truth; only when it distinctly implies in addition to such an intention the asking of a question or questions does it come into comparison with the other words of this group (inquire the best route to New York City) (inquire when the public library would be open) (it was soon evident that this was the rudderless who had inquired for her—Hardy) Catechize adds to interrogate the suggestion of an aim to elicit a certain kind of answer. Often the answers expected are definite statements of doctrine already phrased in a catechism (a book supplying questions and answers concerning the doctrines of a church) Quiz implies an informal but often thoroughgoing interrogation (as of a class) to determine how well a series of lectures has been understood or (as of a murder suspect) to determine the facts of the case. Examine implies interrogation or catechizing for the purpose of drawing answers that indicate how much or how little a person knows (as from students when their fitness for promotion is to be decided, from candidates for a position when it is necessary to determine the extent of their preparation and the adequacy of their training, from those giving testimony in a trial, or when the lawyers on each side try to elicit information of value to their clients) (the students in this course are examined at the end of the year) (no candidate for a civil service position is considered until he has been examined with all other candidates and given a satisfactory rating) (it took the whole day to examine and to cross-examine the principal witness)

**Con** reply, *answer, respond, rejoi, retort

2 Ask, request, solicit mean to seek to obtain by making one's wants or desires known. Ask implies expectation of a response, often an affirmative response (I am going to ask a favor of you) (he asked the close attention of all his audience) (ask the citizens for their full cooperation) Request carries a suggestion of greater courtesy and formality in the manner of asking and is preferable to ask when one feels that what one wants may not be granted, whether for lack of power or means or from lack of interest on the other side or when one wishes to be exceedingly polite or ingratiating (request a loan) (request the presence of a person at a reception) (requesting an opportunity to present their opinions) Solicit (compare BEG) seldom implies earnest entreaty or urging; its most common suggestion is that of calling attention to one's wants and desires in the hope of having them satisfied; (a merchant solicitis trade by means of letters, or handbills, or advertisements in journals) (a magazine solicitis subscriptions when it sends an agent to interview possible subscribers)

**Ana** appeal, petition, plead, pray, sue (see under PRAYER): *address, accost

**Con** *get, obtain, acquire, secure: *decline, refuse, spurn: *deny, gainsay

**Askance** askew, *awry

**Ana** mistrustfully, distrustfully (see corresponding verbs at DISTRUST): enviously, jealously (see corresponding adjectives at ENVIOUS)

**Ant** straightforwardly, directly

**Askew** *awry, askance

**Ana** crookedly, obliquely (see corresponding adjectives at CROOKED)

**Ant** straight

**Asocial** *unsocial, antisocial, nonsocial

**Ant** social

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
aspect 1 look, appearance, semblance

Ant *face, countenance, visage: *bearing, mien, port, presence

1 *phase, side, facet, angle

Ant *angle, slant, point of view, viewpoint, standpoint

asperity *acrimony, acerbity

Ant sharpness, keenness (see corresponding adjectives at SHARP): causticity, mordancy (see corresponding adjectives at CAUSTIC): snappishness, waspishness, irritability (see corresponding adjectives at IRRITABLE)

Ant amenity —Con *courtesy, gallantry: suavity, urbanity, blandness (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE)

asperse vb vilify, *malign, traduce, calumniate, slander, vb

Ant disparage, deprecate, derogate, detract, *decry: revile, vituperate (see SCOLD): defile (see CONTAMINATE)

Con *praise, extol, laud, acclaim, eulogize: *commend, applaud, compliment

aspersion reflection, *animadversion, stricture

Ant *libel, lampoon, pasquinade, squib, skit: *abuse, vituperation, invective, obloquy: *detraction, backbiting, calumny, slander, scandal

aspirate vb aim, goal, objective (see INTENTION): *desire, passion, lust

Ant crave, covet, *desire: *long, yearn, hunger, thirst, pine

Con *stoop, condescend, deign: grovel, *wallow

asassin, cutthroat, gunman, bravo designate a murderer or one who can be hired to murder in cold blood. Assassin stresses secrecy and treachery in operation (like assassins, these destructive animals do their work in the dark). It is chiefly applied to murderers of important personages (tyrants always live in dread of assassins) (revolutions breed assassins) Cutthroat and gunman usually designate professional hired murderers. Cutthroat is chiefly literary or merely figurative because daggers and knives are no longer the weapons usually employed by such criminals, but the word still commonly suggests brutal methods of murder (I am a soldier, sir, and not a cutthroat —Froude). Gunman is used somewhat more broadly than the foregoing terms since it may denote not only one who murders with a firearm but one (as a gangster) who goes armed and is prepared to shoot to prevent interference with his criminal activities or at the orders of a leader or employer. Basically a bravo is a blustering unscrupulous ruffian or desperado (a few halfhearted callculls from young bravos of the opposing party—Barker). The word is especially applicable in an historical situation and commonly implies a venality sufficient to perform murder for hire (unfolds all of seventeenth-century Italy and its dramas—its predatory noblemen, its murderous bravos —Rolo) (the hired bravos who defend the tyrant's throne —Shelley)

Ant murderer, slayer, killer (see corresponding verbs at KILL)

assassinate murder, *kill, slay, dispatch, execute

assault n attack, onslaught, onset

Ant analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

Ana assaying, bombarding or bombardment, storming or storm (see corresponding verbs at ATTACK): *invasion, incursion, raid

assault vb storm, *attack, bombard, assail

Ant smite, slug, *strike: *beat, pound, buffet, pummel

Con *resist, withstand, oppose, combat: *defend, protect, shield, guard

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

Ant *analyze, resolve: *calculate, compute, reckon: *prove, test, try, demonstrate

assembly 1 assembly, collection, congregation, gathering (see under GATHER)

Ant *aggregate, aggregation: *crowd, throng, horde, crush, press

2 Assembly, assembly are not always interchangeable in concrete use. Assembly may be used freely in reference either to persons or to things (an assembly of farmers from every section of the state) (an assembly of the city's manufactured products for exhibition). It may imply a unit that is a collection of individuals of the same general kind or one that is a whole formed by the union of miscellaneous things (an assembly of logs) (an automobile is an assembly of various distinct parts). It may be applied to something that can be seen as a unit or whole or that can be conceived as such (we have just been picturing nature as an assembly of particles set in a framework of space and time—Jeans) Assembly, on the other hand, was until recently restricted in its application to a group of persons who gather together in a given place usually for the purpose of acting as a unit or of social enjoyment or, in a more specific sense, in order to serve as a deliberative or legislative body (the mayor decided to call an assembly of the citizens) (the New York State Assembly) There is a tendency to use assembly instead of assembly of a structure or machine and especially of part of a machine that is formed by the union of different parts (a hub assembly)

Ana (see those at ASSEMBLAGE 1)

assemble congregate, collect, *gather

Ant convene, convoke, muster (see SUMMON): combine, associate, unite (see JOIN)

Ant disperse —Con *scatter, dissipate, dispel: *distribute, dispense, divide, deal, dole

assembly 1 assembly, congregation, gathering, collection (see under GATHER)

Ant *company, party, troop, band: *crowd, throng, crush, press

2 *assembly

Ana (see those at ASSEMBLAGE 1)

assent vb Assent, consent, accede, acquiesce, agree, subscribe and their corresponding nouns express in common the idea of concurrence with what someone else has stated or proposed. Assent implies primarily an act of the understanding and applies to opinions or propositions (one was convinced and believed and assented—Webster). Whatever is expressed with art—whether it be a lover's despair or a metaphysical theory—pierces the mind and compels assent and acceptance—Huxley) Consent involves the will or the feelings and indicates compliance with what is requested or desired; thus, a lady may assent to a gentleman's opinion on the weather, but if he makes a proposal of marriage she must either consent to or reject his offer (if a thing has been practiced for two hundred years by common consent, it will need a strong case for the Fourteenth Amendment to affect it—Justice Holmes) Neither assent nor consent necessarily implies approval (a parent may assent against his better judgment) Accede implies a yielding either of one's adherence (as to a cause) or of one's assent (as to a statement or proposal) (even if
Americans once worked a revolution of which they are proud, we need not feel so bound by this fact that we demurely accede to every other revolution, regardless of its methods, purposes, and consequences—Yale Review> (Mr. Bennet could have no hesitation in acceding to the proposal before him—Austen) Acquiesce implies tacit acceptance or forbearance of opposition (no organism acquiesces in its own destruction—Mencken) Agree may or may not imply previous difference of opinion, but it very often carries an implication of this and also of previous discussion, negotiation, or attempts at persuasion (he reluctantly agreed that his son be allowed to choose his own college)—Post, my lord, to France; agree to any covenants—Shak.) Subscribe denotes assent but it implies in addition hearty approval; it seldom implies actually signing one’s name in token of assent, but it does connote a willingness to go on record (no one would subscribe at present to the Kantian doctrine, that mathematics derive their validity from their applicability to sensible experience—Alexander) 

**assert** 1 Assert, declare, profess, affirm, aver, protest, avouch, avow, predicate, warrant agree in meaning to state positively usually either in anticipation of denial or objection or in the face of it. Assert implies absence of doubt or assurance of the grounds for his statement or such confidence in his opinions as to make him indifferent to evidence (that rigid sect which asserts that all real science is precise measurement—Ellis) (Hobart . . . could talk; he could assert . . . but he couldn’t meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay) Declare and profess add to assert the implication of open or public statement and are often interchangeable. In precise usage declare is somewhat more formal and impersonal than profess which is especially suitable for conveying a personal or emotional involvement in what is under discussion; thus, a government declares war while a citizen professes complete trust in his government; a jury declares a man guilty but his mother professes continued belief in his innocence (they do not, for the most part . . . declare . . . that no war can ever be right—Inge) (he talked well, professed good opinions—Austen) Profess but not declare may carry a suggestion of insincerity (our princes of darkness . . . have become what they profess to scorn—angels of light—Sullivan) Affirm implies conviction of truth and willingness to stand by one’s statement because it is supported by evidence or one’s experience or faith (yet, with the evidence before us . . . we cannot affirm that this is the later play—T. S. Eliot) (politicians more often affirm their desire for retirement than show that they really mean it—Times Lit. Sup.) Aver suggests complete confidence and certainty of truth (for all averred, I had killed the bird—Coleridge) Protest stresses emphasis in affirmation, especially in the face of doubt or contradiction (I here protest, in sight of heaven . . . I am clear—Shak.) (he protested that, except Lady Catherine and her daughter, he had never seen a more elegant woman—Austen) Avouch usually imputes authority or personal knowledge to the maker of a positive statement (his own deposition) and Cardinal Wolsey averred that he had made it before them—Yonge) Avow implies open and emphatic declaration and personal responsibility for the statement (we affirm and avow that the very meanest translation of the Bible in English . . . containeth the word of God—Bible: Preface to A. V., 1611) Predicate, though occasionally used as a close synonym of the preceding words, usually implies the affirmation of something as a quality, a property, or a concomitant of something (logic works by predicating of the single instance what is true of all its kind—James) (to predicate of diabolic agencies, which are gifted with angelic intellects, the highly ridiculous activities which are so characteristic of poltergeist visitations—J. McCarthy) Warrant (see also justify) 3 carries a strong implication of assurance or positiveness, sometimes suggesting little or no fear that one will be doubted or contradicted, and at other times connoting one’s personal guarantee (I warrant that’s just what will happen) (I’ll warrant he’s as good a gentleman as any—Buchan) (as smooth as silk, I warrant ye—L’Estrange) (cheap-jacks who sell at dockyard gates a pill warranted to cure measles, toothache and rupture—Montague) 

**Ant** deny: controvert —Con gainsay, contradict, negative, traverse, contravene (see Deny) * disprove, refute, rebut, confute

2 vindicate, justify, *maintain, defend

**Ant** proclaim, *declare, publish, advertise: express, voice, utter

**assertive** self-assertive, *aggressive, pushing, pushy, militant

2 positive, *affirmative: blatant, clamorous, Vociferous: cocksure, certain, *sure, positive: *confident, assured, sanguine, presumptuous

**Ant** retiring: acquiescent —Con *shy, bashful, diffident, modest; docile, *obedient, amenable, biddable

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

**Ant** calculate, compute, reckon

**asset** 1 (in plural form assets) *resources, means, *possessions, effects, belongings

**Ant** liabilities

2 *credit

**Ant** handicap

**assiduous** sedulous, diligent, industrious, *busy

**Ant** *indefatigable, tireless, untiring, unwearied

**Ant** desultory —Con *random, haphazard, casual, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky: *lazy, slothful, indolent, faineant: remiss, lax, slack (see neglect)

**assign** 1 *allot, allocate, apportion

**Ant** fix, *set, establish, settle: distribute, deal, dole, dispense

2 refer, *ascrIBE, attribute, impute, credit, accredited, charge

**Ant** attach, *fasten, affix: relate, link, associate (see Join): pigeonhole, classify (see assign)

3 *prescribe, define

**Ant** determine, settle, *decide: consign, relegate, *commit, entrust

**assignment** rendezvous, tryst, date, *engagement, appointment

**assignment** *task, duty, job, stint, chore

**assimilate** 1 *identify, incorporate, embody

**Ant** *change, alter, modify, vary: transform, metamorphose, transmute: blend, fuse, mingle, commingle, *mix

2 *absorb, imbibe

**Ant** engross, absorb, *monopolize: adopt, embrace, espouse: *infuse, imbue, ingrain, impute, inculcate, leaven

**assistance** *help, aid

**Ant** support, uphold, back, champion: profit, avail, *benefit: attend, *accompany, escort: cooperate, concur (see unit)

**Ant** hamper: impede —Con *hinder, obstruct, block: trammel, clog, fetter (see hamper): *prevent, forestall

**assistance** help, aid (see under help vb)
**assistant**

*Assistant, helper, coadjutor, aid, aide, aide-de-camp all denote persons who take over part of the duties of another, especially in a subordinate capacity. Assistant is applicable to a person who meets this description, regardless of the status of his work (a baker's assistant) (a bishop's assistant) (a superintendent's assistant) Helper often implies apprenticeship in a trade or the status of an unskilled laborer (a bricklayer's helper) (a mother's helper often performs the duties of a nursemaid). Coadjutor usually implies equivalence except in authority; it may be used either of a co-worker or a volunteer assistant (in working so complex a mechanism as the government of the empire he must have willing coadjutors—Buchan) (at St. James I met with a kind and cordial coadjutor in my biblical labors in the bookseller of the place—Borrow) (decided to share the government of the Roman world with a coadjutor—R. M. French) In a specific use it names or is applied to a bishop who serves as an assistant to the bishop having jurisdiction over a diocese. Especially in Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal use it implies the right of succession. Aid and aide are often interchangeable synonyms of assistant (a laboratory aid) (aides and orderlies . . . assist the professional nurses—Nursing World) Aide frequently but aid rarely denotes a special and often highly qualified assistant able to act as an adviser to his principal (questioned the use of presidial aides in foreign affairs) (with their chief aides they will discuss the problems of the interregnum—N. Y. Times) Aide and aide-de-camp designate a military or naval officer who personally attends a general or a sovereign, a president or a governor, often as an escort but sometimes with definitely prescribed duties.

**associate**

*Associate, companion, comrade, crony mean a person frequently found in the company of another. Associate is the general term, referable to anyone whose company one enjoys or tolerates more or less regularly and usually on terms of equality because of a business, social, fraternal, or similar connection or because of a community of interest or aims (a person is known by his associates) (his associates included all the prominent young men of the town) (he became a leader of fashion. Then, to the visible embarrassment of his young associates, he suddenly tired of it all—Day Lewis) Companion refers to a person who actually accompanies or attends one; a person who walks along the street with one or who sits with one at a restaurant table may be called a companion for the time being even if one has never seen him before and never sees him afterwards. However, the word often implies more habitual association and closer personal relationship than associate (his wife was his lifelong companion) (he no longer stood alone; the companions of his youth had become in the full sense his coadjutors—Buchan) (she was her darling brother, her beloved companion in adventure—Rose Macaulay). Sometimes the association is not the result of friendship or of relationship but of a business arrangement (the old lady sought a competent paid companion) Comrade implies association in a common calling or pursuit, and more or less familiarity in companionship (comrades in arms) (school comrades) Commonly it connotes more sentiment than either associate or companion, even though that sentiment is sometimes no more than a sense of shared fortunes or experiences, or a consciousness of having worked or played together (return to her . . . ? no, rather I abjure all roofs, and choose . . . to be a comrade with the wolf and owl—Shak) (which weep the comrade of my choice . . . the human-hearted man I loved—Tennyson) Crony is seldom used of a young person, though often applied to an older person who was an intimate friend in school days or with whom one has been on intimate terms for a very long time (an old crony of his turned up after a long absence from England) (the two old ladies are great cronies—Ana) *partner, colleague, ally, confederate: accomplice, abettor, accessory (see confederate): assistant, helper, coadjutor, aide.

**assort**

*Antonyms: near antonyms are analogous words. See also explanatory notes facing page 1*
the latter would seem too literary or too technical. Frequent, especially with out, sort implies culling or selection even more than arrangement. Re-sort and re-sorted his cargo, always finding a more necessary article for which a less necessary had to be discarded. Classify is more often used of things that fall into intellectual categories than of those which can be physically grouped. It usually implies a division into kinds or types and an arrangement for convenience in dealing with material that cannot be assembled or that is not before one. Pigeonhole suggests an arrangement of small compartments in a writing desk or of boxes in a post-office, each compartment being a receptacle for one group of letters or papers that are sorted or classified; it implies the ability to put each of a number of things in its right class or category. He pigeonholes the wild flowers he meets on a day's walk by assigning each to its proper classification or by being able to give it its proper specific or generic name. He pigeonholes every bit of information that comes to him by filing it away in his memory properly labeled and in its right place with relation to the rest of his knowledge.

**Assorted** miscellaneous, heterogeneous, motley, promiscuous

**Assorted** diverse, different, various, disparate, divergent: selected, picked, chosen, preferred (see **Choose**): mixed, mingled (see **mix**)

**Assortment** see corresponding adjective assorted at **Miscellaneous**

**Assussage** alleviate, relieve, mitigate, lighten, allay

**Assumed** affect, pretend, simulate, feign, counterfeit, sham meant to put on a false or deceptive appearance. Assume often implies a pardonable motive rather than an intent to deceive (it sometimes happens that by assuming an air of cheerfulness we become cheerful in reality—Cowper). To affect is to make a show of possessing or using something, usually for effect, but sometimes because of one's liking for it (accept plainness of speech). To affect a gesture, an opinion, a phrase, because it is the rage with a large number of persons—Hazlitt. 

**Assurance** 1 certitude, certainty, conviction, assurance 2 self-assurance, confidence, self-confidence, self-possession, aplomb

**Assured** 1 assure, insure, ensure, secure 2 assure, insurance, insured 3 sure, sureness, assurance, assuredness

**Assumed** 1 assume, affect, pretend, simulate, feign, counterfeit, sham meant to put on a false or deceptive appearance

**Astern** abaft, aft

**Astigmat** after, hind, rear, back (see **Posterior**)

**Astonish** surprise, astound, amaze, flabbergast

**Astound** astonish, astound, amaze, flabbergast

**Astray** amiss

**Astray** amiss

**At** at

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
library> meet a friend at the library> sit on my right> (the town lies on the east coast)> he appointed regular meetings of the States of England twice a year in London> (an English king was crowned at Paris> Macaulay)> In is commonly employed before the names of countries or districts and at before names of institutions, public offices, or business houses> (in America> in the South)> Milton was educated at Christ’s College> (at the customhouse)> (at the jeweler’s)> With names of towns and cities the choice between in or at usually depends upon whether the place designated is felt respectively (1) as an including area or scene, especially with an implication of destination or permanence of occupancy, or (2) of having familiar associations for the speaker or (2) merely as a point (as along a journey or course) on a map or in space or at a remove from the speaker> (on our way to visit in Troy we lunched at Albany)> (after a stopover at Chicago, we arrived in Sioux Falls on Friday)> (a man born here in Zenith is consul at Hong Kong)> In giving a town address we say at 141 Wood Street in Springfield.> In giving the street without the number, in is preferred in Great Britain, in the United States.

2 At, in, on are clearly distinguishable when used to introduce a phrase giving the time of an action. When reference is to time by the clock or to a point of time registered by a clock, at is commonly used> (at two o’clock)> (promptly at the hour appointed)> (at three minutes to six)> When the reference is not to a point but to a period in the course of which an action occurs, in is the usual preposition> (at two o’clock in the afternoon)> (September 1st in the year 1939)> (in the month of May)> When the reference is to a particular day in the course of which something occurs, on is used> (on July fourth there will be a celebration)> (it happened on a Sunday)> On is sometimes used also with reference to a point of time with which there is, or should be, coincidence> (be here on the hour)> (he is always on the dot)

atavism *reversion, throwback atavistic reversionary (see under REVERSION)

atheist, agnostic, deist, freethinker, unbeliever, infidel designate a person who rejects some or all of the essential doctrines of religion and particularly the existence of God. An atheist is one who denies the existence of God; an agnostic is one who withholds belief (though he may not deny the possible existence of a supreme being) because he does not know and is unwilling to accept as proof the evidence of revelation and spiritual experience; a deist is one who rejects the conception of a supreme being as ruler and guide of men and the universe, but still believes in a god who is the creator and the final judge of men. Since deism implies a denial of revelation and supernaturalism, deist has often been used as though it were the equivalent of atheist. Freethinker suggests loss of faith and the rejection of any or all of the tenets of revealed religion in favor of what seems rational or credible. Unbeliever is more negative than freethinker, because it carries no implication of a substitute for faith. Infidel denotes one who is not a Christian or who opposes Christianity; it is used by Christians especially to designate monotheists (as Muslim) who do not subscribe to the Judeo-Christian concept of God and in such usage is distinguishable from heathen and pagan. From the Mohammedan point of view, especially as presented in English fiction and poetry, infidel often means a Christian.

ant theist

athirst avid, *eager, keen, anxious, agog

ana* thirsting, hungering, pining, yearning, longing (see LONG vb); craving, coveting or covetous, desiring or desirous (see corresponding verbs at DESIRE)
athwart crosswise, crossways, *across

atmosphere 1 *air, ether, ozone

2 Atmosphere, feeling, feel, aura denote an intangible and usually unanalyzable quality or aggregate of qualities which gives something an individual and distinctly recognizable character. Atmosphere is used chiefly in reference to places, to groups of persons, or to periods of time that have a definite identity. It frequently denotes a character that accrues to something or that pervades it as a whole and determines the impression it produces on those who come within the range of its influence; thus, a place that has no atmosphere is by implication a place that leaves no clear impression of its difference from other places of the same type or kind; a poet who re-creates the atmosphere of the Middle Ages is one who by implication gives a true and vivid impression of the life of that time. Atmosphere may also denote an environment (regarded as a sum total of physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual conditions) that not only produces a distinct impression but exacts a definite influence (as on the state of mind, habits of work, or views) of those who are encompassed by it (genius can only breathe freely in an atmosphere of freedom—J. S. Milly) (any judge who has sat with juries knows that... they are extremely likely to be impregnated by the environing atmosphere—Justice Holmes) Feeling (see also FEELING, SENSATION) may refer either to the character one ascribes to something when one has a clear and unified impression of its distinctive qualities or atmosphere, or to the aesthetic effect of a work of art which not only represents a thing but re-creates its atmosphere or conveys the impression the artist seeks to produce (a collection of scenic wallpapers that... have a slight Japanese feeling—New Yorker) (they bring the notion of the thing described to the mind, they do not bring the feeling of it to the imagination—Arnold) Feel may be used interchangeably with feeling and also with atmosphere, especially when the quality of a thing is known through frequent experience or intimate knowledge (the factory had a homely feel—D. H. Lawrence) (the sensitive reader may discover in them, also, something of the quality and feel of Shakespeare's own poetry—Day Lewis) Aura is used chiefly in reference to persons who seem to be enveloped by an ethereal spirit which is an emanation of their inner life or of their secret thoughts; it is also used of things that are invested with a mysterious quality or character (in their company, he was always conscious of an aura of disapproval) (there was about her the aura, the glow, the roseate exhalation that surrounds the woman in love—Ferber) (throughout the Middle Ages the Taunus and the Harz had about them an aura of the uncanny as the last haunt of the primeval gods—Buchan)

Ana *quality, character, property: peculiarity, individuality, characteristic (see corresponding adjectives at CHARACTERISTIC): impression, impress

atom 1 *particle, molecule, corpuscle 2 *particle, bit, mite, smidgen, jot, tittle, iota, wit

Ana smack, spice, dash, suspicion, soupçon, *touch, suggestion, tincture,inge, shade

atom* expiate. Ana compensate, *pay: propitiate, conciliate, appease (see PACIFY)

atonement expiation (see under EXPIATE)

Ana compensating or compensation, offsetting (see corresponding verbs at COMPENSATE): conciliation, propitiation, appeasement (see corresponding verbs at PACIFY): repARATION, amends

atrabilious hypochondriac, *melancholic, melancholy

Ana morose, glum, saturnine, crabbed, *sullen: *deponent, hopeless, forlorn: depressed, dejected, gloomy (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS)

Ant blithe —Con *merry, jocund, jovial, jolly: *glad, happy, cheerful, lighthearted, joyful, joyous

atrocious heinous, monstrous, *outrageous

Ana *flagrant, gross, rank, glaring: nefarious, flagitious, infamous, iniquitous, *vicious: barbaric, savage, barbarous, *barbarian

Ant humane: noble (see MORAL) —Con righteous, virtuous (see MORAL)

attachment 1 arrest, apprehend, detain

Ana seize, *take, grab: capture, *catch

Con release, discharge, deliver, *free

2 *fasten, affix, fix

Ana *join, link, unite, connect: annex, *add, append: *tie, bind

Ant detach —Con disengage (see DETACH): disencumber, disentangle, disembarrass (see EXTRICATE): sever, Sunder, divorce, part, *separate

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

2 Attachment, affection, love denote the feeling which animates a person who is genuinely fond of someone or something. Attachment and affection differ in that affection usually has for its object a sentient being, whereas that of attachment may be even an inanimate thing (an attachment to his profession) (feels a strong attachment to the house in which he lived) Attachment implies strong liking, devotion, or loyalty; affection, rather warmth and tenderness of sentiment (a profound attachment to the King as—Bello) (it cannot show lack of attachment to the principles of the Constitution that she thinks it can be improved—Justice Holmes) (widespread American affection for France—George) Affection and love differ in that affection implies a feeling more settled and regulated, less intense or ardent, than love, which alone of the three may connote passion. Thus to one's friends any one of the three terms may be applicable; to the members of one's own family, love or affection, but usually not attachment; to God, love (in the sense of reverent devotion), but not affection or attachment; to one's country, love, especially if ardent patriotism is implied, affection, if the emphasis is upon genuine but not blind devotion, attachment, if allegiance and loyalty are definitely connoted.

Ana fondness, devotedness (see corresponding adjectives at LOVING): devotion, piety, fealty, *fidelity, allegiance

Ant aversion —Con *antipathy: estrangement, alienation, disaffection (see corresponding verbs at ESTRANGE)

attack vb Attack, assail, bombard, storm are comparable not only in their military but also in their extended senses. All carry as their basic meaning to make a more or less violent onset upon. Attack originally connoted a fastening upon something as a beast of prey fastens upon its victim. It now implies aggression or aggressiveness in all its senses and usually the initiative in entering into an engagement or struggle (as with a person or thing that is assailed) (assail the enemy at dawn) (attached the position of his opponents in a debate) (attack a problem in engineering) (they lack the courage to attack their other studies with the requisite to success—Grandgent) (it had become increasingly apparent that the logical method of eradicating disease was to attack it at its source—Heiser) Assail suggests the action of one who would conquer by force of repeated blows rather than by brute strength. Its chief distinction from attack is in this suggestion of repetition of means (as blows, stokes, shots, or thrusts) of breaking down resistance (assail an enemy with shells) (assail with reproaches) (assailed by temptations) (property interests... assailed by attempts to put industry upon a
more reasonable and more equitable footing—Hobson—
<br>(old pains keep on gnawing at your heart, old desires . . . old dreams, assailing you—Conrad)
Attack implies close contact or a direct confrontation; in contrast with assail, it suggests the use of brute strength and an attempt to overpower by suddenness and violence of onslaught <assail a person with a club> <assail a stronghold on all sides> <while other aircraft assailed supply buildings—N. Y. Times> <a universal hubbub wild of stunning sounds . . . assaults his ear—Milton> Bombard literally means to assail continuously and devastatingly with bombs or shells <the advancing German army in 1914 expected to bombard Paris and bring a quick end to the war> It is, in its stronger implication of importunity or of continuous pester, distinguishable from assail <he bombarded Cicero with letters asking for advice—Buchan> <the reporters bombarded the district attorney with questions> Storm means to assault with the violence, rush, and effectiveness of a sudden and devastating storm or wind; it connotes an attempt to sweep from its path every obstacle to a victory <several of their bravest officers were shot down in the act of storming the fortress—Irving> <who think to storm the world by dint of merit—Burns>
Ana fight, *contend, battle, war: beset, overrun (see INFEST): *surprise, waylay, ambush
Con *defend, shield, guard, protect: *resist, withstand, oppose, combat

**attack**

n 1 Attack, assault, onslaught, onset denote an attempt made on another or on others to injure, destroy, or defame. An attack may be upon the physical person or it may be upon the character, the reputation, or the writings of a person or persons; it often suggests animosity or definite enmity as its cause, but it may imply motives as various as wanton cruelty, partisan feeling, or a critical intention <the victim of a cowardly attack by hoodlums> <the speech was a severe attack upon the fairness of the administration> <the book was the object of attacks from all sides> <an unprovoked attack upon the fairness of the court>
Assault implies more violence, more malign or viciousness, and often the infliction of greater damage or less reparable damage than attack. However, an assault upon the person is legally an apparently violent attack or a willful offer with force or violence to injure or hurt that person physically. When the hurt has been inflicted, the precise legal term for the act is assault and battery. Rape is sometimes specifically called an assault. In military language an assault is sometimes distinguished from an attack upon the enemy, the former term being applied only to the last phase of an attack or offensive movement, when the aggressors close upon their opponents and the issue is determined. Usually assault and attack are not clearly distinguishable except in emphasis; thus, an assault upon a person’s character suggests violent emotion (as hatred or vindictiveness); an attack upon a person’s character need not imply strong feeling as its motive <the passage . . . shows how alarmed a Hegelian may be by an assault upon the authority of science—Inge>
Onslaught suggests a vigorous and destructive method of attack; it usually implies an attempt to overwhelm by force of momentum or of numbers or by the fury of the assault <the defenders, taken by surprise, were unable to repel the onslaught> <no play can withstand such an onslaught from the critics> <he sees I am no man to take rebuff. . . . quick to the onslaught, out sword, cut and thrust!—Brownie>
Sett is applicable chiefly to an attack which involves invasion or encroachment of provocation and a desire for conquest or domination. Aggression, which also implies initiation of hostile action, stresses rather a lack of provocation and a desire for conquest or domination. Attack is applicable to any movement or action in a series of operations; aggression is applied chiefly to a war or to a type of fighting that involves invasion or encroachment on another’s territory and usually further connotes a determination to maintain the advantage of the attacking side <pledged never to fight in a war of aggression> <the business of government is to check aggression only—Smith> <an aggressive war, as distinguished from mere plundering inroads—Freeman> Offense and offensive characterize the position or the methods of the attacking side. The noun is interchangeable with attack only when the latter word does not refer to a concrete action; thus, one may speak of methods of attack (or of offense) as contrasted with methods of defense but one would use “a war of offense” (rather than of attack) and “readiness for an attack” (rather than for an offense). Both words are distinguishable from aggression and aggressive, which in many ways they closely resemble, by their absence of suggestion of any motive or aim other than that of a desire for supremacy. Offensive implies vigorously aggressive action especially in war; thus, when taking the offensive one carries on offensive operations. Offensive may also denote a particular campaign or episode marked by such action <an economic offensive can often prevent the necessity for a more costly military defense—Draper> <to be offensive means to carry the war to the enemy. And this as well is the most effective sort of defense—Agelet>

3 *fit, access, accession, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion

**attacking** adj aggressive, offensive (see under ATTACK n)

*attain* vb accomplish, effect (see PERFORM)

**attainment** accomplishment, *acquirement, acquisition

**attaint** vb taint, pollute, defile, *contaminate

**attempt** vb Attempt, try, endeavor, essay, strive, struggle

as verbs mean to make an effort to do something that may or may not be successful and as nouns (the single exception in form being striving) mean the effort made to accomplish such an end. Attempt implies an actual beginning of or venturing upon something that one hopes to accomplish or carry through and often suggests failure <formed a plan and yet made no attempt to execute it> <the troops were driven back when they attempted to break through the enemy’s line> <after many attempts to construct a flying machine the Wright brothers succeeded> <nothing

**Ana** analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
attempt, nothing gained. (here Shakespeare tackled a problem which proved too much for him. Why he attempted it at all is an insoluble puzzle—T. S. Eliot)

Try is often thought of as a simpler equivalent of attempt; in discriminating use, however, the two terms are distinguishable by subtle differences in meaning. Try seldom loses the implication of effort or experiment directed toward the end of ascertaining a fact or of testing or proving a thing. This implication is especially apparent in some idiomatic phrases; thus, one tries a window by attempting to open it so as to find out if it is fastened; one tries one's hand at something by attempting to do something new to test one's ability or aptitude; one tries one's luck with the horses by betting on horse races in the hope of proving one's luck. Try is the word of choice when effort or experiment or testing are stressed rather than a venturing upon or undertaking (try to find which of two methods is the better) make a try at solving the problem; succeed at the first try; freedom in thought, the liberty to try and err, the right to be his own man—Mencken Endeavor heightens the implication of exertion and should be avoided as too strong when likelihood of success is implied. It often connotes a striving to fulfill a duty or obey a sense of fitness (she walked up and down the room endeavoring to compose herself—Austen) The Good, which is the goal of all moral endeavor—Inge (in Arnold's phrase the first step for every aspirant to culture is to endeavor to see things as they are). to "learn short, the will of God—Eliot) we all endeavor, as Spinoza says, to persist in our own being; and that endeavor is, he adds, the very essence of our existence—L. P. Smith) Essay implies that the thing to be accomplished is especially difficult; otherwise it combines the foremost implications of attempt (that is, making a beginning) by suggesting a tentative effort and of try (that is, experiment) by suggesting the testing of a thing's feasibility sculpture which attempted to unite repose and action, the "far off" and the familiar, in a way which Phidias and Donatello were too prudent to essay—Brownell) conventions frequently take their rise . . . from the faulty essays of an early and as yet undeveloped technique—Lowes) The last terms of this group, strive and struggle, not only carry heightened implications of difficulty and of correspondingly greater exertion, but also connotes greater opposition to be overcome. Strive and struggling suggest persistent endeavor to surmount obstacles created by one's weaknesses, one's lack of experience, the height of one's ambitions, or the power of resisting forces (to strive to overcome a bad habit) to strive to reach the top of his class) to strive to come out of the filth, the flies, the poverty—Anderson) to lack, to care of oneself and toiled of vainly striving—James) (the bitter, desperate striving unto death of the oppressed race—Rose Macaulay) Struggle literally and figuratively implies straining or stretching that suggests a tussle, a wrestling, or an effort to extricate oneself from what impedes or fetters (struggled to free himself from his attackers) to struggle to reach the shore) So strong at times is this implication that the word loses or nearly loses its implication of endeavor (the clambered over half-visible rocks, fell over prostrate trees, sank into deep holes and struggled out—Catholic) to struggle between two strong-willed women to control one weak-willed man is the usual motive of the French drama in the nineteenth century—Henry Adams}

**Ana** *begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate*  
**Ant** succeed —*Con* accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill, execute, *perform: attain, compass, *reach, gain attempt n endeavor, essay, try, striving, struggle (see under attempt vb)

**Attest** 1 witness, *certify, vouch

**Attend** 1 *tend, mind, watch

**Ante** nurse, foster, nurture, cherish: supervise, oversee (see corresponding nouns at oversight)

**Attention** 1 *Attention, study, concentration, application* can mean the direct focusing of the mind on something, especially on something to be learned, worked out, or dealt with. *Attention* is applicable to the faculty or power as well as to the act *noises that distract one's attention) if we had to think about breathing or digesting . . . we should have no attention to spare for anything else—Shaw) *every awareness is the simple form of attention—Alexander* Since the word carries no inherent implications about the power or the act or of the length of the latter's duration, it usually requires qualifying words or phrases *close attention) trained habits of attention) a few moments' attention) Study stresses continuity and closeness of attention; it usually also implies an aim such as the acquisition of knowledge, or the analysis of something that is complex or confusing, or the working out of a plan (as for action) or of a design (as for a book) the president said that he would not comment upon the proposal until he had given it further study) (of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh—Eccles 12:12) *Concentration* emphasizes the centering of the attention on one thing to the exclusion of everything else *amazing powers of concentration) the learning to read poetry takes as much patience and concentration as the learning to write it—Day Lewis) *Application* usually implies persistence in fixing one's attention, and diligence and assiduity in the performance of all that is required; it suggests therefore a virtue won by effort and sheer force of will rather than (as with concentration) a power that has its origin in one's temperament or is the result of profound interest to application for ever so short a time kills me—Lamb) *her application to her studies in school—Anderson*  
**Ana** diligence, assiduity, seduluousness, industriousness (see corresponding adjectives at busy)  
**Ant** inattentive —*Con* preoccupation, abstraction, absence-mindedness (see corresponding adjectives at abstracted)

2 *courtesy, gallantry, amenity

**Ana** courting or court, wooing (see corresponding verbs at invite): deference, homage, *honor, reverence: solicitude (see care)

**Con** neglect, *negligence: indifference, aloofness, unconcernedness or unconcern (see corresponding adjectives at indifferent) rudeness, discourtesy or discourtesy, impoliteness (see corresponding adjectives at rude)  
**_attentive** *thoughtful, considerate

**Ana** courteous, polite, gallant, chivalrous, *civil: solicitous, concerned (see under care) n)

**Ant** inattentive: neglectful —*Con* indifferent, unconcerned, aloof: *negligent, remiss: heedless, thoughtless, *careless

**Attenuate** vb *thin, rarely, dilute, extenuate

**Ana** *weaken, sap: reduce, lessen (see decrease): dissipate (see scatter): contract, shrink, constrict, deflate

**Ant** enlarge: dilate: enrich—*Con* expand, amplify, swell, distend, inflate: *increase, augment

**Attest** 1 witness, *certify, vouch

**Ana** *confirm, corroborate, substantiate, verify

**Con** *disprove, controvert, refute, confute: deny, con-
attract, charm, fascinate, enchant, allure, vb
*posture, pose
*agent, deputy, proxy, factor
attire, vb
*clothe, apparel, array, dress, robe
*clothes, clothing, apparel, raiment, dress
attitude 1 *posture, pose
Ana *mien, *bearing, port, presence, demeanor
2 *position, stand
Ana *point of view, angle, slant, viewpoint, standpoint:
bias, prepossession, prejudice, *predilection
attorney 1 *agent, deputy, proxy, factor
Ana *substitute, supply, alternate
2 *lawyer, solicitor, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate
attract vb Attract, allure, charm, fascinate, bewitch, enchant, captivate mean to draw another by exerting an irresistible or compelling influence over him. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in the adjectival forms of these words, attractive, alluring, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, captivating. Attract always implies a drawing of one thing to another either because of qualities or properties in the agent or because of an affinity in the one attracted for which it draws it or a susceptibility to its influence <a magnet attracts iron> <positive electricity attracts negative> <a store of honey attracts a bear> <a stimulating new book attracts attention> When used in reference to persons of different sexes, it suggests the arousing of strong admiration or the awakening of love or desire in the person attracted <talking, in that beautiful voice which made everything she said sound like a caress, to Papa, who had been to attract rather against his will—Woolf> Allure implies not only attraction but enticement by something that is fair, pleasing, or seductive. It may, like lure, suggest enticement into evil or danger <ancient fables of men allured by beautiful forms and melodious voices to destruction—Hudson> More often the stress is on the overcoming of resistance or indifference by the use of winning methods (as delicate flattery or the enhancement of feminine appeal) or by the bait of a pleasant prospect <an alluring advertisement of a summer resort> <she did not naturally attract men, but she became accomplished in alluring them> <the prospect of an interesting, vivid life allures many young women to the big cities> <young children should rather be allured to learning by gentleness and love, than compelled to learning by beating and fear—Ascham> Charm implies a power in the agent to cast a spell over and so dominate the person or thing affected <only his daughter had the power of charming this black brooding from his mind—Dickens> In its commonest use charm implies a power to evoke or attract admiration, but it usually heightens that implication by retaining the suggestion of casting a spell over the senses or over the mind <there was a grace about him which charmed, and a hint of latent power which impressed—Buchan> <Cyril, having taken a fancy to his brilliant aunt, had tried to charm her as he seldom or never tried to charm his mother—Bennett> Fascinate, like charm, implies the casting of a spell, but it usually suggests the ineffectiveness of resistance or helplessness to escape from the one that fascinates <the younger and weaker man was fascinated and helpless before the creeping approach of so monstrous a wrath—G. D. Brown> <personality . . . so fascinating that . . . it would absorb my whole nature, my whole soul, my very art itself—Wilde> Bewitch and enchant likewise imply the exertion of a magical influence; the former, in its literal sense, suggesting witchcraft, and the latter, sorcery but these implications are often either exceedingly weak or actually lost. Bewitch, in its commonest sense, implies the exertion of a power of fascination that causes another to succumb to one's charms or allurements and to be under one's domination. Enchant, on the other hand, usually suggests a power to evoke joy or rapture or ecstatic admiration in the person fascinated <enchanted by the girl's beauty> <bewitched by her charms> <heavens grant that Warwick's words bewitch him not—Shak> <Sophia enjoyed the intimacy with Constance. As for Constance, she was enchanted—Bennett> Captivate is the weakest of these words in its suggestion of an irresistible influence or attraction. It implies a captivating of the fancy or feelings and a holding them in thrall for the time being, but it carries no suggestion of prolonged influence or of enslavement <the child captivates everyone with his sunny smile> <just the hero to captivate a romantic girl—Irving> Ana *invite, solicit, court: entice, *lure, tempt, seduce: *catch, capture
Ant repel —Con *offend, affront, outrage, insult
attraction, affinity, sympathy are comparable when they denote the relationship between persons or things that are involuntarily or naturally drawn together and exert, to some degree, an influence over each other. Attraction implies the possession by one person or thing of qualities with the power to draw another person or thing so that the latter moves toward the former or, in the case of things, is brought into contact with it or clings to it. Attraction also implies the existence in the thing attracted of susceptibility to the influence of what attracts; in the case of persons it may be a natural inclination for, a predisposition to, or an innate liking of what attracts or, in the case of things, a tendency to unite or combine with the attractant. This natural or constitutional susceptibility is called affinity. Therefore affinity is the complement of attraction and not its synonym; thus, attraction is a force whereby a magnet draws iron to it, but iron is one of the few metals that have an affinity for the magnet; chemistry has a powerful attraction for minds that have an affinity for it <the too yearns as they do for something unattained by him. What an affinity for Christianity had this persecutor of the Christians!—Arnold> The words are interchangeable only when used of persons and things that are mutually attracted or have a reciprocal affinity for each other; even in these cases, however, the fundamental distinction in meaning prevails; thus, two persons may have an attraction (or an affinity) for each other; atoms remain in combination in a substance because of their affinity or attraction for each other. It is not by chance that in physics, the science concerned with energy, attraction is the word used in reference to atomic cohesion and that in chemistry, the science concerned with the composition of substances, affinity is the technical term. Sympathy stresses not so much the drawing together of persons or things as their reciprocal influence or their susceptibility to the same influences. When used in reference to things, it commonly implies interaction <the tides rise and fall in sympathy with the moon> <there is close sympathy between the heart and the lungs> When used in reference to persons, sympathy usually connotes spiritual affinity, or compatibility in tastes, interests, or aims <union of hearts, not hands, does marriage make, and sympathy of mind keeps love awake—Hill> attractive alluring, charming, fascinating, bewitching, enchanting, captivating (see under attract)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sovereign

**authortary** autarchy, autonomy, independence, freedom, sovereignty (see under **FREE adj**)

**authentic**, genuine, veritable, bona fide denote being exactly what the thing in question is said to be or professes to be. The prevailing sense of **authentic** is authoritative or trustworthy with the implication of actuality or accordance with fact (confirmed both by legend and **authentic** record—Froude) (an **authentic** description of the Great Fire of London). The prevailing sense of **genuine** is real or true (see real) often with the implication of descent without admixture from an original stock or of correspondence without adulteration to the natural or original product called by that name (a **genuine** maple syrup) (a **genuine** Russian wolfhound) (this is real merino, the **genuine** article). Often the stress is on sincerity or lack of factitiousness (**genuine** piety) (true simplicity and **genuine** pathos—Wordsworth) Both terms are used—true, *real, actual

**authoritarian**, oracular (see **DICTATORIAL**): •reliant, despotic, autocratic, arbitrary, tyrannical, tyrannic

**authorize**, commission, accredit, license denote in common to invest with power or the right to act. One authorizes a person to act for oneself when he is given the necessary legal right or power with or without instructions of a specific character. Often discretionary powers are implied (authorize a friend to make an answer to an attack on one's character) (our clerks are **authorized** to receive contributions for the Red Cross). One commissions a person when one not only authorizes but instructs him to perform a definite duty or office (I am **commissioned** to make you an offer which I have told him . . . you would not accept—Gray). Commission may imply appointment as one's business agent (as in buying, selling, or supplying goods) or it may suggest an order to do a certain kind of work, especially work of a professional or artistic nature (commissioned an artist to paint his children's portraits). One accredits a person when one sends him, invested with authority and possessed of the proper credentials, as a representative, delegate, or ambassador (John Hay was **accredited** to the Court of St. James's) (the sovereign to whom I am **accredited**—Motley). One licenses a person or a business, a trade, or a craft when one grants formal legal permission to act in a certain capacity or to carry on a particular business, trade, or craft (license a teacher) (license medical school graduates to practice medicine) (a **licensed** dental laboratory). License sometimes stresses permission so strongly that the implication of authorization is obscured and that of regulation substituted (license beggars) (license a restaurant to sell liquor)

**ana** empower, *enable: permit, allow, *let

**con** enjoin, *forbid, prohibit, interdict

**autobiography** memoir, life, *biography, confessions

**authochtonous** indigenous, *native, aboriginal, endemic

**ant** naturalized

**con** foreign, alien, extraneous, *extrinsic

**autocratic** arbitrary, *absolute, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous

**ana** *dictatorial, magisterial: authoritarian, *totalitarian: *masterful, domineering, imperious: overbearing, arrogant (see **PROUD**)

**con** yielding, deferring, submitting, capitulating (see YIELD vb): tolerant, lenient, * forbearing, indulgent

**automatic** adj 1 Automatic, spontaneous are not close synonyms but they agree in meaning brought into being or action by an internal as opposed to an external agency. Automatic was originally used to describe a thing that was self-acting or self-activated because it contained the principle of motion within itself (in the universe, nothing can be said to be automatic—Davy). Now it is applied more often to machines and mechanical contrivances which, after certain conditions have been fulfilled, continue to operate indefinitely without human supervision or until the conditions have materially changed; thus, an automatic firearm is so constructed that after the first round is exploded the force of the recoil or gas pressure loads and fires round after round until the ammunition is exhausted or the trigger is released; a thermostat is an automatic device which maintains the temperature of artificially heated rooms by operating the appropriate part of a furnace when the temperature exceeds or falls below the point at which it is set. Spontaneous (see also spontaneous) applies not so much to objective things as to processes, particularly natural processes, thought of as originating without external agency or without human agency; thus, spontaneous generation implies origin of living directly from nonliving matter; spontaneous combustion implies a generation of heat through chemical changes in matter causing it to burn; a spontaneous growth
...
average

performances by this total. Such an average may be expressed as a percentage or a permillage and gives a fair estimate of a player's performance and a basis for comparison with others; thus, a baseball first baseman who handles a total of 1114 chances and makes 6 errors has a fielding average of .9946 (that is, 1108/1114); a baseball batter who is credited with 605 appearances at bat and has made 201 hits has a batting average of .332 (that is, 201/605). A similar method is used in estimating probabilities (as the chances of death for a person between given ages and the length of the period between recurrences of an unpredictable phenomenon); thus, the average of mortality for persons of a given age is computed from statistics of deaths at that age and of the population group consisting of persons of that age. Average also may be applied to a concept of what is the typical or ordinary person or thing of its kind (see also average, under medium) <the boy is above the average for his age and background> <the play is below the season's average in dramatic interest> Mean originally and still in certain idioms named a condition, quality, intensity, or rate that is midway between two extremes (observe a happy mean between abjectness and arrogance or between effusiveness and reserve) <he that holds fast the golden mean, and lives contentedly between the little and the great—Cowper> In its mathematical use mean is more general than average (for which another name is arithmetical mean); it covers also the geometric mean, that is, the square root of the product of two numbers or quantities (or the nth root of the product of n quantities); thus, 10 is the arithmetical mean or average of 4, 16; while 8 is the geometric mean of 4, 16. Median refers to a midway point in position; in statistics it names the figure or quantity which represents the point at which there are as many instances below as there are above it; thus, the average of a group of 5 workers earning respectively 6, 8, 10, 16, and 20 dollars a day is 12 dollars a day, whereas the median for the same group is 10 dollars, because one half of them earn less than 10 dollars a day and one half more. Norm suggests a rule for guidance or a definite pattern to be followed: it also denotes especially in such fields as psychology and sociology, an average, whether mathematically computed or estimated, of performance or achievement of a group, class, or category that can be set up as a standard for or a minimum of accomplishment by a similar larger group, class, or category; thus, a course of study for a particular school grade is based upon a norm determined by the performance of children of the age, experience, and background commonly found in that grade (crime is merely a name for the most obvious, extreme, and directly dangerous forms of . . . departure from the norm in manners and customs—Ellis) <it is everything to have acquired and to possess such a norm of Poetry within us that we know whether or not what he wrote was Poetry—Quiller-Couch> Par usually refers to an average for an individual that is like the norm for a group. It often refers to an individual person's average in health, accomplishment, or performance (I feel below par (that is, below my average in health) today) (this theme is above par for that student) In British use par may be employed in reference to an average in amount (<the par of crop production for this farm>) Ant maximum (or minimum)

average adj 1 mean, median, par (see under AVERAGE n) 2 middling, *medium, indifferent, fair, moderate, mediocre, second-rate

Ant *minimum

average n

Ant analogous word

average adj, n

antonyms

award n

con defined word

award vb

Ant antonym

award n

Ant contrasted word

award award

Ant see also explanatory notes facing page 1
bounty

aware, cognizant, conscious, sensible, alive, awake mean having knowledge of something, especially of something that for some reason is not obvious or apparent to all. One is aware of something through information or through one's own vigilance in observing or in drawing inferences from what one sees, hears, or feels {few, so far as I am aware, now claim the free speech to call a knave a knave—T. S. Eliot} {would not . . . have been worthy of his reputation had he not been aware . . . of the existence of this League. Journalists have to be aware of such things—Rose Macaulay} {Americans were becoming aware that American destiny can be pursued only in a world framework—Lerner} One who is cognizant of something has had it called to his attention or has become aware of it through his own powers of observation: in careful use the word common implies firsthand or certain knowledge {he is not, as yet, fully cognizant of the facts} {through the servants, or from other means, he had made himself cognizant of the projected elopement—Trollope} One is conscious of something that he sees, hears, feels, or apprehends when he allows it to enter his mind so that he recognizes its existence or fixes his attention on it; thus, one may or may not be conscious of his heartbeat or of someone passing through the room {he stood there motionless and in wonder, dimly conscious that Hallward was speaking to him—Wilde} {to be happy or miserable without being conscious of it seems to me utterly inconsistent and impossible—Locke} {lifelong short-sightedness . . . of which he has never ceased to be conscious—Ellis} One is sensible of something who through intuitive feeling or a rational perception realizes its existence {she was disturbing him extremely . . . but he was much too sensible of her goodwill to wound her feelings by telling her so—Mackenzie} {even he was sensible of the decorous atmosphere—Joyce} One who is alive to something is acutely susceptible to its influence or sensible of its existence {the Spring finds thee not less lovely to her sweet force than yonder upstarts—Cowper} {they were fully alive to the danger of thwarting Barbara—Galsworthy} One who is awake to something is aroused to it or on the alert for developments {the country is not awake to the potential evils of a strict censorship} Ana *sure, certain, positive: informed, acquainted, apprised (see INFORM) Ant unaware —Con *insensible, insensitive, impas- sive, anesthetic; *ignorant awe n fear, *reverence Ana respect, esteem, *regard; *wonder, wondertainment, admiration Can contempt, scorn, disdain, despite (see under DIS- SPISE): insolence, superciliousness, arrogance (see corre- sponding adjectives at PROUD) awful *fearful, dreadful, frightful, terrible, horrible, shocking, appalling, terrific, horrific Ana impressive, *moving: solemn, *serious, grave: im- posing, august, majestic (see GRAND): sublime, superb, *splendid: *ominous, portentous awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept, gauche mean not adapted by constitution or character to act, operate, or achieve the intended or desired ends with ease, fitness, or grace. Awkward and clumsy are by far the widest of these terms in their range of application. Awkward often involves the idea of unfitness for easy handling or dexterous management. It may suggest unhandiness or inconvenience {an awkward tool} {awkward arrangement of controls} It may suggest embarrassment or discomfiture {an awk- ward situation} {an awkward silence} {an awkward meet- ing} {how earnestly did she then wish that her former opinions had been more reasonable, her expressions more moderate! It would have spared her from explanations . . . which it was exceedingly awkward to give—Austen} When applied to persons, their build, their movements, or their manners, awkward usually implies a lack of ease or grace and often suggests inadequate muscular coordi- nation or deficiency in poise; thus, an awkward gait implies lack of muscular control; an awkward greeting implies want of tact or address {an awkward dancer} {sitting in silence, felt awkward; but I was too shy to break into any of the groups that seemed absorbed in their own affairs—Maugham} {his manners were awkward and unconciliatory—Buchan} Clumsy stresses stiffness or heaviness with consequent want of flexibility or dexterity and is often applied to something so constructed or con- trived as to be lumbering or ponderous {a boy of clumsy build} {a bear is the most clumsy of animals} {a clumsy narrative style} {clumsy boots} {when a great writer . . . creates a speech of his own which is too clumsy to be flexible and too heavy to be intimate—Ellis} {a great play in spite of . . . the clumsy machinery of the plot—T. S. Eliot} Often, and especially when applied to persons and their acts, it implies a lack of expertise or adroitness in manipulation often with a suggestion of bungling {the clumsy attempts of governments or other social bodies to interfere . . . will only make matters worse—Hobson} {he was a clumsy dissector because of his injury—H. G. Wells} Maladroit and inept imply awkwardness or clumsiness in managing whatever requires mental or social dexterity and are applicable only to persons and their acts or utterances. Maladroit implies a lack of tact or of skill in avoiding difficult situations in human intercourse and is often opposed to political or diplomatic in their extended senses {a maladroit reply to a letter} {a mala- droit remark} {it was more correct to “break” a piece of bad news to a person by means of a (possibly maladroit and unfeeling) messenger—Thackeray} Inept stresses inappropriateness or lack of aptness especially in a per- son’s acts or utterances; often, in addition, it carries a suggestion of futility or absurdity; thus, a remark may be inept because it is so out of keeping with the topic under discussion as to seem pointless and also maladroit if it gives an awkward turn to the conversation {the conviction that the British were everywhere so inept that they de- served to lose—Abend} {one of the most often encoun- tered weaknesses in the trial of criminal cases is the inept and unconvinging testimony of the law enforcement officer—Paul Wilson} {the sharp-eyed and penetrating critic for whom . . . this extraordinary and extraordinarily inept society has in fancied security unwittingly been waiting—Brownell} Gauche suggests a lack of social graces that makes for clumsiness or ineptness: it may imply also shy- ness, inexperience, or ill breeding {this journey . . . tends to reduce my shy, taciturn, and somewhat gauche manner—G. G. Scott} Ana *stiff, wooden, rigid: embarrassing, discomfiting, discor- recting (see EMBARRASS) Ant handy, deft: graceful —Con adroit, *dexterous: skillful, adept, *proficient; *easy, simple, facile, effortless awry, askew, askance mean deviating from a straight line or direction. They may all imply divergence from what is straight or straightforward, direct, symmetrical, or orderly, but they are seldom applicable to the same things. Awry carries a strong implication of disorderliness, of disarrange- ment, or of confusion {the blinds all hang awry} {every- thing in the kitchen was awry} {their plans went awry} Askew stresses crookedness or distortion. It implies that the thing so described is set at a wrong angle, is twisted out of its proper position, or goes off in the wrong direc-
tion 〈every chair in this room is askew〉 〈since the hurricane many of the trees are askew〉 〈the seam in the front of your skirt runs askew〉 Askance is used chiefly in the set phrases "to look, or eye, or view askance" which all mean to observe or examine with mistrust, suspicion, disfavor, jealousy, or disapproval 〈aside the Devil turned for envy; yet with jealous leer malign eyed them askance 〈Milton〉 〈both . . . were viewed askance by authority 〈Gladstone〉

axiom *principle, fundamental, law, theorem

background

babble vb gabble, jabber, pratle, chatter, patter, prate, gibber, gab, *chat
Ana *gossip, blab, tattle: converse, talk, *speak
babel hubbub, clamor, racket, *din, uproar, hullabaloo, pandemonium
Ana clamorousness or clamor, vociferousness (see corresponding adjectives at VOCIFEROUS): *confusion, disorder
Con stillness, quietness or quiet, silence or silence, noiselessness (see corresponding adjectives at STILL)
baby vb mollycoddle, humor, pamper, *indulge, spoil
bacillus bacterium, virus, *germ, microbe
back n *spine, backbone, vertebrae, chine
back adj *posterior, rear, hind, hinder, after
Ant front
back vb 1 *support, uphold, champion, advocate
Ana assist, aid, *help: favor, accommodate, *oblige: abet (see INCITE)
Con *weaken, undermine, disable, cripple; subvert, upset (see OVERTURN): oppose, *resist, combat, fight
2 retrograde, *recede, retreat, retract
Con *advance, progress
backbiting n *detraction, slander, scandal, calumny
Ana aspersion, *animadversion, reflection, stricture: *abuse, inventive, obloquy, vituperation: vilifying or vili-
fication, defaming or defamation (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN)
Ant vindication (see corresponding verb at MAINTAIN)
—Con *compliment, flattery, advertisement: praising or praise, eulogizing or eulogy, extolling (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE)
backbone 1 back, *spine, vertebrae, chine
2 grit, guts, sand, *fortitude, pluck
Ana *courage, resolution, tenacity, mettle, spirit: cour-
rageousness, intrepidity, dauntlessness, valiancy (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE): nerve, *temerity, hardihood
Ant spinelessness
backdrop *background, setting, milieu, mise-en-scène
environment
backer *sponsor, surety, guarantor, patron, angel
background, setting, environment, milieu, mise-en-scène. backdrop are comparable when they refer to persons and their actions as found in real life or as represented in art and denote the place, time, circumstances, and conditions in which those persons live or carry on their activities. However they vary widely in their derivations and are not always interchangeable. Background refers primarily to a dramatic performance and to the back and usually dimly lighted part of the stage as distinguished from the better-lighted foreground where the main action usually takes place; it may be used similarly of pictorial art to denote that part of a picture which seems most remote from the spectator and against which the figures or principal objects represented seem to be projected 〈many of the Renaissance painters preferred a natural background, such as mountain peaks and blue sky, others preferred an architectural background, such as a group of buildings or an interior〉 In its common extended use the term is often widened in scope to include the whole aspect of the envi-
ronment of something (as an historical event, a movement, a career, or a phase of a person's or a people's develop-
ment) that is capable of being seen in perspective and that may be viewed as antecedent, causal, or intimately related to the fundamental quality of what it envelops 〈to know a person well one needs to know his background〉 〈students of English literature must have as background a knowledge of English history〉 〈landscape is treated as an accessory to human life and a background to human events—Binyon〉 Setting also derives its basic implications from the arts, originally from the jewelers' art, where the term is used of the framework of precious metal in which a gem is mounted, and later from the dramaticists' art, where it is used of the framework (as scenic paintings and furniture) which indicates to the spectator the surroundings in which the action of a play takes place. Hence setting is preferred to background as a designation of the element in a novel, a play, or other literary represen-
tation of human life which is distinguished from the plot and the characters and which is the author's imaginati-
ve reconstruction of the time, place, and conditions in which his characters live and act. When used in reference to real life, setting commonly connotes the standpoint of one who looks at human beings and their activities as though they were dramatic or literary representations 〈what a social setting it was, that little world into which Mark Twain was born! It was drab, it was tragic—Brooks〉 Environment basically denotes the surroundings and espe-
cially the natural surroundings (as of a town, a body of water, or an individual) 〈relaxed . . . in a cozy environment of apple-green furniture and art linoleum—Punch〉 When relating to a person or a living being environment commonly suggests not only natural surroundings but any or all external factors (as social or economic conditions, nutrient supply, or crowding) that are important in the physical, mental, and moral development of the species or the individual or as formative influences 〈the environ-
ment which produced Jonathan Edwards and Cotton Ma-
ther—Brownell〉 When the formative influences in a per-
son's development are the result of heredity or nature, background is the preferred term; when they are the prod-
uct of his surroundings or his nurture, environment is the more likely choice: thus, one may say that, although it is impossible to change a child's background, he may turn out well if brought up in a different environment. Milieu carries none of the scientific implications of environment, yet it also means surroundings and is used chiefly in refer-
cence to the physical and social surroundings of a person or group of persons. It is preferred to environment when there is the intent to evoke a clear picture or to suggest the specific character or atmosphere of such surroundings; it may be used in reference to imagined as well as to actual
backslide vb relapse, *lapse
Ana revert, *return: deteriorate, degenerate, decline (see corresponding nouns at DETERIORATION): recede, retreat, retrograde
backslider *renegade, apostate, recreant, turncoat
backsliding n relapse, lapse (see under Lapse vb)
Ana retrogressiveness or retrogression, retrogradation (see corresponding adjectives at BACKWARD): abandoning, deserting, forsaking (see ABANDON)
backward, retrograde, retrogressive, regressive all involve the idea of not moving or going ahead, or forward, or in advance. Only when applied to motion or a movement does backward imply the reverse of forward motion (a backward thrust of a hand) (the backward swimming of a crayfish) Its commonest implication is failure to move ahead; in this sense it is chiefly applied to human beings who do not or cannot progress or develop with others of their age, kind, or class or to persons or things that hold back or are held back from doing what is normal or to be expected; thus, a child who is unable to keep up with others of his age in school because of some degree of mental deficiency is described as backward; a person who holds back from expressing his appreciation, or in urging his candidacy for a position, because of shyness or self-distrust is also describable as backward; when cold weather and frosts delay the development of vegetation beyond the normal or usual time, the season may be called backward (England, throughout the middle ages, was one of the backward countries of Europe: it was on the outskirts of the great continental civilization—Mumford) Retrograde is not only applicable to backward motion and backward movement but also to any moving or seemingly moving thing that proceeds in a direction which is contrary to the direction usually followed by things of its kind (retrograde motion of a wheel) (a retrograde planet seemingly moving from east to west) It is also applicable to a process (as of natural development) in which the events occur in an order contrary to the usual or progressive; thus, an animal that passes from a more complex to a simpler and often degenerate state during development is said to manifest retrograde development. Retrograde when applied to races, cultures, institutions, or movements differs from backward in implying decline or degeneration; thus, a backward society is one that does not progress, while a retrograde society is one that is relapsing into barbarism or sinking into an inferior state. Retrogressive implies opposition to progressive. Like retrograde, and unlike backward, it implies movement in the direction that is the reverse of forward; unlike retrograde, however, it is seldom applied to physical movement; thus, one speaks of a retrograde (but not a retrogressive) movement or rotation, but one might speak of retrogressive (or retrograde) cruelties or behavior when stressing decline from some higher or more progressive level. Retrogressive is sometimes preferred as a milder term when the reverse of improvement or betterment rather than positive decline from an improved or better state is implied (a retrogressive policy) (objections were made to the proposed legislation on the ground of its probable retrogressive effect) Regressive carries a stronger implication of going backward by steps or degrees and often, also, a weaker implication of failure to progress or move ahead than any of the others. Consequently it is often the preferred term when a colorless or uncolored statement of fact is intended; thus, when one infers a cause from an effect or a principle from a number of facts he follows a regressive process of reasoning; the process of growing old may be described as a retrograde development when the emphasis is on its backward direction, as a retrogressive development when the stress is on the absence of progress, and a regressive development when the intent is to indicate that it is marked by an inversion of order in its stages; a regressive loss of memory implies that the most recent memories disappear first and the earliest linger longest. Ana laggard, dilatory, *slow: *stupid, slow, dull, dense: * lethargic, sluggish: *abnormal, atypical Ant advanced —Con civilized, cultured (see corresponding nouns at CIVILIZATION): cultivated, cultured, refined (see corresponding nouns at CULTURE): educated, instructed (see TEACH)
bactericidal adj germicidal, antiseptic, disinfectant (see under ANTISEPTIC n)
bactericide germicide, *antiseptic, disinfectant
bacterium *germ, microbe, bacillus, virus
bad 1 Bad, evil, ill, wicked, naughty are comparable when they mean not meeting with the approval of the ethical consciousness. Bad is a very general term and applies to anyone or anything reprehensible, for whatever reason and to whatever degree (almost as bad, good mother, as kill a king, and marry with his brother—Shak) (Johnnie's been a bad boy today: he's emptied the cookie jar) (bad dog! you've torn up my scarf) Evil is a stronger term than bad and usually suggests the sinister or baleful as well as the reprehensible (evil deeds) (the evil eye) (he knew nothing bad about him, but he felt something evil—Cather) (an evil and treacherous folk, and they lied and murdered for gold—Morris) (the evil counselors who . . . abused his youth—J. R. Green) III is close to evil in basic meaning and may suggest an active malevolence or vicious intent (an ill deed) (it was ill counsel had misled the girl—Tennyson) Often ill may be used in a weaker sense to suggest the imputing or implying of evil or sometimes of mere objectionableness or inferiority to someone or something (held in ill repute by his fellows) (attached an ill significance to the statement) (had an ill opinion of their abilities) Wicked implies the actual often conscious or deliberate contravention or violation of moral law (God is angry with the wicked every day—Ps 7:11) (wicked designs) It is sometimes used with weakened, even playful force (you are the wickedest wifty person I know—Lyttton) Naughty was once serious (a most vile flagitious man, a sorry and naughty governor as could be—Barrow)
but is now trivial in its application. Mostly it implies mischievousness on the part of a child too young to have a lively sense of right and wrong. <Charles never was a naughty boy. He never robbed birds' nests, or smoked behind the barn, or played marbles on Sunday—Deland> Sometimes it expresses charitable censure of a person of responsible age who has done wrong <it was only one naughty woman out of the world. The clergyman of the parish didn't refuse to give her decent burial—Meredith> Often it is applied to what is impolite, impudent, or amusingly risqué <the still popular, and still naughty, and perpetually profane Decameron—Higher> 

**Ana** iniquitous, *vicious, villainous: *base, low, vile: *immoral, un moral, amoral 

**Ant** good —**Con** righteous, virtuous, *moral, ethical, noble

2 Bad, poor, wrong are comparable when they mean not implying up to a standard of what is satisfactory. Bad implies a failure to meet one's approval; it need not imply positive condemnation, but it always suggests that the thing so described falls below the mark or is not up to what one would call good <he is a bad correspondent> <her handwriting is very bad> <it's a bad day for a long walk> It often and implies positive harmfulness <a bad light for the young> <bad food for the young> <a bad book for a depressed person> <a bad environment> <it is bad for her to live alone> Sometimes it suggests corruption or pollution <this meat is bad> <bad air> <bad water> Often also it may suggest unpleasantness in any degree, in this sense ranging from the merely displeasing to the strongly offensive or painful or distressing <it leaves a bad taste in the mouth> <have bad news> <he always comforted himself when things were bad by thinking how much worse they might have been> Poor also implies a failure to reach a satisfactory point or level, but it usually imputes to the thing so described a deficiency in amount or in returns or a lack of a quality or qualities essential to excellence; thus, a poor crop is one that is relatively scanty; poor land is wanting in fertility, while bad land lacks the potentiality for agricultural development; a poor book may be devoid of interest or artistic quality, but a bad book is commonly offensive to one's sense of propriety; a poor carpenter is one lacking in skill <business was poor this year> <a poor dancer> <a poor painter> <a poor return for one's effort> 

**Wrong** (see also FALSE) implies a failure to conform to a strict standard; it suggests deviation from a standard of what is satisfactory or, more specifically, fit, appropriate, proper, or orderly <I know that something is wrong with this suit> <do not make a wrong choice in selecting your profession> <hang a picture in the wrong light> <there is nothing wrong in this arrangement of the furniture> 

**Ant** good —**Con** excellent, perfect, meritorious (see corresponding verbs at BANTER): *fun, game, jest, sport

**badlands** waste, desert, wilderness

**baffle** balk, circumvent, outwit, foil, thwart, *frustrate 

**Ana** *puzzle, mystify, confound, dumbfound: discomfit, rattle, faze, *embarrass, disconcert: *confuse, addle, muddle: *hammer, fettet, hog-tie: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block

**bag** n **Bag**, **sack**, **pouch** denote a container made of a flexible material (as paper, cloth, or leather) and open or opening at the top. **Bag** is the widest in its range of application and is referable to anything that comes under this general description and is used to hold something <money bag> <travelling bag> <paper bag> <saddlebag> <mail-bag> **Sack** is usually more restricted in its application than **bag**: within these limits, however, the terms are interchangeable. **Sack** commonly suggests oblong shape, a coarse material and, often, crude workmanship <gunny-sack> <paper sack> <flour sack> It is probably more often used than **bag** when it refers to containers and their contents <deliver 1000 sacks of grain> <sacks of potatoes> <sell coal by the sack> **Pouch** is applied chiefly to a small bag carried on the person or in the hand and used as a substitute for a pocket; it often specifically designates a bag that is opened or closed by means of a gathering string, zipper, or flap <tobacco pouch> <pouch for bullets> <pouch-shaped handbag> <mail pouch>

**bag** vb capture, trap, snare, entrap, ensnare, *catch

**bail** n bond, security, *guarantee, guaranty

**bail** vb *dip, ladle, scoop, spoon, dish

**ball** n province, domain, territory, *field, sphere

**bait** vb Bait, **badger**, **heckle**, **hector**, **chivvy**, **hound**, ride mean to persist in tormenting or harassing another. **Bait** derives its implications from its basic reference to the action of dogs set on to bite and worry an animal (as a chained bear, boar, or bull). Both in this and in extended use it suggests wanton cruelty or malicious delight in persecution <the diversion of baiting an author has the sanction of all ages—Johnson> **Badger** is more specific than **bait**. Basically it suggests the baiting of a badger that has been trapped in a hole or barrel and can neither escape nor adequately defend itself from attack; in reference to persons it implies pestering or persecuting that drives the victim into a hopelessly confused or frenzied state of mind <badger a witness being cross-examined> <the mill foreman so taunted the workers, so badgered them and told them that they dared not quit—Sinclair Lewis> **Heckle** implies persistent questioning of a speaker (as a candidate for election, a legislator discussing a bill before the house, or a person advocating or condemning a movement or cause) and an attempt to bring out his weaknesses or to destroy the effect of his argument. It suggests an intent to harass and confuse a speaker by frequent interruptions and by inconvenient or embarrassing questions <the advocates of any unpopular cause must learn to endure heckling> <infuriates some of his fellow Justices by heckling lawyers who appear before the Court—Sat. Review> **Hector always carries a suggestion of bullying and implies a spirit-breaking scolding or maddeningly domineering treatment <we are not to be hectored, and bullied, and beat into compliance—Fielding> they had hard times when they were little . . . and were hectorcd and worried when they ought to have been taking some comfort—Stowe> **Chivy** and **hound** both stress relentless chasing and pursuing. Chivy, however, often also suggests teasing or annoying past the endurance of the victim <having seen two successive wives of the delicate poet chivied and worried into their graves—Conrad> Hound implies persistent and long-continued persecution till the tormentor's
end is achieved or the victim acknowledges himself defeated (he was hounded by reporters until he made his stand known) (grandfather had been hounded out of his congregation because he couldn’t hold her to their standards of behavior for a minister’s wife—Mary Austin).

Ride implies persistent goading or spurring (as by unfair criticism, ridicule, or onerous impositions) (a hard taskmaster rides those who serve him) (he was ridden so hard by the coach that he was no longer fit to remain on the team).

Ana *worry, annoy, harass, harry; torment, rack, torture, try, *afflict.

bait n * lure, snare, trap, decoy.

Ana allurement, attraction (see corresponding verbs at ATTRACT): enticement, temptation (see corresponding verbs at LURE).

bake parch, * dry, desiccate, dehydrate.

balance n 1 Balance, equilibrium, equipoise, poise, tension are comparable when denoting the stability or efficiency resulting from the equalization or exact adjustment of opposing forces. Balance suggests a steadiness that results when no part are properly adjusted to each other, when no one part or constituting force outweighs or is out of proportion to another (kept her balance on the icy street) (keeping his emotional balance under stress) (the balance between civilian and military needs—Collier’s Yr. Bk.) (establish an acceptable balance between satisfactions and frustrations—Kardiner) (I doubt that Thoreau would be thrown off balance by the fantastic sights and sounds of the 20th century—E. B. White). Equilibrium may be interchangeable with balance (retain physical and emotional equilibrium under stress) but is more often restricted to a mechanically produced or producible property deriving from a thing’s construction, support, or relation to external forces and then often suggests a tendency to return to an original position after disturbance (a ship’s equilibrium) (an equilibrium of opposing human impulses—Sinclair Lewis) (establishing an equilibrium between the Western forces and a possible aggressor—Current History) (a fundamental lack of equilibrium between different aspects of the constitutional distribution of power—R. M. Dawson). Equipoise suggests perfection of balance or stability of equilibrium (to maintain … equipoise among contending interests—Butterfield) (the structure remains upright, a marvel of equipoise—Norman Douglas) (the equipoise of intellectual and pietistic interests in him—H. O. Taylor). Poise denotes an equality of opposing or different things or forces and often implies a state or an appearance of perfect balance or serenity especially of mind (the condition of a poise between widely divergent impulses and emotions that produces a strange serenity—Leavis) (the main characteristic of their blond gray-eyed colleague is quiet poise that stands her in good stead in the exciting, high-pressure work—Newsweek). Tension in this relation implies strain, either a pull from both ends or an outward pressure in every direction, of such equality that there results a tautness without undue strain at any point; applied to a mental condition it implies an inner balanced vital opposition of moral or intellectual forces, powers, or qualities (indolent as he was on all occasions which required tension of the mind, he was active and persevering in bodily exercise—Macaulay) (the whole tension of Gide’s work is characterized in those sentences: the incessant dialectic of a man who knows no peace but the precarious equilibrium of opposites—Times Lit. Sup.) (in letting the whole physical system lose tone, for lack of the tension which gaiety imparts—Brownell).

3 *remainder, rest, residue, residuum, leaving, remnant, remains.

balance vb 1 counterpoise, counterbalance, *compensate, countervail, offset.


2 poise, ballast, trim, *stabilize, steady.


Con * overturn, upset, capsize.

bald * bare, barren, naked, nude.

Ana austere, *severe: unembellished, unadorned, unornamented (see affirmative verbs at ADORN): colorless, uncolored.

Con * ornate, florid.

balderdash * nonsense, twaddle, drivel, bunk, poppycock, gobbledegook, trash, rot, bull.

bale n * bundle, package, pack, parcel, bunch, packet.

baleful maleficient, malefic, malignant, *sinister.


balk vb 1 * frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, circumvent, outwit.

Ana defeat, beat, lick, * conquer, overcome: block, obstruct, impede, * hinder: * prevent, forestall.

Ant forward —Con further, promote, * advance: abet (see INCITE): assist, aid, * help; * support, uphold, back.

2 jib, shy, boggle, stinkle, scruple, * demur, strain, stick.


Con * yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent.

balky * contrary, restive, perverse, froward, wayward.


ballest vb * stabilize, steady, balance, trim, poise.

ballet vb * vote, * suffrage, franchise.

ballyhoo n * publicity, promotion, propaganda.

Ana advertisement, broadcasting (see under DECLARE).

balmy 1 * soft, gentle, smooth, bland, mild, lenient.

2 * soft, gentle, smooth, bland, mild, lenient.

Ana agreeable, * pleasant, gratifying, grateful: gladdening, delighting, rejoicing, regaling (see PLEASE): assuaging, allaying, lightening, relieving (see RELIEVE): salubrious, salutary (see HEALTHFUL).

Con * intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: vexing, bothering or bothersome, irksome or irksome, annoying (see corresponding verbs at ANNOY).

bamboozle trick, hoodwink, * dupe, gull, hoax, befoul.


ban vb prohibit, * forbid, interdict, inhibit, enjoin.

Ana bar, block, * hinder: * prevent, preclude: * exclude, debar, rule out.

Con allow, permit, suffer, * let: tolerate, abide, suffer (see BEAR).

banae flat, jejune, inane, vapid, wishy-washy, * insipid.

Ana * trite, hackneyed: * simple, fatuous, silly, asinine: commonplace, platitudeous, bromidic.
nouns at COMMONPLACE

**Ant** original: recherché — **Con** fresh, *new, novel;* pithy, terse, succinct (see CONCISE): stimulating or stimulative, provoking or provocative, exciting, piquing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE)

**band** n 1 *bond, tie

**Ana** connection, link, joining (see corresponding verbs at JOIN): *joint, articulation, suture
2 *strip, stripe, ribbon, fillet
3 troop, troupe, *company, party

**Ana** coterie, clique, *set, circle: horde, mob, *crowd: society, club, *association, order

**bandy** vb *exchange, interchange

**bane** *poison, venom, virus, toxin

**baneful** *pernicious, noxious, deleterious, detrimental

**ban** harmful, injurious, mischievous, hurtful (see corresponding nouns at INJURY): malign, *sinister, baleful: *poisonous, venomous, toxic

**Ant** beneficial — **Con** advantageous, profitable (see BENEFICIAL): salutary, wholesome, *healthful

**banish, exile, expatriate, ostracize, deport, transport, extradite** are comparable when denoting to remove by authority or force from a country, state, or sovereignty. To **banish** is to compel one, usually by public edict or sentence, to leave a country or section, although not necessarily one's own, either permanently or for a fixed time and with or without restriction to a given place (banish an enemy of the King) (the Newtonian scheme of the universe does not banish God from the universe—Times Lit. Sup.) To **exile** is to banish or cause to depart under constraint from one's own country; it may connote either expulsion by formal sentence or decree or the compulsion of circumstances and an enforced absence or sometimes a prolonged voluntary absence; thus, Russians and foreigners alike may be **banished** from Russia, but only Russians can be **exiled** to Siberia; Dante was **banished** from his native Florence because of political troubles, but he **exiled** himself for the rest of his life as a protest against conditions there. **Expatriate** differs from **exile** sometimes in its implication of loss of citizenship in one's own country (expatriate Jews from Germany) but often in its implication of voluntary exile or naturalization in another country (Henry James expatriated himself from the United States) **Exile** often suggests a possibility of return with full rights to one's own country; expatriate, however, may imply the exclusion of that possibility. In historical context **ostracize** denotes a temporary banishment by popular vote from one of the cities of ancient Greece; the term is used more commonly in an extended sense which implies not expropriation, but a forced exclusion by common consent, from recognition or acceptance by society (the dangers inherent in ostracizing from public service men of eminence—Kimmis Hendrick) (exposed as a cheat and ostracized by his fellow officers) To **deport** is to send a person out of a country of which he is not a citizen either because his presence is considered inimical to the public welfare or because he has not legally entered that country. It often implies return to the country of which the deported person is a citizen or subject or from which he has emigrated, especially if he is without funds to go where he chooses. To **transport** is to banish to a penal colony a person convicted of a crime (convicts were transported to Australia) To **extradite** is to deliver over an alleged criminal at the request of the sovereignty or state having jurisdiction to try the charge (since no treaties existed between the Allied Control Commission and neutral states, it follows that no duty to extradite existed among the latter—Neumann) (the escaped prisoner was extradited by the State of Illinois at the request of the State of Georgia)

**Ana** *eject, expel, out: *exclude, debar, eliminate, shut out

**Con** admit, *receive, accept: *harbor, shelter, entertain: protect, shield (see DEFEND)

**bank** n 1 *shoal, bar, reef
2 *shore, strand, coast, beach, foreshore, littoral
3 mass, heap, pile, stack, shock, cock (see under HEAP vb)

**Ana** *aggregate, aggregation, conglomerate, conglomeration: assemblage, assembly, collection, gathering (see under GATHER)

**bank** vb mass, *heap, pile, stack, shock, cock

**Ana** collect, assemble, *gather

**Con** *scatter, disperse

**bankrupt** vb impoverish, exhaust, *deplete, drain

**Ana** denude, *strip, bare: sap, cripple, disable, undermine (see WEAKEN)

**banner** n *flag, standard, ensign, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack

**banquet** *dinner, feast

**banter** vb Banter, chaff, kid, rag, rib, josh, jolly are comparable when denoting to make fun of good-naturedly (as by reminding one of an actual fault, foible, failure, or shortcoming, by exaggerated praise obviously remote from the truth, or by playful imputation of undeserved success). The same distinctions in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding nouns. Banter is the generic term and may usually be substituted for any of the others, though not without loss of specificity ("Why didn't you get tipsy, Sir? Don't you ever intoxicate yourself but at lawful marriages? . . .") Ripton endured his bantering that he might hang about Richard—Meredith To **chaff** is to nettle with rough banter (they chaffed me for leaving so early—Price) Kid is frequently as general in meaning as banter (he is very fond of placing his hand on his heart and declaiming about his warm virtues. He gets a lot of kidding for it—Gunther) More often than perhaps any other word in this group, however, it specifically implies an attempt at good-natured imposition on one's gullibility; thus, "No kidding?" is a common way of asking "Are you serious?" of one who has made a statement that sounds incredible (she says he's going to do a portrait of her. I think he's kidding her—Harper's) Used with a reflexive pronoun, kid implies a shutting one's eyes to the truth (if you think you can avoid hard work and long hours and yet write something memorable, you are just kidding yourself) To **rag** is to banter repeatedly or persistently and often annoyingly to the victim (there were, even, no unpleasantnesses (aside from a bit of ragging about his galoshes . . .)—Bergen Evans) Rib implies bantering under conditions which make it impossible or inadvisable for the butt to retort or defend himself and also may imply specifically the enactment of a role on the part of the ribber (high government officials are ribbed in the skits presented yearly before the Gridiron Club in Washington) (ribs her fellow Russians as the temperamental ballerina who introduces her equals as her "supporting cast"—Time) Josh and especially jolly imply transparent good humor in the funmaker. Josh usually suggests homeliness and unsophistication (for children he has jokes and candy. He cheers the men . . . and joshes the women—Time) (running the chatty, homespun, joshing sort of thing that actually goes on in a town—S.R.L.) Jolly often implies an ulterior aim such as putting the person bantered into good humor so that he will grant a favor (he was a good salesman who joggled his customers, but not too obviously) (jollied and joked with sailors in the street—Wester)
baptize 86 bare

baptize, christen mean to make one a Christian or to admit one to a Christian communion by a ceremony in which water is poured or sprinkled on the head or in which the body is immersed in water. Baptize is at once the precise and the general term for this ceremony because it implies both the rite and its ends, and it may be used in reference to both infants and adults. Christen is the popular word, but for several centuries it has so emphasized the giving of a name, which is in some churches a part of the ceremony of baptism, that it now is used at times without any reference to the religious ceremony and even with reference to inanimate objects which are formally named, often with a ceremony analogous to that of baptism; thus, “the baby has not yet been christened” may mean either “not yet baptized” or “not yet named,” though both are commonly implied; a ship is christened by performing the ceremony of breaking a bottle of liquid (as champagne) against its sides while pronouncing its name.

bar n 1 Bar, barrier, barricade mean something which hinders or obstructs. Both bar and barrier apply to something that prevents free communication or passage; more specifically, bar frequently suggests a restriction of ingress or egress, while barrier suggests an obstacle to advance, progress, or attack; bar also may suggest an obstacle that is not removable or one beyond which it is unnecessary to press. Barrier is used more commonly than bar specifically to denoting an obstruction thrown across a street or way to check a hostile advance (the fighting at the barricades in Paris during the Commune).

2 *obstacle, obstruction, impediment, snag

Ana Hindrance, block, dam (see corresponding verbs at hinder): *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude
Ant advantage —Con odds, edge (see Advantage): help, aid, assistance (see under help vb)

shoal, bank, reef

bar vb obstruct, block, dam, impede (see hinder)

Ana shut out, debar, *exclude: *prevent, preclude, obviate: *forbid, prohibit, interdict: *close, shut
Ant admit: open —Con accept, *receive, take

barbarian adj Barbarian, barbaric, barbarous, savage are comparable when applying to people or characteristics of people that are not fully civilized. Barbarian frequently applies to a state about midway between full civilization and tribal savagery (some barbarian peoples have brought their mores into true adjustment to their life conditions and have gone on for centuries without change—Sumner).

Barbaric and barbarous may also be used to express this notion (they had passed the barbaric stage when they invaded Chaldea. They knew the use of metals; they were skillful architects and . . . good engineers—Cloodd).

Barbaric and savage may be described as barbarous. This is not the same as specifically Teutonic: cruelty and faithlessness toward enemies, feuds, wergeld—H. O. Taylor <for him those chambers held barbarian hordes, hyena foemen, and hot-blooded lords—Keats>.

Barbaric and barbarous are more common in relation to taste and refinement. Barbaric suggests a wild, profuse lack of restraint (this audacious and barbaric profusion of words—chosen always for their color and their vividly expressive quality—Symons) the march became rather splendid and barbaric. First rode Feisal in white, then Sharraf at his right in red headcloth and henna-dyed tunic and cloak, myself on his left in white and scarlet, behind us three banners of faded crimson silk with gilt spires—T. E. Lawrence.

Barbarian implies an utter lack of cultivated taste and refinement (a race of unconscious spiritual helots. We shall become utterly barbarous and desolate—Lewishohn) <but this deeply barbarous book may, in its very vulgarity of expression, be in advance of its time—Dorothy Thompson>.

Ant civilized

barbarian n *obscuratist, philistine

barbaric *barbarian, savage, barbarous

Ana *showy, ostentatious: florid, *ornate, flamboyant: *gaudy, garish, flashy, meretricious
Ant restrained: refined: subdued

barbarism, barbarity are frequently confused. Barbarism is used chiefly of a state of society or of a culture that may be described as barbarian, or as neither savage and crude nor civilized and highly refined (the savage mystic is also the savage man of science, the priest and the doctor are one. It is so also for the most part in barbarism—Ellis) <the human race . . . is as yet only a little bit civilized and . . . in time of serious trouble . . . has a very strong tendency to stampede back into barbarism—Lippmann>.

Barbarity is used chiefly in reference to a temper or to practices that may be described as barbarous, or uncivilized, brutal, and inhuman (barbarity seldom equaled by the fiercest of savages) (his dream of eating pâtes de foie gras to the sound of trumpets ignored the calculated barbarity which produced the food he loved—Reppplier).

Sometimes, however, barbarity denotes a taste that is barbaric (the supposed influence of Seneca on the barbarity of Elizabethan tragedy—T. S. Eliot).

Ant civilization —Con culture, cultivation, refinement

barbarity *barbarism

Ana barbarousness, savagery, ferociousness or ferocity, cruelty, inhumanity (see corresponding adjectives at fierce).

Ant humaneness —Con gentleness, mildness, smoothness, lenity or leniency (see corresponding adjectives at soft).

barbarous 1 savage, barbaric, *barbarian

Ana *rough, harsh: untutored, untaught, uneducated, illiterate, *ignorant: *rude, rough, crude
Ant civilized: humane
2 savage, inhuman, ferocious, *fierce, cruel, fell, cruel, pitiless, ruthless, uncompromising (see corresponding nouns at sympathy): atrocious, monstrous, *outrageous

Ant clement —Con merciful, *forbearing, tolerant, lenient: *tender, compassionate, sympathetic: humane, humanitarian, benevolent (see charitable).

bard n *poet, minstrel, troubadour, rhymer, rhymer, versifier, poetaster

bare adj 1 Bare, naked, nude, bald, barren are comparable when they mean destitute or divested of the naturally or conventionally appropriate covering or clothing. Bare woman, the very child at the breast—J. R. Green <they had further traits and customs which are barbaric rather than specifically Teutonic: cruelty and faithlessness toward enemies, feuds, wergeld—H. O. Taylor> <for him those chambers held barbarian hordes, hyena foemen, and hot-blooded lords—Keats>.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
strongly suggests the removal or, often, the rejection of something additional, superfluous, dispensable, or acquired; thus, a bare head is one without a hat; bare legs suggest lack of socks or stockings; bare trees have lost all their leaves; one takes another's bare word for a thing when one demands no confirmation or documentary proof; a bare room may be empty of furniture or may have only such furniture as is indispensable (the bare statement that "art is useless" is so vague as to be really meaningless, if not inaccurate and misleading—Ellis) Naked suggests absence of all covering, especially in the way of protective or ornamental covering. When used with regard to persons and implying absence of clothing, the word is not uniform in its pictorial and emotional evocations; it may suggest many conditions, such as a state of nature and of physical beauty, a state of destitution and of pitiful suffering, a state of privacy and of admirable modesty or purity, a state of shameful publicity or of wanton exhibitionism (Eve . . . in naked beauty more adored, more lovely, than Pandora, whom the gods endowed with all their gifts—Milton) Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are, that hide the petting of this pitiless storm—Shak. In extended use, therefore, naked is preferred to bare when the emphasis is on revelation or exposure, or on the power of revealing or exposing something as it is in its severe outlines or structure, in its plain truth or without disguise, or in its hidden weakness or strength (cloth must have clothes, but truth loves to go naked—Fuller d. 1734) (It is not asked that poetry should offer naked argument—Day Lewis) (the power of striking out, in a few naked, simple words, a picture which is ineffaceable—Lowes) Nude and naked are very close synonyms when they are used in reference to persons, but nude, because of its association with the representation of undraped figures in art, tends to suggest little more than the absence of covering and to be comparatively a colorless word with little extended use and with few, if any, significant and distinctive implications. Because of its unequivocal meaning, nude is preferred to naked when the mere fact of being without clothing is indicated and there is no intent to convey an aesthetic or ethical implication (three nude statues in the exhibition) (Residents of the houses along the river objected to nude swimmers) Bald implies absence of the hair of the head or, sometimes, actual or apparent absence of another covering (as of foliage, feathers, or vegetation); thus, the bald eagle is the common eagle after it has reached an age when its head and neck feathers are white and inapparent at a distance; a bald tree is one that no longer bears leaves at its top; a bald mountain is one whose peak is bare of vegetation. In extended use bald implies austere or colorless bareness and a conspicuous absence of qualities that might add charm, vivacity, or interest; thus, a bare style is one that employs economy of means or a meagerness of ornament; a naked style is one that disguises nothing and shows not the slightest obscurity or hesitancy in presenting the thought; a bald style is bare and plain to the point of severity (his expression may often be called bald . . . but it is bald as the bare mountain tops are bald, with a baldness which is full of grandeur—Arnold) Barren (see also sterile) implies a lack of fertility or productive power and therewith also implies absence of natural or appropriate covering as an outward sign of impoverishment, impotence, or aridity; thus, barren lands are not only bare but they are waste, desolate lands incapable of producing crops; a barren style is the style of a person who has not the mind, heart, or imagination to give his style any signs of life or vitality or any coloring of fancy (without social history, economic history is barren and political history is unintelligible—Trevelyam)

**Bare**

bare vb denude, divest, denude (see strip vb); unclothed, undressed, unrobed (see affirmative verbs at clothe) Ant covered 2 *mere

**Bark**

bark vb Bark, bay, howl, growl, snarl, yap, yap mean to make the sound of or a sound suggestive of a dog. Bark implies the sharp, explosive utterance characteristic of dogs; it may be used not only of them and of another animal (as a seal) that produces a similar noise but also of a person or a sonorous thing that gives the same effect (heard the barking of wolves in the distance) (the guns barked all night long) (they [critics] had . . . barked at you, foamed at you day after day, now you were ended. They praised you . . . and laid you away—Lindsay) (thunder . . . barked in the distance—McFee) Bay implies a repeated or almost continuous barking in deep prolonged tones that is characteristic of hounds in pursuit of quarry (I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon, than such a Roman—Shak.) (dogs baying and driving him up a tree—Darwin) Bay is seldom used of any animals other than members of the dog family (including mythical ones such as Cerberus) and is infrequently used in reference to men. When it is so used, it generally implies the action not of an individual but of a group (as a mob) that acts like a pack of dogs baying (I dare avouch you'd stand up for yourself, though all the world should bay like winter wolves—Tennyson) Howl implies a loud, mournful cry made by dogs seemingly in distress and often interpreted as evidence of hunger or loneliness. The term implies also similar sounds made by other animals, but its strongest association has been with dogs and wolves (a dog howled each night) (pursued by howling wolves) Howl (see also roar) may be used in reference to human beings to imply loud crying, laughing, or derisive calling, and to other sounds that suggest the howling of animals (as in loudness and prolongation). Growl applies to the long, low rumbling sound suggesting a threat that is made by an angry dog; less often it is used in reference to other animals (as the bear or cat). Like howl, it is applied to persons and to inanimate things (as thunder and winds). When used of persons, it suggests utterance in a surly or grumbling mood (be growled, "What are you doing there?") (he's no business to growl . . . about money—Holland) Snarl implies not only a growling but a snapping and baring of fangs; it, too, is used typically of dogs and suggests an aggressive or infuriated state (the dog never snarled until he was mistreated) (children run from a snarling dog) Snarl when used of a person's manner or speech implies a highly disagreeable quality and usually suggests spite or malignity and a menacing attitude (the midwife wondered and the women cried "O, Jesus bless us, he is born with teeth!" And so I was; which plainly signified that I should snarl and bite and play the dog—Shak.) Yelp has as its basic implication the utterance of short, shrill barks by a dog (as in eagerness, in pain, or in fear); when used in reference to men, the word often implies a number of short, shrill utterances, especially indicating surprise, fear, or excitement (a . . . huntsman

---

**ana** analogues words **ant** antonyms **con** contrasted words **see also explanatory notes facing page 1
clad for the field, with his fresh pack yelping...abouthim—Dickens> <the nominations have accordingly furnished
something to yelp on—Jefferson> "Look out," yelps the crowd and the high walls fall—Lindsay> Yap comes close to yelp, but it chiefly implies the short,
shril barking of a small dog or excited, staccato sounds
that are comparable <half a dozen little yapping dogs...
. . . assailed me—Braddon> It may suggest excessive
talking that conveys little but is usually uttered in an
insistent or offensive and often high-pitched voice. Ana
bellow, vociferate, bawl, *roar: yell, *shout, scream, shriek
bark n *skin, rind, peel, hide, pelt
baroque adj *ornate, florid, rococo, flamboyant
barren 1 *sterile, unfruitful, infertile, impotent
Ant fecund —Con *fertile, prolific, fruitful
2 bald, *bare, naked, nude
Ana arid, *dry: desolate, forlorn (see ALONE): impover-
ished, exhausted, depleted (see DEPLETE): austere, *se-
vvere, stern
Con luxuriant, lush, *profuse: opulent, *luxurious,
sumptuous
barricade n barrier, *bar
barrier n barricade, *bar
barrister *lawyer, counselor, counsel, advocate, attorney,
solicitor
basal basic, underlying, *fundamental, radical
base n Base, basis, foundation, ground, groundwork are
comparable when meaning something on which another
thing is reared or built or by which it is supported or fixed
in place. Base may be applied to the lowest part or bottom
of something without strong implication of purpose as a
support or prop <the base of a tree> <base of a mountain>
but more often it implies specific reference to a broad
bottom or to a substructure on which a thing rests or seems
to rest for support or by which it is kept upright or stable
<the base of a pyramid> <the base of a lamp> <the base
of a triangle> <the first of four cabinets the liberal leader
was to form...in attempts to achieve a combination
of ministers with a wide enough base to ensure effective
support—Current Biog.> The word may fail to stress
an underlying and then applies to something which serves
either as a starting point of a development, an operation,
or a process <a base of operations> <a submarine base
<coal tar is the base from which whole families of useful
compounds are derived> or as a necessary ingredient that
carries or contains the active ingredient of a mixture
<lanolin is the base of many cosmetics> <dynamite often
has an absorbent base such as sawdust>
Basis like base may be used in reference to something that underlies
and supports or to something that serves as a starting
point, but the term is rarely applied to a physical or
material thing; thus, one may speak of the base (but not
the basis) of a monument, or of the basis (not the base
for a certain belief <implicit trust is the basis of a lasting
friendship> <phrase a question as a basis for discussion
<tradition forms a basis for the acquiring of literary taste
—Day Lewis> Foundation usually implies solidity in
what underlies and supports and fixity or stability in
whatever is erected on that support; thus, a house has a
base even if it rests directly on the ground but it may
properly be said to have a foundation only when it rests
on a substructure (as a wall of stones or bricks lining an
excavation and usually rising above the surface of the
ground); a report may be said to have its basis (not
foundation) in speculation, but a report that is said to
be without foundation has no basis in fact <let me pry
loose old walls; let me lift and loosen old foundations—
Sandburg> <as the happiness of the people is the sole end
of government, so the consent of the people is the only
foundation of it—Adams> <how firm a foundation, ye
saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent
Word!—Old Hymn> Ground implies something solid or
firm beneath, or a substratum comparable to the earth or
ground in its firmness and capacity for support; the term
is therefore applied to a material, a substance, or a surface
upon which another thing is built or against which it is
displayed; thus, a piece of net may serve as a ground
upon which a pattern is worked in lacemaking; before a
decorative design is applied to a wall, the ground, or wall
surface, must be treated and colored so that it will take the
pattern and display it properly. Groundwork is applied
not to a substratum but to a substructure; like foundation,
the term suggests something built up before the super-
structure is erected, but, unlike foundation, it is used
chiefly in a figurative sense <early training is the ground-
work of good habits> <lay a groundwork in college for
one's professional studies> <the groundwork of all happi-
ness is health—Hunt> Ant top —Con *summit, peak, apex
base vb Base, found, ground, bottom, stay, rest are com-
parable when they mean to supply or to serve as a basis.
Base now rarely suggests a material support upon which a
material superstructure is built <the pile...I reared up
to the cloud...based on the living rock—Browning>
but rather something material or immaterial that under-
lies a nonmaterial superstructure (as a belief, a system, a
judgment, a hope or an action) <is it not the conviction
that action should be based...on solid fact?—Elliot>
<shares, or bonds, or other pieces of paper, the value of
which is based upon the estimated future earnings or
profits—Hobson> Found comes so close to base as often
to be indistinguishable from it and, therefore, to be inter-
changeable with it <and the rain descended, and the floods
came, and the wind blew...and it fell not: for it was
founded upon a rock—Mt 7:25> Often, however, it sug-
gests not what merely underlies but what is consciously
advanced as support (as for an opinion, a principle, a
judgment, a belief, or an affection) <a man that all his time
had founded his good fortunes on your love—Shak.>
<certain fixed laws and principles which he proceeds to
found upon Aristotle—Babbitt> <this criticism is founded
in misconception—Cardozo> Ground denotes an implant-
ing (as into the earth) that gives solidity and firmness;
it may apply to something (as personal virtue, education,
or an institution) which can grow and thrive only when
it is firmly based (as if by deep roots) <that ye, being rooted
and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with
all saints...and to know the love of Christ, which passeth
knowledge—Eph 3:17-19> <ofttimes nothing profits
more than self-esteem, grounded on just and right—
Milton> But ground may be used, less strictly, in a sense
approaching that of base and found <he grounds his theory
on evidence gathered over a long period of time> <their
quarrel was grounded on a dispute over petty matters
Bottom implies a broad or strong base <bottomed upon
solid principles of law and policy—Burke> Stay implies a
support that keeps upright or prevents from falling and
may suggest adding a supplementary support to correct
an observed or anticipated tendency <stay a weakened
wall with props> <his nature looked coldly upon its early
faith and sought to stay itself with rational knowledge—
H. O. Taylor> Rest stresses reliance or dependence on
something as a base or fundamental support <their aca-
demic reputations rest, quite largely, upon their academic
power—Mills> <metrical forms are conventional, and
therefore rest, like all matters of usage, on acceptance—
Loves> <if the Germans are to justify the high claims
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
they make for Lessing as a critic, they must rest them on other grounds than his intellectual originality or the fineness of his taste—Babbitt

*base

**baseless, groundless, unfounded, unwarranted mean not justified or justifiable in any way. Baseless implies an entire lack of foundation; it imputes to a thing lack of support or want of evidence, premise, postulate, presupposition, presumption, assumption (see under presuppose)

**baste vb *beat, pummel, thrash, buffet, pound, belabor

**bashful

1 basal, *fundamental, underlying, radical

**basic 1 basal, *fundamental, underlyng, radical

**banana principal, capital, *chief, main: primordial, *primary

**baptize peak

2 *alkaline

**basis *base, foundation, ground, groundwork

**be *principle, fundamental, axiom, law, theorem:
one of those terms, but it (or more particularly its related adjective, *substantive*) often additionally suggests a relation to or dependence on something; thus, a thing that *bear* by itself (a self-*substantive*) thing is independent and self-contained; an idea *substantive* or maintains its existence only so long as it appeals to the mind of thinking men (those secret distributions without which the body cannot *substantiate* its vigor—Addison) In philosophical use *substantive* is used often in reference to purely mental conceptions and implies logical validity or the character of being true or logically conceivable (the round square . . . is an object, which neither exists, nor *substantive*, nor has any kind of being at all—Chisholm)

*bear* *carry, convey, transport, transmit*

*bear* *suffer, endure, abide, tolerate, stand, brook* denote to sustain something trying or painful. *Bear* and *suffer* are also synonyms in their more comprehensive denotation, to sustain whatever is imposed (this theory will *bear* examination) (the stone suffers no alteration in a colder climate) Both verbs, however, are more often used in their specific senses because of their customary reference, with *bear*, to things that are heavy or difficult or, with *suffer*, to things that are painful or injurious. *Bear* suggests more the power to sustain than the manner in which something is sustained (water as hot as one can *bear* it) (this decency which has made him *bear* prolonged and intolerable humiliation with control and courtesy—Mannes) *Bear* affliction suffer more often implies acceptance of infliction than patience or courage in bearing (I am waylaid by Beauty . . . Oh, savage Beauty, *suffer* me to pass—Millay) (being a man of uncommon spirit, he never *suffered* the least insult or affront to pass unchastised—Smollett) *Endure* and * abide* usually refer to long-continued trials or sufferings borne without giving in. *Endure* usually connotes stamina or firmness of mind, while * abide* suggests patience and submission (I am able now, methinks . . . to *endure* more miseries and greater far—Shak.) (what fatimes impose, that men must needs *abide*—Shak.) *Tolerate* and *stand* imply overcoming one’s own resistance to what is distasteful or antagonistic. *Tolerate* often connotes failure to resist through indifference or, sometimes, through a desire for peace or harmony (tolerate differences in opinion) (Archer’s New York tolerated hypocrisy in private relations; but business matters it exacted . . . impeccable honesty—Wharton) *Stand* is often used in place of *bear*, but distinctively it implies the ability to keep from flinching (he can *stand* teasing) (he *stood* the attack well) *Brook* occurs chiefly in negative constructions and implies self-assertion and defiance (restraint she will not *brook*—Milton) (he is not well-born enough to succeed there, and his sense of intellectual superiority did not *brook* subordination—Laski) The other verbs are also used commonly in negative clauses but with weakened emphasis. In such constructions *bear* (with the negative) commonly implies dislike, *suffer* rejection, *endure* intolerance, * abide* impatience, *tolerate* contempt, and *stand* repugnance. *Ana* accept, *receive*: *afflict, try, torment, torture* 4 *press, bear down, squeeze, crowd, jam* *Ana* weigh, oppress, *depress*: *burden, encumber, load, saddle* 5 *Bear, relate, certain, appertain, belong, apply* are comparable when used intransitively with the meaning to have a connection, especially a logical connection. One thing *bears on* or *upon* another thing when the first touches so directly upon the second (usually something in question) as to carry appreciable weight in its solution or in the understanding of issues it involves (ignore all facts except those that *bear upon* this particular case) (this situation *bears directly upon* the question under discussion) One thing relates to another thing when there is some connection between them which permits or, more often, requires them to be considered together with reference to their effect upon each other. The connection implied is usually closer in the intransitive than in the transitive verb (see **join**), being commonly one of dependence or interdependence (in an organism each part relates to every other part) (show how the demand relates to the supply) (each incident relates to the plot) (a detail in a painting relates to the design of the whole) (the duties of the citizen, as he understood them, related not only to acts, but also to thoughts—Mencken) One thing pertains or appertains to another when there is a connection that permits their association in practice or thought. Both of these words are more widely applicable than *bear and relate*, for they cover not only the connections specifically implied in those words but also those close connections implied by *belong* and those remote connections A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
implied by have to do with; thus, the things that pertain to happiness are all the things that can be thought of as causing, contributing to, preventing, or affecting the quality of happiness (moral philosophy is the branch of philosophy that deals with all problems pertaining to morals or ethics). Pertain more often implies a necessary connection or a very close relation than the more formal appertain, which commonly suggests an incidental or acquired connection (a . . . faithful high priest in things pertaining to God—Heb 2:17) the crown and all wide-stretched honors that pertain by custom and the ordinance of times unto the crown of France—Shak. (to that simple object appertains a story—Wordsworth) Belong, usually with to, implies a relation in which one thing is a part or element without which another cannot exist, function, have its true character or being, or be complete. In this sense a thing that belongs is a property, an attribute, a duty, or a proper concern (the Government of the United States . . . does not possess all the powers which usually belong to the sovereignty of a nation—Tane) nor does value belong to what concerns man only—Alexander. But belong also may be used of things as they pertain to persons, then implying possession (the watch belongs to James) (this land belongs to the government) or informally of persons with reference to their qualifications for fitting into a group, especially a social group (she's smart and jolly and everything, but she just doesn't belong—Ferber) Apply, also with to, implies a relation in which a more inclusive category (as a law, a principle, a rule, a theory, a general term) covers a less inclusive specific instance, usually also explaining, interpreting, or describing the latter or having some clear bearing upon it (the rules of addition apply to our debts as rigorously as to our assets—James) he really was the one child to whom the "spare-the-rod" precept did not apply—he was naturally good—Deland. Ana *concern, affect: touch, influence, *affect: weigh (see DEPRESS)

beard vb *face, brave, challenge, dare, defy
Ana confront, *meet, encounter
beard down *press, bear, squeeze, crowd, jam
bearing n Bearing, comportment, demeanor, mien, port, presence are comparable when they denote the way in which or the quality by which a person outwardly manifests his personality and breeding. Bearing is the most general of these words; it may imply reference to a person's mental attitude to others, his conduct in society, or his characteristic posture or way of holding himself (if I were so, she could not sway her house, command her followers . . . with such a smooth, discreet and stable bearing—Shak.) "You should have seen him as a young man," she cried . . . drawing herself up to imitate her husband's once handsome bearing—D. H. Lawrence
Deportment applies especially to a person's actions in their relations to the external, often conventional amenities of life; it so strongly suggests the influence of breeding or training that in current use it often means little more than behavior (lessons in deportment) (naturalism is limited to neurotectics; while Style means a British deportment—stiff upper lip, stiff limbs, and stiffer backbone—and an eloquenter Oxfordian delivery—Bentley). Demeanor applies rather to one's attitude as shown in one's behavior in the presence of others (his demeanor in public was still, silent, almost sepulchral. He looked habitually upon the ground when he conversed, was chary of speech, embarrassed—Motley) (the child who has been treated wisely and kindly has a frank look in the eyes, and a fearless demeanor even with strangers—Russell). Mien implies reference both to bearing and demeanor, often as suggestive of mood (for truth has such a face and such a mien, as to be loved needs only to be seen—Dryden) (his mien of settled woe—Robertson Davies). Port implies reference to physique and, especially through long association with such adjectives as majestic, regal, and proud, to a stately or dignified physique (pride in their port, defiance in their eye, I see the lords of human-kind pass by—Goldsmith) (people with a dignity of port, an amplitude of back, an emphasis of vocabulary—L. P. Smith). Presence is more explicit than bearing; it denotes a person's bearing with reference to its power to impress his personality on others or to attract their attention, interest, or admiration (in mature life he became "a bulky person," with strong health and a commanding presence—Inge) (a small, birdlike person, of no presence—Rose Macaulay) (by a Port, one may understand them to indicate something unsympathetically impressive; whereas a Presence would seem to be a thing that directs the most affable appeal to our poor human weaknesses—Meredith)


beat vb 1 Beat, pound, pummel, thrash, buffet, baste, belabor are comparable when they mean to strike repeatedly. Beat, the usual and general word of this group, may imply no more than the simple action of repeated striking (as with one's hands or an implement). The purpose is usually suggested by the object beaten, even when the manner of beating or the kind of implement used is not specifically stated (clean a rug by beating it) (beat his breast in anguish) (the shocking increase in the battered child syndrome, the physical result of viciously beating a young child) (the horse restless beat the ground with his hooves) Pound suggests beating with a weight or pestle to crush or reduce to a pulp or powder (as in grinding meal). More often the term implies heavier, more damaging blows than beat; it may suggest repeated striking (as by a heavy hammer, strong doubled fists, the hooves of horses, bombs, or shells), and it often also suggests rhythmical, loud, and heavy sounds (the big boys who sit at the tables pound them and cheer—Hughes) (the hooves of the horses pounding on the bridge—Anderson) (he could hear his own heart pounding) (he pounded on the door in an effort to rouse the sleeping family) (night after night the port was pounded by bombs).

Pummel implies the beating of a person with one's fists: although it does not suggest as heavy blows as pound, it carries a stronger suggestion of continuous raining of blows and, often, of the infliction of injury than beat (a desire to pummel and wring the nose of the aforesaid Stiggins—Dickens) (he pummeled and slapped and scrubbed the somewhat obese nudity of his companion—Buchan) Thrash in its basic sense means to separate the grain (as of wheat) from the husks and straw, originally by beating or striking again and again (as with a flail). Consequently thrash usually means to strike repeatedly in a manner suggestive of strokes with a flail and usually with an implement (as a stick or whip) (thrust a hedge with a cane in order to drive out the rabbits) (propelled himself through the water with wildly thrashing arms) (everyone fought fire. Everyone went to the woods and thrashed out some new blaze—Vorse) Buffet implies a repeated striking with or as if with an open hand: it there-
fore suggests a slapping rather than a pouding and in extended use is employed chiefly with reference to something which dashes against the face or the body in the manner of a slap or which one fights as if by slapping. The two hands of Madame Defarge buffeted and tore her face—Dickens. Buffeted by high waves. Baste implies a sound vigorous thrashing with any weapon (including the tongue). I took a broom, and basted her, till she cried extremely—Pepys. If you will give me the loan of a horsewhip, I’ll baste the backs of these lazy fellows of yours—Wheelwright. Belabor implies a prolonged and mighty basting or buffeting. He saw Virago Nell belabor, with Dick’s own staff his peaceful neighbor—Swift. A group of demonstrating Egyptians being belabored by police—Dotty.

**Ana** slug, clout, sweat, punch, *strike, hit, smite, slap, box, buffeted<br>

2 defeat, lick, *conquer, vanquish, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout<br>

**Ana** surpass, excel, outstrip (see exceed). Confloum. Nonplus. (see puzzle)<br>

3 *pulsate, throb, pulse, palpitate<br>

**Ana** quiver, quaver, quake (see shake): vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate, pendulate (see swing). Beat<br>

**n** pulsation, pulse, throb, palpitation (see under pulsate).<br>

**Ana** accent, accentuation, stress (see emphasis): rhythm, cadence.<br>

**beatitude** blessedness, bliss, felicity, *happiness<br>

**Ana** rapture, *ecstasy, transport: joy, fruition, enjoyment, pleasure.<br>

**Ant** despair: dolor—Con tribulation, affliction, trial, cross: anguish, woe, sorrow, grief: suffering, agony, misery, *distress<br>

**beau** *top, exquisite, dandy, cockcomb, dude, buck<br>

**beau ideal** ideal, exemplar, pattern, model, example, mirror, standard.<br>

**beauteous** pulchritudinous, fair, good-looking, handsome, pretty, comely, bonny, lovely, *beautiful<br>

**Ana** alluring, attractive, fascinating, charming (see under attract).<br>

**beautiful** adj. Beautiful, lovely, handsome, pretty, bonny, comely, fair, beauteous, pulchritudinous, good-looking are comparable when they express judgment of a person or thing perceived or contemplated with sensuous or aesthetic pleasure. Although they differ widely not only in their implications and connotations but also in their range of reference, they carry in common the meaning of emotional or spiritual pleasure; it is seldom used to describe something large or impressive; consequently it often connotes diminutiveness, daintiness, or exquisiteness. A group of pretty girls. A very pretty child. A pretty cottage. Pretty is often used depreciatively to suggest mere pleasingness of appearance and the absence of qualities that make for beauty, grandeur, or strength. A pretty woman in the neighborhood called a “bonny man.” His features were remarkably regular, and his complexion was remarkably fair—D. Brown. A bonny, which is more common in British and especially Scottish use, implies approbation of a person’s or thing’s looks but it may also imply various pleasing qualities (as sweetness, simplicity, healthiness, plumpness) A bonny day. A great actress and a bonny girl—Donn Byrne. A bonny baby. What the sentimental women of the neighborhood called a “bonny child.” His features were remarkably regular, and his complexion was remarkably fair—G. D. Brown. Comely implies an opposition to what is homely and plain and suggests pleasant wholesomeness with a measure of good looks or physical attractiveness. A comely barmad. (The comeliest woman in the club. Jack was so comely, so pleasant, so jolly—Dibdin. Once a moorland Helen, and still comely as a blood horse and healthy as the hill wind—Stevenson.)

Fair applies especially to something which is pleasing or delightful to look at. Of all these adjectives beautiful is usually the richest in significance; since the abstraction it represents (the beautiful) has been for many centuries the subject of discussion by philosophers, artists, and aestheticians, its content in a particular context often depends upon the speaker’s or writer’s cultural background, his chosen philosophy, or his own peculiar definition. In general, however, both in learned and in ordinary use beautiful is applied to what excites the keenest pleasure not only of the senses but also through the medium of the senses of mind and soul. It also suggests an approach to or a realization of perfection, often specifically the imagined perfection associated with one’s conception of an ideal. That is why beautiful is applicable not only to things that are directly perceived by the senses. A beautiful woman. A beautiful scene. The beautiful “Winged Victory.” An exquisitely beautiful painting. But to things that are actually mental constructions formed in the mind through the instrumentality of language or as a result of inferences from certain outward manifestations. A beautiful poem. A beautiful plan. A beautiful character. Beautiful, like beautiful, usually suggests a more than sensuous pleasure, but it implies keen emotional delight rather than profound intellectual or spiritual pleasure. It is applied therefore to what is so pleasant to look upon, to hear, to smell, or to touch that the person affected dwells delightfully, sensuously, or amorously upon it or the sensations it produces. Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes—Shak. In after years... thy mind shall be a mansion for all lovely forms—Wordsworth. A sailing ship—that loveliest of human creations—Ellis. Handsome, on the other hand, carries little connotation of emotional or spiritual pleasure; it implies rather a judgment of approval occasioned by something that is pleasant to look upon because it conforms to one’s conception of what is perfect in form and detail or in perfect taste, and pleasing because of its due proportions, symmetry, or elegance. It is applied chiefly to what can be regarded unemotionally and with detachment; thus, a woman who is described as handsome rather than as beautiful or lovely is by implication one whose appearance aesthetically satisfies the observer but does not markedly stir his deeper feelings. A handsome dress. A handsome horse. A handsome table. They say I’m handsome.” You’re lovely, Bella!” She draws in his homage—Meredith. Pretty, in contrast to handsome, is applied largely to what pleases by its delicacy, grace, or charm rather than by its perfection or elegance of form or style. It is seldom used to describe something large or impressive; for in general it often connotes diminutiveness, daintiness, or exquisiteness. A group of pretty girls. A very pretty child. A pretty cottage. Pretty is often used depreciatively to suggest mere pleasingness of appearance and the absence of qualities that make for beauty, grandeur, or strength (a pretty poem. A pretty view. BONNY, which is more common in British and especially Scottish use, implies approbation of a person’s or thing’s looks but it may also imply various pleasing qualities (as sweetness, simplicity, healthiness, plumpness. A bonny day. A great actress and a bonny girl—Donn Byrne. A bonny baby. What the sentimental women of the neighborhood called a “bonny child.” His features were remarkably regular, and his complexion was remarkably fair—D. Brown.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
beautify: embellish, deck, bedeck, *adorn, ornament, decorate, garnish

Ana: enhance, heighten (see intensify)

Ant: uglify — Con: *deface, disfigure: *deform, distort, contort: mar, spoil, *injure, damage

because, for, since, as, inasmuch as are the chief causal conjunctions in English. Because assigns a cause or reason immediately and explicitly; as, I hid myself, *because [=for the express reason that] it is false; he must have passed this way, *because [=owing to the specific fact that] there is no other road or *because [=as is directly proved by the fact that] his footprints are here. For is a particle of less immediate reference than because; it regards the statement to which it is subjoined as relatively independent and proceeds to adduce for it some ground, reason, evidence, proof, explanation, or justification; as, I hid myself, for [=as I may add by way of explanation] I was afraid; he must have passed this way, for [=as you may readily see] here are his footprints; I like him, for [=I ask, in justification of the fact who can help it? Since is less formal and more incidentally than because; as assigns a reason even more casually than since; each of them frequently begins its sentence; as, Since (or As) I was afraid, I hid myself (I will come, since you asked me) (As I knew him to be out of town, I did not call) Inasmuch as assigns a reason in a somewhat concessive or qualified fashion; as, Inasmuch as [=in view of, or considering, the fact that] I was afraid, I hid myself. I am ready to accept your proposal, *inasmuch as [=seeing that] I believe it is the best you can offer.

becloud: cloud, eclipse, fog, befog, *dim, eclipse, *obscure, darken, obfuscate

Ana: *confuse, muddle, addle, befuddle: *puzzle, perplex, distract

bedeck: deck, garnish, embellish, beautify, decorate, ornament, *adorn

bedim: dim, eclipse, cloud, becloud, *darken, obfuscate

Ana: *confuse, muddle, addle, befuddle: *puzzle, perplex, distract

beef: overhang, jut, project, *bulge, protuberate, protrude, stick out

Ana: menace, *threaten

befall: betide, occur, *happen, chance, transpire

befog: fog, cloud, becloud, eclipse, *obscure, darken, dim, bedim, obfuscate

Ana: *puzzle, perplex, distract, bewilder, dumbfound: *confuse, muddle, addle

befool: fool, dirty, sully, *soil, smirch, besmirch, grime, begrime, tarnish

Ana: *spot, spatter, sprinkle

befuddle: fuddle, addle, muddle, *confuse

Ana: bewilder, distract, confound, perplex (see Puzzled): intoxicate, inebriate (see corresponding adjectives at DRUNK)

Ant: clarify, clear

beg: entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate, adjure, importune mean to ask or request urgently. Beg suggests earnestness or insistence especially in asking a favor (why, boy, before I left, you were constantly begging to see Town—Meredith) Entreat implies an attempt to persuade or to overcome resistance in another especially by ingratiating oneself (he was accustomed to command, not to entreat—Cather) Beseech implies great eagerness and often anxiety or solicitude (she besought him, for his soul’s sake, to speak the truth—Kipling) Implore, often used interchangeably with beseech, at times suggests even greater urgency in the plea or more manifest anguish (the last look of my dear mother’s eyes, which implored me to have mercy—Dickens) Supplicate adds to entreat the suggestion of fervent prayer or of a prayerful attitude (invite, entreat, supplicate them to accompany you—Chesterfield) (fall on his knees and supplicate the God of his fathers—Terrien) Adjure implies an injunction as well as a plea and is strengthened by the expressed or implied invocation of a sense of responsibility or duty or of something sacred (I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ—Mt 26:63) It may sometimes suggest little more than urgency or peremptoriness (so E company . . . doubled for the dear life, and in the rear toiled the perspiring sergeant, adjuring it to double yet faster—Kipling) Importune commonly suggests repeated attempts to break down resistance and often connotes annoying pertinacity (a valued adviser who annoyed me with the dear old constraints of the church—Emerson)

Ana: solicit, request. *ask: plead, pray, petition, sue (see under PRAYER): *demand, exact

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
begin

廉价，可鄙，破败，对不起，可耻，乞丐式

Ana

开始，start,
behave 1 Behave, conduct, comport, demean, deport, acquit, quit are comparable when they mean to act or to cause oneself to act in a specified way or in a way that evokes comment. Behave denotes the performing of various actions or the saying of various things in the manner indicated by modifiers (one must keep one's contracts, and behave as persons of honor and breeding should behave—Rose Macaulay) (you will bitterly reproach him in your own heart, and seriously think that he has behaved very badly to you—Wilde) Used without modifiers, it indicates action and conduct adjudged proper and seemly; in this use it is common in relation to children and adolescents (the average parent is likely to say that the child behaves if the child conforms to what the parent thinks is right—Fishbein) Conduct often applies to actions showing direction or control of one's actions or bearing with command, will, knowledge, and resolution (he conducted himself with patience and tact, endeavoring to enforce the laws and to check any revolutionary moves—W. E. Stevens) Comport, in this sense always reflexive, is somewhat more formal than behave and conduct but usually lacks any other special suggestion though it sometimes may convey the notion of conformance to the expected (as of one's class) or suitable (as to one's position) (the missionaries...comported themselves in a way that did not rouse general antagonism or they could have been easily ousted—Spicer) (a man is judged now by how well he comports himself in the face of danger—Alridge) (after having seen him thus publicly comport himself, but one course was open to me—to cut his acquaintance—Thackeray) In this sense demean and deport are close synonyms for comport; the former is becoming rare (it shall be my earnest endeavor to demean myself with grateful respect towards her—Austen) The latter may suggest deportment according to a code (Dido and Aeneas, in the Roman d'Eneas, deport themselves in accordance with the strictest canons of courtly love—Lowes) Acquit and quit, the latter archaic, are always used reflexively in this sense; they are likely to apply to action deserving praise or meeting expectations (I trust we acquit ourselves worthily as custodians of this sacred mystery—Wylie) (he then acquitted himself well as a hardworking and level-headed chairman of the judiciary committee of the House—Pearson) (the endless heroes of life and death who still bravely meet their separate
belch vb Belch, burp, vomit, disgorge, regurgitate, spew, throw up are comparable when they mean to eject matter (as food or gas) from the stomach by way of the mouth or, in extended use, from a containing cavity by way of an opening. Belch denotes the noisy voiding of gas from the stomach and may be extended to something ejected in volume and often with noise (as smoke and fire from a cannon or a volcano) (there stood a hill not far, whose grisly top belched fire and rolling smoke—Milton) (the war-riehs shrieks and belches out his fury—Capern)

Burp in its basic sense in interchangeable with belch (mopping his face solemnly with his cologne-scented handkerchief, and burping surreptitiously under it—Mencken) but in extended use is much less forceful and usually refers to something sounding like a human belch (the engine burped and ran out of gas—Road and Track).

Vomit is the usual word for the ejection through the mouth of what has been eaten or swallowed; ordinarily it implies nausea, but it may suggest a previous gorging or surfeit- ing or the use of an emetic (and the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land—Jonah 2:10) It is often used to suggest a forcible rejection or an emission or a discharge of contents (that huge black-mouthed sewer, vomiting its pestilential riches across the mud—Kingsley).

Disgorge, though close to vomit, more specifically implies an ejection of something swallowed, in essentially its original state (Jonah was disgorged by the whale after three days and three nights). Especially in extended use it may suggest an ejection or yielding up (as of something held or secreted) that is induced by force or pressure from without (make the French generals disgorg the church plate which they have stolen—Wellington). Basically regurgitate implies a flowing or gushing back, typically of food from the stomach to the esophagus or mouth (cattle regurgitate small cuds of herbage for further chewing) In extended use regurgitate may reflect quite neutrally its basic meaning ("Mind you," he said regurgitating his article slowly phrase by phrase, "the subject doesn't make the work of art"—Huxley) but more often it carries some suggestion of the unpleasantness of the physiological phenomenon (Henry was incapable of reversing himself or of regurgitating Cromwell's wealth—Hackett) (read greedily and without abatement, and regurgitated his formal culture in the same feverish spasms—Gurko) Spew is rare in modern usage as a synonym for vomit but has extended use as denoting a pouring forth in a stream that cannot be restrained or, sometimes, a spurring or spitting forth (the steer ... dying spews a flood of foamy madness, mixed with clotted blood—Dryden)

It also may imply specifically a pouring forth of something offensive (as abusive or foul language) (Thersites spews over everything that we had deemed high and sacred, his foul ... insults—Dowden). Basically throw up is closely equivalent to vomit, though it may stress the matter ejected rather than the physiological process. In extended use it is distinctly less vigorous than vomit and usually implies no more than a producing or bringing forth of something (all the voluminous information thrown up by successive ... investigations—Bemix)

Anna *eject, expel
belieager *besiege, invest, blockade
Anna *surround, environ, encircle, encompass, hem, gird: *enclose, envelop: harass, pester, *worry, annoy
belie *misrepresent, falsify, garble
Anna contradict, contravene, negative (see DENY): controvert, *disprove
Ant attest —Con *reveal, discover, disclose: *indicate, bespeak, betoken

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
bellicose  *belligerent, pugnacious, combative, contentious, quarrelsome

*bellicose  *aggressive, assertive: antagonizing or antagonistic, combating or combative (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): fighting, warring, battling, contending (see CONTEND): rebellious, factious, seditious, mutinous (see SUBORDINATE)

Ant pacific: amicable  —Con peaceful, pacifist, peaceable (see PACIFIC)

belligerent  adj  Belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious, combative, quarrelsome, contentious mean having or taking an aggressive or fighting attitude. Belligerent usually implies actual engagement in hostilities (the belligerent powers in the World War)  (define a nation's status as not neutral yet not belligerent)  When applied to such things as tones, speeches, or gestures, the term implies an actively hostile mood or warlike temper (a belligerent reply to a diplomatic note)  Bellicose applies usually to a state of mind or temper: it suggests a desire or readiness to fight or sometimes a disposition to stir up a fight (a bellicose tribe)  (an intoxicated man in a bellicose mood)  (an editorial in a bellicose vein)  Pugnacious and combative differ from bellicose (which is sometimes given an ironic or mock-heroic turn) in applying more commonly to disposition or character: they need not, however, convey the impression of pettiness or ill nature or of readiness to fight without genuine cause, so frequently implied in quarrelsome (the Scotch are certainly a most pugnacious people: their whole history proves it—Borrow)  (fight in the field of sports . . . [is] generally approved. The combative impulses in human nature may thus find an expression—Cohen)  (soon every father bird and mother grew quarrelsome, and pecked each other—Cowper)  (on the days they worked they were good-natured and cheerful . . . on our idle days they were mutinous and quarrelsome—Franklin)  Contentious frequently suggests perversity of temper and wearisome persistence in dispute (a very kind woman, though saying what she liked about her neighbors, and contentious toward all antireformers—Canby)

Ana hostile, antagonistic (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY): fighting, warring, battling, contending (see CONTEND): warlike, *martial

Ant friendly  —Con neighborly, *amicable:  *neutral, indifferent

below vb  *roar, bluster, bawl, vociferate, clamor, howl, yell

Ant yell, *shout, scream, shriek: bay, *bark, yelp: *cry, wail, keen

belly  *abdomen, stomach, paunch, gut, belly

belong  *belongings: *possessions, effects, means, resources, assets

below, under, beneath, underneath mean in a lower position relatively to some other object or place. Below (opposed to above) applies to something which is anywhere in a lower plane than the object of reference; under (opposed to over) to something which is below in a relatively vertical line, and it may imply actual covering (below sea level)  (the valley far below us)  (under a tree)  (under the bed)  (hide one's light under a bushel)  (the Whirlpool Rapids are below, and the Cave of the Winds is under Niagara Falls)  (the whole visible landscape is below, but only a small portion of it under, an observer in a balloon)  Beneath is an equivalent of both below and under (heaven above, or . . . the earth beneath—Exod 20:4)  beneath the spreading tree—Goldsmith  Underneath is often employed in place of under or beneath. It is, however, the preferred term when there is the intent to imply complete or nearly complete concealment (mines underneath the city)  (garments worn underneath a dress)

In their extended senses below and under agree in expressing inferiority but differ (like above and over) in the immediacy of the relation expressed; thus, one officer may be below another in rank without being under him in immediate subordination. Similarly, with reference to deficiency, below is commonly used in general, under in more specific, relations (below the accepted standard)  (below normal temperatures)  (under six years of age)  Underneath frequently suggests social, moral, or general inferiority (married beneath herself)  (criticism beneath his notice)  (beneath contempt)  Underneath suggests, not inferiority, but something underlying and not indicated clearly by what is outwardly manifest (underneath his ingratiating manner one felt a sinister intention)  (there is something underneath this announcement, I am sure)

Ant above  —Con over (see ABOVE)

belt  *zone, *area, tract, region

bemoan  bewail, lament,  *deplor

Ant *grieve, mourn, sorrow

bemuse  *daze, stun, stupefy, benumb, paralyze, petrify

Ant *illuminate, enlighten: arouse, rouse,  *stir, awaken: excite, stimulate,  *provoke

bend vb  *curve, twist

Ant contort,  *deform: deflect, divert (see TURN)

Ant straighten

beneath  underneath, under,  *below

Ant above, over

benefaction  *donation, contribution, alms

Ant *gift, present, largess, boon: *charity, philanthropy

beneficial, advantageous, profitable are applied to what brings good or gain. Beneficial refers to what brings health or well-being; advantageous, to what more directly conduces to relative superiority or subserves a desirable end; profitable, to what yields useful or lucrative returns (a climate beneficial to rheumatism)  (measures . . . beneficial to the kingdom—J. R. Green)  (the enemy were in an advantageous position on the hill)  (you see . . . how swift and advantageous a harbinger it [a good reputation] is, wherever one goes—Chesterfield)  (a profitable study)  (profitable investments)

Ant maleficient

benefit vb  Benefit, profit, avail mean to do good or to be of advantage to someone. Benefit usually implies personal betterment or improvement (as of one's physical, intellectual, moral, or spiritual condition), but it may suggest enrichment or a furtherance of one's ends (a summer at the seashore benefits the entire family)  (we all benefit greatly by lighthouses, even those of us who have never seen the sea and never expect to—Shaw)  (the expansion of the city's industries benefits everyone indirectly)  Profit carries a strong implication of gain, especially material gain. It is therefore preferred to benefit when an increase or yield, as opposed to a decrease or loss, in one's store (as of wealth, power, or knowledge) is to be suggested; thus, he always profits (not benefits, unless one wishes to imply a salutary effect) by the misfortunes of
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
is . . . beleaguer ing . . . a worthy gentleman—Richardson> (the family is beleaguered by peddlers) Invest comes very close to besiege, but it does not, by comparison, carry as strong an implication of strength or of persistence in attack. In many cases it implies the use of men and weapons to prevent ingress or egress, but it carries little suggestion of frequent assaults upon the position (Astorga is invested, but has not been vigorously attacked—Wellington) (Charleston was never besieged nor was any serious effort made . . . to invest it on the land side—Spaulding) Blockade usually stresses a closing of all sea-lanes to those who wish to enter or leave hostile territory. The term usually implies the use of ships or mines to attain this end, but if the attacking country is sufficiently strong, it may imply prohibition of neutral or enemy vessels entering or leaving and efforts to seize or detain those that disobey. The object of blockading is usually to starve the enemy or to prevent the entrance of essential supplies (in any showdown the West's ultimate power to blockade might make the Russians think twice—Time).

Ana *enclose, envelop, pen: *surround, environ, encircle, encompass, hem: beset (see INFEST); assail, *attack, assault

besmirch smirch, dirty, sully, *soil, foul, befoul, grime, begrime, tarnish

Ana *spot, spatter, sprinkle

Ant cleanse

besotted infatuated, *fond, insensate

Ana fatuous, asinine, foolish, silly, *simple: *drunk, drunken, intoxicated, inebriated: *stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass

Con sensible, sane, *wise, judicious, prudent: *rational, reasonable: sober, *serious, earnest

bespangle spangle, *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle

Ana *illuminate, illumine, lighten, light: glow, *blaze, flame: *flash, gleam, sparkle, scintillate, twinkle

bespangled spangled, spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled (see under SPOT vb)

Ana *bright, brilliant, radiant, luminous: illuminated, illuminated, lighted (see ILLUMINATE)

bespeak bespeak, attest, *indicate, argue, prove

Ana manifest, evidence, *show, evince, demonstrate: imply, hint, *suggest

bestial brutish, brute, *brutal, feral, beastly

Ana debased, depraved, corrupted or corrupt (see under DEBASE): degenerate, *vicious: degraded (see ABASE): sensual, fleshly, *carnal

bestow confer, present, donate, *give, afford

Ana *distribute, dispense, divide: *grant, award

bet n Bet, wager, stake, pot, ante denote in common something of value, usually money, risked in the confidence or hope that something is true or will turn out in a certain way, something else of value being risked by at least one other party in support of an opposing confidence or hope. Bet and wager are used with little distinction of meaning either of what is risked or of the act of risking it. Stake implies money or valuable bet and actually produced and entrusted to a neutral party (stakeholder) or placed in the pot in a card game. By extension a stake is anything material or nonmaterial that one stands in jeopardy of losing (and will probably always have the largest commercial stake in the African continent—LIVINGSTONE) (with my most affectionate wishes for Dr. Johnson's recovery, in which his friends . . . have so deep a stake—Dick) A pot is an aggregate of the bets made by all the bettors or players especially in poker (won several big pots in successive deals) An ante typically is a stake which each player in a poker game who wishes to continue a particular hand puts up after he has seen his original five cards but before he draws other cards, but in some games of stud or draw poker and in blackjack the ante is a compulsory stake put up by each player before the cards are seen. By extension an ante is a share or amount which must be put up, usually as a price or as a prelude to a joint venture (considerations that tend to raise the ante so as to discourage all but the most efficient producers—Amer. Fabrics) (the ante of these shareholders and other private sources of financing the steel expansion will come to about 1.7 billion dollars—Atlantic)

bête noire *abomination, bugbear, anathema

bethink recollect, remind, *remember, recall, reminisce, mind


better adj Better, superior, preferable mean more worthy or more pleasing than another or others. Better, which often serves as the comparative of good, in this sense implies a quality or character in a person or thing that surpasses or exceeds that in the one or ones called good (the theme is good, but I think you can write a better one) (he proposed a better scheme than any that had been discussed) Often, however, better is used in comparison or contrast with something that can be described as bad (give him time to show his better nature) (looking upon myself as no better than a dead man—Steel) or with something that may be good, bad, or indifferent yet from the point of view of the speaker or writer is to be rejected as totally undesirable in comparison (it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea—Mt 9:42) (better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven—Milton) Superior in all its uses retains some feeling of its basic meaning, higher in physical position, which is now largely restricted to technical contexts in which it implies opposition to what is below (inferior); thus, the upper jaw or maxilla is sometimes distinguished as the superior maxilla from the lower jaw or mandible which is then designated the inferior maxilla. Superior often implies a scale (as of values or ranks) and emphasizes height (as of status, quality, or worth); thus, if a student is doing good work one might suggest that he could do better (as compared with his previous accomplishment) if he tried, and might hope that his added efforts would produce a truly superior result (as compared either with any relevant accomplishment or with a scale of possible accomplishments); one might like an author's new book better than his last but rate it superior to anything he had previously written (a sergeant is superior to a corporal) (certain rights are superior to constitutions and to statute laws—Lippincott) (the superior durability of parchment—Coulton) Superior implies a degree of experience—Trewartha) Preferable implies a choice between two things or one thing and all others usually on the ground that the thing chosen is better by comparison or is superior in quality, status, or kind. But its chief emphasis is upon relative desirability, and the other implications may be greatly
biannual, biennial, semiannual, though not synonymous.

between, among are comparable when they take as object two or more persons or things and indicate their relation (as in position, in a distribution, or in participation). Between in its basic sense applies to only two objects (between Seylla and Charybdis) between two fires. When this word is used of more than two objects, it brings them severally and individually into the relation expressed a treaty between three powers (the three survivors had but one pair of shoes between them). I hope that between public business, improving studies, and domestic pleasures, neither melancholy nor caprice will find any place for entrance—Johnson. Among always implies more than two objects which it brings less definitely into the relation expressed among so many candidates one must find a good one among so many candidates one must find a good one. Among the survivors were two boys. Five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?—Jn 6:9.

beware lament, deplor, bemoan

Ana sorrow, *grieve, mourn: wail, weep, *cry

Ant rejoice

bewilder mystify, perplex, distract, *puzzle, confound, nonplus, dumbfound

Ana *confuse, addle, fuddle, muddle: fluster, flurry, perturb, agitate, upset (see DISCOMPOSE): baffle, foil (see FRUSTRATE)

bewitch enchant, captivate, fascinate, charm, allure, *attract

Ana *thril, electrify: delight, *please: infuriate, enemor (see corresponding adjectives at ENAMORED)

bewitching enchanting, captivating, fascinating, charming, alluring, attractive (see under ATTRACT)

biannual, biennial, semiannual, though not synonymous, are frequently confused. The chief source of confusion is biannual, which is used to mean either twice a year or happening every two years. If no clue to its meaning is given by the text, the reader will often be at a loss to determine the time expression biannual unequivocally means existing for two years or happening every two years biennial plants biennial convention biennial reunion. Semiannual is also unequivocal, since it means half-yearly, or once a year, semiannual publication semiannual payments.

bias n prejudice, prepossession, partiality, *prediction

Ana slant, standpoint, *point of view, viewpoint, angle: *leaning, propensity: inclining or inclination, predisposition, disposition (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE) Con fairness, justness, impartiality, dispassionateness (see corresponding adjectives at FAIR)

bias vb incline, dispose, predispose

Ana sway, influence, *affect, impress

bicker squabble, spat, tiff, quarrel, wrangle, altercation (see under quarrel n)

Ana *contend, fight, battle, war

bickering spat, tiff, squabble, *quarrel, wrangle, altercation

Ana *discord, contention, dissension, strife, conflict

bid vb 1 command, order, enjoin, direct, instruct, charge

Ana *summon, summons, call, cite

Ant forbid —Con prohibit, enjoin, interdict, inhibit (see FORBID)

2 *invite, solicit, court, woo

Ana *ask, request

bid n tender, *overture, advance, approach

Ana offering or offer, proffering or proffer (see corresponding verbs at offer): *proposal, proposition: inviting or invitation, soliciting or solicitation (see corresponding verbs at invite)

biddable docile, amenable, tractable, *obedient

Ana *compliant, acquiescent: obliging, complaisant, good-natured, *amiable: submissive, *tame

Ant willful —Con intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, headstrong, ungovernable, *unruly: *obstinate, stubborn, stiff-necked, mulish

bidding behest, *command, order, injunction, mandate, dictate

Ana direction, instruction (see corresponding verbs at COMMAND): summoning or summons, calling or call, citing or citation (see corresponding verbs at SUMMON)

biennial *biannual, semiannual

big large, great

Ana *grand, magnificent, imposing, grandiose, majestic, august: *huge, immense, enormous, gigantic, colossal

Ant little —Con *small, diminutive, wee, tiny, petite, minute, microscopic, miniature

bigot fanatic, *enthusiast, zealot

bigoted *illicit, narrow-minded, narrow, intolerant, hidebound

Con tolerant, *forbearing, lenient: *liberal, progressive, advanced, radical

bill n Bill, beak, neb, nib denote the jaws of a bird together with their projecting horny covering. Bill is the general term and is used inclusively by ornithologists for such a structure; in popular usage, however, bill suggests a structure that is straight and often flattened or long and slender (as in the duck, swan, hummingbird, crane, heron, sandpiper, or snipe) or one that is short, stout, and conical (as in the cardinal bird or hawfinch). Beak is associated with striking or tearing and is the usual term for a structure, characteristic especially of birds of prey, in which the tip of the upper mandible has a sharp downward curvature and overhangs the lower mandible (as in the eagle, vulture, or hawk). Although the kite soars with unblurred beak—Shak. Neb and nib are equivalent to bill or beak chiefly in dialect or poetry but derive from this use their commoner extended sense of a jutting or pointed thing or part (the nib of a pen)

bill n Bill, act, statute, law are frequently confused when used to designate a legislative measure. Bill is properly applied only to the draft of a measure submitted to a legislature for its acceptance or rejection. The other terms are properly applied only to bills which have been passed. In actual use they are practically identical. Strictly, however, a bill becomes an act when it is passed and duly signed by an executive officer; an act becomes a statute when it is legally effective and a part of the written law of the state; a statute is one kind of law (see LAW).

billingsgate scurrility, vituperation, *abuse, invective, obloquy

bind *tie

Ana *fasten, attach: *join, link, unite, connect

Ant loose: unbind

biography life, memoir, autobiography, collections are comparable when they mean a more or less detailed account of the events and circumstances of a person’s life. Biography is the technical, neutral term for this kind of writing or for an example of it; the term suggests neither length nor brevity of treatment, neither factuality nor in-
biologic

101

interpretation of facts, neither partisanship nor detachment, for it may be characterized by any of these qualities, but it does imply that the course of a career is covered at least in its main events ⟨the official biography . . . written by his son is still in print and easily available—Nock⟩ ⟨Lynton Strachey's biography of Queen Victoria restricts itself to the facts which develop his conception of her⟩ Life usually suggests a fuller and more intimate treatment than biography; a work so designated may, however, be written on a brief scale or be drawn out so that very little is escaped. Life is often used in place of biography when the author especially wishes to suggest a vivid or graphic or interpretive account or to imply the addition of firsthand material (as letters or a journal); the term is also often used in the combination “life and times” as the title for a biography placing the subject in the background of his period ⟨Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson⟩ ⟨Ray Stannard Baker's Life and Letters of Woodrow Wilson⟩ ⟨Life and Times of Jesus by J. F. Clarke⟩ Memoir (or often the plural mem-oirs) refers to a biography written by one who has intimate knowledge of its details; although it does not necessarily imply that the subject of the biography is the writer, it very frequently does so. Also, memoir may suggest reminis- cences of a whole or of part of a life; the term therefore carries no promise of completeness, or fullness, but it does connote a more personal approach than biography or, usu- ally, than life ⟨Hallam Tennyson's biography of his father is called Alfred, Lord Tennyson: A Memoir⟩ ⟨Its spirit is so devout as to make it almost more a memoir than a biography—Nock⟩ Autobiography refers to a biography of oneself typically written toward the end of one's life or at the completion of one's active career. Autobiography usually implies some distinction in the writer and a demand for or the desire to give information about the personalities and events of his time or about the background of the events in which he has played a part. The term is seldom used in the titles of books and is preferred as a designation of a type ⟨My Life is Havelock Ellis's autobiography ⟩ ⟨what would we give for such an autobiography of Shakespeare—Carlyle⟩ Confessions as a type belong to the genre of autobiography. Confessions are usually written by a person who desires to avow fully the experiences of his life, both shameful and creditable. The motive of such a book is as varied as the books themselves; thus, to give extremes, the Confessions of St. Augustine were written for the glorification of God, who has brought him out of a life of sin; the Confessions of Rousseau were written to reveal truly and sincerely all his experiences of his life, both shameful and creditable. The motive does imply that the course of a career is covered at least in deficiency which may be expressed on the one hand in extreme delicacy ⟨something dreamy, ambiguous, almost epicene—Norman Douglas⟩ or on the other in utter decadence ⟨the glass of fashion and the mold of form, so dainty a figure, indeed, that he turned Mark Twain's stomach and appears as an epicene clown in the American's robust story—G. W. Johnson⟩ bite ⟨particle, mite, smidgen, whit, atom, iota, jot, tittle Ana piece, fragment, detail, fraction, *part, portion⟩ bite, gnaw, champ, gnash are comparable when they mean to attack with or as if with the teeth. Bite fundamentally implies a getting of the teeth, especially the front teeth, into something so as to grip, pierce, or tear off ⟨bite an apple deeply⟩ ⟨bite into a cookie⟩ ⟨bite off a piece of molasses candy⟩ Sometimes bite denotes to wound by biting ⟨the dog has bitten a boy⟩ (unable to fight with hands or feet, he savagely bit his antagonist) In extended use bite implies unusual power of penetration or power of cutting into something so that it stings or pricks, or gives support to a good grip or hold ⟨scissors that snip sheet steel and bite off heavy bars—Shaw⟩ ⟨bite an etching plate with acid⟩ ⟨saws . . . as they . . . bite the

biologic n *drug, simple, medicinal, pharmaceutical
biotype *habitat, range, station
birthright 1 *right, appanage, prerogative, privilege, perquisite
2 patrmony, *heritage, inheritance
biseulural adj Bisexual, hermaphroditic, hermaphroditic, androgynous, epinec are comparable when meaning combining male and female qualities. The first four of these terms may be used interchangeably to mean being structurally or functionally both male and female; they may apply to all kinds of living beings and may designate a normal or an abnormal state. Bisexual also is applied to human mental or behavioral qualities ⟨careers catastrophically broken by the vagaries of bisexual personality —New Republic⟩ and, more precisely, designates the individual who responds sexually to members of both sexes ⟨the ancient Greeks who were notoriously bisexual (women for breeding and boys for pleasure)—Gerber⟩ Such use need not imply abnormality ⟨the author accepts the notion of the bisexual character of man—Mullahy⟩ Hermaphroditic and hermaphrodite when applied to human beings usually indicate primarily the presence of physical characteristics and especially of actual gonads of both sexes in the same individual and imply an abnormal state ⟨hermaphroditic children, where both ovaries and testes are present—Newsweek⟩ Hermaphroditic frequently or hermaphrodite occasionally has extended use in which it suggests the combination of two readily distinguishable and often more or less incongruous elements; thus, a hermaphrodite wagon is one made up of a two-wheeled cart with an extra pair of wheels and a rack added; her-maphrodite calipers have one caliper and one divider leg ⟨a young Königsberg architect, a Bait (that is to say a kind of hermaphrodite Russian and Prussian too)—Clare Sheridan⟩ ⟨everybody in every war, barring the hermaphrodite soldier who wears a uniform but doesn't fight, lives in a sort of hell—Kenneth Roberts⟩ Androgy-nous in reference to human beings or to qualities or characteristics rarely connotes abnormality but rather suggests a congruous and pleasing blending ⟨has the an-drogy nous Greek beauty which suits a youth or a goddess equally well, combining the vigor of one sex with the grace of the other—The Critic⟩ ⟨if one is a man, still the woman part of the brain must have effect; and a woman must also have intercourse with the man in her. Co-leridge perhaps meant this when he said that a great mind is androgy nous—Woolf⟩ Androgy nous is also the preferred term for use in respect to deities, their attributes or appearances ⟨a somewhat androgy nous Apollo—Grig-on⟩ ⟨the androgy nous character of the Bodhisattva: masculine Avalokiteshvara, feminine Kwan Yin—Joseph Campbell⟩ Unlike the preceding terms, epicene has no technical application to physical or functional status; however, in its often allusive reference to sex in characterizing human beings, their attributes, or the products of their being it may approach the other terms in meaning ⟨decapitated by a hero disguised as a woman . . . his brothers suspect the epicene wife because of her masculine arms—Lowie⟩ More often epicene suggests deficient sexuality and may imply intersexuality, effeminacy, or sexlessness ⟨the hearty sportsman who is really epicene beneath his tweeds—Gibbs⟩ (if only all this messy business of sex could be done away with and we could all remain . . . happy, epicene Peter Pans—Dwight Mac-donald) In some contexts epicene loses all direct reference to sex and suggests rather the weakness inherent in deficiency which may be expressed on the one hand in extreme delicacy ⟨something dreamy, ambiguous, almost epicene—Norman Douglas⟩ or on the other in utter decadence ⟨the glass of fashion and the mold of form, so dainty a figure, indeed, that he turned Mark Twain's stomach and appears as an epicene clown in the American's robust story—G. W. Johnson⟩
Bizarre vb debar, shut out, *exclude, eliminate, rule
blab vb blackguard *villain, scoundrel, knave, rascal, rogue,
are applied to things with an unpleasant taste bitter, acrid
biting cutting, crisp, trenchant, *incisive, clear-cut
delicious, luscious, *delightful
delicious —

Blame n Blame, culpability, guilt, fault are comparable
when they mean responsibility for misdeed or delinquency.
Blame is a term of shifting denotations, sometimes
meaning the reprehension, criticism, or censure of those
who find fault or judge one's work or acts. I have never
desired praise . . . I have been indifferent to, if not indeed
contemptuous of, blame—Ellis or sometimes a charge
or accusation of some fault, misdeed, or delinquency
< fear of incurring blame in Wiltstoken for wantonly
opposing her daughter's obvious interests—Shaw >
When the term denotes responsibility for wrongdoing or delin-
quency, it also implies the meriting of reproof, censure,
or the appropriate penalty < he took on himself all the
blame for the project's failure > < they tried to shift the
blame for their defeat > Often the term means ultimate
rather than immediate responsibility < the blame [ for
backwardness in American education ] has sometimes been
put, and with some justice, upon our migratory habits and
upon the heterogeneous character of our population—
Grandgent > Culpability usually means little more or
no more than the fact or the state of being responsible
for an act or condition that may be described as wrong,
harmful, or injurious < they could not prove his culpability
for the accident > < as if the estrangement between them
had come of any culpability of hers—Dickens > an
inc escapable responsibility rests upon this country to con-
duct an inquiry . . . into the culpability of those whom
there is probable cause to accuse of atrocities and other
crimes—R. H. Jackson > Guilt usually carries an impli-
cation of a connection with misdeeds of a grave or serious
character from the moral and social points of view. Also
it usually implies a deserving of severe punishment (as
condemnation, loss of freedom, or, in the case of sin, loss
of salvation) or of a definite legal penalty (as a fine, im-
prisonment, or death). Therefore, when the term denotes
responsibility for a crime or sin, it also carries implications
of need of proof before punishment can be determined or
forgiveness granted < though she was strongly suspected
of murder, her guilt was not established until after her
death > < since he admitted his guilt, he saved the state
the cost of a trial > < to confess one's sins is to acknowledge
one's guilt for those sins > Fault (see also FAULT 2) is
often used in place of culpability as a simpler word < the
fault is her parents', not the child's > < the fault, dear
Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are
underlings—Shak. >

Guilt responsibility, accountability, answerability (see
corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE): censure, con-
demnation, denunciation, reprehension (see corresponding
verbs at CRITICIZE)
either in his own knowledge or in that of others, by his confession or by proof (often legal proof) of his responsibility; the term may stress either the fact that guilt has been proved or the fact or the fear of resulting punishment (the defendant was found guilty) suspicion always haunts the guilty mind; the thief doth fear each bush an officer—Shak.> (let no guilty man escape, if it can be avoided—Grant) Often the term suggests merely a state of mind (as a consciousness that one has committed a sin or a crime or a fear that one is justly suspected of wrongdoing or of a misdeed) a guilty conscience) (there is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty—Russell) A person is culpable who has been shown to be blameworthy and open to severe censure or condemnation (the judge . . . remarked that those whom Smith had gullied were almost as culpable as he—Altick) The term is also applicable to a blameworthy act, condition, or practice for which one is responsible or which leads to wrong or harm (culpable ignorance) (culpable neglect) (is it not . . . culpable and unworthy, thus beforehand to slur her honor?—Shelley) Ant blameless — Con faultless, *impeccable, flawless

blasphemy, profanity, swearing, cursing

 blasphemy 1 Blasphemy, profanity, swearing, cursing are comparable when meaning impious or irreverent speech. Blasphemy, the strongest term (see also profanation), applies strictly to an intentional or malicious utterance in which the Supreme Being is defied or offered indignity: as such it is regarded as a serious sin in theology and as a crime at the common law <genuine blasphemy, genuine in spirit and not purely verbal, is the product of partial belief and is as impossible to the complete atheist as to the perfect Christian—T. S. Eliot> Profanity has a wider range and includes all irreverent reference to holy things; it is particularly applied to speech in which the names of God, Jesus, and the Virgin Mary are used lightly and irreverently, especially in expressing rage or passion in oaths, curses, and imprecations (he had what one might call a preliminary recourse in his profanity, those “scorching, singing blasts” he was always directing at his companions—Brooks) Swearing and cursing are forms of profanity, the former stressing indulgence in profane and often meaningless oaths; the latter, indulgence in profane curses or imprecations (as by calling on God to damn or punish the object of one’s wrath or hatred) among laborers and others, that ungodly custom of swearing is too frequently heard, to the dishonor of God and contempt of authority—Wren) (why, what an ass am I! . . . that I . . . must . . . unpack my heart with words, and fall a-cursing—Shak) Ana insult, *affront, indignity: scurrility, vituperation (see abuse n) Ant adoration — Con worship, reverence, veneration (see under Revere) 2 *profanation, desecration, sacrilege

ana debasement, corruption, perversion (see corresponding verbs at Debase): misrepresentation, falsehood, untruth, *lie

blast n blight, nip (see under blast vb)

ana destruction (see corresponding verb at Destroy): extermination, extirpation, wiping out (see corresponding verbs at exterminate): ruin, wreck (see ruin vb)

blast vb Blast, blight, nip mean as verbs, to ruin or to injure severely, suddenly, or surprisingly and as nouns, the effect of such ruin or injury. Blast which basically implies a violent outbreak (as of wind) carries the implication of something pernicious that comes with sweeping force to destroy or demolish or to bring with it complete frustration (I’ll cross it, though it blast me—Shak) O fairest flower, no sooner blown but blasted—Milton) the thunder cracked again. It is terrifying in the tropics, that sound. . . . You expect to be annihilated, blasted, burned to a crisp—McFee) our shelter from the stormy blast—Watts) the East bowed low before the blast—Arnold) Blight primarily implies a withering and killing of plant tissue by some natural agency (as disease, pests, or adverse weather) dahlia blighted by an unseasonable frost) (late blight of potatoes) Similarly in extended use the term implies a destructive altering (as of a plan, a hope, or a life) by some external but relevant agency (a secret marriage . . . was a blight on his life—George Eliot) when the true scholar gets thoroughly to work, his logic is remorseless, his art is implacable, and his sense of humor is blighted—Henry Adams) a Peloponnesian or a European war lays its blight on whole peoples—Montague) (The Moonstone is very near to Bleak House. The theft of a diamond has some of the same blighting effect on the lives about it as the suit in Chancery—T. S. Eliot) Nip may imply a squeezing, a pinching, or more specifically, a cutting off between two edges, surfaces, or points; in extended use, it implies the acting of something comparable (as a killing frost or a bitter wind) that has power to damage, to check, or to distress (so have I seen some tender slip saved with care from winter’s nip—Milton) the wind that blows between the worlds, it nipped him to the bone—Kipling) (most of the flowers had been nipped by a heavy frost) In the idiomatic phrase “to nip in the bud” nip harks back to the implication of cutting off and suggests a terminating or destroying of something before it has fully developed or matured (the plans for an uprising were nipped in the bud) nip a scandal in the bud (Ana) destroy; *ruin, wreck; *exterminate, extirpate, wipe: *injure, damage, spoil

blasphemous 2 blasphemous, profane, sacrilegious

blasphemy

ana cursing, damning, exebringating, anathematizing, objurgating (see Exebrate): *irreligious, ungodly, godless

Ant reverent

blasphemy

ana analogous words Ana antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
bleaze vb Blaze, flame, flare, glare, glow are comparable both as verbs meaning to burn or appear to burn brightly and as nouns denoting a brightly burning light or fire. Blaze implies great activity in burning, the thorough kindling of the burning substance or material, and the radiation of intense light and often heat (the sun blazed down upon them with a crushing violence—Forester) everyone fought fire. Everyone went to the woods and thrashed out some new blaze—Vorse (her eyes blazing in her white face—Stevenson) Flame suggests a darting tongue or tongues of fire formed by rapidly burning gas or vapor; it therefore often connotes less steadiness than blaze and sometimes less intense heat and light (the burning house was soon a mass of flames) (the torches flamed in the wind) (the dry fuel soon burst into flame) (dimmed hope’s newly kindled flame—Shelley) Flare implies flame, especially a flame darting up suddenly against a dark background or from a dying fire (torches that guttered and flared—Howlett) he . . . lighted a cigarette and then remembered that the flare of the match could probably be seen from the station—Anderson—Glare (see also Gaze) emphasizes the steady emission or reflection of bright light; it sometimes connotes an almost unendurable brilliancy (dazed by the lantern glare—Kipling) (the snow glares in the sunlight) (the glare of a forest fire in the sky) (he . . . lets the fire glare on the sullen face for a moment, and it sears itself into the memory forever—J. R. Lowell) (his days were passed in the glare of publicity—Buchan) Glow also stresses the emission of light, but it suggests an absence of flame and therefore connotes steadiness, intensity, radiance without brilliancy, and often warmth and duration (the glow of coals) (her fine effect of glowing from within as a lamp glows—Mary Austin) (the fire that burned within him, that glowed with so strange and marvelous a radiance in almost all he wrote—Huxley) Ana illuminate, illumine, light: burn: flash, gleam, glance bleach vb *whiten, etiolate, decolorize, Blanch Ant dye bleak cheerless, dispiriting, *dismal, dreary, desolate Ana *cold, chilly, frigid, freezing: barren, *bare, bald: stripped, denuded (see strip vb) blemish n Blemish, defect, flaw all denote an imperfection. Blemish applies to something (as a spot or stain) that is external or superficial and mars or disfigures the appearance of an object (on their sustaining garments not a blemish—Shak.) (he sturdily perfected nature by correcting all the little blemishes of manner and little weaknesses of character in order to produce an immaculate effect—Parrington) (a reputation without a blemish—Holmes) (blind Milton was dictating the last books of Paradise Lost to his amanuensis—Altick) (if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch—Mr 15:14) It is as often employed in an extended sense, especially as implying a lack of the mental, moral, or spiritual vision essential to the perception or discernment of what actually exists or what is really true (His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness . . . But he that lacketh these things is blind—2 Pet 1:3-9) (expose the merits to me if you think me blind—Justice Holmes) Blind is also applicable to things devoid of intelligence or of ability to know whether they are moving or tending (blind, mechanical forces of society—Wilde) or to acts, emotions, and attitudes which are the result of or which produce mental, moral, or spiritual blindness (blind terror) (blind acceptance of authority) or to something (as a space or a structure) that is so dark or obscure or obstructed that one cannot see through, into, or around it (a blind wall) (blind alley) (a blind corner) Sightless is sometimes the preferred term when permanent total blindness is implied (the sightless Homer) (rehabilitation of the sightless and partially blind—Current Biol.) Purlblind is disused in the sense of totally blind (purlblind Argus, all eyes and no sight—Shak.) but it persists in the sense of nearly blind, or without sight enough to do one’s work or make one’s way successfully (purlblind with cataracts, he gets a living by misprinting, by hand, a four-page paper—Gerald Kersh) More usually, purlblind implies the imperfection or even the absence of mental, moral, or spiritual vision and usually connotes obtuseness or shortsightedness that comes from ignorance, stupidity, or indifference being—Guérard> Ana blot, stain, *stigma: tainting or taint, pollution, defilement (see corresponding verbs at contaminate): *fault, failing, frailty: *lack, want, privation Ant immaculateness—Con purity, simplicity (see corresponding adjectives at pure): cleanliness, cleanliness (see corresponding adjectives at clean): clearness, transparency, pellucidity (see corresponding adjectives at clear) blemish quail, shrink, *recoil, flinch, wince Ana evade, elude, avoid, shun, eschew, *escape: tremble, quiver, shudder, quake, *shake Con *bear, suffer, endure, abide, stand blend vb fuse, *mix, merge, coalesce, mingle, commingle, amalgamate Ana combine, unite, conjoin (see join): integrate: consolidate, unify, *compact Ant resolve—Con *analyze, break down: *separate, part, divorce: decompose, disintegrate (see decay) blend n *mixture, admixture, compound, composite, amalgam blessed *holy, sacred, divine, spiritual, religious Ana accused blessedness beatitude, bliss, *happiness, felicity Ana enjoyment, fruition, joy, *pleasure Ant misery, dolor—Con suffering, *distress, agony: woe, anguish, *sorrow, grief bright n blast, nip (see under blast vb) Ana *injury, damage, hurt, harm: frustration, thwarting (see corresponding verbs at frustrate) bright vb *blast, nip Ana *injure, damage, hurt, harm, spoil: *maim, cripple, batter: *frustrate, thwart blind adj Blind, sightless, purblind mean lacking or deficient in the power to see or to discriminate objects. Blind is used to imply absence or deprivation or gross restriction of the power of vision, either by congenital defect or as a result of disease or of an injury to the organs of vision (the very years when the blind Milton was dictating the last books of Paradise Lost to his amanuensis—Altick) (if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch—Mr 15:14) It is as often employed in an extended sense, especially as implying a lack of the mental, the moral, or spiritual vision essential to the perception or discernment of what actually exists or what is really true (His divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness . . . But he that lacketh these things is blind—2 Pet 1:3-9) (expose the merits to me if you think me blind—Justice Holmes) Blind is also applicable to things devoid of intelligence or of ability to know whether they are moving or tending (blind, mechanical forces of society—Wilde) or to acts, emotions, and attitudes which are the result of or which produce mental, moral, or spiritual blindness (blind terror) (blind acceptance of authority) or to something (as a space or a structure) that is so dark or obscure or obstructed that one cannot see through, into, or around it (a blind wall) (blind alley) (a blind corner) Sightless is sometimes the preferred term when permanent total blindness is implied (the sightless Homer) (rehabilitation of the sightless and partially blind—Current Biol.) Purlblind is disused in the sense of totally blind (purlblind Argus, all eyes and no sight—Shak.) but it persists in the sense of nearly blind, or without sight enough to do one’s work or make one’s way successfully (purlblind with cataracts, he gets a living by misprinting, by hand, a four-page paper—Gerald Kersh) More usually, purlblind implies the imperfection or even the absence of mental, moral, or spiritual vision and usually connotes obtuseness or shortsightedness that comes from ignorance, stupidity, or indifference A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
blind 105 blossom

⟨the intolerable narrowness and the purblind conscience of the society—George Eliot⟩ ⟨in Washington purblind congressmen, sensitive only to the demands of big business, fastened . . . the McKinley tariff—Nevins & Commager⟩

Con seeing, perceiving, discerning, noticing, noting (see see): *aware, alive, conscious, sensible, cognizant, awake

blind n Blind, shade, shutter mean a device that serves as a screen for a window. Blind is used especially in British countries to designate a window covering, usually of fabric and operating on a roller, that shuts out the sunlight or at night prevents those outside from seeing in. In this sense shade is more usual in the United States. The use of the term blind as an element of or as a shortened form for venetian blind is common both in American and British countries. Venetian blind refers to a flexible inside curtain composed of light and narrow laths fixed on tapes which may be raised or lowered as desired and whose laths may be opened or closed according to the amount of light needed. But blind (or blinds, since a pair of the devices is usually fitted to a single window) is used chiefly for a device fitted on the outside or on the inside of a window, made of a wooden frame with slats that are movable or fixed, and typically hinged at the side so that when opened it lies flat against the outside wall or folds into an inner recess of the window frame. This device is also called a shutter. But shutter is actually a more inclusive term and implies a device that can be shut (as to exclude light, rain, or wind, to insure privacy, or to make safe against intruders). The term therefore includes such devices as those made of solid panels whether used singly or in pairs or sets to each window, and whether left permanently in place or hung when desired ⟨storm shutters⟩ ⟨hurricane shutters⟩ ⟨each night the shopkeeper put up his shutters⟩

blink vb *wink

Ana ignore, disregard, overlook, slight, *neglect: evade, elude, avoid, shun (see escape)

Con *see, note, notice, observe, remark

bliss beatitude, blessedness, felicity, *happiness

Ana enjoyment, joy, delectation, fruition, *pleasure: rapture, ecstasy, transport


blihe jocund, *merry, jovial, jolly

Ana gay, *lively, animated, vivacious, sprightly: joyful, joyous, lighthearted, *glad, happy, cheerful: buoyant, effervescent, volatile (see elastic)

Ant morose: abstrалиval —Con sad, depressed, dejected, gloomy (see corresponding nouns at sadness): *sullen, glum, dour, saturnine: *melancholic, melancholy

blockvb obstruct, bar, dam, impede, *hinder


Con *advance, forward, further, promote

blockade n Blockade, siege are comparable when denoting an attempt of a belligerent force to break down the resistance of the enemy by preventing egress or ingress of men or entrance of supplies over a considerable period of time. Blockade is used chiefly of an attempt made to close a port, harbor, or coast, especially by effectively investing it with warships or with mines so that fresh supplies (as of food, fuel, and ammunition) are cut off from the enemy ⟨run a blockade⟩ ⟨raise a blockade⟩ (the allied blockade of the North Sea avenues to the German coast during the war) Siege is applied chiefly to a military as opposed to a naval attempt. The term implies investment with troops on all sides of a fortified place (often a city). It also suggests, as blockade does not, frequent assaults by the besieging forces as efforts to compel surrender ⟨the siege of Troy⟩ ⟨the siege of Vicksburg in the American Civil War⟩

blockade vb *besiege, beleaguer, invest

Ana *close, shut: block, impede, obstruct (see hinder): *enclose: *surround, environ, encircle

bloodless anemic, *pal

Ana *colorless, uncolored: wishy-washy, vapid, inane (see insipid)

Ant sanguine: plethoric —Con vital, alive, *living: vivid, *graphic: *vigoristic, lusty, nervous

bloody, sanguinary, sanguine, sanguineous, gory are comparable when they mean affected by or involving the shedding of blood. Bloody may be used in place of any of the succeeding words, but it specifically and distinctively applies to that which is covered with blood or is actually or apparently made up of blood ⟨a bloody knife⟩ ⟨bloody hands⟩ ⟨a bloody discharge from a wound⟩ Sanguinary and bloody are also when a simpler, more forcible word is desired apply to something attended by or someone bent upon bloodshed ⟨a sanguinary conflict⟩ ⟨sanguinary deeds⟩ ⟨my thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth—Shak⟩ ⟨a bloody battle⟩ Sanguine and sanguineous are used chiefly in a literary context in place of either of the preceding words or specifically implying an association with the invisible blood extract or the color of blood ⟨to find his way through the sanguine labyrinth of passion through which he was wandering—Wilde⟩ ⟨his passion, cruel grown, took on a hue fierce and sanguineous—Keats⟩ Gory sometimes suggests clotted blood, but more often it suggests a profusion of blood that testifies to slaughter ⟨a gory fight⟩ ⟨never shake thy gory locks at me—Shak⟩

bloom n flower, blow, blossom (see under blossom vb)

bloom vb flower, blow, *blossom

Ana flourish, thrive, prosper (see succeed)

blossom n flower, bloom, blow (see under blossom vb)

blossom vb Blossom, bloom, flower, blow are comparable as verbs when meaning to become florescent and as nouns when meaning the period or state of florescence or (except for blow) meaning the florescent part itself. Blossom may be used of a plant that reaches the condition of florescence, but typically it applies to trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants (and to their florescent parts) that normally proceed to bear what is ordinarily (not technically) called a fruit ⟨the cherry trees are in blossom⟩ ⟨the apple trees will blossom next month⟩ ⟨the tomatoes have shed their blossoms⟩ Bloom, though sometimes employed interchangeably with blossom, is typically used of such herbaceous plants, shrubs, or trees (or their florescent parts) as have reached the height of their beauty during the period of florescence ⟨the roses are in bloom⟩ ⟨the iris is blooming⟩ ⟨the rhododendron has blooms in early June in this locality⟩ Flower in technical use as a noun refers to the part of a seed plant which normally bears reproductive organs; in popular use it is usually restricted to such part when its gross structure is showy and conspicuously colored or white. Fragrance, freshness, shortness of life or of beauty are the implications in the popular use of the noun and the verb that distinguishes flower from bloom chiefly but also from blossom; also flower is often thought of as apart from the plant where it has grown ⟨a bouquet of flowers⟩ ⟨the rambler’s period of flowering is short⟩ ⟨one after another the garden plants flowered, but always in the meantime some had faded⟩ (as for man, his days are: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth—Ps 103:15) ⟨full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air—Gray⟩ ⟨there can be no perfect flower without fragrance—Symons⟩ Blow, in this

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>bluejacket</em></td>
<td>mariner, sailor, seaman, tar, gob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluff</td>
<td>blunt, brusque, curt, crusty, gruff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueprint</td>
<td>sketch, draft, tracing, plot, diagram, delineate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>cry</em></td>
<td>weep, wail, keen, whimper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blubber</td>
<td>blub, lumph, lollop, bumble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blow</td>
<td>blossom, bloom, flower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blot</td>
<td>stigma, brand, stain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blush</td>
<td>flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>bluff</em></td>
<td>mean, rude, uncivil, unpolite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

A colon colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
boast vb Boast, brag, vaunt, crow, gasconade mean to give vent in speech to one's pride in oneself or something (as family, connections, race, or accomplishments) intimately connected with oneself. Boast and vaunt are often used transitorily as well as intransitorily; the other words are chiefly intransitive. Boast is the general term; it may or may not carry a suggestion of contempt or impute exaggeration, ostentation, or vaingloriousness to the boaster. What folly then to boast what arms can do!—Milton (The Wretch...abors the craft he boasted of before—Cowper) He was childishly anxious to boast that he had walked the whole of the six or seven miles—Mackenzie) Brag is more forceful than boast and carries a stronger implication of exaggeration and conceit; it often also implies glorying in one's superiority or in what one can do as well as in what one is, or has, or has done (Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade—Shak) (Even when they brag, their eyes are generally self-mocking, mildly wise—Lord) (That we may brag we have a lass, there's none again sae bonie—Burns) Vaunt is more literary than either of the preceding terms and implies habitual or extravagant self-vaunting (Vaunted with pride)—Kersh Gasconade is the least common of these terms and implies habitual or extravagant self-vaunting (an enlightened statesman and not a gasconading militarist—Bowers)

Analogous Words

Analogous Words

Analogous Words

Analogous Words

Analogous Words

Analogous Words

Analogous Words

Bogglé vb stickle, stick, strain, scrape, *demur, balk, jib,
bogus adj *counterfeit, spurious, fake, sham, pseudo, pinchbeck, phony

Ana fraudulent, deceitful, deceptive (see corresponding nouns at IMPOSTURE): duping, hoaxing, gulling, hoodwink- ing (see DUPE)

Con *authentic, genuine, bona fide, veritable

boil n *abscess, furuncle, carbuncle, pimple, pustule

boil vb Boil, seethe, simmer, parboil, stew mean to prepare (as food) in a liquid heated to the point where it emits considerable steam. Boil implies the bubbling of the liquid and the rapid escape of steam; it may be applied to the liquid alone, but usually it suggests a fast method of accomplishing an end (as cooking or cleansing) <boil water> (the water is boiling) <boil eggs> <boil clothes> Seethe differs only slightly from boil. It emphasizes the subjection of something to the influence of a boiling liquid in order to cook it thoroughly or to make an infusion of it <tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe—Exod 16:23> This difference, though slight, is also apparent in extended senses of boil and of seethe, for boil suggests a sudden rise and ebullition <he boiled with anger> and seethe suggests the agitation and turmoil which follows a cause of excitement <the crowd was seething with excitement> Simmer suggests that the liquid is at the point of boiling; it implies less steam and less bubbling than boil and is used, therefore, to denote a gentle and slower form of cooking <corned beef should be simmered, not boiled> <simmer milk> Parboil usually implies boiling for a limited time to prepare some food for further cooking (as by roasting or frying) <parboil potatoes prior to roasting them with beef> <parboil a chicken before frying it> Stew implies long slow simmering, usually in a closed vessel; it is used especially in reference to meats or fruits cooked until they are tender or broken up <stew beef and kidneys together> <stew fruit for dessert>

boisterous obstreperous, clamorous, blatant, *vociferous, strident

Ana sporting, brawling, rollicking, frolicking, gambling (see PLAY vb): *unruly, ungovernable: *indecorous, unseemly


bold *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, valorous, dauntless, daunted, doughty, audacious

Ana daring, reckless, venturesome, *adventurous, daredevil, rash, foolhardy: mettlesome, *spirited: fearless, unpresuming, unafraid (see affirmative adjectives at FEARFUL)

Ant cowardly —Con *timid, timorous: quailing, flinch- ing, shrinking, recoiling (see RECOIL)

bolster vb prop, *support, sustain, buttress, brace

Ana *strengthen, reinforce, fortify: uphold, champion (see SUPPORT)

bombard assail, storm, assault, *attack

bombast, rhapsody, rant, fistian, rodomontade all designate a style of speech or writing characterized by high-flown pomposity or pretentiousness of language disproportionate to the thought or subject matter. All of them are derogatory in some degree; some of them are frankly contemptuous. Bombast does not necessarily connote emptiness of thought, but it implies inflation or a grandiosity or impressiveness in language and style which so outruns the thought that the attention is distracted from the matter and concentrated upon the manner of expression. When used in description rather than in censure, bombast often additionally suggests a soaring eloquence or a kind of oratorical grandeur, such as is found in Marlowe’s Tamburlaine the Great or is characteristic of Elizabethan drama in comparison with modern realistic drama; when used in deprecation, it suggests padding, windiness, verbosity, and exaggeration (to outweigh better pens with the swelling bombast of a bragging blank verse—Nash) (their eloquence is all bombast—Kingsley) (it looks like mere “rhetoric,” certainly not “deeds and language such as men do use.” It appears to us, in fact, forced and flagitious bombast—T. S. Eliot) Rhapsody, like bombast, may be scarcely or obviously derogatory. It designates an ecstatic or effusive utterance or writing in which the language or style is governed by the feelings rather than by logical thought. It may, at one extreme, suggest inspired utterance (as in rapture) or, at the other, a maudlin loquaciousness (O then my breast should warble airs, whose rhapsodies should feast the ears of seraphims—Quarles) (his characters... are excellently drawn, but he writes as though he had uncovered a new religion and thought it deserved a rhapsody—New Yorker) In scholarly and critical use it is often applied to a kind of writing that has no perceptible argument and is seemingly incoherent, yet moves by a kind of logic of its own from one expression of feeling or one image to another (the traditional assumption that it [Kubla Khan] was a rhapsody of enchanting images which “led to nothing”—Times Lit. Sup.) Rant and fistian are definitely terms of derogation. Both are applicable to bombast and rhapsody at their worst, but rant stresses its extravagance or violence of expression or utterance and fistian the banality of its quality or the preposterousness of its character (the hoarse rant of that demagogue fills the air and distracts the people’s minds—Ascoli) (he, whose fistian’s so sublimely bad, it is not poetry but prose run mad—Pope) (romantic fistian; which may be defined as the enormous disproportion between emotion and the outer object or incident on which it expends itself. Victor Hugo abounds in fistian of this kind—Babbitt) Rodomontade is applied especially to the rant of the bragart, of the demagogue, or of anyone given to bluster and magniloquie (the brothers set about abusing each other in good round terms and with each intemperate sally their phrases became more deeply colored with the tincture of Victorian rodomontade—Marsh)

Ana grandiloquie, magniloquence, rhetoric (see corresponding adjectives at RHETORICAL): inflatedness, turgidity, timidity, flatulence (see corresponding adjectives at INFLATED)

Con temperativeness or temperance, sobriety or sobriety, unimpassionedness (see corresponding adjectives at SOBER): dispassionateness, justness (see corresponding adjectives at FAIR)

bombastic grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical, aureate, flowery, euphistic

Ana *inflated, turgid, timid: verbose, diffuse, *wordy: eloquent, voluble, fluent, articulate, *vocal


bona fide *authentic, genuine, veritable

Ana true, *real, actual: *reliable, dependable, trust- worthy: *pure, absolute, simple, sheer

Ant counterfeit, bogus —Con simulated, feigned, pretended, affected, ashamed, assumed (see ASSUME)

bond adj *bound, indentured, articulated

Ant free —Con emancipated, manumitted, liberated, freed (see FREE vb): independent (see FREE adj)
bond n 1 Bond, band, tie all denote something which serves to bind or bring two or more things firmly together, but they differ from each other not only in implications but in their specific applications. Bond often retains its basic implication of restraint upon the freedom of the individual. It may be applied to a restraining device (as a rope, a chain, a fetter, or a manacle) which prevents a prisoner from escaping or, more broadly, to something that interferes with one's liberty and holds one down (it has been said that only the dying man is free, for death breaks every bond). But bond is equally applicable to something that connects or brings together two individuals (persons or things) or all the individuals comprising a group or mass into a stable union. In this sense the term may and often does refer to a connection that is primarily spiritual; occasionally, especially when the plural is used, there is also a hint of restraint or constraint (the bond of faith) (the bond of fellowship) (the bonds of a common tradition) (the religion of the Greeks) [was] . . . the bond of their political life—Dickinson] Band (see also strip) may imply, like bond, a restraint, a fastening, or a connection, but it more usually also implies something mucro in the form of a flat and narrow piece of material often one that forms a hoop or ring; thus, a band around the hair is worn to confine the hair and may be a ribbon with ends tied together or a hoop or half hoop (as of metal or plastic); an endless strip of rubber or elastic material is called a rubber band; a hooplike piece which holds together two parts of a structure (as the barrel and stock of a gun or two sections of a pillar) is called a bond: also, a straight member of a wall (as continuous moldering, a frieze, or a strip of brickwork in a different pattern) often serves not only as an ornament but also as a union or connection between two sections of the wall or structure, and is therefore called in architecture a band. Tie basically applies to a bond or band for fastening or restraining which is of a flexible substance (as rope, cord, or string) and can be secured by knotting the loose ends together or one end to the thing fastened and the other to its support. Consequently, in extended use, tie tends to suggest a less integral union and often more flexibility in the connection than bond, which it otherwise closely resembles; thus, one breaks the bond of friendship but one severs the tie of friendship; the ties of blood suggest the pull exerted by blood relationship, but the bond of blood suggests an obligation or a duty. Tie, as applied to specific fastenings or connections, is used chiefly when the object of the connection is not (as in bond) to form into an integral unit or (as in band) to keep closely united or together but to bring together two things that are affected by common forces so that when they are subjected to strain or tension they will not spread or pull apart; thus, the transverse bars on which rails rest and which serve to keep the rails equidistant from each other are called ties: a piece (as a beam, a post, or a rod) which connects two parts or sides of a structure (as the ribs of a vessel or the two sides of a pointed arch) and serves to brace and stay the whole is called a tie. 2 surety, security, bail, *guarantee, guaranty bondage *servitude, slavery boner blunder, mistake, *error, howler, bull, slip, lapse, faux pas bonny comely, pretty, good-looking, fair, lovely, *beautiful, handsome, beauteous, pulchritudinous Ana pleasing, agreeable, *pleasant: attractive, charming, captivating (see under ATTRACT) Ant homely bonus bounty, *premium, reward, guerdon, award, prize, meed bon vivant gastronome, gourmet, gourmand, *epicure, glutton Ant ascetic bookkeeper, accountant, auditor. A bookkeeper keeps a regular, concise, and accurate record of business transactions by making the proper entries in the various books of account for that purpose. An accountant is a person skilled in the art of bookkeeping and may be employed either to organize and set up a system of records suitable to the needs of a particular organization or to investigate and report upon the financial condition of an organization by a study and analysis of its books of record. An auditor is an examiner who checks and verifies the financial records of an organization to see that these records correctly represent its condition. boon favor, *gift, present, gratuity, largess Ana benefaction, *donation, contribution Ant calamity —Con *misfortune, mischance, mishap: *trial, cross, tribulation, affliction boor, churl, lout, clown, clodhopper, bumpkin, hick, yokel, rube are comparable when meaning an uncouth, ungainly fellow. Most of these words may be applied to rustics, but they tend increasingly to imply reference to breeding, manners, and appearance rather than to origin or social status. The same distinctions in connotations and implications are apparent in the adjectives derived from the first four of these nouns, boorish, churlish, loutish, clownish. Boor implies an opposition to gentleman, especially in respect to characteristics indicative of good breeding and fineness of feeling. As a rule boor and boorish imply variously rudeness of manner, insensitiveness, lack of ceremony, or unwillingness to be agreeable in the presence of others (love makes gentlemen even of boors, whether noble or villain—Henry Adams) (to the European mind, with all its goodwill, the very things that make us more powerful make us also more boorish—Lerner] Churl may suggest low birth or social status but more often ill-bred surly meanness of expression or attitude. The latter implication is far more common in the adjective churlish, which characteristically implies surliness, irresponsiveness, or ungraciousness (warns all whom it concerns, from King to churl—John Morley) (by what magic wasit that this divine sweet creature could be allied with that old churl —Meredith) (they object to the dairymaids and men crossing the elm vista . . . . It seems churlish—Shaw] Lout and loutish apply especially to hulky youths or men without regard to origin and usually suggest stupidity, clumsiness, and sometimes, abruptness of bearing or demeanor. Both words are terms of contempt frequently applied to idlers or loafers of particularly unprepossessing appearance (it was inevitable that the older boys should become mischievous louts; they bullied and tormented and corrupted the younger boys because there was nothing else to do—H. G. Wells] Clown and clownish come close to lout and loutish in connotation. Instead of stupidity, however, the terms often connote ignorance or simplicity and instead of hulkeness they suggest the unguainliness of a person whose body and movements reveal hard plodding labor (the clown, the child of nature, without guile—Cowper) When used in reference to those who are not countrymen the terms still imply reference to rustics and awkwardness and often, by association with the other sense of clown, a propensity for absurd antics (he was the sort of boy that becomes a clown and a lout as soon as he is not understood, or feels himself held cheap—D. H. Lawrence] Clodhopper distinctively suggests the frame and the heavy movements generally associated with plowmen but is not restricted in application to rustics (though hon-
est and active they're most unattractive and awkward as awkward can be—can be. They're clumsy clodhoppers—Gilbert> Bumpkin implies a loungish suggestiveness of unfamiliarity with city ways and manners <bashful country bumpkins—Irving> Hick comes close to bumpkin and suggests the unsophisticated simple rustic <chicks of the hinterlands mistrusting city politicians> Yokel and rube more particularly suggest a rustic lack of polish or an obtuse gullibility <his mouth was agape in yokel fashion—Crane> <always a new crop of rubes waiting to be tricked out of their money>

Ant gentle

boorish loutish, clownish (see under BOOR>

Ana *awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept: *rude, dis
courteous, ungracious, uncivil, impolite, ill-mannered

Ant gentlemanly —Con *sauve, urbane, smooth: courteous, courtly, gallant, polite, *civil

boost vb *lift, raise, elevate, hoist, rear, heave

bootleg

booty *spoil, loot, plunder, prize, swag

bootless

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

of a possibility or risk of abrupt transition (as from one state to another) <a policy that brought the nation to the brink of war> <on the brink of a horrible danger—Wilde>

Ana *limit, bound, confine, end

Con inside, interior (see corresponding adjectives at INNER>

bore vb *perforate, drill, puncture, punch, prick

Ana penetrate, pierce, *enter

boredom *tedium, ennui, doldrums

Ant amusement —Con diversion, entertainment, recreation (see under AMUSE>

boring *irksome, tiresome, wearisome, tedious

Ana *dull, humdrum, monotonous, dreary, stodgy, pedes

trian

Con *interesting, absorbing, engrossing, intriguing: exci
ting, stimulating, provoking or provocative (see corre
sponding verbs at PROVOKE>

botch vb *Botch, bungle, fumble, muff, cobble mean to han
dle or treat awkwardly or unskilfully. Botch may imply repairing or mending, but it frequently implies a making or forming by patching or by putting together out of pieces. It consistently suggests incompetence and a spoiling or marring of the thing produced, whatever its character <botch a job> <an assemblage of ill-informed gentlemen who have botched every business they have ever undertaken—Shaw> <the suit was vilely botched and skimmed . . . and now it was too late to remedy the defect—Wolfe>

Bungle implies ignorance, ineffectualness, or clumsiness in design or execution or an inability to use materials with skill or competence <the plans were badly bungled> <he has completely bungled the matter> <some singularly excellent recordings side by side with some pretty bungled ones—P. H. Lang> <some Occupation officials said and did stupid things, and inexpience led to bungling—Sat. Review>

Fumble stresses clumsy or unskilful use of the hands especially in uncertain attempts to reach, take, or grasp something or in groping in the dark for something <a football player who seldom fumbles> <recovered himself, fumbled with his cap, and made a bow—Dickens> <his old fingers fumbling absurdly for the beard which wasn't there—Mary Austin> <so she fumbled about in the dim light, and brought her brother his bread and butter and meat—Deland>

Occasionally it suggests the awkward uncertainty not of hands or fingers but of mind or soul <a hesitant speaker fumbling for the right words> <never fumbling with what she has to say, never . . . imperfectly presenting her thought—Arnold>

Muff, a word much used in sports, especially implies an unskilful performance or a bad play (as in catching a ball, firing a shot, or wielding a golf stick) <muff a stroke> <he muffed the ball> Consequently muff in more general use often means to fail by bungling or fumbling <muff an opportunity> <he muffed his chances for the nomination>

Cobble is much like botch, though it basically implies the mending or patching of shoes; in more general use it stresses a patching or putting together of something in a crude or clumsy manner <even generous critics . . . attribute to him a limit in narrative tration (see under AMUSE)

creation (see corre
sponding verbs at PROVOKE>

MAIM): wreck, ruin

Ana patch, mend, repair: *treat, handle: mutilate (see MAIM): wreck, *ruin

bother vb vex, *annoys, irk


Ant comfort —Con solace, console (see COMFORT): appease, placate, *pacify, mollify, propitiate

bottom vb *base, found, ground, stay, rest

Ana *support, sustain: *set, fix, establish

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

*limit, confine, end, term

**bound, bond, indentured, artificed**

*bounce
dismiss, drop, sack, fire, discharge, cashier

*bough
jump, leap, spring, vault (see under JUMP)

*bouquet

*bracket

1 vb stint, turn, trick, tour, *spell, shift, go

2 vb *impression, impress, imprint, print

*broad

*brave

*braid

*brave

infinite, uncircumscribed, illimitable, eternal,

*bow
defy, *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent,

*bowl

*bow

award, reward, meed, guerdon, prize, *premium,

*bought

couple, pair, yoke

*brace, pairs

*bout

*beyond

*bounce

*bough
one might refer to the *valorous deeds of a *valiant band of knights (the regiment itself is a proud one, with a *valorous record—*Infantry Jour.) *Dauntless* emphasizes determination, resolution, and fearlessness despite danger or difficulty (the *dauntless* English infantry were receiving and repelling the furious charges—*Thackeray*) (nothing appalled her *dauntless* soul—*Beckford*) *Undaunted* indicates continued courage and resolution after danger, hardship, or defeat (he watched them at the points of greatest danger falling under the shots from the scorpions, and others stepping *undaunted* into their places to fall in in the same way—*Froude*) *Doughty* combines the implications of formidable, sturdy, and brave but may have an archaic or humorous suggestion (he was reaching the bend of the stairs leading to the boardroom, the *doughty* president of the endangered railway knocked him down to the ground floor—*Charles & Mary Beard*) (so *doughty* a warrior must break a lance—*Parrington*) *Bold* may indicate a forward or defiant tendency to thrust oneself into difficult or dangerous situations (it was a *bold* man who dared to walk alone through hundreds of miles of lion-infested country with nothing but a spear in his hand to seek work and adventure—*Cloete*) (these fellows who attacked the inn tonight—*bold*, desperate blades, for sure—*Stevenson*) (he knew a fool and a tyrant in high places, and was *bold* to call them by their true names—*Parrington*) When used of immaterial things (as plans, experiments, or deeds) *bold* suggests a disregard for danger, risk, or convention (a *bold* scheme to corner the wheat market) *Audacious* implies spirited and sometimes reckless daring (the place where the fiery Ethan Allen first sketched his *audacious* move against Ticonderoga—*Schulberg*) (hitherto no liberal statesman has been so *audacious* as to . . . lay pro-fane hands on the divine right of nations to seek their own advantage at the cost of the rest—*Veblen*) *Ana* daring, venturesome, daredevil, *adventurous* (heroic, gallant (see corresponding nouns at *heroism*): plucky, gritty (see corresponding nouns at *fortitude*)) *Ant* craven — *Con* *timid*, timorous: shrinking, flinching, blenching (see *recoil*) *vb* *brave* vb dare, defy, beard, *face*, challenge *Ana* confront, *meet*, encounter: oppose, combat, *resist*, fight *bravo* *assassin*, cutthroat, gunman *brawl* n *Brawl*, broil, fracas, melee, row, rumpus, scrap are comparable when meaning a noisy fight or quarrel. *Brawl* implies angry contentions, blows, and a noisy racket; it usually suggests participation by several persons (a family *brawl* that kept the neighbors awake) (street *brawls*) (a howling *brawl* amongst vicious hoodlums—*Stafford*) *Broil* stresses disorder, confusion, and turmoil among the combatants more than the disturbance they cause others. The term may be used contemptuously in place of *war, conflict*, or *controversy* (plunging us in all of the *brols* of the European nations—*Jefferson*) but it is more often used of a violent fight or quarrel where the issues are not clear or significant or where the opponents are not clearly distinguished (but village mirth breeds contests, *brols*, and blows—*Shelley*) *Fracas* is applicable to a noisy quarrel or excited disturbance whether leading to blows or not; the term does not suggest as much vulgarity or as many participants as *brawl*, but it may imply as much noise and excitement (they were hot-tempered, frequently embroiled in quarrels. John Adams, after such a *fracas*, listed his new enemies in his diary—*C. D. Bowen*) * Melee* applied to a more or less disorganized hand-to-hand conflict or to a dispute which resembles such a combat. In many instances the emphasis is so strongly on confusion and mix-up that the implication of combat or contention is weakened or lost (the calmness of the platform was transformed into a *meler*. Little Constance found herself left on the fringe of a physically agitated crowd which was apparently trying to scale a precipice surmounted by windows and doors—*Bennett*) *Row* is applicable to a demonstration or fight, whether a quarrel, a squabble, or a dispute, that is so public or so noisy as to attract attention (during the recent *row* over atomic-energy legislation their feuding was epic—*Friendly*) *Rumpus* suggests even greater agitation and disturbance than *row*, for it usually connotes an uproar (you incur my serious displeasure if you move one inch in this contemptible *rumpus*—*Scott*) *Scrap* usually suggests a physical tussle but often implies little more than a noisy, sharp quarrel (the boys are good friends, but they have many a *scrap*) *Ana* conflict, fight, fray, fray, *affray* (see *contest*) (contention, dissension, strife, *discord*: wrangle, altercation, *quarrel*, squabble: uproar, racket, *din*, hubbub, clamor *bravyn* *muscular*, burly, husky, sinewy, athletic *Ana* stalwart, *strong*, sturdy, stout, tough: *fleshy* *Ant* *scrawny* — *Con* lanky, lank, gaunt, rawboned, *lean*, spare, skinny: *thin*, slender, slight, slim *brazen* shameless, brash, impudent *Ana* callous, *hardened*, indurated: insolent, arrogant (see *PROUD*): rash, reckless (see *ADVENTUROUS*): bold, audacious (see *BRAVE*) *Ant* bashful — *Con* *shy*, diffident, modest, coy: *timid*, timorous: stealthy, surreptitious, underhand, *secret* *breach* n 1 *Breach*, infraction, violation, *transgression*, trespass, infringement, contravention are comparable when denoting the act or the offense of one who fails to keep the law or to do what the law, one's duty, or an obligation requires. *Breach* occurs rarely by itself except in phrases such as “a law more honored in the *breach* than in the observance.” The word is usually followed by of and a noun or pronoun which indicates the thing which is broken or not kept (his action constitutes a *breach* of faith) (he was found guilty of *breach* of the peace by reason of his noisy, disorderly, and annoying conduct) (sued for *breach* of contract) *Infraction* is now more often used than *breach* (except in certain time-honored idioms) for a breaking of a law or obligation (an *infraction* of the school rules) (an *infraction* of a treaty) (an *infraction* of canon law) (we have scrutinized the case, but cannot say that it shows an *infraction* of rights under the Constitution of the United States—*Justice Holmes*) *Violation* adds to *breach* and *infraction* the implication of flagrant disregard of the law or of the rights of others and often suggests the exercise of force or violence; thus, the *violation* of a treaty suggests positive, often aggressive and injurious action, while its *infraction* may imply a mere failure strictly to adhere to its terms (a *violation* of military discipline) (the police interference was a *violation* of the right to free assembly) (when more of the people's sustenance is exacted through the form of taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of Government . . . such exactation becomes ruthless, arbitrary, and a *violation* of the fundamental principles of a free Government—*Cleveland*) *Transgression* is applied to any act that goes beyond the limits prescribed by a law, rule, or order; often the term is used specifically of an *infraction* of the moral law or of one of the commandments (for sin is the *transgression* of the law—1 Jn 3:4) "I was forgetting," she said. "I am forbidden tea." . . . She looked at the cup, tremendously tempted. . . . An occasional *transgression* could not harm her—*Bennett*) *Trespass* also implies an overstepping of prescribed bounds, but it carries in addition a strong implication of encroachment upon the rights, the comfort, or the prop-
break

broad

Two Break, break, split, schism, rent, rupture, rift are comparable when they mean a pulling apart in relations or in connections. **Break** is the most general in application of any of these terms, is capable of being referred to any such pulling apart in itself, as apart from the context, throwing light on its cause, its magnitude, or its seriousness (a breach in unity) (widen the breach between old friends) (having followed the high banks of the Tom to the furthest extremity...they happily found a breach in the inclosure—Kingston) (it may be one man's privilege and duty to heal the breach between the Arab and the Jew—Douglas) **Break** (see also **break n**) is often substituted for **breach** when one wishes to emphasize the strain that is inducing or has induced a disruption (as between persons or groups) (efforts to avoid an open breach with the conservative faction) (the break was final, and there was no course open for the nation except war) Split usually implies a complete breach, suggesting a division such as would be made by an ax or knife; often, also, it hints at the impossibility of bringing together again the two parts (as parties or factions) that once formed a whole. **Split** often implies a division of friends or friendly groups into opposing parties or factions (a major split between the United States and most of the rest of the free world—Bundy) (I fear the split betwixt Constable and Cadell will render impossible what might otherwise be hopeful enough—Scott) **Schism** implies a clear-cut separation between divisions of an original group and consequent discord and disunion between the two parts; typically the term is used of such a division in a religious communion, but it may be applied to any union of rational beings (as a political party or a philosophical school) (he succeeded in dividing the American Quakers into two bodies; and this schism...lasted on till the present year—Inge) (a school of libertarians arose with all the mad consequence of schism and heresy—Blackmur) **Rent** suggests an opening made by tearing or rending and may impute characteristics (as irregularity, jaggedness, and narrowness) to a break to which it is applied (thy stately mansion, and the pride of thy domain, strange contrast do present to house and home in many a raggy rent of the wild Peak—Wordsworth) (through the wide rent in Time's eternal veil, hope was seen beaming—Shelley) (a rent in the social fabric—Millstein) **Rupture** approaches **break** in meaning, but it carries a more clearly defined stress upon a break in relations between people or groups; in addition, it frequently is affected by its special medical use and then often suggests an actual but not always clearly apparent break (mother and son avoided an open rupture by never referring to their differences—Santayana) (it was still the policy of the Cardinal...to carry on the convention that he had not provoked any direct rupture with Vienna—Bello) **Rift** implies a breach that is made usually by some natural process (as one that produces a separation of rocks in a mountain or a cracking of the earth); consequently it is often applied to a breach that is small at first and is in danger of growing larger (this little rift it was that had widened to a now considerable breach—H. G. Wells) (it is the little rift within the lute, that by and by will make the music mute—Tennyson) (it was, I believe, the terrible Wars of Religion that made the fatal rift between religion and science which we are now trying to close—Inge) **An** division, severance, separation (see corresponding verbs at separate); dissension, *discord, difference, variance, strife: estrangement, alienation (see corresponding verbs at estrange) **Con** union, *unity, solidarity, integrity: accord, *harmony, concord

bread, bread and butter sustenance, *living, livelihood, subsistence, maintenance, support, keep

break vb Break, crack, burst, burst, bust, snap, shatter, shiver are comparable as general terms meaning fundamentally to come apart or cause to come apart. **Break** basically implies the operation of a stress or strain that will cause a rupture, a fracture, a fissure, or a shattering either in one spot or in many (break a dish by dropping it) (break a bone) (the column broke when subjected to too great a weight) (a flood resulted when the dam broke) But break goes much further than this. Often, with or without the help of an advverb, it suggests the disruption of something material or immaterial, either in whole or in part. It may then imply a collapsing or causing to collapse (the wagon broke down) (break the enemy by the only methods possible—starvation, attrition, and a slow, deadly...envelopment—Buchan) (his spirit was broken) Similarly it may imply a destruction of completeness, integrity, or wholeness; thus, one breaks a set of china by losing or destroying one or more pieces of the set; one breaks a ten-dollar bill by spending part of it and getting the remainder in smaller bills or coins (break a solid group into factions) With the same underlying notion it may imply a destruction of continuity (as by interrupting, terminating, or disintegrating) (break a circuit) (break a journey) (break his silence) (break up a friendship) (it was the only time that day he saw her pale composure break—Cather) Sometimes the sense of disruption is not obvious, and the idea of piercing so as to let someone or something make entrance or exit predominates (broke his way through the crowd) (break a new path) (break the news gently) (she had just broken into her fiftieth-year—Woolf) Most common of the senses that bear only a slight relation to the primary sense of **break** is one that implies violation or transgression (**break** the law) (**break** the Sabbath) (call in edict, should be capable of being **broken** for special reasons—Russell) Basically crack means to make the sudden, sharp sound characteristic of a breaking of something brittle (as ice, bone, or glass). It is often applied with this denotation to things which make a similar sound yet do not necessarily break (**crack** a whip) (**the

Analogous words: **bread, break, split, schism, rent, rupture, rift**

Antonyms: **contraven-**

Contrasted words: **split schism**

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
break

break n 1 Break, gap, interruption, interval, hiatus, lacuna all denote a lapse in continuity. Break applies not only to a lapse in continuity in something material or substantial (a break in geological strata) (a break in the clouds) (he tried to find a break in the fence) but also in things (as a course of action or something having extension in time) that may be considered in reference to their continuity (he ran the long race without a break) (the book was written with no breaks except for eating and for sleeping) (a holiday makes a pleasant break in routine) (there was no break in the long, cold winter) (yet he felt that he was going away forever, and was making the final break with everything that had been dear to him—Caithor) Gap basically applies to an opening (as in a wall or fence) made either by natural decay or by deliberate effort as a means of ingress or egress; the term may also include an opening (as a gash between mountains) that serves as a passage inward or outward (the breaks in the Great Wall of China) (Gap) Gap in commerce is the term for that in representing either a break in continuity or in leaving an unfilled or unfillable space (here's our chief guest. If he had been forgotten, it had been as a gap in our great feast—Shak.) (so that the jest is clearly to be seen, not in the words—but in the gap between—Cowper) (a fatal gap in our security structure—Truman) (one would like to cling to the old-fashioned theory that there is a gap between accusation and proof—Schlesinger b. 1917) Interruption implies a break that not only makes for a lapse in continuity but that disturbs the procedure (as of an action, a work, or a discourse) and causes a temporary stop or that, less often, makes a void or gap in space or order (the growing infirmities of age manifest themselves in nothing more strongly, than in an invertebrate dislike of interruption—Lamb) (those who hope to render themselves . . . oblivious to the harsh interruptions of reality—Day Lewis) (the mountain range continues without interruption until it meets the sea) Interval refers to the distance (as in time or in space) that exists between two things that are basically alike; the term often serves simply as a basis for measuring or suggesting this distance (at present, perhaps, it was as well to be asunder. She was in need of a little interval for recollection—Austen) (how soft the music of those village bells falling at intervals upon the ear in cadence sweet—Cowper) (there stretches on either side of the rivers . . . a region of hills and lakes and swamps among which the farms are only upland intervals—Canby) Interim applies to the interval between two events (as the death or abduction of a sovereign and the accession of his successor or the discarding of one method and the instituting of another) many contended that the death of the queen regent in the incessant chasseur or void from Pesaro and her marriage to Bisceglie was sired by Cesare—Beuf) (in a healthy mind there is an interim between one duty and another—Crothers) Hiatus applies mainly to an interruption or lapse in time or continuity, and so implies that something important or essential is missing (Charles II had been restored to his kingdom . . . after an enforced hiatus of twelve years—Abernethy) (we are likely to be disconcerted by . . . hiatuses of thought, when certain links in the association of ideas are dropped down into the unconscious mind—Edmund Wilson) ("The war," they said, "has caused a hiatus, and thought has broken with tradition"—Rose Macaulay) Lacuna may stress the vacancy of a gap or void (fills a lacuna in our knowledge as to the whereabouts of many manuscripts—Gohdes) (one of the rare lacunae in this map—Lebon) and is often

break

thunder cracks) (this voice cracked) Crack more frequently implies a breaking of something hard or brittle or of something also hollow, often with a sudden sharp sound and usually without a separation of the parts (the dish was cracked, not broken) (cracking nuts between two stones) (the mirror was cracked by the explosion) (the sound of cracking glass) (the thin ice cracked under the skater's weight) Occasionally it implies merely the breaking of something that has grown dry or parched (heer has made his lips crack) (the prolonged drought has caused the earth to crack) Burst usually implies a breaking (as into pieces) with a scattering of contents by the force of internal pressure (burst a blood vessel) (the boiler burst under too great pressure) (bombs bursting in air—Key) (the willow scarde holds the sap that tightens the bark and would burst it if it did not enlarge to the pressure—Jefferies) Sometimes the implication is merely the sudden release or the likelihood of such release of something seeking utterance but hitherto suppressed or held back (burst into laughter) (bursting with suppressed merriment) (burst into tears) Sometimes a breaking under tension, under concussion, or through limitations is the only implication that the word carries (burst the beams which held him) or it may stress the violence of the force that burst the door or the suddenness with which someone or something comes out in (the lilacs burst into bloom) (she burst into the living room) (the news of the attack burst upon the nation) Burst may be used informally in place of burst especially in the sense of to break under the strain of pressure, of tension, or of concussion (this westernmost province . . . is beginning to burst its industrial britches—Wall Street Jour.) Snap fundamentally implies a quick, sudden effort to seize (as by biting or by snatching at), but usually this action is accompanied by a short sharp sound (as a report or a click). Hence snap is often used to imply the action of breaking or bursting when the intent is to suggest a quick, clean-cut break and the sharp sound which accompanies it (branch after branch snapped during the storm) (a string of his violin snapped) (sharp the link of life will snap—Housman) Shatter literally implies a breaking into many pieces, but unlike burst, which emphasizes the cause, it stresses the effect, a scattering of the pieces far and wide, and a total destruction of the thing involved (the flying debris shattered the window) (shatter a rock by an explosion of dynamite) (a down) Sometimes the implication is merely the sudden release or the likelihood of such release of something seeking utterance but hitherto suppressed or held back (burst into laughter) (bursting with suppressed merriment) (burst into tears) Sometimes a breaking under tension, under concussion, or through limitations is the only implication that the word carries (burst the beams which held him) or it may stress the violence of the force that burst the door or the suddenness with which someone or something comes out in (the lilacs burst into bloom) (she burst into the living room) (the news of the attack burst upon the nation) Burst may be used informally in place of burst especially in the sense of to break under the strain of pressure, of tension, or of concussion (this westernmost province . . . is beginning to burst its industrial britches—Wall Street Jour.) Snap fundamentally implies a quick, sudden effort to seize (as by biting or by snatching at), but usually this action is accompanied by a short sharp sound (as a report or a click). Hence snap is often used to imply the action of breaking or bursting when the intent is to suggest a quick, clean-cut break and the sharp sound which accompanies it (branch after branch snapped during the storm) (a string of his violin snapped) (sharp the link of life will snap—Housman) Shatter literally implies a breaking into many pieces, but unlike burst, which emphasizes the cause, it stresses the effect, a scattering of the pieces far and wide, and a total destruction of the thing involved (the flying debris shattered the window) (shatter a rock by an explosion of dynamite) (a bolt of lightning shattered the oak tree) Consequently, especially as applied to intangible things, shatter consistently implies a far more devastating and destructive effect than break; thus, "his health was broken by the experience" means that it was seriously impaired, but "his health was shattered by the experience" means that it was impaired beyond the point of complete recovery (the shattering of his illusions) (the pathetic groanings after the fragments of a shattered faith—Day Lewis) (the Great War shook civilization to its base. . . another conflict on the same scale would shatter it—in) The legend of Rome's invincibility had been shattered—Buchan Shiver, a chiefly rhetorical term, implies a shattering by dashing, smashing, or any usually external force (he shivered his part of the case to useless lumber—Dickens) Ana disintegrate, crumble (see DECAY): *detach, dis-
used specifically of a blank in a text (as of a manuscript or inscription) where a few words have been omitted or effaced (translated the whole work anew, and succeeded in filling many lacunae in the text—Megger). In anatomical use the term more often stresses the minuteness than the vacuity of a gap (as a pit or chamber) (cartilage cells are isolated in scattered lacunae).

**Analyze** (see those at BREACH 2)

3 chance, *opportunity, occasion, time

**break down** *analyze, resolve, dissect

Con concatenate, articulate, *integrate

**breakdown** n analysis, resolution, dissection (see under ANALYZE)

**breastwork** *bulwark, bastion, parapet, rampart

breed vb *generate, engender, propagate, reproduce, procreate, beget, sire, get

breed n *variety, subspecies, race, cultivar, strain, clone, stock

**breeding** cultivation, *culture, refinement

* tact, address, poise, savoir faire: *courtesy, amenity, gallantry: grace, dignity, *elegance

Ant vulgarity — Con boorishness, churlishness (see corresponding adjectives under BOOR): grossness, coarse- ness (see corresponding adjectives at coarse): rudeness, discourtesy or discourtesy, ungraciousness (see corresponding adjectives at RUDE)

**breeze** *wind, gale, hurricane, zephyr

bridle vb *check, curb, *restrain, inhibit

Anna repress, *suppress: *govern, rule: control, direct, manage (see CONDUCT)

Ant vent — Con *express, utter, air, voice, ventilate 2 bristle, *strut, swagger

Anna plume, preen, pique, *pride

Con grovel, *wallow: cringe, cower (see FAWN): wince, *fume of (lambent —Con)

**brief** adj Brief, short are the most comprehensive adjectives in English meaning not long. Brief refers primarily to duration: short, to either duration or linear extent (a brief interview) (a short sermon) (a short distance) (a short legs) As applied to duration, brief and short are sometimes complete synonyms (a brief struggle) (a short battle) But short frequently suggests incompleteness, curtailment, or sudden stoppage, and brief sometimes implies condensation (he cut his speech short) (he made his speech as brief as possible) As applied to linear extent, brief is facetious and means extremity short (a brief skirt)

Anna *transient, fleeting, passing, momentary, short-lived: *concise, terse, succinct, laconic, pithy: compacted or compact, concentrated (see corresponding verbs at compact): shortened, abbreviated, abridged, curtailed (see SHORTEN)

Ant prolonged, protracted — Con lengthened or lengthy, extended or extensive, elongated (see corresponding verbs at extend)

**brief** n abstract, epitome, *abridgment, synopsis, con spectus

**brief** adj 1 Bright, brilliant, radiant, luminous, luminous, effulgent, refugent, beaming, lambent, lucent, incandescent are comparable when they mean actually or seemingly shining or glowing with light. Bright implies an opposition to dim or dull; it applies chiefly to things that vary in the degree in which they shed light or are pervaded by light, according to circumstances; thus, when used in reference to a fire or burning material (as coals), it suggests a good draft and flames; when used in reference to a day, it implies lack of clouds, fog, smoke, or other obstacles to the passage of sunlight (a bright sky) (a bright star) (a bright sword) (bright eyes) (a bright color)

**Brilliant** (see also INTELLIGENT) implies conspicuous or intense brightness; it also often connotes scintillating or flashing light (a well-cut diamond is the most brilliant of gems) (the sun is too brilliant for the human eye) (a brilliant smile) (Madame Olenska's face grew brilliant with pleasure—Wharton) (what one saw when one looked about was that brilliant blue world of stinging air and moving cloud— Cather) **Radiant**, in contrast with bright and brilliant, stresses the emission or seeming emission of rays of light; it suggests, therefore, a property or power possessed by a thing rather than a quality ascribed to it because of its effect on the vision; thus, a celestial body is properly described as radiant only when it emits rays of light; a planet, no matter how bright it appears to the eye, is preferably described as bright or brilliant because it shines by reflected light (Virtue could see to do what Virtue would by her own radiant light, though sun and moon were in the flat sea sunk—Milton) The term, however, is sometimes used of anything that seems to give out light in the manner of the sun or a star (in warlike armor drest, golden, all radiant—Shelley) **Luminous**, like radiant, suggests emission of light, but, unlike it, implies the sending forth of steady suffused glowing light; it is applicable to anything that shines by reflected light or that glows in the dark because of some special quality (as of physical state or chemical activity); thus, all celestial bodies are luminous, but only self-luminous bodies (stars in the strict astronomical sense) are also radiant (Phosphorus is a luminous substance) As applied to color or to colored things the term implies more than bright, for it usually suggests a jewel-like quality (the luminous green of the emerald) or iridescence (the blue off Nantucket is not the miracle of luminous, translucent color off Sardinia—Lowes) As applied to ideas or their expression, the term implies crystallike clearness and the absence of all obscurity (a luminous treatment of a subject) (a luminous statement—Brougham) **Lustrous** is applied only to an object whose surface reflects light; it therefore seldom implies perversing light but, rather, a brilliant or iridescent sheen or gloss (the lustrous brass of a burned lamp) (a lustrous enameled surface) (lustrous satin) **Effulgent** and refugent indicate resplendent or gleaming brilliance, and the latter implies further that the brilliance is reflected, sometimes from an unseen source (effulgent loveliness) (a chandelier of refugent crystal) (in arms they stood of golden panoply, refugent host—Milton) **Beaming** literally implies emission of a beam (see beam under ray) (rising moon, fair beaming, and streaming her silver light the boughs amang—Burns) In its commonest use (as applied to looks or expression) beaming suggests a display of happiness, satisfaction, or benevolence (the beaming eyes of children greeting Santa Claus) (broad beaming smile—George Elliot) **Lambent** is applied to a thing (as a flame or a luminous body) which throws a play of light over an object or surface without rendering it brilliant or lustrous (the lambent flame of genius . . . lights up the universe—Hazlitt) (lambent lightning-fire—Shelley) Often lambent suggests the emission of soft gleams of light (kind, quiet, nearsighted eyes, which his round spectacles magnified into lambent moons—Deland) Lucent is a highly poetical or literary adjective that approaches luminous or, less often, lustrous in its meaning; it is usually applied to something transfigured by light (as from the sun or a fire) (the lucent fume of...
the sky’s smoke rising up—Mackenzie> (till every particle glazed . . . and slowly seemed to turn tolucent amber—Gibson> Incandescent suggests intense glowing brightness of or as if of an intensely heated body <pots incandescent in the kiln> (an incandescent lamp> set thoughts aglowing in incandescent language—Ilesias> Ana illuminated, illuminated, lighted, lightened, enlight-ened (see illuminate); flashing, gleaming, glistening, sparkling (see flash vb); glowing, flaming (see blaze vb> Ant dull; dim —Con dusky, murky, gloomy, *dark, obscure: *colorless, uncolored: *pale, pallid, ashen, livid 2 smart, quick-witted, brilliant, clever, *intelligent, knowing, alert> 

Ant *sharp, keen, acute: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: precocious, advanced (see premature)> Ant dense, dull —Con *stupid, slow, crass, dumb: *lethargic, sluggish: phlegmatic, stolid, *impassive> brillian* 1 radiant, luminous, *bright, effulgent, lustrous, refugent, beaming, lambent, luminet, incandescent> Ana flashing, scintillating, sparkling, gleaming, glittering, coruscating (see flash vb); blazing flaming, flaring, glowing (see blaze vb> Ant subdued (of light, color) —Con gloomy, murky, obscure, dim, dusky (see dark)> 

2 *intelligent, clever, bright, smart, alert, quick-witted, knowing> Ana erudite, *learned, scholarly: sage, sapient, *wise> Ant crass —Con *stupid, slow, dull, dense, dumb> brim rim, edge, brink, *border, verge, margin> bring, take, fetch are comparable but not interchange-able when used in the sense of to convey from one place to another. Bring implies carrying, leading, or trans-porting to a distance from the point where the speaker or agent is or will be; take, a carrying, leading, or con-ducting to a point away from the one where the speaker or agent is or will be; thus, a mother asks her boy setting out for school to take a note to the teacher and to bring home a reply; a farmer takes his cattle to the market and brings back a supply of sugar, flour, and fresh meat. Fetch implies going to a place where something is to be found, getting it, and bringing it back to the starting point <please fetch me a chair from the next room> I shall fetch whatever you need> he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand—I Kings 17:10-11> 

Ana bear, *carry, convey: obtain, procure, *get> Ant withdraw, remove> brin* verge, edge, *border, rim, margin> Ana *limit, bound, end, confine: *shore, strand, coast> brisk nimble, *agile, sry> Ana *fast, quick, rapid, fleet, swift, speedy: ready, prompt, *quick: dynamic, live, *active> Ant sluggish —Con *lethargic, torpid, comatose: *lazy, indolent, slothful, fainthearted: *inactive, inert, idle> bristle vb bridle, *strut, swagger> Ana preen, plume *pride, pique: evince, manifest, *show, evidence: flaunt, parade, display, exhibit (see show)> Con conceal, *hide, bury> brette* crisp, *fragile, frangible, short, friable> Ana *hardened, indurated> Ant tingle —Con *elastic, resilient, springy, flexible: tough, terebrant, *strong, stout> broach vb voice, utter, *express, vent, air, ventilate> Ana *reveal, disclose, divulge: *introduce, interject, interpose> broad adj Broad, wide, deep are comparable chiefly when they refer to horizontal extent. Broad and wide apply to surfaces or areas as measured from side to side <a picture two feet wide> and deep (see also deep) to those as measured from front to back <a closet that was narrow but deep> Broad and wide always and deep in some in-stances may be used of surfaces that spread away from one: thus, a river may be wide or broad (but not deep, which would here refer only to vertical distance) at a given point, but a flower border may be four feet wide, broad, or, if the far side is not ordinarily accessible, deep. When a plot of ground or similar area is measured, broad or, especially, wide is used of the distance from one side to the other and deep of that from front line to back line (the lot is 70 feet wide and 100 feet deep)> Broad and wide are frequently interchangeable when used descriptively to mean having relatively great extent across or from side to side <a broad or wide street, ribbon, margin> But broad commonly applies only to surfaces or areas as such <a broad leaf> (a broad-headed tack) > Broach-shouldered> Wide applies also to apertures or to something that opens or spreads. Wide, therefore, is the preferred term when the emphasis is upon the distance between limits rather than on the extent of the intervening surface <a wide gash in his arm> a wide opening> (a wide view) > (the doorway is four feet wide)> Deep in similar descriptive use, when it carries an implication only of horizontal extent, is applicable only to something that has great extent backward (as from an opening or from the front) <a deep forest> a deep cavern> a deep lot> 

Ana extended or extensive (see corresponding verb at extend): *spacious, capacious, commodious, ample: vast, immense (see huge): expanded, dilated (see expand)> Ant narrow —Con confined, circumscribed, limited, restricted (see limit vb)> broadcast vb *1 strew, straw, scatter, sow> Ana *spread, circulate, disseminate, propagate> 2 promulgate, publish, advertise, announce, *declare, proclaim> 

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

Brobdignag* huge, vast, immense, enormous, ele-phantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantic, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic> Ant littiputan> 


brui* crush, mash, smash, squash, macerate> Ana batter, mangle, *maim: *press, squeeze> bruise n *wound, contusion, trauma, traumatism, lesion> brush vb *Brush, graze, glance, shave, skin are comparable when they mean to touch lightly in passing. Brush implies a movement like the flick of a brush upon a surface: sometimes it suggests no more than an almost impalpable touching, but sometimes it suggests a light touching or rubbing that disperses something that it touches <ye tinsel Insects! whom a court maintains .... The Muse's view) <fair dewy roses brushed against our faces—Keats> the roof—Pollet> their eyes met and brushed.
like birds’ wings—F. S. Fitzgerald.> Grace implies the swift passage of a bullet or any rapidly moving object so that it touches a person or thing abrading the surface or, in the case of a person, the skin whose solid virtue the shot of accident nor dart of chance could neither graze nor pierce—Shak.> (the bullet grazed the young lady’s temple—Scott) (the missile grazed the spot where the shrike sat, and cut the ends of his wings—Burroughs).> Glance (see also Flash) basically implies a blow (as from a sword, a spear, or an ax) that owing to the hardness or resistance of what is struck turns aside or slips and so fails of its full effect; hence glance in its participial form glancing is often used to describe such a blow either in its course or effect (he struck a glancing blow) (the blow glanced off his shoulder without even jarring him) (the blade glanced, I did but shear a feather—Tennyson). Shave implies a touching as lightly and closely as a razor that passes over the face; although it comes near to graze, it carries no implication of abrasion but rather in some contexts suggests a dangerous approach or a narrow escape (now shaves with level wing the deep, then soars like birds’ wings—Gilbert) (three hansom shaves him by an inch—Barrie). Skim (see also FLY) also implies a light touch in passing (kingfishers . . . darted across the water, their wings just skimming the surface—Walden) but it never suggests the action of anything (as a bullet, a razor, or a weapon) that is even slightly dangerous; rather it suggests an avoidance of depths by someone or something that touches upon the surface or dips only into shallows (skim a book in reading) (I am pleased to skim along the surfaces of things—Wordsworth).> Ana touch, contact (see corresponding nouns at CONTACT): *scatter, disperse, dispel: *slide, slip, glide> brush n. skirmish, *encounter> bristled, blunt, gruff, *bluff, crusty> brute, brutish, bestial, beastly, feral are not close antonyms.> Ana sensual, animal, fleshly, *carnal: *coarse, gross, vulgar: *stupid, dull, dense, crass: barbarous, savage (see BARBARIAN).> Con humane, humanitarian (see CHARITABLE): gentle, mild (see SOFT): chivalrous, courteous (see CIVIL).> brutish adj: *brutal, brutish, bestial, beastly, feral> Ana inanimate, lifeless, *dead: inert, supine, *inactive: impotent, *powerless> brutish *brutal, brute, bestial, beastly, feral> Ana dull, dense, crass, *stupid: sluggish, comatose, lethargic: stolid, *impassive, apathetic> Con *intelligent, alert, quick-witted: responsive, sensitive, impressionable (see SENTIENT).> buccaneer *pirate, freebooter, privateer, corsair> buck n. dude, *top, dandy, beau, coxcomb, exquisite> buckle vb *flex, crook, bow> Ana *break, crack, snap, burst: bend, twist, *curve> bucolic pastoral, *rural, rustic> Ana boorish, loutish, clownish, churlish (see under BOOR): *natural, simple, naive, ingenuous> Ant urbane> buffet vb *baste, pummel, *beat, pound, belabor, thrash> Ana *strike, smite, hit, slap, slug: batter (see MAIM).> bugbear bête noire, *abomination, anathema> build vb Build, construct, erect, frame, raise, rear are comparable when they mean to form or fashion a structure or something comparable to a structure. Build strictly implies the putting together of parts (as the materials should be combined in order to gain the desired result—S. S. Van Dine) (often followed by up) may suggest an analogy between the material thing and an edifice especially by implying an adding of part to part or bit to bit in the attainment of an end (build up a man’s ego) build up a fortune bit by bit (build a theory, on slight evidence) (often followed by up) (build a ship) When used in reference to something immaterial (build a cathedral) (build a shack) (the robins built their nest in the fork of a tree) (build a battle-ship) (the manual labor, involved but the problem involved in the fitting together of parts. Construct therefore emphasizes the discovering by the mind of how the parts or the materials should be combined in order to gain the desired end. To build is the work of men who use their hands or by analogy their brains to bring something into being:...
to construct is the work of men who use their brains, though sometimes their hands in obedience to their brains, to solve the problem of how a thing should be or is built or made or brought into being; hence construct implies composition or design and may take as its object anything brought into material or immaterial existence by one or the other process (construct a plot) (construct a dam) (the mind of the scientist constructs its own world—Inge) (each constructed and consolidated a realm—Belloe) Construct is also often used as the opposite of destroy without a specific reference to these implications (it is proverbially easier to destroy than to construct—T. S. Eliot) (roughly speaking, we construct when we increase the potential energy of the system in which we are interested, and we destroy when we diminish its potential energy—Russell) Erect basically means to set upright. Although the term may carry this as its essential meaning (erect a flagpole) (the cobra erected itself to strike) it was early applied to high structures and has accordingly come to imply building in its most usual sense. The word is often used in place of build without any marked implication of putting together parts and materials (many huge factories erected during the war now stand idle) but it always carries some suggestion of the sense of to set up (as by building or establishing) (erect a statue to his memory) (erect a scaffold) (a very much denser obstruction is in the process of being erected now by literary critics—Day Lewis) Frame approaches construct but in respect to physical structures more specifically applies to the bringing together and joining of parts (as sills, plates, and joists) that define the form of the final structure (a cottage framed of pine and sheathed with cedar) In extended use it throws the stress upon a forming or fashioning to suit a design, an intention, a purpose, or the facts and may be applied to anything so constructed (frame an answer) (frame a hypothesis) (picture him excuses framing—going from her far away—Gilbert) (all those who have framed written constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation—John Marshall) (it is in order to overcome these obstacles that the notes and questions in this volume have been framed—Notes and Queries on Anthropology) Raise and rear (see also LIFT) often replace build, especially when the idea of height is emphasized (now after this he build a wall without the city . . . and raised it up a very great height—2 Chron 33:14) (those arts which were destined to raise our Gothic cathedrals—Coulton) (this tower; it is my own; though it was reared to Beauty—Millay) Ana fabricate, fashion, manufacture (see MAKE): produce, turn out, yield, *bear Ant unbuild, destroy —Con demolish, raze (see DE-STROY) *ruin, wreck build n * physique, habit, constitution Ana * form, figure, shape, conformation, configuration: *structure, framework: contour, *outline: style, *fashion building n Building, edifice, structure, pile are comparable when they mean a construction (as of wood, brick, or stone) intended to house a family, business, or an institution. Building is the common and in most cases the adequate term (a school building) (a new building going up) (the buildings of the temple—Mt 21:41) Edifice usually applies to large and elegant buildings (should I go to church and see the holy edifice of stone . . . ?—Shak) Structure retains more frequently than the others the sense of something constructed, often in a particular way (a tumbledown structure) (a modern steel structure) Like edifice, structure is often used of buildings of some size or magnificence (the civic auditorium . . . is the city's most important public structure—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) Pile is a somewhat literary term for a very large building or sometimes a cluster of buildings especially of stone; it usually suggests a public or official structure (as a palace, a cathedral, or a government building) (contrast between the vast pile of the cathedral and the pygmy men in the street—Laski) bulge vb Bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude, project, overhang, beetle mean to extend outward beyond the usual and normal line. Bulge suggests a swelling out in an excessive or abnormal fashion; it may be used when the impression to be given is that there is an imperfection, a defect, or a cause of strain that explains the swelling (the wall bulged in the center) (above her boots . . . the calves bulged suddenly out—Bennett) (good little Fyne's eyes bulged with solemn horror—Conrad) Jut (often with out) and stick out do not imply abnormality as a rule but construction, formation, or position that permits a thing to extend outside or beyond the flat line of a surface (rocks jutting from the water) (the nun took Father Latour to a window that jutted out and looked up the narrow street—Cather) (one building stuck out from the straight line made by the next) Protrude, which is currently much less used than the corresponding adjective protuberant and the corresponding noun protuberance, implies a swelling or sticking outward (as in a rounded or angular prominence); it does not differ greatly from bulge, but it often carries less implication of something radically wrong (the point of his elbows markedly protuberated) Protude implies a thrusting forth especially in an unexpected place: it applies especially to something that does not seem to belong or that sticks out obviously (whenever a small tuft of heather . . . protruded itself through the grass . . . and entangled her feet—Hardy) (through the leaves . . . a slender dead stem protruded, and from a twig at its summit depended a broken spider's web—Hudson) (the great rollers piled up on the sandy beach where great boulders protruded here and there—Heiser) In literal use project is more often intransitive, though in extended uses it is chiefly transitive. Intransitively it may mean to jut out or to protrude (the eaves usually project far beyond the roof in semitropical and tropical climates) (this great rimrock, which projected out over the erosions like a granite shelf—Cather) In its transitive use, however, it carries implications of throwing or casting forward both in literal use (project a shadow) (project the colors from a prism upon a wall) and especially in extended use when it refers to thoughts, conceptions, or feelings; thus, one projects not only his ideas or thoughts but his powers (as of imagination or comprehension), as if by throwing them out, so that they reach their goal effectively (one couldn't formulate and express one's ideas and project them into that space of charming, inconsequent talk, that swept on gaily over anything one said—Rose Macaulay) (all the knowledge we possess . . . is of the past, and the further back we can project our vision, the more comprehensive, the more thorough, the more efficient is that knowledge—Grandgent) Often the idea of extending beyond the usual and normal line gives way to other implications derived especially from psychology, mathematics, and magic, and the word then means simply to externalize or to free oneself from (project one's thoughts) (she projected her own guilt into the other person—Overstreet) Both overhang and beetle imply a jutting out over the support or base; overhang sometimes connotes a threatening position, while beetle often suggests precariousness or ominousness (then lend the eye a terrible aspect . . . let the brow o'erwhelm it as fearfully as doth a galled rock o'erhanging bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude, project, overhang, beetle
and jutty his confounded base—Shak.> {an overhanging roof} <beetling brows> {the dreadful summit of the cliff that beetles o'er his base—Shak} {an isolated hill that beetled over the western edge of the ridge—Cather}

**Bulge** n protuberance, *projection, protrusion

*Con* cavity, hollow, *hole, pocket

**Bulk** n Bulk, mass, volume mean a body of usually material substance that constitutes a thing or unit. Bulk is applied mainly to what is or appears to be inordinately large or heavy {the bulk of ancient minister—Wordsworth} and often more or less shapeless or unshapely {on the living sea rolls an inanimate bulk—Shelley} {a blue night set with stars, the bulk of the solitary mesas cutting into the firmament—Cather} {Dr. Lanskell sank his gouty bulk into the armchair behind his desk—Wharton} Mass is applied mainly to something, whether material or immaterial, that is or gives the appearance of being built up by the piling or gathering together of things of the same kind so that they cohere and have a real or apparent unity {the towering mass of the Sierras} {pieces of obsolete science, imprisoned ... in the solid mass of a religious creed—Inge} {the mass [of people] never comes up to the standard of its best member, but on the contrary degrades itself to a level with the lowest—Thureau}

**Volume** usually applies to something that flows and is therefore without outline and often continuous in extent {a tremendous volume of water} {a volume of gas poured into the room} {it [the voice] rose through a volume} {of water} <a

*Ana* swell, distend, dilate, *expand |
*Huge, gigantic, colossal, mammoth, elephantine, *form, figure, shape |

Of gas poured into the room) <it [the voice] rose through a volume) <a

*Ana* huge, gigantic, colossal, mammoth, elephantine, enormous: corpulent, obese, portly, *fleshy: burly, husky (see MUSCULAR) |
*Con* petite, diminutive, *small, little |

**Bull** 1 blunder, howler, boner, mistake, *error, slip, bump, *stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, flounder, lumber, bump |

are comparable when they denote a structure above the ground that forms part of a fortification and is specifically intended for purposes of defense. **Bulwark** is the most general and the least technical of these terms. It is or has been applied to various defensive structures (as a wall intended to keep out an enemy, a structure of logs, earth, or stones from behind which defenders can safely attack besiegers or an assaulting force, and a breakwater or sea wall). The term is also extended to a person or a thing regarded as a firm, steadfast, or powerful defense or defender {he stood, the bulwark of the Grecian band—Pope} {the support of the State governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies—Jefferson}

**Breastwork** applies chiefly to a structure of earth, often hastily thrown up and usually only a few feet in height, behind which defenders may crouch or stand so as to fire their guns from a protected position {the mud breastworks had long been leveled with the earth—Irving} Rampart and para-

*petite, diminutive, *small, little |

*Cat her y* beetled that 

**Bulldoze** bully, browbeat, *intimidate, cow

*Ana* *threaten, menace: terrorize, terrify, *frighten: worry, harass, harry

**Bulldozer** bully, browbeat, *intimidate, cow

*Ana* cajole, wheedle, blandish, *small, little |

*Con* cajole, wheedle, blandish, *cock |

**Bulldozed** pigheaded, stiff-necked, stubborn, mulish, *obstinate, dogged, pertinacious

*Bully* vb bulldoze, browbeat, *intimidate, cow

*Ana* torment, rack, torture (see AFFLICT): *threaten, menace: terrorize, terrify, *frighten, scare

*Ant* coax —*Con* wheedle, cajole, blandish {see COAX}: *lure, entice, inveigle, decoy

**Bulwark** n Bulwark, breastwork, rampart, parapet, bastion

*Ana* analogous words *Ant* antonyms *Con* contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Victor Emmanuel clashed sharply, and on these occasions it was usually the King who won—Times Lit. Sup. 〈when the new demands of our changing economic life clash with the old dogmas—Cohen〉 Collide denotes a more or less direct running together or against with a definite and often destructive force or shock 〈the tanker sank after it collided with the freighter〉 or it may indicate a forceful direct disagreement or opposition 〈an English East India Company was using the Portuguese route around Africa and colliding with the Portuguese in India—Barr〉 Conflict is archaic in senses involving physical contact and is used to convey the notion of variance, incompatibility, or opposition 〈conflicting testimony by two witnesses〉 〈to stand up amid conflicting interests—Wordsworth〉

**bunk***
hit, *strike, smite: impinge, jolt, jar (see correspond-
ing nouns at IMPACT)

**bumpkin***
hick, yokel, rube, clodhopper, clown, lout, *boor, churl

**bundle***
1 *group, cluster, parcel, lot
2 *bundle, bale, parcel, pack, package, packet
An assembly of articles bound or rolled together 〈a bundle of papers〉 〈a bundle for the laundry〉 〈a bundle of old clothes〉 A bundle is a collection of things, usually of the same sort, fastened closely together in orderly fashion 〈a bunch of violets〉 〈a bunch of radishes〉 A bale is a large bundle of goods bound up for storage or transportation and especially one composed of materials (as rags, hay, straw, cotton, or wool) which are closely pressed together so as to form a mass, usually rectangular, tightly bound with stout cord or wire, and often wrapped in paper or burlap. Because there is in various localities a uniform size for a bale of a certain commodity, the word often also implies an average or approximate weight 〈a United States bale of cotton weighs approximately 500 pounds〉 Parcel (see also PART) implies a state of being wrapped and tied and a small or moderate size, and it carries no suggestion of the number or kind of things so wrapped and tied 〈a shopping bag for parcels〉 〈loaded down with parcels〉 〈send parcels through the mail〉 Pack implies more careful and more compact arrangement than bundle; specifically it denotes a conveniently packed bundle of goods or supplies that is carried on the back (as by a peddler, a soldier on the march, or a mule). A package is specifically something packed (as in a box or receptacle of moderate size or in a compact bundle) especially for convenience in sale or transportation 〈an express package〉 〈a package of envelopes〉 〈candy in the original package〉 〈package goods〉 It may also be applied to a group of intangibles (as contracted services or performances) forming, offered, or dealt with as a unit 〈sell them a . . . complete package 〈lot, house, equipment and financing in a single transaction—Guthheim〉 〈a series of treaties and agreements forming a single package—Fay〉 A packet is a small package or parcel 〈a packet of letters or dispatches〉

**bun***
*nonsense, twaddle, drivell, balderdash, poppycock, gobbledygook, trash, rot, bull

**buoyant***
volatile, expansive, resilient, effervescant, *elast

**burden***

**bumpkin***
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
capacity to receive (charge a battery) To this sense have been added new connotations especially of loading beyond a capacity to receive or to contain so that the word now often implies a burdening, an overloading, or a weighing down (the youth was too charged with emotion to speak—Merideth) (songs . . . must not be too charged with meaning . . . or they will fail of their effect—Binyon) (all the . . . elemental processes of nature, all the changing, yet abiding physiognomy of earth and sky, were charged for psalmist and prophet with spiritual significance—Lowes) Saddle usually implies the imposition of a burden or encumbrance, ordinarily by another, though sometimes as a result of one's own fault (he is saddled with cares because of a hasty marriage) (by what mismanagement . . . had a project like this been saddled with Lord Comfrey as chairman?—Jan Struther) (saddling the nation with restrictive laws—New Republic) Ana oppress, *depress, weigh: *crush, mash Con lighten, alleviate, mitigate, *relieve: *moderate, temper

burden n substance, purport, gist, core, pith Ana *subject, matter, subject matter, theme, text, topic burdensome oppressive, *onerous, exacting Ana *heavy, ponderous, cumbersome, cumbrous, weighty: *iksome, wearsome: fatiguing, exhausting, fagging, tiring (see tire): arduous, *hard, difficult Ant light —Con *easy, facile, simple, smooth, effortless

burglar thief, robber (see under Theft) Ana stealer, pilferer, filcher, purloiner (see corresponding verbs at steal): plunderer, looter, rifler (see corresponding verbs at rob) burglarize *rob, plunder, rifle, loot Ana *steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, pinch, snatch, cop, swipe: sack, pillege, *ravage, despoil burglarly theft, larceny, robbery

burlesque n caricature, parody, travesty Ana mimicry, mockery, imitation (see corresponding verbs at copy): *fun, jest, sport, game: satire, sarcasm, humor, *wit: derision, ridicule (see corresponding verbs at ridicule) burlesque vb caricature, parody, travesty (see under caricature n) Ana mimic, ape, mock, imitate, *copy: *ridicule, deride

burn vb Burn, scorch, char, sear, singe mean to injure by exposure to fire or intense heat. Burn is the most comprehensive of these terms, for it is applicable regardless of the extent of injury or of whether fire or heat is the destructive agency (the cake was burned to a crisp in the oven) (only the lower edge of his coat was burned by the flames) (the grass was badly burned by the sun) (the child burned his hand by touching the hot stove) Burn is also applicable when a similar injury or effect is produced by another agency (burn plants by using too strong a fertilizer) (a sharp wind burns the face) Scorch implies superficial burning that changes the color (especially to brown or black) or texture of something (scorch a dress in ironing it) (the paint of the house was badly scorched by the flames from the grass fire) Char usually implies total or partial reduction to carbon or charcoal by fire (charred wood) (char coffee beans in roasting them) (the lower parts of the rafters were charred in the fire) Seah usually implies burning or scorching of animal tissues by fire or intense heat (as in cauterizing a wound, branding an animal, or quickly browning the outside of meats so that they will retain their juices in later and slower cooking) (seared the damaged tissue with an electric needle) (many cooks still sear beef before roasting it) Singe implies a very superficial burning (the fire next door merely singed our house) Sometimes such burning is intentional, especially when the short hairs or bristles covering a carcass being prepared for market or for cooking are quickly destroyed by a flame (singe a chicken before broiling it) Ana kindle, fire, ignite, *light: *blaze, flame, glow burp *belch, vomit, disgorge, regurgitate, spew, throw up burst vb *break, crack, bust, snap, shatter, shiver Ana distend, swell, *expand: *push, shove, thrust, propel bury secrete, cache, *hide, conceal, screen, ensconce Con expose, display, parade, flaunt, exhibit, *show: unearth, *discover, ascertain, learn, determine business n 1 *work, occupation, pursuit, calling, employment Ana *trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession 2 *affair, concern, matter, thing Ana *function, office, duty, province: *task, job, assignment, chore, stint 3 Business, commerce, trade, industry, traffic are comparable chiefly when they denote one of the forms or branches of human endeavor which have for their objective the supplying of commodities. Business specifically applies to the combined activities of all those who are engaged in the barter, purchase, or sale of commodities of any sort either as wholesale or retail transactions or in financial transactions connected with such activities; in this sense business is thought of as the combined activities of all kinds of dealers (as merchants) and financiers (as bankers) as opposed to those of all kinds of producers (as manufacturers and farmers). The term is also used more broadly to include the activities of producers and transporters of goods as well as of merchants and bankers, since all these have for their ultimate aim the supplying of commodities and the increase of private wealth (there should be no conflict between government and business) (business is greatly depressed throughout the world) Commerce and trade, on the other hand, apply to the activities of those who are engaged in the exchange of commodities, especially such exchange as involves transactions on a large scale and the transportation of goods from place to place. The words are often used interchangeably; thus, in the United States the Interstate Commerce Commission regulates common carriers of all kinds (rail, water, motor) engaged in interstate transportation of passengers or goods; the Federal Trade Commission was created to prevent use of unfair methods of competition in interstate commerce and to investigate trade conditions in and with foreign countries. But in general commerce is preferred when different countries or states are involved, when transportation is across seas or by sea, and when the dealings are not only in merchandise but also in media of exchange (as money, bills of exchange, and notes) and trade, when different business organizations in the same country are involved or when the dealings are in commodities (laws regulating interstate commerce) (ships engaged in commerce with the West Indies) (a slump in the sale of automobiles has adversely affected the trade between the manufacturers and the steel companies) (free trade designates a policy of permitting entry of natural and manufactured products from foreign countries without duties or tariff restrictions) Industry applies chiefly to the activities of those who are engaged in production, especially in the processing of natural products, the manufacture of artificial products, the erection of buildings and other structures, on so large a scale that problems of capi-
tal and labor are involved. The term may be used generally to include all activities covered by this definition (automation is rapidly revolutionizing industry) It may also be used more narrowly of any branch of industry as determined by the thing produced (the sugar industry comprises all business organizations engaged in the processing and refining of sugar) (the steel industry) (the automobile industry) Traffic (see also INTERCOURSE) applies to the activities of those who are engaged in the operation of public carriers (as ships, railroads, bus lines, and systems of trucking) and who are therefore primarily responsible for the transportation not only of commodities and articles of manufacture but also of persons from one part of a country or of the world to another (the traffic interests were also represented at the conference) bust vb *break, crack, burst, snap, shatter, shiver Ana see those at BURST bustle n flurty, *stir, ado, fuss, pother Ana *business, commerce, trade, industry, traffic: movement, motion: hubbub, clamor, racket, babel, *din Con inactivity, idleness, inertness, passiveness, supineness (see corresponding adjectives at INACTIVE) busy, industrious, diligent, assiduous, sedulous mean actively engaged or occupied in work or in accomplishing a purpose or intention. Busy may imply nothing more than that the person or thing referred to is not idle, that is, that he is at work or that it is in use (the doctor is busy just now) (the telephone is busy) In attributive use and some predicative use busy usually implies habitual or temporary engrossment in activity or the appearance of such engrossment (the busy bee) (a busy life) (nowhere so busy a man as he there was, and yet he seemed busier than he was—Chaucer) (busy offices full of bustling clerks—Nevins & Commager) Industrious applies to one who is characteristically attentive to his business, work, or avocation; it implies habitual or continual earnest application (a willing, industrious boy ever striving to please) (at once the most industrious and the least industrial of the great nations—Browne) Diligent may stress care, constancy, attentiveness, and thoroughness, but it often implies application of these to some specific object or pursuit; thus, one may be diligent in seeking some favorite pursuit without being in general industrious (the Yankee's boots were missing, and after a diligent search were not to be found—Melville) (a diligent student of the scriptures) Assiduous implies studied and unremitting, and sedulous, painstaking and persevering application to a business or enterprise (acquire the power to speak French fluently by assiduous practice) (an assiduous nurse) (a sedulous but not brilliant student) (attempted to gain his end by sedulous flattery) (even the most assiduous critic can scarcely hope to keep abreast of the growing flood of translated books—Times Lit. Sup.) (I read with sedulous accuracy ... the metrical romances—Coleridge) (she would never fail in sedulous attention to his wants—M. E. Freeman) Ana engrossed, absorbed, *intent: working, toiling, laboring, travelling (see corresponding nouns at WORK) Ant idle: unoccupied —Con *inactive, inert, passive: indolent, slothful, *lazy: slack, relaxed (see LOOSE) butchery slaughter, *massacre, carnage, pogrom Ana murdering or murder, slaying, killing (see corresponding verbs at KILL) butt in vb *intrude, obtrude, interlope Ana interfere, *meddle, intermeddle: *interpose, intervene, interfere, mediate, intercede Con withdraw, retire (see GO): *refrain, abstain, forbear buttress n Buttress, pier, abutment are architectural terms for auxiliary structures designed to serve as a prop, shore, or support for a wall (as of a building). A buttress is a structure (as of masonry) projecting from and supporting a wall and often designed especially for receiving and carrying the outward pressure or thrust exerted on the wall by the weight of an arch or vault. In a flying buttress the pressure or thrust is carried over an open space. A pier is a thickened piece of masonry designed to stiffen a wall. A pier may be built as a part of the wall or it may be a detached mass used as the vertical part of a flying buttress and carrying the thrust of a masonry bar or rod extending between it and the wall. An abutment is the particular section of either a buttress or a pier which actually receives the pressure or thrust exerted by the weight of an arch or vault.

In bridge building an abutment is the support at either extreme end of the structure or, by extension, the anchorage of the cables for a suspension bridge; a pier is any intermediate support between the ends of a bridge.

by, through, with are comparable as prepositions followed by a word or phrase naming the agent, means, or instrument. By is followed commonly by the agent or causative agency (a wall built by the Romans) (a novel by Scott) (destroyed by fire) (devoured by wolves) (blessed by a priest) (infamed by the jibes of officers) (impressed by the evidence) Through implies intermediacy; it is followed by the name of the person or thing that serves as the medium of the means by which an end is gained or an effect produced (speak through an interpreter) (procure a rare book through a friend) (express ideas through words) (acquire a position through influence) (an opportunity lost through indecision) With, on the other hand, is often followed by the name of the instrument which accompanies the action (write with a pen) (eat with a fork) (defend oneself with a stick) It may, however, take for its object something not consciously used as an instrument but serving as the instrumentality by which an effect is produced (he amended the crowd with his anecdotes) (do not kill us with kindness)

bystander onlooker, looker-on, witness, eyewitness, *spectator, observer, beholder byword *catchword, shibboleth, slogan Ana proverb, *saying, saw, motto: *abuse, invective: legend, caption (see INSCRIPTION)
cad, bounder, rotter mean one who shows himself to be no gentleman. Usually they are somewhat vague terms of contempt for bad behavior or manners. Cad is applied especially to a man who violates in some way or another the code of morals or of manners by which he has been brought up and is supposed to be guided (Napoleon III—in whom the cad, the coward, the idealist, and the sensualist were inextricably mixed—Birrell) (I pretended to gloat over the sight . . . I have rarely in my life felt such a cad—Buchan) Bounder usually applies to a man who apes the gentleman but who in some definite way (as undue stylishness of dress or faulty habits of speech) marks himself as a mere imitation; the term condemns him as ignorant, obtrusive, or vulgar in a measure that puts him beyond the pale of good society (that is an antisocial proceeding, the conduct of a bounder—Archer) (this breezy, cocksure, self-assertive Englishman was what we today should be inclined to call a bounder—Cyril Robinson) Rotter may be applied to a man who is extremely objectionable especially on moral grounds (a regular rotten; that man is about as bad as they make them—George Moore) The term is sometimes used of one who is felt as objectionable because of some failure, however great or small, to conform and then may suggest no more than mild disapprobation (there were a few rotters among the schoolboys, but fortunately not very many) (he's a bit of a rotter but a jolly good fellow for all that)

cadaver corpse, *body, carcass

cadaverous wasted, pinched, *haggard, worn, careworn

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

Ant plump, stout —Con *fleshy, fat, corpulent, obese, portly, rotund

cadence *rhythm, meter

Ana accentuation, accent, stress, *emphasis: beat, pulse, throb, pulsation (see under PULSATE)

cage vb *enclose, envelop, fence, pen, coop, corral, wall

Ana confine, circumscribe (see LIMIT): *imprison, incarcerate, jail: *surround, environ, encompass, hem

cajole wheedle, blandish, *coax

Ana entice, inveigle, seduce, decoy, *lure: beguile, delude, *deceive: tease, tantalize (see WORRY)

Con browbeat, bully, bulldoze, cow, *intimidate: constrain, oblige, compel, coerce, *force

cake vb *harden, solidify, indurate, petrify

Ana *compact, consolidate: *contract, compress, condense, shrink

calamitous *unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, lackless, hapless

calamity *disaster, catastrophe, cataclysm

Ana *accident, casualty, mishap: *misfortune, mischance, adversity, mishap: tribulation, visitation, affliction, *trial, cross: ruin, wretch (see RUIN)

Ant boon —Con fortune, luck (see CHANCE): favor, *gift: benefaction (see DONATION)

calculate, compute, estimate, reckon mean to determine something (as cost, speed, or quantity) by mathematical and especially arithmetical processes. Calculate is usually preferred when highly advanced, intricate, or elaborate processes are followed with precision and care and when the result arrived at is not readily proven by a physical confirmation (as by measuring or enumerating) (<calculate> the distance between the sun and the earth) (<calculate> the number of atoms in a cubic centimeter of hydrogen) Compute is preferred where the data are given or the actual figures involved are known and at hand and not arrived at indirectly; it therefore commonly implies the use of simple though often lengthy arithmetical processes (<compute> the interest due) (<compute> the cost of running a business during a given year) Estimate carries so strong an implication from its more common sense (see ESTIMATE) of an evaluation based on one's experience and good judgment that even when it implies careful calculation or computation it still connotes a result that is not necessarily exact but approximates the exact result; for he who estimates deals with data or figures that are to some extent unsatisfactory. Hence estimate is preferred to calculate and compute when the cost of a piece of work to be done is computed at present prices (a contractor's bid on a projected building is based on its estimated cost to him) (<a printer estimates a printing job when he names the price he will probably ask for doing it) Reckon is used in place of compute and usually connotes simpler mathematical processes especially such as can be carried on in one's head or aided by the use of counters (<reckon the cost of a trip to the city) (<reckon> the number of eggs laid by the hens during the month)

Ana weigh, study, *consider: *ponder, ruminate: determine, ascertain, *discover

Con guess, *conjecture, surmise

calculating circumspect, *cautious, wary, chary

Ana *deliberate, designed, considered, studied, premeditated: designing, scheming, plotting (see corresponding verbs under PLAN N): wily, guileful, crafty, artful, cunning, *sly

Ant reckless, rash —Con foolhardy, daring, venturesome, *adventurous: improvident, imprudent, indiscreet (see affirmative adjectives at PRUDENT)

calculation circumspection, caution, wariness, chariness (see under CAUTIOUS)

Ana *prudence, forethought, foresight, providence, discretion: *care, concern, solicitude: astuteness, perspicacity, sagacity, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREW)

Ant recklessness, rashness

caliber *quality, stature

Ana capability, capacity, *ability: force, *power

call vb *summon, summons, cite, convok, convene, muster

Ana assemble, *gather, collect: *invite, bid

call n *visit, visitation

caller *visitor, visitant, guest

calling occupation, pursuit, business, *work, employment

Ana profession, *trade, craft, art, handicraft

callous *hardened, indurated

Ana tough, tenacious, stout, *strong: *firm, solid, hard: *inflexible, adamant, obdurate, inexorable: insensitive, impassible, *insensible, anesthetic

Ant tender —Con *soft, lenient, gentle, smooth: yielding, submitting, relenting (see YIELD): compassionate,
responsive, sympathetic (see TENDER): sensitive, susceptible, open, exposed, subject, liable
callow green, crude, raw, * rude, rough, uncouth
Ana puercile, boyish, juvenile, * youthful: naïve, ingenuous, simple, unsophisticated, artless, * natural: adolescent, pubescent (see corresponding nouns at YOUTH)
Ant full-fledged, grown-up — Con * mature, adult, mature

calm adj Calm, tranquil, serene, placid, peaceful, halcyon mean quiet and free from all that disturbs or excites. Calm is primarily applied to sea or weather, usually conveys an implicit contrast with its opposite, stormy, and suggests freedom, real or assumed, from agitation of whatever sort (as men for ever temp’rate, calm, and wise — Pope) Tranquil implies a more settled composure, a more inherent quiet, than calm with less suggestion of previous agitation overcome (farewell the tranquil mind! farewell content! — Shak) (the tranquil beauty of Greek sculpture — Fitz-Gerald) (a tranquil trust in God amid tortures and death too horrible to be related — Motley) Serene suggests a lofty and unclouded tranquillity (regions of mild calm and serene air, above the smoke and stir of this dim spot which men call Earth — Milton) (the serene monotony that so often wears the aspect of happiness — Glasgow) Placid connotes lack of excitement and suggests an unruled and equable aspect or temper or even sometimes, in derogatory use, a hint of stupidity (to confirm by placid silences the fact that the wine had been good — Henry James) (the placid common sense of Franklin — J. R. Lowell) (she is as placid as a cow) Peaceful (see also PACIFIC) implies repose or the attainment of undisturbed tranquillity (I am grown peaceful as old age tonight — Browning) (they harried his hitherto peaceful domains — Irving) Halcyon implies an almost magic or golden calmness especially of weather or of spirit (soft blue stone, the color of robins’ eggs, or of the sea on halcyon days of summer — Cather) (the long uproar over the passage of the Reform Bill compared to which the stormiest days of the New Deal were halcyon — Dwight Macdonald)
Ana * still, quiet, stillly, noiseless: pacific, peaceable, * impulsive, stoic: unruffled, composed, collected, imper turbable, unflammable, * cool
Ant stormy: agitated — Con shaken, rocked, convulsed (see SHAKE): disturbed, perturbed, discomposed, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)

calm vb Calm, compose, quiet, quieten, still, lull, soothe, settle, tranquilize are comparable when they relate to persons and their feelings and moods and mean essentially to bring to an end or relieve from whatever distresses, agitates, or disturbs. Calm implies a previous disordered state and denotes a returning to inner quietude especially as aided by judgment, fortitude, or faith (Christian faith calmed in his soul the fear of change and death — Wordsworth) (her also I with gentle dreams have calmed — Milton) Compose, often reflective, retains its basic notion of arranging in order, specifically in an order that results in repose; it may heighten suggestions of conscious effort, resolution, and fortitude (my child, if ever you were brave and serviceable in your life . . . you will compose yourself now — Dickens) (a most composed invincible man; in difficulty and distress, knowing no discouragement — Carlyle) Quiet and quieten may connote a temporary external calmness in speech or demeanor rather than lasting inner calm (the most unreasonable of Franklin’s impulses had now been quieted by this most reasonable of marriages — Van Doren) These terms are likely to be used in indicating the effect of actions on persons in authority on others (threats to the physical well-being of the unborn baby can quieten a noisy and uncooperative patient in labor — Lancet) Still is somewhat literary or poetic and stresses the fact of cessation of agitation (flattened, silenced, stillled — Woolf) (a voice stillled by death) It may suggest more peremptory action than the other terms compared and often connotes a return to quietude induced by power, authority, or awe (the debate was stillled by the crash of guns) (it was Mary who stillled the hideous bawling of Peter — H. G. Wells) Lull suggests the somnolence of lullaby, to which it is related (Aiken has lullled the reader with a seductive music and has transported him into the dreamworld of Freudian fantasy — Matthiessen) It may, on the one hand, apply to the gentle easing of an infant into sleep (as by song or rocking) or, on the other hand, imply a sleepy relaxation into repose, complacence, unawareness, or apathy when one should be vigilant (we must not let a year or two of prosperity lull us into a false feeling of security — Truman) Soothe suggests bland, gentle mitigation, assuagement, or solace (cooled their fevered sleep, and soothed them into slumbers full and deep — Keats) (when they [babies] wake screaming and find none to soothe them — Lamb) Settle (see also DECIDE) stresses the subsiding of swirling agitation and implies a stabilizing and easing of a mind or body previously upset (as by emotional excitement, illness, or intoxication) (settled her stomach with peppermint tea) (I’ll read a bit before supper to settle my mind — T urnbull) I can’t settle my brains, your next news of me will be that I am locked up — Montagu) Tranquilize in general use stresses the serenity and depth of peace achieved (when contemplation . . . sends deep into the soul its tranquilizing power — Wordsworth) but in recent years it has acquired a more specific though closely related medical application in which it implies a relieving of mental tension and agitation by means of medication (tranquilizers will calm nervous cows for milking . . . The most hopeful prospect in tranquilizing the animal world lies in the possibility it may change the attitude of some dogs toward postmen — Sacramento Bee)
Ana allay, assuage, mitigate, alleviate, * relieve: mollify, placate, appease, * pacify Ant agitate, arouse — Con upset, perturb, disturb, dis quiet, * discompose
calmulate defame, slander, asperse, traduce, * malign, vilify, libel
Ana revile, vituperate (see SCOLD): * decry, derogate, extol, laud, * praise, acclaim: defend, justify (see MAINTAIN)
calmnum slander, * detraction, backbiting, scandal
Ana aspersion, reflection, * animadversion, stricture: defaming or defamation, maligning, traducing, vilifying or vilification, libelling or libel (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN vb)
Ant eulogize: vindicate — Con extol, laud, * praise, acclaim: defend, justify (see MAINTAIN)
camouflage * disguise, cloak, mask, dissemble
wish> {may we take your coach to town?—Thackeray}
The use of can for may in asking or granting permission is widespread.
canal *channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct
cancel efface, obliterate, expunge, delete, *erase, blot out
Ana invalidate, annul, *nullify: void, *annul, abrogate: *deface, disfigure: *neutralize, counteract, negative
Con confirm, *ratify: *enforce, implement
cancer *ability, capacity
capable 

cant —Shaw)
efface, obliterate, expunge, delete, *erase, blot out

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability

•channel, conduit, duct, aqueduct

•ability, capacity
capable competent, qualified, *able

Ana efficient, *effective, effectual, efficacious
Ant incapable —Con incompetent, unqualified (see in-capable)
capacious *spacious, commodious, ample
Ana *broad, wide: extended or extensive (see corresponding verb EXTEND): expanded or expansive (see corresponding verb EXPAND)
capacity *ability, capability
dealing perfect justice to his son he was doing all that was possible—Meredith> Vagary suggests still more strongly the erratic, extravagant, or irresponsible character of the notion or fancy <straight they changed their minds, flew off, and into strange vagaries fell—Milton> <a great force of critical opinion controlling a learned man's vagaries, and keeping him straight—Arnold> Crotchety implies even more perversity of temper or more indifferen
t or trivial point <the impracticable crotchets you are fond of airing are not recognized in England as sane politi
cal convictions—Shaw> <this political view may now seem to have been the crotchety of a particular set of historical scholars—Dewey>

**Ana** humor, *mood, temper, vein*: notion, *idea*: impulse (see *MOTIVE*): irrationality, unreasonable-ness (see corresponding adjec-
tives at *IRRATIONAL*): perverseness, contrariness (see corresponding adjectives at *CONTRARY*)

**Con** intent, purpose, *intention, design*: project, scheme, *plan*: deciding *or* decision, determining *or* determination, resolving *or* resolution (see corresponding verbs at *DECIDE*)

capricious mercurial, unstable, *inconstant, fickle*  
*Ana* changeable, changeful, protean: variable: mood, humor-ous (see corresponding nouns at *MOOD*): volatile, effervescent (see *ELASTIC*)

*Ant* steadfast —*Con* constant, resolute, staunch, loyal, *faithful*: steady, constant
capsize vb upset, *overturn, overthrow, subvert*
caption *inscription, legend*
capsize *
close, cut
*contrary, perverse: exacting, demanding (see *
self or another, or the pertinent thing that engrosses and
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
careless

a precaution for perfection (a careful piece of work) (a careful examination by the doctor) (a careful mapping out of the plan of battle) All of the other words mean exceedingly careful, but they vary in their implications of the motives which inspire such carefulness and, to a less extent, in regard to the objects of attention. Meticulous usually suggests timorousness lest one make the slightest error or fall short of a high standard; in addition, it implies extreme fussiness or fastidiousness in attention to details [Mr. Prufrock . . . like most converts, meticulous over points of ritual—Day Lewis] (the meticulous care with which the operation in Sicily was planned has paid dividends. For our casualties . . . have been low—Roosevelt) (there were men who ploughed clumsily . . . leaving banks of land untouched . . . but Hendrik was not one of these, his work was meticulous—Cloete) Scrupulous (see also upright) implies the promptings of conscience, not only of one’s moral conscience but of one’s sense of what is right and wrong (as in fact, in logic, or in aesthetics); it therefore also implies strict or painstaking adherence to what one knows to be true, correct, or exact (scrupulous fairness of statement) (scrupulous observation of details) Bradley, like Aristotle, is distinguished by his scrupulous respect for words, that their meaning should be neither vague nor exaggerated—T. S. Eliot

Punctilious, on the other hand, implies knowledge of the fine points (as of law, etiquette, ceremony, or morality) and usually connotes excessive or obvious attention to the details or minutiae of these (I am sorry . . . to see you so punctilious as to stand upon answers, and never to come near me till I have regularly left my name at your door—Gray) (the punctilious gods who judged them according to the principles laid down in some celestial Book of Etiquette—Krutch) Punctual may occasionally come close to punctilious in its stress on attention to the fine points of a law or code, but in such use the term carries a much stronger implication than punctilious of emphasis on their observance and a weaker implication of concentration upon the minutiae (we are not altogether so punctual as the French, in observing the laws of comedy—Dryden) (his punctual discharge of his duties—Froude) More usually the term implies near perfection in one’s adherence to appointed times for engagements or in following a schedule and then means punctually prompt (I made Mr. Middleditch punctual before he died, though when he married me he was known far and wide or in following a schedule and then means punctiliously of concentration upon the minutiae—Anne). . . . Curious to consider how heedless flies are!—Dickens (discreetly heedless, thanks to her long association with nobleness in art, to the leaps and bounds of fashion—Henry James) Thoughtless may emphasize lack of reflection or of forethought (thoughtless of tomorrow and God—Guthrie) More frequently it suggests lack of thoughtfulness or consideration for others (now and then, however, he is horribly thoughtless, and seems to take a real delight in giving me pain—Wilde) Inadventent usually implies heedlessness; the term is rarely applied to persons or their minds but is used in qualifying their acts and especially such of their errors) or inattention resulting from concentration on other things rather than from ignorance or intention (an inadvertent wakening of a person who is asleep) (an inadvertent error in spelling or in pronunciation) (they are in a bad fix . . . and sometimes with an inadvertent child or two to support—Rand)

Ana *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss: casual, desultory, haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky

Ant careful —Con meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, punctual (see careful): accurate, precise, exact, nice (see correct)

caress vb Caress, fondle, pet, cosset, cuddle, dallade mean to show affection or love by touching or handling. Caress implies an expression of tender interest (as by soft stroking or patting) or of affection ordinarily without undue familiarity (soothing with a touch the wild thing’s fright . . . caressed it into peace with light, kind palms—Edwin Arnold) (the little Isaac . . . leaned against his father’s knee . . . while Abraham’s left hand quieted him and caressed the boy’s face—Henry Adams) Fondle implies doting fondness and frequently lack of dignity; it usually suggests attentions (as hugging or kissing) more obvious and less gentle than caressing (fondle a baby) (all that he was good for, she said, was to fondle and fumble and kiss—Graves) (dwarf trees that had to be fondled and humored—Brooks) Pet, sometimes, and cosset imply special attentions and indulgences including more or less fondling (the petted child of the family) (died . . . in the newest and largest of hospitals petted by all her nurses—Jarrell) (soothed and cosseted by his aunt—Cather)

In recent use pet more often stresses flirtatious or amorous fondling and sometimes suggests undue familiarity (a petting party) Cuddle chiefly suggests the action of a mother or nurse in drawing a child close to her breast to keep it warm, happy, and quiet (little boys . . . who have kind mamma to cuddle them—Kingsley) The term may be extended to other attentions which imply a desire to protect and keep warm and comforted (The Temple seems . . . to have been coaxed, and warmed, and cuddled by the people round about him—Thackeray) (we might cuddle up to the world in a comfortable attitude—Langer) Dandle suggests playful handling of a child (as by moving him up and down lightly on one’s knee) (the mother cuddles, but the father dandles, their little boy) In its extended use dandle usually implies toying with especially in a playful but pampering manner (editors, scholars, mer-
caricature vb burlesque, parody, travesty (see under CARICATURE n)

Ana mimic, mock, ape, imitate, *copy: distort, *deform: simulate, counterfeit (see ASSUME): *ridicule, deride
carriage 

n 
carnal, fleshly, sensual, animal are comparable when they are used in reference to human beings, their acts, works, desires, and interests and mean having or showing a physical rather than an intellectual or spiritual character or origin. Both carnal and fleshly imply a connection with the body or flesh especially when thought of as distinct from the spirit. Carnal need not in itself imply condemnation (as against against morally as well as carnal attack—Stoker) Often it is a purely descriptive or classificatory term (a . . . flier with a lyrical gift for conveying the carnal élan of men fighting, was the first writer ever to treat air combat in epic style—Flanner) but through its frequent opposition to the spiritual it has come to suggest not merely man's bodily but his lower nature and appetites (the superiority of the spiritual and eternal over the carnal and temporal had to be vindicated—H. O. Taylor) medieval Christian tradition to restore the conviction that sex, being carnal and not spiritual, is low, lascivious, and wicked—Garvin and ultimately to be applied more or less specifically and usually derogatorily to the sexual and the lustful as the most bodily of appetites and the most antithetical to the spiritual nature (to make herself a carnal object, the prey of another, is in contradiction to her self-worship: it seems to her that embraces blight and sully her body or degrade her soul—Parshley) (he has also three partner antagonists: his wife Lucy and his two mistresses, one a carnal affair, the other "idealistic"—Bentley) (who more than carnal a recent virgin—Steinbeck) (had an instant succès du scandale. It titillated the prurient with the frankness of its carnal detail—S. H. Adams) Fleshly, though it implies a connection with the flesh thought of as man's lower nature, is often less suggestive of condemnation than carnal (turn to Bernard's love of God, and rise with him from the fleshly to the spiritual—H. O. Taylor) (the godly dame, who fleshly failings damns—Pope) Sensual implies a connection with sensations, but it further implies an indulgence in bodily sensation for its own sake rather than for an aesthetic end (his feet and hands were always cold and there was for him an almost sensual satisfaction to be had from just lying perfectly still . . . and letting the hot sun beat down on him—Anderson) Very often the word carries implications of grossness marked by concentration on bodily sensation and the absence of intellectual or spiritual qualities (a sloping meaty jaw, and large discolored buckteeth which showed unpleasantly in a mouth . . . always half open . . . that gave his face its sensual, sly, and ugly look—Wolfé) Animal implies a connection with man's physical nature as distinguished chiefly from his rational nature. It comparatively seldom implies an intent to depreciate (he could never find his Nirvana in mere sensuousness; he could not sink into the mud of animal existence—Parrington) (the first mood at any war's end is sheer animal joy in survival—Wecter) (he taught the boy boxing, and shooting, and . . . superintended the direction of his animal vigor—Meredith) Ana physical, *bodily, corporeal, corporal, somatic: *sensual: gross, *coarse, vulgar, obscene: *earthly, earthly, worldly, mundane: lustful, lewd, wanton, lascivious (see LICENTIOUS)

Ant spiritual: intellectual —Con *moral, ethical, virtuous, noble, righteous: ethereal, aerial (see AIRY): pure, *chaste, modest, decent
carol vb *sing, troll, descant, warble, trill, hymn, chant,
carry adj. caviling, faultfinding, captious, critical, or carping.

**Antonyms**
Con: commending or commendatory, applauding, complimenting.

**Synonyms**
Commend, lauding, extolling.

**Approve**
Avow, own, declare, avow, assert.

**Carry** vb
- Carry, bear, convey, transport, transmit are comparable when they mean to be or to serve as the agent or the means whereby something or someone is moved from one place to another.
- Carry often implies the use of a cart or carriage or more recently of a train, ship, automobile, or airplane, but it may imply a personal agent or a beast of burden or some natural or artificial passage (as an artery or a pipe) or a ship carries a heavy cargo (airplanes carry mail) (a bus built to carry sixty passengers) (carry news) (please carry the basket to the house) (the arteries carry the blood from the heart to the various parts of the body).
- Bear stresses the support of the weight of whatever is being moved; in its extended senses, even though actual weight may not be implied, bear is preferred to carry when effort is suggested or the importance or the significance of what is carried is to be connoted (let four captains bear Hamlet, like a soldier, to the stage—Shak.) (over his head was borne a rich canopy—Johnson) (then came the envoy's bearing rich gifts) (come bearing good news) (Convey is more often used than carry of things that move continuously or in that mass or that pass through natural or artificial channels or mediums (an endless belt for conveying dirt from an excavation to the trucks removing it) (freight cars for conveying coal from the mines to the various cities and towns) (pipelines to convey natural gas from one section to another) (language conveys thought) Transport is used in place of carry or convey when the stress is on the movement of persons or goods especially in numbers or bulk and typically over a considerable distance and by a professional carrier (as a railroad or shipping line) (fast liners were used to transport troops to France) (trucks transporting farm produce to market) (most modern well-to-do Englishmen and Americans, if they were transported by magic into the Age of Elizabeth, would wish themselves back in the modern world—Russell) Transmit emphasizes the causative power in an agent or instrument: it implies either an actual sending by some means of conveyance or transportation (the telegraph company transmits messages to all parts of the world) (the steamship company will transmit your baggage whenever it receives the word) or the power or the property of permitting passage through or from one place to another (glass transmits light) (metals transmit electricity).

**Carve** vb
**Con:** amalgamation
**Ant:** analogous words
- Carve, incise, engrave, etch, chisel, sculpture, sculpt, sculpt are comparable when they denote to cut an outline or a shape out of or into some substance (as stone, wood, or metal). They are, however, not close synonyms, for few of the terms keep within the limits of this meaning. Carve (see also cut) suggests working with an instrument (as a knife or a chisel) in order to adorn a surface or to fashion a solid figure; the term may connote an artistic purpose (as representation or decoration) and a method of work involving the cutting of a pattern into a surface (intaglio carving) or the cutting away of parts of the original surface so as to leave a raised design or raised figures upon a new ground (relief carving) or the fashioning of a whole or partial figure by cutting or chipping away excess material (carve an inscription on a tombstone) (the legs of chairs and table were carved with oak leaves) (a figure carved in stone is fine carving when one feels that not the figure, but the stone . . . has come to life—Sweeney) Incise implies cutting into with an instrument (as a knife) that leaves traces; more specifically it implies a cutting into some hard or resistant material so that figures, letters, or devices are marked upon its surface (incise an epitaph upon a monument) (the gem had been incised with his coat of arms and was used as his seal) Engrave often implies a cutting into and may be used as an equivalent of incise: in general use, however, it more often implies a cutting (as upon wood, stone, or metal) with a graving tool in order to form an inscription or a pictorial representation that can be printed either from the incised lines, spaces, or points (as in copperplate engraving) or from parts of the surface left in relief (as in wood engraving). The noun engraving denotes a picture printed from a plate or block thus made, but the verb usually emphasizes the work of the one who actually cut the plate or block (was asked to engrave a portrait of Daniel Webster) (prints made from an engraved copper plate) Engrave also may be used to connote an indelible impression upon the heart, mind, or memory (no stone stands over where he lies. It is on our hearts that his life is engraved—Galsworthy) Etch differs from engrave only in implying that the lines and dots which form a picture are incised not upon the metal but through a hard, acid-resisting surface (as of varnish) covering the metal of a plate and are then eaten into the plate by coating this surface with acid. Chisel, though used widely by workers in stone and wood to suggest the various processes (as of cutting or shaping) that are executed with a chisel, is in general use more often employed to suggest either literally or figuratively the process of carving an image from resistant material; the emphasis in such use is upon the skill of the maker and the artistic quality of the product (it was a great artist who chiseled the vital figure of the Winged Victory out of stone) (finely chiseled features) Sculpture and the related sculpt and sculpt imply the formation of primarily three-dimensional figures especially in stone or metal. Basically sculpture suggests carving or chiseling out of some hard substance, but all three terms stress the end result over the technique and may be extended to include the making of three-dimensional art forms by such diverse methods as modeling and molding, welding, or construction as well as by the traditional carving and chiseling, and all three, but especially sculpture, may be further extended to processes and results suggesting the work of a sculptor (a sculptured bronze head) (because it was God Who had sculptured the mountains . . . while it was men who had bricked the cities and that was why they were sometimes so ugly—Bruce Marshall) (does not so much sing Mozart's phrases as sculpt them, with the sure instincts of a master craftsman—Gelatt) (Brancusi . . . sculps what Plato had in mind by the idea of form—Time).

**Ana** shape, fashion, form (see make): produce, turn out.
(see BEAR)

**case**

1. *instance, illustration, example, specimen, sample

*Ana* *occurrence, event, incident, episode, circumstance: situation, condition, *state

2. *cause, action, *suit, lawsuit

**casement** *window, dormer, oriel

**cash** *currency, *money, legal tender, specie, coin, coinage

**cashier** *vb* *dismiss, discharge, drop, fire, sack, bounce

*Ana* *ject, expel, oust: eliminate, disbar, *exclude, suspend

Con *engage (see PROMISE): elect, appoint, *designate, name

*cast* 1 *throw, fling, hurl, pitch, toss, sling

*Ana* *direct, aim, point, level, train, lay; *scatter, disperse

2. *discard, shed, melt, slough, scrap, junk

*Ana* *relinquish, abandon, yield, surrender, leave: relinquish, reject (see DECLINE): *dismiss, drop

3. *figure, foot, *add, sum, total, tot

Ana compute, *calculate, reckon

**castaway** *derelic, *outcast, reprobate, pariah, unatouchable

**castigate** *vb* *chastise, *punish, chasten, discipline, correct

*Ana* *beat, baste, thrash, pummel, belabor: berate, tongue-lash, rate, upbraid, wig, rail (see SCOLD): *penalize, fine, amerce, mult

**castrate** *sterilize, spay, emasculate, alter, mutilate, geld, castrate

**casual** 1 *accidental, incidental, adventitious, contingent, fortuitous

*Ana* unmeditated (see EXTEMPORANEOUS): *indifferent, unconsidered, incurious: *negligent, slack, lax, remiss: inadvertent, *careless, heedless

Con *intentional, *voluntary: premeditated, *deliberate, studied, considered, advised, designed: *careful, meticulous, punctilious, scrupulous

2 *desultory, *random, haphazard, chance, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky

*Ana* offhand, impromptu, improvised, *extemporaneous, extemore: *spontaneous, impulsive: unmethodical, un-systematic (see affirmative adjectives at ORDERLY)

Ant deliberate —Con *formal, conventional, ceremonial (see CEREMONIAL)

**casualty** *incident, mishap

*Ana* *disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm: *misfortune, mischance, mishap

**casualistic** *sophisticial, fallacious (see under FALLACY)

*Ana* *plausible, specious: tortuous (see WINDING): oblique, devious, *crooked: misleading, delusive, deceptive, delusory

Con *sound, cogent, convincing, *valid

**casuistry** sophistry, sophism, *fallacy

**cataclysm** catastrophe, *disaster, calamity

*Ana* *convulsing or convulsion, rocking, shaking, agitation (see corresponding verbs at SHAKE): revolution (see REBELLION): *misfortune, mischance, mishap

**catalog** *n* *list, inventory, table, schedule, register, roll, roster

*Ana* enumerate, number, *count: enter, admit

**cataract** *n* *flood, deluge, inundation, torrent, spate

**catastrophe** *disaster, calamity, cataclysm

*Ana* *trial, tribulation, visitation: defeating or defeat, overthrowing or overthrow, routing or rout (see corresponding verbs at CONQUER)

Con *victory, triumph

**catch** *vb* *1 Catch, capture, trap, snare, entrap, ensnare, bag comparable when meaning to get into one's possession or under one's control either by taking or seizing or by means of skill, craft, or trickery. Catch, the ordinary and general term of this group, distinctively implies that the thing laid hold of has been in flight, in concealment, or in constant movement and that possession has been gained by pursuit, force, strategy, or surprise or by means of a device or accident which brings it within one's reach physically, visually, or mentally (after several days' search the detectives caught the murderer) (not to able to catch the man who snatched her purse) (catch fish) (catch a ball) (catch a pupil cheating in an examination) (his eyes caught the skirt of her dress—Dickens) (Yancey Cravat caught the word beneath his teeth and spat it back—Ferber) (he smiled back like a child caught in a lie—Steinbeck) Sometimes the power of laying hold of is ascribed not to a person, his vision or other sense, or his mind, heart, or imagination but to the thing which draws to itself his attention, his eye, or his fancy (the fact caught her interest, just as sometimes a point in a wide dull landscape catches the eye—Deland) (two recent imports... offer striking new surprises which may catch unaware even the veteran reader—Anthony Boucher) Capture implies heavier odds (as greater opposition or difficulty or more competition) than does catch and suggests a taking possession that amounts to an overcoming or a victory (capture a stronghold of the enemy) (capture a company of retreating soldiers) (he was making plans... to capture the banking of the country—Bello) (no artist can set out to capture charm; he will toil all the night and take nothing—Benson) *Trap, snare, entrap, and ensnare imply catching by a device which holds the one caught in a position that is fraught with danger or difficulty or from which escape is difficult or impossible. Trap and snare imply the use of a trap or snare (see LURE n), but entrap and ensnare suggest trickery in capture more often than the use of an actual trap or snare: all four terms impume craft to the catcher and unwarrantless or lack of caution to the one that is caught. Distinctively, trap and entrap suggest a being held in a position where one is at the mercy of the captor and his designs, and snare and ensnare a being held so that the more one struggles the more desperate becomes one's situation (trap an animal) (snare a bird) (trap a detachment of soldiers with an ambush) (themselves in bloody toils were snared—Scott) (as if he would clear away some entanglement which had entrapped his thoughts—Bromfield) (entrap a person by a sudden question into making a dangerous admission) (sympathetic to the regime that ensnared them in its monstrous net—B. D. Wolfe) Bag carried a double implication of catching (as game or specimens) and of putting into a container (as a game bag) for transportation or storage (he bagged several rare butterflies within the last month) (bag pheasants) So strong is the implication of catching and killing game in this use that the word is often employed without suggestion of putting in a bag (they bagged three bears on their last hunting expedition) (it bagged the British rights to John Hersey's Hiroshima while other English publishers were asleep—Cerf)

*Ana* seize, *take, grasp, grab, clutch, snatch: apprehend, *arrest

Ant *miss

2 *incure, contract

**catching** contagious, *infectious, communicable

**catchword**, byword, shibboleth, slogan mean a phrase that catches the eye or the ear and is repeated so often that it becomes a formula. Catchword usually applies to a phrase that serves as the formula or identification mark of an emotionally charged subject (as a school of thought, a political party, or a cause) and that is often used by those who have only a superficial knowledge of the subject and
catechize
interrogate, quiz, examine, question, *ask, query,
categorical 1 *ultimate, absolute
Con *hypothetical, conjectural, supposititious (see SUP-
posed): conditional, contingent, relative, *dependent
express, definite, *explicit, specific
Ana *positive, certain, *sure: *forthright, downright
Con ambiguous, equivocal, vague, cryptic, enigmatic,
*obscure: dubious, *doubtful, questionable, problematic
category *class, genus, species, denomination, genre
Ana division, section, *part: classification (see corre-
sponding verb at ASSORT)
cater vb Cater, purvey, panderm are comparable when they
mean to furnish with what satisfies the appetite or desires.
Cater basically implies the provision of what is needed in
the way of food and drink (he that doth the ravens feed,
yea, providently caters for the sparrow—Shak.) The
term especially implies provision of food and drink ready
for the table (a firm that caters for dinners, weddings,
and receptions) In extended use cater often implies
the provision of something that appeals to a specific appetite
<caters to the national taste and vanity—Thackeray>
Often, especially when followed by to, the term implies
a certain subserviency (as to popular standards or uncul-
tivated tastes) <too many movies, novels, and comic
books do cater to an appetite for violence—Sisk> <cat-
to the public demand for the sensational> Purvey
usually suggests the provision of food but sometimes of such other
material necessities as lodgings and clothes. In contrast
with cater, however, it suggests service as a source of
supply, either as an agent through whom what is wanted
may be found or as a merchant who sells the needed
articles <merchants who purveyed to the troops during
the Seven Years’ War> In extended use, especially when
followed by for, purvey implies the provision of whatever
is needed to satisfy, delight, or indulge (the function of
the eye is not merely ministerial; it merely purveys for
use—Lanier) Panderm, which basically means to act
as a procurer or as a go-between in an illicit amour, in
its frequent extended use may imply a purveying of some-
thing which will gratify desires and passions that are
degrading or base <pander to depraved appetites> <pand-
to morbid tendencies> or may connote more servile
truckling <denounced legislative pandering to special
interests—Time> <institutions which Pandered to the
factory workers . . . —a movie house, a quick-lunch wagon
—F. S. Fitzgerald> or even no more than a deferring to
or a reasonable indulgence of tastes <choose a plan to
suit your type of land and to panderm to your own particu-
lar tastes—Sydney Bulletin> <such things, as being tra-
ditional, may panderm to your sense of the great past.
Histrionically, too, they are good—Beerbohm
Ana *furnish, equip, appoint, accouter: pamper, indulge,
humor: *satisfy, content

cause
n 1 Cause, determinant, antecedent, reason, occasion
are comparable when denoting what in whole or in part
produces an effect or result. Cause is applicable to an
agent (as a circumstance, condition, event, or force) that
contributes to the production of an effect or to any combi-
nation (as of circumstances, conditions, or events) that
inherently or necessarily brings about a result (<one of
the causes of the French Revolution was the bankruptcy of
the government> <every effect must have an adequate
cause> <what was the cause of this outbreak?> <water
and soil pollution are the root causes of mortality in the
tropics—Heiser> Cause is sometimes used of a personal
agent whose activities are instrumental in bearing conse-
quences (he is the cause of all our troubles) or of the
motive which prompts one to action (he claimed to have
just cause for his attack) A determinant is a circumstance,
factor, element, quality, or motive that by itself or in com-
bined with other factors conditions or fixes the nature of
a result and especially of a product or outcome <envi-
ronment is an important determinant of character> <the
ideals and the character of citizens are the final determi-
nants of their form of government> (“imponderables,”
which in philosophy as in politics are the most important
factors of experience and determinants of action—Inge>

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
<strength of organization, shelter from foreign or other distant competition, command of markets in key industries—these are the main direct determinants of wage rates—Hobson> Antecedent is applicable to a person or thing (as an object or a circumstance, condition, or event) that is responsible, usually in part, for a later existing person or thing, most often as a progenitor, precursor, or predeterminant; it is certainly true that these twelfth-century windows . . . had no antecedent, and no fit succession—Henry Adams> (the antecedents of emperor-worship lay far back in history—Buchan) (phenomena like these have other social, cultural, or superorganic phenomena as their immediate causes or antecedents—Kroeber) Reason is interchangeable with cause when it means specifically a traceable or explainable cause; it always implies, therefore, that the effect is known or has actually been brought about; there was a reason for Mark Twain's pessimism, a reason for that chagrin . . . . That bitterness of his was the effect of a certain miscarriage in his creative life, a balked personality, an arrested development—Brooks> Occasion applies to a situation or to a person, place, or event which provides such a situation that serves to set in motion causes already existing or to translate them into acts; thus, the cause of a war may be a deep-rooted enmity between two peoples, the occasion of it such a relatively unimportant incident as the murder of a citizen of one country within the confines of the other; an occasion of sin may be a visit to a place (as a saloon) where the real cause, a propensity to drink, is not resisted (a formula that has been the occasion for a considerable amount of misunderstanding—Richards)>

Ana * motive, spring, incentive, inducement, spur, goad, impulse; motivation, activation, actuation (see corresponding verbs at activate); agent, agency (see mean); * origin, root, source, prime mover

Con * effect, result, consequence, outcome, issue

2 * suit, lawsuit, action, cause, case

cautious, circumspect, wary, chary, calculating are comparable when meaning prudently attentive to the dangers one may encounter or the risks one may face, or revealing such attentiveness. The same differences in implications and connotations are apparent in the nouns caution, circumspection, wariness, chariness, calculation when they denote the quality of the character or the mental processes of one who is so attentive. Caution and caution usually imply both the prompting of fear, especially of fear of failure or of harm to oneself or others, and the exercise of forethought in planning or of prudence in proceeding so that the dangers of failure or the risks of disaster may be avoided or minimized (the troops advanced with great caution) (a cautious investor) (for the most part, he generalizes with a sobriety and a caution worthy of the highest praise—Huxley) (the old man, cautious in all his movements, always acting as if surrounded by invisible spies, delayed setting out until an hour after dark—Hudson>) Circumspect and circumspection frequently imply less fear than cautious and caution; commonly, however, they suggest the exercise of great prudence and discretion, especially in making decisions or in acting, and the surveying of all possible consequences, lest moral, social, business, or political harm may inadvertently occur (and in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect—Exod 23:13) (they do not live very happy lives, for they even more than the others are restricted in their movements, and they must live the most circumspect of lives—Steinbeck) (the . . . circumspection with which it approaches the consideration of such questions—John Marshall>) Wary and wariness usually carry a far stronger suggestion of suspiciousness than cautious and caution and sometimes, as a result, connote less well-grounded fear. Often, also, the terms imply alertness in watching out for difficulties or dangers or cunning in escaping them (they . . . had a wary eye for all gregarious assemblages of people, and turned out of their road to avoid any very excited group of talkers—Dickens) (we must always be wary of those who with sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal preach the "ism" of appeasement—Roosevelt) (our domestic dogs are descended from wolves . . . they may not have gained in cunning, and may have lost in wariness—Darwin>) Chary and chariness imply the cautiousness of those who are careful of what they have or what they can give, say, or do and proceed with great reserve or discretion (I am chary of admitting native differences between the sexes, but I think that girls are less prone than boys to punish oddity by serious physical cruelty—Russell>) (my business experience has taught me to be chary of committing anything of a confidential nature to any more concrete medium than speech—Faulkner>) (there was no fastidious overrefined chariness in the use of that name—F. W. Robertson>) Calculating and calculation imply the caution of one who carefully and deliberately plans the way to attain his own and often selfish end taking into account every possible danger and the way in which it can be met (some day the American boy's outlook upon the future may be as clear and calculating as that of his European brother—Grandgent>)

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

*stop, quit, discontinue, desist

cavity

*hollow, *hole, pocket, void, vacuum

cede

*truce, armistice, peace
cease-fire

*watchful, vigilant, alert: prudent, provident, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet (see under PRUDENCE): heedful, careful (see negative adjectives at CARELESS)

Adventurous, temerarious — Con: venturesome, daring, rash, reckless, foolhardy (see ADVENTUOUS): *precipitate, impetuous, headlong

cavalcade

*procession, parade, cortège, motorcade

Ana *succession, progression, chain, train: array, *display, play

cave

succumb, submit, *yield, capitulate, relent, defer, bow

caviling adj captious, faultfinding, censorious, carping, *critical, hypercritical

Ana exacting, demanding (see DEMAND): *contrary, perverse: objecting, protesting, expostulating, kicking (see OBJECT)

Con: accommodating, obliging, favoring (see OBLIGE): *complaisant, *amiable, good-natured: conciliating, pacifying, mollifying, appeasing (see PACIFY)

cavity

hollow, *hole, pocket, void, vacuum

Con: bulge, protuberance, protrusion, *projection

cease

*stop, quit, discontinue, desist

Ana end, terminate, *close, conclude, finish: stay, suspend, intermit (see DEFER)

Con: *spring, arise, rise, originate: *begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate: *extend, prolong, protract: *continue, persist

cease-fire

*truce, armistice, peace

cede

surrender, abandon, waive, resign, yield, *relinquish, leave

Ana *grant, concede, award, accord, vouchsafe

Con: withhold, hold, hold back, keep back, retain (see KEEP)

celebrate

commemorate, solemnize, observe, *Keep

celebrated

renowned, *famous, famed, eminent, illustrious

Ana: prominent, conspicuous, outstanding, signal (see NOTICEABLE)

Ant: obscure

celebrity

*fame, renown, glory, honor, éclat, reputation, repute, notoriety

Ana: prominence, conspicuousness (see corresponding adjectives at NOTICEABLE)

Ant: obscurity

celerity, alacrity, legerity are comparable when they are used in reference to human beings and denote quickness in movement or action. Celerity stresses speed in moving or especially in accomplishing work (she could, when she chose, work with astonishing celerity—Bennett) the human brain, we are reminded, acts at times with extraordinary celerity—Cardozo Alacrity emphasizes promptness in response more than swiftness in movement, though the latter is usually implied (you must wait till she sends for you—” and she winced a little at the alacrity of his acceptance—Wharton) Very often, also, it connotes eagerness or cheerful readiness (working away at his subject with the alacrity ... of a man ... fulfilling the very office ... for which nature had designed him—L. P. Smith) Legerity, a less common word than the others, refers more to the quality than to the rate of speed and implies nimbleness and ease (cover the ground with the legerity of a trained runner) (when the mind is quickened ... the organs ... newly move, with ... fresh legerity—Shak) (the legerity of the French mind made the Gallic visitor quick to comprehend his desire for solitude—Wylie) Ana: expedition, dispatch, speed, hurry, *haste: quickness, rapidity, swiftness, fleetness (see corresponding adjectives at FAST): velocity, *speed: agility, briskness, nimbleness (see corresponding adjectives at AGILE)

Ant: leisureliness — Con: slowness, deliberateness or deliberation, dilatoriness (see corresponding adjectives at SLOW): *lethargy, languor

celstial adj

Celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal mean of, relating to, or fit for heaven or the heavens. Celestial (opposed to terrestrial) may refer either to the visible heavens (the region surrounding the earth and seemingly enclosed by the sky) or to the religious conception of heaven or the heavens (in Christian use, the abode of God, the angels, and the blessed dead); thus, a celestial globe is one on whose surface the stars, planets, comets, and nebulae are depicted; a celestial body is a star, planet, or other aggregation of matter that forms a unit for astro-"
center

Ana reprimand, rebuke, reproach, *reprieve: upbraid, berate, tongue-lash (see scold)

Ant commend — Con applaud, compliment, recommend (see commend): eulogize, laud, *praise

center n Center, middle, midst, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart are comparable when meaning the point, spot, or portion of a thing which is comparable to a point around which a circle is described. Center approximates more or less closely its strict geometrical sense as the point within a circle or sphere that is equidistant from every other point on the circumference or is the average distance from the exterior points of a body or figure (the center of a table) (the center of the earth) Center may be extended to a thing or a part of a thing which suggests a geometrical center especially in being the point around which the rest rotates or revolves (each airy thought revolved round a substantial center—Wordsworth) (the old school was the center of our lives, somehow: dances, Sundays, services—McCourt) or at which all lines (as of activity) converge (draw to one point, and to one center bring beast, man, or angel, servant, lord, or king—Pope) (as of activity) converge (draw to one point, and to one center bring beast, man, or angel, servant, lord, or king—Pope) (the discernment and understanding in which he penetrates to the heart and essence of the problem—Cardozo)

Middle, also applies to what has duration (as of activity) converge (draw to one point, and to one center bring beast, man, or angel, servant, lord, or king—Pope) (the discernment and understanding in which he penetrates to the heart and essence of the problem—Cardozo)

Middle is less precise than center and suggests a space rather than a point; it is the part of an object which includes and surrounds the center; thus, the middle of a room is the central portion of it (they have what they call a central depot here, because it's the middle of England—Bennett) Middle, unlike center, also applies to what has duration (the middle of the night) and to merely linear extension (the middle of the road) Middle may be applied freely to something which lies between the beginning and end (as of a process, a course, or a piece of work) (in this, as in most questions of state, there is a middle—Burke) (he was stopped in the middle of his speech) (a play should have a beginning, middle, and end) Midnight is often used in place of middle for a point or spot well within a group or number of enveloping persons or objects or of things (as duties, affairs, and burdens) that surround or beset one; however it seldom occurs except in a prepositional phrase introduced by in, into, from, out of (he stood in the midst of a crowd) (he penetrated into the midst of the forest) (why it was he should feel in the midst of all these people so utterly detached and so lonely—Bromfield) (sense of right, uppermost in the midst of fiercest strife—Wordsworth)

Core basically denotes the central portion of certain fruits (as the apple) which is made up of the forest) (why it was he should feel in the midst of all these people so utterly detached and so lonely—Bromfield) (sense of right, uppermost in the midst of fiercest strife—Wordsworth)

Focus implies a point at which a number and usually the total number of things of the same sort (as rays of light, waves of sound, attentions, or interests) converge and become one (the attention of the audience was focused upon the speaker) (the essential characteristic of poetry is its power of focusing the whole range of our sensibilities—Binyon) (how to get the sense of equity or fair play which prevails in many other spheres of action to focus upon these . . . disturbing economic questions is thus distinctively a moral issue—Hobson) Centralize is used of things (as government, authority, or administrative procedure) that may be either gathered about a center or divided, distributed, or diffused; it especially implies the placing of power and authority under one head or in one central organization or the bringing together of similar things at one point (authority is said to be centralized wherever a manager tends not to delegate authority to his subordinates—Koo and O'Donnell) (the bidders of reorganization point out that the centralized type of administrative organization has worked well with the national government, with the better-governed cities, and with American business—Dimond & Pfieger) (by centralizing . . . the reserves of the member banks within a district, the Federal Reserve System builds up a large sum of money and credit upon which any member bank may call—Goodman & Moore) Concentrate differs from the other words not only in being more widely applicable but also in its greater emphasis upon human or things depend for their life, activity, ideas, or progress (Boston Statehouse is the hub of the solar system—Holmes) Focus is applicable to a point of convergence or concentration or, sometimes, in nontechnical use, of emanation; thus, the point at which rays of light meet after reflection or refraction is called a focus; a person to whom all eyes are turned is the focus of attention (a place of exchange for the merchandise of East and West . . . the focus of a network of trade routes—Buchanan) Nucleus applies especially to a vital and usually small and stable center about which matter is gathered or concentrated or to which accretions are made (the nucleus of a cell) (the nucleus of an atom) (a small but good collection of books as a nucleus for his library) (unable to re-create a satisfactory social group from the nucleus of his own individuality—Day Lewis) Heart applies to a place or thing that lies well within something (as a region or system) and which determines the essential character of the whole or serves as a vital, positive, or motivating part (the economic heart of the nation has gradually shifted to the west) (exploits done in the name of France—Shak) (Rome was the heart and pulse of the empire—Buchan) (the discernment and understanding in which he penetrates to the heart and essence of the problem—Cardozo)

Con *circumference, periphery, perimeter, compass: bounds, confines, limits (see singular nouns at LIMIT)

center vb Center, focus, centralize, concentrate are comparable (though not closely synonymous) because all mean to draw to or fix upon a center. Center strongly implies a point upon which things turn or depend; typically the term is followed by a prepositional phrase (as with in, on, or upon) that names the thing (or sometimes the person) upon which all responsibility or all attention is placed or around which anything or everything of a specified kind (as hopes, fears, or joys) turns (the authority was centered in one person) (the incident upon which the plot centers) (a common belief about art is that it centers about emotion—Alexander) (the man whose hopes and fears are all centered upon himself can hardly view death with equanimity, since it extinguishes his whole emotional universe—Russell) Focus implies a point at which a number and usually the total number of things of the same sort (as rays of light, waves of sound, attentions, or interests) converge and become one (the attention of the audience was focused upon the speaker) (the essential characteristic of poetry is its power of focusing the whole range of our sensibilities—Binyon) (how to get the sense of equity or fair play which prevails in many other spheres of action to focus upon these . . . disturbing economic questions is thus distinctively a moral issue—Hobson) Centralize is used of things (as government, authority, or administrative procedure) that may be either gathered about a center or divided, distributed, or diffused; it especially implies the placing of power and authority under one head or in one central organization or the bringing together of similar things at one point (authority is said to be centralized wherever a manager tends not to delegate authority to his subordinates—Koo and O'Donnell) (the bidders of reorganization point out that the centralized type of administrative organization has worked well with the national government, with the better-governed cities, and with American business—Dimond & Pfieger) (by centralizing . . . the reserves of the member banks within a district, the Federal Reserve System builds up a large sum of money and credit upon which any member bank may call—Goodman & Moore) Concentrate differs from the other words not only in being more widely applicable but also in its greater emphasis upon human

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
skill and human methods, discipline, or effort in effecting its purpose; the word may be used not only with reference to what may be centralized or focused and to much that may be centered but is applicable also to material substances that can be reduced in volume (as by dehydration or evaporation), thereby gaining in strength or intensity (see also compact) here Hannibal . . . concentrated the forces which had been gathered from such distant countries—R. B. Smith} but neither of the men paid much attention to these things, their eyes being concentrated upon the little flat stone—Hardy} I think that it is a test which we may apply to all figure-painters . . . if we ask whether the figures are really occupied by what they are doing, if the movements of the body are concentrated on the particular business of the moment—Binyon

*central, cerebral, mental, intellectual, psychic, intelligent cerebral and ceremonious imply strict attention to and regard for what is prescribed by the etiquette or tradition of a court or of polite society, by the ritual of a church, or by the formalities of the law for a ceremony or a proceeding. They are sometimes interchangeable (Duncan dropped back, whether from reverence or ridicule his father had never discovered, into the ceremonious usages of the past—Glasgow) an age in which no lady was too frail to attend a play alone . . . seemed to her, on the whole, better worth living in than the ceremonious era that had witnessed her fall—Glasgow} its worship is not highly ceremonious—Shepherd but more often ceremonial distinctively suggests the existence of and conformance to an elaborate, prescribed, and usually ritualistic code of procedures, while ceremonious stresses elaborate, often punctilious and dignified procedures or, in reference to persons, a tendency to formality and ceremony; thus, a wedding is a ceremonial occasion but not one at which the participants need be excessively ceremonial (grace ceremonial occasions, like birth and death and the assumption of manhood—Buchan} the president is . . . the ceremonial head of the American government . . . He greets distinguished visitors, lays wreaths on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, bestows the Medal of Honor on flustered pilots—Rossiter} the Zuñi are a ceremonial people, a people who value sobriety and inoffensiveness above all other virtues. Their interest is centered upon their rich and complex ceremonial life—Benedict} wine is a ceremonial drink in Normandy, where none is grown or made. It is not expected to taste good—Liebling}

Formal in comparison to ceremonial suggests set form or procedure rather than external ceremonies (a formal call) in comparison to ceremonious, formal suggests stiffness, restraint, decorousness rather than impressive dignity or punctiliousness (rules are an integral part of German life, rules for behavior . . . for persons of every status, for every formal situation—Mead} the habits of the family . . . may be termed formal, and old-fashioned by such visitors as claim to be the pink of the mode—Scott} Conventional applies to whatever is in accord with or governed by recognized, frequently artificial conventions or standards; it connotes lack of originality or independence (a conventional expression of regret) (the conventional white tie with men’s full evening dress) (a highly conventional person) (a skillful . . . journalist, conventional and conformist except in a strong bent toward liberal humanitarianism—Canby} Solemn is used in relation to religious observances or services and to certain acts the conduct of which is prescribed by law. The term implies, usually, strict attention to every detail that is prescribed or allowed by the ritual of the church or by the formalities of the law; thus, a solemn Mass is one in which the full liturgy is followed; a solemn feast is one celebrated not only by the full liturgy but by such other ceremonial observances as processions and pageants (funerals . . . were as much social events as solemn obsequies—Schlesinger d. 1965) having taken the solemn oath of office in the presence of my fellow countrymen—in the presence of our God—Roosevelt} a liturgical, ritualistic (see corresponding nouns at FORM)

ceremonial n ceremony, ritual, rite, liturgy, *form ceremonious *ceremonial, formal, solemn, conventional ceremonious adj impressive, *moving: *decorous, seemly, proper: stately, imposing, majestic, grandiose (see grand) ceremoniousness unceremonious, informal ceremony ceremonial, ritual, liturgy, rite, *form, formality ceremony ceremonial adj 1 positive, *sure, cocksure

central adj 135 certain adj
certainty, certitude

*confident, assured, sanguine

— *doubtful, dubious, questionable

2 Certain, inevitable, necessary are comparable when they mean bound to follow in obedience to the laws of nature or of thought. What is certain does not admit of being described as probable even in the highest conceivable degree and is beyond question or dispute (death is the only future event we can regard as certain) <it is certain that effects must have a cause—Bp. Butler> What is inevitable (see also INEVITABLE) is as it must be (sometimes should be) according to some unchangeable law (as of nature, of logic, or of beauty). Inevitable often carries little suggestion of unavoidability but stresses finality (as in truth or rightness) or an ultimate character (as perfection) <the results obtained in an actual experiment . . . seem nonsensical . . . when we picture light as bullets, but perfectly natural and inevitable when we picture it as waves—Jeans> <the design is, indeed, so happy, so right, that it seems inevitable; the design is the story and the story is the design—Cather> What is necessary is logically or naturally inevitable and cannot be denied without resulting contradiction or frustration (consequences distinctions of law are distinctions of degree. If the states had any power it was assumed that they had all power and that the necessary alternative was to deny it altogether—Justice Holmes> <his plays are the necessary expression of his mind and character, not the necessary conditions of his existence—Inge>

probable: supposed —

possible, likely (see We have been cocksure of many things test of that the world will go on indefinitely) is not the destroy man's of his own existence) <one has grounds of such sureness need not be objective proofs or

feel with irresistible certitude, Assurance (see also CONFIDENCE 2)

Glasgow)—is a designate the quality of a thing believed necessary which they designate. The psychological differentiation of certainty as the state of mind induced by something of which there is objectively as well as subjectively not the slightest question, from certainty as the state of mind of one whose faith or belief is so strong that it resists all attack, has indubitably affected the meanings and the use of these terms in general use <some philosophies tend to destroy man's certainty of his own existence> <one has certainty of nothing in the future, even that the sun will rise tomorrow, but that does not weaken one's certainty that the world will go on indefinitely> <certitude is not the test of certainty. We have been cocksure of many things that were not so—Justice Holmes> Certitude is usually more personal and less objective than certainty and suggests deeper roots for one's freedom from doubt and less likelihood of a change of belief <one thing, however, we feel with irresistible certainty, that Mark Twain's fate was once for all decided there—Brooks> In its greater objectivity certainty also provides a term that may logically designate the quality of a thing believed <certitude is a mental state: certainty is a quality of propositions—Newman> <the suspense which was more terrible than any certainty—Glasgow>

Assurance (see also CONFIDENCE 2) stresses sureness and confidence rather than certainty; the grounds of such sureness need not be objective proofs or the evidence of one's senses, for something of which one has assurance is typically something that is indemonstrable or is yet to happen; the word usually suggests implicit reliance on oneself or on one's powers, one's intuitions, or one's methods or complete trust in another (as a source of information, a supporter, a sovereign, or God) <I'll make assurance double sure, and take a bond of fate—Shak.> <faith is the assurance of things hoped for—Heb 11:1 (RV)> <rather, it might be said that he went beyond hope to the assurance of present happiness—More>

Conviction usually implies previous doubt or uncertainty. It involves the idea of certitude but is not its equivalent, for certitude may or may not imply a rational basis for one's freedom from doubt, and conviction (see also OPINION) usually does. It differs from certainty in stressing one's subjective reaction to evidence rather than the objective validity of the evidence itself. Conviction is therefore commonly applied to the state of mind of one who has been or is in the process of being convinced <have lost the old American conviction that most people are good and that evil is merely an accident—Malcolm Cowley> <she does not wish me to go unless with a full conviction that she is right—Conrad>

faith, credence: proof, demonstration (see under PROVE)

— doubt, skepticism, mistrust (see UNCERTAINTY)

certify 1 Certify, attest, witness, vouch are comparable when they mean to testify to the truth or genuineness of something. Certify usually implies a statement in writing, especially one that carries one's signature or seal or both or one that is legally executed; thus, a certified check carries the guarantee of a bank that the signature is genuine and that there are sufficient funds on deposit to meet it <they said their chemists . . . could certify on their honor that their extract contained no salicylic acid—Heiser>

Attest (see also INDICATE) implies oral or written testimony from a person in a position to know the facts, usually but not invariably given under oath or on one's word of honor; thus, when one says that something is well attested, he implies that there is sufficient documentary or oral testimony from competent persons to warrant its acceptance <the pleader . . . had witness ready to attest . . . that every article was true—Swift> <Washington's strong natural love of children, nowhere attested better than in his expense accounts—Fitzpatrick> In technical legal use attest is used chiefly in reference to the official authentication of a document (as a will, a deed, or a record) or to the guaranteeing of the genuineness of a signature or a statement or an oath by a qualified public agent (as a notary public or a commissioner of deeds) <an attested copy of the marriage record—Cather> Witness implies attestation, not necessarily official or notarial, of a signature (as of a statement, a will, or a bond) by one who has seen that signature actually made and who subscribes his own name to the document as evidence of its genuineness <he called in two of his servants to witness the signature to his will> Vouch (usually with for) rarely implies official or legal proof, which the other words in this group usually do imply, but it suggests that the one who testifies is a competent authority or a reliable person who will stand behind his affirmation and support it further if necessary <for the exactness of this story [of a purported miracle] in all its details, Bishop James of Vorgio could not have vouched, nor did it greatly matter. What he could vouch for was the relation of intimacy and confidence between his people and the Queen of Heaven—Henry Adams>

avouch, avow, aver, *assert, profess

2 endorse, accred, *approve, sanction

vouch (see CERTIFY): *authorize, commission, license

reject, repudiate, refuse (see DECLINE)

certainty *certainty, assurance, conviction

*belief, faith, credence, credit: sureness, positiveness, cocksureness (see corresponding adjectives at SURE)

— doubt, *uncertainty, skepticism, mistrust

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

*abrade, excoriate, fret, gall

*Anina* [injure, hurt, damage, impair: fray, skin, peel:]

*abuse, maltreat, outrage: irritate, exasperate

chaff [vb] [banter, kid, rag, jolly, rib, josh]

*Anina* [tease, tantalize, *worry: ridicule, deride, twit, taunt

chagrined [mortified, ashamed

*Anina* [discomfited, abashed, embarrassed, disconcerted (see EMMARRASS): humiliated (see ABAISE):] discomposed, perturbed, upset (see DISCOMPOSE

chain [n] series, string, train, sequence, *succession, progression

challenge [vb] [face, brave, dare, defy, beard

*Anina* [question (see ASK): dispute (see DISCUSS): claim, *demand, require: *invite, solicit

chamber [n] room, apartment

champ [n] bite, gnaw, gnash

champion [vb] back, advocate, uphold, *support

*Anina* [vanquisher, *victor, winner, conqueror

chance [n] 1 Chance, accident, fortune, luck, hap, hazard
denote something that happens without an apparent or determinable cause or as a result of unpredictable forces.

Chances serves often as a general term for the incalculable and fortuitous element in human existence and in nature and is usually opposed to law (see PRINCIPLE) *It is incorrect to say that any phenomenon is produced by chance; but we may say that two or more phenomena are conjoined by chance . . . meaning that they are in no way related by causation—J. S. Mill* Chance often retains implications derived from its early association with the casting of dice or lots and the selection of one out of many possibilities by this means; consequently it may mean determination by irrational, uncontrollable forces (leave things to chance) or it may mean degree of probability (his chance of success is one in ten) or it may mean one possibility of success among many possibilities of failure (he is always willing to take a chance

*Accident is interchangeable with chance only when a particular event or situation is in mind (it happened by accident or by chance) It differs from chance mainly in its emphasis on lack of intention *buildings are not grouped like that by pure accident—Cather* *meeting by accident, we hovered by design—Emily Dickinson

Fortune, owing to its historical connection with the ancient Roman goddess of chance, Fortuna, often designates the hypothetical cause of what happens fortuitously (fortune favored him in his first attempt) It also often suggests qualities ascribed to the goddess (as variability, fickleness, and malignity) *I may conquer fortune's spite by living low, where fortune cannot hurt me—Shak.* *vicissitudes of fortune—Gibbon* Fortune is also applied to the issue or outcome of an undertaking the success of which is problematical (the fortunes of war) the country virtually drops everything . . . to follow the fortunes of the two teams engaged in the World Series—Harold Rosenthal* Luck differs from fortune chiefly in its connotations. It not only lacks the dignity accruing to fortune through the latter's mythical associations, but it is somewhat colored by its association with gambling. It is preferable in contexts where fortune would seem bookish (but luck follows him all his days) (it was just our luck to miss that train) the fisherman had good luck today, a happy outcome, as fortune unqualifiedly does
sometimes suggest minor changes or absence of radical changes 〈history shows you men whose master-touch not so much modifies as makes anew—Browning〉 〈the aeroplane—as it was called for many years before the word was modified to airplane—Harlow〉

**Ana** *transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transmogrify: *exchange, interchange: fluctuate, oscillate (see SWING vb)

**Con** settle, *set, establish, fix: endure, abide, *continue, persist

**change n 1** alteration, variation, modification (see under **change vb**)

**Ana** *variety, diversity: divergence, *deviation, aberration

**Ant** uniformity: monotony

2 Change, mutation, permutation, vicissitude, alternation are comparable especially in their concrete senses. Change, the inclusive term, denotes not only any variation, alteration, or modification in a thing (as in its form, substance, or aspect) but also any substitution of one thing for another 〈he could detect no change in her when they met again〉 〈the body undergoes changes during puberty〉 〈a change of season〉 〈a change of clothes often makes a change in one's appearance〉 〈poor faithful dogs, lovers of novelty and change of scene—Reypler〉 〈mutation and permutation are applied to a change within a thing or in a combination of things regarded or functioning as a unit. Mutation stresses lack of permanence or stability; it has been applied to variations or alterations that are expected only because they are inherent in the nature of things but are otherwise fortuitous or unaccountable 〈O world! But that thy strange mutations make us hate thee, life would not yield to age—Shak.〉 More typically the term connotes suddenness and unpredictableness but seldom implies impossibility of explanation; often also it implies orderly change 〈so far as reality means experienceable reality, both it and the truths men gain about it are everlastingly in process of mutation—mutation towards a definite goal, it may be—James〉

**Permuation** implies transposition within a group or combination of things without change in the constituent elements or parts of that group or combination. It is now used largely in reference to a change in position within a group of differentiable items (as digits, letters, colors, or sounds) 〈the 26 letters of the alphabet are capable of endless combinations and permutations〉

It may imply a rearrangement of constituent elements that effects a change in relations, emphasis, or significance and so gives a new form to what is substantially the same material 〈conventions beget conventions, to be sure, and their ramifications and permutations are endless—Lowes〉 〈by whatever permutations and combinations may be necessary, we may gradually move somewhat nearer to that reign of law—Davis〉

**Vicissitude** (see also difficulty) implies a change so great as to seem a substitution for, or a reversal of, what has been. Sometimes it is applied to such changes as occur in natural succession or from one extreme to another 〈Nature indeed vouchsafes for our delight the sweet vicissitudes of day and night—Cowper〉 〈like walking in a wood where there is . . . a constant vicissitude of light and shade—J. R. Lowell〉

More often it is applied to a sweeping and unpredictable change that overturns what has been and so has the character of a revolution or an upheaval 〈the place and the object gave ample scope for moralizing on the vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man nor the proudest of his works, which buries empires and cities in a common grave—Gibbon〉

This implication of reversal is now so strong that the original implication of succession in turn is disappearing. **Alteration**, though logically used only of the succession of two things in turn, is also used, as vicissitude once was, of two or more things 〈the alteration of the seasons〉

**Ana** metamorphosis, transformation, conversion, transmutation, transmogrification (see under TRANSFORM): substitute, surrogate, shift (see RESOURSE)

**changeable, changeful, variable, mutable, protean** are comparable when meaning having or showing a marked capacity for changes or a marked tendency to alter itself or be altered under slight provocation. **Changeable**, the ordinary and most comprehensive term of this group, usually suggests this as a characteristic or property that is the result of such reactions as inconstancy, fickleness, an unsettled state, a ready responsiveness to certain influences, or a roving habit 〈changeable weather〉 〈she was a fresh, cool, dewy thing . . . fiful and changeable with the whim of the moment—Hawthorne〉 〈a changeable silk is one that seems to change its color with each change of position or point of view〉

**Changeful** is a more poetic term than changeable; it throws greater stress on the fact of changing frequently than on the underlying characteristic or property which manifests itself in such changes 〈the changeful April day—Southey〉 〈he felt that life was changeful, fluid, active, and that to allow it to be stereotyped into any form was death—Wilde〉

〈all your charms more changeful than the tide—Millay〉

**Variable** carries an implication of subjection to frequent and often deeper changes than either of the preceding words; it stresses shifting or fluctuation as a characteristic or property and therefore usually connotes uncertainty or unpredictability 〈a region of variable winds〉 〈man himself was a variable, mixed and transitory creature; he could not escape the law of his own being—L. P. Smith〉 〈the methods of statistics are so variable and uncertain . . . that it is never possible to be sure that one is operating with figures of equal weight—Ellis〉

** Mutable** also implies subjection to change, but it suggests an opposition to unchanging, fixed, or permanent and therefore is less often applied to something fluctuating and variable than to something living, growing, or developing that shows changes due to progression or regression or to external influences or conditions over which the thing affected has no control 〈my lord, you know what Virgil sings, woman is various and most mutable—Tennyson〉 〈our view of any of these concepts, say justice, is mutable, changing from century to century, from place to place—G. W. Johnson〉 〈our valuation of poetry . . . depends upon several considerations, upon the permanent and upon the mutable and transitory—T. S. Eliot〉

**Protean** suggests a capacity for assuming many different forms or shapes without loss of identity; the term therefore implies changeability with respect to outer manifestations rather than inner character or nature 〈an amoeba is a protean animalcule〉 〈the protean genius of Shakespeare〉 〈for poetry is protean in its moods and dispositions, and its diction changes with its bents and its occasions—Lowes〉 〈but an idea is a misty, vague object that takes on protean shapes, never the same for any two people—Dwight Macdonald〉

**Ana** unstable, *inconstant, mercurial, capricious, fickle: mobile, *movable

**Ant** stable: unchangeable —Con set, fixed, settled, established (see set vb): unceasing, * everlasting: enduring, abiding, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at **continue**)}

**changeful** *changeable, variable, protean, mutable

**Ana** fluid (see LIQUID adj): *active, dynamic, live: progressing, advancing (see ADVANCE vb): declining, deteriorating, degenerating (see corresponding nouns

An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
channel 1 passage, *strait, narrows, sound

2 Channel, canal, conduit, duct, aqueduct all mean something through which a fluid (as water) is led or flows. Channel implies the natural bed of a stream of running or moving waters; the term is also applied to a deep portion of a stream or body of water either where the main current flows or where a good passage for boats exists (the brook's channel is nowhere more than three feet deep) (the channel for ships into the harbor needs to be dredged frequently on account of the drifting sands) Channel often applies also to a natural or an artificial passageway (as a tube, a gutter, a ditch, or a trough) through which something (as waste) flows or (as chain or wire) runs (the poison channel in a snake's fangs) (the channel of a tackle block through which the rope runs) Canal is used for an artificial waterway which connects two bodies of water (the New York State Barge Canal connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson river) (the Panama Canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans) It is also used in designations of various ana- tomical grooves or tubular channels (as for the containing of some structure or the passage of some substance) (the alimentary canal through which food passes in the course of digestion) Conduit may be applied to an artificial or natural passageway that serves to convey or transmit a fluid (volcanoes . . . made by discharge of material through a more or less cylindrical conduit in the earth's crust—Howel Williams) but the term is more often used specifically for a large heavy pipe which conveys water from a reservoir to a point where it is distributed or for a pipe that carries the wires or cables of an electric system (into it through underground arteries of conduits and pipes, are fed the electric power, gas, and water supply —Science) Duct has specific application to one of the small anatomical tubes through which a secretion is conveyed to where it is needed or is excreted from the organism (thoracic duct) (bile duct) The term is also used in reference to any of the pipes of a furnace or an air-conditioning system through which air is taken in, circulated, or discharged. Aqueduct is applied to an artificial channel for water (as a conduit) and especially to an artificial structure, in appearance like a bridge, for carrying water over a river, or over a gorge or gap between elevations.

Ana passage, pass (see way)

3 vehicle, *mean, instrument, instrumentality, organ, agency, agent, medium

chant vb *sing, troll, carol, descant, trill, hymn, intone

chaos 1 *confusion, disorder, disarray, jumble, clutter, snarl, muddle

Ant system —Con ordering or order, organization (see corresponding verbs at ORDER)

2 *anarchy, lawlessness

chip away, erode, pare, scarify, erode, scrape, mark

Ant protect, shield, guard, safeguard (see DEFEND)

char vb *burn, scorch, sear, singe

character n 1 Character, symbol, sign, mark are comparable in the specific sense of an arbitrary or conventional device that is used in writing and in printing, but is neither a word nor a phrase nor a picture. Character suggests the distinctive form or shape of such a device (an inscription in runic characters) It is applicable to a letter of an alphabet, to a digit in arithmetical notation, to a note in musical notation, or to a single and simple figure or diagram which is the conventional representation of such a directive or indicative value as a comma (,), a direction to delete (θ), a minute in degree ('), or an indication of G clef in music (/>. Symbol may be used interchangeably with character in this sense; more typically it is employed when the meaning or significance of the character rather than its shape is stressed; thus, for each letter in the English alphabet there are various characters (as small letter and capital or italic and boldface) for use in writing and printing but each letter, whatever the character used to express it, is a symbol for a speech sound; the character is the symbol used to indicate that a question has been asked. Symbol is sometimes extended to other devices than those strictly called characters, such as abbreviations (O is the symbol for oxygen), as diagrams or schematic figures (© is the symbol for full moon in calendars), or as more or less arbitrary arrangements of numerals, letters, or other characters (12mo or 12" is the symbol for duodecimo) Sign, like symbol, stresses the meaning rather than the form of the device; unlike symbol, however, it is seldom interchangeable with character, either because it may be a complicated device involving many characters or because it is less arbitrary and actually suggests through its shape or form the thing which it signifies. There is a tendency therefore to prefer sign to symbol when the device is complicated or in its form gives a hint of what it represents, either because it is a schematic representation of the thing (© is a highway sign for double right curves) or because it has figurative associations with the idea represented (←, an arrow, or sign indicating direction) Sign, however, is used idiomatically of characters indicating a mathematical operation (the plus sign +) (the minus sign → and of those indicating one of the twelve divisions of the zodiac (♈ is the sign of Aries, the Ram) Mark comes closer to character than symbol or sign, because it carries little, if any, suggestion of reference to an idea. It is the ordinary designation of any of various characters that are used to make clear the meaning of a passage but that add nothing to that meaning (punctuation marks, such as the comma , or the question mark ?) or that indicate to the eye how words should be pronounced (pronunciation marks such as the acute accent ' or the cedilla ç) (diacritical marks such as “ over the vowel a) 2 *quality, property, attribute, accident

Ana characteristic, peculiarity, distinctiveness or distinction, individuality (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic)

3 individuality, personality, complexion, temperament, temper, *disposition

Ana *mind, intellect, soul, intelligence: *soul, spirit: *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution

4 nature, description, *type, kind, ilk, sort, stripe, kidney

5 reference, recommendation, testimonial, *credential

characteristic adj Characteristic, individual, peculiar, distinctive are comparable when they mean indicating or revealing the special quality or qualities of a particular person or thing or of a particular group of persons or things. Characteristic stresses the indication or revelation not only of what is essential or typical, but of what distinguishes and serves to identify the person, the thing, or the group; the word, however, fixes the attention on the thing considered more as it is in itself than as it seems in contrast or relation to other things (he answered with characteristic courtesy) (it was characteristic of the relationship between these two that, in all the pleadings and protests of the poor deferred lover, Sally never made the offer of convention and custom to release him—Deland) (a fertile oasis possesses a characteristic color scheme of its own—Huxley) Individual (see also...
**characteristic**

Not only implies a reference to a particular person or thing but also places much more stress on qualities that distinguish him or it from all other members of the same class or kind than does characteristic; it therefore usually applies to something that indicates or reveals a personality or a nature that is different from others (that singularly individual voice of Tom's—mature, confident, seldom varying in pitch, but full of slight, very moving modulations—Cather) (the individual idiosyncrasies of each member of the great family—Anderson). Peculiar (see also Strange) comes close to individual; it usually implies a reference to a person or thing as he or it is in himself or itself and as differentiated from all others of the same kind. It may, however, apply to such a class as a sex, a race, or a people. In this use, the term does not, as in its more common derived sense, necessarily carry any hint of strangeness or oddness; rather it suggests private and undisputed possession (as of a quality, a character, an emotion, or a significance) (a grief that was private and peculiar—Meredith) (a drowsy fervor of manner and tone which was quite peculiar to her—Hardy). In these aspects . . . of his work we pretend to find what is individual, what is the peculiar essence of the man—T. S. Eliot) (habits both universal among mankind and peculiar to individuals—Allport). Distinctive implies the possession of an individuality or peculiarity that marks the thing so described as apart from all others of its class or type and often, therefore, as worthy of special recognition or praise (it is this . . . distinctive vision of the world as a whole which seems to give Leonardo that marvelous flair for detecting vital mechanism in every field—Ellis) (it is . . . the exquisite craftsmanship . . . that has given to free verse, alike in England and America, its most distinctive qualities—Loves). Ana *special, especial, specific, particular: typical, natural, normal, *regular

**characteristic n** Characteristic, trait, feature mean something that marks or sets apart a person or thing. Characteristic designates a constant property or quality that stands out in such a way as to distinguish a person or thing from others or to reveal him or it as he or it is; the term is applicable not only to persons and concrete objects but to things which are immaterial, intangible, or the product of abstraction (here we must note in the man one very striking characteristic . . . he appreciated the singularity of his talent—Bellow) (what was only an incidental and local damage . . . became a widespread characteristic of Western civilization—Mumford) (a constant alternation of lyricism and flatness . . . is the salient characteristic of postwar verse technique—Day Lewis). Trait applies especially to persons, peoples, or types and to their sharply accented qualities of character or of mind; otherwise, the term differs from characteristic only in its suggestions of clear definition and of distinctiveness (Marino Lucero had not one trait in common with Martinez, except the love of authority—Cather) (what they like to do . . . not at all what they are fitted to do, is the rule of their effort. And it is the unfalling trait of the amateur—Brownell). Feature, on the other hand, suggests not a quality or property, but a part or detail of a thing (as a face, a view, an object, or a character) which attracts and holds the attention by reason of its shape or form or by reason of its importance, its conspicuousness, or its being pressed upon one's attention (her eyes are her most admirable feature) (the great feature of the exposition is the new coliseum). Though the gloom had increased sufficiently to confuse the minor features of the heath, the white surface of the road remained almost as clear as ever—Hardy) (features so un-Egyptian that they practically prove that her cult was a local one—G. W. Murray). In the United States the term feature is often applied specifically to something exhibited or advertised as particularly attractive and especially to the principal attraction in a motion-picture entertainment or to a distinctive or prominent article, story, or cartoon in a periodical (a feature writer).

**An** *quality, property, character: peculiarity, individuality (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic).

**characterize, distinguish, mark, qualify** are comparable when they mean to be a peculiar or significant quality or feature of something. Characterize stresses that quality or feature (or those qualities or features) which stands out and identifies the person or thing considered; often an obvious or striking feature rather than a fundamental or basic quality is implied (metaphor characterizes the language of poetry—R. M. Weaver) (that mien of assured authority, of capacity tested in many a crisis, which characterized Mrs. Baines—Bennett). Distinguish (see also distinguish), on the other hand, stresses a feature, a quality, or a characteristic that makes a person or thing different from others or that sets him or it apart from and sometimes above others (a peculiar sort of sweet pudding . . . distinguished the days of his coming—Lamb) (was distinguished for ignorance; for he had only one idea, and that was wrong—Disraeli) (once writers were a class apart, distinguished by ink-stained fingers, unkempt hair, and a predilection for drinking cheap wine in cellars—Uhlen). Mark (see also mark vb) implies the presence of noteworthy qualities or features that are the outward signs of an inward character (no triumph—no exaltation . . . marks her manner—Cowden Clarke) (are we so sure that the qualities that mark successful climbers—self-assertion, acquisition, emulation—are highly desirable?—Ellis). Qualify (see also prepare, moderate) occasionally implies a quality, characteristic, or description that is attributed by the immediate writer or speaker to a person or thing as fitted to him or it (the “Devil’s drawing room,” as some have qualified that wondrous place—Byron) (cannot qualify it as . . . either glad or sorry—T. S. Eliot) (Ana *distinguish, differentiate, demarcate: individualize, peculiarize (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic).

**charge vb** 1 *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, load, lade, tax, saddle 2 direct, instruct, bid, enjoin, *command, order Ana request, solict, *ask: adjure (see Beg) 3 *accuse, incriminate, indict, impeach, arraign Ana denounced, blame, censure, condemn (see Criticize) Ant absolve—Con *exculpate, exonerate, vindicate, acquit: pardon, remit, forgive, *excuse 4 *ascribe, attribute, impute, assign, credit, accredit Ana *fasten, attach, fix, affix: *join, connect, link 5 *rush, dash, tear, shoot Ana impel, drive (see Move): *fly, dart, scud

**charge n** *price, cost, expense

**chargé d'affaires** *ambassador, legate, nuncio, minister, chargé des affaires (in French)

**charitable** benevolent, humane, humanitarian, philanthropic, eleemosynary, altruistic are comparable when they mean having or showing interest in or being concerned with the welfare of others. Charitable stresses either active generosity to the poor or leniency and mercifulness in one's judgments of others, but in each case it...
usually retains in some degree the implications of fraternal love or of compassion as the animating spirit behind the gift or the judgment <generous and charitable, prompt to serve—Wordsworth> <Mrs. Hawthorne had been rude ... to a friend of his, but that friend, so much more charitable and really good than she was, had made excuses for her—Archibald Marshall> (<it is more charitable to suspend judgment—Glasgow> Benevolent also stresses some inner compulsion (as native kindliness, a desire to do good, or an interest in others' happiness and well-being). In contrast with charitable, however, it more often suggests an innate disposition than an inculcated virtue <his intentions are benevolent> <old Dimple with his benevolent smile—H. G. Wells> <my mother ... always employed in benevolent actions while she uttered uncharitable words—Wharton> <the administrator of the future must be the servant of free citizens, not the benevolent ruler of admiring subjects—Russell> Humane implies tenderness and compassion, sometimes as qualities of one's temperament, but sometimes as required qualifications of enlightened and sensitive human beings; it is referable chiefly, but not exclusively, to methods and policies affecting the welfare of others <humane treatment of prisoners or of animals> <with reasonable motives, with humane men I will plead; but to tyrants I will give no quarter, nor waste arguments where they will certainly be lost—Garrison> Humanitarian suggests an interest in the welfare or well-being of mankind or of a particular class or group of men more than of the individual; it is applied especially to acts, outlooks, and policies (as of institutions, rulers, or governments) <as a nation we have been sharing our abundance with the world's hungry people ... primarily from a humanitarian standpoint—Hope> <such humanitarian issues as the repeal of the brutal debtor laws—Parrington> <a part of the nation became humanitarian, and with a tender conscience turned ... toward the perfectibility of man—Canby> <to use the A-bomb ... was ... wrong ... on humanitarian grounds—Zacharias> Philanthropic and eleemosynary also suggest interest in humanity rather than in the individual, but they commonly imply (as humanitarian does not) the giving of money on a large scale to organized charities, to institutions for human advancement or social service, or to humanitarian causes <philanthropic foundations> <found time to devote to church, civic, and philanthropic affairs—Silveus> <eleemosynary institutions> <contractors, rarely known for wearing eleemosynary halos, cheerfully pocketed a loss ... while they waited for the self-help workers ... to catch up—Olivier> <an institution of higher education is not a commercial enterprise ... Its character is eleemosynary, strictly eleemosynary—Himstead> Altruistic presupposes the guidance of an ethical principle: that the interests of others should be placed above those of self; it usually implies the absence of selfishness and often indifference to one's own welfare or interests <if it is assumed that the objectives of American policy are wholly altruistic, it follows that non-Americans who participate ... must be wholly virtuous—Muggeridge> <altruistic motives> (<an altruistic physician). Ana generous, *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent; merciful, *forbearing, lenient, clement, tolerant: *tender, compassionate, warmhearted, sympathetic Ant uncharitable —Con merciless, relentless, implacable (see GRIM): *stingy, close, closefisted, parsimonious, niggardly, cheeseparing charity 1 *mercy, clemency, grace, lenity Ana love, affection, *attachment: benevolence, humane- ness, altruism (see corresponding adjectives at charitable): benignity, benignancy, kindness, kindliness (see corresponding adjectives at kind): generosity or generosity, liberalness or liberality, bountifulness or bounty, openhandedness (see corresponding adjectives at liberal): goodwill, amity, *friendship Ant malice, ill will —Con malevolence, malignity, malignancy, spite, spleen (see MALICE) 2 Charity, philanthropy are comparable in several of their meanings. Both words denote basically a love for one's fellowmen and a disposition to help those who are in need. But charity in this sense tends to suggest a Christian virtue and the will to help, as well as the deed, whenever the occasion arises <as for the rarity of Christian charity under the sun!—Hood> <melt not in an acid sect the Christian pearl of charity—Whittier> Philanthropy in this sense is much vaguer because it usually implies a love of mankind and a disposition to help the community or one's fellowmen rather than the individual <this philanthropy ... is everywhere manifest in our author—Dryden> Consequently there is a tendency to think of charity as benevolence manifested especially in public or private provision for the relief of the poor, and of philanthropy as benevolence manifested in efforts to promote the welfare or well-being of one's fellowmen; thus, out of charity one provides for the support of a destitute orphan; out of philanthropy one sends a large gift of money to an educational institution (<in benevolence, they excel in charity, which alleviates individual suffering, rather than in philanthropy, which deals with large masses and is more frequently employed in preventing than in allaying calamity—Lecky>) The terms also may be applied to what is done or given out of charity or philanthropy or to an institution or cause which is the object of such benefaction <the cold philanthropies, the ostentatious public charities ... he exposed with utter and relentless scorn—Wilde> <many charities and many philanthropies were aided by him during his lifetime> charlatan mountebank, quack, *impostor, faker Ana humbug, fraud, cheat, fake (see IMPOSTURE): pretender, feigner, counterfeiter (see corresponding verbs at assume) charm n talisman, amulet, *fetish charm vb fascinate, allure, captivate, enchant, bewitch, *attract Ana delight, rejoice, *please, gratify Ant disgust charming fascinating, alluring, captivating, enchanting, bewitching, attractive (see under attract vb) Ana *delightful, delectable, delicious: pleasing, agreeable, grateful, *pleasant Ant forbidding chart n Chart, map, graph are comparable as nouns meaning a graphic and explanatory representation by means of lines, dots, colors, and symbols of something incapable of the face of the earth, or values of a variable at specified times and places) and as verbs meaning to make such a representation of something. Chart is the most inclusive of these terms; it implies the aim of making clear to the mind through the eye by graphic projection of data something (as solutions of an equation, points on the face of the earth, or values of a variable at specified times and places) that cannot be viewed directly (<a chart of coastal rainfall> <a nomographic conversion chart for an equation relating two variable quantities consists of two scales and a pivot point—French & Vierck> <A star chart> <charting the shifting channel of a river> <at 30,000 feet, in clear skies above the boiling cloud cap of a hurricane, an Air Force plane charts the size
of the disturbance—N. Y. Times> Chart often specifically denotes a map designed as an aid to air or water navigation by stressing features and hazards of the area depicted. The modern nautical chart is the end product of all the field operations. Into its construction enter the results of the geodetic, topographic, hydrographic, tidal, and magnetic work of the Survey—Shalowitz> <an uncharted rock> Map usually implies a representation of the earth's surface or of a part of it that shows directly according to some given scale or projection the relative position and size of cultural features (as streets, buildings, cities, towns, villages, counties, states, provinces, or countries) as well as the shape and proportionate extent of natural features (as bodies of water, mountain ranges, and coasts)<a map of Europe> A map newly explored country. It may also be used in reference to a representation of the celestial sphere or of a particular heavenly body (mapping the surface of the moon) A map of the northern heavens> Graph applies specifically to a chart or diagram in which two variable factors (for example, the prices of a commodity and the times at which these varying prices were asked) are so represented as to indicate their interrelationship. The usual method of preparing a graph is to locate by means of coordinates a series of points and often to join them with a curve or a series of straight lines A graph of a patient's fever> A graph the course of business since 1962> Ana *plan, plot, scheme, design, project chart vb map, graph (see under chart n) Ana see those at chart n charter vb *hire, let, lease, rent chartery *cautious, circumspect, wary, calculating Ana prudent, discreet, provident (see under PRUDENCE); *sparing, economical, frugal, thrifty; reluctant, hesitant, loath, *disinclined chase vb *follow, pursue, trail, tag, tail Con flee, fly, *escape: elude, evade, *escape: *abandon, forsake, desert chasm *gulf, abyss, abyss chaste, pure, modest, decent are comparable *chary prudent, discreet, provident (see under PRUDENCE): Ana *beast, thrash, pummel, baste, belaborg chat vb Chat, gab, chatter, prate, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber denote to emit a loose and ready flow of inconsequential talk or as nouns the talk so emitted. To chat is to talk in light, easy, and pleasant fashion (in easy mirth we chatted o'er the trifles of the day before—William Whitehead) (passed an hour in idle chat) To gab is to talk trivia glibly and long, often tiresomely with great rapidity (it was she who chattered, chatted, on their walks, while . . . he dropped a gentle word now and then—Conrad) (my chattering was as gay and sprightly as birdsong—Warren) To patter is to speak or repeat rapidly and mechanically (pattering prayers half inaudibly) or glibly and volubly often without much regard to sense (they're college-reared and can patter languages—Buchan) (the patter of an auctioneer) To prate is to talk idly and boastfully (a prating fool shall fall—Prov 10:8) The word is often specifically used in reproach implying platitudinous or fulsome boasting or a readiness to talk at length about things of which the speaker is really ignorant or has only superficial knowledge (we may prate of democracy, but actually a poor child in England has little more hope than had the son of an Athenian slave to be emancipated into that intellectual freedom of which great writings are born—Quiller-Couch) To prattle is to talk like a child (as in artlessness and freedom or sometimes in lack of substance and sense) (prattled on . . . in this vein, speewing up the squalid confusion of his thoughts—Anthony West) (we are . . . charmed with the pretty prattle of children—Sidney) Babble, gabble, jabber, and gibber basically imply a making of sounds suggestive of speech but lacking the meaning content, intelligibility, and articulateness of normal adult human speech (a brook babbled among the stones) The noisy gabbles of geese (monkeys jabbering in the trees) (an idiot mewing and gibbering) As applied to human speaking speech all four terms are somewhat derogatory and especially suggest lack of clarity in both articulation and content (the babble of four or more voices going on at once—G. A. Miller) (saying nothing comprehensible, just babbling and gabbling, half unconsciously— Bennett) (subjected to gabble about fifteen-century politics—McCarten) (must we fall into the jabber and babel of discourse—Sir Winston Churchill) (listened to gibber about . . . our present form or methods of government—The Nation) (the sheeted dead did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets—Shak.) Ana converse, talk, *speak: gossip

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
cheat vb Cheat, cozen, defraud, swindle, overreach are
fraud, fake, deceit, deception, imposture, counter-
beggarly, shabby, pitiable, sorry, contemptible,
low, base, vile, poor, bad, wrong
Ant noble

cheat n fraud, fake, deceit, deception, imposture, counter-
feit, sham, humbug
Ana hoaxing or hoax, bamboozling or bamboozlement
(see corresponding verbs at DUPE): deception, trickery,
chicanery, chicaner; charlatan, quack, mountebank, faker,
impostor; swindler, defrauder, cozener (see corresponding
verbs at CHEAT)

chatter vb Cheat, cozen, defraud, swindle, overreach are
comparable when meaning to obtain something and
especially money or valuables from or an advantage over
another by dishonesty and trickery. Cheat suggests deceit
and, usually, tricks that escape or are intended to escape
the observation of others (cheat at cards) (cheat in a
written examination) (she and her husband had cheated
every one with whom they had dealings—Anderson)
(he is not cheated who knows he is being cheated—
Coke) Cozen implies more artfulness or craft and often
more allusions than cheat; it usually suggests the
victim's loss of something of value to him whether of
real worth or not (soldiers cozen'd of their pay by clever
girls) (cousins, indeed; and by their uncle cozen'd of
comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life—Shak.) (the
Popular Front—that famous opportunity for men of good-
will to be cozened by the Communists—Poore)
Defraud implies depriving another of something that is his by right
whether by taking it from him or by withholding it; the
word, however, implies misleading statements or delib-
erate perversion of the truth more often than it implies
craft, artfulness, or wiles (defraud a widow of a piece of
property) (the stockholders held that they had been
defrauded by those who reorganized the company)
(thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him—
Lev 19:13) (freedom of speech and press does not include
. . . the right to deceive or defraud—Neil)
Swindle implies either gross cheating or defrauding especially
by imposture or by gaining the victim's confidence;
it usually implies the obtaining of money or something
quickly or easily convertible into money by false pre-
tenses (the forger swindled the merchants of the city out
of large sums of money) (the despised Chinese, who
were cuffed and maltreated and swindled by the Califor-
nians—Brooks)
Overreach implies getting the better of a person with whom one is dealing or negotiating or bar-
gaining by unfair or dishonest means; often it implies
cheating or defrauding or swindling (he never made any
ea bargain without overreaching (or, in the vulgar phrase,
cheating) the person with whom he dealt—Fielding)
Ana *dupe, gull, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle, trick,
befooled: deceive, delude, beguile, double-cross, mislead
check n *corrective, control, antidote
Ana *oversight, supervision, surveillance

check vb 1 *arrest, interrupt
Ana stay, suspend (see DEFER): stop, cease, discon-
tinue, desist: repress, suppress: frustrate, thwart,
foil, circumvent
2 biddle, curb, restrain, inhibit
Ana *hinder, impede, obstruct, block: prevent, pre-
clude, obviate: baffle, balk (see FRUSTRATE): control,
manage (see CONDUCT vb)
Ant accelerate (of speed): advance (of movements, plans,
hopes): release (of feelings, energies)

cheked, chekered *variegated, parti-colored, motley,
pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked
cheek n nerve, effrontery, hardihood, gall, temerity,
audacity
Ana boldness, intrepidity (see corresponding adjectives
at BRAVE): impudence, brazeness, shamelessness,
brashness (see corresponding adjectives at SHAMELESS)
Ant diffidence —Con shyness, modesty, bashfulness
(see corresponding adjectives at SHY): timorousness,
timidity (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID): reserved-
ness or reserve, reticence (see corresponding adjectives
at SILENT)

cheep vb *chirp, chirrup, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter
cheep n chirp, chirrup, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter (see
under CHIRP vb)
cheer vb 1 *encourage, inspirt, hearten, embolden,
ne, steel
Ana *comfort, console, solace: gladden, gratify (see
PLEASE): stimulate, excite, quicken, provoke
Ant deject: dismay —Con *discourage, dishearten,
dispirit
2 root, *applaud
Ana acclaim, laud, *praise
Con deride, mock, *ridicule, taunt
cheerful lighthearted, joyful, joyous, glad, happy
Ana jolly, jovial, merry, blithe, jocund: mirthful, glee-
ful (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH): gay, vivacious,
* lively, animated
Ant glum, gloomy —Con *sullen, saturnine, dour,
morose: depressed, melancholy, sad (see corresponding
nouns at SADNESS): doleful, lugubrious,
*melancholy
Ant cheerless *dismal, dreary, dispiriting, bleak, desolate
Ana discouraging, disheartening, dejecting (see DIS-
COURAGE)
Ant cheerful

cheeseparing *stingy, close, closefisted, tight, tight-
fisted, niggardly, penny-pinching, parsimonious, penuri-
ous, miserly

chemist *druggist, apothecary, pharmacist
cherish 1 prize, treasure, value, *appreciate
Ana love, enjoy, *like: esteem, respect, regard (see
under REGARD n): revere, venerate, reverence: protect,
* defend, shield, safeguard, guard
Ant neglect —Con ignore, overlook, slight, disregard,
forget (see NEGLECT): desert, forsake (see ABANDON)
2 foster, *nurse, nurture, cultivate
Ana preserve, conserve, * save: harbor, shelter, enter-
tain
Ant abandon—Con repudiate, scorn, reject (see
DECLINE vb): contempt, despise, disdain

chew out *scold, upbraid, rate, berate, tongue-lash,
jaw, bawl, wig, rail, revile, vituperate
chic adj smart, fashionable, modish, *stylish, dashing
chicane, chicanery trickery, double-dealing, *deception,
fraud
Ana artifice, stratagem, maneuver, ruse, feint, * trick,
wire, gambit, ploy: intrigue, machination, * plot: under-
headedness, furtiveness, surreptitiousness (see corre-
sponding adjectives at SECRET)
Con straightforwardness, forthrightness (see corre-
sponding adjectives at STRAIGHTFORWARD): *honesty,
integration, probity, honor

chide reproach, * reprove, rebuke, reprimand, admonish
Ana *criticize, reprehend, censure, blame, condemn,
denounce: * scold, upbraid, rate, berate
Ant commend —Con applaud, compliment (see COM-
MEND): * praise, laud, extol
chief

chief n Chief, chieftain, head, headman, leader, master are comparable when they mean the person in whom resides authority or ruling power but they differ in their applications and associations. Chief is the most comprehensive of these terms, being applicable as a general term to anyone from an absolute monarch to one's immediate superior (the chief of a court of inquiry was called the grand inquisitor) (the chargé d'affaires reports daily to his chief). Usually, however, the term is applied specifically to one who is supreme in power or authority over a tribe or clan (an Indian chief) or to the superior officer in a civil department (the chief of police) (chief of police) or to one who is vested with authority and power to act by the organization over which he presides (the chairmen of the national committees of the leading political parties are virtually party chiefs). The phrase in chief is often added to a title, held by two or more, to indicate the one who is the first in authority (commander in chief) (editor in chief).

Chiefnia has never obtained the generality of chief, and still usually carries implications derived from its early and still leading application to the chief of a tribe, a clan, or of a primitive, savage, or barbaric group (the chieftain's plaid) (a robber chieftain). Head, though seemingly as comprehensive as chief, is applied most frequently to the person of a group who serves as its chief executive or on whom shoulders the responsibility finally rests (the head of the family) (the head of a school) (the British prime minister is actually the head of the government) (the head of a department).

Headman comes close to chieftain in that it usually applies to the person who serves as the chief of his tribe or village; the term, even more than chieftain, implies a condition of savagery or barbarism. Leader implies headship, sometimes of a nation or people but more often of an organized body (as a political party, a society, or a band of musicians) or of an informal assembly (as of persons or animals) (a rangy red steer was the leader of the stampede). The term usually implies a capacity for guidance, direction, or for the assumption of full control and of winning the support of those under one (the leader of an orchestra) (the leader of the opposition in the British parliament) Master, on the other hand, applies to a head who has another or others under him subject to his direction or control and necessarily obedient to his will: the term stresses his authority rather than his capacity for guidance (a man cannot serve two masters). In general use the term is applied as a designation to an employer of servants and to the head of a school or of a class. It is also applied generally to anyone who exerts great and controlling influence over others or who is regarded as one to be followed or obeyed. The chief specific use of master is as the title of the person qualified to command a merchant vessel; in this use it is commonly superseded by captain as a courtesy title.

Ana governor, ruler (see corresponding verbs at GOVERN) Con *follower, disciple, henchman, adherent, satellite chief adj Chief, principal, main, leading, foremost, capital mean first in importance or in standing. Chief is applicable to a person that serves as the head of his class or group or to a thing that stands out as above all the rest of its class or kind in rank, importance, dignity, or worth; the term therefore usually implies the subordination of all others (chief justice of the supreme court) (president of a republic is its chief magistrate) (the cathedral is the chief church of a diocese) (the chief topic of conversation) (duty, not pleasure, is the chief aim of living—Glasgow). Principal is applicable to whatever is the first in order of power or importance and so is applied chiefly to a person to whom is given direction, control, or government of others or to a thing (or person thought of as a thing) that, because of its size, its position, or its intrinsic importance precedes all others of its class or kind (the principal dancer in a ballet) (the principal keeper in a prison) (the principal gate to the grounds of an institution) (the principal streets of a city) (the principal witness against the accused) (a chicken stew of which the principal ingredient was not chicken but sea cucumber—Steinbeck). Main is applicable to something (often a part, unit, or division of a large or extensive thing) that excels all the others of its class or kind in size, potency, or importance (the main line of a railroad) (the main street of a small city) (the mainland) words have been used so long as the main channel for communication—Day Lewis) (the literary critic . . . will yet find, like the historian, his main subject matter in the past—L. P. Smith).

Leading, like principal, implies precedence, but it often distinctively implies, in addition, a capacity or fitness for drawing others, for guiding them, or for giving a particular quality or character to a movement (the leading men of the city) (he had been the leading counsel for the seven Bishops—Macaulay) (the leading automobile in a procession) (another leading object in education for efficiency is the cultivation of the critical discernment of beauty and excellence in things and in words and thoughts, in nature and in human nature—Elliot). Foremost differs from leading, which is otherwise closely resembles, in its stronger implication of being first in an advance or progressive movement; it is preferable for that reason whenever there is a suggestion of the person's or thing's having forged ahead to that position (one of us, that struck the foremost man of all this world—Shak). ("handedness," of course, is the foremost primate characteristic—La Barre)

Capital is applicable to a thing that stands at the head of its class or kind because of its importance, its significance, its excellence, or its seriousness (a capital plan) (his capital offense was that he had omitted to mention her at all) (the seven capital sins are the most important sins theologically not because they are the worst sins but because they lead to other sins and are fatal to spiritual progress) (with a little managing . . . she would have gained every point as easily as she had gained the capital one of taking the foundling baby under her wing—Wharton). Ana *dominant, paramount, sovereign, predominant, preponderant, preponderating: *primary, prime: *superme, preeminent Ant subordinate —Con secondary, dependent, subject (see subordinate): subservient, ancillary, subsidiary, *auxiliary chiefly *largely, greatly, mostly, mainly, principally, generally chieftain *chief, head, leader, master childish *childlike

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter

*crack, cleft, fissure, crevasse, crevice, cranny
cchine
backbone, back, spine, vertebrae

chimerical
cool, *cold, frigid, freezing, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, chilly

Cheep
Ana
Ant

Ana naïve, unsophisticated, ingenuous, artless (see NATURAL): docile, *obedient, tractable, biddable

chilly cool, *cold, frigid, freezing, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic

Ant balmy

chimerical fantastic, fanciful, visionary, *imaginary, quixotic


Ant feasible —Con *possible, practicable: reasonable, *rational: sensible, sane, *wise, prudent

chine backbone, back, spine, vertebrae

chink *crack, cleft, fissure, crevasse, crevice, cranny

Ana *break, gap, interruption: split, rift, *breach

chirp vb Chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter can all mean as verbs to make the little sounds character- istic of small animals and as nouns the little sounds so made, and all can be extended to sounds and the making of sounds (as by human beings) that suggest such small animal sounds. Chirp implies the short, sharp, and thin sound that is made by practically all small birds and some insects; it regularly connotes cheerfulness but often also busyness and immaturity. *chirrup of birds (see ANIMAL): *the linnet . . . chirps her vernal song of love—Southey *one of these birds . . . began to ascend, by short hops and flights, through the branches, uttering a sharp, preliminary chirp—Burroughs *someone turned on the water down the hall and all the second-floor faucets chirped at once, like so many crickets—Algren *wait until the boldest chirps: “It was tonight, dear, wasn’t it?”—MacLeish Chirrup implies a more sustained effect than chirp, as though a bird is singing or is learning to sing; it also often heightens the connotations of cheer- fulness or liveliness. *untucked his head from under his wing and chirruped drowsily—Sinclair *the shrill persistent chirrup of a fledgling sparrow—there is a new chirrup in their talk, feeling that they shall feel livelier in a livelier land—O’Casey *made her little chirruping sound of welcome—Woolf *the bullets chirruped by in the soft buzzing sound of insects on the wing—Mailer Chirp implies a more sustained effect than chirp, as though a bird is singing or is learning to sing; it also often heightens the connotations of cheer- fulness or liveliness. *untucked his head from under his wing and chirruped drowsily—Sinclair *the shrill persistent chirrup of a fledgling sparrow—there is a new chirrup in their talk, feeling that they shall feel livelier in a livelier land—O’Casey *made her little chirruping sound of welcome—Woolf *the bullets chirruped by in the soft buzzing sound of insects on the wing—Mailer Chirp implies a more sustained effect than chirp, as though a bird is singing or is learning to sing; it also often heightens the connotations of cheer- fulness or liveliness. *untucked his head from under his wing and chirruped drowsily—Sinclair *the shrill persistent chirrup of a fledgling sparrow—there is a new chirrup in their talk, feeling that they shall feel livelier in a livelier land—O’Casey *made her little chirruping sound of welcome—Woolf *the bullets chirruped by in the soft buzzing sound of insects on the wing—Mailer Chirp implies a more sustained effect than chirp, as though a bird is singing or is learning to sing; it also often heightens the connotations of cheer- fulness or liveliness. *untucked his head from under his wing and chirruped drowsily—Sinclair *the shrill persistent chirrup of a fledgling sparrow—there is a new chirrup in their talk, feeling that they shall feel livelier in a livelier land—O’Casey *made her little chirruping sound of welcome—Woolf *the bullets chirruped by in the soft buzzing sound of insects on the wing—Mailer

Cheep implies feebleness yet shrillness of sound such as that made by a very young bird or by a mouse, a bat, or a squirrel (the persistent cheep of a crate of new-hatched chicks) (a brood of ducklings, which had lost their mother, filled into the barn, cheeping feebly—George Orwell) (fog seemed to rise from his raincoat and his shoes cheeped—Dorothy Parker) Peep differs from cheep chiefly in stressing the weakness of the sound and so suggesting its faintness or the animal’s helplessness (the peep of a chick just struggling from the shell) (a warisome mother . . . hovers over her child. Every time he peeps, she jumps to see what’s the matter—Spock) (all the little boats peeped their klaxons, and the bells . . . suddenly burst into crashing, bashing peals—Panter-Downes) (consisted for the most part of odd little squeals from the woodwinds. These peeps . . . added up to a fairly meaningless and silly score—Philip Hamburger) Tweet usually implies the monosyllabic note of a very small bird or the call of small game birds (as the quail or bob- white) (a redstart . . . sat on the fence near my hut till dusk, tweeting rather plaintively on one note—Kingdon- Ward) (the referee checked the play with sharp tweets of his whistle) Twitter implies a succession of notes or sounds, uttered tremulously or excitedly; when applied to persons or their utterances or doings it can suggest feverish or disorderly excitement (the trees twittered feverishly, and cool winds swept the ground—Peggy Bennett) (the swallow twittering from the straw-built shed—Gray) (these youngest girls . . . stood around twitter- ting, trying to appear prim, but only succeeded in look- ing more and more excited—Styron) The noun, espe- cially, is often used to express a state of agitation (in a twitter of excitement) (a nerve-racking place full of the twitterers and colors and smells and gaggles and screeches of too many unlovely showing girls—Wouk) Chitter, like twitter, implies a succession of sounds, but distinct- ively it can imply a briskness and sharpness of tone that belong also to chattering and then may carry such conno- tations as alarm, irritation, or fear (heard a squirrel chitter in alarm, as if it had scurried around the trunk of a tree after something had startled it—Frazee) (the caw- ings of jackdaws, the chittering of sparrows—Powys) (from close by came the chitter of a screech owl—Saxon) (some teeth in angry fit may chitter—Alexander Boswell)

chirp n chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter (see under CHIRP vb)

chirrup vb *chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter

chirrup n chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter, chitter (see under CHIRP vb)

chisel vb sculpture, sculpt, sculpt, *carve, incise, engrave, etc

Ana *cut, chop: produce, turn out (see BEAR): shape, fashion, form (see MAKE)

chitter vb *chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter

chitter n chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep, tweet, twitter (see under CHIRP vb)

chivalrous gallant, courteously, courteous, polite, *civil Ana *spirited, mettlesome, high-spirited

Ant churlish —Con *rude, ungracious, discourteous: boorish, loutish, clownish (see under BOOR)

chivy vb *bait, badger, heckle, hector, hound, ride

Ana *worry, annoy, harry, harass, tease: chase, pursue, trail, *follow: torment, try, *afflict

choice n Choice, option, alternative, preference, selection, election are comparable when they mean the act or oppor- tunity of choosing or the thing chosen. Choice usually implies the right or the privilege to choose freely from a number (as of persons, things, or courses) (take your choice of rooms) (the he had no choice in the determination of his profession) (everyone admires his choice, for she is a very attractive young woman) Option stresses a specifically given right or power to choose one from among two or more mutually exclusive actions or courses of action (the state constitution gives local option to cities and towns in the matter of granting or with- holding licenses for the sale of intoxicants) (the court sentenced the convicted speeder to one month’s imprison- ment with the option of a fine) (the students have no option in the matter of vacations) In business trans- actions, an option is usually purchased and enables one to demand during an agreed length of time fulfillment of a contract to sell (as a specified quantity of a commodity) or buy (as a particular parcel of real estate) at a price and on terms agreed upon when drawing the option (acquire an option on a tract of land) (buying and selling options on the stock exchange) Alternative typically stresses restriction of choice between two mutually exclusive things (as propositions, theories, courses, or
policies). Commonly it implies that all other comparable things are ruled out by force of circumstances (the alternatives before the country were peace with dishonor or war with honor) or by unconquerable personal aversion (the only alternative to liberty, in Patrick Henry's estimation, was death) or by logical necessity (if the States had any power it was assumed that they had all power and that the necessary alternative was to deny it altogether—Justice Holmes) Alternative, however, is sometimes used of more than two possible choices. Preference emphasizes the guidance of one's choice by one's bias or predilections or by one's judgment of values or of desirability (he was promised his preference) (he said he had no preference and would wait until others had declared their preferences) Selection implies a wide range of choice and the need of discrimination or taste in choosing (he was commended for his selection of books) (she did not have time for the careful selection of a hat) Election adds to selection the implication of an end or purpose which necessitates the exercise of judgment (the students will make their election of courses before returning to college) (the doctrine of predetermination holds that men are destined to heaven or hell by divine election)

choice adj Choice, exquisite, elegant, recherché, rare, dainty, delicate are comparable when they mean having qualities that appeal to a fine or highly refined taste. Choice stresses preeminence in quality rather than careful selection of the best, although the latter may also be connoted; consequently, the word usually suggests an appeal to a highly cultivated and discriminating taste (the choice and master spirits of this age—Shack) (when education in America began, it was intended for the fit and was designed to produce a choice type—Grangewell)

Exquisite implies consummate perfection in workmanship, in choice, in quality, or in impression produced—a perfection so fine and unobtrusive that it attracts only the most sensitive and fastidious (he paints with exquisite art the charm of the deep country and the lure of the simple life—Buchan) (angels, supporting, saluting, and incensing the Virgin and Child with singular grace and exquisite feeling—Henry Adams) Elegant differs widely from exquisite; it implies either an impressive richness or grandeur restrained by fine taste, or grace and dignity characterized by a noble simplicity (whoever wishes to attain an English style...elegant but not ostentatious, must give his days and nights to the volumes of Addison—Johnson) (charming to look at and elegant to her finger-tips—John Martin) (the handsomest man of the company, very elegant in velvet and broadcloth—Cather) Recherche like the preceding terms implies care in selection; it suggests a studied exquisiteness or elegance (the sangfroid, grace, abandon, and recherche nonchalance with which Charles Yates ushers ladies and gentlemen to their seats in the opera house—O. Henry) (giving long and recherche dinners—Saintsbury) Very frequently, however, it implies a search for the novel or fresh as well as the choice, and it may carry a connotation of artificiality or of straining for effect (the word devastating...was thought to be recherche; the discerning reader is likely to call it affected—Beach) Rare derives from its ordinary senses (see INFREQUENT) (then) connotations of uncommonness and of a fineness associated with the rarefied air of the upper regions; nevertheless, its major implication is distinction in merit or excellence or a superlative quality (the rarest cordials old monks ever schemed to coax from pulpy grapes—Lowell) (he [W. H. Hudson] is, of living writers that I read, the rarest spirit—Galsworthy) Dainty (see also NICE 1) may come close to choice, but is then used chiefly to describe things which give delight to the fastidious taste, especially to the eye, and often also the palate (her house is elegant and her table dainty—Johnson) More often, however, the term implies smallness and exquisiteness (those dainty limbs, which Nature lent for gentle usage and soft delicacy—Milton) (the spirit of romance, gross and tawdry in vulgar minds, dainty and refined in the more cultivated—Parrington) Delicate, like dainty, implies exquisiteness and an appeal to a fastidious taste, but it ascribes fineness, subtlety, and often fragility to the thing rather than smallness, and it implies an appeal not only to the eye or palate, but to any of the senses or to the mind or spirit (the more delicate perfume of the pink-flowering thorn—Wilde) (not, however, an effervescing wine, although its delicate piquancy produced a somewhat similar effect—Hawthorne) (I have, alas! only the words we all use to paint commoner, coarser things, and no means to represent all the exquisite details, all the delicate lights, and shades—Hudson) (an irony so quiet, so delicate, that many readers never notice it is there...or mistake it for naive—Priestley)

Ana preeminent, surpassing, peerless, incomparable, *supreme, superlative: picked, selected, culled, chosen (see CHOOSE)

Ant indifferent (see MEDIUM) —Con mediocre, second-rate, middling, fair, average, *medium: common, ordinary

choke *suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, strangle, throttle

choleric splenetic, testy, *irascible, touchy, cranky, cross

Ana *irritable, furious, huffy, querulous, petulant, peevish: *angry, acrimonious, wrathful, wroth, indignant, mad, irate: fiery, peppery, spunky (see SPIRITED): captious, carping, faultfinding (see CRITICAL)

Ant placid: unperturbable —Con *calm, tranquil, serene: *cool, composed, nonchalant

choose, select, elect, opt, pick, call, prefer, single are comparable when they mean to fix upon one of a number of things as the one to be taken, accepted, or adopted or to make such a determination. Choose commonly implies both an act of judgment and the actual taking or adoption of what is fixed upon (that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good—Isa 7:15) (between them...we can see little to choose—Henry Adams) (the disinterested search for truth is certainly one of the highest and noblest careers that a man can choose—Inge) Select usually implies a wide range of choice and discrimination or discernment of values in making one's choice (one particular nation to select from all the rest—Milton) (the difficult task of selecting a presidential candidate—H. D. Jordan) (his temperament was selecting the instances he should narrate, his mind selecting the words to employ—F. M. Ford) Eject often implies a deliberate choice, especially between alternatives, or a careful selection of some out of many possibilities: ordinarily, it carries a stronger implication of the rejection of that not chosen than either of the preceding words (eject a president) (according to the doctrine of predetermination, God elective those who are to be saved) (will it not look a little odd...when you have so many devoted children, that you should elect to live alone—Sackville-West) (having elected deliberately...that stern land and weather—Faulkner) Opt (often with for) implies an election between alternatives (give the people an opportunity to opt for statehood—Rupert Emerson) often specifically, in the case of inhabitants of territory transferred by treaty, between retaining one's former citizenship or acquiring citizenship in the new state Opt

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>chop</strong></th>
<th>147</th>
<th><strong>circumpection</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>to remain a British subject</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pick</strong> implies a careful selection, often on personal grounds; <strong>cull</strong>, a nice or fastidious choice</td>
<td><strong>Ant</strong> straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>attempts to pick an exact synonym—Johnson</strong></td>
<td><strong>circulate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>O’Lowell</strong></td>
<td><strong>revolve</strong>, rotate (see <strong>TURN</strong>); interchange, <strong>exchange</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pick</strong> an all-star team from the players in the city</td>
<td><strong>circumference</strong>, <strong>perimeter</strong>, <strong>periphery</strong>, <strong>circuit</strong>, <strong>compass</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>his dictionary had no vulgar word in it, no harsh one, but all culled from the luckiest moods of poets</strong>—<strong>J. R. Lowell</strong></td>
<td><strong>Perimeter</strong> is more comprehensive than <strong>circumference</strong>; it includes not only the line that bounds any circular figure or area, but also the broken line that encloses any polygon; moreover it may designate the whole outer boundary of a body, especially a more or less spherical body (the <strong>perimeter</strong> of a hexagon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prefer</strong> implies choice that indicates what one favors or desires; it does not, however, always carry an implication of taking or adopting what one chooses or of getting one’s choice</td>
<td><strong>Periphery</strong> is sometimes interchangeable with <strong>perimeter</strong> but it is more frequently used in an extended sense. More often than any other word in this group it is referred to the actual edge or border or boundaries of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prefer the blue dress to the brown one</strong></td>
<td><strong>Periphery</strong> usually refers to the area or space within an enclosing line or the ground that formally might be covered by the leg of a compass describing such a line within thy crown, whose compass is no bigger than thy head—<strong>Shak.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>certain colors were preferred . . . for reasons of association and tradition</strong></td>
<td><strong>Perimeter</strong> has become so tied up with the idea of a journey round the periphery of something that the two ideas are fused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>experience has taught me, when the versions of the same story . . . differ materially, to prefer the less exciting—Davis</strong></td>
<td><strong>for the sake of association and tradition</strong> preferred . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Single (usually with out)</strong> implies choice or election usually of an individual person or thing from a number</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>**Singles out for special praise the guide—(singles from a number</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> established, fixed, settled (see <strong>SET</strong>); *hardened, indurated, callous</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> acute (of illness)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> adopt, espouse, embrace; *desire, wish, crave</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> reject; eschew —<strong>Con</strong> *forgo, forbear, abnegate: refuse, *deny, spurn, repudiate</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> split, cleave, rive (see <strong>TEAR</strong> vb)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ana</strong> task, duty, assignment, job, stint</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ana</strong> work, occupation, employment, business</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>christen</strong> baptize</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>chronic</strong> inveterate, confirmed, deep-seated, deep-rooted</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> established, fixed, settled (see <strong>SET</strong>); *hardened, indurated, callous</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> acute (of illness)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>chronicle</strong> *history, annals</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 *account, story, report, version</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> narration, recital, recountal (see corresponding verbs at <strong>RELATE</strong>)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>chthonian</strong> *infernal, Hadean, stygian, hellish, Tartarean</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>chubby</strong> rotund, plump, fat, *fleshy, stout, portly, corpulent, obese</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> chunky, stubby, dumpy, squat (see <strong>STOCKY</strong></td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> slim</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>chummy</strong> intimate, close, thick, confidential, *familiar</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>chunky</strong> *stocky, thickset, thick, stubby, squat, dumpy</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> rotund, chubby (see <strong>FLESHY</strong></td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>church</strong> *religion, denomination, sect, communion, creed, faith, cult, persuasion</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>churl n</strong> *boor, lout, clown, clodhopper, bumpkin, hick, yokel, rube</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ant</strong> *gentleman, aristocrat</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>churlish</strong> boorish, louthish, clownishh, clownishh (see <strong>under BOOR</strong>)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> ungracious, ill-mannered, discourteous, *rude, uncivil, impolite: curt, blunt, brusque, gruff, crusty (see <strong>BLUFF</strong>); surly, dour (see <strong>SULLEN</strong>)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> curtly —<strong>Con</strong> *civil, polite, courteous, gallant: courtly</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ant</strong> courteously —<strong>Con</strong> *civil, polite, courteous, gallant: courtly</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>church</strong> urbane, *suave, diplomatic, bland, politic, smooth</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>cinders</strong> clinkers, embers, *ash</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>circadian</strong> *daily, diurnal, quotidian</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>circle n</strong> *set, coterie, clique</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> friends, acquaintances, intimates (see singular nouns at <strong>FRIEND</strong>); associates, companions, comrades (see singular nouns at <strong>ASSOCIATE</strong>)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>circle vb</strong> 1 *surround, envelop, encircle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, girdle, ring</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> enclose, envelop: circumscribe, restrict (see <strong>LIMIT</strong>)</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 revolve, rotate, *turn, gyrate, wheel, spin, whirl, whirl, eddy, swirl, pirouette</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>circuit</strong> compass, *circumference, perimeter, periphery</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> route, course, *way: tour, *journey</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>circuitous</strong> roundabout, *indirect</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ana</strong> *winding, serpentine, sinuous, tortuous, flexuous</td>
<td><strong>two forms</strong> are referred to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
circumstance *occurrence, event, incident, episode
Ana *item, detail, particular: factor, constituent, component, *element
circumstantial, minute, particular, particularized, detailed, itemized are comparable when they mean dealing with a matter point by point. Circumstantial applies especially to accounts of events or to narratives, but it is applicable also to the persons who recount or narrate or to their memories. The term implies full and precise reference to the incidents or circumstances attending an event <a circumstantial account of the battle has not yet been written> <generally speaking, a historical novel . . . must be documented with the news of what once happened, and full of circumstantial life—Garriques> <my memory is exact and circumstantial—Dickens> Minute, in addition, applies to investigations, researches, inspections, and descriptions; it stresses interest in or inclusion of every detail, no matter how trivial or insignificant. It therefore usually connotes exhaustiveness or meticulous exactness <he prolonged the flower-picking process by minute and critical choice—Deland> <Plato . . . in the Laws . . . provides for the state a perfect jungle of minute regulations—Buchan> <she was interested in the little details and writes with minute care about the change of fashion—Bradford> Particular differs little from circumstantial except in being applicable also to descriptions and lists; it may therefore imply attention to every feature or item rather than to every incident or circumstance <a particular description of every musical instrument in the theater cardinal—Ellis> <as part of the four-sheet maps from which it is taken—Jefferson> <I think myself obliged to be very particular in this relation, lest my veracity should be suspected—Swift> Particularized often replaces particular as applied to narratives, descriptions, and lists; it is not used of those who so narrate, describe, or list, but it may be applied to the circumstances, features, and items that they present <Scott's particularized descriptions of his characters> <a most concrete, particularized, earthy series of small diurnal recognitions—Powys> Detailed applies to a circumstantial or minute account, description, study, or representation; it implies, however, abundance of rather than exhaustiveness in detail <Perera in the sixteenth century . . . presents a detailed picture of Chinese life—Ellis> <the detailed study of history should be supplemented by brilliant outlines—Russell> Itemized implies complete enumeration of details, especially of those that indicate the separate purchases or separate credits in a mercantile account, or of those that indicate the articles or groups of articles in the possession of a person or business (as in an inventory) <an itemized bill> Itemized list of his expenditures >The term is also applicable to descriptions, narratives, or accounts which in addition to being particularized have something of the formality of an inventory <an itemized description of a room> Ana precise, nice, exact, accurate (see CORRECT): *full, complete, replete
Ant abridged: summary —Con succinct, terse, laconic, *concise, pithy, compendious: shortened, abbreviated, curtailed (see SHORTEN)
Ant conform (to laws, orders): cooperate (with persons) —Con promote, further, *advance, forward: abet (see
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
prevail. In some use, especially in international law, nation is applied to anyone entitled to the protection of a government regardless of whether his status is that of citizen or not; in this sense, the Filipinos were formerly nationals, though never citizens, of the United States.

**Ant** alien — **Con** stranger

civic, civil, civilian are not close synonyms but rather words whose meanings lend themselves to confusion. In a sense they have a common meaning: of, relating to, or characteristic of a citizen—but in each case the word citizen has a specific or particular meaning. Civic implies some relation to a city and its citizens; city, however, is used loosely so as to cover any community having closely related interests (as a town, a village, or a city proper) or any municipality or corporation having powers of local self-government: in this sense civic is used in distinction from state, federal, and national. London took the lead in this new development of civic life—J. R. Greeny. Civic interests gave way to national interests. Often the word comes close in meaning to public when used to modify acts, functions, obligations, or qualities, the chief distinction consisting in its closer application to the life of the community. His personal virtues were no less outstanding than his civic virtues. For the theme of her life is civic. In the social sense as well as private beings and that civilization depends on the spread of civic virtues—Bentley. Civic, in general, has reference to a citizen as a member of the state, or to citizens as members of the state. In this sense state denotes usually a larger organized unit than that denoted by city and comes close in meaning to country, nation, and people. The term civic implies reference to this organization; thus, civil liberty is the liberty permitted to a citizen by the laws of the state or exemption from arbitrary government interference; a civil war (as opposed to a foreign war) is a conflict between citizens of the same state.

More specifically, there is often a definitely implied contrast in the use of civil; the civil authorities are those that prevail in all affairs except where ecclesiastical authorities or military authorities have the final say; civil service designates a service of the state in any capacity that does not distinctively belong to the military organization; thus, civil architecture applies to architecture which is neither ecclesiastical nor military; in law, civil actions are distinguished from criminal actions as relating to proceedings in connection with the private or individual rights of citizens; also, in law, a civil death implies not a natural (that is, actual) death, but the loss or renunciation of all legal rights or status. The saw the Bible as... containing the complete, final, and absolute code for all matters spiritual and civil—J. D. Hart. A program to make of the Atlantic Alliance a civil and not merely a military Community—Ascot. Civilian refers to persons who are not members of the armed forces and is used chiefly in contrast to military. Civilian duties in time of war. Rationing of gasoline among civilian consumers. Glad to get back to civilian clothes.

**Civil adj** 1 civic, civilian

2 Civil, polite, courteous, courtly, gallant, chivalrous are comparable as applied to persons or their words and acts when in intercourse with others with the meaning observant of the forms required by good breeding. Civil commonly suggests the bare fulfillment of the ordinary requirements of social intercourse; it frequently implies little more than forbearance from rudeness. It was an entirely civil greeting, but that was all you could say of it—Christopher L. Farge. (This man... cut short one of our party, and addressed a sly remark to Spencer. . . .) Spencer’s answer was civil, but brief and not inviting—Fiske

Polite, while sometimes suggesting a merely perfunctory attitude, is more positive than civil; it commonly implies thoughtfulness for the feelings of others, united with polish of manner and address. Nothing was ever so serene as his countenance, so unembarrassed as his manner, so polite as his whole demeanor—Landel. The Bishop seldom questioned Jacinto about his thoughts or beliefs. He didn’t think it polite—Cather. Courteous implies more considerate and dignified, courtly, more stately and ceremonious, observance of due civilities owns a fine old historical painting in Châtelton and he was courteous enough to permit me to view it—Upton Sinclair. (Be courteous to all, but intimate with few—Washington)

His great-uncle, a courtly and stately old gentleman—Symonds. Gallant and chivalrous imply courteous attentiveness to women. But gallant suggests spirited and dashing or ornate and florid expressions of courtesy. (The General attended her himself to the street door, saying everything gallant... admiring the elasticity of her walk, which corresponded exactly with the spirit of her dancing—Austen.) The qualities... of surface chivalry and gallant attentiveness in her brilliant American friend had for a moment seemed to reveal a lack in me—Ellis. In a moment he was all gallant anxiety and solicitude—Wylie. Chivalrous suggests high-minded, disinterested, sometimes self-sacrificing attentions. Nothing can beat a true woman for a clear vision of reality; I would say a cynical vision if I were not afraid of wounding your chivalrous feelings—Conrad. With what chivalrous accents would he address... those witty and wise women of old words—L. P. Smith. She had fainted from weakness and he had felt strangely chivalrous and paternal—Glasgow.

**Ana** complaisant, obliging, amiable: gracious, affable, cordial: polite, diplomatic, bland, urbane, suave.

**Ant** uncivil, rude—Con churlish, boorish, loutish (see under boor): ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, ungracious (see rude).

**Civilian adj** 1 civic, civil

**Civilization, Culture** are comparable when meaning the particular stage or stage of advancement in which a race, a people, a nation, a specific class, or an integrated group of these finds itself at a given period. Civilization always implies a definite advance from a state of barbarism; often it suggests the absence of all signs of barbarism or a divorce from all the ways of living, all the beliefs, all the conditions that distinguish a primitive from a civilized society. The civilization of France has been for centuries and is still the central and dominating civilization of Europe—L. P. Smith. This mesa had once been like a beehive; it was full of little cliff-hung villages, it had been the home of a powerful tribe, a particular civilization—Cather. Culture (see also culture), on the other hand, suggests rather the complex of attainments, beliefs, customs, and traditions which forms the background of a particular people or group, which distinguishes them from all other peoples or groups, and which gives their particular civilization, no matter how little or how far advanced, its peculiar quality or character. Greece for our purposes means not a race, but a culture, a language and literature, and still more an attitude towards life, which for us begins with Homer, and persists, with many changes but no breaks, till the closing of the Athenian lecture rooms by Justinian—Inge. It would no doubt have been more satisfactory to select a people like the Fijians rather than the Littaeus, for they represented a more robust and accomplished form of a rather similar culture, but their culture has receded into the past—Ellis. Ana cultivation, *culture, breeding, refinement.

**Ant** barbarism—Con barbarity (see barbarism).

**See also explanatory notes facing page 1.**
barbarousness, savagery (see corresponding adjectives at BARBARIAN)

claim vb *demand, exact, require

Anna *maintain, assert, defend, vindicate, justify: allege, *adduce, advance

Ant disclaimer: renounce —Con disavow, disown, disacknowledge (see affirmative verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE): reject, repudiate, refuse (see DECLINE vb); concede, allow, *grant: waive, cede, *relinquish: *forgo, abnegate

claim n Claim, title, pretension, pretense are comparable when they denote an actual or alleged right to demand something as one's possession, quality, power, or prerogative. Claim carries the strongest implication of any of these terms of a demand for recognition; only the context can indicate whether that demand is regarded as justifiable or not or whether the right is actually asserted by the person involved (though the house was legally the daughter's, the father, as the one who had paid for it and had taken care of all taxes and insurance, had a moral claim to live there the rest of his life) (intelligent persons cannot accept the claims made for many patent medicines) (the advanced no claim to scholarly knowledge) (searching for truth as against all the claims and all the counterclaims of all the partisans—Lippmann) (liberty itself became...a principle of anarchy rather than a body of claims to be read in the context of the social process—Laski) Claim also occurs in a more concrete sense as denoting the property or possession for which one sets up a claim (make no claim to it a measure of hypocrisy or deceit <this court happened to possess those attributes are constituted ipso facto a class—J. S. Mill>) Class consistently implies division which may involve abstraction of a single group from a greater unclassified mass or the separation of a larger group into discrete subgroups; the basis of such a division may be strictly logical or a mere matter of convenience, and often it involves a value judgment (Hickey is the first class of English memoirists—Times Lit. Sup.) (the class of nominal Christians for whom there might be a chance—Lovett) Category may be interchangeable with class but is sometimes more precise in suggesting classification or grouping on the basis of a certain readily perceived criterion or on a predication, often an explicit one (we cannot approach a work of art with our laws and categories. We have to comprehend the artist's own values—Ellis) (none of the writings of the fathers of the English Church belongs to the category of speculative philosophy—T. S. Eliot) Genus and species, scientific in their suggestion, differ in that the first implies a larger less specific group, the latter a smaller more specific one (English society, in other words, is...a species of a larger cultural genus—Watnick) (the word infringement is almost never used to describe acts of the genus, unfair competition. It is applied only to the species, namely trademark misuse—Pattishall) Denomination usually indicates that the group under consideration has been or may be named explicitly and clearly; it is common in religious use (Methodist, Presbyterian, and other denominations) and use with a series of closely related units (denominations of currency) Genre refers to a specific, named type; its use is mainly restricted to literature and art (some of his prose poems, a genre...which he invented—Sat. Rev.) (the larger literary types or genres, such as the drama or novel—Lerner & Mims) Anna division, section (see PART): classification (see corresponding verb at ASSORT): grade, rank, gradation, rating (see corresponding verbs at CLASS)

class vb Class, grade, rank, rate, graduate, gradu ate are synonyms in that they all involve the idea of ordering a number of things according to a scale or of placing a thing in

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

vb Clean, cleanse mean to remove whatever soils, stains, or contaminates from someone or something. Clean is the word in common and literal use for the removal of foreign matter (as dirt, litter, and debris) typically by washing, sweeping, dusting, or clearing away (clean a dress) (clean a room) (clean off a table).

Cleanse in this relation seldom wholly loses some hint of its basic notion of making morally or spiritually pure; it is, therefore, the term of choice when the matter to be removed is or is felt as foul, polluting, or noxious or the action is rather one of purifying than of merely restoring to order, freshness, or neatness; thus, one would clean a house but, more often, cleanse a sickroom; one would cleanse a wound but clean one's teeth (cleanse the bowels with a laxative).

Unlike clean, cleanse is common in essentially metaphorical extension in which it always retains the suggestion of removing what is vile, harmful, or obnoxious (the brilliant campaign which cleansed Havana from yellow fever—S. H. Adams) (young soldiers who are now being cleansed of subversive ideas at Valley Forge Army Hospital—D. H. Gillis) (take part in an attempt to cleanse the public life of the country—Ewer).

The air was purer for the cleansing rain—Mackaldonald.

Ant soil

classify

Analogous words: Ant antonyms: Con contrasted: See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
clinkers 153

Con desert, forsake, *abandon: *relinquish, leave, resign, yield
clinkers cinders, *ash, embers
clip vb *shear, poll, trim, prune, lop, snip, crop
Ana *cut, chop, slash, slit: curtail (see shorten): sever, *separate
clique *set, circle, coterie
Ana party, faction, bloc, ring, combine, *combination
cloak vb mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage
Ana conceal, *hide, screen
Ant unclasp —Con *reveal, disclose, discover, betray
clodhopper bumptie, hick, yokel, rube, *boor, lout, clown, churn
clog vb fetter, hog-tie, shackel, manacle, *hamper, tramcel
Ana impede, obstruct, *hinder, block: balk, baffle, *frustrate: check, curb (see restrain)
Ant expedite, facilitate —Con *free, liberate, release: forward, further, *advance, promote
cloister n 1 Cloister, convent, monastery, nunnery, abbey, priory. Cloister and convent are general terms denoting a place of retirement from the world for members of a religious community; they may apply to houses for recusals of either sex. In such use cloister stresses the idea of seclusion from the world; convent, of community of living. Basically a monastery is a cloister for monks; in actual use it is often applied to a convent for men or occasionally for women who combine the cloistered life with teaching, preaching, or other work. Nunnery, which specifically denotes a cloister for nuns, is often displaced by convent with the same specific meaning. A monastery or nunnery governed by an abbot or an abbess is called an abbey; by a prior or prioress, a priory. A priory is subordinate in rank to, but often independent of, an abbey.
2 arcade, *passage, passageway, ambulatory, gallery, corridor, aisle, hall, hallway
clone *variety, subspecies, race, breed, cultivar, strain, stock
close vb 1 Close, shut are very close synonyms in the sense of to stop or fill in an opening by means of a closure (as a door, a gate, a lid, or a cover) and are often used interchangeably. However, they may have distinctive nuances of meaning and quite different implications in idiomatic use. Close is the more general term, usually implying both the act of stopping an opening and the result produced by such an act but stressing exclusion of those who would enter or pass through. Shut stresses the act or process and the means employed in this process; it not only carries a more emphatic implication or a more vivid suggestion of drawing a door, gate, lid, or window into a position which closes the opening, but it often also evokes an image of fastening securely (as by drawing a bar or a bolt or locking); hence, in closing a door or gate one merely draws it into a position which bars entrance or egress until it is again opened but in shutting a door or gate one pushes or pulls it into the position where it is closed. Idiomatically, one closes (not shuts) an opening or a gap or one closes (not shuts) a park or a church to the public, because in neither case is the use of a door, gate, or other means of exclusion clearly or definitely implied. On the other hand, in idiomatic use shut, especially when followed by up, out, or against, carries a stronger and often a more direct and emphatic suggestion than close of the interposition of a barrier or obstacle (often an immaterial, one) that effectually prevents ingress or egress (he found every road to the accomplishment of his desires shut against him) (he shut his eyes to everything he did not wish to see) (he shut his eyes in death) (he was warned to shut his mouth)
Ana *exclude, debar: block, bar, dam (see hinder)
Ant open
2 Close, end, conclude, finish, complete, terminate are comparable as transitive verbs meaning to bring something to a stopping point or to its limit, or, with the exception of complete, as intransitive verbs meaning to come to that point. Close usually has latent in it the idea of action upon something which may be regarded as in some sense open as well as unfinished (see close vb 1)
<close an account, a debate, or a subscription list> <recall those nights that closed thy toilsome days—Pope> <the Peace of Westphalia . . . which closed the Thirty Years' War—Barr> End conveys a stronger sense of finality; it frequently has implicit reference to a progress or development which is thought of as having been carried through (the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved—Jer 8:20) (ended his life) (ended his labors upon a book) Conclude is a more formal term and applies particularly to transactions, proceedings, or writings that have a formal or special close (concluded his speech with a peroration) (conclude a meeting with a benediction) (I shall conclude this essay upon laughter with observing that the metaphor of laughing . . . runs through all languages—Spectator) Finish implies that what one set out to do is done; often, therefore, it connotes the completion of the final act in a process of elaboration (as polishing or perfecting) (gave the festive table a finishing touch) (I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do—Jn 17:4) (it wants but seventeen lines of having an end, I don't say of being finished—Gray) (I shall finish with a Chopin nocturne—Hellman) Complete implies the removal of all deficiencies or a finishing of all that has been attempted (when Blondel paused about the middle, the king began the remainder, and completed it—Warton) (complete their education in Europe) (art partly completes what nature is herself sometimes unable to bring to perfection—Ellis) (he may well have thought that his days would be few on earth, and that it would be foolish to put his hand to a task which he could not complete—Buchan) Terminate implies the setting of a limit in time or space (Ben Lomond terminates the view—Dorothy Wordsworth) (the age at which the youth of each nation terminates full-time education—Conant) (he had never seen the instrument that was to terminate his life—Dickens) (hostilities terminate at sundown)
Ana *stop, cease, quit, desist
Con *begin, commence, start, inaugurate, initiate

close adj 1 Close, near, nigh, nearby are comparable both as adjectives and as adverbs when they mean not far (as in place, time, or relationship) from the point, position, or relation that is indicated or understood. Close (see also close adj 2) commonly implies so slight a difference that the two things (sometimes persons) under consideration may be said to be almost in contact if the difference is in distance or almost coincident if the difference is in time, to be of the immediate family if the difference is in relationship, or to be very like the original if the difference is in a copy (the houses on this street are close together) (close relatives) (close friends) (hold one close) (the more accurately we use words the closer definition we shall give to our thoughts—Quiller-Couch) (a close shave) (give close attention to a problem) (a close translation of a passage) Near may often be used in place of close (events that come near to each other) (near relatives) but it carries a much less explicit suggestion of contiguousness or adjacency and may be used of persons or things that, though not far off (as in place, time, or relationship) are not almost in contact, almost coincident, or of the
closefisted

immediate family (come near where I can see you) (a near concern of all of us) Near also is applied to things reproduced (as by copying, imitating, or translating) that more or less closely resemble but are far from replicas of the original; in this sense the term is often used in depreciation (near beer) (a near translation) (near silk) (near-leather upholstery). Nigh is somewhat outmoded or poetic in the sense of near. As an adverb it, even more often than near, is followed by to, unto, about, on, upon (he was sick nigh unto death—Phil 2:27) (now the day is over, night is drawing nigh—Baring-Gould) As an adjective it differs little from near except in sometimes being given preference in the comparative and superlative degrees to nearer and nearest (friend, brother, stiffest neighbor—Whitman). Nearby indicates a position near in distance or close at hand (nearby towns) (the nearby houses) (there is no hotel nearby)

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

closefisted

immediate family (come near where I can see you) (a near concern of all of us) Near also is applied to things reproduced (as by copying, imitating, or translating) that more or less closely resemble but are far from replicas of the original; in this sense the term is often used in depreciation (near beer) (a near translation) (near silk) (near-leather upholstery). Nigh is somewhat outmoded or poetic in the sense of near. As an adverb it, even more often than near, is followed by to, unto, about, on, upon (he was sick nigh unto death—Phil 2:27) (now the day is over, night is drawing nigh—Baring-Gould) As an adjective it differs little from near except in sometimes being given preference in the comparative and superlative degrees to nearer and nearest (friend, brother, stiffest neighbor—Whitman). Nearby indicates a position near in distance or close at hand (nearby towns) (the nearby houses) (there is no hotel nearby)

- **closefisted** — Con (generous, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded (see LIBERAL): lavish, prodigal (see PROFUSE)
- **closefisted** — Stingly, close, tight, tightfisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheeseparing, penny-pinching

**close-lipped** — close, closemouthed, uncommunicative, taciturn, reserved, reticent, secretive, *silent, tight-lipped

**close-mouthed** — close, close-lipped, tight-lipped, reticent, reserved, uncommunicative, *silent, taciturn, secretive

**clothe** — vb congeal, curdle, *coagulate, set, jelly, jell

**clothes** — attire, dress, apparel, array, robe. Cloth, the least specific of these terms, means to cover or to provide what will cover (one's body or whatever is bare) with or as if with garments (clothe the child warmly) (clothe your thoughts in words) (rugged clothes clothed and softened with snow) The other words convey the same meaning but each one adds to it distinctive implications and connotations. Attire suggests a more careful process and more formality than clothe and therefore is avoided except when the context requires that note (he said it was for the honor of the Service that he attired himself so elaborately) but those who knew him best said that it was just personal vanity—Kipling

Dress is far less formal than attire and much richer in its connotations than clothe. It often suggests care in the choice and arrangement of clothes and sometimes, especially in dress up, preening and prinking or selection of one's best or choicest clothes (children warmly but simply dressed for school) (every afternoon she dresses up and goes out) (dressed up in his Sunday clothes) Dress up sometimes distinctively implies an assuming of the dress of or a dress suitable to another (dress up as Cleopatra) while dress, especially in its intransitive or reflexive forms, often implies a change of clothes to those that are appropriate for a special occasion; thus, to dress for dinner implies a change into dinner or evening clothes (I shall not have time to dress) The idea of decking or adorning is frequently associated with dress especially in its extended senses (dress the hair with flowers) (dress the table for an elaborate dinner) (yet shall thy grave with rising flow'rs be dressed—Pope)

**Apparel** and **array** are chiefly literary words used when there is the intent to connote splendor, elegance, or gorgeousness in what a person or thing is clothed with (she had a garment of divers colors upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters . . . appareled—2 Sam 13:18) (a time when meadow, grove, and stream . . . to me did seem appareled in celestial light—Wordsworth) (consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these—Mt 6:28, 29) (1 rode with him to court, and there the Queen arrayed me like the sun—Tennyson)

**Robe** implies a dressing with or as if with a robe and has the same wide range of use as the noun—Tennyson—Lynch)

- **unclothe** — Con (strip, divest, dismantle

**clothes** — clothing, dress, attire, apparel, raiment are comparable when they denote a person's garments considered collectively. Clothes and clothing are general words which do not necessarily suggest the personal ownership but sometimes a manufacturer or a merchant (evening clothes) (summer clothing for men) (her clothes are always immaculate) (each child has ample clothing)
clothing

dress is used with reference only to a wearer's outer clothes; it is not only far less inclusive than clothes and clothing but less concrete in its suggestions except when qualified (both men and women are expected to wear full dress) (the actors will be costumed in the period) (a man of sense carefully avoids any particular character in his dress—Chesterfield) (in pilgrim dress on his way to Mecca—Doty) attire usually stresses the appearance or the total impression produced by one's clothes; it is therefore rarely used with reference to one's own clothes except in affectation or humorously; when applied to another person's, it is as a rule qualified (our speech, our color, and our strange attire—Pope) (his unfashionable attire and clumsy manners—Coley) apparel (often specifically wearing apparel) carries a weaker suggestion of the effect produced and a stronger implication of a collection or assemblage of clothes than attire, which otherwise it closely resembles in meaning; therefore one says an article of apparel (rather than attire) and the richness of her attire (rather than apparel) (a blue serge suit, a grey shirt, a blue and red necktie, a gray homburg, and black shoes and gloves comprised his apparel) (the apparel oft proclaims the man—Shak.) (his daily apparel was rough and shabby—Cather) raiment is a more or less literary term that is nearly as comprehensive as clothes, for it includes everything that is worn for decency, comfort, and adornment and therefore suggests reference to undergarments as well as to outer garments (brought a change of raiment with him) When the quality or the texture of the clothing is to be indicated, raiment is the appropriate word (fine raiment) (the coarse raiment of a penitent pilgrim) but what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses—Mt 11:8 (if these strangers were of important air and costly raiment—O'Nolan)

clothing *clothes, dress, attire, apparel, raiment
cloud vb *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, becloud, vb

society, *association, order

club
cloy vb
down

n

group, bunch, parcel, lot

cluster

clothing is used with reference only to a wearer's outer clothes; it is not only far less inclusive than clothes and clothing but less concrete in its suggestions except when qualified (both men and women are expected to wear full dress) (the actors will be costumed in the period) (a man of sense carefully avoids any particular character in his dress—Chesterfield) (in pilgrim dress on his way to Mecca—Doty) attire usually stresses the appearance or the total impression produced by one's clothes; it is therefore rarely used with reference to one's own clothes except in affectation or humorously; when applied to another person's, it is as a rule qualified (our speech, our color, and our strange attire—Pope) (his unfashionable attire and clumsy manners—Coley) apparel (often specifically wearing apparel) carries a weaker suggestion of the effect produced and a stronger implication of a collection or assemblage of clothes than attire, which otherwise it closely resembles in meaning; therefore one says an article of apparel (rather than attire) and the richness of her attire (rather than apparel) (a blue serge suit, a grey shirt, a blue and red necktie, a gray homburg, and black shoes and gloves comprised his apparel) (the apparel oft proclaims the man—Shak.) (his daily apparel was rough and shabby—Cather) raiment is a more or less literary term that is nearly as comprehensive as clothes, for it includes everything that is worn for decency, comfort, and adornment and therefore suggests reference to undergarments as well as to outer garments (brought a change of raiment with him) When the quality or the texture of the clothing is to be indicated, raiment is the appropriate word (fine raiment) (the coarse raiment of a penitent pilgrim) but what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses—Mt 11:8 (if these strangers were of important air and costly raiment—O'Nolan)

clothing *clothes, dress, attire, apparel, raiment
cloud vb *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, becloud, vb

society, *association, order

club
cloy vb
down

n

group, bunch, parcel, lot

cluster

clothing is used with reference only to a wearer's outer clothes; it is not only far less inclusive than clothes and clothing but less concrete in its suggestions except when qualified (both men and women are expected to wear full dress) (the actors will be costumed in the period) (a man of sense carefully avoids any particular character in his dress—Chesterfield) (in pilgrim dress on his way to Mecca—Doty) attire usually stresses the appearance or the total impression produced by one's clothes; it is therefore rarely used with reference to one's own clothes except in affectation or humorously; when applied to another person's, it is as a rule qualified (our speech, our color, and our strange attire—Pope) (his unfashionable attire and clumsy manners—Coley) apparel (often specifically wearing apparel) carries a weaker suggestion of the effect produced and a stronger implication of a collection or assemblage of clothes than attire, which otherwise it closely resembles in meaning; therefore one says an article of apparel (rather than attire) and the richness of her attire (rather than apparel) (a blue serge suit, a grey shirt, a blue and red necktie, a gray homburg, and black shoes and gloves comprised his apparel) (the apparel oft proclaims the man—Shak.) (his daily apparel was rough and shabby—Cather) raiment is a more or less literary term that is nearly as comprehensive as clothes, for it includes everything that is worn for decency, comfort, and adornment and therefore suggests reference to undergarments as well as to outer garments (brought a change of raiment with him) When the quality or the texture of the clothing is to be indicated, raiment is the appropriate word (fine raiment) (the coarse raiment of a penitent pilgrim) but what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses—Mt 11:8 (if these strangers were of important air and costly raiment—O'Nolan)

clothing *clothes, dress, attire, apparel, raiment
cloud vb *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, becloud, vb

society, *association, order

club
cloy vb
down

n

group, bunch, parcel, lot

cluster

clothing is used with reference only to a wearer's outer clothes; it is not only far less inclusive than clothes and clothing but less concrete in its suggestions except when qualified (both men and women are expected to wear full dress) (the actors will be costumed in the period) (a man of sense carefully avoids any particular character in his dress—Chesterfield) (in pilgrim dress on his way to Mecca—Doty) attire usually stresses the appearance or the total impression produced by one's clothes; it is therefore rarely used with reference to one's own clothes except in affectation or humorously; when applied to another person's, it is as a rule qualified (our speech, our color, and our strange attire—Pope) (his unfashionable attire and clumsy manners—Coley) apparel (often specifically wearing apparel) carries a weaker suggestion of the effect produced and a stronger implication of a collection or assemblage of clothes than attire, which otherwise it closely resembles in meaning; therefore one says an article of apparel (rather than attire) and the richness of her attire (rather than apparel) (a blue serge suit, a grey shirt, a blue and red necktie, a gray homburg, and black shoes and gloves comprised his apparel) (the apparel oft proclaims the man—Shak.) (his daily apparel was rough and shabby—Cather) raiment is a more or less literary term that is nearly as comprehensive as clothes, for it includes everything that is worn for decency, comfort, and adornment and therefore suggests reference to undergarments as well as to outer garments (brought a change of raiment with him) When the quality or the texture of the clothing is to be indicated, raiment is the appropriate word (fine raiment) (the coarse raiment of a penitent pilgrim) but what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses—Mt 11:8 (if these strangers were of important air and costly raiment—O'Nolan)
coast—Pope} {simple parables of the coarse businessman and the sensitive intellectual—De Voe} {some of the royal family were as coarse as the king was delicate in manners—Henry Adams} Vulgar {see COMMON 3} suggests something that is offensive to good taste or decency, frequently with the added implication of boorishness or ill breeding {Caliban is coarse enough, but surely he is not vulgar—Hazlitt} {Burns is often coarse, but never vulgar—Byron} {it was, in fact, the mouth that gave his face its sensual, sly, and ugly look, for a loose and vulgar smile seemed constantly to hover about its thick coarse edges—Wolfe} Gross {see FLAGRANT} is opposed to fine in the sense of delicate, subtle, ethereal; it implies either a material, as contrasted to a spiritual, quality or a bestiality unworthy of man {the grosser forms of pleasure—Wharton} {gross habits of eating—Caliban . . . is all earth, all condensed and gross in feelings and images—Coleridge} {my anger and disgust at his gross earthy egoism had vanished—Hudson}

Obscene stresses more strongly the idea of loathsomely indecency or utter obnoxiousness {the war to him was a hateful thing . . . waged for the extension of the obscene system of Negro slavery—Parrington} {an obscene allusion—{the jest unclean of linkboys vile, and watermen obscene—Pope} {the rabble of Comus . . . reeling in obscene dances—Macaulay} {it was, of course, easy to pick out a line here and there . . . which was frank to indecency, yet certainly not obscene—Canby} Ribald suggests vulgarity and often such impurity or indecency as provokes the laughter of people who are not too fastidious {a ribald folksong about fleas in straw—Lowes} {their backs . . . shaking with the loose laughter which punctuates a ribald description—Mary Austin} {we starn, as in the presence of some great dignitary from behind whom, by a ribald hand, a chair is withdrawn when he is in the act of sitting down—Beerbohm}

Ana rough, crude, *rude, raw, green, callow, uncouth: *rank, rampant: boorish, loutish, clownish (see under ANT)}

**Ant** fine: refined — Con delicate, dainty, exquisite, *fine: refined (see corresponding nouns at CULTURE)}

cost n *shore, strand, beach, bank, foreshore, littoral (see under Stack, Shock, Pile, *Heap, Mass, Bank)}
cost vb toboggan, *slide, glide, slip, skid, glissade, slither coag, cajole, wheelie, blandish mean to use ingratiating art in persuading or attempting to persuade. Coax implies gentle, persistent efforts to induce another or to draw what is desired out of another {in a coaxing voice, suited to a nurse soothing a baby—Burney} {it most often suggests artful pleading or teasing in an attempt to gain one’s ends {little by little, he coaxed some of the men whom the measure concerned most intimately to give in their views—Kipling} {one . . . who can linger over and taste a phrase, coaxing its flavor to the palate as if it were an old wine—Moody} {his skill in coaxing . . . the attention of the variable human mind to divine objects—T. S. Eliot} but it may be extended to other situations in which persevering yet careful efforts are used to attain an end {coax embers into a blaze—Cajole} may stress deceit (as by flattering or making specious promises) {they . . . should be treated as they themselves treat fools, this is, be cajoled with praises—Pope} It more often implies enticing or alluring and suggests beguilement rather than duplicity {I think a vein of sentiment . . . induced me to take the journey, and to cajole a reluctant friend into accompanying me—Rephiller} Wheelie suggests more strongly than cajole the use of soft words, artful flattery, or seductive appeal {she could wheelie the soul out of a saint—Hewlett} {he had wheeled the Abeya woman out of her geraniums, and left her pleased with herself for surrendering them—Mary Austin} {no hucksters to wheelie you into buying souvenirs—Nebel} Blandish implies less artfulness than wheedle and more open flattery and a more apparent desire to win over by charming or alluring {would the blandishing enhancer still weave his spells around me—Dickens} {found herself being blandished by millionnaires—Rogow}

Ana *induce, persuade, prevail, get: tease, pester (see WORRY): inveigle, entice, tempt, *lure

cobble vb *botch, bungle, fumble, muffle
Ana patch, *mend, repair: fabricate, forge, manufacture (see MAKE): impair, mar, spoil (see INJURE)
cock vb stack, shock, pile, *heap, mass, bank
Ana *gather, collect, assemble
Con *scatter, disperse
cok n stack, shock, pile, heap, mass, bank (see under HEAP vb)

cocksure positive, certain, *sure
Ana *confident, assured, sanguine, presumptuous: pretentious (see SHOWY): *decided, decisive
AnT dubious, doubtful — Con modest, diffident (see SHY)

**coerce compel, *force, constrain, oblige
Ana *intimidate, bulldoze, bully, browbeat, cow: *threaten, menace: drive, impel (see MOVE): terrorize (see FRIGHTEN)
Con *induce, persuade, prevail, get: *coax, cajole, wheelie, blandish: *lure, entice, tempt, seduce, inveigle

coercion compulsion, *force, violence, duress, constraint, restraint

Ana *power, might, puissance, strength: intimidation, bulldozing, bullying, browbeating (see corresponding verbs at INTIMATE): threatening or threat, menacing or menace (see corresponding verbs at THREATEN)

coetaneous coeval, contemporaneous, *contemporary, synchronous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, concurrent

coeval coetaneous, synchronous, coincident, contemporaneous, contemporary, contem-poraneous

cogent convincing, compelling, telling, *valid, sound
Ana forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful, puissant: compelling, constraining (see FORCE vb): inducing, persuading or persuasive (see corresponding verbs at IN-FLUENCE): inveigling, demonstrating (see PROVE): *effective, effectual
cogitate *think, reflect, deliberate, reason, speculate
Ana ponder, ruminate, meditate, muse: *consider, excogitate, weigh, contemplate, study: *think, conceive, imagine, envisage, envision
cognate *related, allied, kindred, affiliated
Ana akin, alike, identical, similar (see LIKE): common, generic, general, *universal

Con diverse, *different, divergent, disparate, various
cognizant *aware, conscious, sensible, alive, awake
Ana *conversant, versed: informed, acquainted, apprised (see INFORM)

AnT ignorant — Con *insensible, insensitive, impas-sible, anesthetic: ignoring, overlooking, slighting, neglecting (see NEGLECT): oblivious, unmindful, *forgetful

cohere *stick, adhere, cleave, cling
Ana coalesce, fuse, merge, blend (see MIX): *fasten, attach, affix: *join, combine, unite, connect, associate
Con *detach, disengage: disentangle, untangle, dis-embarrass (see EXTRICATE)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
coherence, cohesion mean the quality or character of a whole all of whose parts cohere or stick together. Coherence usually implies a unity of such immaterial or intangible things as the points of an argument, the details of a picture, or the incidents, characters, and setting of a story, or of material or objective things that are bound into unity by a spiritual, intellectual, or aesthetic relationship (as through their clear sequence or their harmony with each other); it commonly connotes an integrity which makes the whole and the relationship of its parts clear and manifest (to treat the subject with the clearness and coherence of which it is susceptible—Wordsworth) is there or is there not a spiritual coherence in Christianity, or is it only a gathering of laws and precepts, with no inherent connected spiritual philosophy?—Galsworthy) scientific work . . . may indeed possess the appearance of beauty, because of the inner coherence which it shares with fine art—Alexander (no more coherence than the scattered jangle of bells in the town below—Quiller-Couch) Cohesion more often implies a unity of material things held together by such a physical substance as cement, mortar, or glue or by some physical force (as attraction or affinity) a house stands and holds together by the natural properties, the weight and cohesion of the materials which compose it—T. H. Huxley what am I, Life? A thing of watery salt held in cohesion by unreeling cells which work they know not why, which never halt—Masefield) Cohesion may also be used of either material or immaterial things when the emphasis is on the process by which things cohere rather than on the resulting unity a state composed of discordant races incapable of cohesion.

Ana *unity, integrity, solidarity, union: clearness, perspicuousness, lucidity (see corresponding adjectives at CLEAR)

Ant incoherence

cohesion *coherence

Ana unification, consolidation, concentration, compacting (see corresponding verbs at COMPACT): coalescence, fusing or fusion, blending or blend, merging (see corresponding verbs at MIX)

Con disintegration, decomposition, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY): deliquescence (see corresponding verb at LIQUEFY)

coil vb wind, curl, twist, twine, wreath, entwine

Ana *turn, revolve, rotate, circle

coin n coinage, currency, specie, legal tender, cash, *money

coinage coin, currency, cash, specie, legal tender, *money

concur, *agree

Ana accord, correspond, jibe, harmonize, tally (see AGREE): *match, equal

Ant differ —Con diverge (see SWERVE)

coincident synchronous, simultaneous, concurrent, concomitant, coeval, coetaneous, contemporaneous, *contemporary

cold, cool, chilly, frigid, freezing, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic mean having a temperature below that which is normal or comfortable. Cold is the general term, often implying nothing more than a lack of warmth (a cold day) (a cold hand) (cold meat) It may also connote discomfort (shivering in her cold room) (battered by a cold wind)

Cool suggests moderate and often refreshing coldness (a cool breeze) (a cool hand on a fevered brow) (a cool drink) But when hotness or warmth is desirable it, too, connotes something disagreeable (cool soup) (a cool radiance)

Chilly implies coldness that makes one shiver (a chilly morning) (a chilly room) Frigid, freezing, and frosty imply temperatures below 32° Fahrenheit. Frigid stresses the intensity of the cold (a frigid climate) (frigid weather) and freezing its congealing effect (as on man, vegetation, and water) (a freezing wind) (freezing temperature) while frosty applies rather specifically to times or conditions in which fine ice crystals are deposited from atmospheric moisture onto a cold surface (frosty nights are usually clear and cold with little wind) Gelid is equivalent to freezing, but it somewhat more often stresses the resultant discomfort (so the leaden hours passed in the gelid darkness—Sitwell) while sea-born gales their gelid wings expand—Goldsmith) Icy, when used to indicate a kind of coldness, implies frigidity so great as to be painful and cutting; it is applicable chiefly to winds, storms, and water an icy rain an icy northeast wind Basically glacial is very close to icy (the air in the cave was glacial, penetrated to the very bones—Cather) but its later association with glacier has given it an ambiguous cast in many locutions; thus, a glacial lake might be, according to context, either a painfully cold lake or one formed by the action of a glacier. Arctic is the strongest of these words in its suggestion of intense coldness. It connotes the frigidity of the polar regions and is usually a hyperbolic rather than an exact term a winter notable for its arctic temperatures.

When applied to persons, their temperaments, their acts and words, and their responses to stimuli, these words are also marked by differences in implications. Cold suggests absence of feeling or emotion, or less than normal human sympathy, friendliness, sensitiveness, or responsiveness his plea left us cold cold words he treated us with cold justice their cold intelligence, their stereotyped, unremitting industry repel me—L. P. Smith) Okio, in spite of his unerring eye and his incomparable cunning of hand, was of too cold a temperament to infuse a powerful current of life into the old tradition—Binyon) Cool (see also COOL) 2 stresses control over one's feelings or emotions, and therefore absence of excitement or agitation this wonder, that when near her he should be cool and composed, and when away from her wrapped in a tempest of desires—Meredith) both looked at life with a cool realism which was not allowed to become cynical—Buchan) Chilly, frosty, and freezing usually stress the effect of another's coldness: chilly connotes a depressing or repressive influence (a chilly greeting) (a chilly reception) while frosty connotes a checking or restraining of advances (a frosty smile) and freezing connotes a blighting or repelling (a freezing reply to a letter) many . . . had been repelled by his freezing looks—Macaulay)

Frigid suggests such a deficiency of natural feeling as is abnormal or repellent; it is specifically applicable to persons who are sexually passionless and averse to sexual intercourse, but it is often applied to things which are not, but by their nature should be, impassioned or infused with feeling or warmth (frigid verse) (frigid religion) (frigid hospitality) Gelid and icy suggest a discomforting chill (as in manner or conduct), the former sometimes stressing the power to benumb, the latter the power to pierce or stab immediately, the long gelid, nightly silence fell between us—Spina) (her voice dropped into an icy gravity—Yerby) a lady of the most arresting beauty and icy good breeding—Max Peacock) Glacial suggests a chilling lack of vitality or animation (Boston, for all its glacial perfection, has no intimacy at all—Virgil Thomson) his manner more glacial and sepulchral than ever—Molloy) Arctic frequently adds to frigid a connotation of remoteness from all that is human or referable to humanity (exact and arctic justice—Mencken)

Ant hot

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
collate *compare, contrast
collateral adj *subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, tributary
Anna *related, allied, kindred, cognate; correlative, complementary, corresponding, reciprocal
collation *comparison, parallel, contrast, antithesis
Anna corroboration, verification, confirmation, authentication (see corresponding verbs at CONFIRM): emending or emendation, revising or revision, correcting or correction (see corresponding verbs at CORRECT)
colleague *partner, copartner, ally, confederate
Anna *associate, companion, comrade
collect *gather, assemble, congregate
Anna mass, *heap, pile; *accumulate, amass, hoard: consolidate, concentrate, compact
Ant disperse: distribute —Con *scatter, dissipate, dispel: dispense, divide, deal, dole (see DISTRIBUTE): *separate, part, sever, sunder: *assort, sort
collected composed, *cool, unrefined, imperturbable, unflappable, nonchalant
Ant distracted, distraught —Con agitated, perturbed, upset, disturbed, flustered, flurried (see DISCOMPOSE)
collection assemblage, assembly, gathering, congregation (see under GATHER vb)
Anna heap, pile, mass, stack (see under HEAP vb): accumulation, hoarding or hoard (see corresponding verbs at ACCUMULATE)
collide *bump, clash, conflict
Anna hit, *strike; impinge, impact (see corresponding nouns at IMPACT): dash, charge, *rush
collision *impact, impingement, clash, shock, concussion, percussion, jar, jolt
Anna striking, hitting (see STRIKE vb): wrecking or wreck, ruining or ruin, dilapidation (see corresponding verbs at RUIN): demolishment, destruction (see corresponding verbs at DESTROY)
colonnade, arcade, arcature, portico, peristyle are discriminated as used in architecture. A colonnade is a row of columns (typically on the outside of a building) spaced at regular intervals and carrying an architrave or horizontal member lying directly across their capitals, so that the opening between each pair of columns is square-topped. Colonnade is usually applied not only to the columns but to the entire structure consisting of columns, roof, and pavement or to the space which they enclose. The word is used especially in reference to classical architecture. An arcade is a long series of arches with their supporting columns and piers together with the other members that complete the structure as an architectural feature. An arcade may be either inside or outside of a building; it may be a purely decorative feature or a means of admitting light and air. When purely decorative, the spaces between the arches and the piers may be filled in (sometimes providing niches for statues); this type of arcade is also called an arcature. An arcade may take the place of an outer wall (as of a gallery or cloister). Arcade is used especially of types of architecture (as the late Romanesque and the Gothic) in which the arch is an essential feature. Portico and peristyle are used in reference to architectural features employing the colonnade. When the colonnade extends across, or nearly across, one side of a building and serves as an entrance, it is called a portico; when it is continued so as to extend along three or, usually, all four sides of a building, it is called a peristyle.
color n 1 Color, hue, shade, tint, tinge, tone are comparable when they mean a property or attribute of a visible thing that is recognizable only when rays of light fall upon the thing and that is distinct from properties (as shape or size) apparent in dusk. Color is the ordinary term and, in precise use, the only generic term of this group. It may apply to the quality of blood which one describes as redness, of grass as greenness, of the sky as blueness, of snow as whiteness, or of ebony as blackness, or to the optical sensation which one experiences when one sees these things respectively as red, green, blue, white, and black. It may refer to any of the bands of the spectrum or to any of the variations produced by or as if by combination of one or more of these with another or with white, black, or gray (Walden is blue at one time and green at another. . . . Lying between the earth and the heavens, it partakes of the color of both—Thoreau) Color is also specifically applicable to the attribute of things seen as red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple (the chromatic colors) as distinct from the attribute of things seen as black, white, or gray (the achromatic colors) (give a white house touches of color by painting the window sashes and shutters green) Hue, especially in poetry or elevated prose, is often synonymous with color (as brown in hue as hazelnuts and sweeter than the kernels—Shak.) (all the gradational hues of the spectrum from red through yellow, green, blue, to violet—Scientific Monthly) More specifically, hue suggests some modification of color (their shining green has changed to a less vivid hue; they are taking bluish tones here and there—Heart) Shade is often used in the sense of one of the gradations of a color, especially as its hue is affected by its brilliance. When a darker shade of blue (a brighter shade of green) (a shade paler—J. C. Van Dyke) Tint is also used as meaning a gradation of color in respect to brilliance, but it always suggests hue and is commonly used in reference to light colors that seem to be given by a light or delicate touching; thus, what are often called "pastel colors" or "pastel shades" are known also as tints. The term is not infrequently used in contrast to shade, especially when the latter word connotes comparative darkness or dullness (the flags by the shore were turning brown; a tint of yellow was creeping up the ruses—Jefferys) (dark it appeared, but the precise tint was indeterminable—Hudson) (the sprays of bloom which adorn it are merely another shade of the red earth walls, and its fibrous trunk is full of gold and lavender tints—Cather) Tinge implies more of interfusion or stain than tint (autumn bold, with universal tinge of sober gold—Keats) (the water . . . imparts to the body of one bathing in it a yellowish tinge—Thoreau) Tone is a rather general word, sometimes equivalent to color but more often suggesting hue or a modification of hue (as a tint or tinge) (from strand to cloud-capped peak, the tone was purple—Beebe) (tone, which he plays with as has no other of the moderns, modifying color brightness to achieve his foreseen tonal harmony—Cheney) Nearly all of these terms carry extended meanings derived from or related to the senses previously considered. Color usually suggests an outward character or aspect such as may be changed by circumstances (your love for him has changed its color since you have found him not to be the saint you thought him—Hardy) (it has been an essentially aristocratic movement—But . . . it took on a strongly democratic color—Mencel) may be imparted to a thing to brighten and vivify it (people talk of matters which I had believed to be worn threadbare by use, and yet communicate a rich color . . . to them—Benson) Hue is less often so used than color; it usually suggests a character rather than an aspect, but it does not necessarily imply an ingrained character (our
mental hue depends ... completely on the social atmosphere in which we move—Horace Smith) Tint applies to a character that is not dominant but imparted as if by contact or influence (our inborn spirits have a tint of thee—Byron) Shade and tinge are used in the sense of trace, touch, trifling (for this sense, see TOUCH) (eyes that ... had some tinge of the oriental—Edmund Wilson) (a shade less cordial than usual) (a tinge of sadness)

2 usually in plural colors *flag, ensign, standard, banner, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack colorful *plausible, credible, believable, specious Ana convincing, compelling, telling, cogent, sound, *valid colorless uncolored, achromatic mean without color. However, they are not freely interchangeable. Colorless is applied to something that is transparent (water is a colorless liquid) or to something that is bleached, blanched, or pallid (colorless leaves) (colorless cheeks and lips) Uncolored is applied to something that is left in its natural state or is not dyed or stained (uncolored oranges) or to objects which have not been touched or touched up with color (an uncolored photograph) Achromatic is applied to something that is free from any of the hues in the spectrum or from any hues formed by combinations of these or that gives images which are free from extraneous colors produced by refraction (an achromatic color) (an achromatic telescope) A color (in its inclusive sense) may be chromatic or achromatic: if the former, it has a hue; if the latter, it has not and is, therefore, white, black, or a pure gray. Ana *pale, pallid, ashen, wan: whitened, blanched, bleached, decolorized (see WHITEN)

Ant colorful colossal *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian Ana monumental, stupendous, tremendous, prodigious, *monstrous column *pillar, pilaster comatoso torpid, sluggish, *lethargic Ana * languid, languorous, listless, languishing: phlegmatic, *impassive: *insensible, anesthetic, impassible: inert, passive, supine (see INACTIVE) Ant awake comb vb *seek, search, scour, hunt, ferret out, ransack, rummage Ana *scrutinize, inspect, examine: investigate, probe (see corresponding nouns at INQUIRY) combat vb *resist, withstand, contest, oppose, fight, conflict, antagonize Ana *fight, *contend, battle, war: *attack, assail, assault, bombard, storm Ant champion: defend —Con protect, shield, guard (see DEFEND): *support, uphold, advocate: *maintain, justify, vindicate combat n conflict, fight, *contest, affray, fray Ana *battle, engagement, action: *encounter, skirmish, brush: controversy, dispute, *argument: contention, strife, conflict, *discord combative *belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious, quarrelsome, contentious Ana *aggressive, militant: strenuous, energetic, *vigorous: virile, manly, manful (see MALE) Ant pacific combination, combine, party, bloc, faction, ring denote a union, either of individuals or of organized interests, for mutual support in obtaining common political or private ends. Combination is the most comprehensive of these terms, being applicable to any such union whether a trust, an alliance, or simply an association for the purpose of urging demands or resisting claims (a combination of citizens devoted to holding down taxes) (a combination of railroads to maintain existing rates) Combine is often interchangeable, especially in informal use, with combination (the coal combine) Often it may connote a combination with an improper or illegal aim in view (how the Mafia operates has been duplicated ... in Ed Reid’s book of that famous ... combine—Kogan) (a combine that understands it must destroy ... if it is actually to control—The Commonweal) A party is a number of persons united in support of some opinion, cause, or principle; it usually implies a similar body in opposition, especially when used in reference to a political organization built up to continue the action and policies of government through election of its candidates to office (in the United States there are usually only two strong parties) (the Labour party in England) (he who draws his pen for one party must expect to make enemies of the other—Dryden) (who, born for the universe, narrowed his mind, and to party gave up what was meant for mankind—Goldsmith) Bloc implies a combination of persons or groups who otherwise differ in party or in interests for the sake of achieving a common and often temporary end; thus, in France and in Italy, a bloc is a combination of members of two or more political parties; in the United States, a bloc is a combination not of parties but of members of different parties who have a common end (the farm bloc formed by members from the agricultural states wishing to secure legislation helpful to their constituents) Faction frequently suggests a smaller body than party and commonly implies selfish ends and the use of unscrupulous or turbulent means (so several factions from this first ferment work up to foam and threaten the government—Dryden) (the Whigs and Tories in Rome, Athens, and Jerusalem never for their ends and the use of unscrupulous or turbulent means—Dryden) (the Labour party in England) (who, born for the universe, narrowed his mind, and to party gave up what was meant for mankind—Goldsmith) Bloc implies a combination of persons or groups who otherwise differ in party or in interests for the sake of achieving a common and often temporary end; thus, in France and in Italy, a bloc is a combination of members of two or more political parties; in the United States, a bloc is a combination not of parties but of members of different parties who have a common end (the farm bloc formed by members from the agricultural states wishing to secure legislation helpful to their constituents) Faction frequently suggests a smaller body than party and commonly implies selfish ends and the use of unscrupulous or turbulent means (so several factions from this first ferment work up to foam and threaten the government—Dryden) (the Whigs and Tories in Rome, Athens, and Jerusalem never forgot national points with more zeal, to attend to private faction, than we have lately—Walpole) Ring is applicable to an exclusive, often more or less secret, combination for a selfish and often corrupt or criminal purpose (as the control of a market, of political patronage, or of distribution of narcotics) (the Tweed Ring was in control of New York City politics for six years) Innocent women were frequently framed by a ring consisting of police officers, stool pigeons, bondsmen and lawyers—Ploscowe Ana *monopoly, corner, pool, cartel, syndicate, trust combine vb 1 unite, associate, link, conjoin, *join, connect, relate Ana *mix, mingle, commingle, blend, fuse, amalgamate; consolidate, unify (see COMPACT vb) Ant separate —Con part, divide, sever, sunder, divorce (see SEPARATE): *detach, disengage 2 *unite, cooperate, concur, conjoin Ana coalesce, merge (see MIX): coincide, *agree, concur combine n *combination, party, bloc, faction, ring Ana see those at COMBINATION combustible adj Combustible, inflammable, flammable, incendiary, inflammatory, which are not close synonyms, since they apply to different types of nouns, are comparable because they mean showing a tendency to catch or be set on fire. Combustible applies chiefly to material which is of such a nature that it catches fire easily and usually burns quickly (excelsior is very combustible) (a combustible roof of pine shingles) Inflammable applies to materials ready to flame up at the slightest cause of the term, however, suggests more than the ease with which a thing burns, for it stresses a capacity for flaring up dangerously (the fire soon gutted the attic, which had been full of old papers and other inflammable materials) Inflammable as applied to persons, their natures, their
hearts, and their temperaments stresses the danger as well as the ease in arousing them (as to anger, excitement, or passion); it applies also to a subject or situation that can induce such arousal (the vision of a single young woman is said to have overcome the inflammable monk—Meredith) ("Don't trouble about it, Clym. They may get to be friends.") He shook his head. "Not two people with inflammable natures like theirs"—Hardy (a very inflammable subject to be raised at election time) Flammable is equivalent to inflammable and used chiefly in respect to materials dangerously likely to flare up or explode (gasoline is a highly flammable substance requiring special care in storage and transportation) Incendiary not only stresses a capacity for starting up or causing a conflagration but a malicious intent to do the same. Therefore the term applies not only to something that is designed to cause fire but to fire that is caused by intent or design (an incendiary bomb) (an incendiary conflagration) The term may be extended to something (as an act, practice, speech, or publication) that tends to arouse something (as sedition, evil passions, or violence) that acts as destructively or disasterously as fire (incendiary ideas) (an incendiary policy) While the adjective is seldom applied to persons, the noun incendiary chiefly, except when used as short for such phrases as incendiary bomb, designates a person who maliciously or willfully sets fire to a building or other property or who deliberately incites quarrels, unrests, sedition, or violence. Inflammatory, like incendiary, emphasizes the power to cause a fire, especially in the hearts or minds of people, but it carries less suggestion of a malicious intent (taking to politics, he became a Chartist, and was found to be a capable inflammatory speaker—Lucas) (this gentleman . . . having been imprisoned fourteen months for inflammatory language anent the Federal Government—Reppier)

An inflammatory speaker is said to become inflamed (as an act, practice, speech, or publication) that tends to arouse something (as sedition, evil passions, or violence) that acts as destructively or disasterously as fire (incendiary ideas) (an incendiary policy) While the adjective is seldom applied to persons, the noun incendiary chiefly, except when used as short for such phrases as incendiary bomb, designates a person who maliciously or willfully sets fire to a building or other property or who deliberately incites quarrels, unrests, sedition, or violence. Inflammatory, like incendiary, emphasizes the power to cause a fire, especially in the hearts or minds of people, but it carries less suggestion of a malicious intent (taking to politics, he became a Chartist, and was found to be a capable inflammatory speaker—Lucas) (this gentleman . . . having been imprisoned fourteen months for inflammatory language anent the Federal Government—Reppier)

**come**, arrive are comparable because both basically mean to get to one point from another more or less distant in space, time, relation, or development. (Come (with to) and arrive (with at) are synonyms of reach (see reach); thus, one comes to or arrives at the end of a journey; one comes to or arrives at a decision. Come is one of the elementary intransitive verbs of motion, always implying movement toward, and may be used wherever such movement, actual or apparent, physical or spiritual, is implied. Arrive, however, stresses rather the reaching of and the end of movement toward a destination. Come, therefore, may be used with or without the implication that the destination is reached; arrive consistently carries that implication (I can see them coming) (they will arrive at three o'clock) When used in reference to things that move or progress without an agent or agency (as because of some law of nature or in obedience to some inner law or principle) come is usually preferable unless a definite end or termination or, often, fulfillment (as of expectation) is suggested (the days come and go) (at last the day of departure arrived) (the longed-for breeze was slow in coming, but when it arrived it brought joy to all) (success never comes to those who await it idly; it usually arrives only after years of patient endeavor) Come often suggests or requires statement of a source of place from which a thing has issued; arrive, on the other hand, often suggests or requires a statement of an end, a goal, or a climax to a progress or development (the family comes from peasant stock) (the family arrived socially when the grandfather of the present baron was elevated to the peerage) In such cases come and arrive are not inter-
its ... fire roaring behind a chaste canopy of velvet overmantel—Sayers> Snug (see also NEAT) suggests the state or the frame of mind of one who has as much room, or responsibility, or freedom, or money as is essential to his well-being but no more than he actually needs to be cozy, content, or secure; the term usually connotes such comfort as is associated with small but comfortable quarters as distinguished from those that are spacious or with a quiet, restricted, but pleasant way of life as distinguished from one where there is little time for one’s own interests or where one is driven by ambitions or restlessness; often, specifically, the term emphasizes protection from the elements, and warmth and dryness, as contributions to one’s comfort <all the gypsies and showmen ... lay snug within their carts and tents—Hardy> <Arnold the heartbroken outcast from the snug house-hold of faith, wearying in spiritual wastes of sand and thorns—Montague> Easy (see also EASY 2) implies relief from all that makes for discomfort or hardships, with the result that one is happy or free from care, anxiety, trouble, or doubt <he is in easy circumstances for the first time in his life> <she could now enjoy herself with an easy conscience> <people of the right sort are never easy until they get things straight—Kefauver> <Mrs. Struthers’s easy Sunday hospitality—Wharton> Restful usually suggests a state of mind of one who is comfortable, cozy, or easy, as well as relaxed, or a quality in a thing that induces such a state of mind (it’s restful to arrive at a decision, and restful just to think about New Hampshire—Frost> <a restful, friendly room, fitted to the uses of gentle life—Mary Austin> Ana comforting, consoling, solacing (see COMFORT vb): content or contented, satisfied (see under SATISFY): grateful, welcome, agreeable, gratifying (see PLEASANT) Ant uncomfortable: miserable —Con wretched (see MISERABLE): distressing, troubling (see TROUBLE vb): annoying, vexing, irking, bothering (see ANNOY) comic adj comical, *laughable, farcical, funny, droll, risible, ludicrous, ridiculous Ana diverting, amusing, entertaining (see AMUSE): *witty, humorous, facetious: grotesque, antic, *fantastic Ant tragic —Con *serious, solemn, grave, sober: pathetic, touching, poignant, *moving, affecting comical comic, farcical, ludicrous, ridiculous, *laughable, risible, droll, funny Ana absurd, silly, *foolish: jocular, joose, humorous (see WITTY): waggish, impish, rogueish, sportive (see PLAYFUL): deriding or derisive, ridiculing, mocking (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE) Ant pathetic —Con *melancholy, doleful, lugubrious, dolorous: *moving, poignant, touching, affecting comity amity, goodwill, *friendship Ana *association, society: companionship, comradeship (see base words at ASSOCIATE): concord, accord, *harmony command vb Command, order, bid, enjoin, direct, instruct, charge mean to issue orders to someone to give, get, or do something. Command and order agree in stressing the idea of authority, command implying its more formal and official exercise <the chairman commands the undertaking—Kefauver> and order, its more peremptory, sometimes even arbitrary, exercise; thus, a king, a military officer, the captain of a ship, commands; a landowner orders a trespasser off his premises; one is apt to resent being ordered, except by those who have a right to command. But order is used by a physician with no such connotation <the doctor ordered outdoor exercise> Bid in this sense is usually somewhat literary or informal; it usually implies an ordering or directing (often with a suggestion of peremptoriness) directly and by speech <she bade him be seated> <he seized him by the collar and sternly bade him cease making a fool of himself—Shaw> Enjoin adds to the idea of authority the implication of urging or warning; direct and instruct suggest especially business, official, or diplomatic relations, direct being perhaps the more mandatory, instruct the more formal, of the two <a parent enjoins his children to be quiet> <the church enjoins certain duties> <the editor directed his secretary to admit no callers during a conference> <instruct an assistant to gather certain information> St. Peter ... enjoins us to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason for the faith that is in us—Lowes> Why otherwise does it [the Constitution of the United States] direct the judges to take an oath to support it?—John Marshall> Charge, chiefly a literary term, implies not only enjoining but the imposition of a task as a duty <Mrs. Yeobright gave him the moneybags, charged him to go to Mistover—Hardy> <Gustavus ... considered himself charged by God with the defense of the true Lutheran faith—Barr> Ana control, manage, *conduct, direct: exact, *demand, require: *force, compel, coerce, constrain, oblige Ant comply, obey command n 1 Command, order, injunction, bidding, behest, mandate, dictate mean a direction, that must or should be obeyed, to do or not to do something. Command imputes to the person who issues the directions either unquestioned authority <the commands of a general> or complete control of a situation <at the command of the intruder he held up his hands> The term usually connotes either peremptoriness or imperativeness <at the command of his father he returned to the house> <every request of hers he interpreted as a command> <encouragement to some extent there is by every command or prohibition—Cardozo> Order is not always clearly distinguishable from command: it is, however, the preferred word for directions to subordinates that are instructions as well as commands; in such use it commonly implies explicitness in detail <the troops were awaiting orders from headquarters> (in response to the principal’s order, the pupils maintained silence while passing through the corridors) <refusal to recognize the authority of the emperor amounted to a refusal to take orders—Pharr> Injunction carries a weaker implication of imperativeness than the preceding words except in legal use, where it is applied to a court order commanding a person to do or more often to refrain from doing something on the penalty of being adjudged guilty of contempt of court. In general use the word stresses admonition without losing the implication of expected or demanded obedience <the high injunction not to taste that fruit—Milton> <she carefully obeyed the injunctions laid upon her by her physician> <delivered stern injunctions> Bidding, chiefly literary, usually implies the status of master or parent in the person who issues the orders and therefore stresses expected obedience or the fact of being obeyed <thousands at his bidding speed—Milton> (at the ghoulish bidding of the cloud, ... the surly summons of the sun—Aiken> Behest is also distinctly literary and equivalent to bidding in its implications <do his master’s high behest—Scott> During the war, it is true, at the behest of government agencies, many writers worked into their serials incidents and dialogue of a worthy sociological nature—Thurber> Mandate (see also MANDATE 2) carries the strongest implication of imperativeness of all of these words, for it denotes a command or order issued by a
commend, recommend, applaud, compliment are commensurate

commemorate

commence

Dictate basically denotes a command given orally (he . . . received his suggestions, and bowed to his dictates—Meriden) More often it applies to a command or authoritative judgment uttered by an inner voice (as of the conscience) or formulated in a principle or law (the government which has a right to do an act, and has imposed on it the duty of performing that act, must, according to the dictates of reason, be allowed to select the means—John Marshall) (a suspicion that . . . the moral law speaks in equivocal tones to those who listen most scrupulously for its dictates—L. P. Smith) 

Anita direction, instruction, charging or charge (see corresponding verbs at Command): precept, ordinance, law, statute, canon, rule

2 control, authority, power, jurisdiction, sway, dominion

Anita ascendency, *supremacy: sovereignty (see under Free adj)

commemorating vb celebrate, observe, *keep, solemnize

commence *begin, start, initiate, inaugurate

Anita institute, *found, organize, establish

Con finish, complete, conclude, terminate, end, *close

commend, recommend, applaud, compliment are comparable when they mean to voice or otherwise manifest to others one's warm approval. Commend usually implies a desire to call attention to the merits of a person or a thing (the police commissioner publicly commended the officers who made the arrest) (his wife seriously commended Mr. Collins for having spoken so sensibly—Austen) (it is always dangerous and impertinent to commend a poem for anything but its poetry—L. P. Smith)

Anita direction, instruction, charging or charge (see corresponding verbs at Command): precept, ordinance, law, statute, canon, rule

comment n commentary, *remark, observation, note, obiter dictum

Anita interpreting or interpretation, elucidation, explication, expounding or exposition, explaining or explanation (see corresponding verbs at Explain): annotation, gloss (see under Annotate)

comment vb commentate, *remark, animadvert

Anita interpret, elucidate, expound, *explain, construe, explicate: *annotate, gloss: *criticize: illustrate, *exemplify

commentary comment, *remark, observation, note, obiter dictum

Anita see those at Comment n

commentative vb comment, *remark, animadvert

Anita see those at Comment vb

commentator see under commentary at Remark vb

commerce 1 trade, *business, industry, traffic

2 traffic, *intercourse, dealings, communication, communion, conversation, converse, correspondence

commercial adj Commercial, mercantile are comparable when they mean of, relating to, or dealing with the supplying of commodities. Commercial is the more widely applicable term: it may be used in reference to anything which has to do with the buying or selling of commodities for profit, with their transportation, and sometimes, even, with their production, or with business affairs in general; thus, a commercial transaction is any piece of business involving a buyer and seller of goods or property that is for the financial benefit of the seller; commercial law deals with all matters (as contracts, negotiable papers, liens, payment of debts, and partnerships) that have reference to business; a commercial attaché is, in the United States, an officer of the Department of Commerce attached by the Department of State to an embassy or legation in a country where trade is important. Also, commercial is used to describe whatever has for its aim financial profit or is guided by the methods or practices of business (the commercial theater) (commercial aviation) (commercial sports) (commercial radio programs are programs paid for by advertisers) Mercantile is often used interchangeably with commercial with little difference in meaning; thus, a mercantile transaction is not ordinarily distinguishable from a commercial transaction, nor mercantile law from commercial law. The term, however, more often suggests actual buying and selling (the occupation of a merchant) than commerce in general including production and transportation and is therefore more restricted in its application; thus, a commercial house is a business or company engaged in foreign or domestic commerce: a mercantile house is a business, usually wholesale, engaged in merchandising (mercantile agent) (mercantile establishment)

commingle mingle, blend, *mix, merge, coalesce, fuse, amalgamate

Anita combine, unite, conjoin, associate (see Join):
commit 

**commit** compassion, pity, condolence, *sympathy, ruth, empathy

_Ana_ compassionateness, tenderness, warmheartedness (see corresponding adjectives at TENDER): mercifulness, clemency (see under FORBEARING): lamenting or lamentation, bewailing, bemoaning (see corresponding verbs at DEPLORE): pitifulness, piteousness, pitiableness (see corresponding adjectives at PITIFUL)

_Ant_ ruthlessness, pitilessness

**commission vb** *authorize, accredit, license

_Ana_ appoint, *designate, name, nominate: empower, *enable: instruct, enjoin, charge, bid, order, *command

**commit vb** 1 Commit, entrust, confide, consign, relegate are comparable when they mean to assign to a person or place for some definite end or purpose (as custody or safekeeping). _Commit_ is the widest term; it may express merely the general idea of delivering into another's charge (<commit the management of an estate to an agent>) or it may have the special sense of a transfer to a superior power or to a place of custody (<into thine hand I commit my spirit—Ps 31:5>) or we therefore commit his body to the earth; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust—Book of Common Prayer) (<commit a person to prison>) (<commit one's thoughts to paper>) To entrust is to commit with trust and confidence; to confide is to entrust with entire reliance and assurance (<entrusted him with her secret>) (<a government, entrusted with such ample powers . . . must also be entrusted with ample means for their execution—John Marshall>) (<the right of naturalization was therefore, with one accord, surrendered by the States, and confided to the Federal Government—Talley>) (<never to those bloodstained accursed hands will the future of Europe be confided—Sir Winston Churchill>) _Consign_ implies a more formal act and frequently suggests such transfer or delivery as removes its object from one's immediate control (<consigned goods to an agent for sale>) (<he must now . . . consign him to a living tomb again—How-thorne>) (<the barber and the curate of La Mancha . . . felt bound to wall up Don Quixote's library, and consigned to the flames many of the volumes which had so unsettled the poor knight's wits—Muggeridge>) To _relegate_ is to consign to some particular class, position, or sphere usually with the implication of setting aside or getting rid of [<man] is relegated to his place in a classification—Newman> (<he supposed that he had disappointed the Bishop and that he was being relegated into the limbo of moderately satisfactory young parsons—Mackenzie>)

_Ana_ transfer, shift, remove, *move: assign, * allot

2 Commit, _perpetrate_ mean to be responsible for or to be guilty of some offense or mistake. _Commit_ is the term regularly used in prohibiting (as in some of the Ten Commandments) or to describe engaging in an action that is counted a sin, crime, or offense (<commit murder>) (<commit adultery> (<commit blasphemy>) In less specific use the word may mean little more than do or perform, but it retains to a greater or less degree its implication of reprehensive (<commit a stupid blunder>) (<commit needless errors> _Perpetrate_ basically implies the committing of a crime (<perpetrate arson>) (<perpetrate treason) and often so strongly carries the notion of crime or offense that a neutral word can be used as the object of the verb without any doubt as to its offensive character (<the deed was perpetrated at midnight>) However, _perpetrate_ is also freely used of acts or actions which though not criminal are morally, socially, intellectually, or artistically reprehensible and which may range from the utterly out-rageous to the mildly deplorable (<hastened to perpetrate the partition of your country before the Polish nation could consolidate its position—Sir Winston Churchill>) (<the colossal waste they perpetrate probably does not exceed the financial blunders and stuffed overhead in big corporations—Paul>) (<Peter Cornelius, who at Munich was quite successfully perpetrating . . . about the worst art of the century—Mather>) (<went away feeling I had perpetrated a delightful fraud—L. P. Smith>) _Ana_ offend, sin, scandalize (see corresponding nouns at OFFENSE): transgress, trespass, violate, contravene (see corresponding nouns at BREACH)

**commodious** spacious, ample

_Ana_ *comfortable: large, big, great: broad, wide, deep

_Cond_ circumscribed, confined, limited, restricted (see LIMIT vb): inconvenient, incommodious (see corresponding verbs at JOIN): merged, blended, amalgamated (see MIX)

_Ant_ individual

2 mutual, * reciprocal

_Ana & Ant_ see those at COMMON

3 _Common_ makes no distinction between the character of what is generally or usually met with and not in any way special, strange, or unusual. _Common_ implies the lack of distinguishing, conspicuous, or exceptional qualities; positively, it suggests usualness, everyday character or quality, or frequency of occurrence (_the common people_) (_a common soldier_) (_the common chickweed_) (_a common error_) (_he lacks common honesty_) (_for common love_) (and women two or three of the common loves will suffice—the love of family and home, of school and church, of mountain and sea—Eliot) _Often_ the term also connotes inferiority, coarseness, lack of breeding, or low station (_the common herd_) (_of common clay_) _O hard is the bed . . . and common the blanket and cheap—Housman_) (_a common fellow with no notion of politeness or manners_) _Ordinary_ expresses more definitely accordance with the regular order or run of things (_the ordinary intercourse of man with man—Newman_) (_it is not an ordinary war. It is a revolution . . . which threatens all men everywhere—Roosevelt_) _It_ usually implies qualities not above, and frequently below, the average (_choice word and measured phrase, above the reach of ordinary men—Wordsworth_) (_let others expatiate on trivial objects, ordinary characters, and uninteresting events—Landor_) _As_ a term of depreciation _ordinary_ is similar to but less contemptuous than _common_ (_a very ordinary-looking person_) (_his ability is no more than ordinary_) _Familiar_ stresses something that is generally known and easily recognized because of its frequency of occurrence or one's constant association with it rather than because of its lack of distinguishing qualities (_the tyranny of familiar surroundings over the imagination—Russell_) (_to remind you of what is so familiar as to be frequently forgotten—Frankfurter_) (_the doctrine of Einstein, which sweeps away axioms so familiar to us that they seem obvious truths, and substitutes others which seem absurd because they are unfamiliar—Ellis_) _Popular_ and _vulgar_ (see also COARSE) imply commonness that arises from use or acceptance by or prevalence among the vast majority of persons, often specifically among the common people of a country or an age (_popular fallacies_) (_the vulgar tongue_) _Popular_ more often stresses the implication of widespread prevalence, currency, or favor among the people or the masses; _vulgar_ more often connotes inferiority, coarseness, lack of breeding, or low station. _Vulgar_ is basically an adjective or phrase used of subjects, or objects associated with the vulgar, or common people. _Vulgarity_ is the quality of being vulgar, or, specifically, is a vulgarity (a vulgarity). _Popular_ or _vulgar_ are often used in contemptuous sense to apply to the common people or to things related to them._

---

_Analogous words_ *integrate*

_Antonyms_ * authorize, accredit, license*

_Contrasted words_ *commit*
people than does vulgar, which even in this sense nearly always carries derogatory connotations (as of inferiority or coarseness) ⟨a popular song⟩ ⟨dancing . . . of all the arts . . . most associated in the popular mind with pleasure—Ellis⟩ ⟨this mode of interpreting Scripture is fatal to the vulgar notion of its verbal inspiration—Arnold⟩ ⟨a popular instead of an accurate and legal conception of what the word monopole in the statute means—Justice Holmes⟩ ⟨we were reluctant to expose those silent and beautiful places to vulgar curiosity—Cather⟩

An uncommon—exceptional—Con rare, *infrequent, occasional: singular, unique, peculiar, odd, *strange commonplace n Commonplace, platitude, truism, bromide, cliché mean an idea or expression lacking in originality or freshness. A commonplace is a stock idea or expression which is frequently little more than the obvious, conventional, and easy thing to think or say on a given subject ⟨the machinery as well as the characters of those novels became the commonplaces of later romancers—Raleigh⟩ ⟨the superficial commonplaces which pass as axioms in our popular intellectual milieu—Cohen⟩

Platitude adds to commonplace the suggestions of flatness or triteness and, often, utterance with an air of importance or novelty ⟨what is that sentimental platitude of somebody’s . . . about the sun being to flowers what art is to life?—Hewlett⟩ ⟨traditional schoolbook platitudes and campaign slogans—Frankfurter⟩ A truism is a self-evident truth; it differs from an axiom (see axiom at PRINCIPLE) in frequently implying a somewhat superfluous insistence upon the obvious ⟨Pope’s palpable truism “The proper study of mankind is man”⟩ ⟨it is a truism that a sound society makes for sound individuals—Day Lewis⟩

Bromide applies to a commonplace, platitude, or truism that strikes the listener or reader as especially dull or hackneyed and, often, as an evidence of its maker’s low-grade mentality ⟨despite the silly old bromide, the fat man is more often than not the best loved of men—McClure’s Mag.⟩ ⟨under the circumstances the usual, indeed the expected, Chamber of Commerce bromides would have been acceptable—J. M. Brown⟩

Cliché applies to an expression which when new was fresh and full of meaning but which by constant iteration has become not only dull but hackneyed and stereotyped ⟨the cliché is merely the sometime novel, that has been loved not wisely but too well—Lowes⟩ ⟨the pathetic cliché, “for the sake of the children,” has perpetuated many unsuccessful marriages—D. B. Lewis⟩

An expression ⟨phrase, idiom, locution: banality, jejune, inanity, wishy-washiness (see corresponding adjectives at INSIPIID): triteness, threadbareness (see corresponding adjectives at TRITE)⟩

common sense see sense 2
commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, confusion, convulsion, upheaval are comparable when they designate great physical, mental, or emotional excitement. All carry this general meaning yet have applications which fit them for narrower use in specific senses. Commotion always implies movement and to and fro that may be violent and disturbing or that may be merely sharply in contrast to a usual calm. It is used physically of storms, especially as they affect the movement of the seas ⟨behind the endless surges of the deep . . . a host of mariners perpetual sleep, too hushed to heed the wild commotion’s roar—Channing d. 1901⟩ and of unusual bustle or hubbub ⟨there was commotion all over the house at the return of the young heir—Meredith⟩ Even when commotion represents mental or emotional excitement, it indirectly suggests movement in heightening the ideas of unrest and perturbation (eighteen years of commotion had made the majority of the people ready to buy repose at any price—Macaulay) Agitation, on the other hand, suggests a stirring up or a shaking up comparable physically to that accompanying a fermentation or to boiling or seething ⟨the agitation of the earth’s crust during an earthquake⟩ Usually it describes strong emotional excitement that, whether controlled or not, causes distress or pain to the person involved ⟨that sickening agitation of the heart which arises from hope deferred—Scott⟩ ⟨“Pray,” said Mr. Lorry . . . bringing his left hand . . . to lay it on the supplicatory fingers that clasped him in so violent a tremble, “pray control your agitation”—Dickens⟩ It also may refer to the stirring up of men’s minds and emotions on some usually emotionally charged matter or question ⟨political agitation by foreign agents⟩ ⟨an anti-Catholic agitation that was marked by the destruction of churches—Amer. Guide Series: N. Y.⟩

Tumult may mean, generally, either commotion or agitation that is characterized by uproar, din, or great disorder ⟨the tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart—Kipling⟩ It also may apply specifically to a riot or fracas or to an insurrection or rebellious outbreak ⟨the tumults and disorders of the Great Rebellion had hardly been subdued—T. S. Eliot⟩ but it is equally applicable to other things ⟨as it is violent disturbance of the elements or an agitation of conflicts of passions⟩ that suggest restlessness, noise, disorder, and intense excitement ⟨it thunders and lightens . . . what tumult’s in the heavens?—Shak⟩ ⟨the gods approve the depth, and not the tumult, of the soul—Wordsworth⟩

Turmoil implies a state where nothing is at rest and where everything seethes with excitement. It is applicable to a state of physical commotion or to a condition of mental or emotional agitation, but in all cases it carries a suggestion of harassment and of ferment from which there seems no escape. In fact, it often connotes the point of view of a person who loves peace and hates disturbance ⟨her life had been calm, regular, monotonous . . . now it was thrown into . . . indescribable turmoil—Bennett⟩ ⟨the child’s inner life is often a turmoil of terrors and anxieties of which his parents know almost nothing—Inge⟩ ⟨the great peace beyond all this turmoil and fret compassed me around—L. P. Smith⟩

Turbulence implies an excitement that cannot be easily put down or allayed; it may suggest impetuosity, insubordination, unruliness, lack of discipline, or comparable qualities in inanimate things ⟨yon foaming flood seems motionless as ice; its dizzy turbulence eludes the eye, frozen by distance—Wordsworth⟩ ⟨it required all the personal influence of the king to check the turbulence of his irritated followers—Patton⟩ ⟨the rest exhibited plenty of the turbulence of passion, but none of the gravity of thoughtful emotion—Quiller-Couch⟩

Confusion (see also CONFUSION) applies chiefly to a mental state which may affect one person or many and which is marked by such a condition that the mind is at sea and unable to function; usually it suggests perturbation and inability to think coherently often as a result of embarrassment or discomfiture ⟨the crown was thrown into confusion by the news⟩ ⟨overcome with confusion, and unable to lift up her eyes—Austen⟩ ⟨she was slowly emerging from the mental confusion which followed the fall—Ellis⟩ ⟨to cover his confusion, he half turned away—Anderson⟩ Convulsion and upheaval suggest large-scale violent activity, commotion, or agitation. More particularly convulsion implies a sudden, surging, confused, or spasmodic action (as in the earth’s crust, the individual’s mind, or the body politic) ⟨flourishing cities were demolished by the earth’s convulsion—Martin⟩

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
communicate, impart mean to convey or transfer something (as information, feelings, or qualities) neither tangible nor concrete; to impart is to share with another his knowledge or skill to others) <I wonder do you ever succeed really in communicating our thoughts to one another—Shaw> you are worth to society the imparting—Holland

Ana acquaintance, apprise, *inform, advise, notify: tell, disclose, *reveal, divulge, discover: convey, *transfer

Con conceal, *hide: *suppress, repress: withhold, hold back, keep back, reserve (see keep)

communication *intercourse, commerce, traffic, dealings, conversation, converse, correspondence, communication

Ana exchanging or exchange, interchange or interchange (see corresponding verbs at exchange): conversing, talking (see speak): *news, tidings, advice, intelligence

communion 1 *intercourse, commerce, traffic, converse, dealings, communication, conversation, correspondence

Ana empathy, *sympathy: mysticism (see under ascetic): contemplation (see corresponding verb at consider): ecstasy, rapture, transport

2 *religion, denomination, faith, church, creed, sect, cult, persuasion

compact adj dense, *close, thick

Ana compressed, condensed, contracted (see contract vb): compacted, consolidated, compacted (see compact vb): solid, *firm, hard: *tight

Con *loose, slack: diffuse, prolix, verbose, *wordy: tenuous, rare, *thin

compact vb Compact, consolidate, unify, concentrate are comparable when meaning to bring or gather together the parts, particles, elements, or units of a thing so as to form a close mass or an integral whole. Compact stresses the process more than the effect. It usually suggests a packing or pressing together of many things so as to form a closely arranged mass or a dense substance and may be used in reference both to material and immaterial things; sometimes it carries so strong an implication of solid formation or construction that it fundamentally means to build firmly or to strengthen (heat and lack of rain have compacted the soil) compact matted fibers of wool and hair into felt by rolling and pressing) <sweet spring . . . a box where sweets compacted lie—Herbert> it is based on solid facts, may, is compacted of solid facts from the first sentence to the last—Times Lit. Sup.> Compact implies a merging or uniting, often in an exceedingly close union, of previously distinct but usually homogeneous or complementary things. The term may take as its object such a whole as a nation, a people, or an empire or as a substance or material and may imply a process which promotes the binding together of the parts, elements, or individuals so that solidarity or solidarity is achieved <war tends to consolidate a people> <organize state leagues for political action in order to consolidate the labor vote—Watkins> <rolling and cooling consolidated the newly laid asphalt into a firm smooth pavement> But consolidate can also take as its objects the units (as parts, elements, individuals, or groups) which have been brought together in close union (these organizations worked independently, and subsequently they were partially consolidated—Heiser> <two marriages with the Dutch Vandergraves had consolidated these qualities of thrift and handsome living—Wharton>

Unify implies a union of heterogeneous or homogeneous parts, elements, or individuals that results in the making or producing of a thing that has established identity, that stands by itself as a thing apart; the term does not, however, carry as strong an implication of solidarity as does consolidate but, on the other hand, it places stress on the integration of parts so that each does its appointed work or serves its own purpose to the benefit not only of itself but of the whole; thus, a dramatist unifies (not consolidates) the play he composes; after a civil war, the task of the government is to unify (rather than consolidate) a nation; the imagination of a great poet unifies a mass of images and impressions; the Homeric poems may have been originally a collection of narrative poems, but it seems likely that one person unified them <would now be technically possible to unify the world and abolish war—Russell> Concentrate usually carries the implication of bringing together a number of things that are scattered or diffused and of massing them around a point or center; <concentrate troops at places where an attack is expected> <concentrate one's efforts on a single piece of work> (the science of that age was all divination, clairvoyance . . . seeking in an instant of vision to concentrate a thousand experiences—Pater> Concentrate may be extended to imply the fixing of the mind or attention on one thing so that all distracting objects or thoughts are eliminated <her excitement made her unable to concentrate on the task> A similar implication of eliminating whatever weakens, dilutes, or adulterates is found in technical use; thus, the chemist concentrates a solution by evaporating the solvent; a miner concentrates ores (i.e., separates the base from the precious metals) by a machine or by washing. Ana compress, condense, *contract: bind: *tie, unite, consolidate (see join): knit, *weave

Con dissipate, disperse, *scatter: *separate, part, divide

compact n pact, entente, convention, concordat, treaty, cartel, *contract, bargain

companionable *social, cooperative, convivial, gregarious, hospitable

Ana friendly, neighborly, *amicable: *amiable, obliging, complaisant, good-natured: sociable, affable, *gracious, cordial

Con uncongenial, unsympathetic (see inconsonant): reserved, taciturn, uncommunicative (see silent)
company, party, band, troop, troupe are comparable when they denote a group of persons who are associated in a joint endeavor or who are assembled for a common end. Company is the general term for either a temporary assemblage or a permanent association of individuals who join forces — Book of Common Prayer — the whole company of thinkers who have written philosophy — Sullivan A party is a company assembled temporarily for a common purpose — search party — dinner party — a party of visitors from the country A band is a company united by a common tie or purpose; the term implies closer organization and a less casual coming together than does company — the robbers worked in bands — a band of musicians — that small, transfigured band ... whose one bond is, that all have been unspotted by the world — Arnold A troop is a company or band that works or acts together in close form or in unanimity; the term frequently suggests a throng or multitude — there entertain him all the saints above, in solemn troops, and sweet societies — Milton — a mobile and dynamic troop whose major aims are the improvement of the mind — Hauser In specific use troop is applied to a band of soldiers or, in the plural, troops, to soldiers collectively — farewell the plumed troop, and the big wars — Shaks. — British troops When the reference is to a company of performers (especially on the stage) troupe is the preferred spelling — a circus troupe Ana *set, circle, coterie, clique: *association, society, club, order: *crowd, throng, mob, horde comparable *like, alike, similar, analogous, akin, parallel, uniform, identical Ant disparate — Con *different, divergent, diverse, various compare, contrast, collate mean to set two or more things side by side in order to show likenesses and differences. Compare implies as an aim the showing of relative values or excellences or a bringing out of characteristic qualities, whether they are similar or divergent; contrast implies as an aim an attempt to emphasize their differences; thus, one may compare the movement of the Odyssey with that of the Aeneid to arrive at their distinctive qualities; one may thereupon contrast the buoyancy and rapidity of the one with the staleness and dignity of the other. One object is compared with another, as above: it is compared to another when it is formally represented on the basis of a real or imagined similarity as being like that other; thus, Pope compares Homer with (not to) Vergil; he compares Homer to (not with) the Nile, pouring out his riches with a boundless overflow, Vergil to (not with) a river in its banks, with a gentle and constant stream. Collate suggests a minute or critical comparison in order to note points of agreement and divergence; it applies especially to the minute comparison of books and manuscripts containing different versions of the same work for the sake of ascertaining or establishing the correct text — he has visited all Europe ... not to collect medals, or collate manuscripts: but ... to compare and collate the distresses of all men in all countries — Burke Ana *match, equal, approach, touch, rival comparison, contrast, antithesis, collation, parallel mean a setting of things side by side so as to discover or exhibit their likenesses and differences, especially their generic likenesses and differences. Comparison is often used as the comprehensive term; it is preferred when the differences are obvious, and an intent to lay bare resemblances and similarities for the sake of expounding or judging is implied — despite the fact that Communism and Fascism are antagonistic ideologies, there is ground for a comparison between them — students who make a comparison of Shakespeare's Hamlet and the play which was its source acquire intimate knowledge of the great dramatist's indebtedness to others — Because measuring one thing in terms of another is usually implied by comparison, the word often impugns an offensive character either to the association — the comparison of "the colonel's lady" and "Judy O'Grady" — or to the judgment — comparisons are odious — a tactful person never makes comparisons — he will lose nothing by the comparison — make no comparisons; and if any of the company be commended for any brave act of virtue, commend not another for the same — Washington Contrast more specifically implies an intent to distinguish or discriminate things which are so much alike that their differences are not obvious — the correct use of close synonyms can be shown only by contrast — you cannot value him alone; you must set him, for contrast and comparison, among the dead — T. S. Eliot Contrast often also suggests an aesthetic rather than an expository aim or an artistic effect gained by the exhibition of startling differences — in physical appearance that contrast is glaring ... the square, full-blooded, blunt face of the one, the pointed chin and finely cut, pale features of the other — Bello Antithesis also implies contrast for the sake of revealing startling differences, but it distinctively suggests such opposition in the things contrasted that they either represent balancing extremes or negate each other. The word may imply an expository intent; it then presupposes that the true nature of one thing is fully understood only when it is presented as opposed to what is unlike it in every particular — the century-old antitheses of heavenly justice and earthly fallibility, sin and innocence, Heaven and Hell, God and the Devil dominate Melville's mind — Weir Collation and parallel denote a kind of comparison for the purpose of revealing both likenesses and differences. Both imply a close study and usually a specific aim. Collation more specifically implies a comparison of different versions, accounts, editions, texts, or manuscripts of the same thing for the purpose of verification, coordination, correction, or selection of the original — make a collation of the Scriptural accounts of the Resurrection — of these [corrupt passages in Shakespeare] the restoration is only to be attempted by collation of copies or sagacity of conjecture — Johnson — and parallel usually a minute comparison of passages, articles, or works which are believed to have a different origin in order to detect correspondences, or of accounts, records, or stories told at different times which ought to agree, in order to detect discrepancies; thus, by what is often called "the deadly parallel," a comparison of two articles may reveal such correspondences in language and thought as to give ground for a charge of plagiarism, or a comparison of testimony given by the same witness on two occasions may reveal discrepancies that make him liable to arrest for perjury. Ana *likeness, similarity, resemblance, analogy, similitude, affinity: *parallel, counterpart, analogue, correlate compass vb 1 *surround, environ, encircle, circle, encompass, hem, girdle, ring Ana *enclose, envelop: confine, circumscribe, restrict (see LIMIT) 2 gain, attain, achieve, *reach Ana effect, fulfill, accomplish, *perform; complete, finish (see close vb) compass n 1 *circumference, perimeter, periphery, circuit Ana area, extent, magnitude, *size: *field, sphere, domain 2 *range, gamut, reach, radius, sweep, scope, orbit,
compendium, syllabus, digest, pandect, survey, sketch, compendious
telling, convincing, cogent, sound, *valid
tender, sympathetic, warmhearted, warm, responsive
*pitiful, piteous: merciful, *forbearing, clement
*merciful, benevolent, *charitable
merciless, unrelenting, relentless, implacable, *grim
congruous, *consonant, consistent, congenial, sympathetic
*pitiful, piteous: merciful, *forbearing, clement
*pitiful, piteous: merciful, *forbearing, clement
consistent, uncongenial, discordant, discrepant: *adverse, antagonistic, counter
compatible
*force, coerce, constrain, oblige
impel, drive, *move: *command, order, enjoin
prevail, *induce, persuade, get: *coax, cajole, wheedle, blandish
telling, convincing, cogent, sound, *valid
summary, pithy, succinct, *concise, terse, laconic
*close: condensed, contracted (see CONTRACT vb); abridged, abbreviated, shortened (see SHORTEN)
amplified, expanded, inflated (see EXPAND): *full, complete: diffuse, prolix (see WORDY)
compendium, syllabus, digest, pandect, survey, sketch,
precis, aperçu are comparable when they mean a treat-
ment of a subject or of a topic in brief compass. A com-
pendium gathers in brief, orderly, and intelligible form,
sometimes outlined, the facts, principles, or details
essential to a general understanding of some matter; the
word typically implies compilation rather than original
meaning to make up for or to undo the effects of. Com-
pensate is by far the broadest of these terms both in mode
of use and scope of application. It may be used transi-
sively and especially passively with either the one to be made
up to or the thing to be made up for as object, or it may be
used intransitively. In either case it is commonly modified
by a phrase governed by for denoting a cause, by with
specifying an equivalent, or by by indicating an action.
It is freely applicable to the purely physical compensate
compensation is universally recognized as essential to
justice and mercy) (in the healthy human body the salt
intake and the salt loss through excretion)
Horizontal, ken, purview
Ana circumscription, limitation, restriction (see corre-
sponding verbs at LIMIT): limits, bounds, confines (see
singular nouns at LIMIT)
Compassion pity, commiseration, ruth, *sympathy, em-
pathy, condolence
Ana tenderness, compassionateness, responsiveness,
warmheartedness (see corresponding adjectives at TEN-
DER): *mercy, charity, grace, lenity, clemency
Con indifference, aloofness, unconcern (see correspond-
ing adjectives at INDIFFERENT): mercilessness, relentless-
ness, implacability (see corresponding adjectives at GRIM)
Compassionate *tender, sympathetic, warmhearted, warm,
compatible
Ana suitable, appropriate, proper, meet, fitting, *fit:
harmonizing, corresponding or correspondent, according
or accordant (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): har-
monious (see corresponding noun HARMONY)
 Ana incompatible —Con incongruous, *inconsonant, in-
consistent, uncongenial, discordant, discrepant: *adverse,
Ant incompatible —Con incongruous, *inconsonant, in-
consistent, uncongenial, discordant, discrepant: *adverse,
compel *force, coerce, constrain, oblige
Ana impel, drive, *move: *command, order, enjo
prevail, *induce, persuade, get: *coax, cajole, wheedle, blandish
Compendious telling, convincing, cogent, sound, *valid
Compendious summary, pithy, succinct, *concise, terse, laconic
Ana compact, *close: condensed, contracted (see CON-
TRACT vb): abridged, abbreviated, shortened (see SHORTEN)
Con amplified, expanded, inflated (see EXPAND): *full,
complete: diffuse, prolix (see WORDY)
Compensation vb 1 Compensate, countervail, balance, off-
set, counterbalance, counterpoise are comparable when
meaning to make up for or to undo the effects of. Com-
pensate is by far the broadest of these terms both in mode
of use and scope of application. It may be used transi-
sively and especially passively with either the one to be made
up to or the thing to be made up for as object, or it may be
used intransitively. In either case it is commonly modified
by a phrase governed by for denoting a cause, by with
specifying an equivalent, or by by indicating an action.
It is freely applicable to the purely physical compensate
a pendulum for the effects of temperature change
a weakened heart compensated by muscular hypertrophy
compensation is universally recognized as essential to
justice and mercy) (in the healthy human body the salt
intake and the salt loss through excretion)
One thing balances another, or two things
balance (or balance each other) when both are so adjusted
that they are either equal or properly proportioned (as
in numbers, quantity, size, importance, or effectiveness)
and the combination is harmonious because neither one
outweighs the other or can exert a harmful influence
on the whole (in sentencing prisoners, the judge balanced
justice and mercy) (in the healthy human body the salt
intake and the salt loss through excretion)

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

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

<the general tendency to the degradation or dissipation of energy is balanced . . . by a building-up process in the cell and in the organism—Inge> <that, like a ground in painting, balances all hues and forms, combining with one tone whatever lights or shades are on it thrown—Bridges> <the pressures of business, labor, and farmers . . . manage to check and balance each other—Ascoli>

One thing offsets another (this and the following terms have no intransitive use) when the former, as the exact opposite of the latter and its equal (as in importance, in effectiveness, in power, or in numbers), neutralizes the latter's good or evil effect, gain or loss, or benefit or harm <his loss of thousands of votes from his own party was offset by his gain in independent votes> <the disadvantages of the plan are sufficient to offset its clear advantages> <the benefits of favorable climatic environment are oftentimes more than offset by the inconveniences of travel, loneliness, and homesickness—Heiser>

It is difficult to see any need for it that offsets in the slightest all the trouble it may cause—Chafee

One thing counterbalances another when the former serves or is intended to serve to offset some quality (as an excess, a deficiency, or an evil) in the latter <in his second book, there has to be rather more about religion to counterbalance the detailed, joyless descriptions of the heroine's sex life—Punch> or when the former acts as a corrective of any tendency in the latter to loss of equilibrium or proper balance, especially when it, or one of its parts, is subjected to undue pressure, strain, or tension <a heavy weight suspended on a cable which is attached to an elevator and passes over a pulley at the top of the shaft serves to counterbalance the increased load when the elevator carries passengers or freight> <mine hoists are often operated by the counterbalancing of an ascending and a descending car>

One thing counterpoises another when the former provides the equivalent of the latter in weight or value (physical, spiritual, artistic) and insures the balance of the whole <like scales, in which the weight on one side must be counterpoised by a weight in the other—Jefferies>

A counterpoise tower <the new tower is a little wanting in repose> <it is difficult to see any need for it that exceeds the increased load when the elevator carries passengers or freight> <the pressures of business, labor, and farmers . . . manage to check and counteract each other—Ascoli> each other <forced to contend with an army that outnumbered them> Contend, which may suggest something for the scholarship <the rivals contested lukewarmly for the crown>

<that unpromising young man with high collar and pince-nez whose somewhat priggish air of superiority infuriated most of the rest> <the increased load when the elevator carries passengers or freight> <it is difficult to see any need for it that exceeds the increased load when the elevator carries passengers or freight> <the pressures of business, labor, and farmers . . . manage to check and counteract each other—Ascoli> each other <forced to contend with an army that outnumbered them> Contend, which may suggest something for the scholarship <the rivals contested lukewarmly for the crown>

<that unpromising young man with high collar and pince-nez whose somewhat priggish air of superiority infuriated most of the rest> <the increased load when the elevator carries passengers or freight> <it is difficult to see any need for it that exceeds the increased load when the elevator carries passengers or freight> <the pressures of business, labor, and farmers . . . manage to check and counteract each other—Ascoli> each other <forced to contend with an army that outnumbered them> Contend, which may suggest something for the scholarship <the rivals contested lukewarmly for the crown>
Democrats—Schlesinger b. 1917)

**Ana** self-assured, self-confident, self-possessed, assured, confident (see corresponding nouns at **CONFIDENCE**); conceited, egotistic, egoistic (see corresponding nouns at **CONCEIT**); proud, vain, vainglorious (see under **PRIDE n**)

**Con** *humble, modest: diffident, *shy

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

**complaisant** obliging, good-natured, *amiable


**Ant** contrary, perverse —**Con** disagreeable, unpleasant (see affirmative adjectives at **PLEASANT**); ungenial, unsympathetic (see **INCURIOUS**): *cold, chilly, frigid

**complement** *n* Complement, supplement are comparable both as nouns meaning one thing that makes up for a want or deficiency in another thing and as verbs meaning to supply what is needed to make up for such a want or deficiency. **Complement** implies a completing; it may suggest such a relation between two things or two groups of things that if they are put together they form a whole, or the full number, amount, or quantity necessary for a given purpose; thus, a grammatical **complement** is a word or phrase which must be added to a predicate if the latter is to make a definite assertion as well as in “he feels well,” free in “to set him free,” of no use in “it proved of no use” (bought a farm complete with its **complement** of implements and livestock) (you need two more chairs to **complement** those you already have in the room) How ever, the term even more often suggests such disparity in two things that what is supplied by either one is lacking in the other, with the result that their actual or theoretical combination gives a completeness that constitutes or approaches perfection (had found someone whose . . . masculinity was the very **complement** of his own fragile graces—Horace Gregory) (no adequate conception of the pictorial art of Asia can be attained without taking account of these wonderful works [of Japanese figure painting], **complementing**, as they do, the philosophic and poetic art which culminated in the Chinese painting of the Sung era—Binyon) (the chief products of Belgium and the Netherlands appeared to **complement** more than to duplicate one another—Valentine) **Supplement** implies an addition to something relatively complete but capable of improvement, enrichment, or enhancement by such an addition; thus, a **supplement** to a newspaper (often, a “book supplement” or “literary supplement”) is an additional section which enriches the character of the issue. Usually the term means exactly this (a year of foreign travel is an excellent **supplement** to a college education) (**supplement** a work with an index) (the detailed study of history should be **supplemented** by brilliant outlines—Russell) Sometimes, however, the term carries the implication of needless addition (the policy of apartheid is only a political **supplement** to an economic policy—Ross) Sometimes, on the other hand, it comes close to **complement** in suggesting essential differences or a need of combination if perfection is to be attained (physics, history, and religion have their different valuations of experience) . A complete philosophy would find room for all and would show how they **supplement** each other—Inge (the settle, which is the necessary **supplement** to a fire so open that nothing less than a strong breeze will carry up the smoke—Hardy)

**Ana** counterpart, correlate, *parallel

**complement** *vb* (see under **COMPLEMENT n**)

**Ana** complete, finish, *close

**complementary, complemental** *reciprocal, correlative, corresponding, convertible

**Ana** complementing, supplementing (see corresponding verbs under **COMPLEMENT** n): completing, finishing (see **CLOSE vb**): related, associated (see **JOIN**)

**Con** *different, diverse, divergent, disparate: *inconsonant, incompatible, incongruous, inconsistent

**complete** *adj* full, plenary, replete

**Ana** entire, *whole, total, all: *perfect, intact, whole, entire

**Ant** incomplete

**complement** *vb* finish, conclude, *close, end, terminate

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

**Con** initiate, inaugurate, start, *begin, commence

**complex** *adj* Complex, complicated, intricate, involved, knotty are comparable when they mean having parts or elements that are more or less confusingly interrelated. Something is **complex** which is made up of so many different interrelated or interacting parts or elements that it requires deep study or expert knowledge to deal with it (the **complex** mechanism of a watch) (our general failure to grasp the need of knowledge and thought in mastering the **complex** modern world—Russell) (the **complex** details of naval, ground, and air activities—Roosevelt) Something is **complicated** which is so complex that it is exceedingly difficult to understand, solve, explain, or deal with (a **complicated** problem in mathematics) (his descriptions of the most **complicated** organic structures are astonishingly lucid—Huxley)

Something is **intricate** which, because of the interwinding or interlacing of its parts, is perplexing or hard to follow out (the **intricate** tracery of an arabesque) (nature utilizes the sunshine, the air and the earth as raw materials for creating myriad perfumes, but so **intricate** are her processes . . . that man cannot follow precisely in her footsteps—Morris son) (the economic situation is so **complex**, so **intricate** in the interdependence of delicately balanced factors—Dewey) Something is **involved** in which the parts are or are thought of as so intertwined or interwoven or so turned upon themselves as to be separated or traced out only with difficulty; the term, therefore, in reference especially to financial affairs, implies extreme complication or disorder (the **involved** patterns of heraldic knots) (an **involved** sentence or argument) (her husband . . . at his death . . . had left his affairs **dreadfully involved**—Austen) (public issues are so large and so **involved** that it is only a few who can hope to have any adequate comprehension of them—Dickinson) Something is **knotty** which is not only complicated but is so full of perplexities, difficulties, or entanglements that understanding or solving seems almost impossible (that brings up at last the knotty question, what is enough?—Shaw) (the **knotty** problems of a complex society—Parrington) The same object may be seen from many different points of view; a sailor’s knot may be intricate and **complicated**, as well as **involved**; a network of railroad tracks may be **complicated** as well as intricate, though not involved.

**Ana** mixed, mingled, blended, merged, fused, amalgamated (see **MIX**): composite, compound (see corresponding nouns at **MIXTURE**)

**Ant** simple (see **PURE**)

**complex** *n* *system, scheme, network, organism, economy

**Ant** component —**Con** member, *part, portion, piece: constituent, *element, factor: *item, particular, detail

**complexion** temperament, temper, *disposition, character, personality, individuality

**Ana** humor (see **WIT**): *mood, humor, vein, temper: nature, kind, *type, sort

**compliance** acquiescence, resignation (see under **COM-**
PLIANT

*name obedientia, docility, amenableness, tractableness (see corresponding adjectives at OBEDIENT): submitting or submission, yielding, deferring or deference (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)

Ant frowardness —Con obstinacy, stubbornness (see corresponding adjectives at OBSTINATE)

compliant, acquiescent, resigned, and their corresponding nouns compliance, acquiescence, resignation, are comparable when used in reference to a person, a mood, or a disposition that manifests acceptance (as of another's will or of something disagreeable or hard to endure). Compliant suggests a flexibility or lack of firmness in mood or temperament and frequently implies readiness to accept meekly and without question 〈educational methods that make children compliant〉〈a naturally compliant race〉 Acquiescent implies acceptance without protest or rebellion; it often also connotes a temperamentally lack of self-assertiveness 〈the cause of reform slowly went on gaining adherents—most of them . . . of the acquiescent rather than the militant type—Grandgent〉

Resigned usually presupposes a disposition or a temperament neither compliant nor acquiescent and implies deliberate but not necessarily happy acceptance and resolute forbearance from repining 〈he had become resigned to her perpetual lamentation—Meredith〉〈resignation to inevitable evils is the duty of us all—Austen〉

Ana *obedient, amenable, tractable, docile: submissive: *tame, subdued: accommodating, conforming, adapting or adaptable (see corresponding verbs at ADAPT)

Ant froward —Con *contrary, perverse, balky, restive, wayward: refractory, recalcitrant: *unruly, ungovernable, intractable, willful, headstrong

complicated intricate, involved, *complex, knotty

Ana difficult, arduous, *hard: abstruse: *recondite: perplexing, puzzling, mystifying (see PUZZLE vb)

Ant simple (see EASY) —Con *easy, facile, light

compliment n Compliment, flattery, adulation all denote praise addressed directly to a person. A compliment is a courteous expression of commendation and may be either sincere or merely formal 〈in the noble dedication . . . to the Duchess of Ormond we have an example of Dryden's most polished and magnificent style in elaborate personal compliment—Gosse〉〈pay the craftsmen the due that they deserve〉

Flattery implies insincerity in compliment or a play upon self-love or vanity by means of artful or obsequious praise 〈when one is flagging, a little praise (if it can be had genuine and unadulterated by flattery) . . . is a cordial—Scott〉〈it is better to leave genuine praise unspoken than to expose yourself to the suspicion of flattery—Shaw〉

Adulation adds to flattery the implications of servility or fulsomeness 〈he fascinated others into believing him a superior being; feasted his self-esteem on their adulation until it swelled to monstrous proportions—Huxley〉

Ana *encomium, tribute, panegyric, eulogy: praise, lauding or laudation, extolling or extollation (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE)

Ant taunt —Con *affront, insult, indignity: depredation, disparagement (see corresponding verbs at DECRY): criticism, censure, reprehension, reprobation, denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

compliment vb *commend, applaud, recommend

Ana *praise, laud, extol, eulogize, acclaim

Con *criticize, censure, reprehend, condemn, denounce: *decry, depreciate, disparage

comply *obey, mind

Ana accede, consent, agree, acquiesce (see ASSENT): *yield, submit, defer, bow

Ant command, enjoin —Con *resist, withstand: thwart, balk, *frustrate

component constituent, ingredient, *element, factor

Ana member, *part, detail, portion, piece: *item, particular

Ant composite: complex —Con *mixture, compound, blend, admixture, amalgam

comport acquit, quit, demean, *behave, conduct, deport

compose *calm, quiet, quieten, still, lull, soothe, settle, tranquillize

Ana *pacify, mollify, propitiate, conciliate: *moderate, temper

Ant discompose —Con disquiet, disturb, perturb, agitate, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)

composed collected, *cool, unruffled, imper turbable, unflappable, nonchalant


Ant discomposed: anxious —Con agitated, perturbed, upset, disquieted, flustered, flurried (see DISCOMPOSE): worried, concerned (see under CARE n)

composer *writer, author

Ana *maker, creator, author: *artist, artificer

composite admixture, blend, compound, amalgam, *mixture

Ana combining or combination, uniting or union (see corresponding verbs at JOIN)

composition theme, paper, article, *essay

composure *equanimity, sangfroid, phlegm

Ana coolness, collectedness, imperturbability, nonchalance (see corresponding adjectives at COOL): self-possession, aplomb (see CONFIDENCE): placidity, serenity, calmness (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

Ant discomposed, perturbation —Con agitation, disquieting or disquiet, flustered or fluster (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): alarm, consternation, terror, *fear, panic: discomfiture, embarrassment (see corresponding verbs at EMBARRASS)

compound n *mixture, amalgam, composite, admixture, blend

Ana combining or combination, uniting or union (see corresponding verbs at JOIN): coalescence, fusing or fusion, merging or merger (see corresponding verbs at MIX)

Ant element

comprehend 1 *understand, appreciate

Ana seize, grasp (see TAKE): conceive, envisage, envision (see THINK)

2 *apprehend

Ana see those at COMPREHEND 1

3 embrace, involve, *include, imply, subsume

Ana *contain, hold: classify, pigeonhole (see ASSORT)

Ant element

comprehension apprehension (see under APPREHEND)

Ana understanding, appreciating or appreciation (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND): *knowledge, science, learning, erudition

compress vb constrict, deflate, *contract, condense, shrink

Ana *compact, concentrate, consolidate: bind, *tie

Ant stretch: spread —Con *expand, dilate, distend, swell, inflate: disperse, *scatter, dissipate

compulsion coercion, constraint, duress, *force, violence, restraint

Ana compelling or impulsion, driving or drive (see corresponding verbs at MOVE): pressure, *stress: necessity, exigency, *need

Con persuasion, inducement (see corresponding verbs at INDUCE): *choice, option, election, preference

compunction 1 remorse, *penitence, repentance, contrition, attrition

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

Ana regret, *sorrow: conscientiousness, scrupulosity (or scrupulosity (see corresponding adjectives at UPRIGHT) 2 sculpure, demur, *qualm
Ana *hesitation, hesitancy: reluctance, disinclination (see corresponding adjectives at INDECISINDEX)
compute *calculate, reckon, estimate
Ana *count, enumerate, number: sum, total, tot, figure, cast, *add
comrade *associate, companion, crony
Ana *friend, intimate, confidant: colleague, *partner, confederate, ally
conation *will, volition
Ana *effort, exertion: *action, act: *choice, selection, option
concatenate vb articulate, *integrate
Ana link, connect, relate, unite, combine, *join, associate: fuse, blend, merge, coalesce (see MIX): organize, systematize (see ORDER vb)
Con break down, resolve, *analyze, dissect
concatenated articulated, integrated (see under INTEGRATE vb)
Ana *cumulative, accumulative, additive: linked, connected, united, related (see JOIN): organized, systematized (see ORDER vb)
concatenation articulation, integration (see under INTEGRATE vb)
Ana sequence, *succession, chain, train
conceal *hide, screen, secrete, bury, cache, ensconce
Ana cloak, mask, *disguise, disable, camouflage
Ant reveal —Con disclose, discover, divulge, betray (see REVEAL): expose, exhibit, display, *show, parade, flaunt: manifest, evidence, *show, evince
concede 1 grant, allow
Ana admit, *acknowledge: waive, cede (see RELINQUISH)
Ant dispute —Con argue, debate, *discuss, agitate
2 *grant, vouchsafe, accord, award
Ana *yield, submit: surrender, resign, cede, *relinquish
Ant deny (something to somebody) —Con refuse (see DECLINE)
conceit 1 Conceit, egotism, egoism, self-esteem, self-love, amour propre mean an attitude of regarding oneself with favor. Conceit implies a conviction of superiority in one or more lines of achievement or an overweeningly favorable opinion of one's powers or accomplishments. It often connotes a failure to see oneself truly or an offensive, bumptious manner. *To have lost the godlike conceit that we may do what we will, and not to have acquired a homely zest for doing what we can, shows a . . . mind that . . . forswears compromise—Hardy) <conceit may puff a man up, but never prop him up—Ruskin) (it was part of the author's formidable conceit that he wrote only for the most learned of his professional colleagues—Galbraith)
Egotism stresses the tendency to attract attention to and center interest on oneself, one's thoughts, and one's achievements. The word sometimes implies contempt for but more often an overriding of or disregard for others' interests or opinions. A man and a boy of ten are perhaps better company than a man and a boy of fifteen. There's so much less egotism between them—H. G. Wells) <egotism resides more in a kind of proud isolation, in a species of contempt for the opinions and aims of others—Benson
Egoism emphasizes concentration on oneself, one's interests, and one's needs. It seldom suggests a tendency to display oneself or to attract attention to oneself, but it commonly implies self-interest, especially as opposed to altruism or interest in others, as the inner spring of one's acts or as the measure by which all things are judged <she preferred to be herself, with the egoism of women—Meredith) <the essence of a self-reliant and autonomous culture is an unshakable egoism. It must not only regard itself as the peer of any other culture; it must regard itself as the superior of any other—Mencken>
Self-esteem implies a proper and balanced pride in oneself <ofttimes nothing profits more than self-esteem, grounded on just and right—Milton) <love, hope, and self-esteem, like clouds depart and come, for some uncertain moments lent—Shelley) <woman had the feeling of being a constructive factor in the economic process; thus she was provided with a sound basis for self-esteem—Horney>
Self-love usually implies an abnormal regard for oneself that excludes or overshadows all other interests or affections. On the other hand it occasionally designates that degree of love for oneself or interest in one's well-being which is the proper and necessary complement of one's love for others <but 'tis not easy with a mind like ours . . . to bid the pleadings of self-love be still—Cowper) <self-love but serves the virtuous mind to wake, as the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake . . . friend, parent, neighbor, first it will embrace: his country next; and next all human race—Pope>)
Amour propre comes closer to self-esteem, for it stresses pride, usually pardonable pride, in oneself. It is therefore used when the idea of sensitive-ness to others' opinions is indicated (the amour propre of the French people had been outraged—Holt & Chilton) <she flattered his amour propre by asking that from his generosity which she could have taken as a right—Read>)
Ana *pride, vanity, vainglory: arrogance, superciliousness, insolence (see corresponding adjectives at PROUD): complacency, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT)
Ant humility —Con humbleness, modesty, meekness, lowliness (see corresponding adjectives at HUMBLE): diffidence, shyness, bashfulness (see corresponding adjectives at SHY)
2 *caprice, freak, fancy, whim, whimsy, vagary, crotch
conceive *think, imagine, fancy, realize, envisage, envision
Ana *consider, excogitate: speculate, cogitate, *think: ponder, ruminate, meditate
concentration application, *attention, study
Ana fix, *set, settle, establish: muster, convocate, convene (see SUMMON)
2 *compact, consolidate, unify
Ant dissipate —Con disperse, disspel, *scatter: dilute, *thin, attenuate, extenuate, rarely: *distribute, divide, dispense, deal
concern vb 1 center, focus, centralize
Ana fix, *set, settle, establish: muster, convocate, convene (see SUMMON)
2 *compact, consolidate, unify
Ant dissipate —Con disperse, dispel, *scatter: dilute, *thin, attenuate, extenuate, rarely: *distribute, divide, dispense, deal
concerned application, *attention, study
Ana intentness, raptness, engrossment, absorption (see corresponding adjectives at INTENT)
Ant distraction
concept *idea, conception, notion, thought, impression
Con percept, sense-datum, sensum, image, *sensation
conception concept *idea, conception, notion, impression
Ana *opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment: theory, *hypothesis
concern vb 1 concern, affect are sometimes confused. Concern implies the bearing or influence, affect, the direct operation or action, of one thing on another; thus, a piece of legislation may concern (that is, have to do with, have reference or relation to) certain vested interests without affecting them (that is, producing an effect upon them, changing them in any way).
Ana *bear, pertain, appertain, apply, relate, belong: influence, sway, *affect, touch
concern n 1 *affair, business, matter, thing
2 solicitude, *care, anxiety, worry
Ana thoughtfulness, considerateness or consideration,
attentiveness or attention (see corresponding adjectives at thoughtfu)

Ant unconcern —Con indifference, aloofness, incuriousness, uninterestedness, disinterestedness (see corresponding adjectives at indifferent)

concerned solicitous, careful, anxious, worried (see under care n)

Ana engrossed, absorbed, *intent: impressed, affected, influenced, touched (see affect vb): troubled, distressed (see trouble vb)

Ant unconcerned —Con *indifferent, incurious, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested: *negligent, neglectful, remiss

concerning regarding, respecting, *about

concert vb *negotiate, arrange

Ana *discuss, debate, argue: concur, cooperate, *unite, conjoin, combine

concession *allowance

Ana favor, boon, *gift: indulgence, leniency, tolerance, forbearance (see under forbearing)

conciliate *pacify, appease, placate, propitiate, mollify

Ana arbitrate, adjudicate (see judge vb): mediate, intervene (see interpose): persuade, prevail (see induce): calm, tranquilize (see corresponding adjectives at calm): adjust, accommodate, reconcile, *adapt

Ant antagonize —Con *strange, alienate, disaffect: *provoke, excite, stimulate, pique; *incite, foment

concise, terse, succinct, laconic, summary, pithy, compendious are comparable when meaning briefly stated or presented or given to or manifesting brevity in statement or expression. A person is concise who speaks or writes briefly: a thing is concise that is brief because all superfluities have been removed and all elaboration avoided (a concise report) (I hadn’t known Jane spoke so well. She has a clever, coherent way of making her points, and is concise in reply if questioned —Rose Macaulay) A thing is terse that is both concise and finished; the word often implies both pointedness and elegance (pure, terse, elegant Latin —Edwards) ( terse headlines are another part of the Tribune’s campaign to save newsprint — New Yorker) A person or thing is succinct that compresses or is marked by compression into the smallest possible space; the term suggests great compactness and the use of no more words than are necessary ( succinct directions) (a strict and succinct style is that where you can take away nothing without loss, and that loss to be manifest —Ben Jonson) (a book must have a title, and today it must have a succinct title; therefore this book appears as Richelieu —Bellow) A person or thing is laconic that is characterized by such succinctness as to seem curt, brusque, unperturbed, or mystifying (this laconic fool makes brevity ridiculous —Davenant) (I cannot exactly say with Caesar, “Veni, vidi, vici”: however, the most important part of his laconic account of success applies to my present situation —Byron) (laconic, these Indians —La Barre) A thing is summary that presents only the bare outlines or the main points without details (a summary account of the year’s events under a few main headings) The term often suggests almost rude curtness or extreme generality (the terms I use here are exceedingly summary. You may interpret the word salvation in any way you like —James) (her diary and her letters continued to be mainly the swift and summary record of crowded and delightful days —El lis) A thing is pithy that is not only terse or succinct but full of substance and meaning and therefore especially forcible or telling (pithy epigrams) (a brief, pithy, and, as it then appeared to him, unanswerable argument against the immortality of the human soul —Hawthorne) (his speech was blacksmith-sparked and pithy —Masefield) Something is compendious which is concise, summary, and weighted with matter; the word suggests the type of treatment that distinguishes the typical compendium (a compendious account of the Reformation) (a compendious style) (the compendious scholarly words which save so much trouble —T. E. Brown)

Ana condensed, compressed (see contract vb): compacted, concentrated (see compact vb): abridged, abbreviated, shortened (see shorten): *brief, short

Ant redundant —Con prolix, diffuse, verbose, *wordy

conclude 1 *close, finish, terminate, end, complete

Ant open —Con commence, *begin, start, initiate, inaugurate

2 judge, gather, *infer, deduce

Ana reason, speculate (see think): *conjecture, surmise, guess

concluding adj *last, final, terminal, latest, ultimate

Ana closing, terminating, ending, finishing, completing (see close vb)

Ant opening —Con beginning, commencing, starting, initiating or initial, inaugurating or inaugural (see corresponding verbs at begin)

conclusion judgment, deduction, inference (see under infer)

conclusive, decisive, determinative, definitive are comparable when they mean having or manifesting qualities that bring something to a finish or end. Conclusive applies most frequently to an argument, evidence, or reasoning that is irreputable or so convincing that it compels certainty or certitude and puts an end to question or debate concerning a matter (there is one very convincing text which so strongly supports the tradition that it seems conclusive —Bello) (a very persuasive if not a conclusive argument —John Marshall) Decisive (see also decided) applies to something (as an act, event, influence, or argument) that puts an end to controversy or competition, to vacillation, to uncertainty, or to insecurity; it often comes close in meaning to critical (the decisive battle of the war had not yet been fought) (my words had been decisive. At least they put an end to the discussion —London) Determinative applies especially to matters (as decisions, judgments, operative causes, or influences) which put an end to uncertainty, wavering, and fluctuation and serve to give a fixed direction, goal, or character (as to a life, a course, or a movement) (the determinative influence in shaping his career) (an appeal covering similar merchandise is pending . . . which will be determinative of this issue —U.S. Treasury Decisions) Definitive, which is often opposed to tentative and, sometimes, to provisional, applies to whatever is put forth as final and as serving to make further questioning, dispute, uncertainty, or experiment needless or as serving to put an end to an unsettled state or condition where temporary measures have been necessary (the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States are definitive) (a definitive treaty) (a definitive edition of an author’s works is one that claims to have said the last word on all textual problems) (not until there is a settled and definitive world order can there be such a thing as a settled and definitive version of human history —Huxley)

Ana convincing, compelling, telling, cogent (see valid): *certain, inevitable, necessary

Ant inconclusive —Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic; *theoretical, speculative, academic; *plausible, credible, specious

concoct *contrive, devise, invent, frame

Ana *make, fabricate, fashion, manufacture: create, discover (see invent): conceive, envisage, envision,
**concomitant**

**adj** coincident, concurrent, synchronous, simultaneous, contemporaneous, *contemporary, coeval, coetaneous*

**Ana** attending or attendant, accompanying (see corresponding verbs at ACCOMPANY): associated, connected, related, linked (see JOIN)

**Con** antecedent, *preceding, foregoing, previous, preceding; following, succeeding, ensuing (see FOLLOW)

**concomitant n** *accompaniment

**condict** *harmony, consonance, accord

**Ana** agreement, concurrence, coincidence (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): peacefulness or peace, tranquility, serenity, placidity, calmness (see corresponding adjectives at CALM): amity, comity, goodwill, *friendship

**Ant** discord—*Con strife, conflict, dissension, contention, difference, variance (see DISCORD)

**condicat** compact, pact, treaty, entente, convention, cartel, *contract, bargain

**concurrence** *junction, confluence

**concur** 1 conjoin, *unite, combine, cooperate

**Ana** accord, harmonize, *agree, jibe

2 *agree, coincide

**Ana** consent, *assent, accede, acquiesce, agree

**Ant** contend—*Con fight, battle, war (see CONTEND): quarrel, wrangle (see under QUARREL n): dispute, debate, argue (see DISCUSS)

**concurrent** coincident, simultaneous, synchronous, concomitant, contemporaneous, *contemporary, coeval, coetaneous

**conclusion** shock, percussion, *impact, impingement, collision, clash, jar, jolt

**Ana** beating, pounding, buffeting (see BEAT vb): striking, smiting, swatting, slapping (see STRIKE vb)

**condemn** 1 denounce, censure, blame, reprobate, reprehend, *criticize

**Ana** *judge, adjudge: *decry, belittle, depreciate, disparage: *disapprove, deprecated

**Con** commend, applaud, compliment: *praise, laud, extol, acclaim, eulogize: condone, *excuse, pardon, forgive

2 *sentence, doom, damn, proscribe

**Con** *free, release, liberate, discharge: acquit, absolve, exonerate, *exculpate, vindicate: *rescue, redeem, save, deliver

**condense** *contract, shrink, compress, constrict, deflate

**Ana** abridge, abbreviate, *shorten, curtail: reduce, diminish, *decrease: *compact, concentrate, consolidate

**Ant** amplify (a speech, article) —*Con *expand, swell, distend, dilate, inflate

**condescend** *stoop, deign

**Ana** favor, accommodate, *oblige: vouchsafe, concede, *grant

**Ant** presume

**condign** *due, rightful

**Ana** just, equitable, *fair: merited, deserved (see corresponding nouns at DUE)

**condition** *sentence, doom, damn, proscribe

**Ana** prorogative, requisite, *requirement

2 *state, situation, mode, posture, status

**Ant** circumstance, *occurrence, event: occasion, antecedent, *cause: *phase, aspect, side, facet, angle

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

**condition vb** *prepare, fit, qualify, ready

**conditional** *dependent, contingent, relative

**Ana** problematic, questionable (see DOUBLET): *provisional, tentative: subject, prone, *liable, open: *acci-
condolence *sympathy, pity, commiseration, compassion, ruth, empathy
An* a consolation or consolation, solacing or solace, comforting (see corresponding verbs at COMFORT)
Con* felicitation, congratulation (see corresponding verbs at FELICITATE)
condone *excuse, forgive, pardon, remit
An* a disregard, overlook, forget, ignore (see NEGLECT vb):
Con* an excuse, absole, acquit
Con* a punish, chastise, discipline, castigate, correct: condemn, denounce, censure, reprobrate, reprehend (see CRITICIZE*): disapprove, deprecate
conduct n* behavior, deportment
An* an act, deed, *action: demeanor, mien, deportment, *bearing
conduct vb 1 escort, convoy, *accompany, attend, chaperon
An* guide, lead: convey, transmit, *carry
2 Conduct, manage, control, direct are comparable when they mean to use one's skill, authority, or other powers in order to lead, guide, command, or dominate persons or things. Conduct may imply the act of an agent who is both the leader and the person responsible for the acts and achievements of a group having a common end or goal (conduct an orchestra) (the minister conducts the prayer meetings) (Douglas conducted conferences and studies which led to a reorganization of the Stock Exchange—Current Biol.) but often the idea of leadership is lost or obscured and the stress is placed on a carrying on by all or by many of the participants (debate, conducted seriously with a view to ascertaining the truth, could be of great value—Russell) (it was judged desirable for him to see how affairs were conducted in the United States—Heiser) Manage usually implies the handling, manipulating, or maneuvering of a person or persons or a thing or things so as to bring about a response or submission to one's wishes or attempts to use, guide, lead, or command (he manages the sailboat admirably) (he cannot manage himself, so how can he be expected to manage others) (manage a refractory child) (the boy . . . could not yet manage his "r"s" and "th"s" alight—Kipling) (the first condition for an artist in glass is to know how to manage blue—Henry Adams) (now do you leave this affair in my hands. Only tell me which woman it is and I will manage the affair—Buck) But manage is also often used to imply the action of one who is in authority and charged with handling the details of a business or industry or of one of its departments or of any complex or intricate system or organization (he manages a theater) (manage the financial affairs of a company) (the delight she would take in managing a real house, not in any sense as its drudge, but magnificently as its mistress—Dell) (manage a chain of restaurants) Control stresses the idea of authoritative guidance and suggests a keeping within set or desired bounds (as of accuracy, efficiency, propriety, or discipline); it implies a regulating or a restraining often by getting or keeping the upper hand (no attempt was made . . . to control by public authority the production and distribution of wealth—Dickinson) (in order to make its highways most useful, the business traffic upon them must be controlled—Justce Holmes) (he started things moving and then was caught up in the repercussions of the movement. He mounted an act as if it were a horse, found himself unable to control it—Cloete) Sometimes, however, control implies little more than domination or the complete subjection of the dominated person or thing to one's will (he has learned to control himself) (the struggle between two strong-willed women to control one weak-willed man is the usual motive of the French drama in the nineteenth century—Henry Adams) (the pirates at one time practically controlled the coasts of Florida—Amer. Guide Series: Fla.) Direct (see also COMMAND, DIRECT 1, DIRECT 2) implies a regulation of the activities (as of a group of persons) or of the course or courses to be followed; it carries no suggestion of a desire or aim to dominate, but of an intent or purpose to keep the persons or things involved straight, well organized, or properly administered (the president and trustees direct the affairs of the institution) (the architect directed the building of the bank) (direct American taste and mold the genius of the young republic—Brooks) An* supervise, oversee (see corresponding nouns at OVERSIGHT): govern, rule: engineer, pilot, steer, lead (see GUIDE vb): operate, work, function (see ACT vb) 3 demean, deport, *behave, comport, acquit, quit
conduit n* channel, canal, duct, aqueduct
confederacy, confederation* federation, coalition, fusion, *alliance, league
confederate n 1 *partner, copartner, colleague, ally
An*, Ant, & Con see those at ALLY 2 Confederate, conspirator, accessory, abettor, accomplice. As used in law these words all convey the idea of complicity or common guilt in a wrongful act. Confederate is the general term applied to any person who in conjunction with others intentionally contributes to the commission of an unlawful act, whether the act be a crime or a civil injury. For civil joint wrongdoers the specific term is conspirator. An accessory is neither the chief actor (principal) in an offense nor a person present at its performance but one who accedes to or becomes involved in its guilt by some act (as of instigating, encouraging, aiding, or concealing) either previous or subsequent to the commission of the offense. In the case of certain classes of offenses (as treason or misdemeanors) the law ordinarily recognizes no distinction between an accessory and a principal. An abettor is one who is actually or constructively present at the commission of the deed and contributes to it by moral or physical force. An accomplice is one who with criminal intent participates in the commission of an offense whether as principal, abettor, or accessory. Legal usage does not recognize the distinction made by laymen between principal and accomplice.
confer 1 bestow, present, *give, donate, afford
An* accord, award, vouchsafe, *grant
2 Confer, commune, consult, advise, parley, treat, negotiate are synonyms when they are used intransitively and bear the meaning to carry on a conversation or discussion especially in order to reach a decision or settlement. Confer implies comparison of views or opinions and, as a rule, equality in those participating in the discussion (the executives confer weekly about important business affairs) (the Dauphin and his train approacheth, to confer about some matter—Shak.) Commune, once a close synonym of confer, now is rare in this sense (we were communing on important matters—Walpole) In current use it usually implies spiritual intercourse (as in prayer or meditation or in a close union of minds and spirits) (there, sitting on the ground, the two [mother and child] would commune with each other by the hour—Hudson) Consult adds to confer the implication of seeking or taking counsel (the president will not make his reply to the ambassador until he has consulted with the cabinet) (the three powers would consult on how to ameliorate the internal political conflict—Vucinich) Advise often is not clearly distinguishable from consult except that it is more suitable for use regarding personal matters on which one seeks advice (before he makes his decision, he will

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
advise with his friends | Parley, treat, and negotiate | all imply the talk involving the discussion of terms | they are at hand, to parley or to fight—Shak. | ... | the government was forced to parley with the rebels—Harrington | Treat adds to parley the implication either of a common will | to adjust differences or of the need of diplomacy | the warring nations were ready to | treat for peace | the commander in chief | ... was to treat for an armistice—Pares | Negotiate implies compromise or bargaining | after the preliminaries were over, they proceeded to negotiate | Ana | converse, talk, *speak: *discuss, debate, argue

confess avow, *acknowledge, admit, own | Ana | *grant, concede, allow: disclose, divulge, *reveal, discover: *declare, proclaim, publish | Ant | renounce (one's beliefs, principles)

confessions *biography, life, memoir, autobiography | confidant intimate, *friend, acquaintance | confessions *biography, life, memoir, autobiography | Ana | comrade, crony, companion (see ASSOCIATE)

confide entrust, *commit, consign, relegate | Ana | bestow, present, *give: *grant, vouchsafe, accord, award


Ant | doubt: apprehension | Con | *distrust, mistrust: distrust, uneasiness, distrust, uneasiness, distrust, uneasiness, distrust, uneasiness, distrust, uneasiness, distrust, uneasiness

2 Confidence, self-confidence, assurance, self-assurance, self-possession, aplomb are comparable when denoting either a state of mind free from diffidence, misgivings, or embarrassment or the easy, cool, or collected bearing or behavior resulting from this attitude. Confidence stresses faith in oneself and in one's powers; it does not as a rule imply conceit nor preclude the suggestions of support from external agencies or influences or of modest recognition of that assistance (far better that the task should be entrusted to one who had a... sincere confidence in his power of dealing with the difficulties of the situation—Benson) | the confidence that springs from complete mastery of his subject—Grandgent

When self-sufficiency is connoted, self-confidence commonly replaces confidence (he has the self-confidence of one who has made money—Shaw) | in extreme youth one has to be secondhand... one lacks self-confidence—Rose Macaulay | Assurance is distinguishable from confidence only by its far stronger implication of certainty and its frequent suggestion of arrogance; thus, one meets a situation with confidence when one's belief in one's powers is strong, but with assurance when one never questions the outcome or the rightness of what one is saying or doing (there was indeed in the personality of that little old lady the tremendous force of accumulated decision—The inherited assurance of one whose prestige had never been questioned—Galsworthy) | no experience so far served to reveal the whole offensiveness of the man's assurance—Mary Austin

Self-assurance implies an assured self-confidence (the serene self-assurance... of the Abbey is unlike the baffling compound of modesty and self-assertiveness in a Nonconformist chapel—Sperry) | he wrote with that pleasing self-assurance which the civilized man occasionally shares with the savage—Repliet | Self-possession implies an ease or coolness arising from command over one's powers; it connotes, usually, controlled but not repressed emotions and actions, or speech free from flattery and appropriate to the situation (she was rather afraid of the self-possession of the Morels, father and all... It was a cool, clear atmosphere, where everyone was himself, and in harmony—D. H. Lawrence | had that carefully cultivated air of quiet self-possession, suggesting inner repose and serenity—Strauss

Aplomb describes the behavior or, less often, the bearing of one whose assurance or self-possession is conspicuously but not necessarily disagreeably evident (ignoring with admirable aplomb the fact that we are tardy—Lowes) | (it is native personality, and that alone, that endows a man to stand before presidents and generals... with aplomb—Whitman

Ana | *courage, resolution, mettle, spirit, tenacity | Ant | *diffidence—Con modesty, bashfulness, shyness (see corresponding adjectives at shy): misgiving, *apprehension

certain, assured, sanguine, sure, presumptuous are comparable as applied to a person or to his temperament, looks, manner, acts, or utterances with the meaning not inhibited by doubts, fears, or a sense of inferiority. Confidence may imply a strong belief in oneself or one's powers but it nearly always implies freedom from fear of failure, frustration, or attack and, as a corollary, certainty of success, fulfillment, or approval. As a rule, it is not a deprecative term, and often is complimentary (his voice was manly and confident) | the happy and joyous temper which characterizes a fresh and confident faith—Inge

do you grapple the task that comes your way with a confident, easy mind?—Guest (a confident feeling of immense reserves in strength and endurance—T. E. Lawrence)

Assured suggests the absence of question in one's mind as to whether one is right or wrong, secure or insecure in one's position, or likely to fail or to succeed; it may also imply certainty of one's righteousness, security, success, but this is not one of its consistent or emphatic implications (talking with assured authority about places we have not visited, plays we have not seen—Lucas) | the assured gaze of one who is accustomed to homage—Bennett | she had the casual, assured way of speaking—Wolfe

Sanguine implies a greater measure of optimism than confident, sometimes suggesting this as a weakness rather than as a virtue (Mr. Britling's thoughts were quick and sanguine and his actions even more eager than his thoughts—H. G. Wells) | sanguine and very susceptible to flattery, Haydon was always ready to believe that the smallest stroke of good fortune must be the herald of complete success—Huxley | a surgeon's commission for the doctor, and a lieutenantcy for myself, were certainly counted upon in our sanguine expectations—Melville

Sure implies that one's freedom from doubts or fears is rather the consequence of certainty or of complete confidence in one's skill than of temperament or health. The word also often connotes a steady and disciplined mind, mental or emotional stability, or unfailing accuracy | a sure scholar | a sure craftsman | (as he is slow he is sure—Steele) | she tempted the young man into kissing her, and later lay in his arms for two hours, entirely sure of herself—Anderson

Sure is applicable also to any part of the body equipped to do a certain kind of work under the control of the brain, or to the work itself; thus, a sure hand works with unfaltering skill and accuracy; sure feet pick their way fearlessly over slippery rocks; a sure eye is necessary for a sure aim (the sure rhythm of their tiny moccasined feet—Cather) | Presumptuous implies an excess of confidence that is usually displayed boldly or insolently. The term is distinctly deprecative and suggests that the one so characterized is lacking in courtesy, judgment, and savoir faire | she enforced the doctor's orders in a way which seemed... loud and presumptuous—Wescott

Ana | courageous, intrepid, *brave, bold, dauntless, un daunted, valiant, fearless, unafraid: positive, certain

*trust, reliance, dependence, faith

*confidence

*confess

*confide

*confidence

*Ana

*conferences

*confident
confirm 1 *ratify

*Aerrat apprehensive: diffident —Con *fearful, afraid: nervous, uneasy, jittery (see IMPATIENT): *shy, bashful, modest: dubious, *doubtful

confidential close, intimate, *familiar, chummy, thick

Ana *secret: trusty, tried, trustworthy (see RELIABLE)

configuration conformation, figure, shape, *form

Ana *outline, contour, silhouette, profile, skyline

confine vb circumscribe, *limit, restrict

Ana bind, *tie: *restrain, curb, inhibit, check: *hamper, trammel, fetter, shuffle, hog-tie, manacle: *imprison, incarcerate, immure, intern, jail

confine n bound, *limit, end, term

Ana verge, edge, *border: *circumference, periphery, compass

confirm 1 *ratify

Ana *assent, consent, acquiesce, accede, subscribe: validate (see CONFIRM 2): sanction, *approve, endorse

Con reject, refuse, *decline

2 Confirm, corroborate, substantiate, verify, authenticate, validate mean to attest to the truth, genuineness, accuracy, or validity of something. Confirm and corroborate are both used in reference to something doubtful or not yet proved. Confirm, however, usually implies the resolving of all doubts typically by an authoritative statement or by indisputable facts (his failure to pay his debts confirmed their suspicion that he was not to be trusted) (there is a rumor—which cannot of course be confirmed—Gorell) (it was expected extensively gratified, superabundantly confirmed—Henry James) Corroborate suggests particularly the strengthening of one statement or piece of evidence by another (the bystanders corroborated his story) (in general the material illustrates and corroborates what has already become known from other sources—Kennei) Substantiate presupposes something needing to be demonstrated or proved and implies the offering of evidence sufficient to sustain the contention or to create a strong presumption in its favor (they were able to substantiate their claim to the property when the long-lost deed was found) (Darwin spent nearly a lifetime in gathering evidence to substantiate his theory of the origin of species) (no proof had to be brought forward to substantiate the claims they made—Anderson) Verify has for its distinctive implication the established correspondence of the actual facts or details to those that are given in an account or statement. When what is in question is a suspicion, a fear, or a probability, it can be verified only in the result, event, or fulfillment (the prediction of a severe storm was verified in every detail) (it [faith] begins as a resolution to stand or fall by the noblest hypothesis . . . ; but it is verified progressively as we go on—Inge) In more general use verify implies a deliberate effort to establish the accuracy or truth of something usually by comparison (as with ascertainable facts, an original, or a series of control experiments) (verify all the citations in a book) (statements of accounts due are not sent out until they are verified) (the careful scientist verifies every step in an experiment) (he has explored most of Trans-Jordan, verified biblical accounts by his findings and excavations—Current Bis.) (a government survey party was verifying the neighboring landmarks—Parphey) Authenticate presupposes question of a thing's genuineness or validity and therefore implies a demonstration of either of these by someone (as an expert or the proper authority) in position to know or to determine (the collector refused to purchase the manuscript until it had been authenticated by experts) (the bank authenticated the signatures on the note) (an authenticated copy of the Declaration—Dumas Malone) Validate is more often used than authenticate when applied to legal papers requiring an official signature or seal before becoming valid (validate a passport) It is, however, also used when the soundness of a judgment, of a belief, or of a policy is in question (the expansion of demand which alone can validate the policy—Hobson) (he validated his conclusion when he demonstrated that his facts and his reasoning were correct in every detail)

Ana *support, uphold, back: vouch, attest, *certify

Ant deny: contradict —Con gainsay, traverse, impugn, contravene, negative (see DENY): confute, refute, controvert, *disprove

confirmed *inveterate, chronic, deep-seated, deep-rooted

Ana established, fixed, set, settled (see SET vb): *hardened, indurated, callous

Confiscate appropriate, *arrogate, usurp, preempt

Ana seize, *take, grab: condemn, proscribe (see SENTENCE vb)

confagation *fire, holocaust

conflict n 1 combat, fight, *contest, affray, fray

Ana engagement, *battle, action: *encounter, skirmish, brush; controversy, dispute, *argument

2 strife, contention, dissension, difference, variance, *discord

Ana clash, collision, impingement, *impact: antagonism, hostility, *enmity: incompatibility, incongruousness, inconsistency, inconsonance, discordance (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT)

Ant harmony —Con consonance, concord, accord (see HARMONY): comity, amity, *friendship: compatibility, congruity (see corresponding adjectives at CONSONANT)

conflict vb 1 *resist, withstand, contest, oppose, fight, combat, antagonize

2 *bump, clash, collide

Ana *contend, fight: *differ, vary, disagree

Ant accord —Con harmonize, *agree: *match, equal, touch, rival

confusiveness *junction, concourse

confuse 1 *adapt, adjust, accommodate, reconcile

Ana *harmonize, tune, attitude: *assent, accede, acquiesce: accept, *receive

Ant *agree, accord, harmonize, correspond, square, tally, jibe

Ant diverge —Con *differ, disagree

conformation configuration, *form, shape, figure

Ana *structure, anatomy, framework, skeleton

confound 1 dumbfound, nonplus, bewild, mystify, *puzzle, perplex, distract

Ana flabbergast, amaze, astound, astonish, *surprise: *structure, anatomy, framework, skeleton

Ant puzzle, perplex, distract

confront vb *meet, face, encounter

Ana defy, beard, challenge, brave, dare (see FACE): oppose, withstand, *resist

Ant recoil from

Confuse 1 Confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle, befuddle mean to throw one out mentally so that one cannot think clearly or act intelligently. Confuse usually implies intense embarrassment or bewilderment (you confuse me, and how can I transact business if I am confused? Let us be clearheaded—Dickens) Muddle often suggests stupefaction (as by drink) and usually implies blundering, aimless, but not necessarily unsuccessful attempts to deal with ideas, situations, or tasks beyond one's powers of analysis or one's capacity (a subject so abstruse as to muddle the brains of all but exceptional students) (we have
**confusion** 1 Confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, jumble, clutter, snarl, muddle are comparable when they mean the state or a condition in which things are not in their right places or arranged in their right relations to each other, or an instance of such a state or condition. **Confusion** suggests such mixing or mingling as obliterates clear demarcation or distinction; **disorder** (see also **DISEASE**) implies lack or more frequent disturbance or breach of due order or arrangement; thus, a busy worker might leave his desk in confusion with objects mingled together and no arrangement apparent to an observer, but a burlag searching for it money would probably leave it in disorder with contents thrown about and out of their normal (though not necessarily orderly) arrangement. **<The dark confusion of German history—Guérard>** (mid the misery and confusion of an unjust war—Shelley) **cowardice has succeeded to courage, disorder to discipline—Dickinson** (our last chance to substitute order for disorder, government for anarchy—E. B. White) **Chaos** suggests an absolute or sometimes hopeless confusion suggestive of the ancient Greek conception of Chaos as the unorganized state of primordial matter before the creation of distinct and orderly forms; the term therefore more often implies innate lack of organization rather than disturbance of an existent order. **<The Essays of Montaigne ... a confusion indeed, but a chaotic swirling with germs of evolution—J. R. Lowell>** When chaos does imply a disturbing, it usually suggests a reducing to the utter confusion of primordial matter (back not merely to the dark ages but from cosmos to chaos—Baruch) **Disarray**, more even than disorder, implies disarrangement; it is therefore preferable when the breaking up of order or discipline is to be suggested. **<The disarray into which society had been thrown by this deplorable affair made their presence in town more necessary than ever—Wharton>** **Jumble** implies the mixing of incongruous things with resulting confusion (the house they lived in ... was a heterogeneous architectural jumble—Meredith) **Clutter** implies confusion and crowding and often suggests a disagreeable or more or less messy state. **<Lord, what a mess this set is in! If there's one thing I hate above everything else ... it's clutter—Millay>** **Snarl**, basically applied to a tangle of filaments (as hairs or threads), implies confusion and entanglement and suggests great difficulty in unraveling and ordering his affairs are in a snarl (held up by a traffic snarl) **Muddle** (compare muddle at **CONFUSE 1**) also implies confusion and entanglement, but in addition it suggests the influence of bungling and a more or less hopeless condition **<we both grub on in a muddle—Dickens>** (the world's been confused and poor, a thorough muddle; there's never been a real planned education for people—H. G. Wells) **Ana** derangement, disarrangement, disorganization, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at **DISORDER**): *din, babel, pandemonium, hullabaloo: animal, lawlessness** **Con** ordering or order, systematization, organization (see corresponding verbs at **ORDER**): system, *method 2 *commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, convulsion, upheaval **Ana** disorder, disorganization, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at **DISORDER**): perturbation, agitation, disquiet, upset (see corresponding verbs at **DISCOMPOSE**): discomfiture, embarrassment (see corresponding verbs at **EMBARRASS**) **confute** controvert, refute, *disprove, rebut **congeal** vb *coagulate, set, curdle, clot, jelly, jell **Ana** solidify, *harden: *compact, concentrate, consolodate: cool, chill, freeze (see corresponding adjectives at **COLD**) **Con** melt, *liquefy, deliquescence **congenial** *consonant, consistent, compatible, congruous, sympathetic **Ana** companionable, cooperative, *social: sociable, congenial, cordial, *gracious, affable: pleasing, *pleasant, agreeable **Ant** uncongenial: antipathetic (of persons): abhorrent (of tasks, duties) **congenital** inborn, *innate, hereditary, inherited, inbred **Ana** *inherent, constitutional, ingrained: *native **Con** acquired (see **GET**): accidental, adventitious **conglomerate, conglomeration** aggregate, agglomeration, *aggregate, aggregation **Ana** mass, heap, pile, stack (see under **HEAP** vb): accumulation, amassment, hoarding or hoard (see corresponding verbs at **ACCUMULATE**) **congratulate** *felicitate **Con** console, solace, *comfort: commiserate, condole with, pity (see corresponding nouns at **SADNESS**) **congregate** *gather, assemble, collect **Ana** swarm, *teem **Ant** disperse **congregation** assembly, assemblage, gathering, collection (see under **GATHER** vb) **Ana** audience, *following, public: *crowd, throng, press, crush **congruous** compatible, congenial, *consonant, sympathetic, consistent **Ana** harmonizing or harmonious, according or accordant, corresponding or correspondent, agreeing or agreeable (see corresponding verbs at **AGREE**): seemingly, proper (see **DECOROUS**): meet, appropriate, fitting, *fit **Ant** incongruous —**Con** incompatible, uncongenial, *inconsonant, discordant, discrepant **conjectural** hypothetical, suppositional, *supposed, suppositive, reputed, putative, purported **Ana** presumed, assumed, postulated (see **PRESUPPOSE**): *theoretical, speculative: alleged (see **ADDUCE**) **Con** proved, demonstrated (see **PROVE**) **conjecture** vb **Conjecture, surmise, guess** are comparable as verbs, meaning to draw an inference from slight evidence, and as nouns, denoting an inference based upon such evidence. **Conjecture** implies formation of an opinion or judgment upon what is recognized as insufficient evidence (Washington conjectured that at least 300 of the enemy were killed—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) (mysteries which must explain themselves are not worth the loss of time which a conjecture about them takes up—Sterne) **Surmise** implies still slighter evidence, and exer-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ana</strong> analogous words</th>
<th><strong>Ant</strong> antonyms</th>
<th><strong>Con</strong> contrasted words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See also explanatory notes facing page 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
conjecture 178  

ince of the imagination or indulgence in suspicion (what thoughts he had beseems not me to say, though some surmise he went to fast and pray—Dryden) just how long the small multiplied impressions will take to break into surmise ... nobody can tell—Quiller-Couch we are not told what their business was but we may surmise it was the fur trade—G. F. Hudson) Guess implies a hitting upon or an attempting to hit upon either at random or from insufficient, uncertain, or ambiguous evidence you would never guess from meeting them that anyone would pay them for their ideas—Rose Macaulay (my daughter Lucie is ... such a mystery to me; I can make no guess at the state of her heart—Dickens)

* infer; gather, conclude, judge, deduce: speculate, reason, think: imagine, fancy, conceive (see THINK)  

* ascertain, determine, learn, * discover: * prove, demonstrate, test, try  

conjecture n surmise, guess (see under CONJECTURE vb)  

* theory, * hypothesis: * opinion, view, belief, conception (see under INFER)  

Ant * fact  

conjoin 1 * join, combine, unite, connect, link, associate, relate  

2 combine, * unite, concur, cooperate  

conjugal * matrimonial, marital, connubial, nuptial, nymeval  

Ant single  

connect * join, link, associate, relate, unite, conjoin, combine  

* fasten, affix: articulate, concatenate, * integrate  

Ant disconnect —Con sever, sunder, divorce, * separate, part, divide: * detach, disengage  

connoisseur dilettante, * aesthete  

* epicure, gourmet, bon vivant: * expert, adept  

Con * amateur, tyro, dabbler  

connotation denotation (see under DENOTE)  

* suggestion, implication, intimation (see corresponding verb at SUGGEST): evoking or evocation (see corresponding verb at EDUCE): import, signification, * meaning, significance, sense  

connote * denote  

* suggest, imply, intimate, hint: * express, voice, utter: import, signify, * mean, denote  

connubial conjugal, * matrimonial, marital, nuptial, nymeval

conquer, defeat, vanquish, overcome, surmount, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overthrow, rout, beat, lick all mean to get the better of or to bring into subjection whether by the exercise of force or of strategy. Conquer and defeat are perhaps the most general. Defeat usually signifies merely the fact of getting the better of or winning against and may imply no more than a temporary checking or frustrating the enemy were successfully defeated he defeated the older man in the tennis tournament (a distortion of the news picture which defeats the whole purpose to which our system is committed—Mott) Conquer, however, usually implies a large and significant action (as of a large force in war) or an action involving an all-inclusive effort and a more or less permanent result Caesar conquered most of Gaul (culture conquers more surely than the sword—A. M. Young) (science has conquered yellow fever—Amer. Guide Series: La.) (the 21-year-old Englishman who conquered the most dangerous river in the world—N. Y. Times Book Rev.) Vanquish suggests a significant action of a certain dignity usually in the defeat of a person rather than a thing and usually carrying the suggestion of complete defeat to overthrow the enemy solely by his own effort—hean (vanquish him solely by his own effort—Hean) (vanquish an opponent in a championship match at tennis) Overcome usually implies an opposing, more or less fixed obstacle to be dealt with and a high degree of effectiveness in dealing therewith whether by direct conflict or perhaps more often by indirect means (as evasion or substitution) (overcome the enemy's shore fortifications) (overcoming difficult legal obstacles—Americana Annual) (using the airlift to overcome the blockade—Collier's Yr. Bk.) (overcome a speech defect) Surmount, like overcome, implies an opposing, more or less fixed obstacle but carries the idea of surpassing or exceeding rather than overcoming in face-to-face conflict (the technical problems to be surmounted—K. F. Mather) (many petty faults which he is apparently unable to surmount—New Republic) (Simon ... has an inner force that is capable of surmounting conditions—Malcolm Cowley) Subdue, subjugate, and reduce all throw emphasis upon the condition of subjection resulting from defeat. Subdue signifies to bring under control by or as if by overpowering (in 1803 Commodore Edward Preble subdued the Barbary Coast pirates—Amer. Guide Series: Me.) (in their last century of conquest they almost succeeded in subduing the whole island—Blanshard) (all violence or recklessness of feeling has been finally subdued—Cather) (the wilderness had been almost completely subdued by cutting down the forests and building roads and cities) Subjugate signifies to bring into and keep in subjection, often as a slave is in subjection (authoritarian reaction which overwhelmed Italy and subjugated it for two centuries—R. A. Hall) (the heart and imagination subjugating the senses and understanding—Arnold) Reduce signifies surrender and submission but usually of a town or fortress under attack or siege the town and finally the province were reduced by the invaders (overthrow the established government by violence) (get swiftly through the field of fire and pierce the heart and imagination) (Wintringham) (a huge body of evidence ... completely overthrows the older view—Comfort) Rout always suggests a defeat so complete as to cause flight or the complete dispersion of the opposition (twelve hundred French and a large force of Indians were intercepted ... and utterly routed, only 200 of the French escaping capture or death—Bingham) (weaver with the assistance of two other gunboats routed a large force of Texas cavalry when they attacked Fort Butler—Bolander) Beat and lick are characteristic of a less formal style of expression or level of usage than the preceding verbs. Both come close to defeat in meaning but distinctively beat (see also BEAT 1) is rather neutral in this sense, except that occasionally it may imply the finality though not the scope of vanquish (the local ball team won the state championship by beating all comers) while lick usually implies a complete humbling or reduction to impotency and ineffectiveness of the one defeated (the fighter must be confirmed in the belief that he can lick anybody in the world—Liebling) (with the problem growing, the railroads have redoubled their efforts to lick it—Faulkner)  

* frustrate, thwart, foil, circumvent, outwit, baffle, balk  

Con surrender, submit, capitulate (see corresponding nouns at SURRENDER): * yield, succumb, bow, cave  

conqueror vanquisher, * victor, winner, champion  

conquest * victory, triumph  

* subjugation, subdual, defeating or defeat, overthrowing or overthrow, routing or rout (see corresponding verbs 

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
consecrate
hallow, dedicate, * devote
consecutive,
successive, sequent, sequential, serial are
conscious sensible, * aware, cognizant, alive, awake
conscientious
*assent, accede, acquiesce, agree, subscribe
courses into one—
regularity) <combination of two sequential
changes which proceed with sequential
sent a dozen
which follow one another without interruption or break.
But consecutive is somewhat more emphatic, stressing
the immediacy of the succession, the regularity or fixedness
of the order, and the close connection (as in time, space, or logic) of the units while successive is applicable to
things that follow regardless of differences (as in duration, extent, or size) or of the length of the interval between the units; thus, one would speak of nine, ten, and eleven as consecutive numbers since they follow one another in immediate and regular order, but of flashing the successive numbers three, eleven, and nine on a screen since the order would then be neither immediate nor regular; one would speak of successive (not consecutive) leap years since the order though regular is not immediate and of successive strokes of a piston since, though immediate, it need not be regular (the most important cause . . . has run throughour our post-Conquest history like a consecutive thread—Coulton) <the product of the successive labors of innumerable men—Mumford> Consecutive is also applicable to a person or to thought that manifests logical sequence <consecutive thinking absolutely requires personal initiative—Elliot> Sequent and sequential apply to an arrangement or to things (sometimes a thing) following a sequence (as a causal, logical, or chronological sequence) or some settled order <the events of the narrative do not follow in the order> <the galleys have sent a dozen sequent messengers this very night at one another's heels—Shak> Changes which proceed with sequential regularity <combination of two sequential courses into one—Pressley> Serial implies that the thing or things so qualified form a series or will appear as a series; it therefore suggests likeness or uniformity in the units and, usually, a prearranged order especially in time or space <the fifth of the serial concerts> <from the publisher's point of view mystery stories make good serial narratives> <wrote her a serial account of his adventures—Krutch>
Ana following, succeeding, ensuing (see FOLLOW) con
continual, * continual, incessant: coherent (see corresponding noun CONCERNENCE) logical
Ant inconsecutive — Con, alternate, * intermittent, recurrent, periodic: desultory, * random, haphazard, hit-or-miss
 consensus vb * assent, accede, acquiesce, agree, subscribe
Ana yield, submit, defer, relent: permit, allow, * let: * approve, sanction, concur (see AGREE)
Ant dissent — Con refuse, * decline: * disapprove, dep
ecrate: * demur, balk, stick, stickle, strain

179 consider

antecedent — Con cause, determinant, reason, occasion: * origin, source, root
2 * importance, moment, weight, significance, import
Ana necessity, * need, exigency: * worth, value, renown, honor, reputation, repute, * fame: eminence, illustriousness (see corresponding adjectives at FAMOUS)
consequentially therefore, hence, then, accordingly, so
conserve vb preserve, * save
Ana protect, shield, safeguard, guard, * defend
Ant waste, squander

1 Consider, study, contemplate, weigh, exegicate are comparable chiefly as transitive verbs meaning to fix the mind for a time on something in order to increase one's knowledge or understanding of it or to solve a problem involved in it. Consider often suggests little more than an applying of one's mind (a proposal so unreasonable that one does not need to consider it) but sometimes it also carries such a restricting implication as that of a definite point of view (in the last paragraphs we have considered science as a steadily advancing army of ascertained facts—Inge) or as that of thinking over (the publishers told him they would consider his book) <marriage is an action too freely practiced and too seldom adequately considered—Rose Macaulay> <in Florida consider the flamingo, its color passion but its neck a question—Warren> or as that of casting about in order to reach a suitable conclusion, opinion, or decision (when I came to consider his conduct, I realized that he was guilty of a confusion—T. S. Eliot) Study implies greater mental concentration than consider; usually it also suggests more care for the details or minutiae and more of an effort to comprehend fully or to learn all the possibilities, applications, variations, or relations (the president said that the bill must be studied before he reached a decision regarding the signing or vetoing of it) <a work of architecture that deserves to be studied closely> <study a patient's reactions to a new treatment> <I like very naturally to think that I am being read; but the idea that I am being studied fills me, after the first outburst of laughter, with a deepening gloom—Huxley> <Bryce, who had studied the matter so thoroughly, was wont to insist it is the smallest democracies which today stand highest in the scale—Ellis> Contemplate (see also SEE) implies, like meditate (see under PONDER), the focusing of one's attention upon a thing and a close dwelling upon it; the term, however, does not always carry a clear implication of the purpose or result. When the object on which the mind rests is a plan, a project, or an imaginative conception, the word usually suggests its formulation in detail or its enjoyment as envisioned <Henchard bent and kissed her cheek. The moment and the act he had contemplated for weeks with a thrill of pleasure—Hardy> <the poet "has an idea," and in the course of contemplating it he draws up from his subconscious a string of associated ideas and images—Day Lewis> When the object contemplated lies outside the mind and has either material or immaterial existence, the term suggests an attempt to increase one's knowledge and comprehension of it through minute scrutiny and meditation <nature is beautiful only to the mind which is prepared to apprehend her beauty, to contemplate her for her own sake apart from the practical delight she brings—Alexander> <the opinion . . . widely held, that while science, by a deliberate abstraction, contemplates a world of facts without values, religion contemplates values apart from facts—Inge> Weigh (compare PONDER) implies evaluation of something and especially of one thing in respect to another and relevant thing or things; it suggests an attempt to get at

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
the truth by a balancing (as of counterclaims, contradictory data, or conflicting evidence) in teaching the young to think hard, any subject will answer. The problem is to get them to weigh evidence, draw accurate inferences . . . and form judgments—Eliot> (it is not enough to count, we must evaluate; observations are not to be numbered, they are to be weighed—Ellis) Excogitate is often replaced by think out and implies the application of the mind to something so that one may find the solution of the problems involved (excogitate a plan whereby poverty may be relieved without unduly burdening the taxpayers) (there may have been a time when the scientific inquirer sat still in his chair to excogitate science—Dewey) Ana * ponder, meditate, ruminate, muse: reflect, cogitate, * think, reason, speculate: inspect, examine, * scrutinize, scan Con ignore, * neglect, overlook, disregard, slight 2 Consider, regard, account, reckon, deem denote to hold the view or opinion that someone or something is in fact as described or designated. They are often used interchangeably, but there are shadings of meaning that allow them to be discriminated. Consider suggests a conclusion reached through reflection (he considers exercise a waste of energy) (it seems, however, best to consider as literature only those works in which the aesthetic function is dominant—René Wellek & Austin Warren) Regard may retain its primary implication of looking upon. Sometimes it suggests a judgment based on appearances (I was . . . plainly regarded as a possible purchaser—L. P. Smith) Often it implies a point of view, sometimes merely personal, sometimes partisan (the regulations of the state were not regarded by the Greeks—as they are apt to be by modern men—as so many vexatious, if necessary, restraints on individual liberty—Dickinson) (a church . . . which regarded all dissentients as rebels and traitors—Inge) Account and reckon to some extent retain their basic implications of counting or calculating, and in comparison with the other terms they stress such value-related factors as evaluation and differentiation (these trees were not reckoned of much value) (another field where the dominance of the method of sociology may be reckoned as assured—Cardozo) (I account the justice which is grounded on utility to be the . . . most sacred and binding part of all morality—J. S. Mill) Deem is somewhat literary. It is often used as the equivalent of consider, but it distinctly stresses judgment rather than reflection (behind the economic problem lies a psychological or ethical problem, that of getting persons to recognize truths which they deem it to their interest to avoid—Hobson) (the first time he made a helmet, he tested its capacity for resisting blows, and battered it out of shape; next time he did not test it, but deemed it to be a very good helmet—Russell) (investigation of all the facts which it deems relevant—Truman) Ana * think, conceive, imagine, fancy: judge, gather, * infer, conclude considerate * thoughtful, attentive Ana kindly. * kind: tender, sympathetic, warmhearted, compassionate: obliging, compliant, * amiable Ant inconsiderate —Con * forgetful, unmindful, oblivious: * careless, heedless, thoughtless considered * deliberate, premeditated, advised, designed, studied Ana intentional, * voluntary, willful: planned, projected, schemed (see corresponding verbs under PLAN n) Ant unconsidered —Con * precipitate, impetuous, headlong: impulsive, * spontaneous, instinctive consign * commit, entrust, confide, relegate Ana transfer, * move, remove, shift: assign, allocate, * allot: resign, surrender, yield (see relinquish) consistent congruous, * consonant, compatible, congenial, sympathetic Ana conforming or conformable, tallying, jibing, squaring (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): matching, equaling (see MATCH vb): identical, alike, similar, * like Ant inconsistent —Con discrepant, discordant, incongruous, * inconsonant, incompatible: contradictory, contrary, * opposite, antithetical consolidate * compact, unify, concentrate Ana integrate, articulate, concatenate: amalgamate, merge, fuse, blend (see MIX): condense, compress (see CONTRACT vb) * weave, knit Con melt, * liquefy: separate, sever, sunder, part: * distribute, dispense, divide: dissipate, * scatter, disperse consolidation, merger, amalgamation are comparable when denoting a union of two or more business corporations. Consolidation is often used as a general term; more precisely it implies a unification of the companies or corporations with dissolution of their separate corporate identities and transfer of their combined assets, franchises, and goodwill to a single new corporate unit, often under an entirely new name. Merger usually implies a unification in which one or more companies or corporations are absorbed by another and the assets (as property, franchises, and goodwill) of the former are transferred to or merged into the latter whose corporate status and name remain unchanged. In a merger additional shares of stock may be issued by the absorbing company or corporation to replace on an agreed basis the shares of the units absorbed or a monetary transaction may be involved. Amalgamation is often used interchangeably with consolidation in its general sense and applied to any form of consolidation or merger. It is sometimes restricted to a consolidation in which a new corporation with an entirely new name and corporate identity results or, in British use, to a union of the merger type. Ant dissolution consonance * harmony, concord, accord Ana agreement, conformity, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): concurrence, coincidence (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): compatibility, congruity (see corresponding adjectives at CONSONANT) Ant dissonance (in music): discord —Con inconsonance, discordance, incompatibility, incongruity, discrepancy (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT) consonant adj Consonant, consistent, compatible, congruous, congenial, sympathetic are comparable when they mean being in agreement one with another or agreeable one to the other. Consonant implies agreement with a concurrent circumstance or situation, or conformity to an accepted standard, or harmony between two things that must come into contact or comparison with each other; the term suggests absence of discord (Fijians possessed a physical endurance consonant with their great stature—Heiser) (it is . . . more consonant with the Puritan temper to abolish a practice than to elevate it and clear away abuses—Quillier-Couch) (to pursue callings more consonant with Buddha's teaching—Binyon) (nature has no ends consonant with . . . the desires of man which would make it possible for him to accord himself to her—Krutch) Consistent suggests such agreement or harmony between things or between the details of the same thing as implies
the absence or avoidance of contradiction <that their letters should be as kind as was consistent with proper maidenly pride—De Quincey> <did not think it to be consistent with his dignity to answer this salty—Trollope> <no one has yet imagined a consistent picture of what the electron and proton really are—Jeffs>

**Conspicuous** implies a capacity for existing or coming together without disagreement, discord, or disharmony; the term does not necessarily suggest positive agreement or harmony, but it does imply the absence of such conflict between two or more things as would make their association or combination impossible or incongruous <with all the eagerness compatible with . . . elegance, Sir Walter and his two ladies stepped forward to meet her—Austen> <to combine, in the highest measure in which they are compatible, the two elements of refinement and manliness—Froude> <many bad qualities are of course compatible with vitality—for example, those of a healthy tiger. And many of the best qualities are compatible with its absence—Russell>

**Congruous** implies more positive agreement or harmony than compatible does; ordinarily it implies the absence or avoidance of contradiction <that their introduction ideas are congruous to the subject—Cowper> <the negative form incongruous is currently far more common than congruous. Congenial is most often used of persons or things that are in such harmony with the taste of a person that they afford him pleasure or delight or satisfaction <a congenial companion> <a pair of not very congenial passengers—Conrod> <the reticence and understatement of the method made it specially congenial to the Chinese—Binyon> <[Hobbes's] theory of government is congenial to that type of person who is conservative from prudence but revolutionary in his dreams—T. S. Eliot> <the ideal of a Greek democracy was vastly congenial to his aristocratic temperament—Parrington>

Occasionally congenial is used of things in the sense of wholly and satisfyingly congruous <all such introduced ideas are congenial to the subject—Alexander> <statement, overstatement, and understatement in letters given a congenial context, every one of them is right—Montague> Sympathetic (see also tender), like congenial, usually suggests qualities in the person or thing so described that make him or it in agreement with another person's likings or tastes, but, in contrast with congenial, it suggests a more subtle appeal and often a less hearty acceptance <every author who is sympathetic to them—Bradley> <Arnold does still hold us. . . . To my generation . . . he was a more sympathetic prose writer than Carlyle or Ruskin—T. S. Eliot> <a tête-à-tête with a man of similar tastes, who is just and yet sympathetic, critical yet appreciative—Benson>

A noun conforming or conformable, harmonizing or harmonious, agreeing or agreeable, according or accordant (see corresponding verbs at AGREE): concurring or concurrent, coinciding or coincident (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)

**Ant** inconsonant: dissontant (in music) —Con discordant, discrepant, inconsistent, incompatible, incongruous (see inconsonant)

**Conspicuous** synopsis, epitome, abridgment, abstract, brief

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

**Conspicuous** prominent, salient, signal, noticeable, remarkable, striking, arresting, outstanding

Ana patent, manifest, evident, distinct, obvious: eminent, celebrated, illustrious (see famous)

**Ant** inconspicuous —Con common, ordinary: obscure, vague: lowly, humble, modest: hidden, concealed (see hide): secret, covert

**Conspiracy** cabal, intrigue, machination, plot

Ana *sedition, treason: treacherousness or treachery, perfidiosity or perfidy, disloyalty, faithlessness, falsehood or falsity (see corresponding adjectives at faithless)

**Conspirator** confederate, accessory, accomplice, abettor

**Constant** adj 1 faithful, true, loyal, staunch, steadfast, resolute

Ana abiding, enduring, persisting or persistent, lasting (see corresponding verbs at continue): dependable, trustworthy, reliable, trusted, tried

**Ant** inconstant, fickle —Con unstable, capricious, mercurial (see inconstant): disloyal, faithless, false, perfidious

2 steady, uniform, even, equable

Ana established, settled, set, fixed (see set vb): invariable, immutable, unchangeable (see affirmative adjectives at changeable): regular, normal, typical, natural

**Ant** variable —Con changeable, changeable, mutable, protean: fluctuating, wavering (see swing)

3 continual, incessant, unremitting, continuous, perpetual, perennial

Ana persisting or persistent, persevering (see corresponding verbs at persevere): pertinacious, dogged, obstinate, stubborn: chronic, confirmed, inveterate

**Ant** fiful —Con intermittent, alternate: spasmodic (see fitful): occasional, sporadic, infrequent

**Constitution** panic, terror, alarm, fright, fear, dread, dismay, horror, trepidation

Ana confusion, muddlement or muddle (see corresponding verbs at confuse): bewildernent, distraction, perplexity (see corresponding verbs at puzzle): agitation, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at discompose)

Con sangfroid, composure, equanimity, phlegm: aplomb, self-possession (see confidence)

**Constituent** n component, element, ingredient, factor

Ana *part, portion, piece, detail, member: item, particular

**Ant** whole, aggregate —Con system, complex, organism, economy: composite, compound, blend, amalgam (see mixture)

**Constitution** physique, build, habit

Ana temperament, temper, personality (see disposition): organism, system: structure, framework, anatomy

**Constitutional** adj inherent, intrinsic, essential, ingrained

Ana congenital, innate, inborn: native: natural, normal (see regular): characteristic, individual, peculiar

**Ant** adventitious —Con accidental, adventitious, fortuitous: unnatural, irregular, anomalous: foreign, alien, extraneous, extrinsic

**Constrain** oblige, coerce, compel, force

Ana impel, drive, move, actuate: require, exact, demand

**Constraint** compulsion, coercion, duress, restraint, force, violence

Ana suppression, repression (see corresponding verbs at suppress): compelling or impulsion, driving or drive (see corresponding verbs at move): goad, spur, motive, spring: obligation, duty

**Constrict** compress, contract, shrink, condense, deflate

Ana *tie, bind: restrict, confine, circumscribe: limit: restrain, curb

Con *expand, dilate, distend, swell, inflate: enlarge:

**Increase**

**Construct** build, erect, frame, raise, rear

Ana analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
contact

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
or stained or in process of corruption or decay <tainted meat> <his unkindness may defeat my life, but never taint my love—Shak.> <the Claudioi, brilliant, unaccountable, tainted with some deep congenital madness—Buchan> <directed toward the purge from the public service rolls of those tainted with fascism—Taylor Cole> The less common attaint may be closely synonymous with taint <our writers have been attainted by the disease they must help to cure—Frank> More often it retains a hint of its primary meaning of to sentence to outlawry or death and then suggests a sullying (as of one's name) or a degrading especially as a result of actual or reputed misconduct <wherein a good name hath been wrongfully attainted—Milton> <no breath of calumny ever attainted the personal purity of Savonarola—Milman> Pollute implies that the process which begins with contamination is complete and manifest and that what was pure and clean has lost its clearness or fairness and has become muddy or filthy or poisoned <the nuisance set forth in the bill was one which would be of international importance—a visible change of a great river from a pure stream into a polluted and poisoned ditch—Justice Holmes> Pollute is especially apt when the reference is to something that ideally is clean, clear, or bright <pollute the minds of children by obscenities> <you . . . are polluted with your lusts—Shak.> Defile strongly implies befouling of something which ought to be kept clean and pure or held sacred. It usually suggests violation, profanation, or desecration and is highly opprobrious in its connotations <an evil bird that defiles his own nest—Latimer> (scenes such as these . . . tis his supreme delight to fill with riot, and defile with blood—Cowper> (cruelty is not only the worst accusation that can be brought against a man, defiling the whole character—Bello> Ana *debase, vitiate, corrupt, deprave: impair, spoil, *injure, harm contemn *despise, disdain, scorn, scout contemp* contemptuous *contemporary, coeval, coetaneous, contemporary, concurrent* contemporary adj Contemnaneous, contemporaneous, coeval, coetaneous, simultaneous, coincident, concomitant, concurrent* contemp contemporaneous (of which contemporary is applied somewhat more frequently to persons, contemporaneous to events), the time regarding which agreement is implied is determined only through the context <Shakespeare was contemporary with Cervantes, who died in the same month> <Shelley's last year was contemporaneous with Matthew Arnold's first> <the reign of Louis XIV was contemporaneous with the Commonwealth in England and also with the Restoration and the revolution of 1688> <a recent history of the 15th century based on contemporary accounts> <love of school is not contemporaneous with residence therein; it is an after product—Grant stay> Contemporary, but not contemporaneous, may imply reference to the present; it then means of the same time as that of the speaker or writer <we are not without contemporary talent—Wharton> <most contemporary novels Jane found very bad—Rose Macaulay> Coeval usually implies contemporaneity for a long time or at a remote time (everyone knows that the Roman Catholic religion is at least coeval with most of the governments where it prevails—Burke> <the theory requires that these coeval stars should be of nearly the same mass and brightness—Eddington> Coetaneous is a close synonym of coeval, but it may more specifically suggest contemporaneity of origin (the maturation of Veblen's thought led him to note two forces . . . whose coetaneous presence acted first in the promotion of reason and then in its derangement—Rosenberg> <ancient and coetaneous mountain ranges> Synchronous applies an exact correspondence between the usually brief periods of time involved; simultaneous more frequently denotes agreement in the same point or instant of time <two pendulums so adjusted that their movements are synchronous> <the two shots were simultaneous> <French speech has run a similar and almost synchronous course with English—Ellis> (it was proposed that there should be simultaneous insurrections in London . . . and at Newcastle—Macaulay> Coincident applies to events that are regarded as falling or happening at the same time; it ordinarily minimizes the notion of causal relation (the discovery of America was almost coincident with the capture of Granada) <the growth of the mine union movement was coincident with the growth of business and manufacturing—Hay> Concomitant carries so strong an implication of attendance or association that it often imparts a subordinate character; however, only when it implies coincidence or synchronouness is it truly a synonym of the other words <the concomitant circumstances of this event cannot be ignored> (as the beauty of the body always accompanies the health of it, so certainly is decency concomitant to virtue—Spectator> Concurrent adds to synchronous the implication of parallelism or agreement (as in length of existence or in quality or character) <concurrent terms in prison> <the concurrent operation of many machines> <great cultural achievements have not been inevitably, or even generally, concurrent with great material power—Bryson> Ana living, existing, subsisting (see BE> Con see those at Contemporary contempt despite, disdain, scorn (see under DESPISE vb) Ana abhorrence, detestation, loathing, hatred, hate (see under HATE vb): aversion, *antipathy: repugnance, disgust (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT) Ant respect —Con esteem, admiration, *regard: *reverence, awe, fear contemptible adj Contemptible, despicable, pitiable, sorry, scurrv, cheap, beggarly, shabby are comparable when they mean arousing or deserving scorn or disdain. Contemptible applies to whatever inspires such scorn or disdain for any reason however great or small <with that property he will never be a contemptible man—Austen> (the one disgraceful, unpardonable, and to all time contemptible action of my life was to allow myself to appeal to society for help and protection—Wilde> Despicable is a stronger term and frequently implies both keen and scornful, sometimes indignant, disapprobation and a sufficient cause for such a reaction <the immorality of James's Court was hardly
more despicable than the imbecility of his government—J. R. Green> (even excellent science could and did often make despicable morality—Gaussen) Pitable (see also pitiful) implies the inspiring of pity mixed with contempt (a pitiful show of weakness) a pitiful attempt at reform (the resorting to epithets ... is a pitiful display of intellectual impotence—Cohen) Sorry is often used interchangeably with pitiful without marked loss, but it often distinctively implies contemptible or ridiculous inadequacy, wretchedness, or sordidness (sorry accommodations for the travelers) mounted ... upon a lean, sorry, jackass of a horse—Sterne Scruvy implies extreme despicability and meanness and the arousing of disgust as well as scornful contempt (a scruvy trick) (a scruvy impostor) (what difference between this Rome and ours ... between that scruvy dumbshow and this pageant sheet ... ? —Browning) Cheap often implies contemptibility that results from undue familiarity or accessibility (had I so lavished of my presence been ... so stale and cheap to vulgar company—Shak.) More often, however, cheap and beggarly imply contemptible pettiness, cheap by falling far below the standard of what is worthy, beggarly by its remoteness from what is adequate (cheap politics) (a cheap and natty life—Shaw) (about his shelves a beggarly account of empty boxes—Shak.) (the South in 1800 was a land of contrasts, of opposum and squalo ... fine mansions, beggarly taverns—Brooks) Shabby comes close to cheap and beggarly in implying contemptible pettiness and to scruvy in implying meanness and the arousing of disgust; distinctively it may stress the poverty, the paltriness, or the ungenerous nature of what is so characterized (the shabby way in which this country ... treated a poet so deeply devoted ... ) (since they had left with the Thames—Hewes) (the explorer’s mistress shows up with the bargain of physical strength or skill or the employment of weapons, or the desire or effort to overcome that something. Contend, the most general of these words, (see also RESIST) (a contest of wits) (what mighty contests rise from trivial things—Pope) (boundary controversies or other contests between states—Frankfurter) Conflict usually implies discord and warfare; it also suggests a closer engagement than contest (arms on armor clashing brayed ... dire was the noise of conflict—Milton) Conflict may be extended to denote a struggle (often spiritual or mental) between opposing or contradictory principles or forces (there is ... outward conflict of persons and groups, there is also a conflict of forces in the hero’s soul—Bradley) Combat is less commonly used in an extended sense (a combat against despair) It implies an encounter, especially an armed encounter, between two (individuals, parties, or forces), frequently for the determination of a dispute (let these have a day appointed them for a single combat in convenient place—Shak.) (these progressive leaders in both parties rose only after bitter struggle. They were the product of more than a lively contest. Sometimes the

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
continguous were **contests—White**> Fight usually implies a hand-to-hand conflict and therefore emphasizes the individual participants. It ranges in dignity from a spiritual struggle (fight the good **fight** of faith—I Tim 6:12) to actual blows with fists or weapons (a **prizefight**). **Affray** commonly refers to a tumultuous disturbance (as a street fight between mobs or factions) that inspires terror. Legally an affray is a fight that disturbs the public peace; in literary use the word is often applied to an uneasym or acrimonious dispute (the suppressing of riots and **affrays—Burke**). (days of European crises, diplomatic affrays, hecatomitic accidents—Montague) Some bloody affray between scholars—Quiller-Couch. **Fray** is usually either a literary term, often with more dignified connotations than affray of which it is otherwise a very close synonym, or it is a poetical or hyperbolical substitute for battle, contest, or game ('Where are the vile beginners of this fray?" "O noble prince, I can discover all the unlucky manage of this fatal brawl)—Shak.

**Ana** *encounter, skirmish, brush: competition, emulation, rivalry (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL): *battle, engagement, action*; continuous, adjoining, butting, conterminous, *adjacent, tangential, juxtaposed*;

**Ant** nearest, next: *close, near, nigh, nearby*;

**continence** *temperance, abstemiousness, sobriety, abstinence*;

**ana** chasteness or chastity, purity (see corresponding adjectives at CHASTE): modernness or moderation, temperateness (see corresponding adjectives at MODERATE)*; ant continence—Con lecherousness, lustfulness, lewdness, lasciviousness, licentiousness, wantonness (see corresponding adjectives at LICENTIOUS): excessiveness, inordinateness (see corresponding adjectives at EXCESSIVE)

**continent adj** temperate, unimpassioned, *sober*;

**Continency** *emergency, exigency, pinch, *juncture, pass, continuing, constant, incessant, unremitting, perpetual, perennial* are comparable when meaning characterized by continued occurrence or recurrence over a relatively long period of time. **Continual** implies a close or unceasing succession or recurrence; **continuous**, an uninterrupted continuity or union (as of objects, events, or parts) (ensure a continuous supply of provisions at or parts) <ensure a continuous, unbroken connection, sequence, or extent of unbroken connection or substance; thus, **continual** industry implies that one is always at it; **continuous** labor, that the work itself is performed at a stretch (he that is of a merry heart hath a **continual** feast—Prov 15:15) <that dull and **continuous** burden of the sea heard inland before or after a great storm—J. R. Lowell> **Continuous** refers to both time and space, **continual** only to time; thus, one may speak of a **continuous** (not **continual**) expanse, but of a **continual** (or **continuous**) noise (humanism has been sporadic, but Christianity **continual**—T. S. Eliot)

**Constant** implies uniform, steady, or persistent occurrence or recurrence and usually connotes lack of change or variation (as in character, degree, or rate) <**constant** throbbing of the engine> <such a career meant constant toil—Buchan> <unfortunately, perhaps, experience does not grow at a **constant**, but at an accelerated, rate—Krutch> **Incessant** implies ceaseless or uninterrupted activity; unremitting, unceasing activity without slackening or halting; and **perpetual** (see also **LASTING**), unflagging repetition or lasting duration <**incessant** cough> <a life of **unremitting** toil> <**perpetual** colds> <**sporadic** outbursts are converted by the rationalization into purposive and unremitting activity—Huxley> <the **perpetual** fuel of controversy—Newman> <sins unatoned for and uncondoned bring purgatorial or **perpetual** torment after death—H. O. Taylor> <his incessant talking and shouting and bellowing of orders had been too much—London> **Perennial** carries the implication of existence over an indeterminate number of years; especially in older use this idea may be stressed and that of exhaustlessness often connoted the **perennial** beauty and heroism of the homeliest human nature—J. R. Lowell> <the **perennial** feeling of silent worship—Carlyle>

In current use, probably because of the application of the term to plants that die down to the roots and spring up again seasonally over a number of years, the implication of **continual** recurrence or constant renewal is perhaps more common <revolt is **perennial**—Lowes> <the **perennial** question of the relation between ought and is, of obligation and fact—Alexander>

**Ana** unceasing, endless, terminable, *overlasting*: eternal (see **INFINITE**): *lasting, permanent, perdurable*

**Ant** intermittent—Con recurrent, periodic, alternate (see **INTERMITTENT**): *fitful, spasmodic*;

**continuance** *continuation, continuity*;

**ana** endurance, persistence, lasting (see corresponding verbs at **CONTINUE**): perseverance, persistence (see corresponding verbs at **PERSEVERE**): remaining, staying, tarrying (see **STAY**)

**continuation, continuance, continuity** are often confused, especially when meaning the quality, the act, or the state of continuing or of being continued or an instance revealing such a quality, action, or state. **Continuation** suggests prolongation or resumption <the **continuation** of a line> <it's the **continuation** of a philosophic plan—Meredith> <the boy from a good classical school finds that his college Latin, Greek, and mathematics are the natural **continuation** of what he has already acquired—Grandgent> **Continuance** implies duration, perseverance, or stay <eleven years' **continuance—Shak**> <patient **continuance** in well doing—Rom 2:7> <our **continuance** in the city depends on our boy's health> <the idleness and vice of many years **continuance—Austen**> **Continuity** stresses uninterrupted or unbroken connection, sequence, or extent <the **continuity** of a series> <the **continuity** of attention> <the entire breach of **continuity** in your history made by the Revolution—Arnold> <space and time are thus vehicles of **continuity** by which the world's parts hang together—James> In the technical language of those engaged in making motion pictures or in radio and television broadcasting, **continuity** denotes material written in advance (as the scenario of a motion picture or the
lines to be spoken in a radio broadcast) as provision for perfection in sequence and in timing of the performance. *Ana extending or extension, prolonging or prolongation, protracting or protraction (see corresponding verbs at EXTEND) Ant cessation continue, last, endure, abide, persist are comparable when meaning to remain indefinitely in existence or in a given condition or course. Continue distinctively refers to the process and stresses its lack of an end rather than the duration of or the qualities involved in that process. Often, in addition, it suggests an unbroken course what a man is as an end perishes when he dies; what he produces as a means continues to the end of time—Russell* the illusion continues that civilization can somehow be reconciled with atomic war—Fleming* Last especially in its derivative lasting (see LASTING) when unqualified usually stresses length of existence exceeding what is normal or expected the anger of slow, mild, loving people has a lasting quality—Deland* When qualified, last often loses this distinctive implication the work that Michelangelo did complete has lasted well—Barr* the refrigerator is guaranteed to last five years the fire lasted only three months. Endure adds to last the implication of resistance, especially to destructive forces or agencies for living things, who suffer pain, may not endure till time can bring them ease—Lowell* an art . . . which endured . . . until man changed his attitude toward the universe—Henry Adams* Abide and its derivative abiding imply stability or constancy, especially in opposition to mutability or impermanence though much is taken, much abides—Tenneyson* notwithstanding the countless features of London's living which were abiding, the changes made themselves felt—J. M. Brown* Persist adds to continue the implication of outlasting the appointed or normal time; it often also connotes recurrence, especially in sporadic instances an attitude towards life, which . . . persists, with many changes but no breaks, till the closing of the Athenian lecture rooms by Justinian—Inge* Ana remain, *stay: survive, *outline, outlast Con arrest, interrupt, check: *stop, cease, desist, quit, discontinue: suspend, stay, intermit, *defer, postpone continuity *continuation, continuance Ana *succession, sequence, chain, train, progression Con intermittence, recurrence, alternation, periodicity (see corresponding adjectives at INTERMITTENT) fitfulness (see corresponding adjective at FITFUL) continuous constant, perpetual, perennial, *continual, incessant, unremitting Ana connected, related, linked (see JOIN) successive, *consecutive, sequent, serial: *steady, constant, uniform Ant interrupted—Con *intermittent, recurrent, periodic, alternate comfort distort, warp, *deform Ana twist, bend, *curve contour *outline, silhouette, skyline, profile Ana configuration, shape, *form, conformation, figure contraband adj *smuggled, bootleg contract n Contract, bargain, compact, pact, treaty, entente, convention, cartel, concordat designate an agreement reached after negotiation and ending in an exchange of promises between the parties concerned. Contract applies especially to a formal written agreement, often of a business nature, couched in such explicit terms as to be enforceable at law a regular contract to the above effect was drawn up by a lawyer, and signed and sealed in the presence of witnesses—Hawthorne* Bargain applies especially to an agreement regarding purchase and sale this bargain provides for an exchange of so much Ameri- can wheat and cotton for so much British rubber and tin* A compact is an earnest or solemn exchange of promises, sometimes between state or political groups and often between persons. A compact may be unwritten or undocumented, the only assurance of its execution being the trust which each party places in the honor of the other. The word is used when a keen sense of the obligation which it imposes is assumed of each of the parties men and women . . . marry and promise loyalty to some one person. They can keep that compact and yet not shut themselves away from other men and other women—Rose Macaulay* let us make a compact. I shall do everything to please you, and you must promise to do everything to please me—Hudson* the National Assembly, inspired by Thiers's patriotism, adopted . . . the "Compact of Bordeaux," whereby it was agreed that political differences should be put aside in order to carry through expeditiously the work of reconstruction—Schario* Pact as used of an agreement between persons or groups is usually interchangeable with compact *suicide pact, an agreement between two persons to commit suicide an unvoiced pact between us to read him with . . . skepticism—Horace Gregory* Perhaps because of its popularity with newspaper headline writers which its brevity won for it, pact is used with increasing frequency in the (often unofficial) agreements between states the Pact of Corfu was a constitutional pact wherein leaders of the southern Slavs agreed to join in a unitary kingdom—the Nation*; in this use it is frequently interchanged with treaty, which is the generic term for an agreement between states made by negotiation or diplomacy the Lateran Pact or Treaty establishing Vatican City a nonaggression pact a trade pact a commercial treaty the president . . . shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties U. S. Constitution* treaty, and never pact, however, is the term for an agreement establishing peace after a period of armed hostility the Treaty of Versailles* An entente is a cordial or amicable agreement between nations in regard to their foreign affairs, usually involving a promise of joint military action in case of aggression against an adherent to the entente the Triple Entente between France, Great Britain, and Russia* An entente may be in writing set forth in a published document or it may be based simply on an exchange of promises between heads of government, or may be merely a state of mind of the peoples concerned it changes the entente into an alliance, and alliances . . . are not in accordance with our traditions—Grey* The word is also used of an understanding between groups (as of economic competitors) a broader peace treaty between leaders of industry, labor, and agriculture governing both price and wage adjustments. This kind of entente would seem to be central to the management of an economy such as ours L. G. Re- oldy* A convention is usually an agreement which is either less formal or more specific than a treaty; it may be an agreement between several states regulating matters affecting all of them (as postage, copyright, or the conduct of war) or an agreement between commanders of armies in respect to military operations the conventions for suspending hostilities agreed upon by me with Marshall Sout and Suchet—Wellington* A cartel (see also MONOPOLY) is a written agreement or convention between opposing nations, usually for the regulation of intercourse between them in view of or during war. Cartels provide for such matters as the treatment and exchange of prisoners, postal and telegraphic communication, the mode of reception of bearers of flags of truce, and the treatment of the wounded. Concordat usually applies to
an agreement between the pope and a secular government for regulating the relations between church and state (the Concordat of Worms was an agreement with Germany (1122) regulating investiture of bishops and abbots) Less often the term is used for an agreement regulating ecclesiastical matters (the prospect of a union of the Protestant Episcopal church and the Presbyterian Church... which a concordat proposed a year ago—Springfield Republican)

contract vb 1 pledge, covenant, engage, *promise, plight 2 catch, *incur

Con *escape, avoid, evade, elude, shun, eschew: avert, ward, *prevent

3 Contract, shrink, condense, compress, constrict, deflate denote to decrease in bulk, volume, or content, but they vary widely in their suggestion as to how this decrease is effected and what consequences it has. Contract means to draw together the sides or the particles of, especially by a force from within, with a consequent reduction in compass or a compacting of the mass (the heart, by contracting and dilating rhythmically, keeps up the circulation of the blood) (molten iron contracts as it cools)

Shrink means to contract so as to fall short of an original length, bulk, or volume (shrink cloth) (his assets have shrunk) (apples often shrink before rotting) Condense denotes reduction, usually of something more or less homogeneous, to greater compactness without material loss of content (condense a gas to a liquid) (condense a speech into a few paragraphs) Compress, which also means to reduce to a compact state, differs from condense in that it connotes a pressing or squeezing of something formless or diffused into definite shape or into a small compass (compress air) (compress cotton into bales) (compress the events of a lifetime into a play taking three hours to present) Constrict means to make narrow or smaller in diameter either by contraction or by squeezing (the pores of certain bodies are constricted under the influence of cold) (the throat is constricted by too tight a collar) Deflate means to cause to shrink by exhausting of a gas, or something insubstantial (deflate a balloon) (deflate a wild rumor) (deflate an undeserved reputation)

Ana dwindle, diminish, *decrease, reduce

Ant expand —Con dilate, swell, distend, inflate (see EXPAND)

contradict *deny, gainsay, negative, contravene, traverse, negate, nullify, *categorically deny, gainsay, negative, contravene, traverse, negate, *categorically

Con *confirm, verify, authenticate, substantiate

contradictory n contrary, antithesis, opposite, antonym, antipode (see under OPPOSITE adj)

Ana *converse, reverse

contradictory adj contrary, antithetical, *opposite, antagonistic, antipodal, antipodean

Ana negating, nullifying (see NULLIFY): counter, counteractive, antagonistic, *adverse

Con agreeing, squaring, tallying, jibing (see AGREE)

contraption gadget, *device, contrivance

Ana appliance, tool, instrument, *implement, utensil: *machine, mechanism, apparatus: expedient, makeshift (see RESOURCE)

contrary n antithesis, opposite, contradictory, antonym, antipodean (see under OPPOSITE adj)

Ana *converse, reverse

contrary adj 1 antithetical, *opposite, contradictory, antagonistic, antipodal, antipodean

Ana divergent, disparate, *different: counter, antagonistic, *opposite, contrary, negating, nullifying (see NULLIFY)

2 Contrary, perverse, restive, balky, froward, wayward are comparable when they mean given to opposing or resisting wishes, commands, conditions, or circumstances. A person is contrary who by nature or disposition is so self-willed that he cannot or will not accept dictation or advice (she is the most contrary child I have ever seen) or who vigorously objects to any arrangements or plans made by others (they've been in your way all these years, and you've always complained of them, so don't be contrary, sir—Cather) A person or sometimes one of his acts, utterances, or desires is perverse when he or it as a result of temperament or disposition, or sometimes of physical constitution or moral character, runs counter to what is right, true, correct, or in keeping with human nature, especially as determined by the moral law, by custom, or by the laws of nature or the state. Like contrary, the term may suggest obstinate willfulness, but even then it usually carries a stronger suggestion of wrongheadedness (perverse dispersions of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth—1 Tim 6:5) (they will not be resolute and firm, but perverse and obstinate—Burke) More often, however, the term suggests defiance of or disobedience to the law, especially the moral law or the established proprieties (Rimbaud was the rebel incarnate... he was perverse, untractable, adamant—until the very last hour—Henry Miller) (the poet's sense of responsibility to nothing but his own inner voice is perhaps his only way of preserving poetic integrity against the influences of a perverse generation—Day Lewis) Perverse sometimes suggests perversion or a sexual maladjustment that reveals itself in aberrant or abnormal desires or acts (the presence of a small minority of abnormal or perverse persons... affords no excuse for restricting the liberty of the many to the standard of the few—Ellis) (the last perverse whim which has taken possession of the debauche—Krutch) A person is restive (see also IMPATIENT) who obstinately refuses to obey the commands or the will of another; the term may imply inaction or a turning in another direction but more often it suggests intractability or unreasonableness (the common man... is increasingly restive under the state of "things as they are"—Veblen) (your colonies become suspicious, restive, and untractable—Burke) A person or, more often, an animal (as a horse) is balky when he or it stops short and refuses to go further in the desired direction or in the performance of something undertaken (the horse was never balky unless he was overloaded) (a child may become balky when he is confused by too many orders) (examination of witnesses, mostly reluctant if not downright balky—The Nation) A person (often a child) is froward who is so contrary or so prone to disobedience that he will not comply with the most reasonable of requests or suggestions; the term usually suggests a characteristic rather than an occasional or a justifiable reaction (all the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them—Prov 8:8) (I never entered on disobedience without having settled with myself that the fun of it would be worth the pains, scorned repentance, and endured correction with a philosophy which got me the reputation of being a hardened and froward child—Mary Austin) A person is wayward who is so perverse that he is incapable of government by those in authority over him and therefore goes his own way, however wanton or capricious or depraved it may be (can institution for wayward girls) (I have been wild and wayward, but you'll forgive me now—Tennyson) Things that are erratic or follow no clear law or principle are also describable as wayward (wayward fancies) (a wayward breeze)
contrast
refractory, recalcitrant, intractable, headstrong,
*unruly: contumacious, rebellious, *insubordinate
Ant good-natured, complaisant — Con *amiable, oblig-
ing: *compliant, acquiescent: amenable, tractable (see obedient)
contrast n
*comparison, collation, parallel, antithesis
Ana distinction, difference, divergence, discrepancy, *dis-
similarity, unlikeliness: conflict, *discord
contrast vb *compare, collate
contravene *deny, contradict, traverse, impugn, negative
Ana oppose, combat, *resist, fight: controvert, *disprove:
*trespass, encroach, infringe
Ant uphold (law, principle): allege (right, claim, privilege)
contravention trespass, transgression, violation, infringement,
*breach, infraction
Ana *offense, vice, sin, crime
Con compliance, acquiescence (see under compliant)
contribution *donation, benefaction, alms
Ana grant, subvention, subsidy, *appropriation: *gift,
present, largess, boon
contributory *auxiliary, ancillary, adjuvant, subservient,
accessory
Ana concurring, cooperating (see unite): helping or helpful,
aiding, assisting or assistant (see corresponding verbs at help)
contrition attrition, repentance, *penitence, compunction,
remorse
Ana *sorrow, grief, regret
contrivance *device, gadget, contraption
Ana invention, creation, discovery (see corresponding verbs at invent): *implement, tool, instrument, appliance,
uten: *machine, mechanism, apparatus
contrive, devise, invent, frame, concoct mean to find a way of making or doing something or of achieving an end by
the exertion of one's mind. Contrive implies ingenuity or
cleverness in planning, designing, or in scheming; it is a
matter of indifference whether the end or object is good
or bad, since the word stresses the manner of making,
doing, or achieving rather than the character of the end
(in every deed of mischief he had a heart to resolve, a head to
contrive, and a hand to execute—Gibbon) (If we were per-
fectly satisfied with the present, we should cease to con-
trive, to labor, and to save with a view to the future—
Macaulay) (She was forced to hurry. And she had risen
that morning with plans perfectly contrived for the avoid-
ance of hurry—Bennett) (Contrive a way of helping them
without their knowing it) Deivse often comes very close to
contrive, but in general it throws more stress upon
mental effort than upon ingenuity; the term often implies
the serious reflection and experimentation that precedes the
bringing of something into being, especially something
new or quite different (Deivse new and dainty dishes for
a fastidious taste) (Deivse an engine of triple the power
(Deivse a plan of campaign) (Deivse a new method of
teaching a subject) (Grossly contriving their dear daugh-
ter's good—poor souls, and knew not what they did, but
sat ignorant, Deivising their own daughter's death—Ten-
nesson) (Leonardo was a child even ... in devising fantas-
tic toys and contriving disconcerting tricks—Ellis)
Invent, though often used interchangeably with devise,
commonly retains from its primitive senses some notion of
finding, but the term comes closer in its implication to
originating, especially after reflection and reflection, but
sometimes more quickly, as the result of a happy accident
(the telescope was invented by Galileo in 1609) (Huxley
claims to have invented the term astatic) (His pains to
invent a complete, generally unworlly terminology of his
own—Muller) (She was tired of inventing means for
making the days and nights pleasant and carelessly
variable for others—Van Vechten) Frame (see also
build) implies the exact fitting of one thing to another
(as in devising or inventing a story, a theory, or a rule);
usually the term suggests an exact fitting (as of the words
to the thought, or of the plot, character, and actions to
the story as a whole, or of the expression to the spirit,
or of the means to the end) (It will make me some time to
frame a proper reply to this letter) (Statutes ... which
must needs have been framed for some purpose or other—
Kingsley) (Never, it may be safely asserted, was a plan
of society framed so consistent, harmonious and beautiful
in itself—Dickinson) Concoct especially suggests a
bringing together of ingredients in new or unexpected
combinations, arrangements, or order so as to enhance their
effectiveness (as in writing, in imagining, or in fashioning
(from the scraps of conversation he had overheard he con-
cocted a plausible and amusing yarn) (The most horrible
monsters and torments ... his fervid imagination could con-
coct out of his own bitter experiences and the manners and
customs of his cruel times—
Elliot)
Ana plan, scheme, project (see under plan n): manipu-
late, ply, swing (see handle)
control vb direct, manage, *conduct
Ana *govern, rule: regulate, *adjust: *guide, lead, pilot,
ingineer, steer: *restrain, curb, check
control n 1 command, dominion, authority, *power,
jurisdiction, sway
Ana ascendancy, *supremacy: might, puissance, *power,
force: management, direction (see corresponding verbs
at conduct)
Con mutiny, revolt, *rebellion
2 *corrective, check, antidote
Ana regulation, *law, ordinance, rule, precept, statute,
canon
controversy dispute, *argument
Ana contention, dissension (see discord): disputation,
*argumentation, forensic, debate
controvert vb rebut, refute, *disprove, confute
Ana contravene, traverse, impugn, *deny, gainsay:
oppose, combat, fight (see resist): dispute, debate,
agitate, argue, *discuss
Ant assert — Con defend, justify, *maintain, vindicate
contumacious rebellious, *insubordinate, mutinous, sedit-
ious, factious
Ana *contrary, perverse, froward: refractory, recalci-
trant, intractable, un governable, *unruly, headstrong
Ant obedient — Con *compliant, acquiescent, resigned:
amenable, tractable, docile (see obedient)
contumelious *abusive, opprobrious, vituperative, scur-
lous
Ana insolent, overbearing, arrogant, disdainful (see
proud): humiliating, demeaning, debasing, abusing (see
abase): flouting, scoffing, jeering, sneering (see scoff)
Ant obsequious — Con complimenting or complimen-
tary, commending or commendatory, applauding (see
corresponding verbs at commend)
contusion bruise, *wound, trauma, traumatism, lesion
conundrum puzzle, riddle, enigma, problem, *mystery
convalesce *improve, recover, recuperate, gain
Ana progress, *advance: *strengthen, invigorate: *cure,
heat, remedy
convenience convention, usage, *form
convene convok, muster, *summon, summons, call, cite
Ana *gather, congregate, assemble, collect
Ant adjourn — Con disperse, *scatter, dismiss, *eject
convent *cloister, nunnery, monastery, abbey, priory
convention 1 entente, compact, pact, treaty, cartel, con-
cordat, *contract, bargain
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
conversant, versed are comparable when they mean being familiar with something; they are seldom found in attributive use. Conversant (usually followed by with) implies a familiarity with a subject or a field of knowledge or with the writings on that subject or in that field that comes from long association, long experience, frequent intercourse, or many dealings with them (like Walpole... he was thoroughly conversant with questions of finance—Lecky) {The Pilgrim's Progress} is known not only to everyone who is conversant with the other writings of the period, but to thousands, the world around, who never heard of... [Bacon's] Essays—Lowes} {British officers... must be conversant with the ways of a dozen or more castes—Rand} Versed (followed by in) may be used interchangeably with conversant or it may be used distinctively to convey not only an implication of familiarity with something, but of skill, adeptness, or proficiency (as in an art or a profession); thus, a person versed in law need not be conversant with the laws of all European countries; a specialist in forensic medicine though versed in medicine may not be conversant with all the new methods of treating pneumonia. Because of this added implication, versed is often used in combination {well-versed} {ill-versed} {poorly versed} {I don't think him deeply versed in life—Byron} {political minutemen excited by the issues of the day, informed on these issues and at the same time fully versed in the problems of the community—Humphrey} {versed in all the arts of procrastination, indolence, and evasion—A. R. Williams} Ana intimate, *familiar: informed, acquainted (see informal): *learned, erudite: adept, *proficient, skilled, expert, skillful, masterly

Ant ignorant

conversation, converse communication, communication, *intercourse, commerce, traffic, dealings, correspondence Ana conversing, talking or talk, speaking or speech (see corresponding verbs at speak)

converse vb talk, *speak
Ana *express, voice, broach, air, ventilate, vent, utter: *chat, chatter, gabble: *gossip, tattle: *discourse, descant, expatiate, dilate

converse n see conversation

converse n Converse, obverse, reverse are frequently confused when they mean something which is the opposite of another thing. Converse applies chiefly to statements or to propositions; typically it implies an interchange or transposition of the important terms (the relation of wife to husband is called the converse of the relation of husband to wife—Russell) {the converse of "none but the brave deserves the fair" is "none but the fair deserves the brave"} Converse is not to be confused with contradictory (see under opposite adj); so long as the important terms are transposed, one proposition is the converse of another whether or not it is its opposite (the feeling that society needs protection against the individual rather than the converse—Brownley) Obverse and reverse specifically apply to the two faces of a coin or medal, obverse applying to the one containing the head or principal inscription, reverse to the other; in more general use, obverse refers to the more, reverse to the less, apparent or intentionally conspicuous side or face of something (looking at the fair tapestry of Life, with its royal and even sacred figures, he dwells not on the obverse alone, but here chiefly on the reverse; and indeed turns out the rough seams, tatters, and manifold thrums of that unsightly wrong side—Carlyle) Ana opposite, contrary, antithesis, contradictory (see under opposite adj)

conversion transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, transmogrification, transfiguration (see under transform) convert vb *transform, metamorphose, transmute, transmogrify, transfigure Ana manufacture, fabricate, forge, *make: apply, utilize, employ, *use

convert n Convert, proselyte are synonyms only in being applicable to the same person. Both denote a person who has embraced another creed, opinion, or doctrine than the one he has previously accepted or adhered to. Convert commonly implies a sincere and voluntary change of belief; it is, therefore, the designation preferred by the church, the party, or the school of thought of which such a person becomes a new member (the first American novelist to become a... convert to naturalism—Malcolm Cowley) Convert is also applied to a person who undergoes the religious experience called conversion or a turning from a life of sin or indifference to one guided by religious (specifically, Christian) principles and motives. Proselyte basically denotes a convert to another religion. It is still used in reference to a convert to Judaism who manifests his sincerity and fidelity by strict adherence to religious laws and practices. In general use, however, the term may suggest less a reverent or convicted and voluntary embracing than a yielding to the persuasions and urgings of another, be it an earnest missionary or zealot or someone with less praiseworthy motives (ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte—Mt 23:15) Proselyte is often the designation chosen by the members of a church for one formerly of their number who has been converted to another faith. The term is also applied to a person won over to a party, a cause, or a way of life in which he has formerly expressed disbelief or disinterest (you agree with the rest of the married world in a propensity to make proselytes—Shenstone)

Ana neophyte, *novice

Con apostate, *renegade, backsider, recreant, turncoat

convertible reciprocal, corresponding, correlative, complementary, complementary Ana interchangeable, exchangeable (see corresponding verbs at exchange)

convey 1 transport, *carry, transmit, bear Ana *move, remove, shift, transfer: take, fetch, *bring 2 transfer, deed, alienate Ana consign, *commit, relegate

convict n *criminal, felon, malefactor, culprit, delinquent Ana miscreant, blackguard, scoundrel, *villain: offender, sinner (see corresponding nouns at offense)


Ana tenet, dogma, *doctrine: judgment, conclusion (see under infer)

convincing compelling, telling, cogent, *valid, sound Ana proving, demonstrating (see prove): persuading or persuasive, inducing (see corresponding verbs at induce): forcible, forcible, potent, *powerful

convivial companionable, *social, gregarious, hospitable, cooperative

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

_An_ sociable, genial, cordial, affable, *gracious: gay, _live: vivacious: merry, jocund, jolly, jovial: hilarious, mirthful (see corresponding nouns at _MIRTH_)

_Ant_ taciturn: said —_Con_ reserved, reticent, *silent: *serious, sober, grave, sedate, solemn, somber: asocial, _unsocial_

_converse_ convene, muster, *summon, summons, call, cite
_An_ assemble, *gather, congregate, collect: *invite, bid
_Ant_ prorogue, dissolve —_Con_ disperse, *scatter

_convoy_ vb escort, conduct, *accompany, attend, chaperon
_An_ protect, shield, guard, safeguard, *defend: *guide, lead, pilot

convulse

_rock, shake, agitate
_An_ *discompose, disturb, disquiet, perturb

_convulsion_ spasm, paroxysm, *fit, attack, access, accession

_2_ commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, turbulence, convulsion, upheaval
_An_ shaking, rocking (see _SHAKE_): quaking, trembling, tottering (see _SHAKE_): revolution, revolt, *rebellion: cataclysm, *disaster

_convulsive_ spasmodic, *fitful
_Con_ *steady, uniform, even, equable, constant

_cool_ 1 chilly, *cold, frigid, freezing, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic
_Ant_ warm

_2_ Cool, composed, collected, unruffled, imperturbable, unflappable, nonchalant are comparable when applied to persons, their manners, appearance, temper, or acts, in the sense of showing or seeming to show freedom from agitation or excitement. Cool (see also _COLD_) basically implies such self-control that no hint is given of any emotion or motive that might warm, inflame, excite, or impassion. Specifically, it may further imply detachment or dispassionateness <modest youth, with _cool_ reflection crowned—_Pope_> my work, I am often told, is _cool_ and serene, entirely reasonable and free of passion—_Ellis_ or calm courage in assault or under attack <soldiers _cool_ under fire> or deliberateness or determination in gaining one's ends <the _coquette_ [Queen Elizabeth I] of the presence chamber became the _coolest_ and hardest of politicians at the council board—_J. R. Green_> or calm assurance or effrontery <the sudden change in her voice, from _cool_ imperial arrogance to terrified pleading—_Graves_> or actual or seeming indifference <a _cool_ lover>

_Composed_ implies the freedom from signs of agitation or excitement that is characteristic of a decorous sedate temperament or is the result of self-discipline (in her _composed_, schooled manner she despised and disliked both father and daughter exceedingly—_Conrad_> she was _composed_ without bravado, contrite without sanctimoniousness—_Reppier_> she was pale, and looked as if she hadn't slept, but _composed_, as she always is—_Rose Macaulay_)

_Collected_ stresses a concentration of the mind or spirit with resulting elimination of all distractions; otherwise it differs little from _composed_. <be _collected_: no remnant of _Shak._> Mrs. Hawthorne wore her _collected_ Sunday expression, and Tony knew that she did not allow them to talk of mundane affairs on these expeditions to and from church—_Archibald Marshall_> <the _Queen_ . . . remained, as she herself said, "very much _collected_; civil and high, and betrayed no agitation"—_Sitwell_>

_Unruffled_ implies coolness, placidity, and often, poise, in the midst of excitement or when there is cause for agitation (while others fretted and fumed, he remained _unruffled_) (her mind was _unruffled_ by the spiritual problems which were vexing the minds around her—_J. R. Lewis_> <an efficient organizer, smooth and _unruffled_—_Flora Lewis_>

_Imperturbable_ implies such coolness and assurance that one cannot be abashed, annoyed, disconcerted, alarmed, or otherwise disturbed; it usually implies a temperamental rather than an acquired frame of mind <Franklin's _imperturbable_ common sense—_Arnold_> <a very good-looking, rosy little man with . . . a soft voice and a manner of _imperturbable_ urbanity—_H. G. Wells_>

_Unflappable_ is a somewhat informal synonym of _imperturbable_, and like the latter stresses ability to resist what tends to disturb (from his encounters with lions and hippos . . . Mr. Hillaby emerges _unflappable_ and subtly triumphant—_Times Lit. Sup._> 〈an _unflappable_ debater, he never let a Soviet accusation go unanswered—_Newsweek_〉 〈an _unflappable_ management of affairs that might otherwise become bothersome—_Wicker_〉

_Nonchalant_ stresses an easy coolness of manner or casualness that suggests indifference or unconcern; it often connotes lightheartedness or offhandedness <_God_ . . . knows, if he is not as indifferent to mortals as the _nonchalant_ deities of Lucretius—_Byron_> <at the back [of the ambulance], haughty in white uniform, _nonchalant_ on a narrow seat, was _The Doctor_— _Sinclair Lewis_> 〈he walked in a _nonchalant_ fashion—_D. H. Lawrence_〉

_An_ *calm, tranquil, serene, placid: detached, aloof, *indifferent: *impassive, stoic, phlegmatic
_Ant_ ardent: agitated —_Con_ fervid, fervent, passionate, per fervid, *impassioned: perturbed, discomposed, disturbed, upset, flustered, flurried (see _DISCOMPOSE_)

_coop vb_ *enclose, enclose, fence, pen, corral, cage, wall
_An_ confine, circumscribe, *limit, restrict: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar

_cooperative_ conjoin, *unite, combine
_An_ coincide, *agree, concur

_Ant_ counteract —_Con_ *neutralize, negative: *nullify, negate, annul

_cooperative_ *social, companionable, gregarious, convivial, hospitable
_An_ sociable, cordial, genial, affable, *gracious: helping or helpful, aiding, assisting (see corresponding verbs at _HELP_)

_uncooperative_ —_Con_ *unsocial, asocial

_cop vb_ *steal, filch, pinch, snitch, swipe, lift, pilfer, purloin
_An_ *associate, companion, comrade

_copious_ *plentiful, abundant, ample, plentiful
_An_ *profuse, lavish, exuberant, prodigal, luxuriant, lush

_meager_ —_Con_ scanty, scant, scrimpy, sparse, exig uous, spare (see _MEAGER_): *thin, slight, tenuous, slim, slender

_copy n_ *reproduction, duplicate, carbon, carbon copy, transcript, facsimile, replica
_An_ counterpart, *parallel: imprint, print, *impression, impress: *image, effigy

_Ant_ original

_copy vb_ _Copy_ imitate, mimic, ape, mock mean to make something like an already existing thing in form, appearance, or obvious or salient characteristics. _Copy_ implies duplication of an original and thereby as close a resemblance as is possible under the circumstances ( _copy_ a letter) 〈_copy_ Da Vinci's "_Mona Lisa"〉 ( _copy_ the clothes of a fashionable designer) 〈_later_ examples of the Greek revival travestied the classic style rather than _imitate_ it—_Amer. Guide Series: Mass._〉

_Imitate_ stresses following something as a pattern or model; it does not therefore preclude variations from the original; thus, a writer who _imitates_ Keats may merely _echo_ enough of that poet's rhythms, images, or sentiments to produce poetry reminiscent of Keats. _Imitate_ may imply emulation (_she_ slept for hours in the daytime, _imitating_ the cats—_Stafford_>) 〈_imitated_ the example of his elders〉 or it may imply
representation in another medium (art imitates nature) or the dramatist imitates life or the music imitates a storm or it may imply simulation (fabrics that imitate leather) or their pots seemed to imitate leather vessels—Childé

Mimic usually implies an exact copying, especially of a person's movements, gestures, voice, mannerisms, sometimes for the sake of making sport of them, but often with the intention of giving a lifelike representation of them (I am sure I repeat her words, though I cannot mimic either the voice or air with which they were spoken—Fielding) The word sometimes suggests a counterfeit clever enough to seem real; it therefore often implies the skill of an actor (I might mimic a passion that I do not feel, but I cannot mimic one that burns me like fire—Wilde) he learned to call wild turkeys with a piece of bone—through which he was able to mimic the notes of the bird—Brooks Ape also implies close copying sometimes seriously, sometimes in the spirit of mimicry (in dress and habits, ape the Arabs around them—G. W. Murray)

Often it suggests an attempt to emulate what one admires and then may connote such failure of the attempt as is likely to subject one to contempt (the lower classes aped the rigid decorum of their "betters" with laughable results—Harrison Smith)

Mock commonly adds to mimic the implication of a derisive intent. It often distinctively suggests immediate repetition of the words or actions mimicked (mocked his teacher) the babbling echo mocks the hounds—Shak.

her shadow still glowered about . . . as though . . . to mock behind her back—Keats (she contended every point, objected to every request, shirked her work, fought with her sisters, mocked her mother—Mead)

Ant originate

correct vb correct, rectify, emend, remedy, redress, amend, reform, revise mean to set or make right something which is wrong. One corrects something which is inaccurate, untrue, or imperfect or which contains errors, faults, or defects, when one by substitutions brings it into conformity with a standard or rule of accuracy, truth, or perfection (corrected his mistakes in pronunciation) (correct printers' proofs) (appellate jurisdiction . . . revise and correct the proceedings in a cause already instituted—John Marshall) Also, one corrects a person when one points out his errors or faults for disciplinary purposes (see also PUNISH) (she's been with me such a long time . . . She takes liberties. I've corrected her once or twice—Bennett) One thing corrects another thing when the former serves to counteract or neutralize the bad effect of the latter (alkaline tablets to correct stomach acidity) (his head corrects his heart in the choice of friends)

One rectifies something which requires straightening out or ordering because it deviates from the rule or standard of what is right, just, equitable, or properly controlled or directed (rectify a mistake in an account) (rectify an error of judgment) (reason is here no guide, but still a guard: 'tis hers to rectify, not overthrow, and treat this passion more as friend than foe—Pope) an incredible, disgraceful blunder, which should be rectified at the earliest possible moment—New Republic) One emends a thing when one frees it from error or defects; specifically an editor emends a corrupt text when he replaces doubtful readings with others that are judged to be closer to the original or to the intention of the author (the eighteenth-century editors of Shakespeare freely emended the texts of his plays)

One remedies something which is a source of evil or harm when one makes such corrections as will either bring about its eradication or restore what is harmed to a normal, sound, or prosperous condition (the crime can never be remedied, it can only be expiated—Day Lewis) remedy an abuse of a privilege (remedy the maladministration of relief) remedy a social evil) One redresses something which involves unfairness, injustice, or lack of proper balance; the word usually suggests reparation or compensation (there is no calamity which right words will not begin to redress—Emerson) (the wrongs that were to be righted, the grievances to be redressed, the abuses to be done away with—Muggeridge)

One amends something when one makes such corrections or changes in it that it is bettured or raised to a higher standard (amend his life) (the work once done he could not or would not amend it—Yeats) (laws that are not repealed are amended and amended—Shaw) One reforms something when one makes drastic changes in it in an attempt to eliminate imperfections; the word usually implies a new form or character (reform the church) (the fact is that the world does not care to be reformed . . . This makes the way of the improver hard—Crothers)

One revises something when one looks it over to discover where it requires correction or amendment and makes the necessary changes (revise a book before its second printing) (revise a state constitution) (there can be no doubt as to the jurisdiction of this court to revise the judgment of a Circuit Court—Taney)

One *improve, better, ameliorate: offset, *compensate, countervail, counterbalance, balances; *neutralize, counteract: *adjust, regulate, fix: *reprove, reprimand, admonish, chide

Con impair, spoil, mar, *injure, damage, harm, hurt: aggravate, *intensify

2 discipline, *punish, chastise, chasten, castigate

Con *indulge, pamper, spoil, humor, baby: condone, *excuse

Correct adj Correct, accurate, exact, precise, nice, right are comparable when meaning conforming to standard, fact, or truth. Correct, the most colorless term, implies scarcely more than freedom from fault or error, as judged by some (usually) conventional or acknowledged standard
Corrective, control, check, antidote are corrective remedial, restorative, sanative, *curative adj

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

taste—

Corrective which will neutralize or nullify these effects is necessary (there is no antidote against the opium of time—Browne) <the whole truth is the best antidote to falsehoods which are dangerous chiefly because they are half-truths—Coleridge> correlative n *parallel, analogue, counterpart correlative adj corresponding, complementary, complemental, *reciprocal, convertible correspond *agree, square, accord, tally, jibe, harmonize, conform

Costly adj —Con invalidate, negate, *nullify corrupt vb deprave, debauch, pervert, *debase

Corrective adjremedial, restorative, sanative, *curative

Corrective n Corrective, control, check, antidote are comparable in their extended senses where they denote something which serves to keep another thing in its desired place or condition. Corrective is applied to an agency or influence which keeps true a thing that is subject to aberration or deviation, or which rectifies or remedies a departure in it from truth, balance, soundness, or health <the sight of the product [of our work] put to its full uses. . . is the best corrective to our blunders—Suzallo> <a salutary corrective to the sometimes facile optimism and mass-hypnotized rhetoric of the revolutionary poets—Day Lewis> Control is applied to a predetermined device, rule, agency, or procedure which sets a guard upon a person or thing so as to prevent his or its overpassing prescribed limits or so as to enable him or it to be discovered if in error <the Constitution of the United States sets up various controls for the three branches of government, such as the veto power of the president> <a scientific investigator sets up a control for an experiment when he provides a means (usually a similar experiment identical in all but one factor) for testing the accuracy of his findings> <the only government controls authorized by law are marketing quotas—New Republic> Check is applied to something which affords a means of securing or insuring accuracy, uniformity in quality, or the maintenance of a standard <duplicate records are kept by different clerks as a check upon each other> <by means of statewide examinations of pupils, the regents keep a check on the efficiency of the schools> <any arbitrary formula too rigidly adhered to may endanger good writing, but a good set of principles used as a check and an aid may be very helpful—Mott> Antidote, basically a remedy that counteracts a poison, implies that harm has been done and that a corrective which will neutralize or nullify these effects is necessary (there is no antidote against the opium of time—Browne) <the whole truth is the best antidote to falsehoods which are dangerous chiefly because they are half-truths—Coleridge>
expensive applies chiefly to something which is high-priced, especially with the implication of a cost beyond the thing's value or the buyer's means. An expensive suit of clothes.<br>

The father . . . was unable to give the child as expensive an education as he had desired—Froude. Both costly and expensive may also be applied to whatever involves great losses or is a drain upon one's resources, not only in money but in such matters as time, effort, or health—Stefansson. The rat is expensive to get rid of, but even more expensive to maintain—Heiser. Dear is opposed to cheap and commonly suggests a high, often an exorbitant, price or excessive cost; usually it implies a relation to other factors than the intrinsic worth of a thing. Butter is cheap when it is plentiful, and dear when it is scarce—Shaw. Relatively high wages of building labor bring dearer housing—Hobson. Their stout resistance was destitute of cost—Motley. Valuable when applied to things which have monetary value usually suggests the price they will bring in a sale or exchange (the most valuable dog in the kennel) (he stores away all his valuable effects). Dogs are ruined—Motley. Valuable when applied to things that are humanly but biologically useless—Krutch. Precious originally came closer in meaning to costly than to valuable, of which it is now a very close synonym. But it carries a heightened implication of worth and often applies to something or someone whose value can scarcely be computed in terms of money. Precious friends hid in death's dateless night—Shak. Happy is the man who findeth wisdom . . . she is more precious than rubies—Prov 3:13-15. To any one who has ever looked on the face of a dead child or parent the mere fact that precious is somewhat old-fashioned in general use, usually stresses a counting one by one (look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them—Gen 15:5). All told there were 27 public schools (Jones). Or it may suggest a lingering counting interspersed with meditation on each unit counted (thus he . . . like beads in the memories of his days—Powes). Tell, which is somewhat old-fashioned in general use, usually stresses a counting one by one (look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them—Gen 15:5). All told there were 27 public schools (Jones). Or it may suggest a lingering counting interspersed with meditation on each unit counted (thus he . . . like beads in the memories of his days—Powes). Tell is more common in current use in the collocation tell off which adds to the notion of counting that of setting apart the units counted (old off a detail and put them to opening a trench—Dobie). Enumerate implies a listing or mentioning of each one in a series not only that their total may be ascertained, but that they may be individually known or specified (enumerate the powers of the supreme court) (enumerate the species of plants found on an island) (enumerate the various dishes served at a dinner). Number is a somewhat literary equivalent of either count or enumerate: in some uses it carries an additional suggestion of allotment or limit (the days of every man are numbered) (the number the flowers of the field) (but even the very hairs of your head are all numbered—Lk 12:7) (his hosts of blind and unresisting dupes the despot numbers—Shelley).
counteractive

**counteractive**
- counter, *adverse, antagonistic*

**Ana**
- countervailing, countervailingness, countering, counteringness, counteringnessness, counteringnessnessness
- countervailing, countervailingness, countervailingnessness, countervailingnessnessness
- countering, counteringness, counteringnessness, counteringnessnessness
- counteringnessnessnessness

**counterbalance**
- vb offset, *compensate, countervail, balance, counterpoise

**Ana**
- *stabilize, steady, poise: correct (sense 1)*

**Con**
- *overturn, upset, capsize

**counterfeit**
- vb feign, sham, simulate, pretend, *assume, counterfeit:
  - offset, *compensate, countervail, vb

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

brave, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant

courteous polite, civil, courtly, gallant, chivalrous

vb invite, woo, bid, solicit

courtesy, amenity, attention, gallantry are comparable

to quit a comrade on the road, and to quite
now—it is too much for a woman of any
courage, implies firmness of mind and
spirit... of a thousand little
ceremonious, formal, conventional, ceremonial:
considerateness or consideration, attentiveness, thoughtfulness (see corre-
spending adjectives at THOUGHTFUL)
Ant discourtesy—Con churlishness, boorishness (see corre-
sponding adjectives under BOOR): rudeness, impolite-
ness, ungraciousness, incivility (see corresponding adjectives at RUDE)

courteous

polite, civil, courtly, gallant, chivalrous

Anna analogous words | Ant antonyms | Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
the emphasis is upon one of these implications, the basic idea being obscured (their advance was covered by squadrons of airplanes) (he covered his anxiety by joining in the laugh) (there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed—Mt 10:26) In still another sense cover implies an extending so far as to include, embrace, or comprise something (left scarcely enough money to cover his debts) (this point has already been covered in the argument) (Chaucer’s life covered the last sixty years of the fourteenth century) (I think your statement covers the matter completely) (a situation not covered by the rules) Overspread usually implies a covering by something that diffuses itself or spreads over a surface; the word carries no clear implication of concealing, sheltering, or protecting, but it does suggest the activity of something that flows, expands, or scatters until the entire surface is covered (clouds overspread the sky) (the ground is overspread with weeds) (a blush overspread his face) (the rising waters quickly overspread the valley) Envelop suggests the presence or addition of something that surrounds and therefore covers or nearly covers a person or thing on all sides; it is often used of a gas or a liquid or of clothing (enveloped in a fur overcoat) (enveloped in water up to his chin) (till the sweet . . . incense-laden atmosphere . . . enveloped her like a warm and healing garment—Rose Macaulay) Envelop lends itself to extension and often connotes something impalpable or intangible as the enveloping element (words stir our feelings . . . through their enveloping atmosphere of associations—Lowes) (we are surely justified in . . . calling the spiritual presence which envelops us the spirit of Christ—Inge) Wrap comes very close to envelop in meaning, but it suggests something that folds or winds about so as to enclose rather than surround; the difference, although sometimes slight, is usually important to idiomatic usage; thus, one wraps (better than envelops) oneself in blankets or one wraps up (not envelops) several bars of soap (a closely wrapped female figure approached—Hardy) In extended use wrap usually suggests something that enfolds, enshrouds, or entangles (all the household were wrapped in slumber) (the place was suddenly wrapped in darkness when the lights gave out) (he found the roots of the poplar wrapped closely about the drainpipe) (the mother was wrapped up in the welfare of her son) Shroud and veil, in their extended senses, imply a covering that protects, conceals, or disguises, but shroud usually emphasizes the density and veil the comparative tenuity of the surrounding element (the queen, shrouded in deepest mystery—Carlyle) (its proceedings were impenetrably shrouded from the public eye—Prescott) (the hills, shrouded in grey mist—Buchan) (their [women’s] beauty, softened by the lawn that thinly veiled it—Radcliffe) (her eyes were quick under a faint dimness that merely veiled their vigor—Roberts)

An *hide, conceal, screen: *close, shut: *enclose, enshroud, shelter, protect, *defend
Ant bare —Con expose, exhibit, display (see show): evince, demonstrate, manifest, *show

Cover *shelter, retreat, refuge, asylum, sanctuary
Ant hiding or hiding place, concealment, screening or screen (see corresponding verbs at HIDE): safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at SAFE)

Covert *secret, clandestine, surreptitious, underground, underhanded, stealthy, furtive
Ant hidden, concealed, screened (see HIDE): disguised, dissembled, masked, cloaked, camouflaged (see DISGUISE vb)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
con  197  cedence

Con  animate, *quicken, vivify, enliven: cringe, cower, *fawn
cower  cringe, truckle, *fawn, toady  Ana  shrink, quail, flinch, blench, wince, *recoil
cow  bull, buldozo, browbeat, *intimidate: *strut, swagger, bristle
coxcomb  *top, dandy, beau, exquisite, dude, buck
coy  bashful, *shy, diffident, modest  Ant  pert —Con  *sassy, arch: brazen, brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS)
cozen  *cheat, defraud, swindle, overreach  Coxcomb  fop, dandy, beau, exquisite, dude, buck  Ant  pert  —Con  *sassy, arch: brazen, brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS)
cower  bashful, *shy, diffident, modest  Ant  pert —Con  *sassy, arch: brazen, brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS)

— Contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
ing or acceptance, admitting or admission, receiving or reception (see corresponding verbs at RECEIVE): assenting or assent, acquiescing or acquiescence (see corresponding verbs at ASSENT): reliance, confidence, *trust, faith
Con doubt, *uncertainty, skepticism: mistrust, *distrust: disbelief, *unbelief, incredulity credible, testimonial, recommendation, character, reference mean something presented by one person to another in proof that he is what or who he claims to be. Credential (usually in the plural credentials) implies material evidence and especially a letter or document indicating that a person (occasionally a thing) is what he claims (or it seems) to be; the term was originally and is still used of the letter from the sovereign or head of one state to another carried by a new envoy or ambassador and formally presented to the sovereign or head of the state in which he is to serve (an envoy extraordinary from Savoy . . . presented his credentials in the Banqueting House—Macaulay) The term is often used of a letter presented to show competency or to attest identity, or of statements made or acts performed that serve as proof of what is to follow (if we turn out to be poor managers of our own affairs, we will have inferior credentials to present abroad—W. O. Douglas) The putative Proofs of the right business, who may or may not die of old age before his credentials as an archfiend are established—Lardner} these statements I put forward by way of credentials for a comparison which I purpose to make—Grandgent} Testimonial usually implies a written statement from a person competent to judge the character, qualifications, or merits of another and to testify to his fitness to hold or to fill an office or a position (six testimonials were received affirming his fitness for the ministry) (selected what seemed to me from the testimonials to be the two best men—Crofts) However, the word is often used as an equivalent of recommendation, a term which implies that the statement comes from one (as a former employer or teacher) who commends a person to the notice of a possible employer (armed with several recommendations he started out to seek a job) Character, which in this sense is used chiefly in Great Britain, is the designation given to a statement furnished by a former employer about the qualities and habits of a person as manifested while in his employ (then came . . . the coachman, the grooms, the sweeper. For each and all of these I had to write characters—John Lang) Although reference may imply no more than the giving of the name of a person from whom information regarding another may be obtained (as by a possible employer or landlord) it increasingly tends to be employed as a synonym of recommendation or character (Mrs. Blank told the woman she would let her know when she had examined her references) (she had lost all her references and was afraid to apply for a job)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
intolerable slowness {tomorrow, and tomorrow, and to-
morrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day—
Shak.} {that sad, disappointing, disillusioning . . .
war crawled through that bitter winter of defeat—Rose
Macaulay} Both often imply a slow movement of a
person, especially into another's favor or into a
given status or position, but creep usually suggests stealthy
and insinuating methods {creep along the hedge-bottoms,
an' thou'll be a bishop yet—Tennyson} {even in later
and more enlightened times, the study of literature has
crept its way into official Cambridge—Quiller-Couch}
and crawl, procedure by awkwardness, servility, cringing,
or groveling {Cranmer . . . hath crawled into the favor
of the king—Shak.} {pomp-fed king . . . art thou not the
veriest slave that e'er crawled on the loathing earth?
—Shelley} Both also imply a sensation such as might
be produced by lice, fleas, or other human or animal
parasites, but creep suggests a shivering, nervous
reaction, and crawl, an intense feeling of distress and dis-
comfort {something in their countenances that made my
flesh creep with a horror I cannot express—Swift} {his
flesh was crawling with the need of alcohol—Doherty}
crevasse *crack, cleft, fissure, crevice, cranny, chink
Ana chasm, *gulf: *break, split, rent, rift
crevise *crack, cleft, fissure, crevasse, cranny, chink
Ana *break, split, rift, rent: *break, gap
crime *offense, vice, sin, scandal
Ana *fault, failing, frailty, foible, vice
Con virtue, *excellence, merit, perfection
criminal n Criminal, felon, convict, malefactor, culprit,
delinquent mean, in common, one guilty of a transgression
or an offense especially against the law. Criminal design-
ates one who commits some serious violation of the law,
of public trust, or of common decency, as vicious unwar-
ranted attack, embezzlement, or murder. Felon, the legal
term for one popularly called a criminal, designates one
 guilty of a felony, which used with legal exactness covers
all lawbreaking punishable by death or prolonged con-
fine ment (as in a state penitentiary) and is distinguished
from a misdemeanor {men were transported with the worst
felons for poaching a few hares or pheasants—Shaw}
{the casual or accidental felon who is impelled into a
misdeed by force of circumstances—Banany} Convict
basically denotes one convicted of a crime or felony
but has come more generally to signify any person serving
a long prison term {the stranger turned out to be a con-
vict who had escaped on the way to prison} {a riot
among convicts in a state penitentiary} Malefactor
signifies one who has committed an evil deed or serious
offense but suggests little or no relation to courts or punish-
ment {most of our malefactors, from statesmen to thieves
—T. S. Eliot} {a malefactor robbing small stores at night
and setting fire to them} Culprit often carries the weak-
ened sense of one guilty of a crime {after the series
of crimes, the police tried for several weeks to find
the culprit} but more generally either suggests a trivial
fault or offense, especially of a child {the culprits were
two boys, one about twelve years old, the other about
ten—Green Peyton} or applies to a person or thing that
causes some undesirable condition or situation {another
group of supposed culprits who are being blamed for the
present inflationary situation—Waage} {the culprit
holding up world peace and understanding—Lyddgate}
Delinquent applies to an offender against duty or the law
especially in a degree not constituting crime; in its present
semilegal use, in application to juvenile offenders against
civil or moral law, it usually implies a habitual tendency
to commit certain offenses and contrasts with criminal
in implying a sociological or psychological rather than
judicial attitude toward the offender {whether a customer
who has missed a payment is . . . a habitual delinquent
—Phelps} {we label as delinquents those who do not con-
form to the legal and moral codes of society—Federal
Probation} Ana offender, sinner (see corresponding nouns at
OFFENSE): transgressor, trespasser, violator (see corre-
sponding nouns at BREACH)
cringe cower, truckle, *fawn, toady
Ana *recoil, quail, flinch, bлеч, wince: bow, cave,
*yield, submit, defer
cripple vb 1 *maim, mutilate, batter, mangle
Ana *injure, hurt
2 disable, *weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, undermine, sap
Ana damage, harm, impair, mar (see INJURE)
crisis exigency, emergency, pinch, *juncture, pass,
contingency, strait
crisp brittle, short, friable, *fragile, frangible
Con *limp, flabby, flaccid
2 clear-cut, cutting, *incisive, trenchant, biting
Ana terse, pithy, laconic, succinct, *concise: piquing,
stimulating, provoking or provocative (see corresponding
verbs at PROVOKE)
criterion *standard, touchstone, yardstick, gauge
Ana test, proof, trial, demonstration (see under PROVE):
*principle, axiom, law: judging or judgment, adjudgment,
adjudication (see corresponding verbs at JUDGE)
critical 1 Critical, hypercritical, faultfinding, captious,
caviling, carping, censorious are comparable when they
mean exhibiting the spirit of one who detects and points
out faults or defects. Critical, when applied to persons
who judge and to their judgments, is the one of these
terms that may imply an effort to see a thing clearly, truly,
and impartially so that not only the good in it may be
distinguished from the bad and the perfect from the imperfect,
but also that it as a whole may be fairly judged or valued
(a tête-à-tête with a man of similar tastes, who is just
and yet sympatetic, critical yet appreciative . . . is a high
intellectual pleasure—Benson) Critical may also imply a
keen awareness of faults or imperfections with often the
suggestion of loss of fairness in judgment {the attitude
of Euripides towards the popular religion is . . . clearly
and frankly critical—Dickinson} the vast audience
. . . was wont to be exceedingly critical. Bungling work
drew down upon the headsmen the execrations of the mob,
and not infrequently placed his own life in danger—
Replier) When this loss of fairness is to be implied or
when the judge's undue awareness of defects and over-
emphasis of them is to be suggested, writers often prefer
hypercritical to critical {the audience that night was,
as the actors soon knew, hypercritical} he was . . .
exceedingly difficult to please, not . . . because he was
hypercritical and exacting, but because he was indifferent
—Bennett} {constant hypercritical belittling of the
efforts of others—Rosen & Kiene} Faultfinding some-
times takes the place of critical, sometimes of hyper-
critical, but usually suggests less background, less ex-
perience, or less fastidiousness than either; it is there-
fore frequently used when an unreasonably exacting or
a querulous temperament is also to be suggested
{a continually faultfinding reviewer of books} {a fault-
finding parent} {Mrs. Stebbins's book would be better
throughout for a more critical (I don't mean faultfinding)
account of her authors' works—Bentley} Captious
implies a readiness, usually a temperamental readiness,
to detect trivial faults or to take exceptions on slight
grounds, because one is either unduly exacting or perversely
hard to please {is it captious to say that, when Manoah's
locks are called “white as down,” whiteness is no characteristic of down?—Landor <after reading a work of such amplitude it seems captious to protest that the motivating forces . . . are inadequately analyzed—Bruin

Caviling usually implies a captious disposition but stresses the habit or act of raising picayune or petty objections <cavilling legislators who delay the passage of a bill> <the most caviling mind must applaud their devoted sense of duty—Willis> <those cavilling critics who snipe from the musty back rooms of libraries—Ramsdell> Carping, far more than hypercritical or faultfinding, implies ill-natured or perverse picking of flaws and often in addition suggests undue emphasis upon them as blameworthy <and to that end we wished your lordship here, to avoid the carpings censure of the world—Shak> <that carpings spirit in which she had been wont to judge of his actions—Trollope> Censorious implies a disposition or a tendency to be both severely critical and condemnatory of what one criticizes <such is the mode of these censorious days, the art is lost of knowing how to praise—Sheffield>

Ana judicious (see WISE): *judicial: fastidious, finicky, particular, *nice, fussy, squeamish: discriminating, discerning, penetrating (see corresponding nouns at DISCERNMENT): understanding, comprehending, appreciating (see UNDERSTAND)

Ant uncritical —Con *superficial, shallow, cursory 2 crucial, *acute

Ana decisive, determinative, *conclusive: momentous, consequential, weighty, significant, important (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE)

criticism, critique, review, blurb, puff are comparable when meaning a discourse (as an essay or report) presenting one’s conclusions after examining a work of art and especially of literature. None of these terms has a clearly established and narrowly delimited meaning, but, in general, each can be distinguished from the others with reference to its leading implications and its place in usage. Criticism is of all these terms the most nearly neutral and the least capable of carrying derogatory connotations. The proper aim and the content of a criticism have never been definitely fixed and are still subjects of controversy, but the term usually implies an author who is expected to have expert knowledge in his field, a clear definition of his standards of judgment, and an intent to evaluate the work under consideration <read every criticism of a new play the following its first performance> Criticism is more often applied to the art, craft, or collective writings of such writers or speakers than to the individual article <this feeling, that contemporary judgments are apt to turn out a little ludicrous . . . has converted much criticism of late from judgment has converted much of a new play the day following its first performance> <we are trying to get away from the word “management” because it has been lambasted, ridiculed, criticized, and blasted—Personnel Jour> Reprehend in present-day English takes a person as an object far less often than a thing, a quality, or an action. In such use it not only explicitly suggests the approach of a critic and his disapproval but implies a more or less severe rebuke <reprehend not the imperfection of others—Washington> <the thing to be reprehended is the confusing misuse of the word “verse”—Grandgent> Blame fundamentally implies speaking in dispraise of a person or thing rather than in his or its favor; in general it also suggests the mental approach of a critic or detector of faults <some judge of authors' names, not works, and then blame them—Arnold> <blamed them—Arnold> <Aristotle, while blaming the man who is unduly passionate, blames equally the man who is insensitive—Dickinson> Blame sometimes loses much of its opposition to praise and then may strongly convey an imputation or accusation of wrongdoing <one cannot blame starving children who steal food> or of guilt <there is no one to blame but yourself> Again blame may connote ultimate responsibility rather than actual guiltiness and then can take a thing as well as a person for its object <the German family, whose patriarchical authoritarianism has been blamed . . . for militarism and despotism—Padover> <the drugfiend will get drugs somewhere: if he finds his poppy and mandragora in poetry, you must blame his habit, not the poet—Day Lewis> Since blame no longer invariably implies the simple reverse of commendation, censure is usually preferred to blame as the antonym of praise. This word carries a stronger suggestion of authority or competence in the critic or judge than does
The text contains a critique and includes antonyms and synonyms for various words. The critique touches on themes of judgment, criticism, and evaluation. It also includes usage notes for words like "condemn," "censure," and "censure." The text discusses the implications of public declaration and the nature of public opinion. It also touches on the subjective nature of criticism and the role of the critic in shaping public perception. The text includes a variety of word pairs, such as "criticism, review, blurb, puff," "comrade, companion, associate," and "knit, weave, plait, braid, tat." The critique also includes a discussion of the verb "crochet."
crucial

\(\text{a mob . . . which pulled down all our prisons—Burke}\)

Especially in the United States and in Australia mob may be employed as an intensive of crowd, sometimes implying more disorganization (it is the tendency of a large crowd to become a mob) but at other times denoting merely an extremely large crowd (you could scarcely call it a crowd; it was a mob). In theatrical use mob applies to any large and manifestly agitated crowd of persons that has to be directed as a unit to achieve the proper or the intended effects. Rout applies to an especially disorderly or tumultuous mob. A hirpling rout scraped together from the drags of the people—Milton (the busy rout of the street could be seen. He loved the changing panorama of the street—Dreiser). Horde usually applies to an assemblage or to a multitude massed together. It is sometimes preferred to crowd, throng, mob, or rout when a contemptuous term is desired, especially one that suggests the rude, rough, or savage character of the individuals who constitute the multitude or mass (hordes of small boys roving through the streets) (the horde of excursionists took possession of the beach) (hordes of sturdy rogues and vagrants—Fussell). Ana *multitude, army, host, legion

**crucial** critical, *acute

Ana threatening, menacing (see THREATEN): trying, afflicting, torturing or torturous (see corresponding verbs at AFFLICT)

**crude** rude, rough, uncouth, raw, callow, green

Ana primitive, primeval (see PRIMARY): *immature, unmastered: *coarse, vulgar, gross

Ant consummated, finished — Con cultivated, refined, cultured (see corresponding nouns at CULTURE): *mature, mellow, adult: matured, developed, ripened (see MATURE

**crueal** inhuman, fell, *fierce, truculent, ferocious, barbarous, savage

Ana atrocious, *outrageous, monstrous, heinous: *brutal, bestial: merciless, relentless, implacable, *grim

Ant pitiful — Con compassionate, *tender, sympathetic: merciful, clement, *forbearing, lenient: humane (see CHARITABLE)

**crusade** n voyage, trip, *journey, jaunt, excursion, expedition, pilgrimage

**crumble** disintegrate, decompose, *decay, rot, putrefy, spoil

**crush** vb 1 Crush, mash, smash, bruise, squash, macerate are comparable when they mean to reduce or be reduced to a pulp or broken mass. Crush implies a compressing between two hard or resistant surfaces that succeeds, usually, in destroying the shape and integrity of the mass; the result depends on the texture of what is crushed, whether it is permanently deformed and destroyed, broken into fragments, or capable of springing back into shape (crushed her fingers between the rollers of a mangle) (the ostrich) leaveth her eggs in the earth . . . and forgetth that the foot may crush them—Job 39:14-15) (many persons were crushed to death in the panic) (this hat crushes easily) (the crushed leaves of mint have a strong smell) Mash implies the beating or pounding of something, often deliberately, to a soft pulp; in this sense mash may come close to crush in meaning (this hand shall . . . mash all his bones—Pope) but it is more often used in reference to the preparation of certain vegetables and fruits in the kitchen by similar means (mash cooked potatoes) (mash strawberries for jam) Mash carries a stronger implication of violence in implying a force that shatters or batters; it also often suggests the uselessness for all purposes of what is smashed (smash a bottle to bits) (the upshot of which, was, to smash this witness like a crockery vessel, and shiver his part of the case to useless lumber—Dickens) (his hair was black and close-cut; his skin indurated; and the bridge of his nose smashed level with his face—Shaw). Bruise, though more commonly used in reference to an injury of the flesh, also carries a sense related to that of crush, smash, or mash in which it implies the pressing or beating of something so as to break it down with the effect of setting the juices running or of softening the fibers (nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hooves of hostile paces—Shak.) (some scatt'ring pot-herbs . . . bruised with vervain—Dryden). Squash differs from the preceding words chiefly in its applicability to objects that are very soft (as through overripeness or immaturity) or that require little effort to crush by pressure (every pear that fell from the tree was squashed) (he squashed under his foot every beetle he could find). Macerate is used chiefly in reference to a process of steeping something in a liquid so as to soften or detach its fibers or to wear away its soft parts; the softening or detachment of fibers is chiefly emphasized, and macerate often refers to a step in an industrial process or to a part of a digestive process (macerate rags as the first step in papermaking) (corn is macerated in the gizzard of a fowl). The term may, however, imply a wearing away of the soft part from whatever cause; it particularly suggests a wasting away of the body (as through fasting or worry) (the fierce unrest, the deathless flame, that slowly macerates my frame—Martin).

Ana *press, squeeze, crowd, jam: batter, mangle, *maim: *beat, pound

2 Crush, quell, extinguish, suppress, quench, quash are comparable when they mean to bring to an end by destroying or defeating. Crush in this sense takes from its basic meaning the implication of being destroyed or injured severely by pressure from without, but it differs in being more often applied to immaterial than to material things and in implying a force at work that makes for the destruction of effective opposition or operation especially by preventing resistance or by depriving of the freedom necessary for expansion or thriving (truth, crush to earth, shall rise again—Bryant) (the free play of passion and thought, the graces and arts of life . . . were crushed out of existence under this stern and rigid rule—Dickinson) (the mere volume of work was enough to crush the most diligent of rulers—Buchan). Quell means to overwhelm completely and reduce wholly to submission, to inactivity, or to passivity; the term may be used in respect to people or animals or to (usually immaterial) things; thus, one may quell a riot or the rioters; quell a mutiny or the mutineers (the nation obeyed the call, ralled round the sovereign, and enabled him to quell the disaffected minority—Macaulay) (had some difficulty in quelling the tumult that arose when the bell was answered—Shaw). Extinguish (see also ABOLISH) implies an end as sudden or as complete as the blowing out of a candle or the putting out of a fire with water (the sudden and soon extinguished genius of Marlowe—T. S. Eliot) (lives that were to be extinguished in Hitler's gas chambers—Deutscher). Suppress differs from crush especially in implying conscious action, in more strongly suggesting a power or force that openly quells or extinguishes, and in more often taking as its object a definite objective person or thing (suppress a political organization) (one purpose of the purchase was to suppress competition) (little by little, the two great roads—Justice Holmes) (deeply as the Cistercians disliked and distrusted Abelard, they did not violently suppress him—Henry Adams). Quench, which is close to extinguish.
in its basic meaning, differs from it in extended use in stressing a satisfying, damping, cooling, or decreasing (as of arid) as the cause of extinction. Although it is used specifically of thirst, it is also frequently referred to emotions, sensations, and desires (see also ANNUAL) it implies a sudden and summary extinction (quash a rebellion) (he foresaw that the dreadful woman ... would quash his last chance of life—Dickens) (the lady, together with her family, was dispatched to the safe distance of the Far East. ... Thus was quashed an idyll—S. H. Adams) 

*An* destroy, demolish; *ruin, wreck; annihilate, abolish; obliterate; blot out, efface (see ERASE)

crush n press, throng, *crowd, horde, mob, rout 
crushy brusque, gruff, blunt, curt, *bluff

*Ana* smash, bash, *irritable: choleric, splenetic, waspish, *irascible: crabbed, surly, saturnine, dour  (see SULLEN)

cry vb Cry, weep, wail, keem, whimper, blubber mean to vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, slog, swat, clout, slap, box

cry vb pick, single, *choose, select, elect, opt, prefer

cull vb peak, climax, apex, acme, *summit, pinnacle, meridian, zenith, apogee

cumberly *blame, guilt, fault

*Ana* responsibility, accountability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)

culpable guilty, *blameworthy

*Ana* responsible, accountable, answerable, amenable, liable

culpit *criminal, felon, convict, malefactor, delinquent

*Ana* *prisoner: offender, sinner (see corresponding nouns at OFFENSE): scoundrel, blackguard, miscreant, rogue, rascal (see VILLAIN)

cult sect, denomination, *religion, communion, faith, creed, persuasion, church

cultivar *variety, subspecies, race, breed, strain, clone, stock

cultivate nurture, *nurse, foster, cherish

*Ana* develop, *mature, ripen; raise, rear (see LIFT); educate, train, instruct, *teach: improve, better, ameliorate

*Con* *neglect, ignore, disregard, slight

cultivation breeding, *culture, refinement

culture n 1 Culture, cultivation, breeding, refinement are comparable when they denote a quality of a person or group of persons which reflects his or their possession of excellent taste, manners, and social adjustment. Culture implies a high degree of enlightenment that has been acquired by familiarity with what is best in the civilized life of many ages and lands; in addition, it usually suggests fineness of taste, delicacy of perception, and gracious urbanity of manners (a man of culture) <culture, the acquainting ourselves with the best that has been known and said in the world—Arnold> Cultivation is often preferred to culture because it suggests the continuous pursuit of culture and the self-discipline which accompanies such pursuit, rather than its achievement, and is therefore more modest and often more appropriate (he has found many persons of cultivation in the city to which he has recently moved) <gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people—Johnson> (a work of prose fiction written by one who not only possesses obvious cultivation but is also a distinguished practicing poet—Steegmuller) Breeding implies such training or lifelong experience in courtesy and the amenities of gracious living that one is never at a loss how to act or what to say; moreover the word often suggests poise, tact, an ability to come forward or to retire at will or at need, and other social qualities which mark one out even among one's social equals (I am a gentleman of blood and breeding—Shak.) <as men of breeding, sometimes men of wit, t'avoid great errors, must the less commit—Shak> (kept unseen, unheeded cried—Millay) Wail usually implies expressing grief without restraint, in mournful and often long-drawn-out cries, moans, and lamentations ("Where is my father, and my mother, nurse?" "Weeping and wailing over Tybalt's corpse"—Shak.) <hear him, o'erwhelmed with sorrow, yet rejoice; no womanish or wailing grief has part—Cowper> <soon as she ... saw the lifeblood flow ... wailing loud she clasped him—Shelley> Keen implies the wailing lamentations or dirges of a professional mourner (keen [means] hideous, dismal wailing or howling practiced in Ireland among the humbler classes in token of grief, at funerals, and on hearing news of a death or other calamity—Wyld) <keened our sorrow—Punch> <keened like a sqwaq bereft—M. H. Moody> Whimper implies low, whining, broken cries (as made by a baby or puppy) (whimpering in fright) <had seen the old general whimper like a whipped dog—F. M. Ford> Blubber implies scalding, disfiguring tears and noisy, broken utterances (as of a child who cannot have his way) (he always blubbers until those who oppose him give in to him) <tears came easy to him; he could blubber like a child over a slight or a disappointment—S. H. Adams>

*Ana* lament, bewail, bemoan, *deplore: sob, moan, *sigh, groan

crying adj *pressing, urgent, imperative, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant

*Ana* outstanding, conspicuous (see NOTICABLE): compelling, constraining (see FORCE vb)

cryptic enigmatic, *obscure, dark, vague, ambiguous, equivocal

*Ana* puzzling, perplexing, mystifying (see PUZZLE vb): occult, esoteric, *recondite: *mysterious, arcane

*Con* see those at ENCUMBER

*Ana* analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
cumulative, accumulative, additive, summative are comparable when meaning increasing or produced by the addition of like or assimilable things. Something is cumulative which is constantly increasing or is capable of constant increase (as in size, amount, power, or severity) by successive additions, successive accretions, or successive repetitions; thus, the cumulative effect of a drug may be harmful even though the immediate effect of each dose has, apparently, been beneficial; terror is cumulative because one fear tends to inspire another (groupings of fact and argument and illustration so as to produce a cumulative and mass effect—Cardozo) Something is accumulative which is constantly increasing in amount or bulk through successive additions or which has reached its sum total or magnitude through many such additions (the art of nations is to be accumulative. . . . the work of living men not superseding, but building itself upon the work of the past—Ruskin) (such persons cannot understand the force of accumulative proof—Whatley) Cumulative is now used more often than accumulative especially where increasing severity or enhancement in influence or power are to be suggested. Something is additive which is of such a nature that it is capable either of assimilation to or incorporation in something else or of growth by additions. An additive detail, element, or factor is one that has such amineness that it becomes a constituent part of that thing; thus, red, green, and blue-violet are the additive colors and are used in color photography because they blend to form any color (this new hypothesis assigns to the atom properties which are in no way inconsistent with the inverse-square attraction of its electrons and protons; rather they are additive to it—Jeans) (this pluralistic view, of a world of additive constitution, is one that pragmatism is unable to rule out from serious consideration—James) Something is summative which is capable of association or combination with other things so as to produce such a sum total as an additive whole or a cumulative effect (the summative action of a drug and its adjuvant) (if the student could not add up his achievements, if there was nothing summative in his education—Educational Review) 

Ana accumulated, amassed (see accumulate): multiplying, increasing, augmenting (see increase) 

Cunning adj 1 ingenious, *clever, adroit 
Ana skillful, skilled, adept, *proficient, expert, mastering 2 crafty, tricky, artful, *sly, foxy, insidious, wily, guileful 
Ana devious, oblique, *crooked: *sharp, acute, keen: *shrewd, astute: knowing, smart (see intelligent) 
Ant ingenuous —Con artless, unsophisticated, naive (see natural) 

Cunning n 1 skill, *art, craft, artifice 
Ana dexterousness or dexterity, adroitness, deftness (see corresponding adjectives at dexterous): proficiency, adeptness, Expertness (see corresponding adjectives at proficient): ingenuity or ingenuity, cleverness (see corresponding adjectives at clever) 
2 guile, *deceit, duplicity, dissimulation 
Ana craftiness, insidiousness, wiliness, guilefulness, trickiness or trickery, artfulness, slyness (see corresponding adjectives at sly): stratagem, ruse, maneuver, feint, *trick, wile, gambit, ploy 
Ant ingenuousness 

Cupidity, greed, rapacity, avarice are comparable when meaning intense desire for wealth or possessions. Cupidity stresses the intensity and compelling nature of the desire and often suggests covetousness as well (the sight of so much wealth aroused his cupiditv) (the vast cupiditv of business in preempting the virgin resources of California—Parrington) Greed, more than cupiditv, implies a controlling passion; it suggests not strong but inordinate desire, and it commonly connotes meanness as well as covetousness (a low, incessant, gnawing greed . . . for power, for money, for destruction—White) Rapacity implies both cupiditv and actual seizing or snatching not only of what one especially desires but of anything that will satisfy one's greed for money or property; it often suggests extortion, plunder, or oppressive exaction (<the rapacity of the conquerors knew no bounds) (<the woman's greed and rapacity . . . disgusted me—Thackeray) (<the rapacity of the warlords—Peffer) Avarice, although it involves the idea of cupiditv and often carries a strong suggestion of rapacity, stresses that of miserliness and implies both an unwillingness to let go whatever wealth or property one has acquired and an insatiable greed for more (<such a stanchless avarice that, were I king, I should cut off the nobles for their lands, desire his jewels and this other's house: and my more-having would be as a sauce to make me hunger more—Shak.) (<they scrimped and stinted and starved themselves . . . out of avarice and the will-to-power—Mumford) 

Ana covetousness, avariciousness, greediness, acquisitiveness (see corresponding adjectives at covetous): avidity, eagerness (see corresponding adjectives at eager): lust, *desire 
Curative, sanative, restorative, remedial, corrective are comparable when they mean returning or tending to return to a state of normalcy or health. Curative is applicable to whatever effects or, sometimes, seeks or tends to effect a complete recovery especially from disease of body or of mind (a curative drug) (curative regimens) (most medicines are alleviative in their action and not definitely curative. Rather, they overcome the symptoms of disease and give the patient a chance to recover—Morrison) Sanative is a general term applicable to whatever is conducive either to the restoration of or the maintenance of health, whether of body and mind or of spirit or morals; the term often comes close to salutary in meaning (<the sanative virtue of action . . . to dispel doubt and despair—Masson) Restorative is occasionally applicable to what restores to health but more often to what revives someone unconscious or renews or refreshes someone or something overstrained or exhausted (<the restorative effect of rain on parched fields) (<take a restorative drink before dinner) (<that voyage proved entirely beneficial and restorative—Ellis) Remedial is much the broadest term of this group and like the related noun (see remedy) and verb (see cure vb) is applicable not only to whatever alleviates or cures disease or injury of body or mind but to whatever tends to relieve or correct a faulty or evil condition (as of the community, the law, or the body politic) (<while . . . the teacher's greatest contribution lies in the prevention of maladjustment, he must also assume a major responsibility in remedial work with the student who has become poorly adjusted—C. C. Dunsmoor & L. M. Miller) (<whatever action the court takes towards a convicted offender . . . is in fact a punishment; and it does not cease to be so because it may also be used as a form of remedial treatment, adapted to the personality of the offender and directed to his social rehabilitation—Ford) (with power and humility she overcame the world, and cast down the devil with prayer and remedial tears—H. O. Taylor) (the communities affected entered upon a patient course of remedial action and successfully labored to prevent a recurrence of these disorders—Handlin) Corrective (compare corrective n) in many of its uses comes close to remedial, but, unlike the latter, it cannot ordinarily re-
cure vb *remedy, medicine, medicament, medication, specific, physic
curb vb check, bridle, *restrain, inhibit
cure—Shak.)
cured adj *indulge, pamper, humor
curl vb *coagulate, congeal, set, clot, jelly, jell
cure vb Cure, heal, remedy mean to rectify an unhealthy or undesirable condition especially by some specific treatment (as medication). Cure and heal may apply interchangeably to both wounds and diseases (pierced to the soul with slander's venomous spear, the which no balm can cure—Shak.) (physician, heal thyself—Lk 4:23)

current adj *prevailing, prevalent, rife
curse vb *wind, coil, twist, twine, wrench, entwine

curse n Curse, imprecation, malediction, anathema are comparable when they denote a denunciation that conveys a wish or threat of evil. Curse (opposed to blessing) usually implies a call upon God or a supernatural power to visit punishment or disaster upon a person; in dignified use it commonly presupposes a profound sense of injury and a plea to a divine avenger for justice. No other word in this group suggests so strongly the certainty of the threatened evil (the untented woundings of a father's curse pierce every sense about thee!—Shak.) (an orphan's curse would drag to hell a spirit from on high—Coleridge)

imprecation also implies an invocation of evil or calamity, but it often suggests as its provocation wrath rather than a sense of injury and a desire for revenge rather than for justice as its aim (with imprecations thus he filled the air, and angry Neptune heard the unrighteous prayer—Pope)

Both curse and imprecation are applied to profane swearing involving blasphemy, but, again, the latter is the weaker in its implications. Malediction (opposed to benediction) is applied chiefly to bitter reproaches or denunciations publicly proclaimed and bringing disgrace or ignominy to their object (my name . . . to all posterity may stand defamed, with malediction mentioned—Milton)

Cleopatra has long ago passed beyond the libels with which her reputation was blackened by a terrified Rome— even the maledictions of great poets—Buchan) (a passage in one of the recently discovered Ras Shamra poems . . . pronounces a malediction . . . "may Horon break thy head"—Mercer)

Anathema basically denotes a solemn authoritative ecclesiastical ban or curse accompanied by excommunication (the third letter to Nestorius . . . con-

place curative; specifically it applies to what is designed to restore something to a norm or standard or bring it up (or down) to a desirable level from which it has deviated. In this relation the term is peculiarly applicable to material objects that supplement or compensate for a defective function or part, but it may be used interchangeably with remedial in most contexts, though the emphasis may be more on making good a defect or deficiency than (as in remedial) on relieving the distress it causes; thus, one would speak of corrective (rather than remedial) shoes for the relief of weak ankles, but one could say that among remedial (or corrective) measures for weak ankles are shoes with special lifts in the soles (constantly called upon their corrective lenses to decipher documents—Ace) (such corrective declines need not, necessarily, represent the end of this greatest of all bull markets—Van Loan)

there is today special need for the balancing and corrective sanities of not taking ourselves and our time over seriously—Alain Locke)

Ana healing, curing, remedying (see cure vb)
curb vb check, bridle, *restrain, inhibit

remedy, medicine, medicament, medication, specific, physic
cure vb Cure, heal, remedy mean to rectify an unhealthy or undesirable condition especially by some specific treatment (as medication). Cure and heal may apply interchangeably to both wounds and diseases (pierced to the soul with slander's venomous spear, the which no balm can cure—Shak.) (physician, heal thyself—Lk 4:23)

current adj *prevailing, prevalent, rife

curse vb *wind, coil, twist, twine, wrench, entwine

remedy vb check, bridle, *restrain, inhibit
tained the anathemas—R. M. French} In more general use the term applies to a strong or violent denunciation by one in authority or in a position to judge of something as grossly wrong, as productive of evil, or as accursed (the Pope . . . has condemned the slave trade—but no more heed is paid to his anathema than to the passing wind—Gladstone) (continued openly . . . to flaunt their beauties, in spite of the anathemas from the pulpits—Wellman) or it may be used in a much weakened sense to mean no more than a vigorous denunciation (no anathema pronounced by any psychologist against such words as "purpose" will exercise this initiative as a distinctive and observable characteristic of certain modes of conscious doing—C. I. Lewis) (people) of self-respect who would like to teach our children . . . are afraid to hire themselves out to communities and states . . . where they may be under the continuous censorship of politicians, petty moralists, and those businessmen for whom the mere subscription to a liberal journal is a reason for anathema—Ulich)

An execution, objurygation (see corresponding verbs at EXECUTE) (profanity, *blasphemy, swearing)

Ant blessing

curse vb damn, anathematize, *execrate, objurgate

An condemns, denounces, reprobates (see CRITICIZE) (blasphemer, swear (see corresponding nouns at BLASPHEMY))

Ant bless

cursed accursed, damnable, *execrable

An, Ant, & Con see those at ACCURSED

cursing profanity, swearing, *blasphemy

An curse, imprecation, maladministration, anathema: execration, objurygation (see corresponding verbs at EXECUTE)

cursory *superficial, shallow, uncritical

An hastily, speedily, quick, rapid, swift, *fast: brief, short: casual, desultory, *random, haphazard

Ant painstaking —Con meticulous, *careful, scrupulous, punctilious

curt brusque, blunt, crusty, gruff, *bluff

An laconic, terse, summary, *concise: brief, short: snappish, waspish, *irritable: peremptory, imperious (see MASTERFUL)

Ant voluble

curtail *shorten, abbreviate, abridge, retrench

An reduce, *decrease, lessen: cut, slash

Ant protract, prolong —Con extend, lengthen, elongate

curve vb Curve, bend, twist are comparable when they mean to swerve or cause to swerve or deviate from a straight line or a normal direction or course. *cut is the word of widest application, and it may describe any deviation or swerving from the straight or level that suggests an arc of a circle or an ellipse (his lips were curved in a smile—Kenneth Roberts) (over the roof a few swallow's were curving—Glasgow) Bend is likely to refer to an angular turning or a curving at a certain point under a degree of force or pressure (bend the steel strips as required) (bend the glass tube at the point indicated) In extended use bend may imply some forcing or distortion of materials or of facts or some pressure on or persuasion of people (was somewhat prone to bend logic to meet the demands of argument—E. S. Bates) (not all prescriptive speech is made purely and typically at bending the hearer's attitudes to those of the speaker—Falk) Twist is likely to suggest a force having a spiraling effect throughout the object involved rather than an effect at one point, and it may imply, especially in extended use, a wrenching out of shape or distorting rather than a giving of a desired or desirable shape (the light steel rods twisted together by the explosion) (hands gnarled and twisted with age) (mend a break in a fence by twisting two wires together) (an un conquering confidence . . . which underates, or twists into a wry joke, the fatal moment of war—Times Lit. Sup.)

Ania deflect, divert, *turn: *swerve, veer, deviate

cut vb Cut, hew, chop, carve, slit, slash mean to penetrate and divide something with a sharp-bladed tool or instrument (as a knife, ax, or sword) Cut is by far the most comprehensive term, for it is not only interchangeable with any other word in the group but also with any of a large number of verbs that suggest use of a specific tool (knife, shears, reap, or mow) or dividing in a certain way (as separation or isolation) similar to one produced by cutting (cut off a member of the family) (she is cut off from all her friends) or one (as distress or pain) suggestive of a stabbing or lasting (the remark cut her to the heart) Hew is not only more restricted in its application than cut but it carries far more explicit implications. It usually suggests the use of a heavy tool (as an ax, a sword, or chisel) which calls for the expenditure of much effort in
the cutting or shaping of large, difficult, or resistent objects or material *hew* them to pieces, hack their bones *Shak* *hewn* stones *and now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree *... which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire—Lk 3:9* *there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough* them how we will *Shak* *Chop* implies a cleaving or dividing by a quick, heavy blow (as of an ax, a cleaver, or a hatchet) or, more often, a dividing into pieces by repeated blows of this character *chop* off branches of a tree *chop* the trunk of a tree into firewood *chop* meat into small pieces *Carve* has come to be restricted to two types of cutting. The first requires the use of special tools (as chisels and gouges) and has for its end the artistic shaping, fashioning, or adornment of a material (as stone, ivory, or wood) *a sculptor carves a statue out of marble* *the back and legs of the chair were elaborately carved* *an exquisite ivory box carved with figures* The second requires a sharp knife and has for its end the cutting up and especially the slicing of meat at table in pieces suitable for serving *serve a roast of beef* *the head of the family carves the turkey* *Silk* implies the making of a lengthwise cut; except that it suggests the use of a sharp clean-cutting instrument (as scissors, a scalpel, a sword, or a knife) it carries no clear connotations as to the extent of the cut in depth or in length *the surgeon slit the abdominal wall in front of the appendix* *the long skirt was slit to the knee* *Slit* a sealed envelope *Slash* also implies a lengthwise cut but usually suggests a sweeping stroke (as with a sharp sword, knife, or machete) that inflicts a deep and long cut or wound: very frequently it connotes repeated cuts and often furious or rough-and-tumble fighting *slashing desperately at his circling enemies* *tires slashed by vandals* *Ana* split, cleave, rive (see TEAR): sever, sunder (see SEPARATE vb): curtail (see SHORTEN)

**cutthroat** *assassin, gunman, Bravo* **daily** *Diurnal, quotidian, circadian* mean of each or every day. *Daily* is used with reference to the ordinary concer- 
ns and customary happenings of life *daily wishes* *(the daily newspaper)* Sometimes however it implies an opposition to *nightly* *(the daily anodyne, and nightly draught—Pope)* *Diurnal* is commonly either astronomical (with special reference to the movements of the heavenly bodies) or poetic in its use *(the diurnal revolution of the earth)* *(rolled round in earth's diurnal course—Wordsworth)* *Diurnal* also implies opposition to *nocturnal* *(the diurnal and nocturnal offices of the monks)* *Hunting dogs are mainly diurnal animals—Stevenson-Hamilton* *Quotidian* adds to daily the implica- 
ion of recurrence each day *(a quotidian fever)* It often suggests also a commonplace, routine, or everyday character or quality *(that quality of strangeness which puts a new light on all quotidian occupations—Bennett)* *(he has found in quotidian interests and affections and appetites so complete an escape from the labors and the struggles of the creative spirit—Brooks)* *(as quotidian as catching the 8:52 from Surbiton to go to business on a Monday morning—Huxley)* *Circadian* is a chiefly technical term of recent coinage that differs from *daily or quotidian* in implying only approximate equation with the twenty-four hour day *(circadian rhythms in insect behavior)*

*Ana* analogous words  
*Ant* antonyms  
*Con* contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
danger, peril, jeopardy, hazard, risk mean either
dangerous, hazardous, precarious, perilous, risky all
mean attended by or involving the possibility of loss,
evil, injury, harm; however, they are frequently not
freely interchangeable in usage. Dangerous applies to
persons, things, or situations that should be avoided or
treated with exceeding care because contact with them
or use of them is unsafe and exposes one or causes one
to expose others at least to danger <a dangerous weapon
(a dangerous occupation) <a dangerous practice> (a
dangerous doctrine) <conditions dangerous to health
the child discovers that grown-ups lie to him, and that
it is dangerous to tell them the truth—Russell> (a wide
circumstance must be made to avoid a fierce and
dangerous tribe called Snake Indians—Parkman> Hazardous
carries a far stronger implication of dependence on
chance than dangerous carries: it is often the preferred
term when the chances of loss, death, or harm are comparatively
great; thus, a hazardous occupation (especially from the point of view of insurability) is one in
which the worker must run significantly greater than
average risks of accident or loss of life; a hazardous
carrier is one which has as many (if not more) chances of
failing as of succeeding <no one should be deluded into
believing that we can ever have completely assured lives.
Living is a hazardous business at the best—Furnas>
the hazardous game of secret service in enemy country
—Alexander Forbes> Precarious is often used inaccurately
where dangerous or even hazardous would be the
better word. The basic meaning of this word is uncertain
or insecure: therefore, it may be used without implication
of threatened danger or of possible hazards; in strict
use precarious health is uncertain health rather than a
physical condition threatening death; a precarious oc-
cupation is one that may be neither dangerous nor haz-
ardous but uncertain (as in its tenure or remunerativeness)
whoever supposes that Lady Austen's fortune is pre-
carious is mistaken. . . . It is . . . perfectly safe—Cowper>
a National Church in the early Caroline sense de-
apended upon the precarious harmony of the king, a strong
archbishop, and a strong first minister—T. S. Eliot
The term often carries also an implication of attendance
by danger or hazards especially as a factor in or source
of insecurity or uncertainty; thus, a precarious hold or
footing is one that is so insecure that it involves danger
the precarious track through the morass—Scott> keep-
ing a precarious and vital balance, like a man walking
on high on a tightrope—Montague> Perilous carries a
stronger implication of the immediacy of a threatened
evill than dangerous (after all their intolerable toils, the
sounding tumult of battle, and perilous sea-paths, resting
there . . . amid the epitaphs and allegorical figures of
their tombs—L. P. Smith> we all know how perilous
it is to suggest to the modern woman that she has any
"sphere"—Babbitt> Risky comes close to perilous in
suggesting high possibility of harm or loss, but it is usually
applied to an action or activity which a person under-
takes voluntarily and often with knowledge of the perils
or risks to which it exposes him takes one's life—with
undertake a risky job> (no risky investment) <so risky was travel that the
Indiana legislature specifically permitted travelers to
carry concealed weapons—Sandburg> Ana unsafe, insecure (see affirmative adjectives at
SAFE): chancey, chance, haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**dangle**

**Ant** safe, secure

**dangle** suspend, *hang, sling

**Ana** oscillate, sway, pendulate, fluctuate (see SWING): *swing, wave

**dank** damp, humid, moist, *wet

**Ana** soaked, saturated, sopped or soppy, drenched (see corresponding verbs at SOAK)

**dappled** *variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, freaked

**dare** vb *face, brave, challenge, defy, beard

**Ana** *venture, risk, chance, hazard

**daredevil adj** daring, rash, reckless, foolhardy, venturesome, *adventurous

**Ana & Con** see those at DARING

**daring** rash, reckless, daredevil, foolhardy, venturesome, *adventurous

**Ana** bold, intrepid, audacious (see BRAVE)

**Con** *timid, timorous: *cautious, wary, circumspect, chary: prudent, sensible, sane, *wise, judicious

**dark adj** 1 Dark, dim, dusky, obscure, murky, gloomy

mean partly or wholly destitute of light. Dark, the ordinary word and the most general of these terms, implies a lack of the illumination necessary to enable one to see or to identify what is before him. It may imply lack of natural illumination (as by the sun or moon) (a dark forest) (a dark night) or of artificial illumination (as by gas or electricity) (a dark room) or a lack of immaterial light (as cheerfulness) (a dark mood) (a dark countenance) or of moral or spiritual light (a dark deed) or of brilliance—that is, the quality of lightness in color (a dark blue)

*Dim suggests just so much darkness that the things before one cannot be seen clearly or in their distinct or characteristic outlines: it may be applied equally to things viewed or to a source of illumination (the light has grown dim) (dim stars) (he could just make out dim figures in the distance) It may designate a usually bright thing that is dulled or softened (a . . . dim and tender red—Hudson) (a dim image of their glorious vitality—Krutch) or a place or time that is nearly dark (scrambled over to join the other ghosts out on the dim common—Galsworthy) (the hazy light . . . reminded him of the dim distances of his own . . . country—Anderson)

Dim as applied to eyes, sight, or insight suggests a loss of functional keenness (eyes dim with tears) (dim eyesight)

**Dusky** suggests the halfway state between light and dark characteristic of twilight: like dim it implies faintness of light but unlike that word definitely connotes grayness and an approach to darkness (dusky windowless loft) (dusky clouds) (but comes at last the dull and dusky eve—Cowper)

**Obscure** is more often used in its extended senses (see OBSCURE) than in its literal sense, but it is employed literally when there is a suggestion of darkening by covering, concealment, or overshadowing that deprives a thing of its lightness, brightness, or luster (obscurest night involved the sky—Cowper) (obscure stars) (an obscure corner of the attic)

**Murky** originally implied and still sometimes implies intense darkness or a darkness in which things are not even faintly visible (Hell is murky!—Shak.)

In current use, the term more often suggests a thick, heavy darkness suggestive of smoke-laden fogs or of air filled with mist and dust (an atmosphere murky with sand—Cather) (as if its [London’s] low sky were the roof of a cave, and its murky day a light such as one reads of in countries beneath the earth—L. P. Smith)

**Gloomy** (see also SULLEN) implies imperfect illumination owing to causes that interfere seriously with the radiation of light (as dense clouds or the heavy shade of many closely set trees): in addition, it often connotes pervading cheerlessness (the day was especially gloomy for June) (the gloomiest part of the forest) (the room was gloomy and depressing with only a dim light from a small candle) (their gloomy pathway tended upward, so that, through a crevice, a little daylight glimmered down upon them—Hawthorne)

**Ant** light —Con *bright, brilliant, radiant, luminous: illuminated, enlightened, lighted (see ILLUMINATE)

2 *obscure, vague, enigmatic, cryptic, ambiguous, equivocal

**Ana** abstruse, occult, *recondite, esoteric: *mystical, mystic, analagous, cabalistic: intricate, complicated, knotty, *complex

**Ant** lucid —Con *clear, perspicuous: simple, *easy, light, facile

**darken** *obscure, dim, bedim, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate

**Ana** illuminate —Con enlighten, illumine (see ILLUINATE): elucidate, *explain

**darse** vb *fly, scud, skim, float, shoot, sail

**Ana** *speed, precipitate, hasten, hurry

**dash** vb *rush, tear, shoot, charge

**Ana** dart, *fly, scud

**dass** n 1 *vigor, vim, spirit, esprit, verve, élan, drive

**Ana** force, energy, might, *power: vehemence, intensity (see corresponding adjectives at INTENSE): impressive-ness (see corresponding adjective at MOVING)

2 *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, vein, strain, streak

**dashing** smart, *stylish, fashionable, modish, chic

**date** n *engagement, rendezvous, tryst, appointment, assignation

**daunt** appall, *dismay, horrify

**Ana** cow, *intimidate, browbeat: discomfit, disconcert, faze (see EMBARRASS): foil, thwart, baffle (see FRUSTRATE): *frighten, alarm, scare, terrify

**Con** rally, rouse, arouse, *stir, waken, awaken: impel, drive, *move, actuate: activate, *vitalize, energize

**dauntless** *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, valorous, undaunted, doughty, bold, audacious

**Ana** indomitable, unconquerable, *invincible: heroic, gallant (see corresponding nouns at HEROISM)

**Ant** poltroon —Con *fearful, afraid, apprehensive

**dawdle** *delay, procrastinate, loiter, lag

**Ana** linger, tarry, wait, *stay: *trifle, toy, dally: *play, sport, disport

**Con** *stir, rally, rouse, arouse: hurry, hasten, *speed

**daydream** n dream, *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, phantasm, notion, vision, nightmare

**Ana** imagining or imagination, conceiving or conception, fancying (see corresponding verbs at FANCY): illusion, *delusion, hallucination

**daze** vb Daze, stun, bemuse, stupefy, benumb, paralyze, petrify all mean to dull or deaden the powers of the mind through some disturbing experience or influence. Daze may imply any of numerous causes (as a blow on the head, an excess of light, or a physical or mental shock) which prostrates one’s powers and leaves one confused or bewildered or dizzied (tilt I felt I could end myself too with the dagger—so deafened and dazed— . . . with the grief that gnawed at my heart—Tennessy) (the cattle gather and blare, roused by the feet of running men, dazed by the lantern glare—Kipling)

**Stun** usually suggests a sudden deprivation of one’s powers of thought or a loss of consciousness as a result of a heavy blow or a violent fall, but it is also used in an extended and often hyperbolic sense to describe the devastating effect
of noise, surprise, or astonishment (stunned his assailant with the butt of his rifle) (stunned by the news of his son's drowning) (where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around, and Niagara stuns with thundering sound—Goldsmith) (ye little children, stun your grandame's ears with pleasure of your noise!—Wordsworth) (or has the shock ... confused ... and stunned me from my power to think—Tennyson) 

Bemuse implies an adding or muddling of the mind whether through intoxication or through employment, preoccupation, or engrossment that dulls or abstracts the mind (a Prussian was regarded in England as a dull beer—bemused creature—M'Carty) (his senses so bemused in the intensity of calculation—Scott) (people with brains and intelligence ... play cards until they are bemused and stupid—McClure's Mag.) 

Stupefy heights the implication of stupe or stupidity by weakening not only the implication of shock or surprise but that of overwork or fatigue; it therefore usually implies something (as an injury, an illness, a grief or anxiety long-continued, or intoxication) that dulls both the senses and the mind (sun elated them; quiet rain sobered them, weeks of watery tempest stupefied them—Hardy) 

Benumb is used chiefly of the effect of cold in deadening or immobilizing the muscles, but it is used also of anything that becomes so inert that it seems as if frozen (it's so cold, so dark, my senses are so benumbed—Dickens) (Mrs. Ralston drew back a step or two. Charlotte's cold resolution conveyed by her voice and she could find no immediate reply—Wharton) 

Paralyze is often used figuratively to imply an inability to act or to function, on the part of a thing as well as of a person, that comes as a result of a dire event, a burden too heavy to be borne, or an astounding disclosure (in these wild places ... a snowstorm ... does not ... paralyze traffic as London permits itself to be paralyzed under similar circumstances—Jeffries) (a certain helplessness in the presence of what is unfamiliar that fairly paralysis even Gallic curiosity—Brownell) 

Petrify (see also Harden) emphasizes the immediate effect of fear, amazement, shock, or awe and suggests complete inability to move, to think, or to act, as though one were turned to stone (the spectators were petrified with horror) (she ... was too petrified to answer the question) More than any other word in this group, petrify is often used hyperbolically (I was too petrified to pay any attention to him) 

Ana confound, bewilder, mystify (see puzzle): *confuse, muddle, befuddle: dazzle, dizzy (see corresponding adjectives at GIDDY) 

dazzled *giddy, dizzy, vertiginous, swimming 

Ana confused, added, befuddled, muddled (see confuse): confounded, bewildered, puzzled, perplexed (see puzzle) 

dead adj Dead, defunct, deceased, departed, late, lifeless, inanimate all mean devoid of life. Dead applies strictly to anyone or to anything that has been deprived of life and has therefore ceased to grow or to function (a dead person) (a dead animal) (a dead tree) (every plant in the garden is dead as a result of the intensely severe winter) 

Dead is also applicable to things which have not had life (in its literal sense) but have existed for a time and have been used or accepted or have proved effective or influential; thus, a dead language is no longer in spoken use by any people; a dead belief no longer has any acceptance; a dead journal no longer is printed and circulated; a dead illusion being no longer arouses interest or question no longer arouses interest or curiosity. Figure of speech: the term implies lack or loss of sensation, consciousness, feeling, activity, energy, or any of the qualities associated with life (dead fingers) (a dead engine) (a dead cigar) (the dead season in a business) 

Defunct differs little in its literal sense from dead, except that it is somewhat bookish (Charlotte had entered society in her mother's turned garments, and shod with satin sandals handed down from a defunct aunt—Wharton) The term is more often applied to a thing that by failure or dissolution has ceased to function or to operate (a defunct newspaper) (a defunct corporation) 

Deceased applies only to a person and especially to one who has died comparatively recently or who, though dead, is at the moment under consideration especially in some legal context (lAWs prohibiting the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister) (the legal heirs of the deceased millionaire were never found) 

Departed is distinctly euphemistic (especially in religious use) (pray for the souls of departed relatives and friends) 

Late is used in place of deceased or departed especially when stressing a relationship to a surviving person or an existent institution (under the terms of his late father's will) (the late chairman of the board of directors) (the late master of the house) 

Lifeless, unlike the preceding words, does not necessarily imply deprivation of life, for it is applicable not only to something literally dead but also to something which never had life or is incapable of life. In comparison with dead, however, lifeless stresses the absence (sometimes, when loss of consciousness is implied, the apparent absence) of the phenomena characteristic of life; thus, how could a dead man, but a lifeless body (that is, a body that shows no signs of life) (there in the twilight cold and grey, lifeless, but beautiful, he lay—Longfellow) In its extended use lifeless is especially applicable to things (far less often to persons) that have not or never have had vitality, power, or spirit (a lifeless color) (a lifeless poem) (she has been lifeless since her recovery from a prolonged illness) (dull lifeless mechanical systems that treat people as if they were things—Wilde) 

Monochrome is a starved and lifeless term to express the marvellous range and subtlety of tones of which . . . Chinese ink is capable (Binyon) 

Inanimate is more consistently used than lifeless in describing something which never had life; it is the preferred term when a contrast between that which is devoid of life and that which possesses life is expressed or implied (objects which consist of inanimate matter—Jeans) (a transition . . . from the inorganic to the organic, from the inanimate to the living—Inge) (harnessing inanimate power to carry us and our burdens—Furnas) 

But inanimate is also applicable in extended use to that which is spiritless, inactive, or not lively, and therefore dull (an inanimate style) (her inanimate movement when on the stage—Yeats) 

Ant alive—Con *living 

deadlock n *draw, tie, stalemate, standoff 

Ana situation, condition, *state, posture: *predicament, plight, dilemma, quandary 

deadly adj 1 Deadly, mortal, fatal, lethal mean causing or causative of death. Deadly may imply an extremely high degree of probability rather than a certainty of death; the term therefore applies to something with the capacity of or a marked potentiality for causing death: a deadly disease is one usually ending fatally; a deadly weapon is one capable of inflicting death; the seven deadly sins in theology are those sins which must be avoided because they are the source of other sins and are destructive of spiritual life and progress (two brave vessels matched in deadly fight, and fighting to two blows—Wordsworth) (poisons more deadly than a mad dog's tooth—Shak.) (the neglect of form ... was even deadlier to poetry—Viereck) Mortal implies that death has
dear

expensive, costly, precious, valuable, invaluable,
dealings

deal

deadly

deaths, decease, demise, passing denote the end or the ending of life. Death is the general word and is used for the termination of plants and animals as well as of men and also of inanimate things marked by continuity or development (the death of an enterprise). Decease and demise apply only to human beings except in figurative use. Decease is preferred in legal context but in ordinary use conveys a slightly euphemistic or rhetorical quality. Demise in literal use has become somewhat pompous or affected (the lady’s demise had been ascribed to apoplexy—Hynd). In figurative use it frequently lacks such connotation (organized labor, which promised his political demise if he signed the bill against jurisdictional strikes—Beverly Smith). Passing is a euphemism for the death of a person.

Ant

deathless *immortal, undying, unfading

Ana

*everlasting, endless: eternal (see INFINITE): enduring, abiding, persisting (see CONTINUE)

Con

ephemeral, *transient, transitory, evanescent, passing

deadly *deadly

Ana

*gastly, macabre, gruesome, grisly

Ant

lifelike

debar

*exclude, blackball, disbar, suspend, shut out, eliminate, rule out

Ana

*preclude, obviate, *prevent: *forbid, prohibit, ban, interdict

Con

*invite, court, woo, solicit, bid: permit, allow, *let

debase

1 Debase, vitiate, deprave, corrupt, debauch, pervert mean to cause a person or thing to become impaired and lowered in quality or character and share certain distinctions in implications and connotations with the adjectives (usually participial adjectives) corresponding to the verbs, debased, vitiated, depraved, corrupted (but more often, corrupt), debauched, perverted.

Debase (see also ABASE) and debased imply a loss of worth, value, or dignity and are widely applicable (plays that debase the taste of the people) (a debased coinage) (the life-and-death struggle with Hannibal . . . had permanently debased the Roman temper and left in it a core of hard inhumanity—Buchan) (success permits him to see how those he has converted distort and debase . . . his teaching—Huxley) (the fine old language which has been slowly perfected for centuries, and which is now being . . . debased by the rubbishy newspapers which form almost the sole reading of the majority—Inge) (human values cruelly and systematically debased by the Nazis—Dean) Vitiate and vitiated imply impairment through the introduction of a fault, a defect, or anything that destroys the purity, validity, or effectiveness of a thing (a style vitiated by exaggeration) (inappropriate and badly chosen words vitiate thought—Huxley) (the fox . . . vitiates his line of scent with the gas fumes on the macadam highways—Heinold) (the vitiated air of a crowded hall) (party jealousies vitiated the whole military organization—Times Lit. Sup.) (a final decree . . . vitiated by the judge’s assumption that he was bound by the master’s findings of fact—Justice Holmes). Deprave and depraved usually imply pronounced moral deterioration; thus, a person who has a debased taste cannot enjoy what is really good or beautiful if it lacks showy surface qualities which catch his attention, but a person with a de-

Ana

*analogous words  Ant  *antonyms  Con  *contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1


A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Decay, decompose, rot, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, crumble mean to undergo or, in some cases, to cause something to undergo destructive dissolution. Decay implies change, commonly a natural and gradual change, from a state of soundness or perfection; it may or may not suggest the certainty of complete destruction (teeth decaying from lack of care) (infirmity, that decays the wise—Shak.) (as winter fruits grow mild ere they decay—Pope) (nor shall I discuss the causes why science decayed and died under the Roman Empire—Inge) Decompose stresses the idea of breaking down by separation into constituent parts or elements (as by chemical action in the laboratory or, in respect to animal and vegetable matter in nature, by the action of living micro-organisms) (whenever molecules combine or decompose or atoms change partners, it is chemistry—Furnas) (the action of bacteria in decomposing the organic products contained and forming gases useful for power and heat—Morrison) (the odor of decomposing meat—the body—Guildy) Rot implies decay and decomposition, usually of or as if of animal or vegetable matter; the term may or may not imply offensiveness or foulness; figuratively it differs from decay in stressing stagnation or corruption rather than decline (blossoms which fall before they wither rather than cling rotting to the stalk—Binyon) (there shall they rot, ambition's honored fools!—Byron) (it was this garrison life. Half civilian, half military, with all the drawbacks of both. It rotted the soul, robbed a man of ambition, faith—Irwin Shaw) Putrefy not only suggests the rotting of or as if of animal matter but also stresses its extreme offensiveness to sight and smell (corpses putrefying on the sun-drenched battlefields) (flesh in that long sleep is not putrefied—Donne) Spoil (see also INJURE) is often used in place of rot, or putrefy when foodstuffs, especially in the home or the market, are referred to (roasted pork spoils quickly if not kept in a refrigerator) Disintegrate implies either a breaking down or a breaking apart so that the wholeness or integrity of the thing or the cohesiveness of its particles is destroyed or is in process of destruction (the London atmosphere tends to disintegrate bricks) (Rutherford and Soddy found that radioactive substances disintegrate in a way they described as "spontaneous"—the rate of decay cannot be expedited or retarded by any known physical process—Jeans) (the other great civilizations with which it was once contemporary have passed away or been disintegrated and transformed—Ellis) Crumble implies disintegration of or as if of a substance that breaks into fine particles; neither it nor disintegrate need imply, as the remaining terms almost inevitably do, an alteration at the chemical level (crumbled a piece of bread in his fingers) (winter rains had washed and washed against its . . . old bricks until the plaster between them had crumbled—Deland) (great periods of human culture which flourished at their height just as the substructure crumbled—Krutch) Ana *deception, fraud, trickery, double-dealing, chicanery, chicanery; craft, artifice (see ART); cheating, cozening, defrauding, overreaching (see CHEAT vb) Con *dishonest, mendacious, lying, untruthful Ana crafty, tricky, wily, gui1eful, foxy, insidious, cunning, sly, artful; underhand, underhanded, stealthy, sly, clandestine (see SECRET) *crooked, devious, oblique: delusory, deceptive, delusive *misleading Ant trustworthy —Con *reliable, dependable, trusty
deceive, mislead, delude, beguile, betray, double-cross mean to lead astray or into evil or to frustrate by underhand or craft. A person or thing deceives one by leading one to take something false as true, something nonexistent as real, something counterfeit as genuine, something injurious as helpful: the term may imply no more than a chance or inadvertent confusing or it may suggest a deliberate ensnaring or entrapping for the agent's own and often evil ends <deceived by a chance resemblance into the belief that he had seen his dead sister's spirit> (<"No woman's safe with him."—"Ah, but he hasn't deceived me, Mrs. Berry. He has not pretended he was good"—Meredith> a person who first subconsciously deceives himself and then imagines that he is being virtuous and truthful—Russell> A person or thing misleads one by causing one to follow a wrong path, way, or course or to fall into error <misled by a confusing traffic signal> <we never find them misled into the conception that such gifts are an end in themselves—Dickinson> <nor is there any safeguard against the nations being misled and deceived by their governments into sanctioning another great war—Inge> <Thrasyllus never told lies but he loved misleading people—Graves> A person or thing deludes one by deceiving or misleading one so completely as to make one a fool, a dupe, or so befuddled as to be incapable of distinguishing the false from the true <I began to wonder whether I, like the spider that chased the shadow, had been deluded, and had seemed to hear a sound that was not a sound—Hudson> <did he, did all the people who said they didn't mind things, know that they really did? Or were they indeed deluded?—Rose Macaulay> A person or, less often, a thing, beguiles one by using such subtle and usually agreeable or alluring devices as to mislead, deceive, or delude one (the male propensity to be beguiled—Mary Austin> <I recalled some of the Indian beliefs, especially that of the . . . man-devouring monster who is said to beguile his victims into the dark forest by mimicking the human voice—Hudson> <marsh-light to beguile mankind from tangible goods and immediate fruitions—Mumford> A person or thing betrays one by using deception or treachery to deliver one into the hands of an enemy or put one in a dangerous or false position <verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me—Mt 26:21> <knowing that nature never did betray the heart that loved her—Wordsworth> <so, times past all number deceived by false shows, deceiving we cumber the road of our foes, for this is our virtue: to track and betray—Kipling> A person double-crosses another and usually a friend, partner, or accomplice by deceiving or betraying him, especially by double-dealing or duplicity <said he had been double-crossed by his partner> <De Valera charged that his own trusted negotiators had double-crossed him by signing an agreement to take the detested oath of loyalty to the British king—Blanshard> Ana *cheat, cozen, defraud, overreach: outright, circumvent (see FRUSTRATE): *dupe, gull, befoul, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle Ana undeceive: enlighten

decency *decorum, propriety, dignity, etiquette Ana seemliness, decorousness (see corresponding adjectives at DECOROUS): fitness, suitability, fittingness, appropriateness (see corresponding adjectives at FIT)
deception 1 Deception, fraud, double-dealing, trickery, chicanery, canker mean the act or practice of, or the means used by, one who deliberately deceives in order to accomplish his ends. Deception may or may not imply blameworthiness, for it may be used not only of cheating, swindling, and tricking but also of many arts or games in which the object is illusion or mystification <he is incapable of deception> <there is, as the conjurers say, no deception about this tale—Kipling> (magicians are adepts in deception) Deception also may be used for the state of being deceived <fall into deception> <he is surely greedy of delusion, and will hardly avoid deception—Browne> Fraud, on the other hand, except in casual use, always implies guilt, often criminality, in act or practice. Distinctively, it usually suggests the perversion of the truth for the sake of persuading someone to surrender some valuable possession or a legal right <the elder brother gained control of the property by fraud> <he will never stoop to fraud, no matter how much he desires to get rich> The term may suggest an act or practice involving concealment of truth, violation of trust and confidence, or nonperformance of contracted acts by which one (as an agent, an attorney, an executor, an employer, or an employee) gains an advantage over another to the injury of the latter <according to one legal decision "silence where necessity requires speech may sometimes constitute fraud"> <I think that obtaining money by fraud may be made a crime as well as murder or theft; that a false representation, expressed or implied at the time of making a contract of labor, that one intends to perform it and thereby obtaining an advance, may be declared a case of fraudulently obtaining money—Justice Holmes> Double-dealing usually implies duplicity in character and in actions, for it frequently suggests an act that in its essence is contrary to one's professed attitude <one does not always believe them . . . they often say one thing and mean another, so that we may fairly accuse them of double-dealing—Jernigan> The term may imply secret treating with each of two opposed persons or groups as though one were friendly to that person or group and inimical to the other <Saville . . . by his double-dealing with the King and the Scots, proved himself a political traitor—D'Iseriably> Trickery implies acts or practices that are intended to dupe or befoul others; it often implies sharp practice or actual dishonesty <we rely not upon management or trickery, but upon our own hearts and hands—Jowett> <they held that the basest trickery or deceit was not dishonorable if directed against a foe—Amer. Guide Series: R. I.> Chicanery and chicanery imply petty or paltry trickery <making a tremendous fight,—Burke> chicane and chicanery imply petty or paltry trickery chiefly by friendly to that person or group and inimical to the other <many scenes of London intrigues and complex chicanery—De Quincey> <making a tremendous fight, chiefly by chicanery—whooping for peace while preparing for war, playing mob fear against mob fear—Mencen> Ana *deceit, duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, guile: cheating, cozening, defrauding, overreaching (see CHEAT): duping, gulling, hoaxing, hoodwinking, bamboozling, befouling (see DUPE) 2 *imposture, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, counterfei, deceit Ana illusion, *delusion, hallucination, mirage deceptive *misleading, delusory, delusive Ana specious, *plausible, colorable: *false, wrong Con genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide: true, *real,
decide

decide, determine, settle, rule, resolve mean to come or to cause to come to a conclusion. Decide presupposes previous consideration of a matter causing doubt, waver- ing, debate, or controversy and implies the arriving at a more or less logical conclusion that brings doubt or debate to an end: the word may take as its subject the person or persons arriving at such a conclusion or the thing or things that bring them to the conclusion (the time for deliberation has then passed. He has decided—John Marshall) (this exordium, and Miss Pross’s two hands in quite agonized entreaty clapping his, decided Mr. Cruncher—Dickens) (the ... mistress of the household referred to her whether we should have another round or go in to supper. Of course, she always decided as she supposed the hostess wished—Jefferyes) (it should disturb the complacency of those network officials who decided ... that not enough people were watching to justify the expense—Seldes) Determine (see also DIS- cover 2) may mean to set limits or bounds to: when it means basically to decide, this implication of definitely fixing something so that its identity, its character, its scope, its direction is clear and beyond doubt distinguishes it from decide; one decides to give a dinner party but determines the guests to be invited; a legislature decides that the state constitution should be revised and appoints a committee with power to determine what changes shall be made. In a slightly different sense determine implies the arrival at a conclusion that either is a fixed and unalterable purpose or intention (can you weep [i.e., move by weeping] fate from its determined purpose?—Middle- ton) (she was ... obviously tormented by shyness, but as obviously determined to conquer it—Mackenzie) or is the inevitable result, outcome, or end of what precedes (what we notice determines what we do; what we do again determines what we experience—James) (their civilization was one of “city-states,” not of kingdoms and empires; and their whole political outlook was necessarily determined by this condition—Dickinson) Settle implies the arrival at a conclusion, often a mental or logical conclusion but sometimes a termination for which no individual is responsible, that brings to an end all doubt, all wavering, all dispute (the Supreme Court of the United States has power to settle all questions of law) (time has settled few or none of the essential points of dispute—Henry Adams) (death settled all their problems) Rule (see also GOVERN) implies a decision or determination by authority, especially by the authority of the court (the judge ruled that the question was inadmissible) Resolve implies an expressed or clear decision or determination to do or refrain from doing something (resolve to get up earlier in the mornings) (resolve to give up smoking) (he was resolved to win through to fortune, but he must first discover his tools—Buchan)

Ana conclude, judge, gather (see INFER): *judge, adjudge, adjudicate

Con vacillate, waver, *hesitate, falter

decided, decisive are often confused, especially when they mean positive and leaving no room for doubt, uncertainty, or further discussion. In this sense the words are applied chiefly to persons, their natures, their utterances or manner of utterance, their opinions, or their choices. Decided implies a contrast with what is undetermined, indefinite, and neither this nor that; thus, a decided blue raises no question of its greenness or blackness; a decided success so far overpasses the line between success and failure that no one can question its favorable termination; a decided answer leaves no doubt of a person’s meaning, wishes, or intentions. When applied to a person’s char-
advertising his willingness to make concessions—Time

In its specific sense, as implying publicity for the sake of gaining patronage or support for an article of merchandise, it implies the use of communication media (as the press, the radio, handbills, or billboards); so used, it is devoid of unfavorable connotation (advertise a new model of automobile) To proclaim is to announce orally, sometimes by means of other sound (as of a trumpet), and loudly in a public place; by extension, to give wide publicity to, often insistently, proudly, boldly, or defiantly (a lie is as much a lie, when it is whispered, as when it is proclaimed at the market cross—Wollaston) (you proclaim in the face of Hellas that you are a Sophist—Jowett) To promulgate is to make known to all concerned something that has binding force (as of a law of the realm or a dogma of the church) or something for which adherents are sought (as a theory or doctrine) (the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was promulgated in December 1854—Robertson) (that for the training of the young one subject is just as good as another . . . is surely . . . an amazing doctrine to promulgate—Grandgent) To broadcast is to make known (as by radio or television) in all directions over a large area (the doctrine of missionary zeal . . . has been broadcast over Christendom—Isaac Taylor) (the largest . . . wireless station that can broadcast to the world—Daily Mail) (the book he has written to broadcast this conviction—Gordon Harrison)

Ana *inform, apprise, acquaint, advise, notify: impart, *communicate: reveal, disclose, discover, divulge

2 *assert, profess, affirm, aver, avouch, avow, protest, predicate, warrant

Ana *express, voice, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate

Con *suppress, repress: *hide, conceal

declass *degrade, demote, reduce, disrate
declassment decline, decedence, *deterioration, degeneration, devolution

Ana decaying or decay, disintegration, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY): retrogressiveness or retrogression, regressiveness or regression (see corresponding adjectives at BACKWARD)

Con ascent, *ascension: rising or rise (see corresponding verb RISE): advance, progress (see under ADVANCE vb): *progress, progression

decline vb Decline, refuse, reject, repudiate, spurn are comparable when they mean to turn away something or someone by not consenting to accept, receive, or consider it or him. Decline is the most courteous of these terms and it is used chiefly in respect to invitations, offers (as of help), or services (decline an invitation to dinner) (she declined the chair the Judge pushed toward her—Cather) (I am very sensible of the honor of your proposals, but it is impossible for me to do otherwise than decline them—Austen) Refuse is more positive, often implying decisive-ness, even ungraciousness (meats by the law unclean . . . young Daniel could refuse—Milton) (the employers refused to *recognize the unions—Shaw) Refuse, however, may imply, as decline does not, the denial of something expected or asked for (refuse a child permission to go out) (Mark knew that Mrs. Bluepott only lived to receive visitors, and he had not the heart to refuse her the pleasure of a few minutes—Mackenzie) Reject stresses a throwing away, a discarding, or abandoning; it implies a refusal to have anything to do with a person or thing (those who accepted the offer and those who rejected it—Montague) (Plotinus definitely rejects the notion that beauty is only *innate—Eliot) (the poor man must be forgiven a freedom of expression tinged at rare moments with a touch of bitterness, which manumagnanimity as well as caution would reject for one triumphant—Cardozo)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
when it satisfies a somewhat fastidious taste in behavior, manners, or speech <his conduct is not always so nice> <it is not enough for the knight of romance that you agree that his lady is a very nice girl—Justice Holmes> <the undergraduate literary club, whose membership included all nice boys with literary pretensions—Marquand> Ana formal, conventional, ceremonious, *ceremonial; dignified, elegant (see corresponding nouns at ELEGANCE) Ant indecorous: blatant
decorticate *skin, peel, pare, flay
decorum, decency, propriety, dignity, etiquette are compa-
rable either when they mean a code of rules respecting what is right, fitting, or honorable in behavior or, more often, when they mean the quality or character of right-
ness, fitness, or honorableness in behavior resulting from the observance of such a code. The first three words are somewhat literary; the last two are the most common in speech. Both decorum and decency imply that the code is based upon the nature of things or the circumstances which attend them, and therefore the rules which it em-
body have their basis in nature or sound reason. De-
orum especially suggests a code of rigid rules or laws governing the behavior of civilized men under given or understood conditions <if gentlemen of that profession [the army] were at least obliged to some external decorum in their conduct—Swift> <that continual breach of . . .
decorum which, in exposing his wife to the contempt of her own children, was so highly reprehensible—Austen> <he enjoyed a distinguished reputation for the excellence of his sermons, for the conduct of his diocese . . . and for the decorum and devotion of his private life—T. S. Eliot> The term may suggest also order, moderation, and a high degree of intelligibility as a basis of literary or artistic beauty <that decorum and orderliness without which all writing speech must be ineffective and obscure—Ellis> Decency often stresses a freedom from immodesty or obscenity <decency in dress> <decency in conduct> It may imply a seemliness or appropriateness that is based upon the right relation of one thing to another (as of a person to his profession, rank, or condition in life or of a thing to its use or end) <for himself, Father Joseph was scarcely acquiesce to the point of decency. He owned nothing in the world but his mule—Cather> <there are those . . . for whom St. Paul's [in London], in comparison with St. Peter's [in Rome], is not lacking in decency—T. S. Eliot> <there were May [his wife], and habit, and honor, and all the old decencies or proprieties <lost his dignity> <not in accord with the dignity of man as a son of God> <I had half a mind to save my dignity by telling him that—Conrad> <it is of the essence of real dignity to be self-sustained, and no man's dignity can be asserted without being impaired—Henry Taylor> Etiquette is the usual term for the code of manners and behavior governing one's conduct in society or in particular circumstances (as in a court or legislature). It may replace propriety, for the conventional observance of these rules <trained in the complex etiquette and protocol of the Diplomatic Corps> <unaware of the etiquette governing the setting of a table for a formal dinner> <the pompous etiquette of the court—Prescott> <Augustus had kept to the strict constitutional etiquette, indicating his preference but leaving the choice of his successor to the Senate—Buchan> <formality, conventionality, ceremoniousness, so-
lemnity (see corresponding adjectives at CEREMONIAL);
form, convention, convenience, usage
Ant indecorum: license
decoy n *lure, bait, snare, trap
decoy vb *lure, entice, inveigle, tempt, seduce
Ana snare, ensnare, trap, entrap, capture, *catch, bag: beguile, delude, *deceive, mislead
decrease vb Decrease, lessen, diminish, reduce, abate, dwindle denote to make or grow less, but they are not freely interchangeable. Decrease and lessen are often employed in place of any other. Decrease normally, even in the transitive, an implication of the process of growing less, and suggests progressive decline <forces that decrease the population> <his temperature decreases> <his fears decreased as dawn approached> <the rise of the public high school . . . decreased the number and lessened the importance of the academies—Amer. Guide Series: Vt.> Lessen is a close synonym of decrease but the latter is to be preferred in contexts employing specific numbers; thus, it is idiomatic to say that a fever has lessened or that it has decreased from 101° to 99° <I hoped to obtain your forgiveness, to lessen your ill opinion—Austen> Diminish is a more pre-
cise word when the ideas of taking away or subtraction by an agent and of resultant perceptible loss are to be emphasized <their funds were greatly diminished by their extravagance> <his sense of personal initiative is culti-
ved instead of being diminished—Russell> Reduce adds to diminish the implication of bringing down, or lowering; it suggests more than any of the others the opera-
tion of a personal agent <reduce the time needed for an operation> <prices were reduced to below cost> <reduce budget estimates drastically> Reduce also is applicable to lowering in rank, status, or condition <reduce a ser-
geant to the ranks> <suddenly reduced from riches to absolute penury—Conrad> Abate differs from diminish and reduce in its presupposition of something excessive in force, intensity, or amount and in its strong implication of moderation or, especially when referred to taxes or imposts, of deduction (physically weakened by a stomach disorder that will not abate—Alpert) Dwindle, like decrease, implies progressive lessening, but is more often applied to things capable of growing visibly smaller. It specifically connotes approach to a vanishing point <hull
down—hull down and under—she dwindles to a speck—Kipling>
**deduce** *infer, gather, conclude, judge*

**dedicate**  
(deduct, subtract)

**dictate, prescribe, ordain, impose**  
(degree)

**decry**, **depreciate**, **disparage**, **derogate**, **detract**, **belittle**, **minimize**  
(mean to write, speak, or otherwise indicate one's feeling in regard to something in such a way as to reveal one's low opinion of it. Decry implies open or public censure or censure with the intent to discredit or run down someone or something (there seems almost a general wish of decrying the capacity and undervaluing the labor of the novelist—Austen)  
<y've had a Western education . . . but you're decrying everything Western science has contributed to the world—Heiser>  
(Dec depreciation implies a representation of a person or thing as of smaller worth than that usually ascribed to it (to prove that the Americans ought not to be free, we are obliged to depreciate the value of freedom itself—Burke)  
<(he seems to me to depreciate Shakespeare for the wrong reasons—T. S. Eliot)>  
<(shocked to learn that professional art critics today depreciate his works—Mary McCarthy)>  
(Disparage implies depreciation by more subtle or indirect methods (as slighting, invidious reference, or faint praise) (the critic . . . is generally disparaged as an artist who has failed—L. P. Smith)>  
<(cities . . . which they sometimes pretended to disparage, but of which they were secretly and inordinately proud—Repreneur)>  
(Derogate and detract (both with from) stress the idea of taking away, positively and injuriously, especially from reputation or merit; derogate from may be used with an impersonal subject only, detract from with either a personal or an impersonal subject (a few instances of inaccuracy or mediocrity can never derogate from the superlative merit of Homer and Vergil—Goldsmith)  
<(far am I from detracting from the merit of some gentlemen . . . on that occasion—Burke)>  
<(the advocates of pure poetry are apt to take the line that any admixture of logical, of "prose" meaning detracts from the value of a poem—Day Lewis)>  
(Belittle and minimize both imply depreciation, but belittle suggests an effort to make a thing contemptibly small, and minimize to reduce it to a minimum or to make it seem either disparagingly or defensively as small as possible (he was inclined to belittle the assistance he had received from others)  
<(he minimized the dangers of the task) (let there be no belittling of such qualities as Archer's—his coherent thinking, his sense of the worth of order and workmanship—Montague)>  
(always delighted at a pretext for belittling a distinguished contemporary—Edmund Wilson)>  
<("Don't think that I am trying to minimize your excellent work among the hop pickers this year,") he told his curate—Mackenzie)>  
(Ant add deduction 1 Deduction, abatement, rebate, discount are comparable when they mean an amount subtracted from a gross sum. Deduction is interchangeable with any of the others but not without some loss in precision. An abatement is a deduction from a levied tax or impost (an abatement of the duties levied at the customhouse) A rebate is an amount deducted and returned after payment either in adjustment of an overcharge or to gain a competitive advantage (a rebate on an income tax) (a rebate on an insurance premium) A discount is a deduction from an amount owed or a price asked in consideration of a cash or prompt payment (this bill is subject to 2 percent discount if paid within thirty days) It also may denote an advance deduction of the amount of interest payable on a loan or note from the time the loan is made or the note purchased until the due date (the bank credited his account with the proceeds of the note less the discount) (2 inference, conclusion, judgment (see under infer) 3 Deduction, induction and their corresponding adjectives deductive, inductive are comparable as used in logic to designate forms of reasoning. Deduction and deductive imply reasoning from premises or propositions antecedently proved or assumed as true or certain and procedure from the general or universal to a particular conclusion; thus, the conclusion that one must die someday is based on the premises that all men are mortal and that one is a man; therefore one infers by deduction or deductive reasoning that one must necessarily be mortal. Induction and inductive imply reasoning from particular facts to a conclusion that is general or universal in its nature. In its simplest form induction implies a knowledge of every particular and a generalization from these; thus, the conclusion that all of a certain man's books have red bindings is reached by induction or inductive reasoning when one has surveyed his library and has found no exception to this rule. In its more complicated forms, since knowledge of every particular is usually impossible, induction often implies the use of postulates or assumptions which are generally accepted (as the uniformity of nature), more or less tentative conclusions, and constant observation and reexamination of the evidence. In this sense many of the laws of nature stated in the various sciences are derived by induction, but when these laws are used as premises and become the bases for further inferences, the reasoning becomes deductive.  
**deductive** inductive (see under deduction 3)  
(Ana inferential, ratiocinative (see under inference))

**deep**

**dea**

**deduce**

**deduct, subtract** mean to take away one quantity from another. **Deduct** usually is used in reference to amounts (as of costs, payments, or credits) while **subtract** is used in reference to numbers or to figures obtained by a computation or calculation (subtract the cost of transportation from the profits) (subtract the price of the returned article from his bill) (subtract five from nine) (subtract five percent of the receipts for his commission) (subtract the area of the triangular northeast section from the area of the whole plot of ground)

**Ant add**

**deduction 1** Deduction, abatement, rebate, discount are comparable when they mean an amount subtracted from a gross sum. Deduction is interchangeable with any of the others but not without some loss in precision. An abatement is a deduction from a levied tax or impost (an abatement of the duties levied at the customhouse) A rebate is an amount deducted and returned after payment either in adjustment of an overcharge or to gain a competitive advantage (a rebate on an income tax) (a rebate on an insurance premium) A discount is a deduction from an amount owed or a price asked in consideration of a cash or prompt payment (this bill is subject to 2 percent discount if paid within thirty days) It also may denote an advance deduction of the amount of interest payable on a loan or note from the time the loan is made or the note purchased until the due date (the bank credited his account with the proceeds of the note less the discount) (2 inference, conclusion, judgment (see under infer) 3 Deduction, induction and their corresponding adjectives deductive, inductive are comparable as used in logic to designate forms of reasoning. Deduction and deductive imply reasoning from premises or propositions antecedently proved or assumed as true or certain and procedure from the general or universal to a particular conclusion; thus, the conclusion that one must die someday is based on the premises that all men are mortal and that one is a man; therefore one infers by deduction or deductive reasoning that one must necessarily be mortal. Induction and inductive imply reasoning from particular facts to a conclusion that is general or universal in its nature. In its simplest form induction implies a knowledge of every particular and a generalization from these; thus, the conclusion that all of a certain man's books have red bindings is reached by induction or inductive reasoning when one has surveyed his library and has found no exception to this rule. In its more complicated forms, since knowledge of every particular is usually impossible, induction often implies the use of postulates or assumptions which are generally accepted (as the uniformity of nature), more or less tentative conclusions, and constant observation and reexamination of the evidence. In this sense many of the laws of nature stated in the various sciences are derived by induction, but when these laws are used as premises and become the bases for further inferences, the reasoning becomes deductive.  
**deductive** inductive (see under deduction 3)  
(Ana inferential, ratiocinative (see under inference))

**deep n** action, act  
(Ana exploit, *feat, achievement)

**deep vi** transfer, convey, alienate  
(Ana consider, regard, account, reckon)

**deep 1** Deep, profound, abyssmal. Deep and profound denote extended either downward from a surface or, less often, backward or inward from a front or outer part. Deep is the most general term (a deep pond) (a slope cut by deep gullies) As applied to persons or to mental states or processes, deep implies the presence or a necessity for the exercise of penetration or subtlety, some-
times of craft ⟨a deep politician⟩ ⟨deep plots⟩ ⟨a little
time often estranges men from religion, a deeper
knowledge brings them back to it—Inge⟩ ⟨a deep study
of the inner meaning of the work—Braithwaite⟩ Prof-
found connotes exceedingly great depth ⟨a gulf pro-
found as that Serbonian bog . . . where armies whole
have sunk—Milton⟩ ⟨canyons more profound than our
deepest mountain gorges—Cather⟩ It may imply the
presence or need of thoroughness ⟨a profound thinker⟩
⟨a profound treatise⟩ ⟨are, in their meditative depths,
among the few profound poems of our day—Unter-
meyer⟩ As expressing intensity, profound is commonly
stronger than deep ⟨motherhood, this queer, sensuous,
cherishing love . . . an emotion more profound than most—Rose
Macaulay⟩ Abysmal carries the idea of
abyss, infinite depth, and implies fathomless distance
downward, backward, or inward from a surface ⟨mount-
tain roads . . . within a few inches of abysmal precipices
—W. R. Arnold⟩ It may imply measureless degree
and is then used with words denoting a lack of something
⟨abysmal ignorance⟩ ⟨abysmal darkness⟩ ⟨plays of an
abysmal foolishness—Brooks⟩ Con shallow, *superficial: flat, plane, plain, *level
2 *broad, wide deep-rooted deep-seated, chronic, confirmed, *inveh-
erate Ana established, fixed, set, settled (see set vb)
Con eradicated, extirpated, uprooted, wiped out (see
EXTERMINATE)

deface, disfigure mean to mar the appearance of a thing.
Deface usually suggests a marring of the face or external
appearance of something; it frequently implies the efface-
ment, obliteration, or removal of some part or detail
⟨earth has yet a little gilding left, not quite rubbed off,
dishonored, and defaced—Hazlitt⟩ ⟨a door defaced by
innumerable incised inscriptions—Shaw⟩ ⟨bad poets
deface what they take [from others], and good poets make
it into something better—T. S. Eliot⟩ Disfigure, as ap-
p lied to a surface, implies deeper or more permanent
injury than deface; as applied to figure or configuration, it
frequently suggests such impairing of beauty or attract-
tiveness as results from other than structural injury
⟨a book disfigured by many serious faults⟩ ⟨the smallpox
. . . fell foul of poor little Oliver's face . . . and left him
scarred and disfigured for his life—Thackeray⟩ ⟨where
trees, disfigured by no gaudy lanterns, offered the re-
freshment of their darkness and serenity—Galsworthy⟩
⟨in the midst of the political investigations which dis-
figure our time—Sat. Review⟩

Ana *injure, damage, mar: *deform, distort, contort,
mutilate, batter, mangle (see MAIM)
defame vilify, calumniate, *malign, traduce, asperse,
 slander, libel
Ana vituperate, revile (see SCOLD): *decry, disparage,
detract, derogate
Con *praise, laud, eulogize, extol, acclaim
default n *failure, neglect, miscarriage, dereliction
Ana absence, *lack, want, privation: *imperfection,
deficiency, shortage, fault
defeat vb beat, *conquer, vanquish, lick, subdue, sub-
jugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout
Ana *frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent,
outwit
Con *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, cave, bow, defer

defect 1 *lack, want, dearth, absence, privation
Ana deficiency, definitiveness (see corresponding
adjectives at DEFICIENT): *need, necessity, exigency
2 flaw, *blemish
Ana *fault, failing, frailty, foible
Con *excellence, perfection, virtue, merit
defection, desertion, apostasy mean an abandonment that
involves the breaking of a moral or legal bond or tie and
that is highly culpable from the point of view of the
person, cause, or party abandoned. Defection empha-
sizes both the fact of one's falling away and the loss that
is sustained by his failure to adhere to his allegiance; in
itself as apart from the context it commonly gives no
certain indication of motive, though at times disaffection
or loss of confidence is connoted ⟨the conversions are probably balanced by the defections and in some countries
the Church seems even to be losing ground—Times Lit.
Sup.⟩ ⟨the news of the defection of Lepidus caused the
Senate to declare him a public enemy—Buchan⟩ ⟨a single
defection would throw the Senate into a deadlock of
48 to 48—Neuberger⟩ Desertion (see also under ABAN-
don) presupposes an oath of allegiance or a duty or an
obligation to guard, protect, or support, the violation of
which constitutes a crime or a distinctly blameworthy
act. It also suggests a base motive (as cowardly fear or a
desire to shirk) ⟨the penalty for desertion from an army
in time of war is usually death⟩ ⟨many persons con-
sidered Wordsworth's defection from the liberal cause a
desertion⟩ ⟨the crisis of our times is not such as to
justify desertion of basic traditions—Chapman⟩ Apostasy
implies a repudiation of something one has formerly and
voluntarily professed; it connotes therefore a retreat
(as in weakness) from a position or stand one has taken.
The term is used chiefly with reference to a repudiation
of religious beliefs, but it is employed also when moral,
philosophical, or other principles are involved ⟨when
Raphael . . . had forewarned Adam, by dime example, to
beware apostasy—Milton⟩ ⟨marriage is to me apostasy
. . . sale of my birthright, shameful surrender—Shaw⟩ ⟨my
political apostasy . . . was attended with no diminution
of reverence for that great citizen army that defended
and saved the Union—Nicholson⟩

Ana disaffection, alienation, estrangement (see corre-
sponding verbs at ESTRANGE): abandonment, forsaking
(see corresponding verbs at ABANDON)
Con faithfulness, loyalty, constancy (see corresponding
adjectives at FAITHFUL): allegiance, *fidelity, fealty
defective *deficient
Ana impaired, damaged, injured, marred (see INJURE):
violated, corrupted, debased (see under DEBASE): deranged,
disordered (see DISORDER)
Ana intact —Con *perfect, entire, whole: complete,
*full, plenary: sound, *healthy

defend 1 Defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard mean
to keep secure from danger or against attack. Defend
implies the use of means to ward off something that actually
threatens or to repel something that actually attacks
⟨raise a large army to defend the country from aggres-
sion⟩ ⟨guns used in defending the explorers against hostile
incursions of the natives⟩ ⟨the independence of the
Supreme Court of the United States should be defended
at all costs—Lippmann⟩ Protect implies the use of a
covering as a bar to the admission or impact of what may
injure or destroy ⟨protect one's estate from intruders
by a high wall⟩ ⟨protect one's eyes from the sun by dark
glasses⟩ ⟨protect one's family by ample insurance⟩
⟨protect tobacco plants by a cheesecloth screen⟩ ⟨the
ring of old forts which so far had protected the city suc-
cessfully—P. W. Thompson⟩ Shield differs from protect

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
especially in its suggestion of a protective intervention comparable to a medieval warrior's shield before one exposed to imminent danger or actual attack (Heavens shield) Lysander, if they mean a fray!—Shak.} <i>(I could scarcely believe that she would wish to shield her husband's murderer, if he were that—Rose Macaulay)

Guard implies a standing watch at or over for the sake of defense; it usually connotes vigilance (the entrances to the palace are well guarded) (the president is always guarded by secret service men) (the accumulation of private wealth in Boston, thriftily guarded by the canny Whigs—Brooks) (inmates of a fortress are defended by its guns, protected by its walls, and guarded by sentinels against surprise) Safeguard, much more strongly than any of the preceding words, implies use of protective measures where merely potential danger exists (safeguard children who play on the streets) (safeguard our shores from attack) (in all this he was more than worldly-wise. He was safeguarding his own self-respect—Reppi)

Defer, postpose, intermit, suspend, stay mean to cause a delay in an action, activity, or proceeding. Defer suggests a delay in an action, activity, or proceeding; it may suggest bringing something that is in progress; it may suggest bringing it to a complete stop, but more often it suggests an intermitting or suspending or a slackening of pace (two spectators started forward, but she stayed them with a motion of her hand—Dickens) (they couldn't stay the flow of her ideas by reminding her how much the alteration would cost—Mary Austin) (when his mind fails to stay the pace set by its inventions, madness must ensue—Day Lewis)

Deference reverence, homage, *honor, obeisance

Deficient adj Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficiency imperfection, shortcoming, fault

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)

Deficient, defective mean showing lack of something necessary. The words are sometimes used interchangeably though they tend to diverge in their meanings. Deficient typically implies a falling short in the amount, quantity, or force considered essential to adequacy or sufficiency; defective on the other hand typically implies existence of some definite fault, injury, or flaw that impairs the completeness or efficiency of something; thus, a person is deficient in courage when he has not sufficient courage to meet his difficulties; he is mentally deficient when he has not sufficient intelligence to enable him to take care of himself; he is mentally defective (or a mental defective) when some fault or defect in his nervous system impairs his ability to think coherently; he suffers from defective hearing when he is so affected that he cannot understand what is said to him—H.L. Mencken)
definitive | 221 | degrade
---|---|---
*definitive* | 1 | *degrade*
  *determinate, decisive, *conclusive*
  *definite*
  *determinate, decisive, *conclusive*
  *determinate, decisive, *conclusive*

**deflate**
- *compress, shrink, *contract, condense, constrict*
- *deflate*, *deviation, aberration, divergence*
- *deflate*
  - *define, tentatively, provisionally*
  - *define, tentatively, provisionally*

**deflection**
- *deviation, aberration, divergence*
- *deviate, deviate, diverge*
- *deleterious, harmful, *devastating, disastrous*

**deflect**
- *turn, divert, avert, sheer*
- *deviate, deviate, diverge*
- *deflect, *deviation, aberration, divergence*

**deform**
- *distort, contort, warp*
- *warped*
- *deform, *distort, *deviation, aberration, divergence*

**degenerate**
- *corrupt, infamous, *vicious, villainous, degenerate*
- *deteriorate, decline, declension*
- *degenerate, demeaned (see ABASE): debased, degraded, degraded*

**degrade**
- *demean, demote, reduce, decrase, disrate*
- *degrade, *demean, demote, reduce, decrase, disrate*
- *degrade, *demean, demote, reduce, decrase, disrate*
of her brothers} Perhaps more frequently it may imply an altering of or a freeing from the restrictions of social status {the growing masses of modern society that stand outside all class-strata. These *declased* groups, composed . . . of individuals from all strata of society—(Arendt)}

{a younger generation which feels that the writer ought to be at least a spiritual vagabond, a *declased* mind—(The Dial)} {members of the declased intelligentsia—(Ridgely Cummings)}

Disrate implies a reduction in military and more especially in naval or nautical rank and is used chiefly with reference to petty or noncommissioned officers {the witness had been chief mate . . . but had been *disrated . . . for drunkenness—Mercantile Marine Mag.}

**Ana** humble, humblest, *abase, debase: disbar, rule out (see EXCLUSE)

**Ant** elevate

2 
2 

**dehydrate** vb desiccate, *dry, parch, bake

**deign** condescend, *stoop

**deject** vb *discourage, dishearten, dispirit

**depress** weigh, oppress: distress, *trouble

**dejected** depressed, dispirited, *downcast, disconsolate, *dry, parch, bake

**delay** vb 1 Delay, retard, slow, slacken, *detrain are not always close synonyms, but they carry the same basic meaning: to cause someone or something to be behind in his or its schedule or usual rate of movement or progress.

Delay implies the operation, usually the interference, of something that keeps back or impedes, especially from completion or arrival at a set or given time {a plague upon that villain Somerset, that thus delays my promised supply—Shak.} {a criminal court jury . . . delayed a verdict all afternoon—C. G. Jameson)

that villain Somerset, that thus my promised supply—

**retard** the revolution of a wheel) <a plague upon the preparation does lag at a shameful rate—Carlyle> {the production of certain parts necessary for airplanes is lagging} Loiter implies delay while in progress, commonly while one is walking but sometimes while one is trying to accomplish a piece of work; it also suggests lingering or aimless sauntering or lagging behind {very little remained to be done. Catherine had not loitered; she was almost dressed, and her packing almost finished—Austen> {the caravan has to go on; to loiter at any distance behind is to court extinction—Montague} {the children sauntered down Sloane Street, loitering at the closed shop windows, clinging their shillings in their pockets—Rose Macaulay} Dawdle carries a slighter implication of delay in progress (especially in walking) than loiter but an even stronger connotation of idleness, aimlessness, or of a wandering mind; consequently it usually implies a wasting of time or a taking of more time than is warranted {dawdle through four years of college} {the new maid dawdled over her work) {I did not hurry the rest of the way home; but neither did I dawdle—Heiser} {the sun dawdles intolerably on the threshold like a tedious guest—Jan Struther}

**Ana** linger, tarry, wait (see STAY): *hesitate, falter, vacillate, waver

**Ant** hasten, hurry

**delectable** *delightful, delicious, luscious

**Ana** gratifying, grateful, agreeable, pleasing, welcome, *pleasing: exquisite, rare, delicate, dainty, *choice: *palatable, savory, sapid, toothsome

**Con** *offensive, repulsive, revolting, loathsome: repel- lent, *repugnant, distasteful, abhorrent, obnoxious

**delection** enjoyment, delight, *pleasure, joy, fruition

**Ana** amusement, diversion, entertainment (see under AMUSE): gratifying or gratification, regaling or regale- ment (see corresponding verbs at PLEASE)

**delegate** n Delegate, deputy, representative designate a person who stands in place of another or others. It is not
always possible to distinguish these words, for they are all used in different places or at different times to designate persons whose offices and functions are much the same. Nevertheless there are broad or general differences in meaning which may be observed, although they will not always afford a clue as to why this person or that is called a delegate, a deputy, or a representative. Delegate applies to a person who is sent or is thought of as being sent with a commission to transact business for another or for others; it often specifically designates a person who is sent by an organized or unorganized body (as a branch of a larger organization or a group of employees) to a meeting where questions pertaining to the welfare of the entire organization or industry will be discussed and voted upon. Delegate usually implies powers that are not plenary but are somewhat modified (as by the delegate's own power to influence or convince others and by the need of his bowing to the will of the majority) (a lay delegate to a Protestant Episcopal synod) (each branch of the American Legion sends two delegates to the national convention) (the workers and the employers each sent three delegates to the conference) Deputy applies to a person who is given authority to act for another or for others as a substitute or as an agent; it is particularly applicable to a person who has been chosen to perform a part or the whole of an official's duties (the sheriff of each county appoints one or more deputies) (since he could not be present at the conference, he sent a deputy) Representative applies fundamentally to a person who takes the place of one or more persons in a situation where for some reason the latter cannot be. It may be used of a person engaged to do or to transact business for another or others (the firm's legal representative) (the king's representative at the peace conference) However it is more often employed in reference to one who takes the place of a larger group (as the electorate of a particular region) and thereby belongs to a body of men who as a whole are charged with making the laws for the state or nation (even in a democracy the people as a whole cannot make the laws but assign that work to their representatives in Congress or in Parliament) (the elected became true representatives of the electors—Steele) The terms are often used to imply the same or very similar functions in different places; thus, approximately the same body is called the House of Representatives in the United States and the Chamber of Deputies in the Republic of France; there is little difference except in voting powers between a representative from a state in the United States Congress and a delegate from a territory.

delete cancel, efface, obliterate, blot out, expunge, *erase

ana eliminate, *exclude, rule out: omit (see neglect vb)
deletious detrimental, *pernicious, baneful, noxious

ana injuring or injurious, harming or harmful, hurting or hurtful (see corresponding verbs at injure): destroying or destructive (see corresponding verb destroy): ruining or ruinous (see corresponding verb ruin)

ant salutary —con *beneficial, advantageous, profitable: wholesome, *healthful, healthy

deliberate adj 1 willful, intentional, *voluntary, willing

ana purposed, intended (see intend): conscious, cognizant, *aware: mortal, *deadly

ant impulsive —con inadvertent, *careless, heedless, thoughtless

2 Deliberate, considered, advised, premeditated, designed, studied are comparable when applied to a person's acts, words, or accomplishments with the meaning thought out in advance. Deliberate implies full awareness of the nature of what one says or does and often a careful and unhurried calculation of the intended effect or of the probable consequences (a deliberate lie) (a deliberate snub) (Poe's consummate and deliberate technique—Lowes) (the deliberate insertion into a lyrical context of pieces of slang and "prosaic" words—Day Lewis) (the tone of most comment, whether casual or deliberate, implies that ineptitude and inadequacy are the chief characteristics of government—Frankfurter) Considered, unlike deliberate, which it closely resembles in meaning, is seldom applied to questionable acts or practices; it suggests careful study from all angles rather than calculation and often, therefore, connotes soundness or maturity of judgment (there was no time for a considered reply) (the committee had before it many half-baked and a few considered proposals) (it [the press] is against Democrats, so far as I can see, not after a sober and considered review of the alternatives, but automatically, as dogs are against cats—A. E. Stevenson) (he saw no reason to parade his considered and decided loyalty—Wylie) Advised mostly is used with depreciatory or intensifying adverbial modifiers and denotes so well thought out and considered that possible criticisms and objections have been reviewed and answers to them prepared (she felt well advised to visit him before deciding to be his wife—Forster) (the public is well-advised to leave methodological decisions to members of the medical profession—Woodring) Its related adverb advisedly is often used to carry the implications of considered (which has no adverb) (he told them he used the offending word advisedly) (everything in this difficult situation has been done advisedly) (I often say that one must permit oneself, and that quite advisedly and deliberately, a certain margin of misstatement—Cardozo) Premeditated emphases forethought and planning but often falls far short of deliberate in implying careful calculation and awareness of consequences (certain self-conscious preciosities in his premeditated style—Powys) It is applied especially to things (as crimes or insults) which are morally or socially unacceptable and for which only overwhelming impulse or overmastering passion (as of fear or rage) could reasonably be offered as extenuating circumstances; in such relation, then, premeditated implies wrongdoing unmitigated by circumstances (a premeditated murder) (plain that Thady's presence on the scene at the moment was accidental and that the attack could not have been premeditated—Trollope) Designed and its adverb designedly are often applied to what has the appearance of being accidental, spontaneous, or natural but which is actually the result of intention (the designed failure of a project) (useless to seek to know whether he has been for years overlooked, or always designedly held prisoner—Dickens) Studied is applied chiefly to effects gained or qualities achieved as a result of painstaking effort or careful attention to detail; it connotes absence of spontaneity (a rather studied performance of a Beethoven symphony) (the studied dignity and anxious courtesy of the actor-manager—Shaw) It is also applied to offensive acts committed with cool deliberation and with attention to their probable effect (treat the opposition with studied discourtesy)

ana planned, schemed, projected (see corresponding verbs under plan vb): calculated (see calculate): *careful, meticulous, scrupulous

ant casual —con haphazard, *random, hit-or-miss, desultory, happy-go-lucky, chance, chancy

3 leisurely, *slow, dilatory, laggard

ana *cautious, circumspect, wary, chary, calculating: *cool, collected, composed, imperturbable

ant precipitate, abrupt —con impetuous, headlong, sudden, hasty (see precipitate)
delightful, *delight
vb
delight
vb

delicious
deliberate
vb

delineate 1
trace, outline, *sketch, diagram, draft, plot, blueprint

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
that he is being pursued) (he had hallucinations as a child. Mediaeval figures from the Faerie Queene had walked beside him on his way to school—Brooks) Mirage is comparable with the preceding terms only in its extended sense in which it usually applies to a vision, dream, hope, or aim which one takes as a guide, not realizing that it is merely an illusion (this hope to find your people. . . . is a mirage, a delusion, which will lead to destruction if you will not abandon it—Hudson) Ana *deception, trickery, chicane, chicanery: *imposture, counterfeit, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, deceit: fantasy, vision, dream, daydream. *fancy delusive, delusory deceptive, *misleading Ana fantastic, chimerical, visionary, *imaginary, fanciful, quixotic: fallacious, sophistical, casuistical (see under fallacy): illusory, seeming, ostensible, *apparent delve *dig, spade, grub, excavate demand vb Demand, claim, require, exact are comparable not as close synonyms but as sharing the basic meaning to ask or call for something as due or as necessary or as strongly desired. Demand strongly implies peremptoriness or insistency; if the subject is a person or sometimes an expression of his will (as a law), it usually implies that he possesses or believes he possesses the right or the authority not only to issue a peremptory request but also to expect its being regarded as a command (the physician demanded payment of his bill) (the court demands fair treatment of the accused by the prosecutor) (the father demanded knowledge of what had occurred during his absence from home) (can he [the keeper of a public record] refuse a copy thereof to a person demanding it on the terms prescribed by law?—John Marshall) (instincts which the conventions of good manners and the imperatives of morality demand that they should repress—Huxley) If the subject of the verb is a thing, the verb implies the call of necessity or of imperative need (the fire that the cool evenings of early spring demanded—Mary Austin) (the mind and body of a child demand a great deal of play—Russell) (he is best in his plays when dealing with situations which do not demand great emotional concentration—T. S. Eliot) Claim implies a demanding either of the delivery or concession of something due one as one's own, one's right, or one's prerogative or of the admission or recognition of something which one as- serts or affirms; thus, one who claims a piece of property demands its delivery to him as his own; one who claims that he has solved a problem demands recognition of the truth of his assertion (there is no right to freedom or life. But each man does claim such freedom—Alexander) (a genius, say his detractors, can be perverse, and they claim the right to tell this genius when and where and why he is perverse—Read) Require is often used interchangeably with demand, but it usually distinctively implies imperativeness such as arises from inner necessity (con- secutive thinking absolutely requires personal initiative—Eliot) or the compulsion of law or regulation (require that every member of the bank's staff be bonded) or the exigencies of the situation (I shall not go away till you have given me the assurance I require—Austen) Exact implies not only demanding something but getting what one demands (exact payment of overdue rent) (exact a promise from a friend) (she . . . kept a keen eye on her Court, and exacted prompt and willing obedience from king and archbishops—Henry Adams) (the mistake of exacting reparations in money and then lending Germany the money with which to pay—Truman) Ana *limit, restrict, circumscribe, confine: define, assign, prescribe demeanor deport, comport, *behave, conduct, acquit, quit Ana *carry, bear (as reflexive verbs) demeanor *abase, degrade, debase, humble, humiliates Con heighten, enhance (see intensify): exalt, magnify, aggravize demeanoror deportment, *bearing, mien, port, presence Ana *behavior, conduct, deportment: *posture, attitude, pose: air, mannerism, *pose, affectation demented *insane, mad, crazy, crazed, deranged, lunatic, maniac, non compos mentis Ana *irrational, unreasonable: delirious, hysterical, frenzied (see corresponding nouns at mania) Ant rational dementia *insanity, lunacy, mania, psychosis Ana *mania, delirium, hysteria, frenzy demise *death, decease, passing demolish *destroy, raze Ana wreck, *ruin, dilapidate: devastate, *ravage, waste, sack Ant construct demoniac, demonic diabolic, diabolical, *fiendish, devilish Ana hellish, *infernal: crazed, crazy, maniac, *insane: inspired, fired (see inform) Con *celestial, heavenly demonstrate 1 manifest, evince, *show, evidence Ana *reveal, disclose, discover, betray: display, exhibit, parade, flaunt, expose. *show Ana *hide, conceal, secrete: dissemble, cloak, mask, *disguise, camouflage 2 *prove, try, test Ana argue, debate (see discuss): substantiate, verify, authenticate, *confirm, corroborate, validate demonstration proof, trial, test (see under prove) Ana substantiation, confirming or confirmation, corroboration, verification (see corresponding verbs at confirm) demote *degrade, reduce, declass, disrate Ant promote (in rank, grade) demur vb Demur, scruple, balk, jib, shy, boggle, stick, stickle, strain are comparable when they mean to hesitate or show reluctance because of difficulties in the way. One demurs to or at something when one raises objections to it, casts doubt upon it, or takes exception to it, thereby interposing obstacles which delay action, procedure, or decision (our colleagues in the university who demur on academic grounds to the inclusion of theology—Moherby) In older use the stress was on delay (notwithstanding he hoped that matters would have been long since brought to an issue, the fair one still demurs—Spectator) In modern use the emphasis is commonly on objection (Jerry . . . proposed that. . . . we stretch a point as standing he hoped that matters would have been long since brought to an issue, the fair one still demurs—Spectator) One scruples to do or at doing something when he is reluctant because his conscience bothers or because he is doubtful of the propriety, expediency, or morality of the action; the word is increasingly common in a negative construction (scruple to accept any gift that might seem a bribe) (he does not scruple to ask the most abominable things of you—Meredith) (in Greece and in particular Athens was overrun by philosophers, who . . . did not scruple to question the foundations of social and moral obligation—Dickinson) One balks (often at something) when he stops short and obstinately refuses to go further in his course because he has reached
The limit of strength, courage, credulity, or tolerance (the horse balked at the leap) (he never balks at any task no matter how difficult it is) (there is the opposite case of the man who yields his poetic faith too readily, who does not balk at any improbablity—Babbitt) (one rather balks at the idea of synthetic roughage—excelsior, wood chips, or whatever may be at hand—Furnas) One jibs (often at something) when he balks like a horse and backs away or out (I had settled to finish the review, when, behold... I jibbed—Scott) (he jibbed at alliance with the Catholic League—Belloe) (his soldiers, many of whom had served with Antony, jibbed at the attack on their old leader—Buchan) One shies at, away from, or off from something when he suddenly frightened horse recoils or swerves aside in alarm or distaste or suspicion and is unable to proceed or act (Shy at the sight of blood) (these turns of speech... have the old virtue in them; you see the old temperament of the race still evincing itself; still shying away from the long abstract word—Montague) One boggles at, over, or about something from which he by temperament, instinct, or training shies away. In addition, to boggle often implies scripting or fussing (when a native begins perjury he perjures himself thoroughly. He does not boggle over details—Kipling) (we [lovers of poetry] do not balk at the sea-wave washing the rim of the sun, which we know it does not do, any more than we boggle at blackberries that are red when they are green—Lowes) (it was in the essence a snobbish pleasure... why should I boggle at the world?—L. P. Smith) One sticks at something to which he demurs because of scruples, especially scruples of conscience; the term is used frequently in the idiom "stick at nothing," which is another way of saying be absolutely unscrupulous (was in a hole and would stick at little to get out of it—Buchan) One stickles at, about, or over something to which he demurs or raises objections because it is offensive, distasteful, or contrary to his principles (the purist stickles at using clipped words such as gas for gasoline, phone for telephone, exam for examination) (there is no time in a serious emergency to stickle over means if they achieve the desired ends) (presumably that is his method...so the reader, eager to get good things where he can, will not stickle at it—K. D. Burke) One strains at something when he demurs to it as beyond his power to believe, accept, understand, or do. This usage is chiefly dependent on the scriptural passage "ye blind guides, which strait in a gnat, and swallow a camel." The object of at is commonly something which might without real difficulty be believed, accepted, understood, or done (persons who strain at the truth yet accept every wild rumor without question) (I do not strain at the position,—it is familiar,—but at the author's drift—Shak.)

**Demur**

*name, designation, appellation, title, style*

2 *class, category, genus, species, genre*

3 sect, communion, *religion, faith, creed, cult, persuasion,*

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

**Denomination**

1 name, designation, appellation, title, style

2 *class, category, genus, species, genre*

3 sect, communion, *religion, faith, creed, cult, persuasion, church*

**Denotation**

connotation (see under DENOTE)

*A* meaning, signification, significance, sense, acception, import

**Denote**

1 signify, *mean, import

*A* betoken, bespeak, *indicate, attest, argue, prove: *indent, mean: *suggest, imply, hint, intimate, insinuate

2 Denote, connote and their corresponding nouns denotation, connotation are complementary rather than synonymous. Taken together, the verbs as used in reference to terms equal mean (see MEAN vb 2). Taken singly, a term denotes or has as its denotation whatever is expressed in its definition: in a noun the thing or the definable class of things or ideas which it names, in a verb the act or state which is affirmed. A term connotes or has as its connotation the ideas or emotions that are added to it and cling to it, often as a result of experience but sometimes as a result of something extraneous (as a poet's effective use of the term, or its constant association with another term or idea, or a connection between it and some historical event); thus, "home" denotes the place where one lives with one's family, but it connotes comforts, intimacy, and privacy. What a term denotes (or the denotation of a term) can be definitely fixed; what a term connotes (or its connotation) often depends upon the experience or background of the person using it (I have used the term "post-war poets" to denote those who did not begin to write verse till after the war—Day Lewis) (there is no word that has more sinister and terrible connotations in our snobbish society than the word promiscuity—Shaw)

In logic denote and connote, though still complementary and still predicated of terms, carry very different implications. They are dependent on two highly technical terms, both collective nouns, denotation and connotation. A term denotes (or bears as denotation) the entire number of things or instances covered by it; thus, "plant" denotes the aggregate of all things that come under the definition of that word; the denotation of "plant" is far more inclusive than the denotation of "shrub." A term connotes (or bears as connotation) the sum total of the qualities or characteristics that are implied by it and are necessarily or commonly associated with it; thus, "plant" connotes (or bears as connotation) life, growth and decay, lack of power of locomotion, and, commonly, roots and cellular structure invested with a cellulose wall.

**Denounce**

condemn, censure, reprove, reprehend, blame, *criticize

*A* accuse, charge, arraign, impeach, incriminate, indict: *decry, disparage, depurate: revile, vituperate (see SCOLD)

Ant eulogize —Con *commend, applaud, compliment, recommend: *praise, extol, laud, acclaim

**Dense**

1 compact, *close, thick

*A* consolidated, concentrated, compacted (see compact vb); compressed, condensed (see contract vb); massed, heaped, piled, stacked (see heap vb)

Ant sparse (of population, forests); tenuious (of clouds, air, masses) —Con scattered, dispersed, dissipated (see SCATTER); *thin, rare: *meager, scanty, scant, exiguous 2 crass, *stupid, slow, dull, dumb

Ant obtuse, *dull: stolid, phlegmatic, *impassive

Ant subtle: bright —Con *intelligent, brilliant, clever, alert, quick-witted

**Denude**

bare, *strip, divest, dismantle

Ant clothe

**Deny**

gainsay, contradict, negative, traverse, impugn, contravene are comparable as meaning, when they refer to an act, to declare something untrue, untenable, or unworthy of consideration or, when they refer to a condition, to go
counter to what is true or to the facts as they are. Deny commonly implies a refusal and usually a firm or outspoken refusal to accept as true, to grant or concede, or to acknowledge the existence or claims of (deny the report that the British ambassador has resigned) (he is no vulgar and stupid cynic who denies the existence . . . of any feel- 

ings higher than the merely physical—Huxley) (deny citizenship to certain applicants) (deny a request for more books) (for he's a jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny!) (the necessities of his own life . . . not any longer to be denied—Mary Austin) (it would seem that I was denying God—Meredith) In the reflexive form deny usually implies_abstainence or renunciation often, but not necessarily, for religious or moral reasons (she denied herself all luxuries) (he resolved to deny himself the pleasure of smoking) (compare self-denial at renun- 
ciation). Gainsay is somewhat formal or literary; it implies opposition, usually by way of disputing the truth of what another has said (facts which cannot be gainsaid) (but she's a fine woman—that nobody can gainsay—Meredith) (his mother, whom he could not gainsay, was unconsciously but inflexibly set against his genius—Brooks) (no one would gainsay the right of anyone, the royal American right, to protest—White) Contradict differs from gainsay not only in usually implying a more open or a flatter denial of the truth of an assertion but also in commonly suggesting that the contrary of the assertion is true or that the statement is utterly devoid of truth; thus "to contradict a rumor" is a stronger expres- 
sion than "to deny a rumor"; one may contradict (never in this sense deny) a person, whereas one may deny or con- 
tradict (the stronger term) an assertion of his (a report which highly incensed Mrs. Bennet, and which she never failed to contradict as a most scandalous falsehood—Austen) ("Nobody contradicts me now," wrote Queen Victoria after her husband's death, "and the salt has gone out of my life"—Ellis) Contradict is also used without implication of a spoken or written denial: it then suggests that an assertion, a doctrine, or a teaching runs counter to something else, and therefore either it cannot be true or the other must be false (all the protestations of the employers that they would be ruined by the Factory Acts were contradicted by experience—Shaw) (they insisted on teaching and enforcing an ideal that contradicted the realities—Henry Adams) Negative is usually a much milder term than those which precede; often it implies merely a refusal to asent to something (as a suggestion, a proposition, a nomination, or a bill) (the senate nega- 
tived the proposed taxation) (after a polite request that Elizabeth would lead the way, which the other as politely . . . negatived—Austen) (Beaufort stood, hat in hand, saying something which his companion seemed to nega- 
tive—Wharton) When the idea of going counter to is uppermost, negative usually implies displeasure (the omis- 
sion or infrequency of such recitals does not negative the existence of miracles—Paley) Traverse occurs chiefly in legal use and implies a formal denial (as of the truth of an allegation or the justice of an indictment) (it traverses the theory of the Court—Corwin) Impugn usually retains much of its basic implication of attacking and carries the strongest suggestion of any of these terms of directly disputing or questioning or of forcefully contradicting a statement, proposition, or less often a person; it sometimes connotes prolonged argument in an attempt to refute or confuse (the idealists . . . took up the challenge, but their reply was to disparte the significance, and even to impugn the reality, of the world as known to science—Inge) (the morality of our Restoration drama cannot be impugned. It assumes orthodox Christian morality, and laughs (in its comedy) at human nature for not living up to it—T. S. Eliot) (no one cares to impugn a fool; no one dares to impugn a captain of industry—Brooks) Contravene implies strongly a coming into conflict but less strongly than the other terms an intentional opposition, suggesting rather some inherent incompatibility (no state law may contravene the United States Constitution or federal laws enacted under its authority—Fitzsimmons) (steps toward the mitigation of racial segregation and discrimi- 
nation are often forestalled, since . . . these contravene the dicta of Southern customs and tradition—R. E. Jackson) Ana *decline, refuse, reject, repudiate: controvert, refute, rebut, confute, *disprove 

Ant confirm: concede —Con aver, affirm, *assert: 

*acknowledge 

depart 1 leave, withdraw, retire, *go, quit 

Arrive: remain, abide —Con *stay, tarry, linger, wait: *come 

2 digress, deviate, *swerve, diverge, veer 

Ana forsake, *abandon, desert: reject, repudiate (see decline vb): *discard, cast 

departed deceased, late, *dead, defunct, lifeless, inanimate 

depend 1 *rely, trust, count, reckon, bank 

Ana lean, incline (see slant vb) 

2 Depend, hinge, hang, turn are comparable when they mean to rest or, especially, to be contingent upon some- 
thing uncertain or variable or indeterminable. All are normally followed by on or upon. Depend, which literally means to hang or be suspended, suggests an element of mental suspense which makes forecasting impossible. It often suggests uncertainty of a thing with reference to circumstances yet to take place, facts not yet known, or a decision yet to be made (our trip depends upon the weather) (his going to college will depend on his ability to earn enough money to cover his living expenses) (another motive is the conviction that winning the best satisfaction of later life will depend on possessing this power to think—Eliot) It may suggest also a variability that rests upon a difference in attitude or point of view (the stern moral of strikers. This may mean either a staunch fidelity to law and order, or willingness to over- 
turn a motor bus in the street. . . . It depends on who is speaking—Montague) Hinge is sometimes used inter- 
changeably with depend; it may retain much of its literal suggestion of a movable part (as a door or a gate) that opens or closes upon hinges and then usually implies the cardinal (see under ESSENTIAL 2) point upon which a 
decision, a controversy, or an outcome ultimately rests. In such use it suggests not so much mental suspense as uncertainty tempered by the certainty that the matter will go one way or the other (the outcome of the war hinges on the ability of our forces to outmove every strategic move of the enemy) (the point on which the decision must finally hinge—Thirlwall) (the whole case being built up by Mr. Kennon was going to hinge in large part upon a single issue—was Clifford under the influence of liquor—Basso) Hang likewise may interchange with depend, but more precisely it suggests a point of support such as is characteristic of the literal action of hanging; the term therefore stresses not so much the uncertainty of the event as the weakness or the strength of what gives validity, authority, or credibility to something (as a doc- 
trine, a belief, or a course of action) or of what points the way to fulfillment or successful performance (the truth of the testimony hangs on his word only) (the election hangs on a single vote) (a good deal . . . hangs on the meaning, if any, of this short word full—T. S. Eliot) 

Tuna often comes close to hinge in its meaning <great 

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
dependable *reliable, trustworthy, trusty, tried

Dependable

describe, narrate, *relate: *sketch, draft, outline,

relying, depending, trusting, reckoning, counting

subject, *liable, open, exposed, susceptible

Ana sure, assured, *confident: *responsible: stanch,
steadfast, constant, *faithful
Con *doubtful, questionable, dubious: capricious, fickle,
unstable, *inconstant, mercurial

dependence 

reliance, *trust, confidence, faith

dependent adj 1 Dependent, contingent, conditional, relative

mean having its existence or nature determined by

something else. Something is dependent which cannot

exist or come into existence by itself quite without aid

or support ⟨we are all dependent on another, every

soul of us on earth—Shaw⟩ ⟨the color of the skin is depen-
dent on an adequate supply of blood—Fishbein⟩

What is contingent
takes its character from something that already

exists or may exist and therefore is limited or qualified

by something extraneous or is incapable of existence

apart from it ⟨a person's conception of love is contingent

both on his past experience and on the nature of that expe-

rience⟩ ⟨if propriety should die, there could be no im-

propriety, inasmuch as the contingency of the latter is wholly

contingent on the presence of the former—Grandgent⟩

war is contingent: even dictatorship is contingent.

Both depend

on, ignorance—Pound⟩ Something is conditional

which depends for its realization, fulfillment, execution,

or expression on what may or may not occur or on the

performance or observance of certain terms or conditions.

Conditional and contingent

are often interchangeable, but the

former is preferred when eventualities are in the power

of the human will ⟨the pardon is conditional on his behav-

ior during probation⟩ ⟨while the validity of conditional

recognition is a matter of degree, it would be entirely novel

. . . if the conditions for recognition were set forth by a new

government—I-Kua Chou⟩ Something is relative

which cannot be known, considered, or determined apart

from its reference to something else and which therefore

is affected by the limitations, the instability, or the imper-

fections of the other thing ⟨market values are always, relative

to the demand⟩ ⟨the idea of civilization is relative

. . . any community and any age has its own civilization

and its own ideals of civilization—Ellis⟩

Ana subject, *liable, open, exposed, susceptible

Ant absolute: infinite: original —Con *ultimate, cate-
gorical: uncircumscribed, boundless, eternal, illimitable

(see infinite): undervived (see affirmative verb at spring)

2 subject, tributary, *subordinate, secondary, collateral

Ana relying, depending, trusting, reckoning, counting

(see rely): subsidiary, subservient, *auxiliary: abased,
humbled, debased (see abuse)

Ant independent

depict *represent, portray, delineate, picture, limn

Ana describe, narrate, *relate: *sketch, draft, outline,
trace

deplete vb Deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish, bankrupt

are comparable when they mean to deprive a thing in

whole or in part of what is essential or necessary to its

existence or potency. Deplete is often used as though it

implied merely a reduction in numbers, in quantity, or in

mass or volume; it may be used specifically to suggest the

potential harm of such a reduction or the impossibility of

restoring what has been lost before such consequences

are evident; thus, bloodletting depletes the system, not

only by reducing the quantity of blood but by depriving

the system of elements essential to its vitality and vigor; an

epidemic depletes an army when it reduces the army not

only in size but in effective strength, especially at a time

when that strength is needed ⟨he would have us fill up

our depleted curriculum with subjects whose worth has not

even been tried—Grandgent⟩ cattle herds depleting by

the heavy slaughter last year—Time⟩

Drain when pre-
cisely employed retains its basic implications of slow

withdrawal of liquid (as by straining, seepage, or suction)

until the substance which is drained becomes dry or the

container which holds the liquid is emptied: hence it con-

notes a gradual depletion and ultimate deprivation of the

figurative lifeblood of a thing or the essential element of

its existence or well-being ⟨the Thirty Years' War nearly

drained Germany of men and materials⟩ ⟨their country's

wealthy mightier misers drain—Pope⟩ ⟨a burden of arms

draining the wealth and labor of all peoples—Eisenhower⟩

Exhaust (see also tire) is very close to

drain, but it stresses emptying or evacuation rather than

gradual depletion. Unlike drain, which usually implies

loss without compensating gain, exhaust need not suggest

ultimate loss of what is removed; thus, a mine is exhausted

when all its ore has been removed for refining: a soil is

exhausted, or drained of nutrients, by growing crops on

it without adequate fertilizing; but, a person is

drained of vitality when overwork or illness reduces him to a weak

condition or ineffective state ⟨exhaust a subject by treating

so fully that nothing more can be said about it⟩. Emolliences is

exhausted when no further sugar can be extracted from it

⟨the theme of mother and child has proved a theme

which no age has ever exhausted or ever will exhaust—

Binyon⟩ ⟨evidently the old ideas had been exhausted

and the time was ripe for new ideologies—R. W. Murray⟩

⟨seven hundred years of glorious and incessant creation

seem to have exhausted the constructive genius of Europe

—Clive Bell⟩ Impoverish implies a depletion or a drain-

ing of something as essential to a thing as money or its

equivalent is to a human being; it stresses the deprivation

of qualities essential to a thing's strength, richness, or

productiveness ⟨impoverish the body by too meager a

diet⟩ ⟨a brilliant sun scorched the impoverished trees

and sucked energy from the frail breezes—Farrelly⟩

Bankrupt stresses such impoverishment of a thing that it is destitute

of qualities essential to its continued existence or produ-

civeness; it connotes a complete or imminent collapse or

breaking down ⟨argued that science by inattention to

immaterial phenomena is bankrupting itself⟩ ⟨dainty

bits make rich the ribs, but bankrupt quite the wits—

Shak⟩

Ana undermine, sap, debilitate, *weaken, enfeeble,
cripple, disable: reduce, diminish, *decrease, lessen

Ant augment, *increase, enlarge

deplore, lament, bewail, bemoan mean to manifest grief

what is regarded as irreparable, calamitous, or destructive

undermine, sap, debilitate, *weaken, enfeeble,

Deplore implies keen and profound regret especially for

what is regretted, sorrow or mourning. In contrast to

deplore, it usually does imply utterance, sometimes

passionate, sometimes fulsome ⟨yet I lament that long

has ceased to be—Shelley⟩ ⟨he made the newly returned

actress a tempting offer, instigating some journalist friends

An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
of his at the same time to lament over the decay of the grand school of acting—Shaw> Bewail and bemoan imply poignant sorrow finding an outlet in words or cries, bewail commonly suggesting the louder, bemoan, the more lugubrious expression of grief or, often, of a mere grievance or a complaint (the valet bewailing the loss of his wages—Alexander) (even at the time when our prose speech was as near to perfection as it is ever likely to be, its critics were bemoaning its corruption—Ellis) (and all wept, and bewailed her—Lk 8:52) (the silver swans her hapless fate bemoan, in notes more sad than when they sing their own—Pope) Ana deprecate, *disapprove: *grieve, mourn, sorrow: weep, wail, *cry Con vaunt, crow, *boast, brag

deport n 1 demean, comport, *behave, conduct, acquit, quit
Ana see those at DEMEAN
2 transport, *banish, exile, expatriate, ostracize, extricate
Ana see those at BEHAVIOR
department n 1 behavior, conduct
Ana see those at BEHAVIOR
2 demeanor, *bearing, mien, port, presence
Ana *from, formality, ceremony, ceremonial, ritual:
*culture, cultivation, breeding, refinement: dignity, grace, *elegance
deposit n Deposit, precipitate, sediment, drags, lees, grounds mean matter which settles to the bottom of or is let fall from suspension in a fluid (as air or water). Deposit, the most comprehensive term, refers to matter left fall by a natural or mechanical process to remain where it settles until there is a visible layer or accumulation (a deposit of soot in a chimney) (a deposit of gravel on the bed of a river) (rich deposits of coal) (the walls of the houses are clean and less discolored by the deposited of carbon than usual in most towns—Jefferies) Precipitate denotes a usually solid substance separated from a solution or suspension by some chemical interaction or by some physical force (as heat, cold, or centrifugal force) (camphor may be obtained as a precipitate from an alcoholic solution by salting out) (some finely divided precipitates (as silver chloride and zinc sulfide) coalesce into amorphous, let fall from suspension in a fluid (as air or water). Deposit, usual in most towns—Jefferies) Deposit, falling, dropping, sinking, subsiding (see FALL)
deposition n affidavit, testimony, *evidence
Ana *account, report, version
depลอเรน *debase, vitiate, corrupt, debauch, pervert
Ana defile, pollute, taint, *contaminate: *injure, impair, damage, spoil
Con *improve, better, ameliorate: *exalt, magnify
deprecated debased, vitiated, corrupted, corrupt, debauched, perverted (see under DEBASE)
Ana dissolve, *abandoned, reprobate, profligate: degenerate, infamous, villainous, *vicious: degraded, debased (see ABASE)
decrate *disapprove
Ana *deplore, lament, bewail, bemoan: reprobate, reprehend, condemn (see CRITICIZE)
Ant endorse —Con *approve, sanction: *commend, applaud
decrate *decry, disparage, derogate, detract, belittle, minimize
Ana underestimate, undervalue, underrate (see base words at ESTIMATE): aspere, *malign
Ant appreciate —Con prize, cherish, treasure, value (see APPRECIATE): *understand, comprehend
decreatic, deprecatorial *derogatory, disparaging, slighting, pejorative
Ana *decrying, belittling, minimizing (see DECRY): aspersing, maligning (see MALIGN vb) underrating, underestimating, undervaluing (see base words at ESTIMATE)
depress, weigh, oppress mean to put such pressure or such a load upon a thing or person as to cause it or him to sink under the weight. Depress implies a lowering of something by the exertion of pressure or by an overburdening; it most commonly implies a lowering of spirits by physical or mental causes (the long dull evenings in these dull lodgings when one is weary with work depress one sadly—J. R. Green) (the mere volume of work was enough to crush the most diligent of rulers and depress the most vital—Buchan) (he was depressed by his failure—Anderson) It may suggest lowering of bodily vigor or the power of certain organs to function (as by a drug, a disease, or an external condition) (the drug aconite depresses heart action) In reference to other things (as market prices or social or cultural states) depress often suggests a lowering in activity, intensity, or vigor (the first effect of the World War was greatly to depress the prices of stocks) (a grain market depressed by the existence of a large surplus) (to depress the culture of the minority below the point at which a full understanding of poetry becomes possible—Day Lewis) Weigh in this relation is used with down, on, or upon and carries a weaker implication of the result or lowering than depress but a stronger implication of the difficulty or burdens imposed upon a person or thing (he is weighed down with cares) (the responsibility weighs heavily upon him) (Walter's mind had cleared itself of the depression which had weighed on him so heavily—Costain) (a melancholy damp . . . to weigh thy spirits down—Milton) Like weigh, oppress stresses the burden which is borne or is imposed and, like depress, the consequent ill effects (as the lowering of spirits or of power to function) or in its more common sense (see WRONG), a trampling down, a harassing, or a subjection to heavy penalties (the weary world of waters between us oppresses the imagination—Lamb) (the Butler, oppressed by the heat . . . was in a state of abstraction bordering on slumber—Shaw) (she is so oppressed by fear that she may lose her mind)
Ana distress, *trouble, ail: *afflict, try, torment: *tire, weary, fatigued, exhaust, fag, jade, tuck
Ant elate: cheer —Con gladden, rejoice, delight, gratify, *please
*depressed dejected, dispirited, *downcast, disconsolate, woebegone

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
derogatory, depreciatory, depreciative, disparaging, slighting.

**depression**

disheartened (see DISCOURAGE): *melancholy, lugubrious
depression
decay, gloom, blues, dumps, *sadness, melancholy, melancholia
despondency, forlornness, hopelessness, despair, desperation (see under DESPONDENT): doldrums, boredom, ennui, *tedium

**Ant**

buoyancy —*Con* cheerfulness, lightheartedness, gladness, joyousness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD): *mirth, hilarity, glee
deputy

1 attorney, *agent, factor, proxy

**Ana** substitute, surrogate (see RESOURCE)

2 *delegate, representative
deracinate

uproot, eradicate, extripate, *exterminate, wipe

**Ana** *abolish, extinguish, annihilate, abate: *destroy, demolish
derange
disarrange, unsettle, *disorder, disturb, disorganize

**Ana** upset, *discompose, perturb: commode, inconvenience, *inconvenience

**Ant** arrange (a scheme, plan, system): adjust
deranged
demented, non compos mentis, crazed, crazy, *insane, mad, lunar, maniac
derangement

*aberration, alienation
derelict

n *outcast, castaway, reprobate, pariah, untouchable

**Ana** *vagabond, vagrant, tramp, hobo
dereliction

failure, neglect, default, miscarriage

**Ana** abuse, misuse, outrage (see ABUSE vb)
deride

*ridicule, mock, taunt, twit, rally

**Ana** * scoff, jeer, gibe, flout, sneer, gird, fleer: chaff, *banter, kid, rag, jolly, rib
derive

originate, arise, rise, *spring, emanate, issue, stem, flow, proceed
dernier cri

*fashion, style, mode, vogue, fad, rage, craze, cry
derogue
dispersal, detract, belittle, minimize, depreciate, *decry

**Ana** reduce, lessen, *decrease, diminish

**Con** enhance, heighten, *intensify
derogatory, depreciatory, depreciative, disparaging, slighting, pejorative mean designed or tending to belittle. Derogatory may be used of one's own action or activity that tends to detract from his reputation or to lower him in the estimation of others (though it was supposed to be proper for them to have an occupation, the crude fact of money-making was still regarded as derogatory—Wharton) will grub in a garden all day, or wash dogs or rid them of vermin ... without considering the dirt involved in these jobs in the least derogatory to their dignity—Shaw) More often the term is applied to expressions or modes of expression (as choice of words or tone of voice) and then implies an intent to detract or belittle by suggesting something that is discreditable (the derogatory use of the term politician) he makes remarks about miracles, quite derogatory remarks—H. G. Wells) (there is no one so situated that he cannot refrain from telling race jokes and using derogatory names—Lillian Smith) Deprecatory and depreciative are used chiefly of something written or spoken that tends to lower a thing in value or in status (a deprecatory comparison of man's mortal nature with the persistence of cosmic phenomena—Lowie) They often also describe words or modes of using words that bear connotations tending to discredit or to bring into discredit the person or thing referred to (what people might refer to, slightlying, as being mere subjective feelings ... have more significance than that depreciatory way of speaking about them—Hendel) in the classic world of antiquity they called outsiders ... "barbarians"—a denomination which took on an increasingly depreciative sense—Ellis) Disparaging definitely implies an intent to depreciate usually by the use of oblique and indirect methods. The term suggests an attempt to make little of or to discourage by belittling and often carries a clearer implication of intentional detraction than derogatory and of resulting undervaluing than depreciatory or depreciative (a disparaging review of a book) (criticism is in many cases just a calling of laudatory or disparaging names—Huxley) nothing can be further from the truth than to call the Greeks "intellectualists" in the disparaging sense in which the word is now often used—Inge) Slighting applies to anything that may convey or imply a slight or indicate the little respect in which one is held by the speaker; it sometimes implies disparagement but, more often, indifference or disdain (to hear yourself ... glanced at in a few slighting terms—Ben Jonson) (a slighting allusion to his book) (the constable felt the full effect of this slighting reception—Scott) (her chief complaint is my slighting reference to Henry James—J. D. Adams) Pejorative is nearly equal to depreciatory or depreciative in meaning (it might be argued, without any pejorative implication, whether Gide's is essentially a religious temperament or whether ... he has found in the traditions and doctrines of Christianity ... an adequate and sympathetic psychology—Farrell) (the Grand Jury ... is here put in a pejorative light—Stein) It is used especially in reference to words which have acquired a later and baser meaning or to derogatory words formed from another word or root by the addition of a suffix or prefix that gives them a derogatory twist (the earlier meaning of "imp"—a child—has now given way to its pejorative meaning of a mischievous child, or rogue) (it was drifting, all right, but not drifting in any nasty pejorative sense, like ... a cake of soap in the gray water before you pull the plug in the bathtub—Warren) (euphemism ... is the motive force behind many pejorative developments. If a euphemistic substitute ceases to be felt as such ... this will result in a permanent depreciation of its meaning—Ullmann) (resort to pejorative epithets as their argument—Cohen) (poetaster is the pejorative word for poet) (pseudo- is often used in English with pejorative force)

**Ana** belittling, minimizing, decrying (see DECRY): aspersing, maligning (see MALIGN)
descant vb

1 *sing, troll, carol, warble, trill, hymn, chant, intone

2 *discourse, expatriate, dilate
descent, dismount, alight mean to get or come down from a height. One descends when one climbs down a slope (as of a hill or mountain), a ladder, a step, a stair, a wall, or a tree; one dismounts when one gets down from a horse or from a bicycle or motorcycle; one alights when one comes down from a perch or out of a vehicle (as a carriage, a car, or an airplane) with a spring or especially with lightness and grace.

Ant ascend, climb
descendant

*offspring, young, progeny, issue, posterity
describe

*relate, narrate, state, report, rehearse, recite, recount

**Ana** delineate, *sketch, outline
description

kind, sort, *type, character, nature, stripe, kidney, ilk
decry

espy, *see, behold, observe, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern, view, survey, contemplate
decesration

*profanation, sacrilege, blasphemy

**Ana** defilement, pollution (see corresponding verbs at CONTAMINATE)
desert

n *waste, badlands, wilderness

desert n *due, merit

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
design vb forsake, *abandon

Ant stay, abide, abide by

Ana meed, guerdon, reward (see PREMIUM); punishment, chastisement, chastening, disciplining or discipline (see corresponding verbs at PUNISH)

desert vb leave, quit, depart (see GO)
Ant forsake, *abandon

desert vb see under desert at ABANDON vb
desertion n 1 *defection, apostasy
at ABANDON

vb forsake, *abandon

desert vb forgo, *abandon

Ant persevere, *remain

Ana analogous words *name, denomination, appellation, title, style

Ant imitation, *emulation, *imitation

*name, denomination, appellation, title, style
Desire

Desire in more general use, however, emphasizes the strength or ardor of feeling and often implies strong intention or aim <more than any other thing on earth desired to fight for his country—White> <unions which desired to avail themselves of the benefits of the law—Collier’s Yr. BK.> Wish is less strong, often suggesting a not usually intense longing for an object unattained, unattainable, or questionably attainable <Newton’s law of gravitation could not be wished into existence—Overstreet> <not to have property, if one wished it, was almost a certain sign of shiftlessness—Brooks>

Want (see also LACK) is a less formal term than wish and so is often interchangeable with it in situations where dignity of the subject or respectfulness is not at issue, though generally want implies that the longing is for something the attainment of which would fill a real need and which is actively hoped for <those who wanted to live long—Fishbein> <the French wanted European unity—N. Y. Times>

Crave implies strongly the force of physical or mental appetite or need (as of hunger, thirst, love, or ambition) <crave peace and security after war—Donna Byrne> <what he craved was books of poetry and chivalry—Weeks> Covet implies a strong, eager desire, often inordinate and envious and often for what belongs to another <where water is the most coveted and essential resource because its supply is limited—Amer. Guide Series: Texas> <we hate no people, covet no people’s land—Willkie>

Ana *long, yearn, hangker, pine, hunger, thirst: aspirre, pant, *aim
Con abhor, abominate, loathe, detest, *hate: spurn, repudiate, reject, refuse, *decline

Desire

Desire, appetite, lust, passion, urge are comparable as meaning a longing for something regarded as essential to one’s well-being or happiness or as meaning an impulse originating in a man’s nature and driving him toward the object or the experience which promises him enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment. Desire may be used of every conceivable longing that stirs one emotionally, whether that longing originates in man’s physical or in his spiritual nature, whether it is natural and normal or unnatural and perverted, whether it is generally regarded as low or high in the scale of moral or spiritual values <the desire for food> <the desire for an education> <a desire for change> <the desire for peace> <his physical desire to sit in the sun and do nothing—Anderson> <the keen desire . . . to pay their debts—Reppier> <nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of oneself—T. S. Eliot> <Congreve’s characters have inclinations, not desires; habits, not ecstasies—J. M. Brown> It may be used specifically to denote sexual longing, but it does not always convey derogatory connotations when so used meaning “the sexual appetite is often called “the biological urge”,” but it is more often used of a desire so strong and insistent that it must be satisfied or a sense of frustration ensues <an urge to travel> <an urge to marry> <that almost mystic urge to climb can dominate your whole life—Vaughan-Thomas>

Desire

Desire, appetite, lust, passion, urge are comparable as meaning a longing for something regarded as essential to one’s well-being or happiness or as meaning an impulse originating in a man’s nature and driving him toward the object or the experience which promises him enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment. Desire may be used of every conceivable longing that stirs one emotionally, whether that longing originates in man’s physical or in his spiritual nature, whether it is natural and normal or unnatural and perverted, whether it is generally regarded as low or high in the scale of moral or spiritual values <the desire for food> <the desire for an education> <a desire for change> <the desire for peace> <his physical desire to sit in the sun and do nothing—Anderson> <the keen desire . . . to pay their debts—Reppier> <nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of oneself—T. S. Eliot> <Congreve’s characters have inclinations, not desires; habits, not ecstasies—J. M. Brown> It may be used specifically to denote sexual longing, but it does not always convey derogatory connotations when so used meaning “the sexual appetite is often called “the biological urge”,” but it is more often used of a desire so strong and insistent that it must be satisfied or a sense of frustration ensues <an urge to travel> <an urge to marry> <that almost mystic urge to climb can dominate your whole life—Vaughan-Thomas>

Desire

Desire, appetite, lust, passion, urge are comparable as meaning a longing for something regarded as essential to one’s well-being or happiness or as meaning an impulse originating in a man’s nature and driving him toward the object or the experience which promises him enjoyment or satisfaction in its attainment. Desire may be used of every conceivable longing that stirs one emotionally, whether that longing originates in man’s physical or in his spiritual nature, whether it is natural and normal or unnatural and perverted, whether it is generally regarded as low or high in the scale of moral or spiritual values <the desire for food> <the desire for an education> <a desire for change> <the desire for peace> <his physical desire to sit in the sun and do nothing—Anderson> <the keen desire . . . to pay their debts—Reppier> <nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of oneself—T. S. Eliot> <Congreve’s characters have inclinations, not desires; habits, not ecstasies—J. M. Brown> It may be used specifically to denote sexual longing, but it does not always convey derogatory connotations when so used meaning “the sexual appetite is often called “the biological urge”,” but it is more often used of a desire so strong and insistent that it must be satisfied or a sense of frustration ensues <an urge to travel> <an urge to marry> <that almost mystic urge to climb can dominate your whole life—Vaughan-Thomas>
despairing adj hopeful, desperate, *despondent, forlorn

Ant hopeful — Con optimistic, roseate, rose-colored

desperate hopeless, despairing, desperate, despairing, forlorn

Ant reckless, rash, foolhardy, venturesome

despondent adj

Ant abominate, loathe, abhor, detest, *hate: spurn, repudiate (see DECLINE)

despair n 1, 2, 3: despairing, despondent, desperate, despondency

Ant repudiate (see DECLINE)

despair vb 1 hopelessness, despair, desperation, forlornness (see under DESPERTED adj)

Ant hope, assurance, aplomb: *equanimity, confidence, assurance, assurance, *aptness, apathy, *appraisal:

despairing adj

Ant despite, ill will, malevolence, spleen, grudge, ill will, malevolence, spleen, grudge,


despicable *contemptible, pitiable, sorry, scurrvy, cheap

despise, contemn, scorn, disdain mean to regard a person or thing as beneath one’s notice or as unworthy of one’s attention or interest. The same differences in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns at DISGRACE: ignoble, *abhorrent, ignoble, *abhorrent, ignoble

despise prep in spite of, notwithstanding

despise vb 1, 2, 3: despise, despise, despise, despise, despise

despotic despotic

despotism despotic

despotistic despotic

despotize despotic

despotize vb 1, 2, 3: despoticize, despoticize, despoticize

despotism vb 1, 2, 3: despoticize, despoticize, despoticize

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
pursuer might be, I turned in desperation to meet him—

_Hudson_

**Hopeless** and **hopelessness** imply both the complete loss of hope and the cessation of effort (the **hopeless** look in the faces of the doomed men) The words do not necessarily suggest despondency, dejection, or gloom, for sometimes they imply acceptance or resignation ("Why should you say such desperate things?" "No, they are not desperate. They are only **hopeless**"—Hardy) <not that Dr. Lavendar was **hopeless**; he was never **hopeless** of anybody... but he was wise; so he was deeply discouraged— _Delany_ ) the little **hopeless** community of beaten men and yellow defeated women— _Anderson_ ) **Forlorn** (see also **ALONE** 1) and **forlornness** stress utter hopelessness, but they differ from **hopeless** and **hopelessness** in implying hopelessness even in the act of undertaking something because its failure is all but certain (we sit down in a **forlorn** skepticism— _Berkeley_ ) <poor prince, **forlorn** he steps... and so proude in his despaire— _Keats_ ) **Desperate**, **hopeless**, and **forlorn** and their corresponding nouns are applicable not only to men, their moods, words, and acts, but to the things which make men despairing or hopeless < **desperate** straits (the **hopeless** situation of a beleaguered garrison) < **desperate** grime and grossness— _McFee_ ) (all the high arid and impoverished force which the Celt has ever thrown into a **forlorn** and failing cause— _Cyril Robinson_ )

**Ana** grieving, mourning, sorrowing (see **GRIEVE**): depressed, dejected, melancholy, sad (see corresponding nouns at **SADNESS**)

Ant lighthearted— _Con_ cheerful, joyful, joyous, happy, *glad: buoyant, volatile, resilient, *elastic
desperetic tyrannical, tyrannous, arbitrary, autocratic, *absolute

**Ana** domineering, imperious, *masterful, imperative; *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial
destiny *fate, lot, doom, portion

**Ana** *end, termination, terminus, ending: goal, objective (see **INTENTION**)
destitute 1 *devoid, void

**Ana** lacking, wanting (see **LACK** vb); *deficient: empty: barren, *bare: depleted, drained, exhausted, bankrupted or bankrupt (see corresponding verbs at **DEPLETE**)

Con *full, replete, complete

2 *poor, indigent, needy, penniless, impenurious, poverty-stricken, necessitous

Ant opulent
destitution want, indigence, *poverty, penury, privation

**Ana** *need, necessity, exigency: *lack, absence, want, privation, death: adversity, *misfortune: strait (see **JUNCTURE**)

Ant opulence
destroy, demolish, raze mean to pull or tear down. Destroy is so general in its application that it may imply the operation of any force that wrecks, kills, crushes, or annihilates < **destroy a nest of caterpillars** < **destroy affection** (a building destroyed by fire) < **grinding poverty that destroys vitality**) Its opposition to **construct** is often apparent (it is proverbially easier to **destroy** than to construct— _T. S. Eliot_) <very few established institutions, governments and constitutions... are ever destroyed by their enemies under the conviction that they have been corrupted and weakened by their friends— _Lippmann_ ) **Demolish** implies a pulling or smashing to pieces; when used in reference to buildings or other complex structures (as of wood, stone, or steel), it implies complete wreckage and often a heap of ruins (houses **demolished** by a hurricane) (the automobile was **demolished** in a collision with the train) The term implies the destruction of all coherency or integrity in a nonmaterial thing and, consequently, of all its usefulness

< **demolish** an opponent's argument) <people are inclined to believe that what Bradley did was to **demolish** the logic of Mill and the psychology of Bain— _T. S. Eliot_) <his research has been painstaking, and he **demolishes** a good many legends— _Pratt_ ) **Raze** implies a bringing to the level of the ground; it may or may not imply an orderly process with no destruction of usable parts <several buildings were razed to make room for the new city hall) (in 1865 a Gulf hurricane razed the town— _Amer. Guide Series: Texas_) The term may imply obliteration or effacement, more, however, with reference to the implication of scraping than to the sense of pulling or tearing down <canst thou not minister to a mind diseased... raze out the written troubles of the brain...?— _Shak_ )

**Ana** *ruin, wreck, dilapidate: *abolish, extinguish, annihilation: *ravage, devastate, sack

Con *found, establish, institute, organize: *make, form, shape, fashion, fabricate, forge, manufacture: preserve, conserve, *save
destruction *ruin, havoc, devastation

**Ana** demolishing or demolition, razing (see corresponding verbs at **DESTROY**): annihilation, extinction (see corresponding verbs at **ABOLISH**) detrital, desultory casual, hit-or-miss, haphazard, *random, happy-go-lucky, chance, chancy

**Ana** *fitful, spasmodic: unsystematic, unmethodical, disorderly (see affirmative adjectives at **ORDERLY**): capricious, mercurial, *inconstant, fickle

Ant assiduous (study, search, or other activity): methodical (something designed, planned, constructed)
detach, disengage, abstract mean to remove one thing from another with which it is in union or association. One detaches something when one breaks a literal or figurative connection, tie, or bond and thereby isolates it or makes it independent < **detach** sheets from a loose-leaf book) < **detach** a ship from a fleet) < **detach** oneself from one's prejudices) <the mature critic whose loyalties quietly detached themselves from the gods of his generation— _Parrington_ ) One disengages something that is held by or involved with something else and thereby sets it free <she disengaged her hand) (it is hard for the mind to disengage itself from depressing thoughts) (I could not rest satisfied until I... had disengaged... his good work from the inferior work joined with it— _Arnold_ ) One abstracts something by withdrawing it from the place where it belongs or by separating it from a mass of like things so as to put it in another place or another relation (a vast cigar-shaped body of gas was raised and eventually abstracted from the surface of the sun— _Swinton_ ) < **abstract** papers from a file) < **abstract** may imply furtiveness and theft < **abstract** eggs from a nest) < **abstract** money from a till) It may imply an intention of shortening < **abstract** the essential points from an argument) or of concentrating elsewhere < **abstract** one's attention from one's surroundings) (see also **ABSTRACT** ad)

Ant attach, affix— _Con_ *fasten, fix: *tie, bind: *unite, combine, conjoin
detached aloof, uninterested, disinterested, *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious

**Ana** impartial, dispassionate, objective, unbiased, *fair: altruistic (see **CHARITABLE**)

Ant interested: selfish— _Con_ *mercenary: concerned (see under **CARE**)
detail n 1 *item, particular

Con *structure, framework, anatomy, skeleton: whole, aggregate, total, *sum: mass, *bulk: design, scheme, *plan, plot
deterioration, degeneration, devolution, decadence, degeneration, arrest, apprehension, attachment (see under detention)

dissuade, discourage, divert

imprison, internment, incarceration (see under ARREST vb)

impairment, internment, incarceration (see corresponding verbs at IMPRISON)

dissuade, discourage, divert

prevent (sense 2): hinder, impede, obstruct, block: debar, shut out (see EXCLUDE): frighten, scare:

restrain, inhibit

abet: actuate, motivate — Con *incite, instigate: stimulate, excite, *provoke

deterioration, degeneration, devolution, decadence, decline, declension are comparable as meaning either the process of falling from a higher to a lower level or the state of a thing when such a falling has occurred. Deterioration is the least specific of these terms and applies to any process or condition in which there are signs of impairment in quality, in character, or in value (chemicals that reduce the deterioration of rubber in aging)

the deterioration of his memory is marked in recent years

man the toolmaker has made *inanimate instruments*: . . . do his manual work for him; he is now trying to make them do his mental work . . . . The price may be the progressive deterioration of our faculties — Inge

(to promise that warfare will be nuclear: . . . to assure the further deterioration of our position throughout Asia — Straight) Degeneration usually implies retrogression and a return to a simpler or more primitive state or condition: when used in reference to plants, animals, or their parts, it usually suggests changes in physical structure, but it may imply a progressive deterioration in structure and function resulting from disease (the sea squirt in its adult stage evidences degradation through the loss of the vertebrate characters apparent in its larval stage) (fatty degeneration of the heart)

When applied to persons in groups or as individuals or to states or empires, it suggests physical, intellectual, and often moral degradation and a reversion toward barbarism or, in the case of individuals, bestiality (the degeneration of the American Indians confined to reservations) (the degeneration of the ancient Roman Empire) (of all the dangers that confront a nation at war, this degeneration of national purpose . . . is the greatest — New Republic) Devolution in technical use may take the place of degeneration (the devolution of the sea squirt) but in general use it carries even a stronger implication of opposition to evolution (the process of human evolution is nothing more than a process of sifting, and where that sifting ceases evolution ceases, becomes, indeed, devolution — Ellis) Decadence presupposes a previous maturing and usually a high degree of excellence; it implies that the falling takes place after a thing (as a people, a literature or other form of art, or a branch of knowledge) has reached the peak of its development (there seems to be no more pronounced mark of the decadence of a people and its literature than a servile and rigid subservience to rule — Ellis) (a sharply falling rate of population growth, an abnormally high death rate, extensive illness and the like, are an indication of social decadence and ample cause for alarm on the part of political leaders — Roucek) In reference to matters of art decadence may imply no more than excessive refinement and studied attention to esthetic detail (at the turn of the century we all thought we knew what decadence meant — overripeness, overcivilization, a preoccupation with refined sensations . . . the essence of decadence is an excessive subjectivism—Times Lit. Sup.) (Van Vechten produced a kind of mock decadence unique in American literature. His novels are hyperaesthetic, perverse, and often devoted to esoteric or archaic lore — Lueders) Decline is often interchangeable with decadence because it, too, suggests a falling after the peak has been reached in power, prosperity, excellence, or achievement, but it usually suggests more momentum, more obvious evidences of deterioration, and less hope of a return to the earlier state (the rise and decline of the imperial power) (he is in the decline of life) (the association so often noted between the flowering of the intellect and the decline of national vigor — Krutch) Declension differs from decline only in connoting less precipitancy or a slower or more gradual falling toward extinction or destruction (seems to mark a declension in his career as an illustrator — Mather) (the moral change, the sad declension from the ancient proud spirit . . . was painfully depressing — Bennett)

Ana impairment, spoiling (see corresponding verbs at ABUSE): decaying or decay, decomposition, disintegration, rotting, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY): debasement, degradation (see corresponding verbs at ABASE)

Ant improvement, amelioration
determinant antecedent, *cause, reason, occasion

factor (see ELEMENT): influence, weight, authority
determinative *conclusive, decisive, definitive

determining, deciding, settling (see DECIDE): influencing, affecting (see AFFECT): shaping, fashioning, forming or formative (see corresponding verbs at MAKE)

ineffective, ineffectual, inefficacious, inefficient

determine 1 settle, rule. *decide, resolve


ascertain, *discover, unearth, learn
detest *hate, abhor, abomination, loathe

*disperse, contemn, scorn, disdain: spurn, repudi- ate, reject (see DECLINE vb)

Ant adore (sense 2) — Con love, *like, dote, fancy, relish: cherish, prize, treasure, value, *appreciate
detestable odious, *hateful, abominable, abhorrent

Ana *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurvy: atro- cious, *outrageous, monstrous, heinous: *execrable, damnable, accursed

relish: cherish, prize, treasure, value, *appreciate

detestation hate, hatred, abomination, abhorrence, loathing (see under HATE vb)

Ana *antipathy, aversion: despite, contempt, scorn, disdain (see under DESPISE)

Con admiration, esteem, respect, *regard: love, affec- tion, *attachment: tolerance, indulgence, forbearance (see under FORBEARING)
detract belittle, minimize, disparage, derogate, *decry, deprecate

Ana asperse, *malign, traduce, defame, vilify, calumni-
detrimental waste, *ravage, sack, pillage, despoil, spoliate devastate

devastation *ruin, havoc, destruction

develop 1 *unfold, evolve, elaborate, perfect

development, evolution are comparable when they mean growth from a lower to a higher state. Development stresses the bringing out of the hidden or latent possibilities in a thing whether through growth and differentiation and therefore through a series of natural stages (development of a seed into a plant) (development of a human being from the embryo) or through the exercise of human energy, ingenuity, or art (the development of an industry) (development of a tract of land) (development of an argument) Evolution, on the other hand, stresses an orderly succession of events or of living things, each growing out of the preceding yet marked by changes which transform it and give it a particular identity and usually a more elaborate or more advanced character (the evolution of species) (the evolution of the drama) Development is appropriately used when the emphasis is on the realization of the full possibilities of a particular thing through natural or artificial means, and evolution when the stress is on transformations which occur in a type, class, or order of things, the individual instances of which retain a likeness to the parent but manifest differences especially in the direction of complexity and progress (the Aristotelian canon that the "nature" of a thing must be sought in its completed development, its final form—Inge) (no, "revolution" is not the proper word! What is happening in modern physics is a tremendously rapid evolution—Darrow)

Con decline, declension, decadence, devolution, *de- terioration, degeneration
deviate digress, diverge, *swerve, veer, depart

deviation, aberration, divergence, deflection denote departure or an instance of departure from a straight course or procedure or from a norm or standard. Deviation, the term of widest application, usually requires qualification or a context to complete its meaning (no deviation from traditional methods was permitted) (there were many deviations from fact in his account) (the road proceeds without any deviation for two miles) Aberration adds to deviation definite implications of error, fault, or abnormality and therefore has highly technical significations in some of the sciences. In general use it commonly implies transgression of the moral law or the social code and is (as is used euphemistically for a reprehensible act or reprehensible behavior (the aberrations of his youth had long been forgotten) Divergence is sometimes used interchangeably with deviation, but ordinarily it denotes deviation of two or more things which from a common starting point proceed in different directions (an angle is formed by the divergence of two lines) (at no point in the discussion was there divergence of opinion on this question) Deflection adds to deviation the implication of bending or curving (deflection of rays of light passing through a prism)
devise 1 Device, contrivance, gadget, contraption mean something usually of a mechanical character which is invented as a means of doing a particular piece of work or of effecting a given end. Device is the most widely
applicable of these terms; it may be used of a thing that serves as a tool or instrument or as an effective part of a machine, especially one which shows some ingenuity in invention <a device for controlling the speed of a car>.

It may be used also of an artifice or stratagem concocted as a means of accomplishing an end (<her device for keeping the children quiet>).

...entrap thee by some treacherous device—Shak.)

Constrivance stresses skill and dexterity in the adaptation of means and especially of the means at hand to an end; it sometimes carries a suggestion of crudity of or of contempt for the resulting device or system (<a contrivance for frightening birds that were eating his corn>).

All sorts of contrivances for saving more time and labor—Shaw) (<he would look at none of the contrivances for his comfort—Conrad>.

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>.

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>.

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>.

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>.

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>.

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>. 

Gadget is sometimes used of a device for which one does not know the name; more often it applies to a small and novel device and especially to an accessory or an appliance intended to add to a person's comfort, convenience, or pleasure (<the garden tools and gadgets which make gardening so much more fun—Van der Spuy> (<their new car has all the latest gadgets>.

Contraption is usually more depreciative than contrivance or gadget and often suggests a clumsy substitute rather than an ingenious invention (<he has rigged up a contraption which he calls a radio>.

<her husband's little perch-in-the-sun ... is a contrivance—Conrad>.
devoted

〈dirty yellow varnish no longer interposes here its hallowing influence between the spectator and the artist's original creation—Fry〉

Ana *commit, consign, confide, entrust: assign, *allot: *sentence, doom
2 apply, *direct, address

Ana *faithful, loyal, true, constant: attentive, considerate, *thoughtful

devotee votary, *addict, habitué
Ana *enthusiast, zealot, fanatic

devotion loyalty, fealty, *fidelity, piety, allegiance
Ana fervor, ardz, zeal, enthusiasm, *passion: love, affection, *attachment: dedication, consecration (see corresponding verbs at DEVOTE)

devour *eat, swallow, ingest, consume
Ana *waste, squander, dissipate: *destroy, demolish: wreck, *ruin

devout, pious, religious, pietistic, sanctimonious apply mainly to persons, their acts, and their words and mean showing fervor and reverence in the practice of religion. Devout stresses an attitude of mind or a feeling that leads one to such fervor and reverence (〈a devout man, and one that feared God—Acts 10:2〉 all those various "offices" which, in Pontifical, Missal, and Breviary, devout imagination had elaborated from age to age—Pater) Pious emphasizes rather the faithful and dutiful performance of one's religious obligations; although often used interchangeably with devout it tends to suggest outward acts which imply faithfulness and fervor rather than, as does devout, an attitude or feeling which can only be inferred (〈pious churchmen〉〈happy, as a pious man is happy when after a long illness, he goes once more to church—Hichens〉〈were pious Christians, taking their Faith devoutly. But such religious emotion as was theirs, was reflected rather than spontaneous—H. O. Taylor〉 The term often, however, carries a hint of pretension, sometimes of hypocrisy (〈the saying that we are members one of another is not a mere pious formula to be repeated in church without any meaning—Shaw〉〈a hypocrite—a thing all pious words and uncharitable deeds—Reade〉 Religious may and usually does imply both devoutness and piety, but it stresses faith in a God or gods and adherence to a way of life believed in consonance with that faith (〈a man may be moral without being religious, but he cannot be religious without being moral—Myers〉〈they are not religious: they are only pew renters—Shaw〉 In its basic meaning pietistic stresses the emotional rather than the intellectual aspects of religion (〈in the Catholic Church it [use of the Bible] is threefold, doctrinal, liturgical, and pietistic—New Catholic Dict.〉 while probably a very late psalm, it brings to a kind of spiritual climax the pietistic utterances found in earlier parts of the Bible—Baach) (an emotional person with pietistic inclinations that nearly carried him over at different times to the Plymouth Brethren—H. G. Wells) Often this opposition of the emotional to the intellectual is overlooked and pietistic is used derogatorily of someone or something felt to display overly sentimental or unduly emotional piety (〈Gibbon's analysis of the causes of the growth of Christianity was very valuable, because he redressed the balance against a heavy weight of pietistic flapdoodle that passed for ecclesiastical history—Trevelyan〉 Sanctimonious has entirely lost its original connotation of a holy or sacred character and implies a mere pretension to or appearance of holiness or piety (〈a sanctimonious hypocrite〉〈sanctimonious phrases〉 Often it connotes a hypocritical aloofness or superiority of manner (if it only takes some of the sanctimonious

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group. 
stances of generalizations about the actual and hypothetical connections between facts and events.—Streeten

(in my opinion the book Brave New World is no longer a prognosis, but a diagnosis—Peerman)

diagram n outline, draft, tracing, sketch, delineation, plot, blueprint (see under sketch vb)

Analogous words analogous words analogous words

dialect n 1 Dialect, vernacular, patois, lingua, jargon, cant, argot, slang denote a form of language or a style of speech which varies from that accepted as the literary standard.

Dialect (see also language 1) is applied ordinarily to a form of a language that is confined to a locality or to a group, that differs from the standard form of the same language in peculiarities of vocabulary, pronunciation, usage, and morphology, and that persists for generations or even centuries. It may represent an independent development from the same origin as the standard form (as the Sussex dialect) or a survival (as the dialect of the Kentucky mountaineers). It is sometimes applied to any form of language differing from the standard (a Babylonish dialect which led pedants much affect—Butler d. 1680) Vernacular (usually the vernacular) has several applications, though it always denotes the form of language spoken by the people in contrast with that employed by learned or literary men. In the Middle Ages when the language of the church, of the universities, and of learned writings was Latin, the vernacular was the native language of the people whatever it might be in the locality in question (translate the Bible into the vernacular) (the first Christian missionaries from Rome did not teach their converts to pray and give praise in the vernacular—Quiller-Couch) When a contrast with the literary language rather than with Latin is implied, the vernacular is an etymological designation for the spoken language, the language that represents the speech of the people as a whole, that is colloquial but not inherently vulgar, and that is marked chiefly by the spontaneous choice of familiar, often native as opposed to exotic words and phrases (Pope... is absolute master of the raciest, most familiar, most cogent and telling elements of the vernacular—Lowes) Vernacular often implies a contrast with scientific nomenclature (taxonomic and vernacular names for flowers) Patois is often used as if it were the equivalent of dialect. It tends, however, to be restricted especially in North America to designating a form of speech used by the uneducated people in a bilingual section or country; the word often specifically refers to the hybrid language (of mingled English and Canadian French) spoken in some parts of Canada. Lingo is a term of contempt applied to any language that is not easily or readily understood. It is applicable to a strange foreign language, a dialect, or a patois or to the peculiar speech of a class, cult, or group (I have often warned you not to talk the court gibberish to me. I tell you, I don't understand the lingo—Fielding) Jargon, which may be applied to an unintelligible or meaningless speech (as in a foreign tongue or a patois), is used chiefly in reference to the technical or esoteric language of a subject, a class, a profession, or a cult and usually expresses the point of view of one unfamiliar with it and confused or baffled by it (cockets, and dockets, and drawbacks, and other jargon words of the customhouse—Swift) Whitman... has a somewhat vulgar inclination for technical talk and the jargon of philosophy—Stevenson) Cant, related to chant, seems to have been applied first to the whining speech of beggars. It has been applied more or less specifically to several different forms of language (as the secret language of gypsies and thieves, the technical language of a trade or profession, and the peculiar phraseology of a religious sect or of its preachers). From the last of these applications a new sense has been developed (see hypocrisy). When referring to the peculiar language of a subject or profession cant usually suggests the hackneyed use of set words or phrases, often in a specialized sense, and, unlike jargon, does not usually imply unintelligibility; thus, the language of sportswriters is a cant rather than a jargon; the scientific nomenclature used by physicians in official reports may be called medical jargon rather than cant by those who do not understand it; a person who repeatedly calls an investigation a "probe," a large book a "tome," a preacher a "parson," or his wife "my better half" may be said to be given to cant. Argot is applicable chiefly to the cant of the underworld; it is now sometimes used of any form of peculiar language adopted by a clique, a set, or other closely knit group. Slang does not as often denote a form of language or a style of speech as it does a class of recently coined words or phrases or the type of word which belongs to that class (in the slang of college students a drudge is a "grind") (the characteristic differences between American slang and British slang) Slang implies comparatively recent invention, the appeal of the words or phrases to popular fancy because of their aptness, picturesqueness, grotesqueness, or humorlessness, and usually an ephemeral character.

dialiectic *argumentation, disputation, debate, forensic

diaphanous limpid,pellucid, transparent, translucent,
clear, lucid

diatribe n *tirade, jeremiad, philippic

Analogous words

Analogous words analogous words analogous words

dictate vb Dictate, prescribe, ordain, decree, impose mean to lay down expressly something to be followed, observed, obeyed, or accepted. Dictate implies an authoritative direction by or as if by the spoken word which serves in governing or guiding one's course of action (they dictated the conditions of peace—Gibbon) (a man and woman who love each other and their children ought to be able to act spontaneously as the heart dictates—Russell) (all the other papers had traditions; their past principles dictated their future policy—Rose Macaulay) Prescribe (see also prescribe) implies a formulated rule, law, or order; it suggests an authoritative pronouncement which is clear, definite, and cannot be gainsaid (my teachers should have prescribed to me, 1st, sincerity; 2d, sincerity; 3d, sincerity—Thoreau) establishments maintained by general taxation and filled with children whose presence is prescribed by law—Grandgent) Ordain implies institution, establishment, or enactment by a supreme or unquestioned authority or power; usually it suggests an inalterable settlement of a problem or question (we still accept, in theory at all events, the Mosaic conception of morality as a code of rigid and inflexible rules, arbitrarily ordained, and to be blindly obeyed—Ellis) A blessed custom of my infancy ordained that every living room should be dominated by a good-sized center table—Repliher) A nature inexorably ordains that the human race shall perish of famine if it stops working—Shaw) Decree implies a decision made and formally pronounced by absolute authority or by a power whose edicts are received with the same attention. It is used particularly of ecclesiastical, civil, or judicial power, whether absolute or limited in its scope, or more broadly of anything whose authoritative pronouncements are blindly obeyed (the king decreed that all foreigners should be excluded from the state) (fashion decrees that skirts be shorter and jackets somewhat longer than last year) (if statues were decreed in Britain, as in ancient Greece and Rome, to public benefactors—Dickens) the

See also explanatory notes facing page
old man was used to the order of his monastery, and though he slept on the ground, as the Rule decrees, preferred a decency in these things—Kipling] Impose implies a subjecting to what must be borne, endured, or submitted to. It may suggest infliction by a paramount authority (each time I attempted to speak he imposed silence—Hudson) [the ever more stringent regulations we found it necessary to impose—Heiser] More often it suggests limitations intended to make for order, beauty, or efficiency (patience and industry could only be secured . . . by the enforcement of good habits imposed by external authority—Russell) [when the language, the stresses, the very structure of the sentences are imposed upon the writer by the special mood of the piece—Cather] Ana direct, control, manage (see conduct): *guide, lead: *govern, rule: tell, utter, *say

dictate n behest, bidding, injunction, *command, order, mandate Ana *law, rule, precept, canon, ordinance, statute, regulation

dictatorial, magisterial, authoritarian, dogmatic, doctrinaire, oracular are comparable in the sense of imposing or having the manner or disposition of one who imposes his will or his opinions upon others. Dictatorial implies the powers of a dictator, but it has acquired so strong an implication of the assumption of such power that it often stresses autocratic or high-handed methods and a domineering, overbearing temper (a captain who has been entrusted with dictatorial power—Macaulay) [he is . . . very learned, very dictatorial, very knock-me-down—Mitford] Magisterial derives its chief implications from its reference to a magistrate or, more often, to a schoolmaster. It seldom implies an assumption of power, high-handedness, or a bad temper but does suggest excessive use or display of the powers or prerogatives associated with the offices of a magistrate or schoolmaster (as in controlling and disciplining or in enforcing the acceptance of one's opinions) (we are not magisterial in opinions, nor . . . obtrude our notions on any man—Browne) Magisterial is applied also to opinions or ideas which are so deeply impressed on the mind, especially the popular mind, that they cannot easily be eradicated (the "possible," as something less than the actual and more than the wholly unreal, is another of those magisterial notions of common sense—James) Authority is used chiefly in reference to states or governments (for this use see Totalitarian), to churches, to bodies, persons, or their policies or attitudes. It implies assumption of one's own (or another's) power to exact obedience or of the right to determine what others should believe or do; often it suggests an opposition to liberal or libertarian and sometimes to anarchic or anarchistic (authority system of education) (the authoritarian type of mind) (the decline of authoritarian control and the rapid changes in our ways of living have made changes in our education imperative—Christian Century) (in an authoritarian regime, on the other hand, it is usual to impose stringent tests of partisanship—Robson] Dogmatic implies the attitude of an authoritative or authoritarian teacher or preacher and the laying down of principles or dogmas as true and beyond dispute (art is never dogmatic; holds no brief for itself—you may take it or you may leave it—Galsworthy) [now physics is, or should be, undogmatic; mathematics is, and must be, dogmatic. No mathematician is infallible; he may make mistakes; but he must not hedge. Even in this age which dislikes dogma, there is no demand for an undogmatic edition of Euclid—Eddington] Dogmatic may imply, appreciatively, an assertive and sometimes an arrogant attitude that discourages if it does not inhibit debate (Mr. Raycie made no pretence to book-

learning. . . . But on matters of art he was dogmatic and explicit, prepared to justify his opinions—Wharton] Doctrinaire usually implies a dogmatic disposition; it typically suggests an opposition to practical, for it emphasizes a disposition to be guided by one's theories or the doctrines of one's school of thought in teaching, in framing laws, or in policies or decisions, especially those affecting others (the rationalist mind . . . is of a doctrinaire and authoritative complexion: the phrase "must be" is ever on its lips—James) [the most profound contribution to political thought in America, namely, the Federalist, was not the work of doctrinaire thinkers but of men of affairs—Frankfurter] Oracular, with its implied reference to an ancient oracle, suggests the possession of hidden knowledge and the manner of one who delivers his opinions or views in cryptic phrases or with pompous dogmatism (his habit of oracular utterance when and possibly whenever he had a conviction—Pound) Ana *masterful, domineering, imperative, imperious, peremptory: despotic, tyrannical, arbitrary, autocratic, *absolute

diction *language, vocabulary, phraseology, phrasing, style Ana speech, tongue, idiom, *language: enunciation, pronunciation, articulation (see corresponding verbs at ARTICULATE)
dido *prank, caper, antic, monkeyshine
differ, vary, disagree, dissent mean to be unlike or out of harmony. Differ stresses the fact of unlikeness in kind or nature or in opinion but does not indicate except through the context the extent or degree of divergence (the houses in the row differ only in small details) (minds differ, as rivers differ—Macaulay) [they differed sharply about the college to which their son should be sent] Vary (see also change) though often interchangeable with differ may call attention to readily apparent differences and sometimes suggests a range of differences. The term commonly introduces a statement of the points, the ways, or the degree in which the things or the persons under discussion differ (the two editions vary only in small particulars) (the northern and southern races vary chiefly in size) (the strength and direction of sea currents vary considerably at different times of the year—Dowdeswell) Disagree emphasizes lack of agreement and not only may imply differences between things or variance between persons or opinions, but often may suggest incompatibility, unfitness, or disharmony (the two accounts disagree in important details) (the verb should not disagree with the subject noun either in person or number) (who shall decide when Doctors disagree?—Pope) (one can disagree with his views, but one can't refute them—Henry Miller) Of the words here compared only disagree is used in reference to lack of harmony between a thing and a person that results in mental or physical disorder of the latter (the climate disagreed with him) (fried foods disagree with many people) Dissent denotes a difference in opinion between persons or groups; it may imply refusal to assent to or the withholding of consent from something that is proposed or offered (dissenting to the most outrageous invasion of private right ever set forth as a decision of the court—Boyd) [it has . . . taken on the worst intolerance of ignorance and stupidity . . . . All who dissent from its orthodox doctrines are scoundrels—Mencken] or it may imply the expression of a difference in opinion from a person or persons holding an opposite view (a great number of people in England would dissent from that judgment—C. R. James) Ana diverge, deviate, depart (see Swerve) Ant agree

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
distinguish, discriminate, demarcate
hard, arduous

different, diverse, disparate, various are comparable when they are used to qualify plural nouns and mean not identical or alike in kind or character. Different often implies little more than distinctness or separateness (<four different persons told me the same story>) Sometimes, however, it implies contrast or contrariety (they approached the subject from different points of view) <vastly different in size than it was twenty-five years ago—N. M. Pusey> Diverse is stronger and implies marked difference and decided contrast (<I obtained from three cultivated Englishmen at different times three diverse pronouncements of a single word—J. R. Lowell> A curious fusion of diverse elements—Van Vechten> Divergent implies movement apart or along different courses and usually connotes the impossibility of an ultimate meeting, combination, or reconciliation (<they took divergent paths> he was bothered very much by divergent strands in his own intellectual composition—H. G. Wells> He recognized that labor and capital have divergent interests—Cohen> Disparate implies absolute or essential difference, often results from incongruous or incompatible elements (<two divergent, yet not wholly disparate emotions—Myers> for if men are so diverse, not less disparate are the many men who keep discordant company within each one of us—Pater> Various (see also MANY) commonly lays stress on the number of sorts or kinds (<in various shapes of parsons, critics, beaus—Pope> an exuberant energy which displayed itself in various fields—Ellis> Ana *distinct, separate, several: *single, particular: various, sundry, divers (see MANY>)

Ana *obstacle, impediment, snag, obstruction: *predication, dilemma, quandary, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle: pinch, strain, emergency, exigency, pass (see juncture)

diffident modest, bashful, *shy, coy

Ana shrinking, flinching, blenching (see recoil): hesitant, reluctant (see disinclined): timidous, *timid

Ant confident —Con assured, sure, sanguine, presump-tuous (see confident): self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed (see corresponding nouns at confidence): brash, brazen, impudent, * shameless
diffuse adj prolix, redundant, verbose, *wordy

Ana *profuse, lavish, exuberant: desultory, casual, *random: copious (see plentiful): *loose, relaxed, slack, lax

Ant succinct —Con *concise, terse, laconic, pithy, summary: compact, *close
diffuse vb *spread, circulate, disseminate, propagate, radiate

Ana disperse, dissipate (see scatter): *extend: *expand

Ant concentrate —Con *compact, consolidate: focus, *center, centralize
dig vb Dig, delve, spade, grub, excavate mean to use a spade or similar utensil in breaking up the ground to a point below the surface and in turning or removing the earth or bringing to the surface of something below it. Dig, the commonest word, implies a loosening of the earth around or under something so as to bring it to the surface, or a disturbing of the earth by such loosening (<dig in the ruins of Pompeii> <dig for gold> <dig potatoes> Dig may also result comparable to that obtained by spading (<the woodchuck dug a burrow in the field>) or a bringing to the surface or out of concealment (<dig up a man's past>) or prolonged laborious effort as in study or research (<Laurie dug to some purpose that year, for he graduated with honor—Alcott>) Delve implies the use of a spade or more often of efforts comparable to the use of a spade and carries a stronger connotation of laboriousness and depth of penetration (as in the work of a gardener or of one who cultivates an interest) (<eleven, twelve, dig and delve—Old Nursery Rhyme>) (a smug and spectacled best scholar, spending . . . time delving among the chronicles . . . in much misery and hardship born—Milton> The hardships of life in a slum area) However, it is so frequently applied to the suffering, toil, and privation encountered in an attempt to accomplish an end that it often comes very close to difficulty in its implications (<the search for truth . . . makes men and women content to undergo hardships and to brave perils—Elliot> they had practically overcome the worst hardships that primitive man had to fear—Cather>)

Rigor usually applies to a hardship that is imposed upon one, sometimes by oneself (as through asceticism or ambition) but more often by an austere religion, a tyrannical government or other power, a trying climate, or an extremely exacting enterprise or undertaking (<to undergo much pain, many hardships, and other rigors—Burnet> the rigors of an explorer's life) A vast deal of sympathy has been lavished upon the Puritan settlers because of the rigors of their religion—Reynolds> A European custom which nowhere survived the rigors of the frontier—W. P. Webb> The rigors of an arctic winter> Vicissitude (see also change n 2) applies to a difficulty or hardship incident to a way of life especially as it is subjected to extraneous influences, to a career, or to a course of action; it usually suggests reference to something that demands effort and endurance if it is to be overcome (<the fierce vicissitudes of nearly combat—Lecky> it is the work he performed during these years, often in illness, danger, and vicissi-tudes, that should earn him particular gratitude from his Church—T. S. Eliot> The dwarving vicissitudes of poverty—Hackett>}

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
the reading room of the British Museum—Rose Macaulay

Spade is often interchangeable with dig but even more frequently than the latter is applied to a turning of the earth in manual (as opposed to mechanical) preparation of soil for planting (spade up a garden) (she had spaded a pit in the backyard for barbecues—Joseph Mitchell) (has spent her writing career (28 years, eleven books) spading up the New England past—Time) Grub may denote a digging and turning of soil but more often implies a clearing of soil by digging out something (as roots, stumps, and stones); often it suggests the hard, dirty, exhaustingly nature of such work and with this feeling may be used of various tasks, labors, or duties (women and children helped to grub the land—Collier) (surviving on roots he grabbed from the soil) (shuffled among the ruins of their cities, and grabbed in the countryside for food and fuel—The Lamp) (fortunes were made in a day of grubbing and lost in a night of faro or red dog—Bilington) In some cases grub reflects the disorder of the land-clearing process and denotes a haphazard and laborious rummaging (I grabbed in the dark alone, grooping among shoes and boots . . . , painfully garnering the scattered pictures—Phelan) (grub pickers . . . grubbing about among a pile of human refuse—Times Lit. Sup.) (grubbing around cemeteries) Excavate suggests making a hollow in or through something (as the ground, a mass of rock, or a mountainside) by or as if by means of a spade or shovel or a machine which performs the operations of spading and shoveling (excavate the ground for a cellar) (excavate a tomb) (excavate a tunnel) (archaeologists engaged in excavating the site of an ancient city) Ana pierce, penetrate, probe, *enter
diggest n *compendium, syllabus, pandect, survey, sketch, précis, aperçu
Ana collection, assemblage, gathering (see under GATHER-
ER): *abridgment, conspectus, abstract, brief, synopsis, epitome
digit n *number, numeral, figure, integer
dignify, ennoble, honor, glorify mean to invest a person or thing with something that elevates or uplifts his or its character or raises him or it in human estimation. Dignify distinctively implies the addition of something that adds to the worth of a person or thing or, more often, to the estimation in which he or it is held or should be held (from lowest place when virtuous things proceed, the effect that touches the one honored except in externals

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
-Kipling> Divagation is often used in preference to digression when aimless wandering from the main course or inattentiveness to logic is implied. (Foxe's of poetry invites the widest... liberty of divagation, of dragging in anything that really interested him—Saintsbury) (the author of it would need to keep an extremely clear head, reject stuffing and divagation—Swinerton)

dilapidate *ruin, wreck
Ana *decay, disintegrate, crumble, decompose: *neglect, ignore, disregard, forget, slight, overlook
Con repair, rebuild, *mend: *renew, restore, renovate, rejuvenate

dilate 1 *discourse, expatiate, descant
Ana *relate, recount, rehearse, recite, narrate; describe; expound, *explain; *discuss, argue
2 *expand, distend, swell, amplify, inflate
Ana enlarge, *increase, augment: *extend, protract, prolong, lengthen: widen, broaden (see corresponding adjectives at BROAD)
Ant constrict: circumscribe: attenuate —Con *contract, shrink, compress, condense

dilatory *slow, laggard, deliberate, leisurely
Ana procrastinating, delaying, dawdling (see DELAY): *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss
Ant diligent —Con *busy, assiduous, industrious: *quick, prompt, ready

dilemma *predicament, quandary, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle
Ana perplexity, bewilderment, mystification (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE): *difficulty, vicissitude

dilettante *amateur, dabbler, tyro
Con artist, *expert, adept
2 *aesthete, connoisseur
Ana *artist, artificer, architect: *writer, composer, author: craftsman, workman (see WORKER)

diligent assiduous, sedulous, industrious, *busy
Ana persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE): *indefatigable, tireless, untiring, un wearied, unflagging
Ant dilatory —Con *slow, laggard, deliberate, leisurely: surely: desultory, casual, happy-go-lucky (see RANDOM)

dim vb attenuate, *thin, rarely
Ana temper, *moderate, qualify: *weaken, enfeeble: *liquefy, deliquesce: *dilute, diluate, sophisticate
Ant condense: concentrate (in chemistry, especially in past participial form)

dim adj dusky, *dark, obscure, murky, gloomy
Ana bright: distinct —Con brilliant, radiant, luminous, effulgent (see BRIGHT): manifest, patent, *evident, plain, clear

dim vb *obscure, bedim, darken, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate
Ana screen, conceal, *hide: cloak, mask, camouflague, *disguise
Ant illustrate

dimensions extent, *size, area, magnitude, volume
Ana reduce, *decrease, lessen, abate, dwindle

diminish wane, ebb, *abate, subside: moderate, temper: lighten, alleviate, mitigate (see RELIEVE): attenuate, extenuate (see THIN)
Con enlarge, augment, *increase: *extend: *intensify, enhance, heighten, aggravate

diminutive adj little, *small, wee, tiny, minute, minia- ture
Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page I

van, colossal, mammoth
din n. Din, uproar, pandemonium, hullabaloo, babel, hubbub, clamor, racket mean a disturbing or confusing wave of sound or a scene or situation marked by such a welter of sounds. Din emphasizes the distress suffered by the ears and the completely distracting effect of the noise as a whole; it often suggests prolonged and deaging clangor or insistent ear-splitting metallic sounds (the din of a machine shop) (escape the din of heavy traffic) (the din of a New Year's Eve party) (think you a little din can daunt mine ears?... Have I not heard great or- nance in the field, and heaven's artillery thunder in the skies?—Shak) (the general had forbidden the tolling of funeral bells so that the incessant mournful din might not pound perpetually at our ears—Kenneth Roberts)

Uproar and pandemonium both imply tumult or wild disorder, typically of a crowd of persons but often among wild animals or in the elements; when the reference is to men, uproar usually suggests the sound of a multi- tude vociferously, sometimes riotously, protesting, arguing, or defying and pandemonium, the din produced when a group or crowd usually under discipline breaks bounds and runs riot or becomes uncontrollably boister- ous (often throw the parliamentary debates into an uproar—Blanshard) (pandemonium followed the announce- ment of the armistice) (draw not the sword; 'twould make an uproar. Duke, you would not hear the end of—Keats) (the modern parent... does not want a ficti- tious Sabbath calm while he is watching, succeeded by pandemonium as soon as he turns his back—Russell)

Hullabaloo is often interchangeable with din or uproar especially in a construction following make, but it seldom carries the suggestions of piercing, ear-splitting noise or of vociferation and turmoil which are respectively so strong in din and uproar. When it refers to a welter of sounds, it suggests great excitement and an interruption of peace or quiet (the hullabaloo made by hunters and hounds in the chase) (the children are making a great hullabaloo at their party) When it refers to a situation, it suggests a storm of protest, an outburst of passion or wrath, or a torrent of comment or sensational gossip (the current political hullabaloo—New Republic) (the project was not again brought before the public until the hulla- baloo about it had died down) (the music stopped and the familiar hullabaloo was reestablished in the room—Stofford) (Babel stresses the confusion of sounds that results from a mingling of languages and vocal qualities and the seeming meaningless or purposeless quality of the sound of tongues—Bambrick) (must we fall into the jaber and babel of discord—Sir Winston Churchill)

Hubbub denotes the confusing mixture of sounds charac- teristic of activities and business; it implies incessant movement or bustle rather than turmoil (a sound heard above the hubbub of the city streets) (strollers on the common could hear, at certain hours, a hubbub of voices and racing footsteps from within the boundary wall—Shaw) Clamor and racket, like din, stress the psychologi- cal effect of noises more than their character or origin. They usually imply annoyance or disturbance rather than distress and distraction and are applicable to any combina- tion of sounds or any scene that strikes one as excessively or inordinately noisy (the clamor was such that votes could not be taken until at last the shouting subsided—W. P. Webb) (the crown began to shriek... In a few se- conds the clamor had attracted the attention of a bevy of wild crows—Kipling) (we wanted quiet, not racket—Steele) (something like forty feet of chain and wire rope, mixed up with a few heavy iron blocks, had crashed down
from aloft on the poop with a terrifying racket—Conrad

**Ana** clamorousness, stridency, boisterousness, blatancy (see corresponding adjectives at VOCIFEROUS): clash, concussion (see IMPACT)

**Ant** quiet

dingly *shabby, dilapidated, faded, seedy, threadbare

**Ana** soiled, grimed, sullied, smirched, tarnished (see SOIL): *dull (sense 2): dusky, murky, gloomy (see DARK)

**Con** *bright, luminous, brilliant: fresh, *new: *clean, cleanly

dinner, banquet, feast are comparable when denoting an elaborate meal that is served to guests or to a group (as of members of a club or association) and that often marks some special occasion (as an anniversary) or honors a particular person. Dinner which basically means the chief meal of the day is the most general of these terms; it is appropriately used of any elaborate and formal meal served to guests or to a group and is the preferred term for use in invitations and in colorless reference to such an affair <popular as a speaker at public dinners> <planned a birthday dinner for her cousin> <worn out by state dinners and receptions> Typically, banquet suggests the sumptuousness of the meal, the magnificence of its setting, and often the ceremonial character of the occasion and entertainment <a certain rigid decorum between guest and geisha is invariably preserved at a Japanese banquet—Hearn> <entertaining him, his captains, and brave knights, to grace a banquet—Keats> It may stress the excellence and elaborateness of food and service <the widows and other women prepare a special dinner, which may be so elaborate as to become a banquet—Amer. Guide Series: Ariz.> or especially in popular use it may imply no more than a formal dinner held elsewhere than in a private home <not so long ago the word “banquet” evoked pictures of barons of beef, turtle soup, boar’s heads and ten courses served on solid gold plate . . . “banquet” today has become the generic word for any meal served in a private room in a hotel—Britannia & Eve> <father’s club gave a banquet at the hotel—L. E. Billington> Feast is often interchangeable with banquet but it may carry over a feeling of its other meaning of a festival of rejoicing and then stresses the shared enjoyment and pleasure in the occasion that gives rise to the meal <a white cat purring its way gracefully among the wine cups at a feast given in honor of Apuleius—Replier> <to share our marriage feast and nuptial mirth—Keats> <it is not the quantity of the meat, but the cheerfulness of the guests, which makes the feast—Clarendon> Unlike the other terms of this group feast has frequent extended use with the notion of a source of, often shared, enjoyment <treasures his memories of that . . . visit, with vegetarian meals and a feast of conversation—Fogg> <human beings have always loved these perceptual feasts of sensuous satisfaction—Hunter Mead>

**dip** vb 1 Dip, immerse, submerge, duck, souse, dunk are comparable when meaning to plunge a person or thing into or as if into liquid. Dip implies a momentary or partial plunging into a liquid or a slight or cursory entrance into a subject <the priest shall dip his finger in the blood—Lev 4:6> <dip a dress in cleansing fluid> <dip into a book> <she had dipped in the wells of blissful oblivion—Meredith> Immense implies that the person or thing is covered by the liquid or buried or engrossed in something <immense: the persons being baptized> <immense a dress in boiling dye for several minutes> <immense oneself in thought> <i am at present wholly immersed in thought—Addison> Submerge implies complete and often prolonged immersion (as in an inundation) or a being overwhelmed or, sometimes, overpowered and made helpless <the submarine submerged by the flood> <the last and most violent religious rebellion . . . seemed likely to submerge that monarchy—Belloc>

It may suggest a sinking to the lowest state, grade, or status <personality had been submerged by organization—W. P. Webb> <almost unheard of for such a girl to enter into relations with a man of that submerged class—Mencken> Duck implies a sudden plunging and an almost immediate withdrawal <i say, duck her in the loch, and then we will see whether she is witch or not—Scott> <ducked into a doorway to avoid a bore>

Souse adds to duck the suggestion of more prolonged immersion and often of a thorough soaking <the boy was soused before he was freed from his captors> <a blazing caldron in which Beelzebub is sousing the damned—Arnold> <after being soused in the Atlantic ocean—Aldrich> Souse sometimes implies steeping of meat, fish, or other food in a pickle or tart liquid for the sake of preserving and flavoring it <soused mackerel>

It may often imply not only immersion but a being saturated and, hence, after liquor drinking a becoming intoxicated <basted> Dunk in its basic use means to dip and soak something (as bread or a doughnut) in coffee, tea, or milk before eating it, but in many contexts it is equivalent to duck or immerse <men dangling from lines, being dunked in the cold sea as the ship rolled—Cronk>

2 Dip, bail, scoop, ladle, spoon, dish mean to remove a liquid or a loose or soft substance from a container by means of an implement (as a pail, spoon, or scoop). They are often followed by up or out. Dip suggests the process of plunging the utensil (usually called a dipper) into the substance and lifting it out full; it is the preferred word when the labor involved is to be implied or the action is described <dip drinking water from a spring> <dip into one’s memory for facts one has nearly forgotten>

Bail is used chiefly in reference to something (as a boat) in which water has accumulated or is accumulating; it implies emptying or an attempt to empty by means of repeated dipping <bail the water out of a rowboat> <by the help of a small bucket and our hats we bailed her [a boat] out—Dana> Scoop, ladle, spoon throw the emphasis on the kind of implement employed in an operation consisting usually of dipping, conveying, and pouring. Scoop suggests a shovellike implement, either a small kitchen utensil for dipping out loose dry material (as flour, sugar, or coffee beans) or for gouging out pieces of a soft substance (as cheese) or a much larger and heavier implement used in digging or excavating operations or in the removal of a heap of things from one place to another <scoop out three cups of sugar> <scoop up the catch of fish into barrels> <scooping gravel from the pit into waiting trucks> Ladle implies the use of a ladle, or long-handled implement with a bowl-shaped end and often a pouring lip; it is especially used of substances which are liable to be spilled <ladle soup into bowls> <ladle out the punch>

The term sometimes implies the use of a mechanical device for removing and conveying liquid (as molten metal) from one container to another. Spoon implies the use of a spoon in lifting and depositing something (as food or medicine) <the girl who spoons out vegetables in the cafeteria> <slowly spooning up the hot soup>

Dish implies transference to the individual plate or dish of a portion of food (as by ladling or spooning) <dish out the vegetables> <dish up the ice cream>

diplomatic politic, smooth, bland, suave, urbane

**Ana** astute, *shrewd: courteous, courtesy, polite (see
dipsomaniac 245
dirty

civil): artful, wily, guileful, crafty (see sly): tactful, poised (see corresponding nouns at tact)
dipsomaniac alcoholic, inebriate, *drunkard, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler
direct vb 1 Direct, address, devote, apply are comparable
dipsomaniac alcoholic, inebriate, *drunkard, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler
direct vb 1 Direct, address, devote, apply are comparable
direct vb 1 Direct, address, devote, apply are comparable
dipsomaniac alcoholic, inebriate, *drunkard, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler
disarray

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm are comparable when they denote an event or situation that is regarded as a terrible misfortune. A disaster is an unforeseen mishance or misadventure (as a shipwreck, a serious railroad accident, or the failure of a great enterprise) which happens either through culpable lack of foresight or through adverse external agency and brings with it destruction (of as of life and property) or ruin (as of projects, careers, or great hopes) (such a war would be the final and supreme disaster to the world—MacLeish) Calamity is a grievous misfortune, particularly one which involves a great or far-reaching personal or public loss or which produces profound, often widespread distress; thus, the rout at Bull Run was a disaster for the North but the assassination of President Lincoln was a calamity; the wreck of the Don Juan was a disaster and, as involving the loss of Shelley, it was a calamity (we have heard of his decision ... It is a disaster—for me it is a calamity—Galworthy) (Hamlet's bloody stage is now our world, and we are beginning to trace our own calamity back to its sources—Battenhouse) Catastrophe is used of a disastrous conclusion; it often emphasizes the idea of finality (the captain's folly hastened the catastrophe) (what had become of them [the inhabitants of a deserted village]? What catastrophe had overwhelmed them?—Cather) Cataclysm is often used of an event or situation that brings with it an overwhelming of the old order or a violent social or political upheaval (in the general upheaval of doctrine ... during the Reformation cataclysm—Blunt) (a thought so imperishably phrased that it sums up not only the cataclysm of a world, but also the stoic and indomitable temper that endures it—Lowes)

Ana mishap, *accident, casualty: adversity, *misfortune, mischance
disastrous *unlucky, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless, hapless
Ana malign, *sinister, baleful: unpropitious, inauspicious, *ominous, portentous, fateful
dissavow *disclaim, repudiate, disown, disallow
Ana deny, gainsay, traverse: *disapprove, deprecate: Ana maintain, assert, justify: *express, —Con adopt, embrace, espouse: utilize, employ, *use: Ana exclude, blackball
disbelief *unbelief, incredulity
Ana atheism, deism (compare nouns at ATHEIST): rejection, repudiation, spurning (see corresponding verbs at DECLINE)
Ana belief —Con faith, credence, credit (see BELIEF)
disburse *spend, expend
Ana *distribute, dispense: apportion, *allot, allocate: *pay

discard vb Discard, cast, shed, mol, slough, scrap, junk mean to get rid of as of no further use, value, or service: Discard literally denotes the getting rid of a card from one's hand in a card game, usually because they are worthless or can be replaced by better cards; in its more common general sense, it implies a getting rid of something which one can no longer use to advantage or which has become a burden, an annoyance, or an interference (he sorted and re-sorted his cargo, always finding a more necessary article for which a less necessary had to be discarded—Cather) (modern research, which discards obsolete hypotheses without scruple or sentiment—Inge) (in portrait painting, where a painter discards many trivial points of exactness, in order to heighten the truth of a few fundamentals—Montague) Cast (see also THROW) may imply a seasonal process of discarding (as the throwing off of skin by a reptile) (creatures that cast their skin are the snake, the viper—Bacon) Especially when followed by off, away, or out, it more frequently implies a discarding, a rejection, a discharging, or a repudiation (his wife was casting him off, half regretfully, but relentlessly—D. H. Lawrence) (an Englishman like an Ethiopian cannot change his skin any more than a leopard can cast off his spots—Cloete) Shed is the ordinary, general term for the seasonal or periodic casting of skin, hair, antlers, or leaves (deciduous trees shed their leaves every autumn) (male deer shed their antlers annually) The term is used also to imply a throwing off or discarding of anything that is a burden to carry, that represents a past stage in one's development, or that is no longer useful or comfortable (found it warm enough to shed his overcoat) (statesmen may try to shed their responsibility by treating the situation as a natural phenomenon—Hobson) (Jane ... was acquiring new sublteties, complexities, and comprehensions, and shedding crudities—Rose Macaulay) Molt is the specific term for the periodic shedding of feathers, skin, shells, hair, or horns by various animals and the growth of new corresponding parts. It often suggests a process of a change in plumage including the shedding of feathers and their renewal (the eagle when he molts is sickly—Carlyle) (while hens are molting they do not lay eggs) In general use molt even more often than shed implies change, flux, or transition (England is molting. Opinions ... are ... in a state of flux—Goldwin Smith) (belief ... that society can molt its outer covering and become new in shape and spirit—J. D. Hart) Slough implies the shedding of tissue (as the skin by a reptile or, especially in intransitive use, of necrotic or cicatricial tissue from the surface of a sore or wound) (the snake often sloughs its skin in mid-September) (the scab is sloughing off from the sore) The term is also common in the sense of to discard or throw off what has become objectionable, burdensome, or useless (slough a bad habit) (this talented author has sloughed off most of her more irritating sentimentallites—Times Lit. Sup.) (as though her gaunt and worldly air had been only a mockery she began to slough it off—Bromfield) (the last two words, scrap and junk, have literal reference to the throwing away of fragments, parts, or pieces that are useless to the owner or can no longer be used by him. Scrap suggests a discarding as rubbish or refuse, but it may carry an implication of some use to another (as a processor or a dealer in parts or accessories) (scrap out-of-date machinery) (scrap a plan as impractical) (all the old ideas of combat have to be scrapped) (the English language that Shakespeare was born to had used up and scrapped a good deal of the English of Chaucer—Montague) Junk differs little from scrap except in stressing a throwing away and in carrying little implication of value to a second-hand dealer or to a processor of waste (junk all their old furniture before moving into their new home) (in its astonishing quest for perfection, can junk an entire system of ideas almost overnight—Davidson)

Ana *abandon, forsake, desert: reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE vb); dismiss, *eject, *oust
Ana adopt, embrace, espouse: utilize, employ, *use: retain, *keep, hold, hold back
discern perceive, descry, observe, notice, remark, note, esp, behold, *see, view, survey, contemplate
Ana *discover, ascertain: divine, apprehend, anticipate, *foresee: pierce, penetrate, probe (see ENTER)

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
discernment, discrimination, perception, penetration, insight, acumen are comparable when they denote keen intellectual vision. All imply power to see below the surface and to understand what is not evident to the average mind. Discernment stresses accuracy (as in reading character or motives or in appreciation of art) (she had not had the discernment to discover the caliber of this young favorite—Bellow) Discrimination emphasizes the power to distinguish and select the excellent, the appropriate, or the true (there was a time when schools attempted . . . to cultivate discrimination and to furnish the material on which selection can be founded—Grandgent) nobody should reproach them for reading indiscriminately. Only by so doing can they learn discrimination—Times Lit. Sup.) Perception implies quick discernment and delicate feeling (of a temperament to feel keenly the presence of subtleties; a man of clumsiest perceptions would not have felt as he did—George Eliot) (persecutors were ordinary, reasonably well-intentioned people lacking in keen perception—Sykes) Penetration implies a searching mind and power to enter deeply into something beyond the reach of the senses (it did not require any great penetration to discover that what they wished was that their letters should be as kind as was consistent with proper maidenly pride—De Quincey) (good little novels, full of Gallic irony and penetration—Time) Insight emphasizes depth of discernment or of sympathetic understanding (throughout the years he has used . . . techniques or insights provided by abstract art, to express better his statements about men and the world—Current Biog.) Acumen suggests characteristic penetration and keenness and soundness of judgment (a paradox which your natural acumen, sharpened by habits of logical attention, will enable you to reconcile in a moment—Cowper) Ana intuition, understanding, *reason: perspicaciousness or perspicacity, sagaciousness or sagacity, shrewdness, astuteness (see corresponding adjectives at shrewd) Con stupidity, slowness, dullness, density, crassness (see corresponding adjectives at stupid): blindness (see corresponding adjective blind) discharge vb 1 *free, release, liberate, deliver, emancipate, manumit, enfranchise Ana *eject, expel, oust, dismiss: eliminate, *exclude 2 *dismiss, cashier, drop, sack, fire, bounce Ana *dispose, supplant, supersede, *replace 3 *perform, execute, accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill Ana *finish, complete, *close, end, terminate disciple adherent, *follower, henchman, satellite, sectary, partisan Ana votary, devotee (see addict n): *enthusiast, zealot, fanatic discipline n *morale, esprit de corps Ana self-control, self-command (see base words at power): self-confidence, self-possession (see confidence): nervous, steeling (see encourage) Ant anxiety, lawlessness —Con enervation (see corresponding verb at unnerve): disorganization, disorder (see corresponding verbs at disorder) discipline vb 1 train, educate, *teach, instruct, school Ana lead, *guide: control, manage, direct, *conduct: drill, exercise, *practice 2 *punish, chastise, castigate, chasten, correct Ana subdue, overcome, reduce, subjugate (see conquer): *restrain, curb, bridge, check, inhibit disclaimer, disavow, repudiate, disown, disallow mean to refuse to admit, accept, or approve. Disclaimer implies refusal to admit or accept a claim, but it may apply specifically to a legal claim one has upon property or to a title (the son disclaimed all right to his father’s small estate) or to the claim or imputation of something evil made by another to one’s chagrin or dismay (this court disclaims all pretensions to such a power—John Marshall) I entirely disclaim the hatred and hostility to Turks . . . which you ascribe to me—Gladden) or, even more frequently, to the implied or expressed praise of oneself by another (Mark was embarrassed by the Rector’s talking like this; but if he disclaimed the virtues attributed to him he should . . . give an impression of false modesty—Mackenzie) Disavow often comes close to disclaim in meaning, but it much less often implies reference to a legal claim and fastens the attention upon a vigorous denial either of personal responsibility for something or personal acceptance or approval of something (Melfort never disavowed these papers—Macaulay) (the boys disavowed any intention to set the stable on fire) (this Court always had disavowed the right to intrude its judgment upon questions of policy or morals—Justice Holmes) Repudiate originally applied to a casting away of one’s wife (see also repudiate under decline); it may also imply a casting off or a denial of responsibility for something that has been previously acknowledged, recognized, or accepted (they repudiated their heresies) (the state has repudiated its debts) (a law which everyone recognizes in fact, though everyone repudiates it in theory—Dickinson) (the liberal mind . . . had repudiated the doctrine of original sin—Straight) Disown usually stresses a repudiation or renunciation and often applies to something that has stood in close relationship to the person disowning; it may specifically imply disheritage or abjuration (disowned his son) (disowned his allegiance to the country of his birth) (the prince . . . was . . . required to disown . . . the obligations contracted in his name—Froude) Disallow implies the withholding of sanction or approval and sometimes suggests complete rejection or condemnation (disallowed the jockey’s claim of a foul) (disallow a bill for the entertainment of the officers) (it was known that the most eminent of those who professed his own principles, publicly disallowed his proceedings—Swift) (your claim upon her hand is already disallowed—G. P. R. James) Ana *deny, gainsay, traverse, contradict: reject, refuse, spurn (see decline): deprecate (see disappoint): belittle, minimize, disparage (see de cry) Ant claim disclose *reveal, divulge, tell, discover, betray Ana confess, admit, own, *acknowledge, avow: *declare, proclaim, announce, publish, broadcast, advertise Con conceal, *hide: cloak, mask, dissemble, *disguise, camouflage discomfit disconcert, *embarrass, faze, abash, rattle Ana *anooy, vex, irk, bother: perturb, *discompose, agitate, upset, disturb: check, *arrest, interrupt discommode incommode, *inconvenience, trouble Ana disturb, perturb, upset, fluster, flurry, *discompose: vex, irk, bother (see annooy) discompose, disquiet, disturb, perturb, agitate, upset, fluster, flurry are comparable when they mean to excite one so as to destroy one’s capacity for clear or collected thought or prompt action. Discompose is sometimes only slightly more suggestive of mental confusion than disconcert or discomfit; usually, however, it implies greater emotional stress and an actual loss of self-control or self-confidence (he was still discomposed by the girl’s bitter and sudden retort. It had cast a gloom over him—Joyce) Disquiet stresses the loss, not of composure, but of something deeper (as one’s sense of security or of well-being or one’s peace of mind) (why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?—Ps 42:11) (he was indubitably not happy at bottom, restless and
disconcert, his disquietude sometimes amounting to agony
—Arnold

why should we disquiet ourselves in vain in the attempt to direct our destiny—Crothers

Disturb, unlike the preceding words, carries no implication of a loss of one's balance or of an excess of emotion; usually it implies marked interference with one's mental processes (as by worry, perplexity, disappointment, or interruption) profoundly disturbed by the prospective dissolution of a bond which dated from the seventies—Bennett

nothing is more disturbing than the upsetting of a preconceived idea—Conrad

Perturb implies deep disturbance and unsettlement of mind; it usually connotes a cause for disturbance or alarm (in this perturbed state of mind, with thoughts that could rest on nothing, she walked on—Austen)

to perturbed by excursions into verbal coquetry, and later into political arguments—Hillyer

Agitate emphasizes the loss of calmness and self-control and implies obvious signs of nervous or emotional excitement. It does not, however, always suggest distress of mind or a cause of worry (so agitated that she was incoherent—Deland)

grow more and more irritated, more and more agitated—Woolf

(it was a happiness that agitated rather than soothed her—Crothers)

Upset, like agitate, implies a nervous reaction, but it usually presupposes a cause that brings disappointment or distress or sorrow (they wouldn't have believed they could be so upset by a hurt woodpecker—Cather)

what upset me in the . . . trial was not the conviction, but the methods of the defense—Laski

Fluster may carry a suggestion of the excitement and confusion induced by drinking intoxicants (flustered with new wine—Tennyson) but it usually suggests the agitation, bewilderment, and sometimes fright induced by sudden and often unexpected demands, commands, needs, or crises (the aged housekeeper was no less flustered and hurried in obeying the numerous . . . commands of her mistress—Scott)

Flurry suggests the excitement, commotion, and confusion induced by great haste or alarm (they reached the station, hot and flurried, just as the train pulled out) (thoughts, with their attendant visions, which . . . flurried her too much to leave her any power of observation—Austen)

he recognized her and sat down immediately, flurried and confused by his display of excitement—O'Flaherty

Ana discomfit, disconcert, rattle, faze, *embarrass: vex, irk, bother, *annoy: *worry, harass, plague, pester

Con appease, *pacify, conciliate, mollify, placate, propitiate

disconcert rattle, faze, discomfit, *embarrass, abash

Ana bewilder, nonplus, perplex, *puzzle: *dismember, fluster, flurry, disturb, perturb

disconsolate woebegone, *downcast, dejected, depressed, dispirited

Ana inconsolable, comfortless (see affirmative verbs at comfort): sorrowful, woeful (see corresponding nouns at sorrow): melancholy, doleful

discontinue desist, cease, *stop, quit

Ana suspend, intermit, stay (see defer): *arrest, check, interrupt

Ant continue

discord n Discord, strife, conflict, contention, disension, difference, variance mean a state or condition marked by disagreement and lack of harmony or the acts or circumstances which manifest such a state or condition. Discord implies not only a want of harmony or of concord between persons or between things but also, usually, a positive clashing which manifests itself in personal relations by quarreling, factiousness, or antagonism, in relations between sounds by a resulting dissonance or unpleasant noise, and in relations between other things that are incongruous or incompatible by creating unpleasant impressions or mental disturbance (they were firm and understanding friends. I know of but one approach to discord in their relations—Repple)

in this state of enlightenment there is no more discord between the will, the intellect, and the feelings, and the objects of our reverence—Inge

the seeker after truth . . . must disclaim responsibility for the way in which his discoveries fit into the general scheme of things. For the moment they may seem to produce discord rather than harmony—Crothers

Strife throws the emphasis on a struggle for superiority rather than on the incongruity or incompatibility of the persons or things that disagree. It applies chiefly to relations between persons, and when used in reference to things it is nearly always figurative. Also, the term may imply any of widely different motives for the struggle (as rivalry, emulation, difference in opinion, disagreement, deep antagonism, or violent hostility) (domestic fury and fierce civil strife—Shak.)

yet live in hatred, enmity, and strife among themselves—Milton

I strove with none, for none was worth my strife—Landor

(a face in which a strange strife of wishes, for and against, was apparent—Hardy)

the crowd swells, laughing and pushing toward the quays in friendly strife—Lowell

Conflict (see also conflict) implies a clashing and a struggle, but it stresses not the aim or end but the process, the uncertainty of the outcome, or the trials, difficulties, or torments it involves. In this sense the term may apply to actual battles or wars, but usually it applies to a mental, moral, or spiritual state of a person or group of persons or to its outward manifestations (with conflict of contending hopes and fears—Cowper)

no more for him life's stormy conflicts—Whitman

the conflict of passion, temper, or appetite with the external duties—T. S. Eliot

The term is also used in a milder sense to imply an incompatibility between or the impossibility of reconciling two things which come together at the same time or upon the one person (a conflict of engagements)

(a conflict of duties) Contention may be used in place of strife in any of the senses of the latter word; more often it applies to strife that manifests itself in quarreling, disputing, or controversy; it may even be applied to a condition of affairs marked by altercations or brawls (cast out the scorners, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease—Prov 22:10)

(let the long contention cease! Geese are swans, and swans are geese, let them have it how they will—Arnold)

we were never friends. There was always a certain contention between us—Max Peacock

Dissension may imply discord or strife between persons or parties, but it lays greater stress on a breach between them than do any of the preceding words; thus, to say that there is dissension in a church or political party is to imply that it is broken up into contentious or discordant factions (France, torn by religious dissensions, was never a formidable opponent—Macaulay)

(left the seeds of philosophic dissension vigorous in French soil—Belloch)

Dissension (often in the plural) and variance usually imply a clash between persons or things owing to dissimilarity in opinion, character, or nature that makes for discord or strife. The terms may also suggest apparent or actual incompatibility or impossibility of reconciliation (nationalists have always used force to settle their differences—Fowler)

I might very possibly have quarreled and skirmished with anyone of less unvarying kindness and good temper. As it is, we have never had a word or thought of difference—Henning

(to remain at variance with his wife seemed to him . . . almost a disaster—Conrad)

I never saw a child with such an instinct for preventing variance, or so full of tact—Yonge

sectarian variances in the town had delayed the erection of a house

\textit{Ana} incompatibility, incongruity, inconsonance, inconstancy, uncongeniality, discrepancy (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT): antagonism, hostility, *emnity, rancor, animosity, antipathy

\textit{Con} *harmony, consonance, accord

\textit{discordant} *inconsonant, incongruous, uncongenial, unsympathetic, incompatible, inconsistent, discrepant

\textit{Con} *consonant, congruous, congenial, sympathetic, compatible: harmonizing or harmonious, according or accordant, agreeing (see corresponding verbs at \textit{AGREE})

\textit{discount} *deduction, rebate, abatement

\textit{discourage} vb 1. \textit{Discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant} mean to weaken in qualities that maintain interest, zeal, activity, or power to continue or to resist. \textit{Discourage} implies not only the loss of courage and confidence but the entrance of fear and the marked diminution of all power to summon up one's forces (\textit{the long winter and the lack of fuel discouraged the settlers}) (\textit{his failure had completely discouraged his wife}) \textit{Dishearten} differs little from \textit{discourse}, but it stresses not so much a mood or a state of mind as a loss of heart or will to accomplish a purpose or to achieve an end (\textit{the slight response to their appeal disheartened the promoters of the fund}) (\textit{his answers were at the same time so vague and equivocal, that her mother, though often disheartened, had never yet despaired of succeeding at last—Austen}) \textit{Dispirit} distinctively implies the loss of cheerfulness or hopefulness; it often suggests a prevailing gloom that casts a blight upon a gathering, a project, or whatever depends for its success upon the spirits of those who enter into it. It may also, more strongly than \textit{discourage}, suggest the way an individual or group affects others (\textit{in quelling a local Arme- nian revolt he was badly wounded. Sick and dispirited, he gave up his Arabian plan—Buchan}) (\textit{dispirited by their futile efforts—Grandgent}) (\textit{the shabby, dispiriting spectacle of Versailles, with its base greed and timidities—Montague}) \textit{Depict}, even more strongly than \textit{dispirit}, implies a casting down, with resulting loss of cheerfulness or hopefulness, but, unlike \textit{dispirit}, it refers usually to the individual alone (\textit{she has been much dejected lately}) (\textit{nothing dejects a trader like the interruption of his profits—Johnson})

\textit{Ana} *depress, weigh: try, *afflict: vex, bother, irk (see \textit{ANNOY})

\textit{Ant} encourage —\textit{Con} inspirit, hearten, embolden, nerve, steel (see \textit{ENCOURAGE})

2 deter, *dissuade, divert

\textit{Ana} *restrain, inhibit: prevent (sense 2): *frighten, scare

\textit{discourse} n \textit{Discourse, treatise, disquisition, dissertation, thesis, monograph} designate in common a systematic, serious, and often learned consideration of a subject or topic. \textit{Discourse}, the widest of these terms, may refer to something written or spoken but, since it fundamentally implies a passing from one link in a chain of reasoning to another, always suggests a careful formulation and usually a plan made in advance of expression (\textit{read a discourse on the fundamental causes of war before the Foreign Policy Association}) (\textit{his discourses from the pulpit were always long remembered}). \textit{Treatise} implies a written work and suggests a formal, methodical, and more or less extended treatment, usually expository but sometimes argumentative or narrative; it often differs from \textit{discourse} in not emphasizing reasoning and in referring to a lengthy work (\textit{Turretin's history . . . (a dry, heavy, barren treatise)}) —\textit{John Wesley} (a \textit{treatise on insects}) (a \textit{philosophical treatise})

\textit{Disquisition} stresses limitation of a subject and its investigation and discussion in writing; it carries no suggestion of failure or of success but throws its emphasis upon the exploratory nature of the discussion (\textit{for . . . grave disquisition he was not well qualified—Macaulay}) (\textit{in his initial disquisition, he tells how he has searched many books—S. R. L.}) \textit{Dissertation} presupposes examination and often independent examination of a subject and its discussion at length, usually in writing; it often denotes a treatise dependent on individual research by a candidate for a higher academic degree (\textit{the sermon is a dissertation, and does violence to nature in the effort to be like a speech—Gladstone}) (\textit{Lamb's playful "Dissertation upon Roast Pig"}) (\textit{present a dissertation upon "The Pendant as a stock character in the Elizabethan Drama"}) for the doctor of philosophy degree) \textit{Thesis} basically denotes a proposition which a person (as a candidate for an academic degree) advances and offers to maintain but is also often used interchangeably with \textit{dissertation} (\textit{it is my thesis that people are growing not worse but better}) (\textit{write a doctoral thesis on Chaucer's minor poems}) although some restrict it to a dissertation or other work (as one incorporating the results of a series of experiments) intended to maintain or prove a proposition laid down or clearly stated. In practice, however, it may be difficult to tell whether the proposition or its treatment is in the user's mind, so inextricably are the two notions intertwined (\textit{a thesis maintaining that man's economic condition can be closely correlated with weather}) (\textit{B. S. nourish its extremely suggestive thesis is that the transition from Elizabethan-Jacobean to later Caroline comedy is primarily economic—T. S. Eliot}) \textit{Monograph} implies a learned treatise on a single topic (as a particular biological species, a clearly restricted literary genre, or an author). It typically refers to a work of this character published in a learned journal or as a pamphlet or small book (\textit{a monograph on "The Ballade in England"}) (\textit{a monograph on the cattishes of the Great Lakes region})

\textit{Ana} paper, article, *essay: *speech, lecture, talk, sermon

\textit{discourse} vb \textit{Discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant} are com-parable when meaning to talk or sometimes write more or less formally and at length upon a subject. \textit{Discourse} frequently implies the manner or attitude of the lecturer, the monologist, or the preacher; it may suggest detailed or logical and sometimes profound, witty, or brilliant discussion (\textit{Jonson is a real figure—our imagination plays about him discoursing at the Mermaid, or laying down the law to Drummond of Hawthornden—T. S. Eliot}) (\textit{we talk in the bosom of our family in a way different from that in which we discourse on state occasions—Lowes}) \textit{Expate}iate implies ranging without restraint or wandering at will over a subject; it connotes more copiousness than \textit{discourse} and often carries a hint of long-windedness (\textit{we will expatiate freely over the wide and varied field before us—Landor}) (\textit{the promoter of the raffle . . . was expatiating upon the value of the fabric as material for a summer dress—Hardy}) (in another lecture 1 shall expatiate on the idea—James) \textit{Dilate} implies a discoursing that enlarges the possibilities of a subject (as by dwelling on each small detail) (\textit{she proceeded to dilate upon the ceremonies of Miss Nickleby—Dickens}) (\textit{those joys on which Miss Steven-son dilates in that famous little essay in Virginibus Pueri-que—Quiller-Couch}) (\textit{he reverted to his conversation of the night before, and dilated upon the same subject with an easy mastery of his theme—Wylie}) \textit{Descant} stresses free comment, but it often also connotes delight or pleasure in this free expression of one's opinions or observations (\textit{to praise his stable, and descant upon his claret and cookery—Goldsmith}) (\textit{he descanted to his heart's content on his favorite topic of the [prize] ring—Shaw})

\begin{footnotes}
  A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
\end{footnotes}
discourteous

**Ana** *discuss, argue, dispute; converse, talk, *speak;* lecture, harangue, orate, sermonize (see corresponding nouns at SPEECH)

**Ant** courteous — *Con* civil, polite, courtly, gallant, chivalrous

**discover** 1 *reveal, disclose, divulge, tell, betray

**Ana** impart, *communicate: *declare, announce, publish, advertise, proclaim

2 *Discover, ascertain, determine, unearth, learn mean to find out something not previously known to one. Discover may presuppose investigation or exploration, or it may presuppose accident, but it always implies that the thing existed, either actually or potentially, in fact or in principle but had not been hitherto seen or known or brought into view, action, use, or actual existence. *Discover an island* *Discover a new writer*

**discern, observe, perceive, espy** (see SEE)

**Ant** indiscreet — *Con* rash, reckless, foolhardy (see CAUTIOUS): judgment, *sense, wisdom, gumption

**discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant** (see corresponding adjectives at ADVENTUROUS)

**discuss, argue, debate, dispute, agitate** mean to discourse about something in order to arrive at the truth or to convince others. Discuss implies an attempt to sift or examine especially by presenting considerations pro and con; it often suggests an interchange of opinion for the sake of clarifying issues and testing the strength of each side. *Hobart couldn't discuss. He could talk; he could assert . . . but he couldn't meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay* *not even theloon, in whose voice there is a human note, means to discuss the weather. You are living in a world almost devoid of communication—Laidr* *Argue usually implies conviction and the adducing of evidence or reasons in support of one's cause or position—Agrippa advised a republican restoration and Maecenas argued for a principate—Buchan* *deep-seated preferences cannot be argued about—you cannot argue a man into liking a glass of beer—Justice Holmes* *Debate stresses formal or public argument between opposing parties* *they had gathered a wise council to them of every realm, that did debate this business—Shak.*

**dispute** in the sense of **discuss or debate**, is somewhat uncommon *(Paul) spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God—Acts 19:8* It more usually implies contentious or heated argument *(compare dispute n at ARGUMENT)*. *Agitate stresses both vigorous argument and a practical objective; it usually implies active propaganda and a determination to bring about a change* *(when workers working ten hours a day agitate for an eight-hour day, what they really want is . . . sixteen hours off duty instead of fourteen—Shaw)* *(if you really expect success, agitate, agitate, agitate—Pater)*

**discuss** *(explain, expound, interpret, elucidate, explicate: *discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant*

**disdain n** scorn, despise *(see under DESPISE)*

**Ana** aversion, *antipathy: insolence, superciliousness, arrogance* *(see corresponding adjectives at PROUD)*

**Con** *regard, admiration, respect, esteem: *reverence, awe, fear

**disdain vb** scorn, scout, *despise, contemn See also explanatory notes facing page 1
disdainful

252

disfavor

Ana spurn, repudiate, reject (see decline vb)
Ant favor: admit — Con accept, *receive, take: *acknowledge, own

disdainful supercilious, overbearing, insolent, arrogant, lordly, *proud, haughty
Ana spurning, repudiating, rejecting (see decline vb): scornful, despising, contumacious, scolding (see despise): averse, *antipathetic, unsympathetic
Con obliging, compliant, *amiable: considerate, attentive, *thoughtful

disease n Disease, disorder, condition, affection, ailment, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome denote a deranged bodily state usually associated with or amounting to a loss of health. Disease in its usual and broadest use implies an impairment of the normal state of the living body or of one or more of its parts marked by disturbance of vital functions and usually traceable to a specific cause (as a parasite, a toxin, or a dietary deficiency) (his suffering is caused by disease) As used in names of specific abnormal states, disease implies the existence of a regularly occurring identifying group of symptoms and, often, of a known cause (such dreaded diseases as smallpox and plague) (possibly celiac disease is a symptom complex with a multiple etiology rather than a single disease entity—Yr. Bk. of Endocrinology) Disorder is commonly interchangeable with disease (a nutritional disorder caused by a lack of calcium and phosphorus—Time) but typically it stresses the disordered state without regard to cause (a specialist in disorders of the liver) Disease may sometimes be used more narrowly to distinguish an abnormal state resulting from an effective process (disease is conceived as being limited to malfunctioning of the organism initiated and maintained by an infectious process—Ashley Montagu) and is then distinguished from or subordinated to disorder (his distinction between disease (morbid change in tissue due to specific microorganisms) and disorder (disturbance in structure or function from any cause) is an artificial one—Roney) (diseases and other disorders of turf—Luken's & Stoddard) Condition and the less common affection both imply a particular and usually an abnormal state of the body or more often of one of its parts; neither suggests anything about the cause or severity of such state (pulmonary affections) (a severe heart condition) Ailment, malady, and complaint are used chiefly of human disorders, and all imply a degree of indefiniteness (the pattern of ailments is changing and the degenerative diseases, like heart, circulation, and nerve diseases and cancer, are increasing—New Statesman) (had suffered from an obscure malady, an injury to the spine—Glasgow) (a digestive complaint of long standing) Ailment often suggests a trivial of long standing) Ailment is conceived as being limited (disease affects the body or of one or more of its parts marked by disturbance of vital functions and usually traceable to a specific cause (as a parasite, a toxin, or a dietary deficiency) (his suffering is caused by disease) As used in names of specific abnormal states, disease implies the existence of a regularly occurring identifying group of symptoms and, often, of a known cause (such dreaded diseases as smallpox and plague) (possibly celiac disease is a symptom complex with a multiple etiology rather than a single disease entity—Yr. Bk. of Endocrinology) Disorder is commonly interchangeable with disease (a nutritional disorder caused by a lack of calcium and phosphorus—Time) but typically it stresses the disordered state without regard to cause (a specialist in disorders of the liver) Disease may sometimes be used more narrowly to distinguish an abnormal state resulting from an effective process (disease is conceived as being limited to malfunctioning of the organism initiated and maintained by an infectious process—Ashley Montagu) and is then distinguished from or subordinated to disorder (his distinction between disease (morbid change in tissue due to specific microorganisms) and disorder (disturbance in structure or function from any cause) is an artificial one—Roney) (diseases and other disorders of turf—Luken's & Stoddard) Condition and the less common affection both imply a particular and usually an abnormal state of the body or more often of one of its parts; neither suggests anything about the cause or severity of such state (pulmonary affections) (a severe heart condition) Ailment, malady, and complaint are used chiefly of human disorders, and all imply a degree of indefiniteness (the pattern of ailments is changing and the degenerative diseases, like heart, circulation, and nerve diseases and cancer, are increasing—New Statesman) (had suffered from an obscure malady, an injury to the spine—Glasgow) (a digestive complaint of long standing) Ailment often suggests a trivial or chronic disorder (the puthouses of the period of our Civil War, in which patients suffering from minor ailments were infected with all manner of diseases—Morrison) (constantly complaining of her ailments) Malady, on the other hand, usually stresses the mysterious or serious character of a disorder (suspicion in the Oriental is a sort of malignant tumor, a mental malady—Forster) (told by his physician that he had a fatal malady—Cather) Complaint carries no inherent implication about the seriousness of the disorder but in stressing the invalid's point of view may suggest the distress that accompanies ill health (taking all sorts of medicine for vague complaints—Fishbein) Distemper, which formerly applied to human disorders, is now used almost entirely of diseases of lower animals and more particularly to denote specifically certain severe infectious diseases (as a destructive virus disease of the dog and related animals, strangles of the horse, or panleucopenia of the cat). Syndrome is often used interchangeably with disease to denote a particular disorder, but in precise professional thinking such interchangeability does not imply strict synonymy, since syndrome denotes the group or pattern of signs and symptoms that constitute the evidence of disease and carries no implication about causation; thus, one might use either Ménière's disease or Ménière's syndrome to denote a particular disorder centered in the inner ear; however, one would say that the syndrome (not disease) of recurrent dizziness, ringing in the ears, and deafness suggests the presence of Ménière's disease (a condition characterized by splenomegaly, hypochromic anemia, leukopenia, and icterus . . . this symptom complex may be produced by a variety of pathological states. It is therefore more properly classified as a syndrome than as a disease entity—W. M. Fowler)

Certain of these terms also are comparable in other uses and especially as applied to mental, spiritual, or emotional abnormal states. Disease usually connotes evident derangement requiring remedies or a cure (diseases of the body politic) (this strange disease of modern life, with its sick hurry, its divided aims—Arnold) Ailment implies something wrong that makes for unsoundness, weakness, or loss of well-being (a bodily disease may, after all, be but a symptom of some ailment in the spiritual part—Hawthorne) Malady, especially as contrasted with disease, implies a deep-seated morbid condition or unwholesome abnormality (how would they be troubled by this beauty, into which the soul with all its maladies had passed—Pater) Distemper usually harks back to its earlier reference to human ailments and stresses a lack of balance or of a sense of proportion (to seek of God more than we well can find, argues a strong distemper of the mind—Herrick) Syndrome retains its implication of a group of contributory signs and symptoms (lying is one of a syndrome or constellation of character traits that tend to be found in one another's company—Garvin) (partition . . . is no more decisive in the Irish syndrome than emigration or the decline of rural marriage or the fallen state of Irish literature—Kelleher)

diseased *unwholesome, morbid, sickly, pathological
disembarrass disencumber, disentangle, untangle, *extricate

Ana release, *free, liberate: *relieve: disengage, *detach
Con *hamper, trammel, clog, fetter, shackles
disencumber disembarrass, disentangle, untangle, *extricate

Ana *release, alleviate, lighten: disengage, *detach: liberate, release, *free
Con *depress, weigh, oppress: *hamper, fetter, shackles, manacle, trammel, clog
disengage *detach, abstract

Ana disencumber, disembarrass, disentangle, untangle, *extricate: release, liberate, *free: disconnect, disjoin, dissociate, disunite (see affirmative verbs at join)
Ant engage (one part, one thing with another) — Con involve, *include, embrace, comprehend, imply: link, associate, connect, unite, *join
disentangle untangle, *extricate, disembarrass, disencumber

Ana disengage, *detach: separate, part, sever, unjoin: *free, release, liberate
Ant entangle

disfavor n *dislike, distaste, aversion

Ana disapproval, depreciation (see corresponding verbs at disapprove): distrust, mistrust (see under distrust vb)
disfigure  *deface

_Ana_ mangle, batter, *main, mutilate; *deform, distort, contort, warp; *injure, damage, mar, impair

_Ant_ adorn — _Con_ embellish, beautify (see ADORN)

disgorge  *belch, burp, vomit, regurgitate, spew, throw up

disgrace  _n_ Disgrace, dishonor, disrepute, shame, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, obloquy, odium mean the state, condition, character, or less often the cause of suffering disesteem and of enduring reproach or severe censure. Disgrace may imply no more than a loss of the favor or esteem one has enjoyed (<Queen Elizabeth's favorites were constantly in danger of disgrace if they offended her in the slightest degree>) (<he was shut up in an attic . . . and forbidden to speak to his sisters, who were told that he was in disgrace—Russell>) The term, however, often implies complete humiliation and, sometimes, ostracism (<you may find yourself at any moment summoned to serve on a jury and make decisions involving the disgrace or vindication . . . of your fellow creatures—Shaw>) Dishonor may often be employed in place of disgrace, but typically it suggests a previous condition of being honored or of having a high sense of honor; it therefore may imply the loss of the honor that one has enjoyed or the loss of one's self-respect or self-esteem (<prefer death to dishonor>) (<but now mischance hath trod my title down, and dishonor laid me on the ground—Shak.>) Wouldst thou . . . harp on the deep dishonor of our house—Byron)

Disrepute stresses the loss of one's good name or the attribution of a bad name or reputation (<the actions of certain of its guests have brought the hotel into disrepute>) (<the disgrace into which this once famous name has now fallen>) (<the habit of pub-crawling—so much the fashion when I was their age—seems to have happily fallen into disrepute—O'Connor>) Shame implies particularly humiliation (<he had been compelled to submit to—he had been ashamed to face the world, or to present himself to others—Froude>) (<the Scripture moveth us . . . to acknowledge our sins, and not to cloke them before the face of God—Gray>) (<the Scripture moveth us ... to acknowledge our sins, and not to cloke them before the face of Almighty God—Book of Common Prayer>) (<many materialists . . . seek to eliminate the word righteousness—R. E. Black & E. C. Helms>) (<the obloquy of the name of the one who has been so disgraced retains this implication with the added suggestion either of concealment of identity or of the assumption (as on the stage) of another identity—Froude>) The term, however, may apply to a feeling, an intention, or a motive when one's words, expression, or acts imply a contrary reaction (<I disdained my impatience and suspicion of him and waited—Hudson>) (<they disgrace themselves as Turks for a joke>) (<however we may disguise it by veiling words we do not and cannot carry out the distinction between legislative and executive action with mathematical precision—Justice Holmes>) Our author, disguised as Jonathan Oldstyle, contributed a series of letters . . . protesting with admirable chivalry against jesting at maiden ladies—Commins) Cloak implies the assumption of something which covers and conceals identity or nature (<the appearance of goodwill cloaked a sinister intention>) (<tolerance and public irresponsibility cannot be cloaked in the shining armor of rectitude and righteousness—A. E. Stevenson>) Mask implies a disguise, comparable to a covering for the face or head, which prevents recognition of a thing's true character, quality, or presence (<icy spots masked by newly fallen snow>) (<masking with a smile the vain regrets that in their hearts arose—Morris>) (<his pessimism . . . became an obvious mask—a child of shame—Hicks>) (<is it not . . . a pity to live no better life?>) (<God knows it is a shame!>) (<shame is a reaction to other people's criticism. A man is either openly ridiculed and rejected or by fantasying to himself that he has been made ridiculous—Benedict>) Ignominy usually implies notoriety as well as exceeding shame (<men who prefer any load of infamy, however great, to any pressure of taxation, however light>) (<a child of shame—shame! Is it not . . . a pity to live no better life?>) (<God knows it is a shame!>) (<disguise is a reaction to the presence of other people's criticism. A man is either openly ridiculed and rejected or by fantasying to himself that he has been made ridiculous—Benedict>) Infamy usually implies notoriety as well as exceeding shame (<men who prefer any load of infamy, however great, to any pressure of taxation, however light>) (<a child of shame—shame! Is it not . . . a pity to live no better life?>) (<God knows it is a shame!>) (<shame is a reaction to other people's criticism. A man is either openly ridiculed and rejected or by fantasying to himself that he has been made ridiculous—Benedict>) Ignominy, more than infamy—which in some ways it closely resembles—stresses the almost unconquerable tendency to be a matter of widespread or universal hatred or intense dislike (<whatever odium or loss her maneuvers incurred she flung upon her counselors—J. R. Green>) (<as a preliminary Augustus . . . revised the senatorial roll. This was always an invidious task . . . in the end he was compelled to make the nominations himself and face the odium—Buchan>) (<many materialists . . . seek to eliminate the odium attaching to the word materialism, and even to eliminate the word itself—James>) Disgrace, degradation, debasement, abstraction, humiliation (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): *stigma, brand, blot, stain

_Ant_ respect, esteem — _Con_ admiration, *regard: *rev- erence, awe, fear: honor, repute, glory, renown, *fame

disguise  _vb_ Disguise, cloak, mask, dissemble, camouflage are comparable when meaning to assume a dress, an appearance, or an expression that conceals one's identity, intention, or true feeling. Disguise, which basically implies an alteration in one's dress and appearance, frequently retains this implication with the added suggestion either of concealment of identity or of the assumption (as on the stage) of another identity (<escape captivity disguised as a woman>) (<they disguise themselves as Turks for a joke>) (<however we may disguise it by veiling words we do not and cannot carry out the distinction between legislative and executive action with mathematical precision—Justice Holmes>) Our author, disguised as Jonathan Oldstyle, contributed a series of letters . . . protesting with admirable chivalry against jesting at maiden ladies—Commins) Cloak implies the assumption of something which covers and conceals identity or nature (<the appearance of goodwill cloaked a sinister intention>) (<tolerance and public irresponsibility cannot be cloaked in the shining armor of rectitude and righteousness—A. E. Stevenson>) Mask implies a disguise, comparable to a covering for the face or head, which prevents recognition of a thing's true character, quality, or presence (<icy spots masked by newly fallen snow>) (<masking with a smile the vain regrets that in their hearts arose—Morris>) (<his pessimism . . . became an obvious mask—a child of shame—Hicks>) (<is it not . . . a pity to live no better life?>) (<God knows it is a shame!>) (<shame is a reaction to other people's criticism. A man is either openly ridiculed and rejected or by fantasying to himself that he has been made ridiculous—Benedict>) Ignominy usually implies notoriety as well as exceeding shame (<men who prefer any load of infamy, however great, to any pressure of taxation, however light>) (<a child of shame—shame! Is it not . . . a pity to live no better life?>) (<God knows it is a shame!>) (<shame is a reaction to other people's criticism. A man is either openly ridiculed and rejected or by fantasying to himself that he has been made ridiculous—Benedict>) Ignominy, more than infamy—which in some ways it closely resembles—stresses the almost unconquerable tendency to be a matter of widespread or universal hatred or intense dislike (<whatever odium or loss her maneuvers incurred she flung upon her counselors—J. R. Green>) (<as a preliminary Augustus . . . revised the senatorial roll. This was always an invidious task . . . in the end he was compelled to make the nominations himself and face the odium—Buchan>) (<many materialists . . . seek to eliminate the odium attaching to the word materialism, and even to eliminate the word itself—James>) Disgrace, degradation, debasement, abstraction, humiliation (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): *stigma, brand, blot, stain
disgust

vb: *reveal, disclose, discover, betray
disgust vb Disgust, sicken, nauseate are comparable when meaning to arouse an extreme distaste in. Disgust implies a stomach that is revolted by food offered or taken; in its extended use it implies sensibilities which are revolted by something seen, heard, or otherwise known that creates strong repugnance or aversion (a disgusting medicine) (a disgusting smell) (disgusted by the vulgarities of men who ate noisily and greedily) (the very thought of such an occupation disgusted his fastidious nature) (the majority of women that he meets offend him, repel him, disgust him —Mencken) Sicken usually implies not only the exciting of distaste but of actual physical distress (as faintness or a turning of the stomach); often, however, it is used merely as a more emphatic word for disgust, or it may suggest a disgust born of weariness or exhaustion (the smell of certain flowers is sickening in its sweetness) (mine eyes did sicker at the sight, and could not endure a further view—Shak.) (she was sickened by the girl's affectations) (for a few evenings it had interested the sisters . . . but they had soon sickened of it and loathed it —Bennett) This unceasing morality, which sickens later ages—Lewis & Maude) Nauseate carries a stronger implication than disgust or sicken of loathsome ness (as to the taste, sight, or mind), and often suggests retching or vomiting (he always finds castor oil nauseating) (just now, even the thought of food nauseates the patient) (they were all nauseated by the foul odor) (nauseating behavior) (we also cannot bring ourselves to deny him that famous, if dangerous, charm of his, nauseated as we may be by the excesses into which it so often misled him—J. M. Brown) Ana revolt, repulse, offend (see corresponding adjectives at OFFENSIVE) Ant charm —Con tempt, entice (see LURE): gratify, delight, rejoice, *please
dish vb ladle, spoon, *dip, bail, scoop dishhearten *discourage, dispirit, deject Ana *depress, weigh: despair, despond (see corresponding adjectives at DESPONDENT) Ant hearten —Con *encourage, inspire, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel dishonest, deceitful, mendacious, lying, untruthful are comparable especially when applying to persons, their utterances, and their acts and meaning deficient in honesty and unworthy of trust or belief. Dishonest may apply to any breach of honesty or trust (as by lying, deceiving, stealing, cheating, or defrauding) (a dishonest statement) (a dishonest employee) (while it would be dishonest to gloss over this weakness, one must understand it in terms of the circumstances that conspired to produce it—Mumford) (years ago a few dishonest men traveled about the country, saying that they could make rain—Craig & Urban) Deceitful usually implies the intent to mislead or to impose upon another in order to obscure one's real nature or actual purpose or intention, or the true character of something offered, given, or sold; it therefore usually suggests a false or specious appearance, indulgence in falsehoods, cheating, defrauding, or double-dealing (deceitful propaganda) (deceitful testimony) (she was a deceitful, scheming little thing—Zangwill) Mendacious is typically more formal than, often less derogatory than, but otherwise closely equivalent to lying, the ordinary, direct, unequivocal word (silly newspapers and magazines for the circulation of lying advertisements—Shaw) (a lying account of the accident) (go aboard the ships that caught his interest where the masters . . . set out wine and told him mendacious tales of their trade—Wheelwright) (while the communication was deceptive and so intended, it was not technically mendacious—S. H. Adams) As applied to persons mendacious more often suggests the habitude of deceit while lying suggests guilt in respect to a particular instance: thus, one might describe a person as mendacious with primary reference to his character or habit but would ordinarily prefer lying when a particular instance is in view (a mendacious child is doubted even when telling the truth) (only a lying scoundrel would tell such a tale) Untruthful is often used in place of mendacious or lying as a slightly less brutal word; however, the term distinctively implies lack of correspondence between what is said or represented and the facts of the case or the reality, and is often applied to statements, accounts, reports, or descriptions with little stress on dishonesty or intent to deceive (an untruthful account of an incident) (the artist's representation of the scene at Versailles was untruthful in many of its details) Ana *crooked, devisive, oblique: false, faithless, perfidious: cheating, cozening, defrauding, swindling (see CHEAT vb) —Ant honest —Con *upright, honorable, scrupulous, conscientious, just: straightforward, forthright, aboveboard: candid, open, *frank, plain dishonor n *disgrace, disrespect, shame, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, obloquy, odium Ana humiliation, humbling, debase ment, degradation, abasement (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): *stigma, brand, blot, stain Ant honor —Con glory, renown, repute, *fame: reverence, veneration (see under REVERE): prestige, *influence, credit, authority, weight: esteem, respect, *regard, admiration disillusioned *sophisticated, worldly-wise, worldly, blasé Ana undeceived (see corresponding affirmative verb at DECEIVE): disenchant ed (see corresponding affirmative verb at ATTRACT) disinclined adj Disinclined, indisposed, hesitant, reluctant, loath, averse mean manifesting neither the will nor the desire to do or to have anything to do with something indicated or understood. Disinclined implies a lack of taste or inclination for something for which one has no natural bent or which meets one's disapproval (I should not be disinclined to go to London, did I know anybody there—Richardson) (disinclined to come to real grips with the vexed question of public control in industry—Cohen) (he was preoccupied and disinclined for sociability) Indisposed implies an unfavorable or often a hostile or unsympathetic attitude (unfit to rule and indisposed to please—Crabbe) (indisposed to take part in the feasting and dancing—Hardy) Hesitant suggests a holding back through fear, distaste, uncertainty, or irresolution (she was hesitant to accept the invitation) (hesitant in seeking advice) (a hesitant suitor) (hesitant about spending the money required to build an experimental plant—Griffin) Reluctant adds to hesitant a definite resistance or sense of unwillingness (I was simply persuading a frightened and reluctant girl to do the straight and decent and difficult thing—Rose Macaulay) (people were reluctant to charge a dead man with an offense from which he could not clear himself—Wharton) (reluctant to expose those silent and beautiful places to vulgar curiosity—Cather) Reluctant is also applied directly to the thing which is done reluctantly or to a thing which seems reluctant (the constant strain of bringing back a reluctant and bored attention—Russell) (they wring from reluctant soil food enough to keep . . . alive—Reppie) Loath stresses the lack of
harmony between something one anticipates doing and his likes or dislikes, tastes or distastes, or sympathies or antipathies; thus, a tender person may be loath to punish a refractory child but a strict disciplinarian would be loath to allow that child to go unpunished; one may be loath to believe a well-founded report that discredits a friend and equally loath to disbelieve a rumor that confirms his bad opinion of a person. 

\textit{Whyte} \textbf{Averse} suggests a turning away from something distasteful or repugnant \textit{(averse to all advice)} \textit{his impulses were generous, true, averse from cruelty—J. R. Green} 

\textbf{Ana} *antipathetic, unsympathetic: opposing, resisting (see \textit{RESIST}) \textit{balking, shying, boggling, sticking, stickling (see \textit{DEMUR}): objecting, protesting (see \textit{OBJECT \textbf{vb}})} 

\textbf{Con} *eager, keen, anxious: inclined, disposed, predisposed (see \textit{INCLINE \textbf{vb}}) 

\textbf{disinfect} *sterilize, sanitize, fumigate 

\textbf{Ant} infect 

\textbf{disinfectant} $n$ *antiseptic, germicide, bactericide 

\textbf{disinfectant} $adj$ antiseptic, germicidal, bactericidal (see \textit{under ANTISEPTIC $n$}) 

\textbf{disintegrate} crumble, decompose, *decay, rot, putrefy, spoil 

\textit{Ana} deliquesce (see \textit{LIQUEFY}): *scatter, disperse, dissipate: break down, resolve, *analyze, dissect 

\textit{Ant} integrate, concatenate (see \textit{INTEGRATE}: fuse, blend, merge, coalesce (see \textit{MIX}): unite, conjoin, combine, link, associate, *join, connect 

\textbf{disinterested} uninterested, detached, aloof, unconcerned, *indifferent, incurious 

\textit{Ana} dispassionate, unbiased, impartial, *fair, just: *neutral, negative 

\textbf{Ant} interested: prejudiced, biased 

\textbf{dislike} $n$ Dislike, distaste, aversion, disfavor mean the state of mind of one who is not drawn to or turns from or avoids a person or thing; often these terms imply the manifestation of the state of mind. 

\textit{Dislike normally suggests the finding of something unpleasant or repugnant or of a kind one is unwilling to meet or to face} \textit{an aristocratic disdain of the bourgeoisie—Inge} \textit{differentiating between mere aversion and dislike and morbid unreasonable fear or dread—Armstrong} \textit{itself dislike is rather neutral but it is readily intensified by context to the point of suggesting complete detestation} \textit{I was on fire with the same anger, dislike, and contempt that burned in Hobart towards me—Rose Macaulay} 

\textbf{Distaste}, which implies a lack of taste for, usually stresses a squeamishness or a repugnance but allows a good deal of range in intensity to this squeamishness or repugnance; it may imply such other feelings as fear occasioned by the difficulties involved \textit{a pronounced distaste for mathematics} or rebellion at constraint or confinement \textit{for sheer pity of the repressed ... distaste on Nettie’s face, you ... drove her down to the movies—Mary Austin} or simply an unexplained reluctance \textit{great as was his need of shelter, the Bishop ... was struck by a reluctance, an extreme distaste for the place—Cather} \textit{Aversion suggests a disinclination for someone or something which manifests itself especially in attempts to avoid, evade, or escape. An aversion may be temperamental or it may be the result of training; it may or may not suggest an accompanying feeling, but it consistently implies a definite reaction on the part of one manifesting it} \textit{he tried to take hold of her feet with his hands, but she shrank from him with aversion—Hudson} \textit{unless we can give them an aversion from suicide, they will not abstain from it—Russell} 

\textit{The natural human aversion to cold, noise, vibration, ... and the unfriendly and lonesome environment at high altitude—Armstrong} \textit{Disfavor, the weakest of these words, usually suggests no more than a lack of liking or approval but it may imply contempt, lack of confidence, or disdain as motives} \textit{the proposal met with general disfavor} \textit{the young prince had fallen into open disfavor at court} \textit{Punch ... eyed the house with disfavor—Kipling} 

\textit{Ana} hate, hatred, detestation (see under hate \textbf{vb}) 

\textit{disfavor} (averse) disapproval, depression (see corresponding verbs at \textit{DISAPPROVE}) 

\textbf{Ant} liking —\textit{Con} affection, *attachment, love: *pre-dilection, partiality 

\textbf{disloyal} *faithless, false, pernicious, traitorous, treacherous 

\textit{Ana} disaffected, estranged, alienated (see \textit{ESTRANGE}) 

*inconstant, fickle, unstable 

\textit{Ant} loyal —\textit{Con} *faithful, constant, true, staunch, steadfast, resolute 

\textbf{dismetal, dreary, cheerless, dispiriting, bleak, desolate} are comparable when they mean devoid of all that makes for cheer or comfort. 

\textit{Dismetal and dreary} are often interchangeable. \textit{Dismetal} may indicate extreme gloominess or somberness utterly depressing and dejecting \textit{dismetal acres of weed-filled cellars and gaping foundations—Felix Morley} \textit{a rain dripped ... with a dismal insistence—Costain} \textit{the most dismal prophets of calamity—Krutch} 

\textit{Dreary} may differ in indicating what discourages or enervates through sustained gloom, dullness, terrorsomeness, or futility, and wants any cheering or enlivening characteristic \textit{the most dreary solitary desert waste I had ever beheld—Bartram} \textit{it was a hard dreary winter, and the old minister’s heart was often heavy—Delaney} \textit{had the strength been there, the equipment was lacking. Harding’s dreary appreciation of this was part of his tragedy—S. H. Adams} 

\textit{Cheerless} stresses absence of anything cheering and is less explicit than but as forceful as the others in suggesting a pervasive disheartening joylessness or hopelessness \textit{he would like to have done with life and its vanity altogether ... so cheerless and dreary the prospect seemed to him—Thackeray} \textit{Dispiriting refers to anything that disheartens or takes away morale or resolution of spirit} \textit{it was such dispiriting effort. To throw one’s whole strength and weight on the oars, and to feel the boat checked in its forward lunge—London} 

\textit{Bleak} is likely to suggest chill, dull, barren characteristics that dishearten and militate against any notions of cheer, shelter, warmth, comfort, brightness, or ease \textit{the bleak upland, still famous as a sheepwalk, though a scant herbage scarce veils the whinstone rock—J. R. Green} \textit{the sawmill workers of the bleak mountain shack towns—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.} \textit{the bleak years of the depression—J. D. Hicks} \textit{Desolate applies to what disheartens by being utterly barren, lifeless, uninhabitable or abandoned, and remote from anything cheering, comforting, or pleasant} \textit{a semibarren, rather desolate region, whose long dry seasons stunted its vegetation—Marvel} \textit{some desolate polar region of the mind, where woman, even as an ideal, could not hope to survive—Glasgow} 

\textit{Ana} murky, gloomy, *dark: forlorn, hopeless (see \textit{DESPONDENT}) 

\textit{Ant} beautiful, cheerful, *cheerful, *cheery 

\textit{Con} gay, *lively, animated: cheerful, joyous (see \textit{GLAD} 

\textbf{dismantle} divest, *strip, denude, bare 

\textit{Ana} *furnish, equip, outfit, appoint 

\textbf{dismay} vb \textit{Dismay, appall, horrify, daunt} mean to unnerve and check or deter by obscuring one’s apprehension, or aversion. \textit{Dismay suggests a loss of power to proceed either because a prospect is terrifying or disheartening, or, more often, because one is balked and perplexed or at a loss concerning how to deal with a situation} \textit{be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for}
the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go ye down against them—2 Chron 20:15-16) <here was an opponent that more than once puzzled Roosevelt, and in the end flatly dismayed him—Mencken> <who in one lifetime sees all causes lost, herself dismayed and helpless—Ruskeyer> Appall, in its most forceful use, implies an overwhelming and paralyzing dread or terror <the sight appalled the stoutest hearts> <"Are you a man?" "Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that which might appall the devil"—Shak.> The word more often implies the sense of impotence aroused when one is confronted by something that perturbs, confounds, or shocks, yet is beyond one's power to alter <an appalling waste of human life> <appalling statistics> <the unpunctuality of the Orient . . . is appalling to those who come freshly from a land of fixed mealtimes and regular train services—Huxley> <appalled by the magnitude of the tragedy—Bowers> Horrify may emphasize a reaction of horror or of shuddering revulsion from what is ghastly or hideously offensive <to developed sensibilities the facts of war are revolting and horrifying—Huxley> <this theme—a man ready to prostitute his sister as payment for a debt of honor—is too grotesque even to horrify us—T. S. Eliot> Often horrifies comes close to shock in meaning and implies momentary agitation occasioned by a surprising breach of the proprieties or dcencies <they were horrified by his playing golf on Sunday> <she horrified London society by pouring hot tea on a gentleman who displeased her—Amer. Guide Series: Va.> Daunt presupposes an attempt to do something that requires courage and implies therefore a checking or scaring off by someone or something that cows or subdues <he had been completely daunted by what he had found . . .; the Revolution . . . had been something against which self-assertion had been of no avail—Mary Austin> Daunt perhaps most often occurs in negative constructions <nothing can daunt the man whose last concern is for his own safety> <no adventure daunted her and risks stimulated her—Ellis> Ana perplex, confound, bewilder, nonplus, dumbfound, mystify, *puzzle: disconcert, rattle, faze, abash, discomfit, *embarrass: alarm, *frighten, terrify Ant cheer —Con assure, secure, *ensure: pique, quicken, stimulate, galvanize, excite, *provoke dismay n alarm, consternation, panic, *fear, dread, fright, terror, horror, trepidation Ana perturbing or perturbation, agitation, disquieting or disquietude, decomposing or discomposure, upsetting or upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE) <apprehension, foreboding Con *confidence, assurance, aplomb, self-possession: *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution dismiss 1 Dismiss, discharge, cashier, drop, sack, fire, bounce are comparable when they mean to undo the fixed or proper order of something. Disorder is commonly used in reference to something that depends for its proper functioning or effectiveness upon being properly ordered (see order vb 1) or in good order or array <tresses all disordered—Milton> <too rich a diet will disorder his digestive system> Derange implies a throwing out of proper arrangement of the parts, or of an important part, of something in which all the parts or elements are ordered with reference to each other or are so carefully adjusted or so closely related to each other that they work together as a unit. The term usually carries a strong implication of resulting confusion or a destruction of normal or healthy conditions <war deranges the life of a nation> <fear has deranged his mind> <within the power of man irreparably to derange the combinations of inorganic matter and organic life—Lord> Disarrange often implies little more than the changing of a fixed, neat, or perfect order of arrangement and may carry no suggestion of confusion <she . . . would not let his chamber be disarranged just at present—Martineau> <someone had disarranged the papers on his desk> <the wind disarranged her hair> Disorganize implies usually the destruction of order and functioning in a body or whole all the parts of which have an organic connection with each other or have been so ordered with reference to each other that what affects one part affects every other part; the term therefore usually suggests a disordering that impedes the functioning or impairs the effectiveness of the affected system <subversive methods intended to disorganize the internal communications of the enemy's country> <the Whigs . . . though defeated, disheartened, and disorganized, did not yield without an effort—Macaulay> <an expenditure which would disorganize his whole scheme of finance—Buchan> Unsettle implies a disordering or disarrangement that causes instability, unrest, inability to concentrate, or turbulence <the cold war has
disparaging the minds of men—Travis (constant rumors that keep one unsettled) Disturb (see also DISCOMPOSE) usually implies a force or combination of forces that unsettles or disarranges; frequently it also suggests an interruption or interference that affects a settled or orderly course, plan, growth, or progress (the attraction of planets disturbs the course of comets) (regulation . . . produces a uniform whole, which is as much disturbed and deranged by changing what the regulating power designs to leave untouched, as that on which it has operated—John Marshall) (the warps and strains of civilized life . . . seem to disturb the wholesome balance of even the humblest elements of the possessive and aesthetic instincts—Ellis)

Ant order —Con arrange, marshal, organize, methodize, systematize (see order vb): array, align, range, *line, line up: regulate, *adjust, fix

disorder n 1 *confusion, disarray, clutter, jumble, chaos, snarl, muddle
Ana derangement, disarrangement, disorganization, disturbance, unsettlement (see corresponding verbs at DISORDER): *anarchy, chaos, lawlessness
Ant order —Con arrangement, organization, methodization, systematization (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): system, *method
2 *disease, condition, affection, ailments, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome

disorganize disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant organize —Con systematize, methodize, arrange, marshal, *order

disown

*decry, depreciate, derogate, detract, belittle,
*disorder, derange, dis-

dispel

1 *confusion, disarray, clutter, jumble, chaos, disorder

2 *disease, condition, affection, ailments, malady, complaint, distemper, syndrome

disorderize disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant order —Con arrange, marshal, organize, methodize, systematize (see order vb): array, align, range, *line, line up: regulate, *adjust, fix

disorganization disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant organize —Con systematize, methodize, arrange, marshal, *order

disown

*decry, depreciate, derogate, detract, belittle,
*disorder, derange, dis-

disorder

*disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant order —Con arrange, marshal, organize, methodize, systematize (see order vb): array, align, range, *line, line up: regulate, *adjust, fix

disorderize disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant organize —Con systematize, methodize, arrange, marshal, *order

disown

*decry, depreciate, derogate, detract, belittle,
*disorder, derange, dis-

disorder

*disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant order —Con arrange, marshal, organize, methodize, systemize (see order vb): array, align, range, *line, line up: regulate, *adjust, fix

disorganize disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant organize —Con systematize, methodize, arrange, marshal, *order

disown

*decry, depreciate, derogate, detract, belittle,
*disorder, derange, dis-

disorder

*disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant order —Con arrange, marshal, organize, methodize, systemize (see order vb): array, align, range, *line, line up: regulate, *adjust, fix

disorganize disturb, unsettle, *disorder, derange, disarrange
Ant organize —Con systematize, methodize, arrange, marshal, *order

disown
disport

**Ana** ostentatiousness or ostentation, pretentiousness or pretension, showiness or show (see corresponding adjectives at SNOWY)

**disport n** sport, play, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under PLAY vb)

**Ana** recreation, diversion, amusement, entertainment (see under AMUSE); merriment, jollity (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY)

**disport vb** sport, *play, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol

**Ana** divert, *amuse, recreate, entertain

**disposal, disposition** are frequently used without clear distinction when they mean the act or the power of disposing of something. However, when the emphasis is on what shall be done with money, property, or possessions, **disposal** tends to imply a getting rid of (as by selling, giving away, assigning to others, or destroying) and **disposition**, a proper or orderly distribution or utilization.<br>
(see the disposal of her jewels seemed necessary to pay her debts)<br>
(t he disposition of the intestate’s property has been agreed upon by the heirs)<br>
(c incinerators used for the disposal of garbage)<br>
( I am happy that the speedy disposal of the pictures will enable you . . . to settle this unpleasant affair—Mitford)<br>
( the donors have stipulated for the future disposition . . . of those funds—John Marshall)<br>
(When the idea of arrangement or ordering or of making arrangements is stressed, disposition, rather than disposal, is the more accurate term)<br>
( while the disposition of the branches is unsymmetrical, balance is maintained—Binyon)<br>
( a deserter had informed Octavian of the general plan . . . and he made his dispositions accordingly—Buchan)<br>
( The idiomatic phrases at one’s disposal and at (or in) one’s disposition differ in that, though both imply a placing under one’s control, the former suggests use as one sees fit and the latter, subjection to one’s direction, arrangement, or command)<br>
( they put their summer home at the disposal of the bridal couple)<br>
( had at his disposal no considerable sums of money—Trench)<br>

**Ana** destroying or destruction, demolishing or demolition (see corresponding verbs at DESTROY)

**dispose** predispose, bias, *incline<br>
**Ana** influence, *affect, sway

**disposition 1 *disposal**

**Ana** administering or administration, dispensing or dispensation (see corresponding verbs at ADMINISTER): management, direction, controlling or control, conducting or conduct (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT): arrangement, ordering (see corresponding verbs at ORDER)

2 **Disposition, temperament, temper, complexion, character, personality, individuality** are comparable when they mean the prevailing and dominant quality or qualities which distinguish or identify a person or group. **Disposition** applies to the predominating bent or constitutional habit of one’s mind or spirit:<br>
( ages of fierceness have overlaid what is naturally kindly in the dispositions of ordinary men and women—Russell)<br>
( the taint of his father’s insanity perhaps appeared in his unbalanced disposition—E. S. Bates)<br>

**Temperament** applies to the sum total of characteristics that are innate or inherent and the result of one’s physical, emotional, and mental organization.<br>
( a nervous, bilious temperament)<br>
( I verily believe that nor you, nor any man of poetical temperament, can avoid a strong passion of some kind—Byron)<br>
( shall I ever be cheerful again, happy again? Yes. And soon. For I know my temperament—Mark Twain)<br>

**Temper** (compare temper under moderate vb) implies a combination of the qualities and especially those acquired through experience which determine the way one (as a person, a people, an age) meets the situations, difficulties, or problems that confront him.<br>
( there was a general confidence in her instinctive knowledge of the national temper—J. R. Green)<br>
( the leaders of forlorn hopes are never found among men with dismal minds. There must be a natural resiliency of temper which makes them enjoy desperate ventures—Croters)<br>
( Unlike the foregoing terms temper may suggest an acquired or transient state of mind controlling one’s acts and decisions)<br>
( after four years of fighting, the temper of the victors was such that they were quite incapable of making a just settlement—Huxley)<br>

**Complexion** implies some fundamentally distinctive quality based on mood, attitude, and ways of thinking that determines the impression one produces on others.<br>
( the rationalist mind . . . is of a doctrinaire and authoritative complexion: the phrase “must be” is ever on its lips—James)<br>
( great thinkers of various complexion, who, differing in many fundamental points, all alike assert the relativity of truth—Ellis)<br>

**Character** applies to the aggregate of qualities, especially moral qualities, which distinguish an individual at any one time in his development, which constantly tend to become more or less fixed, and which must be taken as a whole into consideration in any ethical judgment of him.<br>
( in his youth his character was weak and unstable)<br>
( that inexorable law of human souls that we prepare ourselves for sudden deeds by the reiterated choice of good or evil that determines character—George Eliot)<br>

**Often character means such an aggregate of qualities brought to a high state of moral excellence by right principles and right choices and by the rejection of anything that weakens or debases . . . when we say of such and such a man he has . . . character, we generally mean that he has disciplined his temperament, his disposition, into strict obedience to the behests of duty—Brownell)<br>

**Personality** also applies to the aggregate of qualities which distinguish an individual, but the term differs from character in that it implies his being distinguished as a person rather than as a moral being. In general personality may be said to be revealed in unconscious as well as in conscious acts or movements, in physical and emotional as well as in mental and moral behavior, and especially in a person’s relations to others; thus, one may know very little about the character of an acquaintance, yet have a very definite idea of his personality. Therefore personality is qualified not as good or bad but by an adjective implying the extent to which it pleases, displeases, or otherwise impresses the observer.<br>
( there was a pious and good man, but an utterly negligible personality—Mackenzie)<br>
( the mere presence of personality in a work of art is not sufficient, because the personality revealed may be lacking in charm—Benson)<br>

Hence personality often distinctively means personal magnetism or charm. **Personality** is not something that can be sought; it is a radiance that is diffused spontaneously—Ellis)<br>

**Individuality** implies a personality that distinguishes one from all others; often it connotes the power of impressing one’s personality on others.<br>
( a man of marked individuality)<br>
( she is a pleasant person but has no individuality)<br>
( Sophia quietened her by sheer force of individuality—Bennett)<br>
( an individuality, a style of its own—Cather)

**disprove, refute, confute, rebut, controvert** mean to show or attempt to show by argument that a statement, a claim, a proposition, or a charge is not true. **Disprove** stresses the success of an argument in showing the falsity, erro- neousness, or invalidity of what is attacked. **He could not disprove the major contention of his opponents**<br>
( I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, but here I am to speak what I do know—Shak)<br>
( the final values of life, the ultimate meanings of experience, are just those that no man
can prove, and that no man can disprove either—Hedley.Refute stresses the method more than the effect of argument in disproof; it therefore is preferred to disprove when one wishes to convey implications of the adducing of evidence, of a bringing forward of witnesses, experts, or authorities, and of close reasoning. It connotes an elaboration of arguments not present in disprove (with respect to that other, more weighty accusation, of having injured Mr. Wickham, I can only refute it by laying before you the whole of his connection with my family—Austen) (there is great force in this argument, and the Court is not satisfied that it has been refuted—John Marshall) (one can disagree with his views but one can’t refute them . . . Every particle of him asseverates the truth which is in him—Henry Miller). Confute emphasizes a destruction of arguments or a reducing to silence of opponents by clearly revealing the falsity or the untenableness of the points which have been made; the term usually implies refutation, but it may also suggest such methods as denunciation and sarcasm (Satan stood . . . confuted and convinced of his weak arguing and fallacious drift—Milton) (Elijah . . . confuted the prophets of Baal in precisely that way, with . . . bitter mockery of their god when he failed to send down fire from heaven—Shaw) (hypothesises which may be confuted by experience—Ayer). Rebut differs from refute, its closest synonym, in suggesting greater formality of method (as that used in organized debate or in courts of law). Although its aim is disproof of an opponent’s contents, the term does not necessarily imply the achievement of one’s end, but it does suggest the offering of argument, evidence, or testimony given in support of the other side (at the end of the formal arguments, each member of the debating team was allowed three minutes for rebutting the arguments of his opponents) (the Tractarians were driven to formulate a theory of the Church . . . which should justify the exclusive claim of Anglicanism to be the Church of Christ in these islands, while rebutting the arguments of Rome—Inge) (the author carefully examined and rebutted, point by point, many of the arguments—Ashley Montagu). Controversy usually carries a dual implication of denying or contradicting a statement, proposition, or doctrine, or a set of these, and of refuting or attempting to refute it. It does not necessarily suggest disproof but it does connote a valiant effort to achieve that end (this doctrine has been controverted; it is, however, very ably defended by Mr. Hargrave—Cruise) (I am glad that this year we are assembled not to controvert the opinions of others, nor even to defend ourselves—Inge).

Ana negative, traverse, impugn, contravene (see DENY)

Ant prove, demonstrate

disputation debate, forensic, argumentation, dialectic

Ana argument, dispute, controversy

dispute vb argue, debate, discuss, agitate

Ana see those at DEBATE

Ant concede —Con grant, allow

dispute n argument, controversy

Ana *argumentation, disputation, debate, forensic, dialectic: contention, dissension, strife, *discord, conflict

disquiet *discompose, disturb, agitate, perturb, upset, fluster, flurry

Ana *annoy, vex, irk, bother: worry, harass, harry: *trouble, distress

Ant tranquilize, soothe

disquisition dissertation, thesis, dispute, treatise, monograph

Ana paper, essay, article: inquiry, investigation

disrate *degrade, demote, reduce, declas
dissuade, deter, discourage, divert mean to turn one aside from the fulfillment of a project, it may suggest no more than a changing of purpose for cause rather than from mere caprice (the fear of reprisals deterred them from using poison gas) (he vowed that nothing should deter him from his purpose) (the Judge’s remark about hanging around the stable did not deter Theophilus from playing there all that winter—Deland) (Peter for a time abandoned both smoking and alcohol, and was only deterred from further abstinences by their impracticability—H. G. Wells) (he then hazards the conjecture that Aristotle wrote so obscurely in order that he might deter slow-witted and indolent men from reading him—Babbitt) In deterrence the implication that it is fear which is the cause of holding back is stronger than in the verb. Discourage (see also discourage) implies a deterring by undermining spirit or enthusiasm or by weakening intent or sense of purpose (discouraged him from prosecuting the inquiry) (the incessant hurry and trivial activity of daily life . . . seem to prevent, or at least discourage, quiet and intense thinking—Eliot) (I definitely wished to discourage his intimacy with my family—Rose Macaulay) Divert (see also turn and amuse) implies a turning aside, but here the mind or some of its functions is usually the thing diverted or turned aside, and another object of interest or attention is generally expressed or understood as the alternative; in this sense divert is often used of the very young, or of the preoccupied or the worried (the mind of a. . . a diversion with which you may want to deal) (thank God for colonels, thought Mrs. Miniver; sweet creatures, so easily entertained, so biddably diverted from senseless controversy into comfortable monologue—Jan Struther) Ana advise, counsel (see under advise n): *urge, exhort, prick
Ant persuade —Con *induce, prevail, get; influence, touch, *affect
distant, far, faraway, far-off, remote, removed mean not near or close but separated by an obvious interval especially in space or in time. Distant carries a stronger reference to the length of the interval (whether long or short) than the other terms; only when it directly qualifies a noun does it necessarily imply that the interval is markedly long (a book held six inches distant from the eyes) (the sun is about 93,000,000 miles distant from the earth) (a distant city) (the other item, on a distant page, was cheerfully headed “Food from Sewage”—Krutch) (at a distant date) (I do not ask to see the distant scene,—one step enough for me—Newman) Far, except for the possible reference to a short distance involved in the question “How far?”, applies (as adverb as well as adjective) only to what is a long way off ([the] took his journey into a far country—Lk 15:13) (to take a far view in planning for future needs of the city) (go back in the far past to a common origin—Kroebel) (across the hills, and far away beyond their utmost purple rim—Tennyson) Faraway and far-off not only mean extremely far but are preferred when distance in time is specifically implied (old, unhappy, far-off things, and battles long ago—Wordsworth) However, both may suggest distance in space (a cheer that started the echo in a faraway hill—Stevenson) (the far-off places in which he had been wandering—Dickens) Remote suggests a far removal, especially from something (as one’s present location, one’s point of view, or one’s time) regarded as a center or vantage ground (some forlorn and naked hermitage, remote from all the pleasures of the world—Shak.) (the sands of a remote and lonely shore—Shelley) (whose nature it was to care more for immediate annoyances than for remote consequences—George Eliot) Removed, which is usually a predicate adjective,
carries a stronger implication of separateness and distinction than remote; it therefore usually implies a contrast between two things apart not only in space or in time but in character or quality <an age far removed from the present age in its accomplishments and ideals> <he sought a retreat removed from all centers of population> <with peace as far removed as it had been at the time of his election—Passon> Figuratively, distant implies slightness of connection or aloofness of manner <a distant resemblance> <a distant nod>

Remote imputes to the thing so described a foreign or alien character or an inaccessible nature <I told Oliver about your modern monastery; but the thing is too remote from his experience to have any interest for him—Santayana> <the captain of a ship at sea is a remote, inaccessible creature . . . alone of his kind, depending on nobody—Conrad> Removed stresses difference, often a diametrical or antithetical difference <to Queen Scheherazade the dream might have seemed not far removed from commonplace—Hardy> <he was not an oracle removed from the people, but a real human being—Bok> <he accepted the nomination for considerations entirely removed from those influencing the average candidate>

Con near, *close, nigh, nearby

**distaste** *dislike, aversion, disfavor

*Ana repugnance, repulsion, abhorrence* (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT): antipathy, hostility (see ENMITY)

*Ant taste —Con relish, zest (see TASTE): *predilection, partiality

**distasteful** obnoxious, *repugnant, repellant, abhorrent, innoxious

*Ana hateful, odious, detestable, abominable: offensive, loathsome, repulsive, repugnant, revolting

*Ant agreeable: palatable —Con *pleasant, pleasing, gratifying, grateful, welcome: delectable, *delightful, delicious

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

**distend** swell, dilate, *expand, inflate, amplify

*Ana enlarge, *increase, augment: *extend, lengthen

*Ant constrict —Con *contract, shrink, compress, condense, deflate

**distinct** 1 Distinct, separate, several, discrete are comparable when used in reference to two or more things (sometimes persons) and in the sense of not being individually the same. Distinct always implies a capacity for being distinguished by the eye or by the mind as apart from the other or others, sometimes in space or in time but more often in character, nature, or identity <I see three distinct objects in the distance, but I cannot identify them> <the novel has two related, but nevertheless distinct, plots>

*there has been endless discussion whether we have a distinct faculty for the knowledge of God—Inge> <for him the work of literature is not distinct or separable from its author—L. P. Smith> Separate (see also SINGLE) is often used interchangeably with distinct and often in combination with it, as if one strengthened the other <the power . . . is given in two separate and distinct sections of the constitution—John Marshall> <these two characteristics were not separate and distinct . . . they were held together in vital tension—Ellis>

But separate stresses, as distinct does not, the lack of a connection between the things considered, usually by reason of the distance in space or time or the difference in identity of the things in question; thus, a drama with two separate plots is not the same as one with two distinct plots, for separate implies no connection (or, often, only a factitious connection) between the plots, while distinct suggests only that they can be distinguished <a nicety and force of touch, which is an endowment separate from pictorial genius, though indispensable to its exercise—Hawthorne> <the reestablishment of ethics and esthetics as separate and autonomous realms—Krutch> Separate is also often used in preference to distinct when an opposition to common or shared is implied <please give us separate rooms> <the children had separate toys and separate books>

Several (see also MANY) is somewhat formal or old-fashioned in this sense; it implies an existence, a character, a status, or a location separate or distinct from that of similar items. It may modify a singular noun, especially when “each” precedes, as well as a plural noun <conduct these knights unto their several lodgings—Shak> <each individual seeks a sev’ral goal—Pope> <will call the members . . . for their several opinions—New Republic> <a network of concrete highways upon the several states—W. H. Hamilton> Discrete, even more than separate, implies that the individuals are not the same and are not connected; it is often more precise than separate because it stresses numerical distinctness (that is, distinctness as individuals) rather than difference in kind, nature, or goal; thus, discrete things may be exactly the same in appearance, nature, or value, but they are not selfsame and are physically disconnected <the dumb creation lives a life made up of discrete and mutually irrelevant episodes—Huxley> <[the phage] has been identified as existing in discrete units, that is, it is a particle like granulated sugar and not a continuum like molasses—Furnas> <the conclusion that gases are made up of discrete units (molecules)—Hogben>

*Ana individual, distinctive, peculiar (see CHARACTERISTIC): *single, sole, separate: particular, individual, *special, especial: *different, diverse, disparate, divergent

*Con *same, selfsame, identical

2 *evident, manifest, patent, obvious, apparent, palpable, plain, clear

*Ana defined, prescribed (see PRESCRIBE): *explicit, definite, express, specific, categorical: perspicuous, *clear, lucid: clear-cut, *incisive, trenchant

*Ant indistinct: nebulous —Con vague, *obscure, dark, enigmatic, cryptic

**difference** difference, divergence, divergency, *dissimilarity, unlikeness

*Ant resemblance —Con *likeness, similarity, analogy, simulitude, affinity

**distinctive** peculiar, individual, *characteristic

*Ana *special, particular, specific, especial: unique, particular, separate, *single: *distinct, separate, several, discrete

*Ant typical —Con *common, ordinary, familiar, popular, vulgar: similar, *like, alike, identical, comparable, parallel, analogous: *same, equivalent, equal: generic, general, *universal

**distinguish** 1 Distinguish, differentiate, discriminate, demarcate are synonymous when they mean to point out or mark the differences between things that are or seem to be much alike or closely related. Distinguish presupposes sources of confusion; the things considered may or may not be alike, but if not alike, they are so closely connected, so indissolubly related, so open to misunderstanding that the differences must be noted or marked out if confusion is to be eradicated; hence, maturity of intellect or of judgment is implicit in the power to distinguish <a child under four will hardly distinguish between yesterday and a week ago, or between yesterday and six hours ago—Russell> <the aesthetic and ethical spheres, in fact, were never sharply distinguished by the Greeks—Dickinson>

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
entiate implies either the possession of a distinguishing character or features, or more commonly the capacity to ascertain differences between things susceptible of confusion (we find in Chinese art a strong synthetic power, which differentiates it and lifts it beyond the art of Persia and the art of India—Binyon) (if poetry is art, it must produce its effects through a medium which differentiates it, without divorcing it, from reality—Lowes) (we must have classes small enough to enable the teacher to differentiate the strong and the willing from the slugs—Grandgent) Discriminate involves the idea of perception; it implies the power to perceive or discern differences; often slight differences, between things that are very much alike (discriminate synonyms) (irritated by the wasp's inability to discriminate a house from a tree—E. K. Brown) (whenever you have learned to discriminate the birds, or the plants, or the geographical features of a country, it is as if new and keener eyes were added—Burroughs) (to discriminate between true and false Aristotelianism—Babbit) Demarcate implies the setting of literal limits or the marking of literal boundaries, but it can be freely used to suggest a distinguishing between things as clear as if there were lines between them (how shall we demarcate? Reproduction from Growth?—Lewes) (only in periods when a common idea of style pervades the whole production of a people does . . . the work of the craftsmen merge, with no demarcating difference, in the art which expresses thought and emotion—Binyon) Ana separate, part, divide: *detach, disengage Ant confound—Con confuse, *mistake 2 *characterize, mark, qualify Ana individualize, peculiarize (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic) distort contort, warp, *deform Ana twist, bend, *curve: disfigure, *deface: *injure, damage, mar, impair: misinterpret, misconstrue (see affirmative verbs at explain) distract bewilder, nonplus, confound, dumbfound, mystify, perplex, *puzzle Ana *confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle, befuddle: baffle, balk (see frustrate): agitate, upset, fluster, flurry, perturb, *discompose Ant collect (one's thoughts, one's powers) distraught absentminded, absent, *abstracted, preoccupied Ana distracted, bewildered, nonplused (see puzzle vb): muddled, addled, confused (see confuse): agitated, perturbed, discomposed, flustered (see discompose) Ant collected—Con *cool, composed, unrumpled, im-perturbable, unflappable, nonchalance distress n Distress, suffering, misery, agony, dolor, passion are comparable when denoting the state of one that is in great trouble or in pain of mind or body. Distress commonly implies conditions or circumstances that cause physical or mental stress or strain; usually also it connotes the possibility of relief or the need of assistance (to pity distress is human; to relieve it is Godlike—Mann) The word is applicable to things as well as to persons; thus, a ship in distress is helpless and in peril because of some untoward circumstance (as a breakdown in machinery); a community's distress may be the result of a disaster or of an event imposing extreme hardships on the people. When used to designate a mental state, distress usually implies the stress or strain of fear, anxiety, or shame (the original shock and distress that were caused by the first serious work of scholars on the Bible—Montague) (it had evidently been a great distress to him, to have the days of his imprisonment recalled—Dickens) (she therefore dressed exclusively in black, to her husband's vast amusement and her mother's rumored distress—Wylie) Suffering is used especially in reference to human beings; often it implies conscious awareness of pain or distress and conscious endurance (extreme sensibility to physical suffering . . . characterizes modern civilization—Inge) (the losses and hardships and sufferings entailed by war—Russell) Misery stresses the unhappy or wretched conditions attending distress or suffering; it often connotes sordidness, or dolefulness, or abjectness (for bleak, unadulterated misery that dak bungalow was the worst . . . I had ever set foot in—Kipling) (she had . . . cheated and shamed herself . . . exchanged content for misery and pride for humiliation—Bennett) Agony suggests suffering so intense that both body and mind are involved in a struggle to endure the unbearable (fell with a scream of mortal agony—Mason) (the agony of being found wanting and exposed to the disapproval of others—Mead) Dolor is a somewhat literary word applied chiefly to mental suffering that involves sorrow, somber depression, or grinding anxiety (heaviness is upon them, and dolor thickens the air they walk through—Frank) Passion is now rare in this sense except in reference to the sufferings of Jesus in the garden at Gethsemane and culminating in his crucifixion. Ana afflict, *trial, tribulation: *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, heartbreak: strain, pass, pinch, exigency (see JUNCTURE): hardship, *difficulty, rigor, vicissitude: *pain, pang, ache Con comforting or comfort, solacing or solace, consolation (see corresponding verbs at comfort): alleviation, assuagement, mitigation, allaying, relieving or relief (see corresponding verbs at relieve) distress vb *trouble, ail Ana *afflict, try, torment, torture, rack: *worry, annoy, harass, harry, plague, pester: *depress, oppress, weigh Con *comfort, console, solace: *help, aid, assist: *relieve, alleviate, lighten, mitigate, assuage, allay distribute, dispense, divide, deal, dole are comparable when they mean to give out, usually in shares, to each member of a group. Distribute implies either an apportioning among many by separation of something into parts, units, or amounts, and by assigning each part, unit, or amount to the proper person or place, or a scattering or spreading more or less evenly over an area (distributed his possessions among his heirs) (distribute fertilizer by spreading or scattering it over a garden) (distribute profits among shareholders in the form of dividends) (distribute type by returning each piece of used type to its proper compartment in a case) (the old habit of centralizing a strain at one point, and then dividing and subdividing it, and distributing it on visible lines of support to a visible foundation—Henry Adams) (all modern societies aim . . . to distribute impartially to all the burdens and advantages of the state—Dickinson) Dispense (see also administer 1) differs from distribute in not usually implying a spreading out that affects a large number or a separation that reduces the size or amount of each part or portion; rather, it suggests the giving of a carefully weighed or measured portion to each of a group as a right or as due, or as accordant to need (dispense aims to the needy) (if every justice that now pines with want had but a moderate and becomingly share . . . nature's full blessings would be well-dispersed—Milton) (let us . . . receive whatever good 'tis given thee to dispense—Wordsworth) (a pulsating, metallic, fluorescent world, in which Olympian judgments are dispensed by worried word fanciers from their thirty-ninth floor cubicles—Hilton) Divide (see also separate) stresses the separation of a whole into parts but it implies as the purpose of that
separation a dispensing of those parts to, or a sharing of them by, each of a group; the term usually implies, if the context gives no further information, that the parts are equal \{the three partners divide the profits of the business, the size of each share depending on the size of the partner's investment\} \{claimed that his confederates would not divide the booty fairly\} \{of the rent, a large proportion was divided among the country gentlemen—Macaulay\} \{if, for example, he is an evildoer, it is a great comfort to him to know that others likewise are evildoers. Dividing the blame lightens the load—Overstreet\} Deal (usually followed by out) emphasizes the delivery of something piece by piece, or in suitable portions, especially to those who have a right to expect it \{deal the cards for a game of bridge\} \{deal out equipment and supplies to each soldier\} \{our fellows were very methodical about the death they were dealing out. They dispensed it in the firm, tranquil-seeming way of clerks—Wolfert\} Often, the term carries no suggestion of distribution, and means little more than to give or deliver \{dealt his opponent a blow\} \{should employ one special man whose sole job is to keep inventing fresh phrases of delight to be dealt out in regular doses to authors at work—Dawson & Wilson\} Dole (also frequently followed by out) may imply a dispensing of alms to the needy \{dole out daily one thousand loaves of bread\} \{a prince doling out favors to a servile group of petitioners—Dreiser\} but since in this sense it usually suggests a carefully measured portion, it often suggests scantiness or niggardliness in the amount dispensed and does not necessarily suggest a charitable intent \{this comfort . . . she doled out to him in daily portions—Fielding\} \{I can accept what is given in love and affection to me, but I could not accept what was doled out grudgingly or with conditions—Wilde\} Ana apportion, *allot, allocate, assign: ration, portion, parcel, prorate, *apportion: *administer, dispense Ant collect (supplies): amass (wealth, a fortune) —Con *gather, assemble: *accumulate, hoard

district *locality, vicinity, neighborhood Ana *area, tract, region, zone, belt: section, sector, division, parcel (see part n); *field, province, territory, sphere

distrust vb Distrust, mistrust are comparable both as verbs meaning to lack trust or confidence in someone or something and as nouns denoting such a lack of trust or confidence. Distrust, however, implies far more certainty that something is wrong than mistrust; often it suggests conviction of another's guilt, treachery, or weakness \{Octavius had imbibed sufficient philosophy to distrust the world as a lair for all ill—Buchan\} \{the same distrust and horror of the unnatural forms into which life for the majority of people is being forced—Day Lewis\} Mistrust suggests domination by suspicion and, usually, fear \{he took me into a place so wild that a man less accustomed to these things might have mistrusted and feared for his life—Cather\} \{something . . . roused in him a suspicion that in the near future he was not going to have matters quite so much his own way. However, he concealed his mistrust as well as he could—Mackenzie\} Con *rely, trust, depend, count, bank, reckon: confide, entrust, *commit, consign

distrust n mistrust (see under distrust vb) Ana doubt, *uncertainty, dubiety, dubiousness, suspicion: *apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment Con confidence, *trust, reliance, dependence, faith

disturb 1 unsettle, derange, *disorder, disarray, disorganize
divide vb 1 separate, part, sever, Sunder, divorce

Ana cleave, split, rend, rive (see TEAR): cut, carve, chop

Ant unite

2 distribute, dispense, deal, dole

Ana apportion, portion, prorate, ration, parcel: share, participate, partake: allot, assign, allocate

divine adj holy, sacred, spiritual, religious, blessed

divine vb foresee, foreknow, apprehend, anticipate

Ana discern, perceive, descry (see SEE): predict, prophesy, prognosticate, presage (see FORETELL)

division section, segment, sector, part, portion, piece, detail, member, fraction, fragment, parcel

divorce vb separate, sever, Sunder, part, divide

Ana alienate, estrange, weaken, disaffect

divulge tell, disclose, reveal, betray, discover

Adivine obedient, biddable, tractable, amenable

A naive compliant, acquiescent: pliant, pliable, adaptable (see PLASTIC): yielding, submitting or submissive (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)

Ant indolent: unruly, unapproachable — Con intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong (see UNRULY): stubborn, obstinate

dizzy giddy, vertiginous, swimming, dazzled

A na reeling, whirling (see REEL): confounded, bewildered, puzzled (see PUZZLE)

docile obedient, biddable, tractable, amenable

A naive compliant, acquiescent: pliant, pliable, adaptable (see PLASTIC): yielding, submitting or submissive (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)

Ant indolent: unruly, unapproachable — Con intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong (see UNRULY): stubborn, obstinate

dock wharf, pier, quay, slip, berth, jetty, levee

docker vb adulterate, sophisticate, load, weight

doctrine dogmatic, magisterial, oracular, dictatorial, authoritarian

doctrine, dogma, tenet are synonymous only when they mean a principle (usually one of a series or of a body of principles) accepted as authoritative (as by members of a church, a school of philosophers, or a branch of science).

Doctrine is often used in a much broader sense to denote a formulated theory that is supported by evidence, backed by authority, and proposed for acceptance (the doctrine of evolution, Einstein's doctrine of relativity). In the narrower sense doctrine retains its basic implication of authoritative teaching, but it presupposes acceptance by a body of believers or adherents (a catechism of Christian doctrines) (a... mathematical doctrine of waves which nowadays has almost come to dominate... physics—Darwin) Dogma also stresses authoritative teaching but unlike doctrine it seldom implies proposal for acceptance. A dogma is not advanced as reasoned and worthy of acceptance but laid down as true and beyond dispute (the dogmas of a church are usually stated in a creed or confession) (in 1870 Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of papal infallibility) Dogma (or especially its derivative dogmatic) often connotes insistence, sometimes arrogant insistence, on authority or imposition by authority (the dogma that the king can do no wrong) Tenet emphasizes acceptance and belief rather than teaching. It is therefore thought of as a principle held or adhered to and implies a body of adherents (the tenets of modern Socialism are not in every instance identical with the doctrines of Karl Marx)

A na teaching, instruction (see corresponding verbs at TEACH): principle, fundamental

document 1 Document, monument, record, archive denote something preserved and serving as evidence (as of an event, a situation, or the thought of its time). Document commonly designates something written or printed (as a letter, a charter, a deed, a will, or a book) or something carrying an inscription (as a coin, a tombstone, or a medal) that has value as evidence because of its contemporaneity (while the poor little affairs of obscure, industrious men of letters are made the subject of intensive research, the far more romantic, thrilling, and illuminating documents about the seekers and makers of great fortunes, are neither gathered nor cherished—H. G. Wells) The Waste Land seems to me chiefly important as a social document. It gives an authentic impression of the mentality of educated people in the psychological slump that took place immediately after the war—Day Lewis) Monument is applicable to whatever serves as a memorial of the past; it is usually applied to a building, work of art, or other relic of the past, especially one that serves as a reminder (as of a country's greatness, a nation's triumphs in war, or a period's accomplishments in art) (the French government has taken over many of the ancient cathedrals in order to preserve them as public monuments) (the English Church has no literary monument equal to that of Dante, no intellectual monument equal to that of St. Thomas, no devotional monument equal to that of St. John of the Cross—T. S. Eliot) Record implies the intent to preserve evidence of something; it denotes matter recorded (as by writing or taping) so that exact knowledge of what has occurred will be perpetuated (keep a record of a conversation) (the records of the trial were destroyed in a fire) (made six motion-picture records of his underwater expeditions —Current Biol.) (it is not only the right, but it is the judicial duty of the court, to examine the whole case as presented by the record—Taney) Archive (see also MUSEUM) is applicable to a document or record preserved especially throughout a long period (some rotten archive, rummaged out of some seldom-explored press—Lamb) Its more common plural form archives suggests a miscellaneous accumulation, rather than a carefully selected collection, of records and documents (the archives of the Vatican are now accessible to scholars) (the archives of every city—Dryden)

A na evidence, testimony

2 instrument, paper

dodge vb Dodge, parry, sidestep, duck, shirk, fence, malinger are comparable when meaning to avoid or evade by some maneuver or shift. Dodge implies quickness of movement or a sudden evasive shift of position (as in avoiding a blow or pursuit) (they ran to the Abbey, dodged the Baronet, armed themselves—Meredith) (he was able to dodge so that the man's knife went through his sleeve, wounding him only slightly—Heiser) It may imply artfulness, or craft, or clever deceit in evading not only the attack of an enemy but similarly the thrusts of a debater, or an examiner, or the demands of an authoritative power (some dodging casuist with more craft than sincerity—Milton) (the trouble... is always being dodged or minimized by the moralist—Forster) (dodged the issue again and again) Parry does not imply dodging so much as warding off a blow and turning aside the weapon; it suggests skill and adroitness in defending oneself not only from blows with a weapon but from whatever threatens or proves awkward (as a question or demand) (parry an argument by shifting the ground) (parry a demand for the payment of a claim by making a counterclaim) (I parried her questions by the best excuses I could offer—Wilkie Collins) Sidestep comes very close to dodge in its suggestion of a quick maneuver to evade a blow or the facing of an issue; it usually suggests dexterous action in avoiding something imminent but often, on the other hand, suggests not ultimate avoidance but temporary delay or postponement (the boxer neatly sidestepped the blow) (sidestep the decision
dogma * doctrine, tenet
doldrums
obstinate, pertinacious, mulish, stubborn, dogged
lugubrious, dolorous, *melancholy, plaintive, doleful
magisterial, doctrinaire, oracular, *dictatorial, dole
sphere, province, *field, territory, bailiwick
dolorous
or
parcel, apportionment, parceling apportioning
Ana faltering
dogma *doctrine, tenet
Ana belief, conviction, persuasion, view (see OPINION):
*principle, fundamental
dogmatic magisterial, doctrinaire, oracular, *dictatorial, authoritarian
Ana peremptory, *masterful, imperative, imperious, domineering
doldrums boredom, ennui, *tedium
Ana depression, depression, gloom, blues, dumps (see SADNESS)
Ana spirits, high spirits
dole n allowance,ittance, *ration
Ana apportioning or apportionment, parceling or parcel, portioning or portion (see corresponding verbs at APPORTION): sharing or share (see corresponding verb SHARE)
dole vb dispense, deal, *distribute, divide
Ana *apportion, ration, portion, parcel, prorate: bestow, confer, present, *give
doleful lugubrious, dolorous, *melancholy, plaintive, rueful
Ana mourning or mournful, sorrowing or sorrowful, grieving (see corresponding verbs at GRIEVE): piteous, *pitiful
Ana cheerful, cheerful
dolor agony, suffering, passion, *distress, misery
Ana anguish, woe, *sorrow, grief: tribulation, *trial, affliction, cross, visitation
Ana beatitude, blessedness
dolorous doleful, *melancholy, plaintive, lugubrious, rueful
Ana & Ana see those at DOLEFUL
domain sphere, province, *field, territory, bailiwick
Ana *area, region, zone: district, *locality: jurisdic-
tion, dominion (see POWER)
domicile dwelling, abode, residence, house, home, *habitation
dominant, predominant, paramount, preponderant, preponderating, sovereign mean superior to all others in power, influence, position, or rank. Something is dominant which is thought of as ruling, as commanding, or as uppermost (a dominant race) the idea of beauty and of a human nature perfect on all its sides, which is the dominant idea of poetry—Arnold (I will not say that money has ceased to be the dominant force in American life—Lerner) Something is predominant which is for the time being in the ascendant or exerts the most marked influence (the power of... modifying a series of thoughts by some one predominant thought or feeling—Coleridge) (a variety of subjects... in which no particular one is predominant—Cowper) (the painter whose predominant aim is moral instruction—Binyon)
Something is paramount which has preeminence or supremacy in importance, order, rank, or jurisdiction (time is of paramount importance—Roosevelt) (for most American newsmen the ideal of accurate and objective news reports is fundamental and paramount—Mott)
Something is preponderant or preponderating which outweighs or overbalances every other thing of its kind in power, influence, force, or number; these terms are commonly used without clear distinction in meaning, but preponderating sometimes suggests active operation (the preponderating tendency) and preponderant the actual effect (for several years this political party has been the preponderant party in the affairs of the nation) (the preponderant influence of a group of banks) (if the net result was beneficial to the university—and this seems to be the preponderant opinion around Madison—it was detrimental to La Follette—Davis) Something is sovereign (see also FREE) when every other comparable thing is subordinate, inferior, or of lower value; the term therefore imputes unquestioned supremacy to the thing so described (the Sovereign Ruler of the universe) (the sovereign power in the United States of America is vested in the people) (a sovereign remedy) (wearing... an amulet sovereign against all passion—Browning) (promote... the sovereign good of the community—Grote)
Ana *prevailing, prevalent: preeminent, *supreme, transcendent, surpassing: outstanding, salient, signal (see NOTICEABLE): governing, ruling (see GOVERN)
Ana subordinate domineering *masterful, imperious, imperative, pre-emptory
Ana arrogant, overbearing, lordly, insolent (see PROUD): magisterial, *dictatorial
Ana subservient —Ana conspicuous, servile (see SUBSERVIENT)
dominion control, command, sway, authority, jurisdiction, *power
Ana ascendancy, *supremacy: sovereignty (see under FREE adj)
donate present, bestow, *give, confer, afford
Ana *grant, accord, award
donation, benefaction, contribution, alms are comparable when they denote a gift of money or its equivalent for a charitable, philanthropic, or humanitarian object.
Donation is freely used for such a gift (blood donations) (seeking small donations for myriad worthy causes) It may, however, retain in this sense some feeling of its earlier meaning of the act or right (as of a state, a ruler, or a patron) of granting or giving to a subordinate (as a subject or a client) and is, therefore, the normal term to apply to a gift of substantial value, presented more...
or less publicly, and usually without reference to other
givers or gifts (the endowment funds of the great univer-
sities are increased mainly by donations and bequests)
A list of the Rockefeller donations Benefit is
often used in place of donation, especially when there
is the intent to compliment the donor and to imply his
benevolence or the beneficence of his gift. The latter,
however, is the basic implication and the word may be
appropriately used of any benefit conferred or received
whether it has money value or not (her benefactions
are remembered by many philanthropic agencies) (the
benefactions of the American GI's to the . . . children of
Korea—Harford Times) (this benefaction totals almost
$5 million—Americana Annual) Contribution implies
participation in giving; it is applicable to small as well as
large amounts of money; it is the modest term which one
may apply to his own gift, though others may rightly call
it a donation or benefaction (please accept my con-
tribution to the endowment fund of your institution) (a
community chest contribution) (but the Government
quickly came to the rescue, and, aided by private con-
tribution, built a cutoff wall—Amer. Guide Series; Minn.)
Alms implies the aim of relieving poverty either in former
times as the fulfillment of a religious obligation or as a
practical manifestation of the virtue of charity (the gift
without strings). Who gives himself with his
alms feeds three (himself, his hungering neighbor, and
me [Christ]—J. R. Lowell) or in more recent times as an
indication of casual benevolence displayed chiefly in
the giving of petty sums to beggars or paupers (though
poor and forced to live on alms—Wordsworth) (a few
filthy . . . children, waiting for stray tourists, cried for an
alms—Harper's)
Ana grant, subvention, appropriation, subsidy
doom n fate, destiny, lot, portion
doom vb damn, condemn, sentence, proscribe

doors, gate, portal, postern, doorway, gateway are com-
parable chiefly as meaning an entrance to a place. Door
applies chiefly to the movable and usually swinging barrier
which is set in the opening which serves as an entrance
to a building or to a room or apartment in a building
(an oak door) (the front door of a house) Sometimes
door is used also of the opening (children coming running
through the door) Gate may apply to an opening in a
wall, fence, or enclosure but it more commonly denotes
a movable and often swinging barrier (especially one
made of a grating or open frame or a heavy or rough struc-
ture) set in such an opening and closed or opened at will
(the north gate to the campus) (opening the garden gate)
Portal applies usually to an elaborate and stately door
or gate, with its surrounding framework (the portal
to the temple) (the knights were admitted through the
portal to the palace) Postern denotes a private or retired
doors or gate (as at the back of a castle or fortress).
Door-
way and gateway apply not to the structure but to the
passage when a door (in a doorway) or a gate (in a gate-
way) is opened for ingress or egress (stand in the door-
way awaiting the postman) (automobiles passed through
the gateway in constant succession)

In their extended use these words are still more sharply
distinguished. Door usually applies to what provides op-
portunity to enter or withdraw or makes possible an en-
trance or exit (the love of books, the golden key that opens
the enchanted door—Long) (I know death hath ten thou-
sand several doors for men to take their exit—John Web-
ster) Gate differs from door chiefly in its connotations of
facility in admission or of entrance into something large,
impressive, wide, or even infinite (what sweet content-
ments doth the soul enjoy by the senses? They are the

gates and windows of its knowledge—William Drum-
mond) (to wade through slaughter to a throne and shut
the gates of mercy on mankind—Gray) Portal often car-
ries similar connotations, but it usually applies to a definite
place or thing which is itself splendid or magnificent and
through which something (as the sun at rising and at
setting) is admitted or allowed exit (Heaven, that opened
wide her blazing portals—Milton) (since your name will
grow with time . . . have I made the name a golden portal
to my rhyme—Tennyson) Postern, on the other hand,
implies an inconspicuous or even a hidden means of en-
trance or escape (it finds a readier way to our sympathy
through a postern which we cannot help leaving some-
times on the latch, than through the ceremonial portal
of classical prescription—J. R. Lowell) Gateway is usually
preferred to doorway in figurative use because it more
strongly suggests a passage through which entrance is
obtained to something desirable or difficult (the city was
once more the gateway to half a continent—Harold Sin-
clair) (the senses were regarded as gateways or avenues
of knowledge—Dewey)
Ana entrance, entry, entrance, ingress, access
doorway *door, portal, postern, gate, gateway
dormant 1 quiescent, latent, abeyant, potential
Ana inactive, inert, passive, idle
Ant active, alive
2 couchant, prone, recumbent, supine, prostrate
dormer n window, casement, oriel
dotage senility, age, senescence
Ant infancy
Dote love, relish, enjoy, fancy, like
Ant loathe —Con abhor, abominate, detest, hate:
despise, contempt, scorn
doting fond, devoted, loving, affectionate
Ana infatuated, enamored: fatuous, foolish, silly,
asinine, simple
double n understudy, stand-in, substitute, supply, locum
tenens, alternate, pinch hitter
double-cross delude, betray, beguile, deceive, mislead
double-dealing n chicanery, chicane, trickery, decep-
tion, fraud
Ana duplicity, dissimulation, deceit, guile, cunning
double entendre equivocation, ambiguity, turgi-
eration
Doubt n uncertainty, skepticism, suspicion, mistrust,
dubiety, dubiosity
Ana dubiousness, doubtfulness, questionableness (see
corresponding adjectives at DOUBTFUL): incredulity,
unbelief, disbelief
Ant certitude: confidence —Con certainty, conviction, assurance: trust, reliance, dependence, faith
Doubtful, dubious, problematic, questionable are compara-
ble when they mean not affording assurance of the worth,
soundness, success, or certainty of something or someone.
Doubtful and dubious are sometimes used with little
distinction. Doubtful, however, is commonly so positive
in its implication as almost to impute worthlessness,
unsoundness, failure, or uncertainty to the thing in
question (it is doubtful whether the captain had ever had
so much fun—Steinbeck) Dubious stresses suspicion,
mistrust, or hesitation (as in accepting, believing, fol-
lowing, or choosing); thus, a man of doubtful repute
is by implication more distrusted than one of dubious
repute; one who is doubtful of the outcome of a project
has by implication better grounds for fearing its failure
than one dubious about it, for the latter may imply mere
vague suspicions and fears and little evidence (a doubtful
prospect) (a dubious transaction) (a dubious title to an estate) (dubious friends) (whispers and glances
were interchanged, accompanied by shrugs and dubious

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
dough, batter, paste are quasi-synonyms often confused in
vb
Dower, endow, endue are comparable when
saturnine, glum, gloomy, *sullen, morose, surly,
(oysters) are dipped before frying in hot fat. Paste applies
analogous words
ana
Batter
quickly cooked.
the pan in which they are baked or for those that are
ter休息ically, also, it contains eggs, and often baking powder,
and cookies. Batter applies to a thinner mass in which the
narily other ingredients (as a leavening agent, fat, and
flour, liquid, salt, and supplementary ingredients, but each
suggests a difference both in consistency as a result of the
in its stiffness and in its admitting
dough applies to a mixture with only enough liquid in relation to
the flour to the bind ingredients while leaving the mixture
sufficiently stiff to knead or to shape before baking. Ordinarily other ingredients (as a leavening agent, fat, and
sugar) are included to improve the texture, flavor, and
nutritive qualities of the ultimate product which includes
such items as bread, biscuit, rolls, and some kinds of cake
and cookies. Batter applies to a thinner mass in which the
proportion of liquid is much greater than in dough; characteristically, also, it contains eggs, and often baking powder,
sugar, and fat. It may be used for cakes that are shaped by
the pan in which they are baked or for those that are
poured in small amounts on a hot griddle or pan and
quickly cooked. Batter also designates a similar mixture of
flour, liquid, and eggs into which raw food (as fish or
oysters) are dipped before frying in hot fat. Paste applies
to a mixture like dough in its stiffness and in its admitting of
being rolled and shaped but differs in implying the use of
a large proportion of fat and a very small proportion of
liquid; it names, therefore, the mixture out of which pastries (as pies and tarts) are made.
doughty *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid,
valiant, valorous, dauntless, undaunted, bold, audacious
ana
ventureous, *adventurous, daring
dour saturnine, glum, gloomy, *sullen, morose, surly,
sulky, crabbed
ana
*severe, stern, austere: rigorous, strict, *rigid;
*grim, implacable
dowdy *slatternly, frowzy, blowzy
ana
slowenly, *slipshod, unkempt, disheveled, sloppy
ant smart (in dress, appearance) — con fashionable,
*stylish, modish, chic: flashy, *gaudy, garish
dower vb Dower, endow, endue are comparable when
meaning to furnish or provide with a gift. Dower specifically denotes the provision of the dowry which a
woman brings to a husband in marriage (a well-dowered bride) It may also imply the bestowal of a gift, talent,
or good quality (poets dowered with genius) (nature had so richly dowered him—symonds) Endow in its
basic sense implies the bestowing of money or property on a person or institution for its support or maintenance
(with all my worldly goods I thee endow—Book of Common Prayer) (erect and endow a hospital) (a large
bequest sufficient to endow the new college) Like dower it may be extended to the giving of any good thing,
together with a suggestion of enhancing or enriching the recipient (Shakespeare took these words . . . and endowed
them with new significance—kilby) (a fascinating woman endowed with every grace) Endue may mean to clothe
or invest with something (as a garment, a dignity, a right, or a possession) (a loose gown . . . such as elderly gentle-
men loved to endue themselves with—hawthorne) (to make him a citizen of the United States, and endue
him with the full rights of citizenship—taney) (a new and penetrating light descends on the spectacle, enduing
men and things with a seeming transparency—hardy) Endue has become so confused with endow in its extended
sense of to bestow upon one a faculty, power, or other spiritual or mental gift that it is difficult to trace any
differences in meaning between the two words. But endow in precise use usually implies a permanent enriching,
and endue an investing or clothing (either temporarily or permanently) with a specific quality or character (those
who are the most richly endowed by nature, and accomplished by their own industry—spectator) (finer facul-
ties with which the continued process of evolution may yet endow the race—montague) (the revolution awak-
ened it [french democracy] into consciousness . . . and endued it with efficient force—brownell)
ana
*furnish, equip, outfit, appoint, accouter
dowcast, dispirited, rejected, depressed, disconsolate, woebegone mean affected by or showing very low spirits.
Dowcast implies a being overcome by shame, mortification, or loss of hope or confidence; it usually suggests
an inability to face others or an utter lack of cheerfulness (his abstraction, and dowcast, but not melancholy,
air—meredith) (she comes into the room very determinedly: the two men, perplexed and dowcast, following
her—shaw) Dispirited implies extreme low-spiritedness occasioned by failure to accomplish or to get what
one wants or to achieve what one wishes to attain; it usually implies discouragement or a being disheartened
*he, dispirited, left the talking all to her—meredith
*dispirited by their futile efforts—grandgent) (sick and dispirited, he gave up his arabian plan and started on the
return voyage to italy—buchan) Depressed implies greater prostration of the spirits than either dowcast or
dispirited with sudden but often temporary loss of hope, courage, or vigor (catherine took up her work directly,
saying, in a dejected voice, that her head did not run upon bath—much—austen) (i may, as i lie on the
sand, be happy, dejected, in vacant or in pensive mood—lowes) Depressed suggests a sinking under a heavy
weight or a burden too great to be borne: it may express a temporary or a chronic mood or reaction and may,
unlike the other terms of this group, indicate a serious inability to be normally active and happy (depressed
by his failures to the point of suicide) (my spirits have been more depressed than is common, even with me
—cowper) (when nothing happens they become sad and depressed—anderson) Disconsolate fundamentally implies
comfortlessness and carries a strong suggestion
of being insonable or exceptionally uncomfortable; it may sometimes suggest no more than a frame of mind in which depression and disappointment are associated with discomfort or grief (the Jews sat disconsolate on the poop; they complained much of the cold they had suffered in their exposed situation—Borrow) (Adrian hurried after Richard in an extremely disconsolate state of mind. Not to be at the breakfast and see the best of the fun, disgusted him—Meredith) Woebegone usually suggests a frame of mind but it emphasizes the impression of dejection and defeat produced on an observer not only by the facial expression and posture of the one observed but also by his surroundings or quarters: it may imply dejection, depression, or merely discouragement in the persons affected or desolation or dilapidation in their surroundings, but the overall impression is that of a defeated, spiritless condition (it was the most woebegone farm I had ever seen) (the woebegone expression on the countenances of the little children) (a poor mendicant approached, old and woebegone—Lockhart) Ana weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS); distressed, troubled, *wearied, *dismayed Ant elated —Con cheerful, happy, joyous (see GLAD)
downright adj also adv *forthright Ana blunt, *bluff, brusque, curt: candid, plain, open, *frank: *straightforward, aboveboard Con devious, oblique, *crooked doze vb drowse, snooze, *sleep, slumber, nap, catnap draft n outline, diagram, sketch, delineation, tracing, plot, blueprint (see under SKETCH vb)
draft vb outline, diagram, *sketch, delineate, trace, plot, blueprint
draw vb draw, *pull, tug, tow, haul, hale Ana *bring, fetch: *attract, allure: *lure, entice: extract, elicit, evoke, *educe Con see those at DRAG
dramatic, theatrical, dramaturgic, melodramatic, histrionic are not close synonyms although all imply special appeal of a great orator) (the story telling . . . ) <make a dramatic appeal of incidents which have a sympathetic hero—Cather> The dramatic storytelling . . . of incidents which have a sympathetic hero—Russell> an idyll of Theocritus . . . is today as much alive as the Iliad—Stallyment> an idyll of Homer . . . is today as much alive as the Iliad—Stallyment> an idyll of Homer . . . is today as much alive as the Iliad—Stallyment> <make a dramatic appeal of a great orator> <the dramatic storytelling . . . of incidents which have a sympathetic hero—Russell> <an idyll of Theocritus . . . is today as much alive as the most dramatic passages of the Iliad—stirs the reader's feeling quite as much—Cather> Theatrical denotes relationship to the theater (a theatrical office) (a theatrical agent) It may imply effects appropriate to the theater as the place where plays are produced, and to the demands which its limitations, its convention, and, often, its need of financial success make both upon a play and its performance; the term therefore usually implies a marked degree of artificiality or conventionality, a direct and sometimes a blatant appeal to the senses and emotions, and often an overdoing or exaggeration in gesture, in speech, or in action (the situations are in the most effective sense theatrical, without being in the profounder sense dramatic—T. S. Eliot) (he had already learned that with this people religion was necessarily theatrical—Cather) Dramaturgic, which stresses the technical aspects of the drama and its presentation, may be used in place of theatrical when the more or less derogatory connotations of that word are to be avoided and the emphasis is upon those elements in a play which fit it for repre-
drawback *disadvantage, detriment, handicap

Ana *evil, ill: inconvenience, trouble (see INCONVENIENCE): obstruction, hindrance (see corresponding verbs at HINDER)

dread n *fear, horror, terror, fright, alarm, trepidation, panic, consternation, dismay

Ana *apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment: timidity, timorousness (see corresponding adjectives at TIMID)

dreadful horrible, horrific, appalling, *fearful, awful, frightful, terrible, terrific, shocking

Ana *delusion, illusion, hallucination

dreary 1 *dismal, cheerless, dispiriting, bleak, desolate

Ana discouraging, disheartening (see DISCOURAGE): barren, *bare: forlorn, hopeless (see DESPONDENT)

2 *dull, humdrum, monotonous, pedestrian, stodgy

Ana *irksome, tiresome, wearisome, tedious, boring: fatiguing, exhausting, flagging, tiring (see TIRE vb)

dregs sediment, *deposit, precipitate, lees, grounds

drench vb *soak, saturate, sop, steep, impregnate, waterlog

Ana *permeate, pervade, penetrate, impermeate

dress vb *clothe, attire, apparel, array, robe

Ana undress

dress n *clothes, clothing, attire, apparel, raiment

drift n trend, *tendency, tenor

Ana *flow, stream, current: movement, *motion, progression, *progress: *intention, purpose, end, objective, goal, intent, aim

drill vb 1 bore, *perforate, punch, puncture, prick

Ana pierce, penetrate, *enter, probe

2 *practice, exercise

Ana train, discipline, *teach, instruct, school: *habituate, accustom

drill n practice, exercise (see under PRACTICE vb)

drive vb 1 impel, *move, actuate

Ana *push, shove, propel: compel, *force, coerce: *incite, instigate

Con *restrain, curb, check, inhibit: lead, *guide, pilot, steer

2 *ride

drive n 1 ride (see under RIDE vb)

2 *vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, punch, élan

Ana *power, force, energy, strength, might: impetus, momentum, *speed, velocity

driver n *nonsense, twaddle, bunk, balderdash, poppycock, gobbledygook, trash, rot, bull

Ana *gibberish, mummary, abracadabra

droll vb *laughable, risible, comic, comical, funny, ludicrous, ridiculous, farcical

Ana amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): absurd, preposterous (see FOOLISH): humorous, *witty, facetious

droop vb *Droop, wilt, flag, sag are comparable when they mean to sink or to lose in vigor, firmness, or freshness. Droop stresses a hanging or bending downward (as through exhaustion, discouragement, or lack of nourishment) <some of the watchers were drooping from weariness—Cather> <he sat down heavily, his shoulders drooping, his arms falling between his outspread legs—Caldwell> In extended use it implies a languishing or a subsiding of something previously thriving or flourishing <oh, ye so fiercely tended, ye little seeds of hate! I bent above your growing early and noon and late, yet are ye drooped and pitiful, —I cannot rear ye straight!—Millay>

Wilt applies especially to plants and suggests a loss of freshness or firmness in flower, leaves, or stems through lack of water or through excessive heat <most cut flowers wilt quickly unless given plenty of fresh water> The term often may be extended to various things that grow flaccid or weak in response to some stress (as fear, exhaustion, boredom, or a physical agent) <collars wilted in the damp heat> <the witness wilted under the cross-examiner’s sarcasm> <nor did I ever see the nation droop and wilt as we saw it wither under the panic of 1907—White> <the romance . . . blossomed for six or seven months and then wilted—Commins> Flag may be used of flexible things that hang loosely and limply and, with reference to plants, may be interchangeable with droop <leaves flagging in the heat>; more often it is used of something that loses in vigor or in force so that it suggests dullness, weariness, or languor <and languor旗—T. S. Eliot> <the bridge sagged under the weight of the truck> In extended uses it implies a loss of firmness, resiliency, or power to stand up against pressure, and a consequent drooping or decline <though it sags in the middle, the novel is readable throughout—Havighurst> <his heart sagged with disappointment—Mason> <prices on the market sagged> Ana sink, subside, subsidence, *fall, drop: languish (see languishing under LANGUID): *wither, shrivel, wizen

drop vb 1 *fall, sink, slump, subside

Ana *descend, dismount: *lapse, relapse, backslide: *descend: *lapse, relapse, backslide:

2 *dismiss, discharge, cashier, sack, fire, bounce

drowse vb doze, snooze, *sleep, slumber, nap, catnap

drowsy vb *sleepy, somnolent, slumberous

Ana comatose, *lethargic, sluggish, torpid

Con alert, vigilant, *watchful: *active, live, dynamic: animated, *lively, vivacious

drug n Drug, medicinal, pharmaceutical, biologic, simple are comparable when they denote a substance used by itself or in a mixture with other substances for the treatment of or in the diagnosis of disease. Drug is the ordinary comprehensive term in both general and professional use for such a substance, whether of plant, animal, or mineral origin, or produced synthetically, and in its broadest use denotes any substance used as a medicine or in making medicines. Especially in technical use the term also has certain more specific uses; sometimes it may denote a medicinal substance recognized in an official pharmacopoeia or formulary as distinguished from one used in folk medicine or proprietary remedies; even more specifically it may denote a narcotic and especially an addictive narcotic substance. Medicinal is interchangeable with drug in the latter’s comprehensive sense and is often preferred, especially in commerce, in manufacture, and in law where indication of the ultimate use of the substance is for one reason or another desirable

Ana analogous words Ana antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Drunk, drunken, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, tight

drugist, pharmacist, apothecary, chemist denote one who deals in medicinal drugs. Druggist is the broadest of these terms and may designate a seller of drugs or medicinal preparations at wholesale or retail and as owner, manager, or employee of the sales establishment; it may often replace the more precise pharmacist to denote one who is skilled in compounding drugs and dispensing medicines prescribed by a physician especially when he is thought of primarily as selling these. Pharmacist, however, specifically implies, as druggist does not, special training in pharmacy, professional standing, and usually licensing following a test of qualifications. Apothecary in early use was distinguished from druggist, which then designated one who sold crude drugs (as herbs, roots, and other ingredients of medicines) while apothecary designated one who compounded these ingredients or made them up into medicines and was, therefore, equivalent to pharmacist. The distinction has tended to disappear and apothecary may be interchangeable with either druggist or pharmacist although it is increasingly rare except in historical situations. In England chemist is the preferred term.

drunk, drunken, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, tight are comparable when they mean being conspicuously or fancied medicinal value especially in primitive or folk medicine (bonets, tansy, and other homey simples) It may also be used of a plant drug or medicinal preparation containing only one active ingredient. Ana medicine, medicament, medication, *remedy, physic, specific, cure

Drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, soot, soak, toper, tospott, tippler designate one who drinks to excess. Drunkard and inebriate suggest the habit of intoxication but in themselves imply nothing about the causes or effects of such intoxication. Alcoholic and dipsomaniac both denote a person with defective ability to control his use of intoxicants. In technical usage alcoholic is the usual term and often specifically distinguishes the person physically and mentally impaired by compulsive drinking; in more general and often distinctly derogatory use it may approach drunkard and inebriate but normally carries at least some suggestion of loss of control. Dipsomaniac, once nearly coextensive with alcoholic, is now little used except to denote a person subject to periodic bouts of compulsive drinking. Sot and soak are closely comparable in implying excessive and habitual drinking. Sot in addition suggests the dulling of faculties and degradation of habits that accompany such drinking. Soak, on the other hand, may stress a spongelike capacity for intoxicants and even carry a hint of wry admiration; like the next two terms but unlike sot it may be used as a casual or even friendly epithet without connoting any strong disparagement. Toper, tospott, and tippler all imply habitual drinking but carry no inherent implication of intoxication. Toper and tospott commonly stress the conviviality and jovialness of group drinking (as in taverns and bars) and may suggest a capacity for heavy drinking without obvious intoxication. Tippler carries the idea of light but constant and often secret drinking.

Ant teetotaler

Drunken *drunk, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, tight

Dry adj 1 Dry, arid mean devoid of moisture. Dry may suggest freedom from noticeable moisture either as a characteristic or as a desirable state (a dry climate) (dry clothing) (dry land) (dry provisions) (dry floors) or it may suggest deficiency of moisture or the lack of normal or necessary moisture (dry soil) (a dry summer) (dry sandy berries) or, again, it may suggest exhaustion or dissipation of water or other liquid (a dry fountain pen) (dry pond) (dry well) (dry bones) Arid implies destitution or deprivation of moisture and therefore extreme rather than relative dryness. In its chief applications to regions or territory, it suggests waste or desert land (arid sections of the southwestern United States) (arid plains) (an arid condition of soil) In extended use, as applied to such matters as subjects, books, or sermons, dry suggests the lack of qualities which compel interest or attention (the course is dry but useful) (in the driest passages of her historical summaries these delightful descriptions come running to the rescue—Payne) Arid, on the other hand, connotes absence of all qualities which mark the thing so
qualified as worthwhile, fruitful, or significant (an arid treatment on poetry) <the frank elucidation of such a principle ... might imply only bleak and arid results—Holbrook Jackson> As applied to persons, their manner, or their words and expressions, dry implies a loss of normal or often of youthful human warmth, freshness, responsiveness, or enthusiasm; arid, an absence of these qualities or an incapacity for them (his dry schoolmaster temperament, the hurry-gurdy monotony of him—James) <some arid matron made her rounds at dawn sniffing, peering, causing blue-nosed maids to scour—Woolf> Specifically, dry often suggests the repression of feeling for the sake of outwardly appearing aloof or imperturbed (a dry comic style) <comments which did not seem to be censures because uttered in a dry tone of voice> Arid, on the other hand, often connotes a deadening of feeling, especially as shown by a loss of fervor or hope (if Shakespeare himself ever had that “dark period”... it was at least no darkness like that bleak and arid despair which sometimes settles over modern spirits—Krutky>

**Ana** barren, *bare, bald: dehydrated, desiccated, dried, parched, baked (see DRY vb): drained, depleted, exhausted, impoverished (see DEPLETE): sapped (see WEAKEN)

**Ant** wet —Con damp, moist, humid, dank (see WET): *tender, sympathetic, warm, responsive: exuberant, lush, luxuriant, prodigal, *profuse

2 *sour, acid, acidulous, tart

**Ana** sweet (wine)

dry vb Dry, desiccate, dehydrate, bake, parch are comparable when meaning to treat or to affect so as to deprive of moisture. Dry is the comprehensive word and may be used whenever the process (as evaporation, absorption, or solidification) or method (as heating, draining, or aerating) by which the result is attained <clothes dried in the wind> <dry up a ditch> <dry dishes with a towel> <dry bricks in a kiln>

**Desiccate** is narrower in its range of reference and implies a complete deprivation of moisture, especially of vital juices, and often therefore, in its common extended use, a withering or shriveling. It is applicable to animal and vegetable products preserved by thorough drying <desiccated fish> or it may be applied to persons or to their attitudes, activities, or expression which have lost all their spiritual or emotional freshness or vitality <analysis is desiccating and takes the bloom off things—Babbitt> <they were all ... living on the edge of their nerves, a harsh, angular, desiccated existence—Brooks>

**Dehydrate** implies extraction or elimination of water; it is often preferred to desiccate, of which it is a close synonym, when the reference is to foods <dehydrate vegetables> It is the usual word when the removal of water (or hydrogen and oxygen in the proportion to form water) is by chemical rather than physical means <dehyd- rated alums> and in extended use suggests a removal of what strengthens, inspires, or makes meaningful or pleasing <-touches nothing that he does not dehydrate—Economist>

**Bake** implies not only dehydrating by means of heat, but a hardening or caking of what is dried <sunn- bakes earth> <bake bricks>

**Parch** stresses the damaging effect of dry intensity or drought; it is preferred to bake, therefore, when the restoration of the proper amount of water is necessary or highly desirable <a parched throat> <record heat waves which have parched mid-America’s usually productive plains—N. Y. Times Mag.>

**Ana** drain, *deplete, exhaust: wither, shrivel, wizen

**Ant** moisten, wet

dubiety *uncertainty, dubiosity, doubt, skepticism, suspicion, mistrust

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

**Ana** *hesitation, hesitancy: wavering, vacillation, faltering (see corresponding verbs at HESITATE)

**Ant** decision —Con *certainty, certitude, assurance, conviction: decisiveness, decidedness (see corresponding adjectives at DECIDED)

**dubiosity** dubiety, *uncertainty, doubt, skepticism, suspicion, mistrust

**Ana** confusion, muddle, addlement (see corresponding verbs at CONFUSE): wavering, vacillation, faltering, hesitation (see corresponding verbs at HESITATE)

**Ant** decidedness —Con assurance, certitude, *certainty: cocksureness, positiveness (see corresponding adjectives at SURE)

**dubious** *doubtful, questionable, problematic

**Ana** suspicious, skeptical, mistrustful, uncertain (see corresponding nouns at UNCERTAINTY): hesitant, reluctant, *disinclined

**Ant** cocksure (state of mind, opinion): reliable (of things in general): trustworthy (of persons) —Con dependable, trustworthy, tried (see RELIABLE): *sure, certain, positive

duck vb 1 *dip, immerse, submerge, souse, dunk

2 *dodge, parry, shirk, sidestep, fence, malinga

**Ana** avoid, elude, shun, evade (see ESCAPE): avert, ward, *prevent

**Con** *face, brave, challenge, dare, defy, beard

duct *channel, canal, conduit, aqueduct

ductile *plastic, pliable, pliant, malleable, adaptable

**Ana** tractable, amenable (see OBEDIENT): responsive (see TENDER): yielding, submitting (see YIELD): fluid, *liquid: flexible, *elastic, resilient

**Con** refractory, intractable (see UNRULY): rigid, *stiff, inflexible: obdurrate, *inflexible, adamantine
dude *top, dandy, beau, coxcomb, exquisite, buck

dudgeon unbrage, huff, pique, resentment, *offense

**Ana** *anger, indignation, wrath, rage, fury, ire: temper, humor, *mood

due adj *Due, rightful, condign are comparable when they mean being in accordance with what is just and appropriate. Due, which basically means owed or owing as a debt, carries over in the sense here considered a strong implication that the thing so described is grounded upon an obligation, duty, or debt which should not or cannot be ignored; thus, one who takes due precautions uses the care that is required by his obligation to look out for his own or for others’ safety or well-being; one who has a due sense of another person’s rights accords to that person all that belongs to him by natural or moral right; one who has due respect for the law observes the individual laws as the duty of a responsible citizen. Often the term implies little more than an accordance with what is right, reasonable, or necessary (the due relation of one thing with another—Galsworthy) <your due and proper portion—Meredith> <many noncommissioned officers have a firm belief that without a due admixture of curses, an order is inaudible to a private—Montague>

**Rightful** carries a much stronger and more consistent implication than due of a ground in right and justice, and usually suggests a moral or legal claim <the rightful heir to the estate> <possess the rightful authority> <looked askance, jealous of an encroacher on his rightful domain—Hawthorne> <the disloyal subject who had fought against his rightful sovereign—Macaulay> Con dignifies things which is distinctly deserved or merited and usually something that neither exceeds nor falls below one’s deserts or merits; the term is used chiefly of punishment, often with the implication of severity (he had been brought to condign punishment as a traitor—Macaulay) <the particular troubles which involved Messrs. Buechler and Vahlen in such condign castigation—Housman>
due

*dull* punishments set up for violations of the rules of control—Baruch

*Ana* appropriate, meet, suitable, *fit, fitting, proper: right, *good: just, *fair, equitable

*Con* *excessive, inordinate, immoderate, extravagant, exorbitant: *deficient

Due, desert, merit are comparable when they mean what is justly owed to a person (sometimes a thing), especially as a recompense or compensation. *Due* usually implies a legal or moral right on the part of the person or thing that makes the claim or is in a position to make the claim and suggests a determination of what is owed by strict justice. *More is thy due than more than all can pay.*—Shak. *You have deprived the best years of his life of that independence which was no less his due than his desert—Austen* *Any* federal officer, regardless of his deserts, has much prestige—Heiser

*Merit* is a somewhat complex term, often shifting in its major implication but (see also excellence) commonly implying a deserving either of reward or punishment on the ground of what has been accomplished or of commendation, esteem, or acceptance on the ground of intrinsic and usually excellent qualities. *No* tribute can be paid to them which excludes their merit—John Marshall *Deal with every case on its merits* *As a pilgrim to the Holy Places I acquire merit—Kipling*

*Ana* compensation, recompensing or recompense, repayment, satisfaction, payment (see corresponding verbs at PAY): retribution, *reparation, reprisal, vengeance, revenge: reward, meed, guerdon (see premium)

*Ant* gratifying

Dull, dumb, obtuse are comparable when they mean the reverse of sharp, keen, and acute. As used of things, especially of tools, weapons, and instruments, *dull* refers to either an edge or a point that has lost its sharpness by use. *A dull knife* *A dull razor* *A dull pencil* *Blunt* refers to an edge or point that through use, nature, or intention, is not sharp or keen *Use the blunt side of the knife in prying* *An ax is a blunt instrument as compared with a razor* *But its edge should not be allowed to become dull through use* *Obtuse* applies to the shape of something whose sides converge at an angle that is broader than a right angle or to a thing terminating in a broad blunt point. *The obtuse apex of a wing* *An obtuse leaf*

In the extended senses of these words, *dull* (see also *stupid*) is the most widely applicable and the richest as well as the most variable in its connotations. It implies, in general, a lack or the loss of what gives keenness, intensity, or activity. *A dull pain* *Dull red* *A dull market* *Dull anger* *Blunt* (see *bluff* for application to manner

and utterances) usually implies a lack of edge or point in the figurative senses of these words. Often, it refers to a person's powers of perception or to his sensibilities, which normally should be sharp or keen *She is . . . is blunt in perception and feeling,* and quite destitute of imagination—Bradley *To the age of twelve . . . all my emotions were wholesomely undeveloped and blunt,* never at any point exasperated into acute sensibleness—Ellis *It may also apply to matters (as contrasts, critical judgments, and analyses) normally requiring sharp distinction or differentiation and then imply exceptional conciseness and corresponding loss of fine detail* *The function of diplomacy, in the bluntest analysis, is to get what you want—Newsweek* *Obtuse* suggests such bluntness of perception or sensibilities as makes one insensitive to emotions or ideas *There was, one vaguely feels, something a little obtuse about Dr. Burney. The eager, kind, busy man, with his head full of music and his desk stuffed with notes, lacked discrimination—Woolf* *An obtuse insensitivity to the rich and subtle variety of human relations—Cohen*

*Ant* *sharp (edge, point): poignant (sensation, feeling, reaction): lively (action or activity)*

Dull, humdrum, dreary, monotonous, pedestrian, stodgy mean so unvaried and uninteresting as to provoke boredom or tedious. *Dull* (see also *stupid*) implies the lack of all that gives brightness, edge, or point to the person or thing; it need not imply inferiority, but it does suggest, from the point of view of one who judges, a want of interesting character. * Compared with her, other women were . . . dull; even the pretty ones seemed lifeless—Cather* *For instance, you draw no inference from your facts. It's dull. Why not round the thing off into a good article?—Rose Macaulay*

*Humdrum* implies a commonplace and routine character; it suggests a lack of variation that persists and colors the life or the people who lead that life *A plain, humdrum domestic life, with eight months of winter, and a small house, full of babies—Trollope* *They regarded their reverses as humdrum people, slaves to routine, enemies to light—Arnold*

*Dreary* (see also *dismal*) applies to something that from the writer's or speaker's point of view seems uninteresting and dull; the word may imply an absence of enlivening character in the thing itself but more often it reveals an attitude of mind *I see that many people find the world dreary—and, indeed, there must be spaces of dreariness in it for us all—some find it interesting—Benson* *Monotonous* implies an irksome sameness (as of what never changes in quality, character, or appearance); it may be widely applied (as to work, to play, to persons, to scenes, or to noises) *Incessant recurrence without variety breeds tedium; the over-iterated becomes the monotonous—Lowes* *We may thus bring a little poetry and romance into the monotonous lives of our handworkers—Inge* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lamb's; the ship was as full of life as a newborn lamb's—Lowes* *The sky was as full of life as a newborn lam
dumb

273

durable

stodgy discussion <the reception was a stodgy affair>

<in England, art must be obvious and stodgy before people think it's respectable—Guy Thorne>

Ana *irksome, tiresome, wearisome, tedious, boring: prosy, *prosaic, matter-of-fact

Ant lively —Con gay, animated, sprightly (see LIVELY):

exciting, stimulating (see PROVOKE)

dumb adj 1 Dumb, mute, speechless, inarticulate mean lacking the power to speak. Dumb and mute are often used interchangeably, but when used in distinction from each other, dumb implies an incapacity for speech (as in the case of animals and inanimate objects or of human beings whose organs of speech are defective); mute implies an inability to speak, owing to one's never having heard speech sounds (as in the case of one who is deaf congenitally or has lost his hearing before being old enough to reproduce heard sounds); thus, persons once called deaf and dumb are usually deaf-mutes who have healthy speech organs and can be trained to speak through the senses of sight and touch <dumb stones whereon to vent their rage —Arnold> <a mute child> When used of persons who are normally able to speak, dumb (see also STUPID) usually suggests <inability to speak: mute stresses a compelling cause for keeping or maintaining silence <deep shame had struck me dumb—Shak.> (how terrible is that dumb grief which has never learned to moan—Galsworthy) <all sat mute, pondering the danger with deep thoughts—Milton> <some mute inglorious Milton—Gray> Speechless commonly implies momentary depriviation of the power of speech <struck speechless with terror> <I can remember, across the years, standing there with that paper in my hand; dumb, speechless, and prob-
ably tearful—White> Inarticulate implies either lack of the power to speak at all <the inarticulate people of the dead—Shelley> <the inarticulate hunger of the heart—Sherman> or, especially, inability to speak intelligibly or clearly, usually on account of some powerful emotion but sometimes because of lack of power to express one's feelings <inarticulate with rage> <stood look-
ing down on her in inarticulate despair—Wharton>

2 dull, *stupid, slow, dense, crass

Ana & Con see those at DULL 1

Ant articulate (sense 2)

dumbfound confound, nonplus, bewildere, distract, mystify, perplex, *puzzle

Ana astound, flabbergast, amaze, astonish, *surprise: *confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle: disconcert, rattle, faze, discomfit (see EMBARRASS)

dumps dejection, gloom, blues, depression, melancholy, melancholia, *sadness

Ana despondency, forlornness, hopelessness, despair (see under DESPONDENT): doldrums, ennui, boredom, *tedium
dumpy *stocky, thickset, thick, chunky, stubby, squat
dunk vb *dip, immerse, souse, submerge, duck

Ana *soak, saturate, sop
dupe vb Dupe, gull, befool, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bam-
boozle mean to delude a person by underhand means or for one's own ends. Dupe suggests unwarniness or unsus-
piciousness on the part of the person or persons deluded and the acceptance of what is false as true, what is counter-
felt as genuine, or what is worthless as valuable <the public is easily duped by extravagant claims in advertising> <he was so soothed that he was constantly being duped into helping impostors> <William had too much sense to be duped—Macaulay> Gull implies great credulosity or a disposition that lends itself to one's being easily imposed upon or made a laughstock of <if I do not gull him into a mayword, and make him a common recreation, do not think I have wit enough to lie straight in my bed—Shak.>

<if the world will be gulled, let it be gulled—Burton> <gull who may, they will be gulled! They will not look nor think
—Browning> Befool stresses the effect on the victim, that of being made a fool of in his own eyes or in those of others; it does not so strongly suggest a temperamental weakness in the victim as the preceding words, nor so clearly imply an intent to delude on the part of the agent, as most of the words that follow <confess themselves befooled by the candidate, his personable appearance, and his promises> <innocent philosophic critics, too easily befooled by words—Ellis> <pictures supplant one another so swiftly as to befool the eye with the illusion of contin-
uiy—S. H. Adams> Trick implies the intent to delude on the part of the agent by means of a stratagem or ruse, by wiles, or by fraud; it suggests the deliberate intent to deceive, but it need not imply a base end. It may, for
example, imply illusion as the end <a skilful dramatist
tricks the spectators into accepting the impossible as probable> <a magician's success depends partly upon his ability to trick his audience> It more often suggests deliberate misleading and the use of cunning or craft <pills are coated with sugar or chocolate in order to trick chil-
dren into taking them> <he was tricked out of his savings by the promises of large returns on an investment> <the people felt that they had been tricked into approval of the project> <it enables some lawyers to trick us into bringing in the wrong verdict—Reilly> Hoax may imply indulgence in tricking as a sport or for the purpose of proving how gullible a person or persons can be when a skilful imposture or fabrication is presented to them; it more often suggests a fraud intended to deceive even the most skepti-
cal and often, also, to work for one's own profit or personal advantage <after having been hoaxed for the past 40 years, British scientists have discovered that the jaw and teeth of the world-famous "Piltdown man" belong to a modern ape—Farmer's Weekly> <a get-rich-quick scheme intended to hoax the public> <did Mark Twain intend to hoax people by his Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc, published without his name and as the work of one of her contemporaries?> Hoodwink connotes either a deliberate confusing intended to blind the mind of another to the truth, or, less often, self-delusion arising from one's inability to distinguish the false from the true <he will not be hoodwinked by sentimental platitudes into doing things that are against reason> <to hoodwink every-
body by pretending to conform—Cabell> <since she'd hooodwinked your uncle, she thought she could pull the wool over my eyes, too—Kenneth Roberts> Bamboozle usually implies the use of such methods as cajolery, humbug, or illusion to dupe or confuse; the word is often used interchangeably with trick, hoax, or hoodwink, but it is less definite or fixed in its implications <bamboozled into a belief that he was a great man> <what Oriental tomfoolery is bamboozling you?—Newman>

Ana *deceive, beguile, delude, mislead, double-cross, betray: *cheat, cozen, defraud, overreach: outwit, baffle, circumvent (see FRUSTRATE)

duplicate n *reproduction, facsimile, copy, carbon copy, transcript, replica

Ana counterpart, *parallel, analogue

duplicity *deceit, dissimulation, cunning, guile

Ana double-dealing, chicanery, chicane, trickery, *decep-
tion, fraud: treacherousness or treachery, perfidiousness or perfidy, faithlessness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)

Con straightforwardness, forthrightness (see corresponding adjectives at STRAIGHTFORWARD)

durable *lasting, perdurable, permanent, stable, perpetual

Ana enduring, abiding, persisting (see CONTINUE)
duress *strong, stout, tenacious
Con fragile, frail, feeble, *weak: *transient, transitory, fleeting, ephemeral, fugitive
duress constraint, coercion, compulsion, violence, *force, restraint
dusky dim, *dark, obscure, murky, gloomy
duty 1 *obligation
Ana responsibility, accountability, amenability, answerability, liability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)
2 office, *function, province
Ana concern, business, *affair
3 *task, assignment, job, stint, chore
Ana *work, business, employment, occupation, calling: *trade, craft, art, profession
dwarf n Dwarf, pygmy, midget, manikin, homunculus, runt
are comparable when they mean an individual and usually a person of diminutive size. Dwarf is the general term not only for a human being but for any animal or plant that is definitely below the normal size of its kind; often the term suggests stunted development. This [the fool's] value was trebled in the eyes of the king by the fact of his being also a dwarf and a cripple—Poe Pygmy originally was applied to one of a race of fabled dwarfs mentioned by Homer and others; now it is used especially of one of a people of small stature found in central Africa. In general application the term carries a stronger connotation of diminutiveness and a weaker suggestion of arrested development than dwarf; when used in reference to a person, it often implies relative tininess, sometimes in body but more often in intellect. (to him all the men I ever knew were pygmies. He was an intellectual giant—Byron) Midget stresses abnormal diminutiveness but, unlike dwarf, carries little suggestion of malformation or deformity; the term is applied usually to a tiny but otherwise more or less normally shaped person exhibited in a circus or employed in place of a child in theatrical performances (P. T. Barnum's famous midget, Tom Thumb) Manikin is often applied not only to a dwarf but to any human being who for one reason or another seems despicably small or weak (can it be fancied that Deity ever vindictively made in his image a manikin merely to madden it?—Poe) Often it suggests an animated doll (a bright-eyed little manikin, naked like all his people—Forestor) Homunculus usually suggests even greater diminutiveness and often greater perfection in form than midget; it is the specific term for an exceedingly small artificial human being such as was supposedly developed by Paracelsus, a famous Renaissance alchemist. Runt, usually a contemptuous designation, applies to a dwarf or undersized person, especially to one who is conspicuously puny or undeveloped (I always did admire a good, sizable, stout man. I hate a runt—McClure's Mag.) The term is also applied to an animal, especially a domestic animal, small of its kind; and it is used specifically of the undersized one of a litter (as of pigs).
dwell *reside, live, lodge, sojourn, stay, put up, stop dwelling abode, residence, domicile, home, house, *habitation
dwindle diminish, lessen, *decrease, reduce, abate
Ana wane, ebb, *abate, subside: attenuate, extenuate, *thin: *moderate: disappear (see affirmative verb at APPEAR 1)
dynamic live, *active, operative
Ana potent, forceful, forcible, *powerful: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: vitalizing, energizing, activating (see VITALIZE)

each adj every, *all
each adv Each, apiece, severally, individually, respectively are comparable when they refer to every one of the many or several persons or things comprising a group. All imply distribution. Each and apiece usually connote equality in the amount or value of what is distributed unless the context indicates otherwise (he gave the five children a dollar apiece) (the students have a bedroom and study each) Severally stresses the apartness of each of the persons and things involved but at the same time often, especially in legal use, implies that each of them is favored, bound, guilty, or responsible in the same degree as the group as a whole; thus, to try a group of conspirators severally is to try them not jointly, or together, but one at a time and usually on the identical charge; to be bound jointly and severally is to be under obligation as a group and singly as individuals, damages being recoverable from all or from any member of the group. Individually, like severally, implies a distinction between each member of the group, but it goes further in not suggesting equality (as in responsibility, favor, or disfavor); thus, to try a group of conspirators individually is to try each one on a specific charge, usually on the assumption that they are not equally guilty; to greet each member of a visiting delegation individually is to greet him separately and personally. Respectively is used only when the persons or things involved in the distribution follow a given order and what is distributed goes to each in the same order (he gave John, James, and Edward ten dollars, five dollars, and three dollars respectively) (the suites of offices 101, 102, 103 are assigned respectively to the president, the treasurer, and the secretary of the company)
eager, avid, keen, anxious, agog, athirst mean actuated by a strong and urgent desire or interest. Eager implies ardor and, often, enthusiasm; it frequently also connotes impatience (it is not a life for fiery and dominant natures, eager to conquer—Benson) Avid adds to the implication of greed or of undoubled desire (a too avid thirst for pleasure—E) (cultivated, excitabile, avid of new things—Buchan) (he was convivial, bawdy, robustly avid for pleasure—F. S. Fitzgerald) Keen suggests intensity of interest and quick responsiveness in action (boys in white flannels—all keen as mustard, and each occupied with his own game, and playing it to the best of his powers—Quiller-Couch) (Tories who are as keen on State interference with everything and everybody as the Socialists—Shaw) Anxious emphasizes fear lest one's desires be frustrated or one's hopes not realized; it often additionally connotes insistence or perseverance in making one's desires known (visibly anxious that his wife should be on easy terms with us all—Reppplier) (schoolmasters may be pathetically anxious to guide boys right, and to guard them from evil—Benson) Agog suggests being caught up in the excitement and bustle attending something interesting about to be begun or an event eagerly awaited (six precious souls, and all agog to dash through thick and thin—

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

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{early} \\
\textit{restless, restive} appeared)\textit{the} \textit{or lack of delay} \textit{I called, and he} \textit{impatient, also, even more strongly, that of quickness or promptness} \textit{soon} on the other hand, when he asks a patient to come \textit{soon,} \textit{beginning of his office hours so that the patient may be} \textit{attended to} \textit{or shortly after the office hours begin; the expected or normal time) this year. Soon usually refers} \textit{or noticeably ahead of the others and leaves before the} \textit{Shelleyy} to accomplish the great end—\textit{must you go so} Wordsworthy \textit{expressions, and in the comparative and superlative de-} \textit{perceived very} \textit{betimes—Shak.y to be abed after midnight is to be up} \textit{concerning the subject} \textit{pains to inform himself} \textit{is set to begin or is regarded as beginning} \textit{<crocuses blos-} \textit{beforehandy} \textit{sometimes implies a time in advance of that set or expected} \textit{soone} \textit{early at a meeting and leaves} \textit{early comes slightly before (sometimes just at) the time set} \textit{absconder was apprehended} \textit{early} \textit{comes slightly before (sometimes just at) the time set for} \textit{beforehandy} \textit{always suggests a distinction between the sphere or globe} \textit{early} \textit{tires} \textit{anticipation or anticipatory measures \textit{to the abrupt announcement} . . . left everybody} \textit{... oog—Crf} \textit{A thirst implies yearning or longing more} \textit{vividly than the others; it seldom connotes readiness for} \textit{action \textit{that forever feel athirst for glory—Keats} \textit{one or two great souls athirst for pure aesthetic rapture—} Clive Belly} \textit{Ana} desiring, coveting, craving (see \textit{desire} vb): longing, yearning, hungering, thirsting (see \textit{long} vb): \textit{impatient, restless, restive} \textit{Ant} listless —\textit{Con} \textit{indifferent, unconcerned, incuri-} \\
\textit{Ant} listless —\textit{Con} \textit{indifferent, unconcerned, incuri-} \\
\textit{Ant} listless —\textit{Con} \textit{indifferent, unconcerned, incuri-} \\
\textit{Ant} listless —\textit{Con} \textit{indifferent, unconcerned, incuri-}
\item \textit{early} \textit{Early, soon, beforehand, betimes share the mean-} \\
\item \textit{early} \textit{Early, soon, beforehand, betimes share the mean-} \\
\item \textit{early} \textit{Early, soon, beforehand, betimes share the mean-}
\end{itemize}

earth

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{earth} \textit{Earth, world, universe, cosmos, macrocosm} are comparable when they mean the entire area or extent of space in which man thinks of himself and of his fellow men as living and acting. \textit{Earth} applies, however, only to part of what he knows by sight or by faith to exist; the term usually suggests a distinction between the sphere or globe called astronomically the earth, which he knows to be composed of land and water, and the bodies which he sees in the heavens \textit{this goodly frame, the earth—Shak.} \textit{land is part of Earth's surface which stands at a given time above sea level—Lord} It may imply a distinction from heaven and hell \textit{Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven—Mt 6:10} \textit{the infinite loftiness of Mary's nature, among the things of earth, and above the clamor of kings—Henry Adams} \textit{World is a far less definite term than earth. When applied to a physical entity, it may de-} \\
\item \textit{earth} \textit{Earth, world, universe, cosmos, macrocosm} are comparable when they mean the entire area or extent of space in which man thinks of himself and of his fellow men as living and acting. \textit{Earth} applies, however, only to part of what he knows by sight or by faith to exist; the term usually suggests a distinction between the sphere or globe called astronomically the earth, which he knows to be composed of land and water, and the bodies which he sees in the heavens \textit{this goodly frame, the earth—Shak.} \textit{land is part of Earth's surface which stands at a given time above sea level—Lord} It may imply a distinction from heaven and hell \textit{Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven—Mt 6:10} \textit{the infinite loftiness of Mary's nature, among the things of earth, and above the clamor of kings—Henry Adams} \textit{World is a far less definite term than earth. When applied to a physical entity, it may de-}
\item \textit{earth} \textit{Earth, world, universe, cosmos, macrocosm} are comparable when they mean the entire area or extent of space in which man thinks of himself and of his fellow men as living and acting. \textit{Earth} applies, however, only to part of what he knows by sight or by faith to exist; the term usually suggests a distinction between the sphere or globe called astronomically the earth, which he knows to be composed of land and water, and the bodies which he sees in the heavens \textit{this goodly frame, the earth—Shak.} \textit{land is part of Earth's surface which stands at a given time above sea level—Lord} It may imply a distinction from heaven and hell \textit{Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven—Mt 6:10} \textit{the infinite loftiness of Mary's nature, among the things of earth, and above the clamor of kings—Henry Adams} \textit{World is a far less definite term than earth. When applied to a physical entity, it may de-}
verse is finite but that it is constantly expanding. A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

earthly, terrestrial, earthy, mundane, worldly, sublunary: earthly things as that system appears to the limited vision of the typical man or of the individual (from the universe as we see it both the Glory of God and the Glory of Man have departed—Krutich) he inhabited a different universe from that of common men—Huxley Cosmos, because of its opposition to chaos, carries a stronger implication of order and harmony in operation than universe, which it otherwise closely resembles in meaning (were it not for the indwelling reason the world would be a chaos and not a cosmos—Blackie) Macrocosm applies to the universe thought of as a great whole characterized by perfect organic unity exhibited elsewhere only in the small whole, the individual man or microcosm (the microcosm repeats the macrocosm—T. H. Huxley) should these ephemera [flying disks] exist in the macrocosm, it is likely . . . that they would be known to . . . observers of the atmosphere—Mauer.

earthly terrestrial, earthly, mundane, worldly, sublunary: earthly things as that system appears to the limited vision of the typical man or of the individual (from the universe as we see it both the Glory of God and the Glory of Man have departed—Krutich) he inhabited a different universe from that of common men—Huxley Cosmos, because of its opposition to chaos, carries a stronger implication of order and harmony in operation than universe, which it otherwise closely resembles in meaning (were it not for the indwelling reason the world would be a chaos and not a cosmos—Blackie) Macrocosm applies to the universe thought of as a great whole characterized by perfect organic unity exhibited elsewhere only in the small whole, the individual man or microcosm (the microcosm repeats the macrocosm—T. H. Huxley) should these ephemera [flying disks] exist in the macrocosm, it is likely . . . that they would be known to . . . observers of the atmosphere—Mauer.

easy adj 1 *comfortable, restful, cozy, snug

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
chiefly applies to something which comes, or moves, or works, or gains its ends seemingly without effort or at will; it therefore is often used in derogation implying lack of constraint or restraint, undue haste, dexterity rather than meticulousness, or fluency with shallowness (a writer's facile pen) (a woman's facile tears) (I am not concerned with ... offering any facile solution for so complex a problem—T. S. Eliot) (she was a prey to shoddy, facile emotions and moods, none of which had power to impel her to any action—Rose Macaulay) (Chrétién was a facile narrator, with little sense of the significance that might be given to the stories—H. O. Taylor) (Simple stresses ease in apprehending or understanding; it implies freedom from complication, intricacy, elaboration, or other involvements which render a thing difficult to see through (problems in arithmetic too simple to hold the interest of pupils of that age) (true poetry, however simple it may appear on the surface, accumulates meaning every time it is read—Day Lewis) (the English mother or the English nurse has a simpler job. She must teach her charge to start as few fights as possible and that there are rules—Mead) (Light implies an opposition to heavy in nearly all of its senses, but in the one here considered it suggests freedom from burdensomeness or from exactingness that make undue or difficult demands on one (a light task) (his work is very light) (one generation's light reading often becomes another's heavy text—J. D. Hart) (light punishment) Effortless, though it carries many of the connotations characteristic of facile, suggests more the appearance of ease than actual absence of effort; often it implies mastery, skill, or artistry, and the attainment of such perfection that the movements or techniques seem to involve no strain (the effortless dancing of a Pavlova) (that effortless grace with which only a true poet can endow his work—M. O. Smith) (a natural, effortless style) (the swallowsw ... glided in an effortless way through the busy air—Jefferies) Smooth suggests an absence of, or the removal of, all difficulties or obstacles that makes a course or a career easy to follow or to pursue (the car sped along over the smooth road) (floated over the expanse within, which was smooth as a young girl's brow—Melville) (making the lives of the needy a little more smooth—Shields)

Ant hard —Con difficult, arduous (see HARD); exacting, onerous, burdensome, oppressive

eat, swallow, ingest, devour, consume mean to take food into the stomach through the mouth and throat. Eat, the common and ordinary term, implies the process of chewing as well as of taking into the stomach and therefore distinguishes itself from swallow, which implies merely the passing from the mouth through the throat to the stomach. Eat is often used, however, without any clear reference to chewing or swallowing (cattle do not eat meat) (the worms have eaten into the timber) and, especially in extended use, without implying anything but a slow, gradual process that is comparable to the biting or gnawing that precedes eating in that it wastes or wears away the substance the waves have eaten a channel through the rocks) (a knife eaten by rust) (the acid eats into the metal) In many idiomatic expressions the literal phrasing recalls the implications of the original meaning but nothing more (eat one's heart out (grieve in silence) (eat one's words (take back what one has said)) Swallow basically implies the second part of the eating process (he has difficulty in swallowing) (the tablets are to be swallowed without chewing) More often it is used of hurried eating without proper mastication of food (he swallowed his breakfast and rushed for the train) In extended use it implies a seizing and taking in or a being seized and taken in (as by engulfment, engrossment, or suppression) (the ship was swallowed up by the sea) (swallow one's resentment) Ingest is a physiological term that implies a taking in through the mouth and throat into the stomach and is commonly opposed to egest (does a man dine well because he ingests the requisite number of calories?—Lippmann) Devour throws the emphasis on greediness; it suggests intense hunger or gluttony in man and voracity in a wild animal (the tramp rapidly devoured the food that was set before him) (they saw the tiger rushing on them as if it would devour them) In extended use devour applies to something (as fire or disease) which destroys or wastes completely (the flames devoured the houses one by one) (he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him—Ezek 7:15) or to something which preys upon one as insistently as a beast or bird of prey (devoured by fear) Sometimes, however, it approaches swallow in its reference to something which engrosses the mind, but it heightens the implications of avidity and zest in taking in (devoured all the books on aviation that he could get) (devoured the scene before him) Consume (see also WASTE, MONOPOLIZE) usually means little more than eat and drink, for which it serves as a term including both or either (whoever came late had to start with the course which the captain was then ... consuming—Heiser) (after taking a piece of asparagus in her hand, she was deeply mortified at seeing her hostess consume the vegetable with the aid of a knife and fork—Shaw) Very often, however, it adds to eat the implications of using up (my stock of provisions had been so long consumed that I had forgotten the flavor of pulse and maize and pumpkins and purple and sweet potatoes—Hudson)

Analogous words: Ana

Antonyms: Ant

Contrasted words: Con

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
outside writers or of the articles they write, and sometimes by writing editorials or leaders; to edit a work of reference (as a dictionary or encyclopedia) means to plan and execute a new work or one of its later editions, or, more often, to supervise the work of subordinates charged with the execution of those plans. Because the details of editing vary according to the nature of the work edited, the verb is often used narrowly with a stress on one of these implications; thus, to edit often currently implies the cutting out of material for the sake of improvement or to meet limitations of space but often for other reasons that concern the person or the institution involved (edit a classic for high school use) Compile in reference to literary material stresses a gathering together of material, whether written by oneself or obtained from varied sources, to form a collection, an anthology, or a work of reference; often, in addition, it implies the performance of the tasks of an editor, for it suggests need of skill in arrangement, in interpretation, and in dealing with textual problems (Palgrave compiled in the first volume of the Golden Treasury one of the best anthologies of English poetry) (the French Academy . . . took forty years to compile their Dictionary—William Adams Revised (see also correct) implies a review of an earlier draft or edition to see where it can be improved and the actual work of improving (twenty years after Dr. Smith's death his standard work on this subject was revised and brought up-to-date by Dr. Jones) The society finally decided to revise its bylaws Redact is used mostly by literary and historical scholars, especially in its derivative forms redaction and redactor, to imply the presentation of something in form for use or for publication. It may imply careful framing of or giving expression to some material (the redaction of this great work . . . was ultimately confided to Diderot—Jefferies) or even, especially in the form redactor, the giving of a new form to an old work (as by revision, rearrangement, or addition) (the visit of Julius Caesar to Egypt in the Pharsalia is seized upon by its [medieval] redactor to introduce . . . the liaison between Caesar and Cleopatra—Loweis) Whatever delicacy and poignancy the tale has in Ovid's version eludes the Elizabethan redactor—PMLA Rewritten implies a putting into a form suitable for publication of a set of facts or of material gathered by another (as a reporter). The verb often occurs in this sense but is not so common as the noun rewrite designating an article (made a complete rewrite of his earlier draft) (it is this journalist's function to rewrite stories sent in by local representatives in nearby towns) (an old song which Burns has simply rewritten—Kilby) The reporter at the scene of the catastrophe telephoned his story to a rewrite man in his editorial office Adapt (for fuller treatment see adapt) implies a free alteration of the work of someone else to make it suitable for other readers or for another medium (the play was adapted from a French farce) (the book was adapted with success for the stage—J. D. Hart) (the tunes he adapted freely from French vaudeville—Edward Sackville-West & Desmond Shawe-Taylor) Ana *make, fabricate, fashion, form edition, impression, reprinting, printing, reissue are capable of being distinguished when used to designate the total number of copies of the same work printed during a stretch of time. Edition, as now used by publishers and to some extent by printers, applies to all the books and also to all the newspapers printed from the same type or plates made from it. Terms such as special edition, limited edition, and anniversary edition are sometimes used to indicate the particular form or format in which a fixed text is presented; but in United States copyright law a different edition must incorporate some material addition to or revision of the original matter. Hence, when the first edition gives way to the second edition, the second edition to the third edition, and so on, a definite change in content is implied. The work may have been revised in whole or in part, whether by bringing it up-to-date or by varying it (this is especially true of newspapers) to suit a particular clientele, but in all cases there must have been changes involving an entire or partial resetting of type before a work can be said to go into a new edition (the 14th edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica) You will find it in the city edition of the New York Times for January 17th Impression applies to all of the books (also prints or engravings) run off by the press at one time. The standing type or plates are then stored until a later impression (often called a reprinting) is needed. It is now the general practice among publishers to speak of the aggregate number of copies of a new book run off from the press in a large number and at one time (or, in technical language, printed in a continuous run from a single makeready) as an impression rather than an edition, thereby respecting the latter word's implication of substantial changes in content (a work which went through several impressions) Printing is often used as practically equivalent to impression or reprinting but it is sometimes preferred as implying some minor corrections (the book is already in its tenth printing) Reissue is used to denote a republication, usually after some time, of a work which is out of print. The reissue may differ in price from the original edition or impression owing to changes in paper or in binding, and it may differ in further ways requiring a resetting of type in whole or in part. Educate train, discipline, school, *teach, instruct educe, evoke, elicit, extract, extort mean to bring or draw out what is hidden, latent, or reserved. Educe usually implies the development and outward manifestation of something potential or latent (get, with rafts of mind and soul of a genuine poet . . . could not fully educe and enjoy them—Arnold) Seem to be able to educe from common sense a more or less clear reply to the questions raised—Sidgwick Evoke basically suggests the voice or the words of a magician compelling spirits to leave the other world or the dead to arise from their graves (evoke a demon) (evoke the ghost of his father) In current use the term ordinarily implies the operation of a powerful agency that produces an effect instantly or that serves as a stimulus in arousing an emotion, a passion, or an interest (the delight which growing flowers and blossoming trees evoke—Binyon) (it is useless to obtrude moral ideas [upon children] at an age at which they can evoke no response—Russell) (all harmonies . . . are latent in the complex mechanism of an organ, but a master's hand is necessary to evoke them—Loweis) Elicit usually implies pains, trouble, or skill in drawing something forth or out; it often implies resistance either in the person or thing that is the object of effort (elicit important information from a witness by cross-examination) (it is the trouble we take over our children that elicits the stronger forms of parental affection—Russell) Extract implies the action of a force (as pressure or suction) (extract the juice of an orange) (extract a tooth) (to extract all the dramatic value possible from the situation—T. S. Eliot) (he had not that faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements—Dickens) (to make the comparison at all was . . . to return to it
often, to brood upon it, to extract from it the last drags of its interest—Henry James. Extort implies a wringing especially from one who is reluctant or resisting (extract money from one's relatives) (extort a promise) (she did at last extort from her father an acknowledgment that the horses were engaged—Austen) (whose income is ample enough to extort obsequiously from the vulgar of all ranks—Bennett).

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

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

1 Effect, result, consequence, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, sequel, issue, outcome, event are comparable in signifying something, usually a condition, situation, or occurrence, ascribable to a cause or combination of causes. Effect is the correlative of the word cause and in general use implies something (as a bodily or social condition or a state of mind) necessarily and directly following upon or occurring by reason of a cause (the effect of the medicine was an intermittent pilory) (tanning is the effect of exposure to sunlight) (low mortality, the effect of excellent social services available in every village—Petersen) Result, close to effect in meaning, implies a direct relationship with an antecedent action or condition, usually suggests an effect that terminates the operation of a cause, and applies more commonly than effect to tangible objects (his limb was the result of an automobile accident) (the subsiding flood or surface waters cause mineral deposits and the result is a mound—Duncan-Kemp) Consequence may suggest a direct but looser or more remote connection with a cause than either effect or result, sometimes implying an adverse or calamitous effect and often suggesting a chain of intermediate causes or a complexity of effect (one of the consequences of his ill-advised conduct was a loss of prestige) (his refined taste is the consequence of education and habit—Rowlands) Upshot often implies a climax or conclusion in a series of consequent occurrences or the most conclusive point of a single complex gradual consequence (we spent the time swimming at Glenelg and dancing at the Palais Royal in the city. The upshot was that, before we left . . . we were engaged—Ingamells) (they won the battle, and the upshot was a short-lived bourgeois republic—Lewis & Maude) (the upshot of the whole matter was that there was no wedding—Colom) Aftereffect and aftermath both usually designate secondary rather than direct or immediate effects. Aftereffect besides designating a secondary effect sometimes suggests a side effect but more generally implies an effect ascribable to a previous effect that has become a cause (the aftereffects of an atomic-bomb explosion—Current Biog.) (although the pioneer effort had reached a dead end, its aftereffects were all too apparent—Kohler) (to the left of the highway the blackened appearance is the aftereffect of a fire that has recently swept across the flat—G. R. Stewart) Aftermath often suggests a more complex effect or generalized condition than aftereffect and usually carries the notion of belated consequences that appear after the effects, especially disastrous effects, seem to have passed (the serious dislocations in the world as an aftermath of war—U. S. Code) (the aftermath of the epidemic in Memphis was worse than the dismal days of ReconSTRUCTION—Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.) Sequel usually signifies a result that follows after an interval (spinal curvature . . . may be a symptom or a sequel to many different diseases—Fishbein) (she lay rigid experiencing the sequel to the pain, an ideal terror—Stafford) Issue adds to result the implication of exit or escape (as from difficulties); it therefore usually designates a result that is a solution or a resolution (a contest to which the issue is still the greatest and gravest of all, life or death—A. C. Ward) (the war was by then obviously proceeding towards a successful issue—F. M. Ford) Outcome, though often interchangeable with result or issue, may put less stress on the notion of finality than does issue (the outcome of the presidential election) (the enduring organisms are now the outcome of evolution—Whitehead) (one outcome of this report was the formation of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare—Current Biog.) Event, which is both uncommon and somewhat archaic in this relation, usually carries the notion of an unpredictable or unforeseeable outcome and comes very close to the related eventuality in its implication of a possible or contingent effect or result (the happiness of Rome appeared to hang on the event of a race—Gibbon) (the employer himself at Edinburgh till the event of the conflict between the court and the Whigs was no longer doubtful—Macaulay) (the calm assumption that I should live long enough to carry out my extensive plan at leisure . . . has in the event been justified—Ellis) Ant cause—Con determinant, antecedent reason, occasion (see cause): basis, ground, *base, foundation, groundwork

2 in plural form effects *possessions, belongings, means, resources, assets

effect vb I accomplish, achieve, *perform, execute, discharge, fulfill (Amer) *reach, attain, achieve, compass, gain: finish, complete, conclude, end, terminate, *close: implement, *enforce: *realize, actualize

2 *affect
effective, effectual, efficient, efficacious all mean producing or capable of producing a result or results, but they are not freely interchangeable in idiomatic use. Effective emphasizes the actual production of an effect or the power to produce a given effect (effective thinking) (an effective speaker) (an effective rebuke) (the law becomes effective on the 1st of next month) (research chemists . . . are actively investigating to learn why particular materials are effective and to make them more so—Morrison) (persons who will do nothing unless they get something out of it for themselves are often highly effective persons of action—Shaw) Effectual suggests the accomplishment of a desired result or the fulfillment of a purpose or intention, so that the term frequently becomes synonymous with decisive or final and looks backward after the event (an effectual measure) (an effectual refutation) (his recommendation was effectual, and I was . . . chosen—Gibbon) (an appeal to the emotions is little likely to be effectual before lunch—Maugham) Efficient may apply to what is actively operative and producing a result and then comes close to operant in meaning (it should be obvious that it is the conditions producing the end effects which must be regarded as the efficient causes of them—Ashley Montagu) More often it suggests an acting or a capacity or potential for action or use in such a manner as to minimize the loss or waste of energy in effecting, producing, or functioning (an efficient apparatus) (a setup designed for the efficient production of small parts) (a strong tendency to break up cumbersome estates into small, efficient farms—Nevens

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
The document appears to be a page from a dictionary or a glossary, containing definitions and synonyms for various words. It includes entries for words like "effervescent," "volatile," "trouble," "efficient," "womanish," "jolly," and others. The text is structured in a way that explains the meanings and usage of these words, often contrasting them with their antonyms. The page also includes sections for "antonyms" and "contrasted words," indicating a focus on word relationships and synonyms. The layout and formatting suggest it is part of a larger dictionary resource, providing comprehensive information for each term listed.
a student from college} {a curse . . . in his blood . . . which no life of purity could expel—Meredith} {Octavian . . . forbade the practice of certain eastern cults, and expelled from Rome Greek and Asiatic magicians—Buchan} Oust implies a removal or dispossession by the power of the law or, in more general use, by the exercise of force or by the compulsion of necessity {in America . . . a new set of officials oust the old ones whenever the Opposition ousts the Government—Shaw} {insidious attempts to disparage the findings of Reason, or to oust it from its proper province—Inge} Evict means to turn out (as from house or home or one’s place of business) by legal or equally effective process, commonly for non-payment of rent {after not paying their rent for six months, they were evicted by the sheriff} {the revolutionary artists . . . in the first flush of victory . . . literally evicted the members and officers of the Imperial Academy—Read} {he volunteered to become foster father to a 400-pot family [of orchids] temporarily evicted from a nearby greenhouse—JAMA} Dismiss (see also DISMISS) stresses a getting rid of something such as a legal case by rejecting a claim or prayer and refusing it further consideration {this court reversed the judgement given in favor of the defendant, and remanded the case with directions to dismiss it—Taney} or a fear, a grudge, or a hatred by ejecting it from the mind or thoughts {I declare to you . . . that I have long dismissed it from my mind—Dickens} or an unwelcome subject, duty, or prospect by taking adequate measures to ensure its no longer annoying or confronting one {the Judge was sharply angry . . . because he found himself unable to dismiss the whole thing by packing the child off—Deland} AnA *exclude, eliminate, shut out, rule out, disbar: *discard, cast, shed: reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE) Ant admit (sense 1) elaborate vb *unfold, evolve, develop, perfect AnA *expand, amplify, dilate: enlarge, augment (see INCREASE) élan *vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, punch, drive elapse *pass, pass away, expire AnA slip, *slide, glide: end, terminate (see CLOSE) elastic adj 1 Elastic, resilient, springy, flexible, supple are comparable when they mean able to endure strain (as extension, compression, twisting, or bending) without being permanently affected or injured. Elastic and resilient are both general and scientific terms; the scientific senses are later and are in part derived from the earlier meanings. Elastic in nontechnical use is applied chiefly to substances or materials that are easy to stretch or expand and that quickly recover their shape or size when the pressure is removed {a rubber band is elastic} {elastic cord for hats} {a toy balloon is an elastic bag which can be blown up greatly beyond its original size} In scientific use elastic is applicable to a solid that may be changed in volume, when in the course of the deformation of such a solid or fluid forces come into play which tend to make it recover its original volume or shape once the deforming force or forces are removed. The term in such use describes a property (elasticity) which a substance possesses up to the point (the elastic limit) beyond which it cannot be deformed without permanent injury {a body . . . is elastic when, and only when, it tends to recover its initial condition when the distorting force is removed . . . Steel, rubber, air . . . are more or less elastic—Foley} Resilient in nontechnical use is applicable to whatever springs back into place or into shape especially after compression; thus, rising bread dough is said to be resilient because it quickly recovers from a deforming pressure by the hand; a tree’s branch may be described as resilient when it snaps back into its former position once a pull is released. Scientifically, resilient is not the equivalent of elastic, but it may be used as its counterpart; elastic stresses the capacity for deformation without permanent injury, resilient the capacity for recovering shape or position after strain or pressure has been removed; thus, when an elastic substance is stretched or compressed, it shows itself resilient: as arteries gradually become less elastic with age, to the same extent they become less resilient. Springy is a nontechnical term that carries the meanings and suggestions of both elastic and resilient and stresses at once the ease with which a thing yields to pressure or strain and the quickness of its return {walk on springy turf} {firm, springy muscles} {a laughing schoolboy . . . riding the springy branches of an elm—Keats} Flexible is applicable to whatever can be bent or turned without breaking; the term may or may not imply resiliency, or quick recovery of shape {lead pipe is flexible and may be bent into shape} {a flexible young tree often endures a heavy windstorm better than a rigid, fully developed one} {flexible and gracious are the willows—Bingham} {Supple} to things which are, in general, not as solid or firm in structure {I am a suppler person—Dasch} which may be described as flexible: it also implies ease in bending, twisting, or folding or flexing, together with resistance to accompanying injury (as from breaking, cracking, or splitting) {supple joints and muscles} {a supple leather} {mere manual labor stiffens the limbs, gymnastic exercises render them supple—Jefferies} In extended use these words often carry the implications of their literal senses. Elastic stresses ease in stretching or expanding beyond the normal or appointed limits {an elastic conscience} {some principles there must be, however elastic—Buchan} {an elastic term} Resilient implies a tendency to rebound or recover quickly (as in health or spirits) especially after subjection to stress or strain {see ELASTIC 2} {a resilient constitution} Springy, which is less common in extended use, may suggest youth, freshness, or buoyancy {a springy step} Flexible implies an adaptable or accommodating quality or, when applied to persons, pliancy or tractability {a flexible scheme} {a flexible arrangement} {his mind became more flexible with age—Brothers} Supple, in its extended use, is applied chiefly to persons or their utterances. Sometimes it suggests little more than flexibility; at other times it implies obsequiousness or complaisance or a show of these with what is actually astute mastery of a situation {in . . . Bismarck, the supple spirit is hidden under an external directness and rough assertion—Belloc} AnA pliable,pliant, ductile, *plastic, malleable: limber, lithe,* supple Ant rigid—Con *stiff, inflexible, tense

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
the day is a perpetual morning—Thoreau

Expansive

implies exaltation of spirit that tends to make a person unusually genial, communicative, or sociable. <she had an expansive temperament, a brilliant personality, a widely sympathetic disposition, troops of friends—Ellis> <in an expansive mood and not so very sober moment, she had told Tod about her adventure—Sayers> <while not expansive toward visitors, she received them with courtesy—Raymond Weeds>

Resilient

usually implies a return to normal good spirits, which may or may not be high spirits. <he was as resilient as ever, one day utterly exhausted, and the next day ready for fresh labors> <evidently her resilient strength was going; she could no longer react normally to the refreshment of food—Ellis> <already the shock and horror of it was fading from her resilient mind—Ruth Park>

Buoyant

implies such lightness or vivacity of heart or spirits as is either incapable of depression or that readily shakes it off. <no such material burden could depress that buoyant-hearted young gentleman for many hours to

together—George Eliot> <his buoyant spirits were continually breaking out in troublesome frolics—Prescott>

Volatile

implies diametrical opposition to all that is serious, sedate, or settled; it therefore suggests lightness, levity, or excessive buoyancy of spirits and often flightiness or instability. <as giddy and volatile as ever—Swift> <he seemed to them so volatile and unstable. He was an enigma to which they never secured the key—Ellis>

Effervescent

implies liveliness, often boisterousness of spirits; it often suggests the effect of release after restraint and even more than buoyant implies the impossibility of suppression so long as the mood or temper lasts. <an effervescent sort of chap with an enthusiasm that takes off like a rocket—Joseph>

Ana

*sprightly, high-spirited, mettlesome: *lively, vivacious, sprightly, animated, gay

Ant depressed —Con dejected, gloomy, melancholy, sad, blue (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS): flaccid, *limp

efflorescent room, berth, play, leeway, margin, clearance

elderly old, *aged, supranunnated

Ant youthful

elect adj

picked, *select, exclusive

Ana *choice, exquisite, rare: selected, preferred, chosen, singled out (see CHOOSE): redeemed, saved, delivered (see RESCUE vb)

Ant reprobate —Con rejected, repudiated, spurned, refused (see DECLINE vb): scorned, disdained (see DESPISE): doomed, damned (see SENTENCE vb)

elect vb I select, pick, prefer, single, opt, *choose, cull

Ana *decide, determine, settle: resolve: conclude, judge (see INFER): *receive, accept, admit, take

Ant abjure —Con reject, spurn, repudiate, refuse, *decline: dismiss, *eject, oust, expel

2 *designate, name, nominate, appoint

election selection, option, *choice, preference, alternative

Ana deciding or decision, determining or determination, settling or settlement (see corresponding verbs at DECIDE)

electrify *thrill, enthuse

Ana galvanize, excite, stimulate, quicken, *provoke: *stir, rouse, arouse, rally

elemmosnary *charitable, benevolent, humane, humanitarian, philanthropic, altruistic

elegance, grace, dignity are comparable only when they denote an impressive beauty of form, appearance, or behavior. Elegance is used in reference to persons chiefly when their grooming, their clothes, and the way they wear them are specifically considered; it then often implies fashionableness and good taste, but it stresses perfection of detail and exquisiteness or, sometimes, overexquisiteness (as in materials, lines, and ornamentation) <the elegance in dress of a Beau Brummell>

When used in reference to such things as the furnishings of a home, the details of a dinner, or a literary style, the term also implies the perfection and propriety in detail that indicate excellence of taste, a nice selective instinct, and often a restrained luxury <a very pretty sitting room, lately fitted up with greater elegance and lightness than the apartments below—Austen> <a cultivated man should express himself by tongue or pen with some accuracy and elegance—Eliot>

Grace is more commonly applied to what is inward and native than to what is outward and acquired, especially when used in reference to persons; it always suggests a quality or a harmonious combination of qualities that gives aesthetic pleasure through a natural or simple beauty such as is shown in suppleness or rhythm of movement, in clean-flowing lines or contours, or in spontaneity and felicitousness of manner, mood, expression, or style. <a behavior so full of grace and sweetness, such easy motions, with an air so majestic, yet free from stiffness or affectation—Montague> <the effect upon the observer of this exquisite little edifice . . . was of an unparagoned lightness and grace—Mackenzie>

She took the congratulations of her rivals and of the rest of the company with the simplicity that was her crowning grace—Wharton>

Dignity applies to what compels respect and honor. The term often suggests stateliness, majesty, and elevation of character or style as the compelling cause <the qualifications which frequently invest the facade of a prison with far more dignity than is found in the facade of a palace double its size—Hardy> <there was a dignity in his Client, an impressiveness in his speech, that silenced remonstrating Reason—Meredith>

Those who are just beginning to appreciate the idea of lending greater dignity to the worship of Almighty God—Mackenzie>

Very frequently in modern use the term suggests the compulsion of intrinsic worth or merit apart from any superficial characteristics that give it external beauty <the dignity of work> <the dignity of motherhood> <it matters not how trivial the occupation, if the man or woman be wholly given to it, there will be a natural compelling dignity in the figure—Binyon>

Ana beautiful or beauty, handsomeness, comeliness (see corresponding adjectives at BEAUTIFUL): fastidiousness, niceness or nicety, daintiness (see corresponding adjectives at NICE): perfection, *excellence: *taste (sense 2)

elegant adj exquisite, *choice, recherché, rare, dainty, delicate


element, component, constituent, ingredient, factor are comparable when they mean one of the parts, substances, or principles which make up a compound or complex thing. Element is, except in its specific sense in science, the most widely applicable of these terms, being referable both to material and immaterial and to tangible and intangible things <the native and foreign elements in English> <words are the elements of a sentence> <the basic element of his character> <his life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world "This was a man!"—Shak.>

Always in its scientific sense, often in its general sense, the term implies irreducible simplicity or, if applied to a substance, incapacity for separation into simpler substances <gold, silver, carbon, lead are among the chemical elements, or...>
ultimate building units of matter} <analyze the elements of a situation} <another element common to all novels is characterization—Jacoby} Component and constituent are often used interchangeably for any of the substances (whether elements or compounds) which enter into the makeup of a mixed thing or for any of the principles or qualities which comprise an intangible composite. Component, however, stresses the separate identity or distinguishable character of the substance; constituent stresses its essential and formative character <springs, gears, levers, pivots, and other components of a watch mechanism} <hydrogen and oxygen are the constituents of water} <the components of the typical novel are its plot, its characters, and its setting} <the components of knowledge can never be harmonized until all the relevant facts are in—De Voto} <break a ray of light into the colors which are its constituents} <the constituents of a perfume} Ingredient applies basically to any of the substances or materials which when combined form a particular mixture (as a drink, a medicine, a food, an alloy, or an amalgam} <the ingredients of a cocktail} <iron and carbon are the ingredients of steel} The term, however, may be extended to any component or constituent that can be thought of as added or as left out} <in this transaction every ingredient of a complete and legitimate contract is to be found—John Marshall} <two very necessary ingredients of the scientific process are curiosity and lack of haste—Sears} Factor is somewhat remotely synonymous with the foregoing words. The term is applicable to a constituent, element, or component only when the latter exerts an effectuating force enabling the whole of which it is a part to perform a certain kind of work, to produce a specific and definite result, or to move or trend in a particular direction <God is not one of the factors for which science has to account—Inge} <various factors entered the inception of the American enterprise—Ellis} <the word vitamins was coined to designate these essential food factors—Morison} 

**elemental**

* principle, fundamental: *part, portion, member: 
* item, detail, particular

**elementary**

* ultimate, categorical, absolute: *primary, prime, primordial

elementary, elemental are often confused. Something is elementary which pertains to rudiments or beginnings; something is elemental which pertains to the elements, especially to the ultimate and basic constituents or forces <an elementary treatise} <an elementary knowledge of physics} <an elementary virtue} <an elementary school} <the elemental sounds of language} <an elemental substance} <they . . . busied themselves with the elemental, enduring things: sex, fatherhood, work—Rose Macaulay

**ant**

* advanced

**elephantine**

* huge, vast, immense, enormous, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian

**elate**

* lift, raise, rear, hoist, heave, boost

**elicit**

* evoke, *educes, extract, extort

**eliminate**

* rule out, *exclude, debar, blacklist, disbar, suspend, shut out

**elite**

* society, *aristocracy, nobility, gentry, county

**ant**

* race

**ant**

* wing, extension, *annex

**elongate**

* lengthen, *extend, prolong, protract

**ant**

* abbreviate, shorten —Con abridge, curtail, re-trench (see shorten) shrink, compress, *contract

**eloquent**

* articulate, voluble, *vocal, fluent, glib

**ant**

* impassioned, passionate, fervid, perfervid, ardent, fervent: expressing, voicing, venting, uttering (see express vb) forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful

**ant**

* expressive, significant, meaningful, pregnant, sententious

**ant**

* reveal, disclosing, telling, betraying (see reveal) impressive, *moving, poignant, touching, affecting

**elucidate**

* interpret, construe, expound, *explain, explicate

**ant**

* illustrate, *exemplify: demonstrate, *prove

**elude**

* escape, evade, avoid, shun, eschew

**ant**

* thwart, foil, trick, trail, tag, tail

**emanate**

* issue, proceed, *spring, rise, originate, derive, flow, stem

**ant**

* emerge, loom, *appear: *begin, commence, start, initiate

**emancipate**

* manumit, enfranchise, *free, liberate, release, deliver, discharge

**emasculate**

* sterilize, castrate, spay, alter, mutilate, geld, cauponize

**ant**

* enervate, unman, *unnerve

**embarrass**

* touchy, perturbed, chagrined, discomfited, disconcerted, ritual, faze mean to balk by confusing or confusing, but each word is capable of expressing precise and distinctive shades of meaning. Embarrass characteristically implies some influence which impedes freedom of thought, speech, or action and may be used with reference not only to persons but also to the things they plan or desire to do <a course of legislation which . . . embarrassed all transactions between individuals, by dispensing with a faithful performance of engagements—John Marshall> When said of persons it commonly implies and often stresses resulting uneasiness or constraint <he had, he knew, a sort of charm—it embarrassed him even to admit it—Mary Austin> I was upset . . . and embarrassed by the crude and childish manner in which the townspeople were reduced to caricatures—J. M. Brown> Disconcert in this sense typically retains some of its basic denotation of to put to rout; in such use it implies opposition and the competence with which one opponent routs the other and crushes his self-esteem or self-complacency <an answer that completely disconcerted the brash young man> or throws him into confusion <Bradley's polemical irony and his obvious zest in using it, his habit of disconcerting an opponent with a sudden profession of ignorance, of inability to understand, or of incapacity for abstruse thought—T. S. Eliot> <the Prime Minister began badly. Disconcerted by Labor heckling from the front bench opposite, Eden lost his usual urbanity—Time> or, sometimes, thwarts his wishes, his hopes, or his plans (thieves disconcerted by a wakeful dog) <he practiced the Socratic method . . . and earned among generations of
discomfited students the designation Stinker Taussig—Lovett> At times discomfited is used with much weakened force and then loses its suggestion of active opponency and implies no more than to make uncomfortable or embarrass (it is discomfiting to recall the high hopes with which the states that had joined hands to defeat Fascism founded the United Nations—Sat. Review> he drew discomfited chuckles from them in response to his garish laughter—Straight>) (she may heckle the dealer, add a running commentary to the demonstrations, or just assume a discomfiting smugness—Fortune> Abash presupposes self-confidence or self-possession and implies a usually sudden check to that mood by some influence that awakens shyness or a conviction of error or inferiority or, sometimes, of shame (a man whom no denial, no scorn could abash—Fielding> abashed by the base motives she found herself attributing to Charlotte—Wharton> Disconcert, like embarrass, may be used in reference to actions and plans, but it is more frequently referred to persons. In either case it implies an upsetting or derangement; in the latter it suggests temporary loss of equanimity or of assurance (when she saw him there came that flicker of fun into her eyes that was so disconcerting to Mr. Ezra—Deland> Rattle more than disconcert stresses the emotional agitation accompanying the upset and implies a more complete disorganization of one's mental processes (the jeering rattled the team and caused them to play badly) (rattled by hypothetical eyes spying on her—Stafford> Faze is found chiefly in negative expressions, where it comes close to disconcert but sometimes carries the implications of abash and rattle (neither rebuffs nor threatens faze him in the least) (it hit Marciano flush on the right side of the jaw, but it didn't seem to faze him a bit—Liebling> 

Ana *discompose, disturb, perturb, fluster, flurry: be-wilder, nonplus, perplex (see PUZZLE): trouble, distress: vex, *annoy, bother, irk: impede, obstruct, block, *hinder: hamper, fetter, shackle, hog-tie
Ant relieve: facilitate

embellish beautiful, deck, bedeck, garnish, *adorn, decorate, ornament
Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify: apparel, array (see CLOTHE)
Con denude, *strip, bare, divest

embers *ash, cinders, clinkers

emblem attribute, *symbol, type
Ana device, motif, design, *figure, pattern: *sign, mark, token, badge

embodiment beautiful, deck, bedeck, garnish, *adorn, decorate, ornament
Ana enhance, heighten, *intensify: apparel, array (see CLOTHE)

emphasize, stress, accent, accentuation denote exerted force by which one thing stands out conspicuously among other things; they also often designate the effect produced or the means used in gaining this effect. Emphasis implies effort to bring out what is significant or important (he puts the emphasis on discipline in his teaching) (an effective orator knows how to be sparing in his use of emphasis) Sometimes it also suggests vigor or intensity of feeling (anyone, however ignorant, can feel the sustained dignity of the sculptor's work, which is asserted with all the emphasis he could put into it—Henry Adams> Stress, though often used interchangeably with emphasis, is distinguishable from it both in some of its implications and in its association with particular arts, where it has acquired specific meanings. It rarely loses entirely its original implication of weight that causes pressure or strain, though this is often merely suggested (I wouldn't lay too much stress on what you have been telling me," I observed quietly—Conrad> At times stress strongly implies urgency or insistency (Jane secretly approved his discernment. But all she said was, with her cool lack of stress, "It's not so bad"—Robert Louis Macaulay> In phonetics and prosody stress is the general term referring to the prominence given to certain syllables by force of utterance. It may also be used of the natural emphasis on certain words in a sentence. It
may even suggest degree of emphasis (there were volumes of innuendo in the way the “eventually” was spaced, and each syllable given its due stress—Wharton) Accent implies contrast for the sake of effect, very frequently an aesthetic effect. Accent carries no connotation of weight, but it strongly suggests relief in both senses, that of relieving monotony and that of bringing out sharply or into relief (the room was quiet and neutral in coloring, but it was given accent by bowls of bright flowers) (sun and sea, the heady fragrance of the plane trees, the tropical accent of palms—Cassidy) In prosody accent is the form of stress characteristic of English verse, akin to the beat in music and involving force in utterance. In English phonetics accent and stress are commonly used interchangeably. Since force of utterance (stress) is the principal means by which a syllable, a word, or a group of words is accentuated or brought into sharp contrast with the others, one may speak of syllabic accent or stress, or word accent or stress. Accentuation, though close to accent (except in technical senses), often goes beyond it in its emphasis on increased conspicuousness; it also often suggests disagreeableness in the contrast (the essential defect of their polity . . . . its excessive accentuation of the corporate aspect of life—Dickinson)

**employ** vb use, utilize, apply, avail

*Ana* practice, exercise, drill; engross, absorb, * monopolize; *choose, select, pick

**employment** work, occupation, business, calling, pursuit

*Ana* trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession

**empower** enable

*Ana* authorize, commission, accredit, license; train, instruct, discipline, *teach*; endow, endue (see DOWER)

*Con* debar, disbar, shut out, rule out, *exclude

**empty adj 1 Empty, vacant, blank, void, vacuous mean lacking the contents that could or should be present. Something is empty which has nothing in it; something is vacant which is without an occupant, incumbent, tenant, inmate, or the person or thing it appropriately contains (an empty bucket) (his purse was empty) (empty-handed) (a vacant professorship) (a vacant apartment) When qualifying the same nouns the words usually suggest distinctly different ideas; thus, an empty house has neither furniture nor occupants; a vacant house is without inmates and presumably for rent or for sale; an empty chair has no one sitting in it at the time; a vacant chair is one that has lost its usual occupant by death or other cause; an empty space has nothing in it; a vacant space is one left to be filled with what is appropriate (it] enabled him to fill a place which would else have been vacant—Hawthorne) Something, especially a surface, is blank which is free from writing or marks or which has vacant spaces that are left to be filled in (a blank page) (a blank application) Something is void which is absolutely empty so far as the senses can discover (a conscience void of offence) (sandy wilderness, all black and void—Wordsworth) (the void, hollow, universal air—Shelley) Something is vacuous which exhibits the absolute emptiness of a vacuum (the vacuous globe of an incandescent lamp)

In extended use the same distinctions hold: an empty mind is estitute of worthwhile ideas or knowledge; a vacant mind lacks its usual occupant, the soul or intellect; a blank look is without expression; a person is said to be void of learning or of common sense when not the slightest evidence of either one can be detected; a vacuous mind, look, or expression is so deficient in alertness or spirit as to suggest a vacuum in its innacity (the unthinking mind is not necessarily dull, rude, or impervious; it is probably simply empty—Eliot) (the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind—Goldsmith) (his eyes had that blank fixed gaze . . . that babies’ eyes have—M. E. Freeman) (it is dull and void as a work of art—Montague) (there was nothing to be read in the vacuous face, blank as a school notice board out of term—Greene)

*Ana* devoid, destitute, void: *bare, barren: exhausted, drained, depleted (see DEPLETE)

*Ant* full —*Con replete, complete (see FULL)

2 idle, hollow, *vain, nugatory, otiose


*Con* significant, meaningful, pregnant (see EXPRESSIVE); genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide

**empyrean, empyreal** celestial, heavenly

**emulate** rival, compete, vie

*Ana* imitate, *copy, ape: *match, equal, approach, touch

**emulous** ambitious

*Ana* aspiring, aiming, panting (see AIM vb); *eager, avid, keen, anxious, athish, agog

**enable, empower** are comparable when meaning to make one able to do something. In ordinary usage enable implies provision of the means or opportunity, empower, that granting of the power or the delegation of the authority, to do something (an income that enables him to live with dignity) (a letter empowering him to act in his father’s behalf) (to give to the Cathedral fund a sum sufficient to enable Father Latour to carry out his purpose—Cather) (these courts of appeal are also empowered to review and enforce orders of federal administrative bodies—Sayre)

*Ana* permit, allow, *let

*Con* forbid, prohibit, inhibit: *prevent, preclude

**enamored, infatuated** are very frequently used interchangeably, though with a loss in precision, in the sense of being passionately in love. Enamored usually connotes complete absorption in the passion (Elizabeth-Jane . . . did not fail to perceive that her father . . . and Donald Farfrae became more desperately enamored of her friend every day—Hardy) Infatuated, when applied to lovers and their acts, carries much the same implications as enamored but may add the implications of its primary sense (see FOND 1) of blind folly and unreasoning ardor (you, Scythrop Glovery, of Nightmare Abbey . . . infatuated with such a dancing . . . thoughtless, careless . . . thing as Marionetta—Peacock)

*Ana* bewitched, captivated, fascinated (see ATTRACT): fond, devoted, doting, *loving

**enchant** charm, captivate, allure, fascinate, bewitch, *attract

*Ana* delight, rejoice, gladden, gratify, *please

*Ant* disenchant

**enchanting** charming, captivating, alluring, fascinating, bewitching, attractive (see under ATTRACT)

*Ana* *delightful, delectable: *pleasant, pleasing, gratifying, *gratifying

*Con* repulsive, repugnant, revolting, loathsome, *offensive: distasteful, obnoxious, repellent, abhorrent, *repugnant

**encircle, enclose** vb enclose, envelop, fence, pen, coop, corral, cage, wall mean to surround so as to shut in or confine actually or apparently. Enclose implies a shutting in by barriers (as walls) or in an enveloping cover (as a case); the term may be used without connotations, or it may suggest protection, defense, privacy, or monastic seclusion (a high hedge encloses the garden) (the larger fir copes, when they are enclosed, are the resort of all

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
kinds of birds of prey yet left in the south—Jefferies | you will find enclosed our price list | walked across the enclosed porch, knocked, and opened the inside door—Bradbury | Envelop (see also COVER) implies enclosure in or by something usually yielding or penetrable that surrounds it on all sides and serves to screen it, to protect it, or to separate it from others | each specimen was enveloped in cotton and packed in a box | the heart is enveloped by a serous sac, called the pericardium | clouds envelop the mountaintops | drew off his coat and enveloped him in a white robe—Krey | Fence in this sense is usually followed by in or about and means only to enclose with or as if with a fence (as by a row of palings, a wall, or a hedge); the term usually connotes a means of barring trespassers, of keeping animals from wandering about or intruding, or of securing privacy | the farm was fenced about with a stone wall | we will have to fence in the garden with wire netting to keep out the rabbits | (the chickens were not fenced in) | a tall hedge of hemlocks fenced in the estate | In extended use the term is a synonym of enclose only when that by which a thing is shut in is a man-made barrier | the men themselves were fenced by etiquette—Emerson | (fenced by your careful fathers, ringed by your leaden porches) | you will find enclosed our price list | with narrow limits and suggests irksome restraint <the troops were penned in by conventions> | would scatter, escape, or flee if not securely confined | vitamins are being brought under control—One by one and the proteins are being brought under control | In extended use the term is a synonym of enclose only when that by which a thing is shut in is a man-made barrier | the men themselves were fenced by etiquette—Emerson | (fenced by your careful fathers, ringed by your leaden porches) | you will find enclosed our price list | closure but it carries even a stronger implication of confinement in or as if in an enclosure with narrow limits | by your careful fathers, ringed by your leaden porches (fenced in) | <they are at present cooped up in a very small apartment) | (her illness has kept her cooped in for a week) | Corral implies a shutting up in or as if in a strongly fenced enclosure and is used primarily of animals or persons who would scatter, escape, or flee if not securely confined | (at night they corralled their horses) | (here they corralled us [prisoners] to the number of seven or eight thousand—Century) | In extended use corral may largely lose its basic notion of shutting up and stress, rather, the difficulty of catching or bringing under control (the vitamins are being corralled one by one and the proteins are being brought under control—Furnas) | Cage is often used, especially with in or up, to imply confinement with severe or humiliating restrictions | (I don't stay caged in my shop all day—George Eliot) | (the feeling of caged muscular tightness has provoked a fairly widespread desire to emigrate from Britain—Chamberlain) | Wall means enclosed by a wall which may be material or may be made in or by something usually yielding or penetrable that surrounds it on all sides and serves to screen it, to protect it, or to separate it from others | <you will find enclosed our price list> | <wall circumscribe, confine (see LIMIT)> | encounter vb *meet, face, confront | Ana collide, conflict, clash, *bump: brave, beard, defy, challenge (see FACE) | encounter n Encounter, skirmish, brush. In their military senses (compare BATTLE), an encounter is a sudden hostile meeting that is typically both violent and unexpected; a skirmish, a slight and desultory, often preliminary, encounter, commonly between light detachments of troops; a brush, a short but brisk skirmish. All three words are used of other than military contests | a sharp encounter of wits | (a skirmish preliminary to a political campaign) | (a brush between opposing legal counsel) | Ana battle, engagement: *contest, conflict, fight, fray; clash, collision, *impact, impingement | encourage 1 Encourage, inspire, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel | mean to fill with courage or strength of purpose especially in preparation for a hard task or purpose. Encourage in its basic and still common sense implies the raising of confidence to such a height that one dares to do or to bear what is difficult; it then usually suggests an external agent or agency stimulating one to action or endurance | (the teacher's praise encouraged him to utter freely even his most shocking thoughts—Russell) | Sometimes it may suggest merely an increase in strength of purpose or in responsiveness to advice or inducement fostered by a person or an influence or event | (there they listened, and retained what they could remember, for they were not encouraged to take notes—Henry Adams) | Encourage is often used with an im-
personal object, sometimes as if the object were a person <we wish to encourage no vice> but often as if it were the object not of encourage but of an elisions meaning to encourage a person or persons to act (as by doing, making, forming, or using) <they are donations to education; donations, which any government must be disposed . . . to encourage—John Marshall> (if a state sees fit to encourage steam laundries and discourage hand laundries, that is its own affair—Justice Holmes) **Inspire** is chiefly literary; it retains its implication of putting spirit into, especially in the sense of life, energy, courage, or vigor, and therefore often comes close to enliven or to animate in meaning (those great men, who, by their writings, inspirited the people to resistance—Buckley) (the early tea which was to inspire them for the dance—George Eliot) **how inspiring** to escape from here and now and wander wildly in a world of lutes and roses—Woolf (the book is an astonishing and inspiring record of what human ingenuity can accomplish—Basil Davenport) **Hearten** implies a putting heart into and carries suggestions that are stronger than those carried by either encourage or inspire. It presupposes a state of low courage, depression, despondency, or indifference and therefore implies a building up of mind or spirit that rouses one with fresh courage and zeal (qrs.), which both strengthen our resources and hearten our endeavors—Conant) (people . . . who were merry or wise or comforting or revealing, whose presence either heartened the spirit or kindled the mind—Jan Struther) **Embolden** implies a giving of boldness to or, more especially, a giving of just enough courage or bravery to do what one wants to do or is expected to do and suggests not brazenness but an overcoming of timidity or reluctance (she was emboldened to descend and meet him under the protection of visitors—Austen) **emboldened** by the utter stillness pervading the room he addressed himself to Mrs. Fyne—Conrad) **Cheer** in its basic sense is very close to hearten and implies a renewing of flagging strength of mind, body, or spirit (drink the cup that cheers) (my royal father, cheer these noble lords and hearten those that fight in your defense—Shak.) But **cheer** (usually with on) may also imply a more vigorous encouraging (as by applause, commendation, or aid) intended not merely to strengthen and refresh but to stimulate to the utmost or sometimes to an ultimate attempt to do, succeed, or conquer (cheering on the home team) (as to some great advent'rous fight this brave cheers these dastards all he can—Daniel) **Nerve** comes close to embolden in meaning, but it implies a harder task to be performed and the need of summoning all one's powers to accomplish it; the term therefore connotes greater effort or greater impulsion from within than the other words (the open resistance of the northern barons nerved the rest of their order to action—J. R. Green) (nerving myself with the thought that if I got crushed by the fall I should probably escape a lingering and far more painful death, I dropped into the cloud of foliation beneath me—Hudson) **Steel**, like nerve, may imply a great effort or impulsion from within, but it who also suggests an imparting from without, either of which gives a man the power to endure or to accomplish something by making him insensible to pain, suffering, or insults, and by filling him with resolution or determination (O God of battles, steel my soldiers' hearts, possess them not with fear—Shak.) **Ana** stimulate, excite, *provoke, quicken, pique, galvanize: *strengthen, fortify, energize, invigorate: rally, *stir *Ant* discourage —**Con** dishearten, dispirit, deject (see **DISCOURAGE**) **2 favor, countenance** **Ana** sanction, endorse, *approve: *incite, instigate, abet: *induce, prevail **Ant** discourage —**Con** deter, *dissuade, divert: *restrain, inhibit **encroach** *trespass, entrench, infringe, invade **Ana** *enter, penetrate, pierce, probe: *intrude, butt in, obtrude, interloipe: interfere, intervene, *interpose **encumber** *burden, cumber, weigh, weight, load, lade, tax, charge, saddle **Ana** commode, incommodate, *inconvenience: clog, fetter, *hamper: impede, obstruct, block (see **HINDER**) **end n** 1 *limit, bound, term, confine **Ana** *extreme, extremity 2 **End, termination, ending, terminus** are comparable when opposed to beginning or starting point and meaning the point or line beyond which a thing does not or cannot go (as in time or space or magnitude). **End** is not only the ordinary but also the most inclusive of these terms, and it may be used of almost any final limit and in such varied applications as time (the end of a period) (at the end of his life) or space (the end of the road) or movement or action (the end of his journey) or magnitude (there is no end to his energy) or range of possibility (his statement put an end to speculation) **Termination** and ending apply especially to the end in time or, less often, in space of something that is brought to a close typically as having a set term or bounds or predetermined limits or as being complete, finished, or futile (the termination of a lease) (the termination of the period agreed upon) (the termination of a search) (a fair beginning but a bad ending) (the maiden sang as if her song could have no ending—Wordsworth) **Terminus** applies to the end (often in clear opposition to starting point) to which a person or a thing moves or progresses. The term usually suggests spatial relations and often indicates a definite point or place (the terminus of his tour) (New York is the terminus of several important railroads) (an airway terminus) (the object is the starting point, not the terminus, of an act of perception—Jeans) **Ana** closing or close, concluding or conclusion, finishing or finish, completion (see corresponding verbs at **CLOSE**): culmination, climax (see **SUMMIT**): term, bound, *limit **Ant** beginning —**Con** inception, *origin, source, root 3 objective, goal, aim, object, *intention, intent, purpose, design **Ana** destiny, *fate, lot, doom, portion: *function, office, duty **end vb** *close, conclude, terminate, finish, complete **Ant** begin —**Con** commence, start, initiate, inaugurate (see **BEGIN**): originate, derive, arise, rise, *spring **endanger** *venture, hazard, risk, chance, jeopardize, imperil **Ana** encounter, confront, *meet, face: dare, brave (see **FACE**): *incur, contract, catch **endeavor vb** *attempt, try, essay, strive, struggle **Ana** apply, devote, *direct, address: determine, resolve, *decide **endeavor n** essay, striving, struggle, attempt, try (see under **ATTEMPT vb**) **Ana** toil, labor, travail, *work: *effort, exertion, pains, trouble **enemic adj** indigenous, *native, autochthonous, aboriginal **Ant** exotic: pandemic —**Con** foreign, alien, extraneous, *extrinsic **ending n** *end, termination, terminus
### endless

**Ana, Ant, & Con** see those at END n 2

#### endless
- **interminable**: *everlasting, unceasing*
- **last, abide, persist**: *continue*
- **immortal**: *immaterial*

#### endure
- **transient, fugitive, passing**: short-lived
- **ephemeral, evanescent**: *transitory*

#### endorse
- **vouch, attest**: *certify*
- **promote, advocate**: *advocate*

#### endow
- **bestow, confer**: *grant*
- **grant, award, accord**: *bestow*

#### endow, dower
- **clothe, invest, vest**: *invest*

#### empower, enable
- **stir, rally, rouse, arouse**: *stimulate*
- **dynamic, live**: *energetic, vigorous*

#### energize
- **vitalize, activate**: *energize*
- **vigor, lusty, nervous**: *vigorously*

#### denote
- **individual or body of individuals**: *enemy, foe*

#### dynamic, activity, operativeness or operation (see corresponding adjectives at ACTIVE): momentum, impetus, *speed, velocity*

#### inertia — **weakness, feebleness, decrepitude** (see corresponding adjectives at WEAK): *powerlessness, impotence* (see corresponding adjectives at POWERLESS)

#### enervate
- **nerve**: *vitalize*
- **感官**: *energize*

#### enfeebled, debilitate
- **weaken, undermine, sap**: *disapprove*

#### enfeeble
- **weaken, debilitate, sap, undermine**: *diminish*

#### enfeeble, sicken
- **weaken, debilitate**: *vitalize*

#### enfranchise
- **emancipate, manumit**: *free*

#### enforce
- **implement**: *execute*

#### engage
- **pledge, plight**: *engage*

#### engagement
- **promise, covenant, contract**: *engage*

#### engagement 1
- **tryst, assignation, date**: *promote*

---

**Ana** analogous words  
**Ant** antonyms  
**Con** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
because of the exigencies of his office, his profession, or his position in life must keep a calendar and apportion his time carefully among those who wish to consult him professionally or confer with him (the governor sees visitors only by appointment) (the doctor's secretary said it was impossible to make an appointment before Thursday) Rendezvous may designate a place agreed upon for the meeting of persons, often a group of persons (the old soldiers made the town hall their rendezvous) but it usually connotes a pledge or covenant (often an implicit one) to meet someone or something that cannot be escaped without violation of one's honor (this generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny—Roosevelt) Tryst is chiefly poetic; like rendezvous, it may designate the place of meeting (which, however, is more often termed trysting place) as well as the agreement to meet at a certain place, but the latter is the commoner denotation of a tryst (a lover's tryst) (hurrying to keep their tryst in the wood) Assignment usually denotes a lovers' tryst, but it commonly conveys a suggestion of an illicit love or of a clandestine meeting (make assignments for them with ladies of the street—Shaw) Date is used especially of casual engagements between friends or of an agreed meeting between a young man and young woman (remembering suddenly he had a riding date with Major Thompson's wife at 12:30—James Jones) 2 battle, action Ana *encounter, skirmish, brush: *contest, conflict, combat, fight engaging *sweet, winning, winsome, dulcet Ana alluring, attracting, enchanting, captivating (see under ATTRACT vb): *interesting, intriguing Ant loathsome engender *generate, breed, beget, get, sire, procreate, propagate, reproduce Ana produce, *bear, yield: *provoke, excite, stimulate, quicken: rouse, arouse (see STIR) engine *machine, mechanism, machinery, apparatus, motor engineer vb *guide, pilot, lead, steer Ana manage, direct, *conduct, control engrave *incise, *carve, etch, sculpture, sculpt, sculpt, chisel Ana delineate, depict, limn, portray (see REPRESENT): imprint, impress, print (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION) engross *monopolize, absorb, consume Ana utilize, employ, *use, apply: control, manage (see CONDUCT) Con distract, bewilder (see PUZZLE): dissipate, *scatter, disperse engrossed absorbed, *intent, rapt Ana monopolized, consumed (see MONOPOLIZE): fixed, set, settled (see set vb): busy, industrious, diligent, sedulous, assiduous Con distracted, bewildered (see PUZZLE vb): distraught (see ABSTRACTED): *indifferent, unconcerned, detached, uninterested, disinterested engrossing *interesting, absorbing, intriguing Ana monopolizing, consuming (see MONOPOLIZE): controlling, managing, directing (see CONDUCT vb): transporting, ravishing, enrapturing, entering (see TRANSPORT) Ant irksome enhance heighten, *intensify, aggravate Ana *lift, elevate, raise: *exalt, magnify, aggravize: augment, *increase: *adorn, embellish, beautify Con diminish, reduce, lessen, *decrease: attenuate, extenuate, *thin: belittle, minimize, depreciate, detract (see DECAY) enigma riddle, puzzle, conundrum, *mystery, problem enigmatic cryptic, *obscure, dark, vague, ambiguous, equivocal Ana puzzling, perplexing, mystifying, bewildering (see PUZZLE vb): abstruse, occult, esoteric, *recondite: dubious, problematic, *doubtful Ant explicit —Con express, specific, definite (see EXPLICIT): *clear, perspicuous, lucid: plain, candid, open, *frank enjoin 1 direct, order, *command, bid, instruct, charge Ana advise, counsel (see under ADVICE): admonish (see REPROVE): *warn, forewarn, caution 2 interdict, prohibit, *forbid, inhibit, ban Ana debar, shut out, rule out (see EXCLUDE): bar, *hinder, impede Con permit, allow, *let, suffer enjoy 1 *like, love, relish, fancy, dote Ana delight, rejoice, gratify, gladden, regale, tickle, *please Ant loathe, abhor, abominate —Con *hate, detest: despirit, contemn, scorn *possess, own, *have, hold enjoyment delight, *pleasure, joy, delectation, fruition Ana delighting, rejoicing, gratifying, regaling, gladdening, pleasing (see PLEASE): *happiness, felicity, bliss, beatitude: zest, relish, gusto, *taste Ant abhorrence —Con aversion, *antipathy: distastefulness or distaste, repugnance, repellency or repulsion (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT) enlarge *increase, augment, multiply Ana *extend, lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract: amplify, *expand, distend, dilate, inflate: magnify, aggrandize (see EXALT) Con *thin, attenuate, extenuate: abridge, abbreviate, *shorten, curtail, retrench: compress, shrink, *contract, condense: *compact, concentrate enlighten illustrate, *illuminate, illumine, light, lighten Ana educate, instruct, train, *teach, school: *inform, apprise, acquaint, advise Ant confuse, muddle —Con mystify, perplex, *puzzle, bewilder: addle, fuddle (see CONFUSE) enliven animate, *quicken, vivify Ana refresh, *renew, restore, rejuvenate: stimulate, excite, quicken, galvanize, *provoke: entertain, recreate, divert, *amuse: inspire, fire, *inform, animate Ant deaden: subdued —Con *depress, oppress, weigh enmesh *entangle, involve Ana ensnare, entrap, snare, trap, capture, *catch: *hamper, clog, hog-tie, fetter Con *extricate, disentangle, untangle, disenthrall: disengage, *detach enmity, hostility, antipathy, antagonism, animosity, rancor, animus mean intense deep-seated dislike or ill will or a manifestation of such a feeling. Enmity implies more than the absence of amity or a friendly spirit: it suggests positive hatred which may or may not be dormant or concealed (I will put enmity between thee and the woman—Gen 3:15) The angriest friendship is sometimes as bad as calm enmity—Burke Hostility suggests strong and usually open enmity manifesting itself actually (as in warfare, in violent attacks, or in ostracism) (the unremitting hostility with which . . . [those poems] have each and all been opposed—Wordsworth) If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility —Longfellow Antipathy and antagonism usually imply a temperamental or constitutional basis for one's hatred
or dislike. Antipathy suggests aversion or repugnance and often, in consequence, avoidance or repulsion of the person or thing hated (<i>inveterate antipathies</i> against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded—Washington) <i>(find it so hard to conceal his antipathy that he could not understand the way in which Dayrell went out of his way to cultivate his society—Mackenzie)</i> Antagonism stresses the clash of temperaments and the quickness with which hostilities are provoked or the spirit of resistance is aroused <i>(Karl Marx believed that the hostility of one nation to another will come to an end when the antagonism between classes within these nations vanishes)</i> (some note of viceregal authority must have lingered in her voice for the caretaker's antagonism changed to a sort of bedraggled obsequiousness—Sackville-West) Animosities and rancor denote emotions of such intensity or violence that they may, if not given release, provide the ground for active hostility. Animosity usually suggests anger, vindictiveness, and sometimes a desire to destroy or injure one what hates <i>(the Bishop had let the parish alone, giving their animosity plenty of time to cool—Cather)</i> <i>(her hatred of the idea of it was intensified into a violent animosity—Bennett)</i> Rancor stresses bitterness and ill will amounting to malevolence; it often implies the nursing of a grudge or grievance <i>('tis not my speeches that you do mislike, but 'tis my presence that doth trouble ye. Rancor will out: proud pretale, in thy face, I see thy fury—Shak.)</i> <i>(small wonder at her feeling of an unchristian rancor against the nation which had caused his death—Forester)</i> Animus suggests less emotional violence than animosity, but it implies more definitely a prejudice or ill will that seeks to find expression <i>(there was no mistake of his intentions; he had transferred his animus to me, convinced I was to blame for his rejection—Heiser)</i> <i>Con</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>Ana</i> *exalt, magnify: elevate, raise, *lift: heighten, enchant, captivate, fascinate, *attract*<i>ensign</i> <i>*flag, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, flag, pennon, jack</i> <i>enseignes</i> <i>nabre, entrap, trap, bag, *catch, capture</i> <i>ensnare</i> <i>*lure, entice, inveigle, decoy</i> <i>ensure</i> <i>*follow, succeed, supervene</i> <i>ensurance, insuring</i> <i>ensures</i> <i>inure</i> <i>*lure, entice, inveigle, decoy</i> <i>ensurance</i> <i>secure</i> <i>inure</i> <i>secure</i> *deny, protect, greatfy, charm, enchant, captivate, fascinate, *attract}*<i>enamor</i> <i>*friendship, comity, analogous words</i> *grow, increase, multiply, augment*<i>enlarge</i> <i>*transport, ravish, entrance</i> <i>enrapture</i> <i>*lure, entice, inveigle, decoy</i> <i>ensnare</i> *strike, attack, assault*<i>enthral</i> <i>*transport, ravish, entrance</i> *secure, protect, defend, *defend: shelter, lodge (see harbor)*<i>encompass</i> *expose, exhibit, display, *show*<i>ensign</i> *flag, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pennon, jack*<i>ensnare</i> *snare, entrap, trap, bag, *catch, capture*<i>ensure</i> *follow, succeed, supervene*<i>ensurance, insuring</i> *issue, emanate, proceed, stem, *spring, derive, originate, rise, arise; pursue, *follow, chase*<i>ensurance, assurance, ensure</i> *are comparable because they all carry the underlying meaning to make a person or thing sure. Ensure, insure, and assure all indicate a making of an outcome or event sure, certain, or inevitable as a consequence or concomitant. Ensure in such use may come very close to guarantee (good farming practices that go far toward ensuring good harvests) <i>(concern rules of conduct for the purpose of ensuring the safety and victory of the absent warriors—Frazer)</i> <i>(for the remainder of his life he so constrained the expression of his thoughts as to ensure his safety—H. O. Taylor)</i> <i>Insure</i> is often interchangeable with ensure (shipbuilders, who wished to insure a profitable career for their vessels—<i>Amer. Guide Series: Mich.</i>) <i>(the structural division of the buildings, with no more than four apartments opening on any hallway, insures privacy and quiet—<i>Amer. Guide Series: N. Y. City</i>) but it is also the general word for reference to making certain arrangements for indemnification for loss by contingent events (to insure the car against theft and fire damage) Assure may in its more general use be indistinguishable from ensure and assure (protected by game laws and reared in state hatcheries, this bird is now assured a permanent place among the game birds of the state—<i>Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.</i>) <i>(policies and plans for assuring the necessary labor force for defense and essential civilian production—<i>Current Bio</i>)</i> but distinctively it more definitely expresses the notion of removal of doubt, uncertainty, or worry from a person's mind (<i>I assured him that I was far from advising him to do anything so cruel—Conrad</i>) <i>(assured the inhabitants that France intended to grant autonomy—<i>Current Bio</i>)</i> Secure implies pur- posive action to ensure safety, protection, or certainty
entangle

Enter, penetrate, pierce, probe are comparable when meaning to catch or to hold as if in a net from which it is difficult to escape. Entangle usually carries the implications of impeding and of the difficulty or impossibility of escape; although basically the word implies being caught in a net, a snare, or a maze, it may suggest only a condition that is similar in forming a complication of difficulties (the fly became entangled in the spider's web and could not escape) (like a bird entangled in a snare) (entangle themselves in the mazes of sophistry) (the firm is entangled in financial difficulties) (peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none—Jefferson) (had entangled the king in a false marriage with her—Sitwell) Involve (see also INVOLVE 3; compare involved under COMPLEX) implies the addition, often the conscious addition, of ideas, words, or projects which tend to make difficulties (as by confusing or perplexing) for oneself or another (his sentences are involved because he tries to express too many ideas) (the controversies . . . moved on in all their ugliness to involve others—J. M. Brown) (I plead frankly for the theistic hypothesis as involving fewer difficulties than any other—Inge) Enmesh comes very close to entangle in meaning but may be preferred when those involved in or as if in the meshes of a net is strongly felt (declining to haul up the net when the fish were already enmeshed—Grote) (his eye was enmeshed in no tangle of foreground, but was led across great tracts of country to the distant mountains—Binyon) Ana *hamper, trammel, fetter, clog, hog-tie: *embarrass, discomfit: ennourse, snare, entrap, trap, capture, *catch Ant disentangle —Con untangle, *extricate: disengage, *detach

entente treaty, pact, compact, concordat, convention, cartel, *contract, bargain

enter 1 Enter, penetrate, pierce, probe are comparable when meaning to make way into something so as to reach or pass through the interior. Enter (see also ENTER 2) is the most comprehensive of these words and the least explicit in its implications. When the word takes a person for its subject, it often means little more than to go in or to go into (he entered the house) (came riding out of Asia on the very first horses to enter Africa—G. W. Murray) but sometimes it also suggests the beginning of a course of study, a career, or a proceeding (enter college) (enter Parliament) (there are many who are aghast at the type of world which we are now entering, in which a war could cause obliteration—Vannevar Bush) When enter takes a thing for its subject, it implies a making way through some medium and especially a dense or resisting medium (the rain could not enter the frozen earth) (the bullet entered the body near the heart) (such an idea never entered his mind) Penetrate (see also PERMEATE) carries a far stronger implication than enter of an impelling force or of a compelling power that makes for entrance (the salt rain . . . penetrates the thickest coat—Jefferys) and it also more often suggests resistance in the medium (Frémont had tried to penetrate the Colorado Rockies—Cather) (his sight could not penetrate the darkness) It may imply either a reaching the center or a passing through and an issuing on the further side (penetrate the depths of a forest) (armor plate so thick that no cannonball can penetrate it) Penetrate, especially as an intransitive verb, often specifically takes as its subject something that is intangible or at least not objective but that has (in affirmative expressions) the power of making its way through (the influence of Christianity has penetrated to the ends of the earth) (a penetrating odor) (a penetrating voice) Often also, as distinguished from the other terms, penetrate suggests the use of a keen mind or the exercise of powers of intuition or discernment in the understanding of the abstruse or mysterious (we cannot penetrate the mind of the Absolute—Inge) (in seeking to penetrate the essential character of European art—Binyon) (Aunty Rosa could penetrate certain kinds of hypocrisy, but not all—Kipling) Pierce in the earliest of its English senses implies a running through with a sharp-pointed instrument (as a sword, a spear, or a knife) (they pierced both plate and mail—Spenser) In all of its extended senses it carries a far stronger implication than penetrate of something that stabs or runs through or of something that cuts into the very center or through to the further side (feel the piercing cold in every nerve) (a passion like a sword blade that pierced me through and through—Lindsay) (how was one to pierce such hidebound complacency?—Mackenzie) Often the term imparts great poignancy or aesthetic effectiveness beyond what is usual to the thing that pierces (the remembrance of all that made life dear pierced me to the core—Hudso) (whatever is expressed with ant—whether it be a lover's despair or a metaphorical outcry—pierces the mind and compels assent and acceptance—Huxley) Probe derives its implications from the earliest of its senses, to explore (as a wound, a cavity, or the earth) with a long slender instrument especially in order to determine depth, condition, or contents. In its extended senses it implies penetration so far as circumstances allow or so far as one's powers or skills permit, and it usually suggests an exploratory or investigatory aim (the hog or peat was ascertained, on probing it with an instrument, to be at least fifteen feet thick—Lyell) (the only one . . . with whom he cared to probe into things a little deeper than the average level of club and chophouse banter—Wharton) In some cases probe means little more than to investigate thoroughly (as by questioning those in a position to know facts) (a rascally calumnny, which I was determined to probe to the bottom—Scott) Ana invade, entrench, *tresspass, encroach: *intrude, butt in: *begin, commence, start Ant issue from

2 Enter, introduce, admit are comparable when they mean to cause or permit to go in or get in. Enter, in its causative sense, is used chiefly in idiomatic phrases, though occasionally it is employed in the sense to drive or force in (he could not enter the wedge between the layers of rock) In idiomatic use it commonly implies writing down (as in a list, a roll, a catalogue, or a record), but in some of these phrases it also connotes the observance of other formalities; thus, to enter a word in a dictionary is to list it in alphabetical order and define its meaning; to enter one's son at a private school is to send in his name as a candidate for admission: to enter a judgment is to put it upon record in the proper legal form and order (the judge could enter a judgment of conviction and send Woodfall to prison—Chafee) Introduce is often preferred to enter when it implies insertion (the painter who was introducing a tree into his landscape—Ellis) (when a bit of finely fluted platinum is introduced into a chamber containing oxygen and sulphur dioxide—T. S. Eliot) (Aunt Harriet met introduced herself through the doorway . . . into the interior of the vehicle—Bennett) It is the precise word when used of things not native and brought into a country or locality for the first time (plants introduced into America by the

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

* thrill, electrify

Enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

enthusiasm

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

entertainment

entertain 1

n

Ant

analogue words

* dinner, banquet, feast: play, sport, disport (see ADVERTISE)

beguile, *while, wile

enthusiasm

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

denote a person who manifests excessive ardor, fervor, or devotion in his attachment to some cause, idea, party, or church.

Enthusiast commonly denotes a person of keen and ardent interests and may carry either favorable or unfavorable connotations (as of mental or spiritual vitality or of a subordination of judgment to enthusiasm) (increasing number of chess enthusiasts) (folk-singing enthusiasts) (we are a nation of enthusiasts—Meeker). In earlier use and still in historical works the term applies particularly to a preacher, a member of a religious sect, or, sometimes, a poet who claims to be immediately inspired or who outwardly manifests signs (as rapture, madness, or intense emotionalism) associated with divine inspiration or possession by a god. In such context the term has been applied more or less contemptuously to a member of one of the strongly evangelical sects that arose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (the visions, voices, revelations of the enthusiast—Glanvill) (harmonic twang! . . . such as from lab’ring lungs th’ enthusiast blows—Pope) * Fanatic, even more than enthusiast, carries a hint of madness or irrationality. In contrast to enthusiast, however, the term suggests extreme monomaniac devotion and a concentration of attention, sometimes on the end to be gained but, possibly more often, on the chosen means to one’s end regardless of the real value of that end. * Fanatic, therefore, in distinction from enthusiast, connotes determination, often silent determination, and an uncompromising temper (a virtuous fanatic, narrow, passionate . . . regarding all ways as wrong but his own—Froude) * a fanatic, in Santayana’s famous definition, is a man who redoubles his efforts after he has forgotten his aims—Waters) * this creature Man, who in his own selfish affairs is a coward to the backbone, will fight for an idea like a hero. He may be abject as a citizen; but he is dangerous as a fanatic—Shaw) Zealot often implies fanaticism; it suggests ardent devotion, but it distictively emphasizes vehement activity in the service of one’s cause, party, or church. It may or may not connote blinding partisanshhip, but it usually suggests jealous vigilance in pro-
tecting one’s beliefs or institutions <for modes of faith let graceless zealots fight—Pope> * a furious zealot may think he does God service by persecuting one of a different sect—Gilpin) * Bigot implies obstinate, often blind, devotion to one’s own (especially religious) beliefs or opinions; as compared with fanatic and zealot, the term implies dogged intolerance and contempt for those who do not agree, rather than enthusiasm or zeal <the hell that bigots frame to punish those who err—Shelley> * one of the marks of a bigot is that he thinks he does a service to God when he persecutes his fellowmen—Gillis)

Ant

devotee, votary, *addict

entice *lure, inveigle, decoy, tempt, seduce

enthusiasm

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiastic

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiast

fanatic, zealot, bigot

Enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

denote a person who manifests excessive ardor, fervor, or devotion in his attachment to some cause, idea, party, or church.

Enthusiast commonly denotes a person of keen and ardent interests and may carry either favorable or unfavorable connotations (as of mental or spiritual vitality or of a subordination of judgment to enthusiasm) (increasing number of chess enthusiasts) (folk-singing enthusiasts) (we are a nation of enthusiasts—Meeker). In earlier use and still in historical works the term applies particularly to a preacher, a member of a religious sect, or, sometimes, a poet who claims to be immediately inspired or who outwardly manifests signs (as rapture, madness, or intense emotionalism) associated with divine inspiration or possession by a god. In such context the term has been applied more or less contemptuously to a member of one of the strongly evangelical sects that arose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (the visions, voices, revelations of the enthusiast—Glanvill) (harmonic twang! . . . such as from lab’ring lungs th’ enthusiast blows—Pope) * Fanatic, even more than enthusiast, carries a hint of madness or irrationality. In contrast to enthusiast, however, the term suggests extreme monomaniac devotion and a concentration of attention, sometimes on the end to be gained but, possibly more often, on the chosen means to one’s end regardless of the real value of that end. * Fanatic, therefore, in distinction from enthusiast, connotes determination, often silent determination, and an uncompromising temper (a virtuous fanatic, narrow, passionate . . . regarding all ways as wrong but his own—Froude) * a fanatic, in Santayana’s famous definition, is a man who redoubles his efforts after he has forgotten his aims—Waters) * this creature Man, who in his own selfish affairs is a coward to the backbone, will fight for an idea like a hero. He may be abject as a citizen; but he is dangerous as a fanatic—Shaw) Zealot often implies fanaticism; it suggests ardent devotion, but it distictively emphasizes vehement activity in the service of one’s cause, party, or church. It may or may not connote blinding partisanshhip, but it usually suggests jealous vigilance in pro-
tecting one’s beliefs or institutions <for modes of faith let graceless zealots fight—Pope> * a furious zealot may think he does God service by persecuting one of a different sect—Gilpin) * Bigot implies obstinate, often blind, devotion to one’s own (especially religious) beliefs or opinions; as compared with fanatic and zealot, the term implies dogged intolerance and contempt for those who do not agree, rather than enthusiasm or zeal <the hell that bigots frame to punish those who err—Shelley> * one of the marks of a bigot is that he thinks he does a service to God when he persecutes his fellowmen—Gillis)

Ant

devotee, votary, *addict

entice *lure, inveigle, decoy, tempt, seduce

enthusiasm

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiastic

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiast

fanatic, zealot, bigot

Enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

denote a person who manifests excessive ardor, fervor, or devotion in his attachment to some cause, idea, party, or church.

Enthusiast commonly denotes a person of keen and ardent interests and may carry either favorable or unfavorable connotations (as of mental or spiritual vitality or of a subordination of judgment to enthusiasm) (increasing number of chess enthusiasts) (folk-singing enthusiasts) (we are a nation of enthusiasts—Meeker). In earlier use and still in historical works the term applies particularly to a preacher, a member of a religious sect, or, sometimes, a poet who claims to be immediately inspired or who outwardly manifests signs (as rapture, madness, or intense emotionalism) associated with divine inspiration or possession by a god. In such context the term has been applied more or less contemptuously to a member of one of the strongly evangelical sects that arose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (the visions, voices, revelations of the enthusiast—Glanvill) (harmonic twang! . . . such as from lab’ring lungs th’ enthusiast blows—Pope) * Fanatic, even more than enthusiast, carries a hint of madness or irrationality. In contrast to enthusiast, however, the term suggests extreme monomaniac devotion and a concentration of attention, sometimes on the end to be gained but, possibly more often, on the chosen means to one’s end regardless of the real value of that end. * Fanatic, therefore, in distinction from enthusiast, connotes determination, often silent determination, and an uncompromising temper (a virtuous fanatic, narrow, passionate . . . regarding all ways as wrong but his own—Froude) * a fanatic, in Santayana’s famous definition, is a man who redoubles his efforts after he has forgotten his aims—Waters) * this creature Man, who in his own selfish affairs is a coward to the backbone, will fight for an idea like a hero. He may be abject as a citizen; but he is dangerous as a fanatic—Shaw) Zealot often implies fanaticism; it suggests ardent devotion, but it distictively emphasizes vehement activity in the service of one’s cause, party, or church. It may or may not connote blinding partisanshhip, but it usually suggests jealous vigilance in pro-
tecting one’s beliefs or institutions <for modes of faith let graceless zealots fight—Pope> * a furious zealot may think he does God service by persecuting one of a different sect—Gilpin) * Bigot implies obstinate, often blind, devotion to one’s own (especially religious) beliefs or opinions; as compared with fanatic and zealot, the term implies dogged intolerance and contempt for those who do not agree, rather than enthusiasm or zeal <the hell that bigots frame to punish those who err—Shelley> * one of the marks of a bigot is that he thinks he does a service to God when he persecutes his fellowmen—Gillis)

Ant

devotee, votary, *addict

entice *lure, inveigle, decoy, tempt, seduce

enthusiasm

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiastic

fervor, ardor, *passion, zeal

enthusiast

fanatic, zealot, bigot

Enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

denote a person who manifests excessive ardor, fervor, or devotion in his attachment to some cause, idea, party, or church.

Enthusiast commonly denotes a person of keen and ardent interests and may carry either favorable or unfavorable connotations (as of mental or spiritual vitality or of a subordination of judgment to enthusiasm) (increasing number of chess enthusiasts) (folk-singing enthusiasts) (we are a nation of enthusiasts—Meeker). In earlier use and still in historical works the term applies particularly to a preacher, a member of a religious sect, or, sometimes, a poet who claims to be immediately inspired or who outwardly manifests signs (as rapture, madness, or intense emotionalism) associated with divine inspiration or possession by a god. In such context the term has been applied more or less contemptuously to a member of one of the strongly evangelical sects that arose in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (the visions, voices, revelations of the enthusiast—Glanvill) (harmonic twang! . . . such as from lab’ring lungs th’ enthusiast blows—Pope) * Fanatic, even more than enthusiast, carries a hint of madness or irrationality. In contrast to enthusiast, however, the term suggests extreme monomaniac devotion and a concentration of attention, sometimes on the end to be gained but, possibly more often, on the chosen means to one’s end regardless of the real value of that end. * Fanatic, therefore, in distinction from enthusiast, connotes determination, often silent determination, and an uncompromising temper (a virtuous fanatic, narrow, passionate . . . regarding all ways as wrong but his own—Froude) * a fanatic, in Santayana’s famous definition, is a man who redoubles his efforts after he has forgotten his aims—Waters) * this creature Man, who in his own selfish affairs is a coward to the backbone, will fight for an idea like a hero. He may be abject as a citizen; but he is dangerous as a fanatic—Shaw) Zealot often implies fanaticism; it suggests ardent devotion, but it distictively emphasizes vehement activity in the service of one’s cause, party, or church. It may or may not connote blinding partisanshhip, but it usually suggests jealous vigilance in pro-
world is part of that world—and its own creature—Alexander> <imagination is always the creature of desire—Krutch> Individual, in its fundamental sense, refers to whatever may be regarded as an entity or being, but the term stresses rather its incapacity for being divided and its existence as a unit <an individual is that which cannot be divided without ceasing to be what it is—Archbishop Thomson> Individual, therefore, in ordinary language applies to a single member of a conceivable group, especially of human beings, and is often used in contrast with such general or comprehensive terms as society, race, or family <the individual rebelled against restraint; society wanted to do what it pleased—Henry Adams> <art . . . tends to reconcile the individual with the universal, by exciting in him impersonal emotion—Galsworthy> <the equipment of the higher animals . . . is needed less for the good of the individual than for the good of the race—Ellis> Concretely, individual is often used of a person who strikes one as rich in nature and as standing strongly alone or independently <Donne would have been an individual at any time and place—T. S. Eliot> but occasionally it is used contemptuously to designate a self-unconsciously conspicuous (as by undue familiarity, blatancy, or general obnoxiousness) <the individual who had sat himself down by me produced a little box and offered me a lozenge—Jefferies> Person in its most common modern use denotes an individual human being without reference to sex, age, or identity <there were five thousand persons at the meeting> <he knew but one person in the throng> <a commission of inquiry empowered to examine persons and papers> Person is often found in other and richer senses, most of which involve the idea of the manifestation or the sustaining of a clearly defined character; sometimes it implies an entity distinguished from one's body yet somehow associated with it <we observe . . . to begin with, that our bodies are not we,—not our proper persons—Mozley> <never needing to assert the dignity of his person> and sometimes it implies this character as manifest to others <the boy is becoming a real person> everybody recognized him as a person Sometimes (as in law) person may refer not only to a man <a natural person> but to a corporate body <can artificial, or juristic, person> either of which has rights and duties that are recognized <a state, a church, and a corporation are in the eyes of the law persons> Again (as in Christian theology), person denotes one of the distinct modes of being in which the Supreme Being manifests Himself to men <one God in three divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost> Sometimes, also, person may refer to the body of a human being or to his appearance, but even in these uses it usually suggests a body informed by a spirit or personality <he suffered injury to his person and damage to his property> <Mr. Wickham was . . . far beyond them all in person, countenance, air, and walk—Austen> <appear in person> <England . . . had stolen a kingdom . . . in Africa, and seized the person of its king—Shaw> entrance n Entrance, entry, entrée, ingress, access are comparable when meaning the act, fact, or privilege of going in or coming in. All but entrée also carry the denotation of a way or means of entering. Their differences are largely in their applications and in their connotations. Entrance is the widest in its range of application and the thinnest in its specific implications; it fits in with nearly every context <await the entrance of the king> <a season ticket gives you entrance to all the events> <the entrance is through a gate south of the stadium> <gained their entrance to the game through a hole in the fence> Entry, by comparison, typically imputes a formal or ceremonial character to the act of entering <the trumpet will announce the Nuncio's entry—Browning> When used with reference to a place where one enters, it usually signifies a door, a gate, a portico, or more commonly a vestibule or entrance hall <the postman throws the letters in the entry> <I hear a knocking at the south entry—Shak> It has largely yielded its meaning of the privilege or right of entrance to entrée. The latter word, however, is usually restricted in its application and suggests exclusiveness in those admitting or distinction or social gifts in those admitted <my mother's introductions had procured me the entrée of the best French houses—Lytton> <commented on the entrée which his son had with the president—New Republic> Ingress, because of legal use, carries more than any of the others the implication either of permission to enter or of encroachment <his deed gives him use of the path with free ingress and egress> <we pardon it; and for your ingress here upon the skirt and fringe of our fair land—Tennison> it puts a great strain on an armadillo to open his mouth wide enough to permit the ingress of a copper cent edge-wise—G. S. Perry> When used concretely it more often suggests a natural passageway than an architectural structure <a narrow gap is the only ingress to the valley> Access, like ingress, implies admission where barriers are imposed, but they may be of many kinds: social, legal, or personal, as well as natural <he is here at the door and importunes access to you—Shak> Access is distinguished from the other words of this group by its emphasis on approach rather than on entrance <explorers still find the North Pole difficult of access, in spite of their use of airplanes> <the access to the harbor was through a long narrow channel> Ant exit entrance vb *transport, ravish, enrapture Ana delight, gladden, rejoice, *please: enchant, captivate, bewitch, charm (see ATTRACT) entrap trap, snare, ensnare, bag, *catch, capture Ana seize, *take, clutch: *lure, inveigle, decoy, entice entreat *beg, beseech, implore, supplicate, importune, adjure Ana *ask, request, solicit: pray, appeal, plead, petition, sue (see under PRAYER) Con withstand, *resist, oppose: dare, *face, brave, challenge entreé *entrance, entry, ingress, access Ana admission, *admittance entrench encroach, *trespass, infringe, invade Ana *monopolize, engross, consume, absorb: *interpose, interfere, intervene entrust confide, *commit, consign, delegate Ana *allot, assign, allocate: *rely, trust, depend, count, bank, reckon Con suspect, doubt (see corresponding nouns at UN-CERTAINTY): mistrust, *distrust entry *entrance, entrée, ingress, access Ana *door, doorway, gate, gateway, portal, postern entwine *wind, coil, curl, twist, twine, wreathe Ana *curve, bend: interweave, interplait (see base words at WEAVE): *entangle, enmesh enumerate *count, tell, number Ana compute, *calculate, reckon: *add, sum, total, figure: rehearse, recount, recite (see RELATE) enunciate pronounce, *articulate envelop vb 1 *cover, overspread, wrap, shroud, veil Ana *surround, environ, encompass: cloak, mask (see DISGUISE) 2 *enclose, fence, pen, coop, corral, cage, wall
Envious, jealous, though not close synonyms, are comparable because both carry as their basic meaning that of grudging another’s possession of something desirable. Envious stresses a coveting of something (as riches, possessions, or attainments) which belongs to another or of something (as success or good fortune) which has come to another. It may imply either a gnawing, often a malicious, desire to deprive one of what gives him gratification, or a spiteful delight in his dispossession or loss of it (still in thy right hand carry gentle peace, to silence envious tongues—Shak.) Some envious hands have sprinkled ashes just to spoil our slide—Field. Frequently, however, the stress is on coveting rather than on a desire to injure (we are all envious of your good fortune) (tried to look disappointed and angry but . . . only succeeded in looking envious—Hervey Allen). Jealous often stresses intolerance of a rival for the possession of a thing which one regards as peculiarly one’s own or on the winning of which one has set one’s heart, but sometimes it merely implies intensely jealous efforts to keep or maintain what one possesses. The term often is used without derogation (thou shalt have no other gods before me, for the Lord thy God am a jealous God—Exod. 20:3-5). (pride of their calling, conscious of their duty, and jealous of their honor—Galsworthy). However, the term usually carries a strong implication of distrust, suspicion, enviousness, or sometimes anger (a jealous wife). He was jealous of Carlson’s fame as an Indian fighter—Cather. (stabbed by a jealous lover)

Ana *covetous, grasping, greedy: grudging, coveting, envying (see covet): malign, malignant, spiteful, malicious, malevolent

Con generous, *liberal, bountiful, openhanded: kindly, *kind, benign, benignant

Environ vb *surround, encircle, circle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, girdle, ring
Ana *enclose, envelop, fence: confine, confine (see LIMIT)

Environment *background, setting, milieu, backdrop, mise-en-scène

Envisage, Envision conceive, imagine, *think, realize, fancy
Ana view, behold, survey, contemplate (see view): objectify, externalize, materialize, *realize

Envoy *ambassador, legate, minister, nuncio, internuncio, chargé d’affaires

Envvy vb *covet, grudge, begrudge
Ana *long, pine, hanker, yearn

Ephemeral *transient, transitory, passing, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, momentary, short-lived
Ana *brief, short

Epicene hermaphroditic, hermaphrodite, *bisexual, androgynous
Ana effeminate, womanish (see Female adj)

Epicure, gourmet, gourmand, gluton, bon vivant, gastronome mean one who takes pleasure in eating and drinking. An epicure is one who is choice and fastidious while at the same time voluptuous in enjoyment of food and drink; the term is also applied to a connoisseur in an art involving both feasting and delicacy of taste. I am become a perfect epicure in reading; plain beef or solid mutton will never do—Goldsmith (an epicure in many of the delights of the senses—Canby). A gourmet is a connoisseur in delicate or exotic dishes, liquors, and wines; the term carries as its distinctive connotation the savoring as of each morsel of food or sip of wine, and the power to distinguish delicate differences in flavor or quality (the most finished gourmet of my acquaintance—Thackeray) (eating habits . . . of a determined gourmet, verging at times on those of a gourmand—Kahn). Gourmand implies less fastidiousness and less discernment than gourmet, but it suggests a hearty interest in and enjoyment of good food and drink rather than, as gluton does, greedy and voracious eating and drinking (I dare say, their table is always good, for the Landgrave is a gourmand—Chesterfield). Youth is a gourmand when it cannot be a gourmet—McClure’s Mag. (it would be difficult to determine whether they were most to be distinguished as glutons or epicures; for they were, at once, dainty and voracious, understood the right and the wrong of every dish, and alike emptied the one and the other—Burney). Bon vivant differs little from gourmand except in its stronger connotation of a lively or spirited enjoyment of the pleasures of the table, especially in the company of others (the Major was somewhat of a bon vivant, and his wine was excellent—Scott) (he was also a bon vivant, a dinner-out, and a storyteller—Fraser’s Mag.). Gastronome is equivalent to epicure, with perhaps greater stress on expert knowledge and appreciation of fine food and wine and of the ritual of preparation and serving of them (a conversation on the mysteries of the table, which . . . a modern gastronome might have listened to with pleasure—Scott)

Ana connoisseur, *aesthete, dilettante

Epicurean sybaritic, luxurious, *sensuous, sensual, voluptuous
Ana fastidious, dainty, *nice, particular

Ant gross

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

Episode 1 *digression, divagation, excursus
Ana *deviation, divergence, deflection: departing or departure (see corresponding verb at Swerve)

Epocb era, age, *period, aeon

Equable regular, *orderly, methodical, systematic: invariable, immutable, unchangeable (see affirmative adjectives at changeable): *same, equal, equivalent

Ant variable, changeable—Con fluctuating, wavering (see Waving)—fitful, spasmodic

Equal adj equivalent, *same, very, identical, identical, tantamount
Ana equal, even, uniform (see Steady): *like, alike: proportionate, commensurate (see Proportional)

Ant unequal—Con *different, diverse, disparate, various, divergent

Equal vb *match, rival, approach, touch
Ana *compare: square, accord, tally, correspond, *agree

Equanimitity, composure, sangfroid, phlegm mean the mental temper of one who is self-possessed or not easily disturbed or perturbed. Equanimitity suggests either a proper mental balance or a constitutionally equable temper; it therefore may imply either a deliberate adjustment of one’s emotional and mental powers that is liable to disturbance only under great strain or a settled attitude of mind which repels all that disturbs (his placidity of demeanor ... arose from . . . the equanimitity of a cold disposition rather than of one well ordered by discipline—Trollope). It was some time before Wildeve recovered his equanimitity—Hardy. Stoicism teaches men . . . to
accept with proud equanimity the misfortunes of life—Inge

*Composure* commonly implies the conquest of mental agitation or disturbance by an effort of will, though it may imply a temperamental freedom from agitation (his passions tamed and all at his control, how perfect the *composure* of his soul!—Cowper) (we have to call upon our whole people—men, women, and children alike—to stand up with *composure* and fortitude to the fire of the enemy—Sir Winston Churchill) Sangfroid implies great coolness and steadiness especially under strain (no being ever stood in a pedagogue's presence with more perfect sangfroid—Disraeli) (at all these [gambling games] she won and lost, with the same equable sangfroid—Rose Macaulay) Phlegm suggests an apathy of mind or sluggishness of temperament that results from a physical condition rather than from discipline or self-control; it therefore suggests even greater imper turbability and insensitiveness than any of the preceding terms (he chose the eldest daughter whose numb com posure he mistook for *phlegm*—Patton) (there was a busy, bustling, disputatious tone about it, instead of the accustomed *phlegm* and drowsy tranquillity—Irving)

*Ana* poised, equipose, *balance*, equilibrium: self-pos session, self-assurance, aplomb (see CONFIDENCE): tranquil lity, serenity, placidity, calmness (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

*Con* discomposure, agitation, disquieting or disquiet, perturbing or perturbation, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

*equilibrium* equipoise, poise, *balance*, tension

*Ana* stableness or stability (see corresponding adjective at LASTING): stabilization, steadying (see corresponding verbs at STABILIZE): counterbalancing or counterbalance, counterpoising or counterpoise (see corresponding verbs at COMPENSATE)

*equip* *furnish*, outfit, appoint, accouter, arm *Con* divest, dismantle, denude, *strip*: despoil, spoli ate, *ravage*

*equipment, apparatus, machinery, paraphernalia, outfit, tackle, gear, matériel* are comparable when they mean all the things that are used in a given work or are useful in effecting a given end. *Equipment* usually covers every thing needed for efficient operation or efficient service except the personnel; thus, the *equipment* for a polar expedition would include not only the vessels, instruments, and implements required but also the sleds, dogs, and supplies (as clothing, food, and medicines) the *equipment* of furnishings, utensils, and supplies required for setting up housekeeping) Sometimes *equipment* is more limited in its application; thus, in railroading it covers only the rolling stock and not the roadbed and stations. Ex tended use *equipment* is also employed in reference to persons and covers the qualities and skills necessary to their efficiency or competency in a given kind of work knowledge, penetration, seriousness, sentiment, humor, Gray had them all; he had the *equipment* and endowment for the office of poet—Arnold (a health officer needed more than technical training . . . It appeared that diplomacy should constitute a major part of his *equipment*—Heiser)

*Apparatus* usually covers the instruments, tools, machines, and appliances used in a given craft or profession or in a specific operation or the equipment used in a recreation or sport; thus, the *apparatus* of a dentist includes all the mechanical and electrical devices he uses in his professional work; the *apparatus* of a laboratory, as distinguished from its equipment, consists of all the mechanical requisites for carrying on operations or experiments. When used in reference to persons or employments not requiring mechanical devices, *apparatus* denotes all the external aids useful in prosecuting a particular kind of work; thus, the *apparatus* of a scholar in Old English includes the reference books (as texts, glossaries, and bibliographies) that he finds essential to or helpful in his investigations (formal lectures, with an appalling *apparatus* of specimens, charts, and wall pictures—Grandgent)

*Machinery* covers all the devices, means, or agencies which permit a thing (as an organism, a government, an institution, or a law) to function or which enable it to accomplish its ends (as a movement, a political party, or propaganda) (the physiological *machinery* of the body is so adjusted that great variations of atmospheric temperature can be supported without detriment—Heiser) (public meetings, harangues, resolutions, and the rest of the modern *machinery* of agitation had not yet come into fashion—Macaulay) (if the peoples wanted war, no machinery could prevent them from having it—Inge)

*Paraphernalia* usually suggests a collection of the miscellaneous articles or belongings that constitute the usual accompaniments (often the necessary equipment) of a person or group of persons in a particular employ ment or activity (the *paraphernalia* of a circus) (the *paraphernalia* of a tourist) (little piles of wheels, strips of unworked iron and steel, blocks of wood, the *paraphernalia* of the inventor's trade—Anderson) The word may be slightly contemptuous and imply a trivial or worthless character to the items included (clear a boy's room of all its *paraphernalia*)

*Outfit* is sometimes interchangeable with *equipment*, but it has a slightly less formal flavor and is preferred when the latter term might seem pretentious (a camper's *outfit*) (a beginner's beekeeping *outfit*, consisting of a bee veil, a pair of bee gloves, and the makings of a first-rate beehive—New Yorker) It often specifically suggests wearing apparel and other necessities for a journey, a school year, or a new employment (a bride's *outfit*) (a college girl's *outfit*) (beside this neat, black figure the American business man's *outfit* is as garish as a clown's—Barbara Beecher) *Tackle* is also less formal than *apparatus*, which otherwise it closely resembles (fishing *tackle*) (the girl sprucely habited, with her pretty tackle on the shining blood [horse] was a glad sight—Miles Franklin) *Gear* is variously used, sometimes approaching *equipment* (you've got a good six hours to get your gear together—Conrad) or sometimes *apparatus* (sportsman's *gear*) or again *outfit*, or wearing *apparel* (servants . . . ready in waiting at Pathankote with a change of gear—Kipling) It is also occasionally the most general of these terms and equivalent to one's belongings collectively (they are all, as far as worldly *gear* is concerned, much poorer than I—Shaw) *Matériel* is used in industry and in military affairs as a comprehensive and unambiguous term that covers everything but the personnel (a heavy drain on both the manpower and *matériel* resources—N. Y. Times)

*equipoise* equilibrium, poise, *balance*, tension

*equitable* *fair*, just, impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, uncolored, objective

*Ana* *proportional*, proportionate, commensurate, commensurable; equal, equivalent, *same*, identical

*Ant* inequitable, unfair—*Con* unreasonable, *irrational

*equity* *Justice*

*equivalent* adj equal, *same*, identical, selfsame, very, tantamount

*Ana* like, alike, comparable, parallel, uniform (see SIMILAR): proportionate, commensurate (see PROPORTIONAL): *reciprocal*, corresponding, convertible

*Ant* different—*Con* disparate, diverse, divergent, various (see DIFFERENT); discrepant, discordant, *incon sonant*, incompatible
equivocal  ambiguous, *obscure, dark, vague, enigmatic, cryptic

Ana  dubious, *doubtful
Ant  unequivocal —Con  *explicit, express, definite, specific, categorical; perspicuous, lucid, *clear

equivocate  prevaricate, *lie, palter, fib

Ana  *deceive, mislead, delude: evade, elude, *escape
Ant  equivocation *ambiguity, tergiversation, double entendre

Ana  prevarication, lying or lie, paltering, fibbing or fib (see corresponding verbs at LIE): duplicity, dissimulation, *deceit

era  age, epoch, *period, aeon

eradicate  uproot, deracinate, extirpate, *exterminate

Ana  age, epoch, *period, aeon

eradiacate  °abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate: °destroy, demolish, raze: obliterate, efface, °erase, blot out

Con  °set, fix, establish, settle: °implant, inculcate, Con

erasure  mean to strike out something so that it no longer has effect

Ana  °abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate: °destroy, demolish, raze: obliterate, efface, °erase, blot out

Con  °set, fix, establish, settle: °implant, inculcate, Con

erased  mean to strike out written material (originally with lines crossed latitudinally, but it also may apply to an invalidating or nullifying by other means; thus, a postage stamp is canceled to prevent reuse, usually with a hand device or a machine that stamps an indelible mark or device on its face; a transportation ticket is similarly canceled with a punch that removes a part of it; a will is canceled by physically destroying it (the worn or soiled currency declared unfit for further circulation is transferred to our custodians of unfit currency for cancellation on a canceling machine which is designed to punch the symbol "L" in each corner of each package of 100 bills, and to simultaneously cut each package in half lengthwise—George Parker) In extended use cancel implies an action that completely negates something, whether by a legal annulling (cancellation consists of any act, such as the surrender or intentional destruction of the instrument, that indicates the intention to cancel or renounce the obligation—Fisk & Snapp) or by a revoking or rescinding (cancel a meeting) (the laboratory door does not lock behind him and bar his return any more than it swung shut to imprison Darwin and forever cancel his status as a naturalist—Amer. Naturalist) or often by a neutralization of one thing by its opposite (the qualities that in the end nullified his great strength of character and remarkable gifts, just as his irritability canceled out his natural kindness—Osbet Siwell) (ironies breed before our eyes, cancel each other out—Kristol) Efface, more strongly than erase, implies the complete removal of something impressed or imprinted on a surface (constant use gradually effaces the figures and letters on a coin) (efface the offensive murals in a public building) As a result, in its extended use, efface often implies destruction of every visible or sensible sign of a thing's existence (while nations have effaced nations, and death has gathered to his fold long lines of mighty kings—Wordsworth) (the attempt to efface the boundaries between prose and verse—Lowes) Often, especially in reflexive use, it implies an attempt to make inconspicuous or vague (efface oneself in the company of others) Obliterate and blot out both imply rendering a thing undecipherable by smearing it with something which hides its existence (a smear of decisive lead-colored paint had been laid on to obliterate Henchard's name—Hardy) (blot out with ink a passage in a manuscript) Both terms are more often used, however, with the implication of the removal of every trace of a thing's existence (the falling snow rapidly obliterated all signs of approaching spring) (a successful love . . . obliterated all other failures—Krich) (then rose the seed of chaos, and of night, to blot out order, and extinguish light—Pope) Delete implies marking something in a manuscript or proof for omission from a text that is to be published or distributed (whenever you feel an impulse to perpetrate a piece of exceptionally fine writing, obey it—wholeheartedly—and delete it before sending your manuscript to press—Quiller-Couch) But delete also often suggests eradication or elimination by the exercise of arbitrary power (the censor deleted all the interesting parts of the letter) (a compulsion to make plays out of books, musicals out of plays, . . . to insert scenes, delete characters, include commentators—Krenkenberger)

Ana  annul, *nullify, negate: °abolish, extinguish

Con  imprint, impress, print, stamp (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION)

erect vb  °build, construct, frame, raise, rear

Ana  fabricate, fashion, form (see MAKE): °lift, raise, elevate

Ant  raze

eremite  hermit, anchorite, °recluse, cénobite

erotic  °amatory, amorous, amative, aphrodisiac all involve the idea of love for the opposite sex, but they are not freely interchangeable because of differences in denotation as well as in implications. Erotic, though the strongest in its suggestions of love as a violent passion or as a physical appetite, is rarely applied to persons as distinct from their behavior, reactions, or emotions, and it is especially used in characterizing or classifying emotions, motives, or themes in art °erotic tendencies °erotic music (an erotic poet) °erotic poetry (it was the persuasion that the deprivation was final that obsessed him with erotic imaginations . . . almost to the verge of madness—H. G. Wells) describes his erotic adventures with prostitutes—Sat. Review) Amatory is a synonym of erotic but weaker in its suggestion of sexual desire; it sometimes connotes little more than ardent admiration; thus, one might more correctly describe the youthful love poems of Tennyson as amatory than as erotic poetry (Sir Lucius . . . has been deluded into thinking that some amatory letters received by him from Mrs. Malaprop are from Lydia—Harvey) Amorous is applied chiefly to persons, their words, or their acts especially when they are falling in love or making love (came many a tiptoe, amorous cavalier, and back retired . . . her heart was otherwise—Keats) (yielded, with coy submission, modest pride, and sweet, reluctant, amorous delay—Milton) (the shady lawns and thickets along the river give nightly sanctuary to amorous couples—Green Peyton) The word often suggests ripeness or eagerness for love (the English . . . are not an amorous race. Love with them is more sentimental than passionate—Maughan) In this
sense it is also applied, chiefly in poetry, to animals <the amorous dove—Gilbert> Amative implies merely a disposition to fall in love or a propensity for loving; it is chiefly used in describing temperaments or in analyzing character <that crudely amative public to which our modern best sellers appeal—N. Y. Times> <he is not normally amative> Aphrodisiac is applied to things (as drugs or writings) that arouse or tend to arouse sexual desire <the labored unreserve of aphrodisiac novels and plays—Montague>

Anna passionante, *impassioned, fervid, fervent, fervent: *fervent, *carnal, fleshly, sensual erratic eccentric, odd, queer, *strange, singular, peculiar, unique, quaint, outlandish, curious Ana aberrant, *abnormal, atypical: *irregular, unnatural, anomalous: capricious, fickle, mercurial, *inconstant Con normal, *regular, typical, natural: *usual, customary, wonted, habitual: *common, ordinary, familiar: conventional, formal (see CEREMONIAL): *decorous, decent, seemly, proper error, mistake, blunder, slip, lapse, faux pas, bull, howler, boner are comparable when they denote something (as an act, statement, or belief) that involves a departure from what is, or what is generally held to be, true, right, or proper. Error implies a straying from a proper course and suggests such guilt as may lie in failure to take proper advantage of a guide (as a record or manuscript, a rule or set of rules, or a principle, law, or code); thus, a typographical error results when a compositor misreads a manuscript; an error in addition involves some failure to follow the rules for addition; an error in conduct is an infraction of an accepted code of manners or morals <those who, with sincerity and generosity, fight and fall in an evil cause, posterity can only compassionate as victims of a generous but fatal error—Scott> <without understanding grievous and irrepairable errors can be made—Donald Harrrington> Mistake implies misconception, misunderstanding, a wrong but not always blameworthy judgment, or inadvertence; it expresses less severe criticism than error <he made a serious mistake when he chose the law as his profession> <a child makes many mistakes in spelling> <there is a medium between truth and falsehood, and (I believe) the word mistake expresses it exactly. I will therefore say that you were mistaken—Cowper> Blunder is harsher than mistake or error; it commonly implies ignorance or stupidity, sometimes blameworthiness <we usually call our blunders mistakes, and our friends style our mistakes blunders—Wheatley> <one's translation is sure to be full of gross blunders, but the supreme blunder is that of translating at all when one is trying to catch not a fact but a feeling—Henry Adams> Slip carries a stronger implication of inadvertence or accident than mistake and often, in addition, connotes triviality <the wrong date on the check was a slip of the pen> <a social slip which makes us feel hot all over—L. P. Smith> Often, especially when it implies a transgression against morality, the word is used euphemistically or ironically <let Christian's slips before he came hither . . . be a warning to those that come after—Bunyan> <the minister . . . comes when people are in extremis, but they don't send for him every time they make a slight moral slip—tell a lie, for instance, or smuggle a silk dress through the customhouse—Holmes> Lapse, though sometimes used interchangeably with slip, stresses forgetfulness, weakness, or inattention more than accident; thus, one says a lapse of memory or a slip of the pen, but not vice versa <writes well, despite occasional lapses into polysyllabic humor—Geographical Jour.> When used in reference to a moral transgression, it carries a weaker implication of triviality than slip and a stronger one of a fall from grace or from one's own standards <for all his . . . lapses, there was in him a real nobility, an even ascetic firmness and purity of character—Ellis> Faux pas is most frequently applied to a mistake in etiquette <she was carefully instructed so that there was no danger of her making a faux pas when she was presented at the Court of St. James's> <John and I, horrified, hustled him out before he could commit any further faux pas—S. H. Adams> Bull, howler, and boner all three are rather informal terms applicable to blunders (and especially to blunders in speech or writing) that typically have an amusing aspect. A bull may be a grotesque blunder in language typically characterized by some risible incongruity <the well-known bull stating that "one man is just as good as another—and sometimes more so"> or it may be a mere stupid or gauche blunder <he really committed a bull when he solemnly introduced his new friend to the latter's ex-wife> A howler is a gross or ludicrous error based on ignorance or confusion of ideas; the term is used especially of laughable errors in scholastic recitations or examinations <a collection of schoolboy howlers> <a howler that turns the title "Intimations of Immortality" into "Iimitations of Immorality"> A boner may be a grammatical,logical, or factual blunder in a piece of writing that is usually so extreme as to be funny <a few historical boners . . . such as dinosauiurs surviving until medieval times—Coulton Waugh> or it may be a ridiculous or embarrassing slip of the kind that results from a sudden lapse (as of attention or from tact or decorum) <is the proprietor of a large and varied selection of diplomatic boners—Rosenthal>

escape vb 1 Escape, flee, fly, decamp, abscond mean to run away especially from something which limits one's freedom or threatens one's well-being. Escape so stresses the idea of flight from confinement or restraint that it very often conveys no suggestion of wrongdoing or of danger <one of the most powerful motives that attract people to science and art is the longing to escape from everyday life—Ellis> <eager to escape from the army and go back to his hometown—Wecter> Flee implies haste and often abruptness in departure <there was evidence that the burglars had been frightened and had fled> It often connotes disappearance, especially when extended to things <the mists fled before the rising sun> Fly is interchangeable with flee but its use is restricted in idiomatic English to the present tense <fly, father, fly! for all your friends are fled—Shak.> Decamp usually suggests a sudden departure to elude discovery or arrest; it commonly carries a disparaging or belittling connotation <having imparted my situation to my companion, she determined to be a poet at any price, he absconded from college with his clothes and took refuge in a lonely farm-house—Brooks> Con *follow, chase, pursue, trail, tag 2 Escape, avoid, evade, elude, shun, escape are comparable
when meaning to get away or to keep away from something which one does not wish to incur, endure, or encounter. 

*Escape* when referred to persons (sometimes to animals) usually implies a threat to their liberty or well-being; in this sense it may not imply running away from or even an effort to miss what threatens, but it does suggest the latter's imminence or likelihood. *escape suspicion* *escape discovery* *escape family tendency to tuberculosis* *escape annoyance* *escape a blow by dodging it* *few fish can escape this net* When extended to things and especially to inanimate or intangible things *escape* connotes something comparable to a net which holds and confines yet permits passage through it (details which *escape the mind* 

*Avoid* in contrast with *escape*, suggests a keeping clear of what one does not wish to risk or knows to be a source of danger, rather than a getting away from what actually threatens; thus, one may *escape suspicion by avoiding persons or places that are being watched; one may avoid all seeking sources of sentient yet not escape infection* *he kept himself somewhat aloof, seeming to avoid notice rather than to court it—Arnold* 

Avoid, however, is often used interchangeably with *escape*; it may be preferred when a danger is averted by forethought, prudence, or caution *mother and son avoided an open rupture by never referring to their differences—Santayana* *by pooling our difficulties, we may at least avoid the failures which come from conceiving the problems of government to be simpler than they are—Frankfurter* 

*Evade* implies escape or the intent to escape, but it also commonly suggests avoidance by the use of adroit, ingenious, or, sometimes, underhand means; thus, one *evades suspicion who escapes it by spreading rumors that throw others under.* 

*Authorize* *avoid* its claims are simple and cannot be evaded *Con* *deny* 

*Comes closer to escape than to avoid* but stresses a slippery or baffling quality in the thing which gets away or cannot be captured *whose secret presence, through creation's veins running quicksilverlike, eludes your pains—FitzGerald* *for are we not all fated to pursue ideals which seem eternally to elude us—L. P. Smith* 

*Elude* however, is sometimes used in place of * evade* when there is a strong suggestion of shiftness or unreliability or of the use of stratagems *she is adept in eluding her obligations* *in the game of hide-and-seek the players try to elude discovery by the one seeking their hiding places* 

Shun differs from *avoid* chiefly in its added implication of an abhorrence or aversion that is sometimes temperamental in its origin but oftentimes rational and dictated by conscience, experience, or sense of prudence *llepens* *shunned and rebuffed by the world—Heiser* *to shun for his health the pleasures of the table—Quiller-Couch* *thus have I shunned the fire for fear of burning—Shak* *I used to live entirely for pleasure. I shunned suffering and sorrow of every kind—Wilde* 

*Eschew* comes very close to *shun in meaning but tends to stress practical, moral, or prudential rather than temperamental reasons for the avoidance* *trained to eschew private passions and pursuits—Mower* *what cannot be eschewed must be embraced—Shak* *observers . . . thought that capitalists would eschew all connection with what must necessarily be a losing concern—Macaulay*
in their use, except that *theme* is more often employed in colleges and high schools and *composition* in the lower schools, there can be a real difference in the implications of the words. *Theme* may imply the development and elaboration of a definite subject; its tests are chiefly adequacy, as evidenced by its completeness of treatment within limitations, and readability, as evidenced by its power to interest those who read it and impress its points on their minds. *Composition*, on the other hand, implies organization of details, facts, and ideas or sometimes of sentences and paragraphs so that the result is a unified and clear piece of writing.

**essential adj** 1 *inherent, intrinsic, constitutional, ingrained* 

**Ana** *innate, inborn, inbred, congenital: inner, inward: elemental (see ELEMENTARY): characteristic, individual, peculiar, distinctive*

**Ant** accidental —**Con** adventitious, fortuitous, incidental (see ACCIDENTAL): contingent, *dependent, conditional*

2 *Essential, fundamental, vital, cardinal mean so important as to be indispensable. Something is essential which belongs to the very nature or essence of a thing and which therefore cannot be removed without destroying the thing itself or its distinguishing character (the essential doctrines of Christianity) (the essential ingredient in a medicine) (the most essential characteristic of mind is memory—Russell) Something is fundamental upon which everything else in a system, institution, or construction is built up, by which the whole is supported, or from which each addition is derived and without which, therefore, the whole construction would topple down (certainly all those who have framed written constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation—John Marshall) (the power of concentrated attention as the cardinal source of the prodigious productiveness of great workers—Eliot)*

Somthing is vital which is as necessary to a thing’s existence, continued vigor, or efficiency as food, drink, and health are to living things (a question the solution of which is vital to human happiness) (the vital interests of a people) (the capture of the fortified town was vital to the invaders) (Germany is extremely important to Russia, but Poland, the gateway of invasion, is vital—Hartmann)* Something is cardinal upon which something else turns or hinges or actively depends; thus, the cardinal virtues (prudence, fortitude, temperance, justice, and sometimes, patience and humility) are not, in Christian theology, the highest virtues (which are the Christian virtues faith, hope, and charity), but they are fundamental and without them moral progress would be impossible (cardinal arguments in a brief) (the cardinal defects in a character) (cardinal events are not to be forgotten—De Quincey) (I repeat this sentence, with emphasis on its cardinal words—Darrow)*

**Ana** basic, basal, underlying, *fundamental: principal, foremost, capital, *chief, main, leading: prime, *primary, primal*

**Con** subordinate, secondary, dependent: *auxiliary, subsidiary, accessory, contributory, subservient*

3 *indispensable, requisite, necessary, *needful*

**Ana** required, needed, wanted (see LACK vb)

**Ant** nonessential

**establish 1** set, settle, fix

**Ana** *implant, inculcate, instill: secure, rivet, anchor, moor*

**Ant** uproot (a tree, a habit, a practice): abrogate (a right, a privilege, a quality)—**Con** eradicate, extirpate, wipe, *exterminate*

2 *found, institute, organize*

**Ana** start, inaugurate, *begin, commence, initiate*

**Ant** abolish (a society, an institution)

**estimate n** respect, admiration, *regard*

**Ana** *honor, homage, reverence, deference, obeisance: veneration, reverence, worship, adoration (see under REVERE)*

**Ant** abomination: contempt —**Con** despite, scorn, disdain (see under DESPISE): abhorrence, loathing, hatred, *hate, detestation (see under HATE vb)

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

**Ana** prize, value, *appreciate, treasure, cherish: *revere, reverence, venerate*

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

**estimate vb** 1 *Estimate, appraise, evaluate, value, rate, assess, assay are comparable when meaning to judge a thing with respect to its worth. *Estimate* usually implies a personal and sometimes a reasoned judgment which, whether considered or casual, is by the nature of the case neither thoroughly objective nor definitive (we have first to estimate their effects upon complicated social conditions (largely a matter of guesswork)—Dewey) (small and manageable numbers of birds must be counted precisely; huge flocks can only be estimated—Time) (to estimate the Frenchwoman’s moral nature with any approach to adequacy it is necessary to avoid viewing her from an Anglo-Saxon standpoint—Brownell)*

**Appraise** implies the intent to fix definitely and in the capacity of an expert the monetary worth of the thing in question usually in terms of the price it ought to bring in the market if sold, or in case of its loss (as by fire or theft) the monetary compensation due its owner from an insuring company (appraise the decedent’s real estate) (appraise a fire loss) In extended use *appraise*, in contrast to *estimate*, implies an intent to give a final, an accurate, or an expert judgment of a thing’s worth; *estimate*, therefore, is often preferred by persons speaking of their own judgments because *appraise* seems presumptuous or pretentious (it is not my business to appraise. Appraisements imply censures and it is not one writer’s business to censure others—F. M. Ford) (this difficulty of *appraising* literature absolutely inheres in your study of it from the beginning—Quiller-Couch)*

The participial adjective *appraising* is often used to qualify eye, glance, look; it then suggests close, critical inspection or scrutiny (addressing him with a watchful *appraising* stare of his prominent black eyes—Conrad) (the monumental and encyclopedic critic is to be regarded with a carefully *appraising* eye—T. S. Eliot)*

**Evaluate**, like *appraise*, suggests an intent to arrive at a mathematically correct judgment; it seldom suggests, however, an attempt to determine a thing’s monetary worth, but rather to find its equivalent in other and more familiar terms (a teacher evaluates a student’s work by marks in numbers or in letters) (many persons find it impossible to *evaluate* a work of art except in terms of morals) (conventional ethical codes are assumed to be invalid or at least impractical for *evaluating* life as it is—Walzer)*

**Value** (see also APPRECIATE) 2 comes very close to *appraise* in that it also implies an intent to determine or fix the market price but differs from *appraise* in that it carries no implication of an authoritative or expert judgment and must depend on the context to make that point if it is essential (the appraiser *valued* at $10,000 condemned property which had already been *valued* by the owner at $15,000 and by the city at $8000) (experts were called in to appraise the gems which the alleged smuggler had *valued* at $1000) In extended use and in
estimate reference to things not marketable, value is often found with a negative or with a restrictive word such as only; he values success only as a stepping-stone (who values his own honor not a straw—Browning) (valued himself on his tolerance of heresy in great thinkers—Frost) Rate often adds to estimate the implication of fixing in a scale of values (rate one profession above another in usefulness) (rate one person’s qualifications as superior to another’s) (we English are capable of rating him far more correctly if we knew him better—Arnold) Assess implies valuing for the sake of determining the tax to be levied; in extended use it implies a determining of the exact value or extent of a thing prior to judging it or to using it as the ground for a decision (the task of defining that influence or of exactly assessing its amount is one of extraordinary difficulty—Huxley) (striving to assess the many elements upon which Rome’s future depended—Buchan) Assay basically implies chemical analysis for the sake of determining a substance’s (usually a metal’s) quantity, quality, or value; in extended use it implies a critical analysis for the sake of measuring, weighing, and appraising (to assay... changes which the great reformers within and without the Catholic Church accomplished—Randall) 

estimate vb guess, surmise (see under CONJECTURE) 

valuation, evaluation, appraisal, assessment (see corresponding verbs at ESTIMATE) 

cost, expense, *price

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

ethic *moral, righteous, virtuous, noble 

etymology *anthropology, archaeology 

etiolate vb etiolate the plant (see FRUITLESS)

eschar vb eschar, scab (see under CONJECTURE) 

estrange, alienate, disassociate, estrange are comparable when meaning to cause one to break a bond or tie of affection or loyalty. Estrange implies separation with consequent indifference or hostility; alienate may or may not suggest actual separation, but it does imply loss of affection or interest or withdrawal of support and often connotes a diversion of that affection or interest to another object (a little knowledge often estranges men from religion, a deeper knowledge brings them back to it—Inge) (the colossal impudence of his comment on his former and now alienated associate—Lucas) Estrange is preferable when the indifference or hostility is mutual, alienate when the blame can be fixed on one person or on a third person (Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been estranged for a year) (she alienated him by her extravagance) (his affections were alienated by another woman) Disassociate is more often used with reference to groups from whom loyalty is expected or demanded; it stresses such effects of alienation without separation as unrest, discontent, or rebellion (the workers were disassociated by paid agitators) (the disloyalists tried to disassociate the militia, preening their noses—Bowers) Wean implies separation from something which has a strong hold on one or on which one depends in the manner of a nursing on its mother. Unlike the other words, it often suggests merit rather than fault in the person who breaks the bond (wean a person from a bad habit) (to wean your minds from hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch) (low prices of movies may have weaned large sections of the public away from the legitimate theater—Messenger)

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ant reconcile —con congregate, propitate, appease, *pacify: unite, *join, link

erth *atmosphere, *air, ozone

ethereal *airy, aerial

ana *celestial, heavenly, empyreal: tenuous, uncecumcribed

ana everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable: *lasting, perdurable, perpetual, permanent: *immortal, deathless, undying

ana mortal

euth air, atmosphere, *air, ozone

euthereal *airy, aerial

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sev...
even adj 1 smooth, *level, flat, plane, plain, flush
Ant uneven —Con curving, bending, twisting (see CURVE vb): *crooked, devious: rugged, *rough, scabrous, harsh
2 uniform, equable, *steady, constant
Ana *same, equal, identical: continuous, constant, incessant, *continual
Con *irregular: varying, changing (see CHANGE vb): fluctuating, wavering, undulating (see SWING vb)
event 1 incident, *occurrence, episode, circumstance
Ana *action, act, deed: exploit, *feat, achievement:
*chance, accident, fortune: happening, befalning, transpiring (see Happen)
2 *effect, result, consequence, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, sequel, issue, outcome
eventual ultimate, concluding, terminal, final, *last, latest
Ana ensuing, succeeding (see Follow): terminating, closing, ending (see Close vb)

everlasting adj everlasting, endless, interminable, unceasing are comparable when they mean continuing on and on without end. Unlike infinite, eternal, and similar words (see INFINITE), these terms do not presuppose the absence of a beginning, and therefore usually have reference only to continued extent or duration. However, everlasting is often used interchangeably with eternal, differing from it only in placing more stress on the fact of enduring throughout time than on the quality of being independent of time or of all similar human limitations <the eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms—Deut 33:27> <and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal—Mt 25:46> Therefore, in serious use, everlasting, rather than eternal, is applied to material things or earthly conditions which endure, or seem to endure, forever <see Cromwell damned to everlasting fame—Pope> <these mighty gates of everlasting rock—De Quincey> <each man dreamed of a square meal, new boots, a full powder horn, an end to the everlasting shortages—Mason> In lighter use the word is little more than a hyperbolic term expressing loss of patience or extreme boredom and more often applying to recurrence than to duration or extent <these everlasting headaches> <his everlasting stupidity> Endless is applicable not only to things which continue in time but also in extent; the word is used especially when a circular form or construction is implied <endless belt> or it may imply no known or apparent or determinable end <an endless chain of letters> <an endless road through the mountains> <there has been endless discussion whether we have a distinct faculty for the knowledge of God—Inge> <endless masses of hills on three sides, endless weald or valley on the fourth—Jeffries> Interminable is somewhat uncommon in its sense of having no end or incapable of being brought to an end or termination <the forest trees above were wild with the wind, but the interminable thickets below were never subdued—Thoreau> More often it applies to something so extended or prolonged or protracted that it is exceedingly wearisome or exhausting one's patience <the weeks were interminable, and papa and mamma were clean forgotten—Kipling> <spleen, chagrin, . . . discontent, misanthropy, and all their interminable train of fretfulness, querulousness, suspicions, jealousies—Peacock> Unceasing, like interminable, suggests undue prolonging or protracting, but it emphasizes the extraordinary capacity for going on and on rather than the psychological effect produced (usually on others) by long-continuing activity or continual recurrence <unceasing effort> <Jules de Goncourt . . . died from the mental exhaustion of his unceasing struggle to attain an objective style adequate to express the subtle texture of the world as he saw it—Ellis> Ana eternal, boundless, *infinite: *lasting, perdurable, perpetual: *immortal, deathless, undying
Ant transitory —Con *transient, passing, fleeting, fugitive, ephemeral, evanescent, momentary, short-lived
every each, *all
evict * eject, oust, expel, dismiss
Ana *exclude, eliminate, shut out: reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE): *dismiss, fire, cashier, discharge
evidence n Evidence, testimony, deposition, affidavit are, in their legal senses, closely related but not synonymous terms. The last three designate forms of evidence, or material submitted to a competent legal tribunal as a means of ascertaining where the truth lies in a question of fact. Evidence also implies the intention of the side offering the material to use it as a basis for inference and argument and as a medium of proof. Testimony is evidence offered by persons (as eyewitnesses or experts) who are in a position to provide pertinent information. It implies declaration under oath or affirmation, usually on the stand in open court. Testimony does not necessarily constitute favorable evidence for the side that calls the witness, for its effect may vary with such matters as inferences that may be drawn from it or its favorable or unfavorable aspects and emphases elicited by cross-examination. Deposition, though occasionally used interchangeably with testimony, is more usually used to designate a form of testimony that replaces testimony in open court or, more often, provides information for pretrial procedures and is given orally in response to questioning by competent officers, taken down in writing, and sworn to or properly affirmed. Affidavit designates a written declaration made upon solemn oath before a recognized magistrate or officer. An affidavit may sometimes be used as testimony, but when so used it is as a rule because a witness cannot take the stand. An affidavit submitted as testimony may be distinguished from a deposition; when used specifically and in contrast with deposition, affidavit always implies that the declaration has been obtained by one side to the dispute and that there has been no cross-examination.
evidence vb evince, manifest, demonstrate, *show
Ana *reveal, disclose, betray, divulge: display, exhibit, expose, *show: prove, *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak
evident, manifest, patent, distinct, obvious, apparent, palpable, plain, clear are comparable when they mean readily perceived or apprehended. Evident implies the existence of visible signs, all of which point to the one conclusion; it may be applied to something (as another person's state of mind, a hidden condition, or an imminent event) which is beyond the range of the senses but can be inferred from the outward indications <her evident delight in the gift> <even in his vices the contradiction was evident. His conscience was severe—Carlos Baker> <the sustained impartiality and evident learning of his work—Cheney> Manifest implies an outward revelation or expression or an open exhibition; it is applied as a rule to something which is displayed so clearly that its recognition seemingly involves no inference <this joy in the prospect of departure from the Five Towns, from her . . . was more manifest than she could bear—Bennett> <where the work of such a master [as Milton] is at its best, the greatness of his spirit is most greatly manifest—L. P. Smith> Patent implies an opposition to what is imperceptible or obscure but existent; it therefore is applied to things (as a cause, an effect, a mistake, or an imperfection) which are not invariably or as a class evident or manifest <the seller is required by law to disclose to the buyer latent as well as patent defects in the article sold> <a man is . . . in jeopardy even when the
error is patent on the face of the record, as when he is tried on a defective indictment—Justice Holmes) (three very patent reasons for the comparatively slow advance of our children—Grandgent) Distinct (see also DISTINCT) implies such sharpness of outline or of definition that the thing requires no effort of the eyes to see or discern (distinct features) (his handwriting is unusually distinct) or of the ears to hear or interpret (distinct utterance) (distinct enunciation) or of the mind to apprehend or comprehend without confusion (the course of his reasoning is not only evident, it is distinct) (he gave a distinct account of everything that occurred) Obvious stresses ease in discovery or, sometimes, in accounting for and often conceives conspicuousness in what is discovered or little need of perspicacity in the discoverer; it is therefore often applied to something not successfully concealed or something crudely manifest (obvious heirs he had none, any more than he had obvious progenitors—Sackville-West) (the avidity with which he surrendered himself to his perfectly obvious methods—Mary Austin) (acting on the conviction of Mr. Justice Holmes that “at this time we need education in the obvious more than investigation of the obscure”—Frankfurter) Apparent (see also APPARENT 2) is often so close to evident in meaning that the two words are difficult to distinguish. But evident usually implies inference directly from visible signs or effects, and apparent from evidence plus more or less elaborate reasoning; therefore apparent is especially applicable to something which is apprehended through an induction, a deduction, or a similar course of reasoning (the absurdity of their contention is apparent to one who knows the effects produced by the same causes in the past) (as experience accumulated it gradually became apparent that the oils of any of the trees . . . were equally efficacious—Heiser) (deposits of transported material . . . are perhaps the most widely apparent results of the glaciation—Amer. Guide Series: N. H.) Palpable (see also PERCEPTIBLE) basically implies perceptibility through the sense of touch; it is often extended to perception by the other senses, excluding sight, or by the mind and typically suggests ease of perception or readiness of interpretation (tis probable that thou hast never lived, and palpable that thou hast never loved—Garnett) (yet, despite these precautions, a palpable un easiness persists—Moorehead) (beneath it all was a hush, almost palpable—Mailer) Plain and clear are less formal and literal than the preceding terms. Both are applied to something that is immediately apprehended or unmistakable understanding, but plain implies familiarity or distinctness or a lack of intricacy or complexity, while clear suggests an absence of whatever confuses or muddles the mind or obscures the issues (a plain answer to a direct question—Crothers) (yes, that makes much which was dark quite clear to me—Galsworthy) (proof as sharp and clear as anything which is known—Darrow) Ana * perceptible, sensible, palpable, tangible, appreciable, ponderable; conspicuous, prominent, noticeable evil adj * bad, ill, wicked, naughty Ana * base, low, vile: iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious, vicious, villainous, infamous: pernicious, baneful: execrable, damnable Ant exemplary: salutary Vil Evil, ill are comparable when they mean whatever is harmful or disastrous to morals or well-being. Evil is the ordinary term capable of use in all contexts and referable not only to deeds and practices actually indulged in or to conditions actually suffered (leads a life of evil) (the evils of war) (correct the evils in a system of government) but also to motivating desires or acting causes of such deeds, practices, or conditions (think no evil) (shun evil) and to their harmful effects or consequences (the evil that men do lives after them—Shak) (evils which our own misdeeds have wrought—Milton) Evil is also the term in general use for the abstract conception of whatever is the reverse of good, especially of the morally good, or as a designation of whatever is thought of as the reverse of a blessing (able to distinguish good from evil) (the origin of evil) (St. Francis of Assisi accounted poverty a blessing rather than an evil) (evil no nature hath; the loss of good is that which gives to sin a livelihood—Herrick) (evil is not a quality of things as such. It is a quality of our relation to them—Lippmann) Although ill, like evil, may imply an antithesis to good, it is seldom used to designate the abstraction except in a poetic context and in direct contrast to good (O, yet we trust that somehow good will be the final goal of ill—Tennyson) Also, it is now rare in the sense of moral evil. In present use, as in the past, ill is applied chiefly to whatever is distressing, painful, or injurious and is more often used in reference to what is actually suffered or endured than to what may be inflicted or imposed on one (and makes us rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of—Shak) (they could never in such a Utopian State feel any other ills than those which arise from bodily sickness—Hume) (there mark what ills the scholar’s life assail—toil, envy, want, the patron, and the jail—Johnson) (servitude, the worst of ills—Cowper) Ant good evince manifest, evidence, demonstrate, *show Ana betoken, *indicate, attest, prove, argue, bespeak: display, exhibit, expose. *show: disclose, *reveal, discover, betray Con * suppress, repress: * hide, conceal evoke elicit, * educate, extract, extort Ana * provoke, excite, stimulate: arouse, rouse, rally, awaken, waken, * stir evolution * development evolve * unfold, develop, elaborate, perfect Ana progress, * advance: mature, develop, ripen exact vb require, * demand, claim Ana * ask, request, solicit: compel, * force, constrain, coerce, oblige exact adj accurate, * correct, right, precise, nice Ana * careful, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious: agreeing, squaring, tallying, jibing, conforming (see AGREE) exacting adj * onerous, burdensome, oppressive Ana * severe, stern: rigid, rigorous, strict, stringent: arduous, difficult, * hard Ant easy: lenient exaggeration, overstatement, hyperbole all mean an over stepping of the bounds of truth, especially in describing the goodness or badness or the greatness or the smallness of something. Exaggeration does not always or even often imply dishonesty or an intent to deceive on the part of one making a statement, a representation, or a claim; it may merely imply an often temperamental unwillingness to be held down by the facts or a bias, whether favorable or unfavorable, so great that one cannot clearly see or accurately estimate the exact state of affairs depicted (men of great conversational powers almost universally practise a sort of lively sophistry and exaggeration which deceives for the moment both themselves and their auditors—Macaulay) (to say that Mrs. Ralston’s son and daughter were pleased with the idea of Tina’s adoption would be an exaggeration—Wharton) Unlike exaggeration, overstatement rarely carries any hint of depreciation; it is therefore often the term chosen by one desiring to stress the fact of exceeding the truth without any additional implications (this . . . is one of those overstatements of a true principle,
often met with in Adam Smith—J. S. Mill) *(if all costs applicable to revenue are charged thereto, overstatement of net income . . . is avoided—Paton & Littleton) *(he invariably avoids overstatement; not for him is the heavy underlining of a musical phrase—N. Y. Times) Hyperbole implies the use of exaggeration as a literary device. Though such use may arise from overpowering emotion, it more often suggests a desire to create a planned impression or particular effect; in either case hyperbole implies obvious extravagance in statement often producing a rhetorical effect that could not be gained otherwise *(the speaking in a perpetual hyperbole is comely in nothing but in love—Bacon) *(an Arabic interpreter expatiated, in florid hyperbole, on the magnanimity and princely qualities of the Spanish king—Prescott) *(that rather startling "terrible" is not hyperbole; it is precisely what Mr. Blackmur means —Mizener) Hyperbole is often used as the name of a figure of speech that produces its effect by overstatement as its opposite, litotes, does by understatement. Ana misrepresentation, untruth (see LIE): *fallacy, sophistry exalt, magnify, aggrandize are comparable when meaning to increase in importance or in prestige. Exalt and magnify always go into comparison in their older sense of to exalt or to glorify *(O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together—Ps 34:3) In modern general use exalt retains its implication of lifting up but emphasizes a raising in a scale of values without necessarily affecting the quality of the thing raised. Therefore one exalts something above another or at the expense of another *(Rousseau's readiness to exalt spontaneity even at the expense of rationality—Babbit) *(there is a valid reason for not preventing games, but . . . not . . . for exalting them into a leading position in the school curriculum—Russell) Magnify stresses increase in size; it commonly suggests an agency (as an optical device) which affects the vision and causes enlargement of apparent size or one (as a vivid imagination) which affects the judgment and leads to exaggeration *(kind, quiet, nearsighted eyes, which his round moons—De land) *(the public opinion which . . . magnifies patriotism into a religion—Browell) Aggrandize emphasizes increase in greatness or mightiness; it implies efforts, usually selfish efforts, directed to the attainment of power, or worldly eminence *(if we aggrandize ourselves at the expense of the Mahrattas—Wellington) *(have we a satisfaction in aggrandizing our families . . . ?—Fielding) *(to those of us who are engaged in constructive research and in invention, there is serious moral risk of aggrandizing what we have accomplished—Wiener) Ana elevate, raise, *lift: heighten, enhance, *intensify: extol, laud, *praise Ant abase —Con demean, debase, degrade, humble, humiliate *(see ABASE): disparage, depreciate, detract, derogate, *decry, belittle, minimize examination inspection, scrutiny, scanning, audit (see under SCRUTINIZE vb) Ana questioning, interrogation, inquiry, catechism, quizzing *or quiz (see corresponding verbs at ASK) examine 1 inspect, *scrutinize, scan, audit Ana *analyze, dissect, resolve: contemplate, observe, survey, *view, notice, note (see SEE) 2 question, interrogate, quiz, catechize, *ask, query, inquire Ana penetrate, probe *(see ENTER): test, try *(see PROVE) example 1 sample, specimen, *instance, case, illustration Con anomaly, *paradox 2 *model, exemplar, pattern, ideal, standard, beau ideal, mirror

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
exceptionable, exceptionable, although not synonyms, are

Excess, superfluity, surplus, surplusage, overplus denote something which goes beyond a limit or bound. Excess applies to whatever exceeds a limit, measure, bound, or accosted degree in measure rein thy joy; scant this excess—Shak. > (the proper point between sufficiency and excess—Henry James) > (I think poetry should surprise by a fine excess—Keats) > Often it specifically implies intemperance or immoderation > (early excesses the frame will recover from—Meredith) > (restrain the excesses of the possessive instinct—Ellis)

Superfluity applies to an excess (as of money, clothes, or possessions) that is above or beyond what is needed or desired (the inventory of thy shirts, as, one for superfluity, and another for use!—Shak) > (I succumb easily to anyone who asks me to buy superfluities and luxuries—Huxley)

Surplus applies to the amount or quantity of something that remains when all that has been needed has been disposed of (as by using, spending, or selling) > (his salary was so small that there was no surplus for investment) > (the problem is how to dispose of the large surplus in this year’s cotton crop) > (huge unused surpluses pile up beyond the reach of consumers—La Barre)

Surplusage may be used in place of surplus but may especially imply wasteful or useless excess > (the subsequent part of the section is mere surplusage, is entirely without meaning, if such is to be the construction—John Marshall) > (say what you have to say . . . with no surplusage—Pater)

Overplus is often used in place of surplus, but it less often implies a remainder than an addition to what is needed > (the overplus of a great fortune—Adams) > (there was no surplus in the field this year) > (the wild overplus of vegetation which was certainly not that of a normal garden—Wyndham Lewis)

excessive, immoderate, inordinate, extravagant, exorbitant, extreme are comparable when meaning characterized by going beyond or above its proper, just, or right limit.

Excessive implies an amount, quantity, or extent too great to be just, reasonable, or endurable > (the excessive heat of a midsummer afternoon) > (excessive lenity and indulgence are ultimately excessive rigor—John Knox) > (an excessive penchant for intellectual and verbal hairsplitting—Beach)

Immoderate is often used interchangeably with excessive (immoderate heat) but, distinctively, it may imply lack of restraint especially in the feelings or their expression > (immoderate zeal) > (immoderate laughter)

Mass gave him extreme, I may even say immoderate, satisfaction. It was almost orgiastic—T. S. Eliot

Inordinate implies an exceeding of the bounds or limits prescribed by authority or dictated by good judgment > (the great difficulty of living content is the cherishing of inordinate and unreasonable expectations—T. E. Brown)

I am always staggered . . . by the inordinate snobbery of the English press—Huxley

Extravagant often adds specifically implies intemperance or immoderation > (early excesses the frame will recover from—Meredith) > (there was no surplus for investment) > (the problem is how to dispose of the large surplus in this year’s cotton crop) > (huge unused surpluses pile up beyond the reach of consumers—La Barre)

Surplusage may be used in place of surplus but may especially imply wasteful or useless excess > (the subsequent part of the section is mere surplusage, is entirely without meaning, if such is to be the construction—John Marshall) > (say what you have to say . . . with no surplusage—Pater)

Overplus is often used in place of surplus, but it less often implies a remainder than an addition to what is needed > (the overplus of a great fortune—Adams) > (there was no surplus in the field this year) > (the wild overplus of vegetation which was certainly not that of a normal garden—Wyndham Lewis)

excessive, immoderate, inordinate, extravagant, exorbitant, extreme are comparable when meaning characterized by going beyond or above its proper, just, or right limit.

Excessive implies an amount, quantity, or extent too great to be just, reasonable, or endurable > (the excessive heat of a midsummer afternoon) > (excessive lenity and indulgence are ultimately excessive rigor—John Knox) > (an excessive penchant for intellectual and verbal hairsplitting—Beach)

Immoderate is often used interchangeably with excessive (immoderate heat) but, distinctively, it may imply lack of restraint especially in the feelings or their expression > (immoderate zeal) > (immoderate laughter)

Mass gave him extreme, I may even say immoderate, satisfaction. It was almost orgiastic—T. S. Eliot

Inordinate implies an exceeding of the bounds or limits prescribed by authority or dictated by good judgment > (the great difficulty of living content is the cherishing of inordinate and unreasonable expectations—T. E. Brown)

I am always staggered . . . by the inordinate snobbery of the English press—Huxley

Extravagant often adds specifically implies intemperance or immoderation > (early excesses the frame will recover from—Meredith) > (there was no surplus for investment) > (the problem is how to dispose of the large surplus in this year’s cotton crop) > (huge unused surpluses pile up beyond the reach of consumers—La Barre)

Surplusage may be used in place of surplus but may especially imply wasteful or useless excess > (the subsequent part of the section is mere surplusage, is entirely without meaning, if such is to be the construction—John Marshall) > (say what you have to say . . . with no surplusage—Pater)

Overplus is often used in place of surplus, but it less often implies a remainder than an addition to what is needed > (the overplus of a great fortune—Adams) > (there was no surplus in the field this year) > (the wild overplus of vegetation which was certainly not that of a normal garden—Wyndham Lewis)

excessive, immoderate, inordinate, extravagant, exorbitant, extreme are comparable when meaning characterized by going beyond or above its proper, just, or right limit.

Excessive implies an amount, quantity, or extent too great to be just, reasonable, or endurable > (the excessive heat of a midsummer afternoon) > (excessive lenity and indulgence are ultimately excessive rigor—John Knox) > (an excessive penchant for intellectual and verbal hairsplitting—Beach)

Immoderate is often used interchangeably with excessive (immoderate heat) but, distinctively, it may imply lack of restraint especially in the feelings or their expression > (immoderate zeal) > (immoderate laughter)

Mass gave him extreme, I may even say immoderate, satisfaction. It was almost orgiastic—T. S. Eliot

Inordinate implies an exceeding of the bounds or limits prescribed by authority or dictated by good judgment > (the great difficulty of living content is the cherishing of inordinate and unreasonable expectations—T. E. Brown)

I am always staggered . . . by the inordinate snobbery of the English press—Huxley

Extravagant often adds specifically implies intemperance or immoderation > (early excesses the frame will recover from—Meredith) > (there was no surplus for investment) > (the problem is how to dispose of the large surplus in this year’s cotton crop) > (huge unused surpluses pile up beyond the reach of consumers—La Barre)

Surplusage may be used in place of surplus but may especially imply wasteful or useless excess > (the subsequent part of the section is mere surplusage, is entirely without meaning, if such is to be the construction—John Marshall) > (say what you have to say . . . with no surplusage—Pater)

Overplus is often used in place of surplus, but it less often implies a remainder than an addition to what is needed > (the overplus of a great fortune—Adams) > (there was no surplus in the field this year) > (the wild overplus of vegetation which was certainly not that of a normal garden—Wyndham Lewis)
tract none of the exorbitant desires by which others are enslaved—Spectator (the men who worked in the brick- kilns lived in this settlement, and paid an exorbitant rent to the Judge—Deland) (the law for the renegotiation of war contracts—which will prevent exorbitant profits and assure fair prices to the government—Roosevelt) Extreme implies an excessiveness or extra- gance that seems to reach the end of what is possible; it is often hyperbolic in actual use (the result gave him extreme satisfaction) (the extreme oddness of existence is what reconciles me to it—L. P. Smith) (the most extreme . . . statement of such an attitude would be: nothing is poetry which can be formulated in prose—Day Lewis) (the fascination of crime is perpetual, especially in its extreme form as murder—A. C. Ward) Ana *superfluous, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: redundant (see WORDY) Ant deficient —Con *meager, scanty, scant, skimpy, Ana *superfluous, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent: redundant (see WORDY)

Excitement may imply a disposing of one thing for another by or as if by the methods of bartering or trading (exchange horses) (the hostile forces exchanged prisoners of war) (exchange farm products for manufactured goods) Sometimes the term specifically implies a substitution of one thing for another without any definite suggestion of bartering or trading (wedding presents are often exchanged by the bride for things of which she has greater need) (well satisfied to exchange the stratified suburb of Hyde Park for the amorphous neighborhood of Halsted Street—Lovett) or an alternation of things by two, sometimes more, persons (exchange letters) (exchange a few words with each other) Interchange is rarely used in place of exchange except when alternation (as in reciprocal giving and receiving) is implied, often with the connotation of a continuous succession (the townspeople and the summer residents interchanged courtesies with each other) (there were repeated cheernings and salutations interchanged between the shore and the ship—Irving) Bandy may imply a careless or casual tossing back and forth or from one to another (a firearm is no toy to be bandied about) and it is often used in place of interchange when vigorous, rapid, and more or less prolonged action is implied (bandy hasty words) (bandy compliments) The term also may imply heated or active discussion or a passing of information from one to another (your name is . . . frequently bandied at table among us—Irving) (the stories they invent . . . and bandy from mouth to mouth!—Dickens)

Excitement *stimulus, stimulant, incitement, impetus Excite *provoke, stimulate, pique, quicken, galvanize Ana *stir, rouse, arouse, rally, waken, awaken: agitation, disturb, perturb, *discompose, disquiet: animate, inspire, fire (see INFORM) Ant soothe, quiet (persons); allay (fears, anxiety) Exclude, debar, blackmail, eliminate, rule out, shut out, disbar are comparable when meaning to prevent someone or something from forming part of something else as a member, a constituent, or a factor. Exclude implies a keeping out of what is already outside: it therefore suggests a prevention of entrance or admission (exclude light from a room by closing the shutters) (exclude a subject from consideration) (exclude a class from certain privileges) Debar implies the existence of a barrier which is effectual in excluding someone or something on the outside from entering into a group, body, or system, from enjoying certain privileges, powers, or prerogatives, or from doing what those not so restrained do naturally or easily (a high wall debarred boys from entering) (the qualifications demanded . . . would be likely to debar 99 percent of the secondary school instructors in America—Grandgent) (the Japanese designer was debarred by instinct and tradition from using the resources of texture and of light and shade—Binyon) Blackball basically implies exclusion from a club or society by vote of its members (originally by putting a black ball into a ballot box) (he was very nearly blackballed at a West End club of which his birth and social position fully entitled him to become a member—Wilde) The term has some extended use, but it usually implies a deliberate decision or effort to exclude a person from social, professional, or economic intercourse. Eliminate differs from the preceding words in implying a getting rid of, or a removal of what is already in, especially as a constituent element or part (eliminate a quantity from an equation) (eliminate a subject from a curriculum) (eliminate a poison from the system) (it is always wise to eliminate the personal equation from our judgments of literature—J. R. Lowell) (in most poets there is an intermittent conflict between the poetic self and the rest of the thing) and it is by reconciling the two, not by eliminating the one, that they can reach their full stature—Day Lewis) Rule out may imply either exclusion or elimination, but it usually suggests a formal or authoritative decision (rule a horse out of a race) (rule out certain candidates for a position) (rule such subjective and moral judgments out of our biology—Kroeker) Shut out may imply exclusion of something by preventing its entrance or admission (close the windows to shut out the rain) or, in sports use, to prevent from scoring (the home team was shut out in the second game) Disbar (often confused with debar) implies the elimination by a legal process of a lawyer from the group of those already admitted to practice, thereby depriving him for cause of his status and privileges. Suspend implies the elimination of a person who is a member of an organization or a student at a school or college, often for a definite period of time and, usually, because of some offense or serious infraction of the rules; the term seldom if ever implies that the case is closed or that readmission is impossible (suspend ten members of a club for nonpayment of dues) (there was but one course: to suspend the man from the exercise of all priestly functions—Cather) Ana *hinder, bar, block: preclude, obviate, ward, *prevent: *banish, exile, ostracize, deport Ant admit (persons): include (things) —Con comprehend, embrace, involve (see INCLUDE) Exclusive *select, elect, picked Ana excluding, eliminating, debaring, shutting out, ruling out (see EXCLUDE): aristocratic, patrician (see corresponding nouns at GENTLEMAN) Ant inclusive —Con cosmopolitan, cosmopolitan, *universal: *common, ordinary, familiar, popular, vulgar Exscogitate weigh, *consider, study, contemplate Ana *ponder, meditate, ruminate, muse: cogitate, reflect, deliberate, speculate, *think Excorticlate *abrade, chafe, fret, gall Ana *strip, divest, denude, bare: flay, *skin: torture, torment, rack (see AFFLICT): tongue-lash, revile, berate (see SCOLD) Excruciating, agonizing, racking mean intensely and, usually, unbearable pain. All are commonly used as strong intensives and applied to pain, suffering, and torture. When used to qualify other things, they mean causing intense pain or suffering. Excruciating carries strong suggestions of acute physical torture or of exquisitely
painless sensation <suffered excruciating pain from an abscessed tooth> <excruciating noises> <the heart rending torments of a narrow-minded folk—Amer. Guide Series: Md.>

**Agonizing** stresses anguish of mind even when it strongly implies physical suffering <an agonizing spasm of pain—a memento mori—shot through me and passed away—W. J. Locke> <lives there a man so firm, who, while his heart feels all the bitter horror of his crime, can reason down its agonizing throb—Burns>

**Racking** suggests sensations of pulling and straining and tearing comparable to those suffered by a person on the rack <racking pains in the chest> <a racking headache> <racking doubts>

**Ana** torturing, tormenting, racking (see **AFFLICT**):

- intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent

**exculpate, absolve, exonerate, acquit, vindicate** mean to free from a charge or burden. **Exculpate** implies simply a clearing from blame, often in a matter of small importance <exculpate oneself from a charge of inconsistency> <directly Harding was blameless for what was going on. Indirectly he cannot be wholly exculpated—S. H. Adams>

**Absolve** implies a release, often a formal release, either from obligations or responsibilities that bind the conscience or from the consequences or penalties of their violation <absolve a person from a promise> <society cannot be absolved of responsibility for its slums> **Exculpate** implies relief, often in a moral sense, from what is regarded as a load or burden <no reason for exonerating him [a judge] from the ordinary duties of a citizen—Justice Holmes> In general **exonerate** more frequently suggests such relief from a definite charge that not even the suspicion of wrongdoing remains <exonerate a person charged with theft> **Acquit** implies a decision in one's favor with reference to a specific charge <acquit a suspect of all participation in a crime> <you do acquit me then of anything wrong? You are convinced that I never meant...>

**Vindicate** un-<like the preceding words, may have reference to things as well as to persons that have been subjected to attack, suspicion, censure, or ridicule. As here compared (see also **MAINTAIN**) it implies a clearing through proof of the injustice or the unfairness of such criticism or blame and the exoneration of the person or the justification of the thing <both his knowledge and his honesty were vindicated when the river was discovered—G. R. Stewart> <the... politicians were vindicated on all counts—Rover>

**Ana** justify, *explain, account, rationalize: acquit, vindicate, *exculpate, absolve, **exonerate**: *palliate, extenuate, gloze, gloss, whitewash

**Ant** punish —Con censure, reprove, reprehend, blame, *criticize: chastise, castigate, discipline, chasten, correct (see **PUNISH**)

**excuse** n. plea, pretext, *apology, apologia, alibi

**Ana** explanation, justification, rationalization (see corresponding verbs at **EXPLAIN**): palliation, extenuation, whitewashing, glossing (see corresponding verbs at **PALLIATE**)

**execrable, damnable, accursed, cursed** mean so odious as to deserve cursing or condemning. In actual use they vary little if any in force and only slightly in implications, although usage to a certain extent limits their applications. **Execrable** is applied chiefly to what is bad beyond description **execrable poetry** <an execrable performance of Hamlet> <the concurrent possession of great wealth and execrable taste—Wylie> **Dammable** and **accursed** are applied most often either to persons, their acts, and their vices or to things that excite righteous indignation and strong condemnation <unless that man in there is to be given a chance of expiation in another life, then capital punishment is a damnable horror—Mackenzie> <accursed tower! accursed fatal hand that hath contrived this woeful tragedy!—Shak.> **Cursed** varies in dignity, sometimes being applied to what merely excites profanity and sometimes to what is intrinsically worthy of imprecation <merciful powers, restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature gives way to in repose!—Shak.>

**Ana** *outrageous, atrocious, heinous, monstrous: *base, low, vile: loathsome, revolting, repulsive, *offensive, repugnant

**execute, curse, damn, anathematize, objurgate** are comparable when meaning to exact punishment or redress for (an offense) or from (an offender). In polite use **execute, pardon, and forgive** usually suggest a hope that one is not annoyed. Both **execute and condone** imply an overlooking or passing over either without censure or without adequate punishment; distinctively, one may **execute** specific acts (as faults, omissions, or neglects) especially in social or conventional obligations or the person committing them <please execute my interruption> <the injustice with which he had been treated would have excused him if he had resorted to violent methods of redress—Macaulay> but one more often **condone** either a kind of behavior (as dishonesty, folly, or violence) or a course of conduct or an institution especially when constituting a grave breach of the moral code or a violation of law <we condone everything in this country—private treason, falsehood, flattery, cruelty at home, roguery, and double-dealing—Thackeray> <slavery struck no deep roots in New England soil, perhaps because the nobler half of the New England conscience never condoned it—Replier>

**Pardon** (opposed to **punish**) and **forgive** (opposed to **condemn**) are often employed interchangeably, but their implications may be distinct. One **pardons** when one frees from the penalty due for an offense or refrains from exacting punishment for it <pardon ten prisoners at Christmas> <will you pardon my intrusion?> <it became necessary... to fly for our lives...>. We could not look to be pardoned—Hudson> and one **forgives** when one gives up not only all claim to requital or retribution but also all resentment or desire for revenge <to err is human, to forgive, divine—POPE> <the wrath... is past... and I, lo, I forgive thee, as Eternal God forgives!—Tennyson> **Remit** is a synonym only in the idiomatic phrase to **remit** sins, in which it means to free from the punishment due for one's sins.

**Ana** justify, *explain, account, rationalize: acquit, vindicate, *exculpate, absolve, exonerate: *palliate, extenuate, gloze, gloss, whitewash

**Ant** punish —Con censure, reprove, reprehend, blame, *criticize: chastise, castigate, discipline, chasten, correct (see **PUNISH**)

**excuse** n. plea, pretext, *apology, apologia, alibi

**Ana** explanation, justification, rationalization (see corresponding verbs at **EXPLAIN**): palliation, extenuation, whitewashing, glossing (see corresponding verbs at **PALLIATE**)

**execrable, damnable, accursed, cursed** mean so odious as to deserve cursing or condemning. In actual use they vary little if any in force and only slightly in implications, although usage to a certain extent limits their applications. **Execrable** is applied chiefly to what is bad beyond description **execrable poetry** <an execrable performance of Hamlet> <the concurrent possession of great wealth and execrable taste—Wylie> **Dammable** and **accursed** are applied most often either to persons, their acts, and their vices or to things that excite righteous indignation and strong condemnation (unless that man in there is to be given a chance of expiation in another life, then capital punishment is a damnable horror—Mackenzie> <accursed tower! accursed fatal hand that hath contrived this woeful tragedy!—Shak.> **Cursed** varies in dignity, sometimes being applied to what merely excites profanity and sometimes to what is intrinsically worthy of imprecation <merciful powers, restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature gives way to in repose!—Shak.>

**Ana** *outrageous, atrocious, heinous, monstrous: *base, low, vile: loathsome, revolting, repulsive, *offensive, repugnant

**execute, curse, damn, anathematize, objurgate** are comparable when meaning to denounce violently and indignantly. **Execute** implies intense loathing or hatred and, usually, a fury of passion <they execute... their lot—Cowper> <execrated the men who were responsible for their misery> It often suggests acts as well as words which give an outlet to these emotions <for a little while he was executed in Rome; his statues were overthrown, and his name was blotted from the records—Buchan>

**Curse** in reference to earlier custom may imply an invocation to the Supreme Being to visit deserved punish-
execute 308

exemption to a person or to afflict him for his sins (the that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it—Prov 11:26)

In more general use curse and damn (see also sentence) do not markedly differ in meaning. Both usually imply angry denunciation by blasphemous oaths or profane imprecations (I heard my brother damn the coachman, and curse the maids—Defoe) Anathematize implies solemn denunciation (as of an evil, a heresy, or an injustice). It is used chiefly in reference to the impassioned denunciations of preachers or moralists (anathematize the violation of a treaty) (anathematize graff in politics)

A quasi realism which has been anathematized by the empirical foundations and purposes of realistic philosophy—Nemetz

Objureate implies a vehement decrinal or criticism (objurated the custom of garnishing poems with archaism—T. R. Weiss) and often suggests the use of harsh or violent language in the expression of one's views so that it may approach curse or damn in some of its uses (command all to do their duty. Command, but not objurigate—Taylor) (violently had he objurigated that wretch of a groom—Vaughan)

Ana denounce, condemn, reprobate, censure, reprehend (see criticize); revile, berate, rate (see scold)

Cure *commend, appraise, compliment, recommend: *praise, laud, eulogize, eulogize

evaluate 1 effect, fulfill, complete, finish, conclude, *realize, actuate, *execute, effect, fulfill, discharge, *perform, accom-


effect, fulfill, complete, finish, conclude, *realize, actuate, execute, perform, accomplish, achieve

Ana complete, finish, conclude, *close: *realize, actuate, externalize, objectify

2 *kill, dispatch, slay, murder, assassinate

exemplar pattern, ideal, beau ideal, example, *model, mirror, standard

Ana apotheosis, *paragon, nonpareil, nonsuch: type, symbol

exemplify, illustrate are comparable when they mean to use in speaking or writing concrete instances or cases to make clear something which is difficult, abstract, general, or remote from experience or to serve as an instance, case, or demonstration of a point or matter under examination. Exemplify implies the use of examples for clarification of a general or abstract statement or as aid in revealing the truth of a proposition or assertion (a good preacher usually exemplifies each point that he seeks to impress upon his congregation) (the notes of Coleridge exemplify Coleridge's fragmentary and fine perceptions—T. S. Eliot) (each, in his way, exemplifies the peril that besets a highly gifted poetic nature—Lowes)

Illustrate implies the use not only of concrete examples but also sometimes of pictures or sketches and the intent not only to clarify but to make vivid or real what is being explained or to drive home most effectively a point that is being made (the textbook is adequately illustrated with photographs and diagrams) (I will illustrate the word a little further—J. R. Lowell) (the assertion...lean... support... truth conveyed in those words of Cicero, and wonderfully illustrates and confirms them—Arnold) (the world was no more made to serve us by illustrating our philosophy than we were made to serve the world by licking its boots—Santayana)

exemption, immunity are comparable when meaning the act or fact of freeing or the state of being free or freed from something burdensome, disagreeable, or painful. Exemption is more restricted in its meaning, for it applies usually to a release from some legal or similarly imposed obligation or burden to which others in the same circumstances and not similarly freed are liable (married men with families may apply for exemption from military service) (they have no vices, but they buy that exemption at a price, for one is inclined to ask whether...they really have any virtues—Ellis) Immunity covers all cases for which an exemption may be given or obtained, but the term carries so strong an implication of privilege and of freedom from certain common restrictions that it is often used in reference to persons or classes of persons especially favored by the law or by nature (entitled to the rights of a citizen, and clothed with all the rights and immunities which the Constitution and laws of the State attached to that character—Tanner) (the question of the immunities of the clergy had been publicly raised—Froude) (the man of creative imagination pays a ghastly price for all his superiorities and immunities—Mencken)

exercise n practice, drill (see under practice vb)

Ana *act, action, deed: using or use, employment, utilization, application (see corresponding verbs at use): operation, functioning, behavior (see corresponding verbs at act)

exercise vb *practice, drill

Ana *use, employ, utilize: display, exhibit, *show: wield, ply, manipulate, *handle

exertion *effort, pains, trouble

Ana labor, toil, travail, *work, grind, drudgery: struggle, striving, endeavor (see under attempt vb)

Con relaxation, *rest, repose, leisure, ease: inactivity, inertness or inertia, idleness (see corresponding adjectives at inactive)

exhaust vb 1 drain, *deplete, impoverish, bankrupt

Ana sap, undermine, *weaken: consume, absorb, engross, *monopolize: dissipate, disperse, dispel, *scatter

Con conserve, preserve, *save: restore (see renew)

2 fatigue, jade, weary, *tire, fag, tucker

Ana *unnervre, enervate,emasculate: disable, cripple, debilitate, enfeeble, *weaken

Con refresh, restore, rejuvenate, *renew: vivify, *quicken, animate, enliven

exhibit vb display, expose, *show, parade, flaunt

Ana *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: *show, manifest, evidence, evince, demonstrate

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

exhibit n *exhibition, show, exposition, fair

exhibition, show, exhibit, exposition, fair are comparable when meaning a public display of objects of interest. Exhibition and, less often in strictly formal use except in art circles, show are applicable to any such display of objects of art, manufacture, commerce, or agriculture or to a display (as by pupils, members, or associates) of prowess or skill (as in gymnastics, oratory, or music) (the annual exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts) (an exhibition of Navaho blankets) (a one-man show of paintings) (a gymnastic exhibition) (a cattle show) (an industrial exhibition) Exhibit typically denotes an object or collection displayed by a single person, group, or organization in an exhibition (our club had a fine exhibit in the school fair) but in some uses it is not clearly distinct from exhibition or show, since the scope of an exhibit may vary from a single object to a collection co-extensive with an exhibition; thus, an artist might present a one-man show which would be at once an exhibition and an exhibit of his work. Exposition is the usual term for a very large exhibition, especially one involving the participation of many states and countries (the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893) (the annual Eastern States Exposition at West Springfield, Massachu-

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

*urge, egg, goad, spur, prod, prick, sic

Anna: plead, appeal (see under PRAYER); entreat, implore, beseech (see Beg): stimulate, excite, *provoke: advise, counsel (see under ADVICE n)

exigency

1 pass, emergency, pinch, strait, crisis, contingency, *juncture

Anna: *difficulty, vicissitude, rigor, hardship: *predication, plight, fix, quandary, dilemma, jam, pickle, scrape 2 necessity, *need

Anna: demanding or demand, requirement, exacting or exactation, claiming or claim (see corresponding verbs at DEMAND): compulsion, coercion, constraint, duress (see FORCE n)

exigent

*pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, imperative, *need

Anna: *state, condition, situation, status: subsisting or existent

exigent

6 onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting: greedy, grasping, *covetous: extorting or extortionate

Anna: *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting: greedy, grasping, *covetous: extorting or extortionate

Anna: *state, condition, situation, status: subsisting or existent

exigent

*state, condition, situation, status: subsisting or existent

Anna: *state, condition, situation, status: subsisting or existent

Anna: nonexistence

Anna: *state, condition, situation, status: subsisting or existent, living or life (see corresponding verbs at BE)

Anna: nonexistence

exonerate

acquit, vindicate, absolve, *exculpate

Anna: *relieve, lighten, alleviate: *excuse, remit

Anna: charge (a person with a task, a duty, a crime)

exorbitant

inordinate, extravagant, *excessive, immoderate, extreme

Anna: *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting: greedy, grasping, *covetous: extorting or extortionate

Anna: *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting: greedy, grasping, *covetous: extorting or extortionate

Anna: just (price, charge) —Con *fair, equitable: reasonableness: preambles, preface, *introduction, foreword, prologue, prelude

expand, amplify, swell, distend, inflate, dilate mean to increase or to cause to increase in size, bulk, or volume.

Expand is the most inclusive term in this group and may often be used interchangeably with any of the others. It distinctively implies enlargement by opening out, unfolding, or spreading and may be used when the enlarging force is either internal or external (tulips expand in the sun) (the flag expanded in the breeze) (expand a sponge by soaking it in water) (expand one's chest by breathing deeply) (their business is expanding) Amplify implies extension of something which is inadequate or obscure (as by filling out with details or by magnifying the volume) (amplify a statement by adding details) (devices for amplifying sounds) (the author follows the Vulgate narrative closely . . . but amplifies and embroiders—Saintsbury) Swell implies expansion beyond a thing's original circumference or normal limits (warm spring rains cause the leaf buds to swell) (the river is swelling) (his hand is swollen) (gifts to swell the endowment fund) Often it implies increase in intensity, force, or volume (the laughter swelled to hooting—Galsworthy) (Caesar's ambition, which swelled so much that it did almost stretch the sides of the world—Shak.) or it may imply puffing up or puffing out to the point of bursting (swollen veins) (his heart swollen with pride) Distend implies swelling caused by pressure from within forcing extension outward in all directions. It may presuppose a previous void or flaccid state (a rubber bag distends when filled with water) (sails distended by the wind) or it may imply an exceeding of normal bounds (a stomach distended by gas) (like the flesh of animals distended by fear—Cather) (the bat's body was so distended that it appeared spherical—Dimmick & Greenhall) Inflate usually implies distention by artificial means (as by the introduction of gas or by puffing up with something as insubstantial or as easily dissipated as gas) (inflate a balloon) (inflate values) (an inflated idea of one's own importance) (poems . . . so inflated with metaphor, that they may be compared to the gaudy bubbles blown up from a solution of soap—Goldsmith) (the psychological problems of inflated national ego, heroic delusions of grandeur, and theories of historical inevitability—Newhall) Dilate implies expansion in diameter; it therefore suggests a widening out of something circular rather than a puffing up of something globular or spherical (as round a pebble into water thrown dilates a ring of light—Longfellow) (half-frightened, with dilated eyes—Tennyson) (some stirring experience . . . may swiftly dilate your field of consciousness—Montague)

Anna: enlarge, *increase, augment: *extend, protract, prolong

Anna: contract: abridge (a book, article): circumscribe (a range, a scope, a power)

expanse, amplitude, spread, stretch are comparable when they denote an area or range of considerable or conspicuous extent. Expanse is applied chiefly to vast areas open to view and usually uniform in character (pure as the expanse of Heaven—Milton) (thy mariners explore the wide expanse—Cowper) (great expanse of country spread around and below—D. H. Lawrence) Amplitude implies in general use an amplenness in what it describes and suggests relative largeness (as in size or range) (with a face dark and proud as a Borgia's, though not cruel; with a figure of noble amplitude—Donn Byrne) (the amplitude of his vision found supreme expression in a style that is meticulous, colorful, and luminous—Millett) or great-
ness (as in character or quality) ⟨he displayed a Miltonic amplitude of ambition and style—Bush⟩ (a red-curtained English inn . . . stood sideways in the road, as if standing aside in the amplitude of hospitality—Chesterston⟩ but in technical contexts in which the word is specifically applied to the range of a variable (as wavelength or a statistical array) the notion of amleness has given way to that of magnitude, and amplitude means no more than size or extent ⟨the size or extent of the swing is given as the amplitude of the pendulum—Taffel⟩ ⟨the maximum distance the curve rises above or falls below the horizontal axis . . . is known as its amplitude—F. E. Seymour & P. J. Smith⟩ Spread is applied to an expanse drawn out in all directions ⟨the water . . . a ripply spread of sun and sea—Browning⟩ ⟨a trackless spread of moor—Blackmore⟩ ⟨under the immense spread of the starry heavens—Stevenson⟩ Stretch is applied to an expanse in one of its two dimensions ⟨the beach was a narrow stretch of sand⟩ ⟨a stretch of farmland extending as far as the distant mountains⟩ ⟨the great stretches of fields that lay beside the road—Anderson⟩

expansive *elastic, resilient, buoyant, volatile, effervescent

Ana exuberant, luxuriant, lavish, prodigal (see PROFUSE): generous, *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, open-handed: exalted, magnified, aggrandized (see EXALT) Ant tense: reserved —Con *stiff, inflexible, rigid: stern, austere, *severe: taciturn, *silent, reticent

expatiate *discourse, descant, dilate

Ana *speak, talk, converse: *expand, amplify: *dissuade, argue, dispute: expand, *explain: *relate, narrate, recount, recite, rehearse

expatiate vb exile, *banish, ostracize, deport, transport, extradite

Ant repatriate

expect, hope, look, await are comparable when they mean to have something in mind as more or less certain to happen or come about. They vary, however, so greatly in their implications and in their constructions that they are seldom interchangeable. Expect usually implies a high degree of certainty, but it also involves the idea of anticipation (as by making preparations or by envisioning what will happen, one will find, or what emotions one will feel) ⟨he told his mother not to expect him for dinner⟩ ⟨she had reason to expect that the trip would be exciting⟩ ⟨he seems to require and expect goodness in one will feel) ⟨he was told it was not advisable ⟨purely for expedient reasons he let the Iroquois alone—Hervey Allen⟩ Consequently expedient is often opposed to right, the former suggesting a choice determined by temporal ends, the latter one determined by ethical principles (too fond of the right to pursue the expedient—Goldsmith) Something is political which is the judicious course, action, or method from the practical point of view. Though often used interchangeably with expedient, political may be applied discriminately to choices involving tactics or the effective handling of persons, and expedient to choices involving strategy, or the gaining of definite and usually immediate advantages accrue. Originally and still occasionally the word carries no derogatory implication ⟨it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you—Jn 16:7⟩ In its sense development expedient came to imply determination by immediate conditions and to mean necessary or suitable under present circumstances ⟨there shall be appointed . . . such number of . . . justices of the peace as the president of the United States shall, from time to time, think expedient—John Marshall⟩ As a result expedient now commonly implies opportuneness (sometimes with a strong hint of timeserving) as well as advantageousness ⟨they decided that it was not expedient (that is, neither opportune nor of advantage) to interfere now⟩ Very frequently also it connotes such an ulterior motive as self-interest ⟨purely for expedient reasons he let the Iroquois alone—Hervey Allen⟩ Consequently expedient is often opposed to right, the former suggesting a choice determined by temporal ends, the latter one determined by ethical principles (too fond of the right to pursue the expedient—Goldsmith) Something is political which is the judicious course, action, or method from the practical point of view. Though often used interchangeably with expedient, political may be applied discriminately to choices involving tactics or the effective handling of persons, and expedient to choices involving strategy, or the gaining of objectives ⟨the move was a political one, for it served to win friends to the cause and to placate its enemies⟩ ⟨Community of race . . . is mainly a political fiction, at least in countries of European civilization, in which the races are inextricably mixed up—Encyc. Brit.⟩ Like expedient, however, political often implies material motives ⟨whether it is not your interest to make them happy . . . ⟩ Is a political act the worse for being a generous one?—Burke Something is advisable which is expedient in the original, undergraduous sense of that word. Advisable has now nearly lost its original derivative sense and is preferred by writers or speakers who wish to avoid any of the unpleasant implications of expedient or of political ⟨I don't think that it's altogether advisable to mention Dickens in a sermon. . . . Some people might be offended at mentioning a novelist in church—Mackenzie⟩ (he was told it was not advisable to drive on through the mountains because of the night fogs—Sylvester) Ana advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: useful, utilitarian (see corresponding nouns at USE): *seasonal, opportune, timely, well-timed: feasible, practicable,

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

*possible

\textbf{Ant} inexpedient — \textbf{Con} detrimental, deleterious (see \textit{pernicious}); harming or harmful, hurting or hurtful, injuring or injurious (see corresponding verbs at \textit{injure}); *futile, vain, fruitless

\textbf{expedient} \textit{n} *resource, resort, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate

\textit{Ana} *device, contrivance, contraption: *mean, agency, instrument, instrumentality, medium

\textbf{expedition} 1 dispatch, speed, *haste, hurry

\textit{Ana} *celerity, legerity, alacrity: agility, nimbleness, briskness (see corresponding adjectives at \textit{agile})

\textbf{Ant} procrastination — \textbf{Con} delaying or delay, retarding or retardation, slowing, slackening (see corresponding verbs at \textit{delay})

2 *journey, voyage, tour, trip, jaunt, excursion, cruise, pilgrimage

\textbf{expeditious} speedy, swift, *fast, rapid, fleet, quick, hasty

\textit{Ana} efficient, *effective, efficacious, effectual: brisk, *agile, nimble: *quick, ready, prompt

\textbf{Ant} sluggish — \textbf{Con} inefficient, *ineffective, inefficacious, inefficacious: *slow, dilatory, leisurely, laggard, deliberate

\textbf{expel} *eject, oust, dismiss, evict

\textit{Ana} *banish, exile, ostracize: *dismiss, discharge, cashier, fire: *discard, cast: *exclude, shut out, eliminate

\textbf{Ant} admit (sense 1)

\textbf{expend} *spend, disburse

\textit{Ana} *pay, repay, compensate, reimburse, remunerate: *distribute, dispense

\textbf{expense} cost, *price, charge

\textbf{expensive} *costly, dear, valuable, precious, invaluable, priceless

\textit{Ana} exorbitant, extravagant, *excessive, immoderate

\textbf{Ant} inexpensive

\textbf{experience} \textit{vb} Experience, undergo, sustain, suffer are comparable when they mean to pass through the process of actually coming to know or to feel. \textit{Experience} means little more than this. It implies that something (as a sensation, an emotion, or an occasion) is known not from hearsay but from an actual living through it or going through it \textit{the disgust he had inspired in me before . . . was a weak and transient feeling to what I now experience—Hudson} \textit{we cannot experience the sweetness of a single molecule of sugar, nor the smell of a single molecule of musk—Jeans} \textit{Undergo} carries a strong implication of bearing or enduring or of being subjected to that is almost lacking in \textit{experience}; it frequently takes as an object a distressing experience (as pain, suffering, or hardships) when the subject names a person \textit{undergo great disappointment} \textit{undergo a serious operation} \textit{his fine spirit was broken by the anxieties he had undergone—Martinneau} \textit{the search for truth . . . makes men and women content to undergo hardships—Eliot} But when it is used with objects which represent a process which covers years or ages of time, it comes closer to \textit{experience} in meaning, though it seldom takes an individual as its subject \textit{a man experiences a change of heart, but a race undergoes changes which are not apparent for many generations} Very occasionally, when the idea of submission to or imposition upon is stressed, the subject of \textit{undergo} in the active voice may be impersonal \textit{the bridge must undergo inspection before it is accepted by the government} \textit{Sustain} suggests undergoing infliction or imposition without implying as a necessary concomitant courage in resisting or enduring \textit{sustain a great loss through fire} \textit{sustain an injury} \textit{the two dropped supine into chairs at opposite corners of the ring as if they had sustained excessive fatigue—Shaw} \textit{must be prepared to sustain heavy losses—Bliven b. 1889} \textit{Suffer}, which is frequently used interchangeably with \textit{sustain} in this sense, carries a more marked implication of the harm done or injury wrought and is preferable when what is affected is a thing; moreover, \textit{suffer} may also be used intransitively \textit{all suffered the same fate} \textit{the very language of France has suffered considerable alterations since you were conversant in French books—Burke} \textit{a great author necessarily suffers by translation—Inge} Sometimes \textit{suffer} loses its distinctive quality and is then nearly equal to \textit{experience} \textit{Gard suffered an odd impulse to get up and kick his chair over—Mary Austin} \textit{most or all genes suffer mutational changes from time to time—Dobzhansky}

\textit{Ana} *see, perceive, behold, view, survey

\textbf{expert} \textit{adj} *proficient, adept, skilled, skillful, masterly

\textit{Ana} practiced, drilled (see \textit{practice vb}): trained, schooled (see \textit{teach}): *dexterous, deft, adroit

\textbf{Ant} amateurish — \textbf{Con} inept, maladroit, *awkward, clumsy

\textbf{expert} \textit{n} Expert, adept, artist, artiste, virtuoso, wizard are comparable when they designate a person who shows mastery in a subject, an art, or a profession or who reveals extraordinary skill in execution, performance, or technique. \textit{Expert} implies successful experience, broad knowledge of one’s subject, and distinguished achievements; it is applied specifically to one who is recognized as an authority in his field \textit{an expert in city planning} \textit{a handwriting expert} \textit{this problem in triangulation was extremely difficult, and an expert in geodesy was brought from the United States—Heiser} \textit{in philosophy he naturally looks for guidance to the experts and professionals—James} \textit{Adept} connotes understanding of the mysteries of some art or craft or penetration into secrets beyond the reach of exact science \textit{thou art an adept in the difficult lore of Greek and Frank philosophy—Shelley} \textit{it tends to imply sublyte or ingenuity \textit{he is an adept in intrigue} \textit{he is an adept at evasion} \textit{an adept at understatement—Buchan} \textit{Artist} stresses creative imagination and extraordinary skill in execution or in giving outward form to what the mind conceives. More than any other word in this group it stresses skill in performance and the factors (as perfection in workmanship, loving attention to detail, and a feeling for material) that are pertinent thereto \textit{the good craftsman . . . becomes an artist in so far as he treats his materials also for themselves . . . and is perpetually besieged by dreams of beauty in his work—Alexander} \textit{it came to pass that after a time the artist was forgotten, but the work lived—Schreiner} \textit{Artist} applies especially to public performers (as actors, singers, and dancers) but may occasionally be applied to workers in crafts where aptness and taste are indispensable to distinguished achievement \textit{that manner is an artiste} \textit{groups of artistes rehearsing every kind of act—Bambrick} \textit{Virtuso}, though often close to \textit{artist} in meaning, stresses the outward display of great technical skill or brilliance in execution rather than the inner passion for perfection or beauty. It is applied chiefly to performers on musical instruments and especially to pianists, violinists, and cellists \textit{the compositions of Liszt are the delight of virtuosos} \textit{this precise evocation of forms and colors by the great virtuosos of description—Babbit} \textit{Wizard} implies such skill and knowledge or such excellence in performance as seems to border on the magical \textit{a wizard with a billiard cue} \textit{that Sauerbruch, as thoracic surgeon, was a genius and something of a wizard seems to have been generally accepted—Brit. Book News}

\textit{Ant} amateur — \textit{Con} tyro, dabbler, dilettante (see \textit{amateur}): *novice, apprentice, probationer
expiate vb Expiate, atone mean to make amends or give satisfaction for an offense, a sin, a crime, or a wrong. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in their derivative nouns expiation and atonement. Expiate and expiation imply an attempt to undo the wrong one has done by suffering a penalty, by doing penance, or by making reparation or redress (let me here, as I deserve, pay on my punishment, and expiate, if possible, my crime—Milton) (unless that man in there is to be given a chance of expiation in another life, then capital punishment is a damnable horror—Mackenzie) Atoné and atonement have been greatly colored in their meanings by theological controversies. The basic implication of reconciliation became mixed with and sometimes subordinated to other implications (as appeasement, propitiation, or reparation). In general use atone (usually with for) and atonement emphasize a restoration through some compensation of a balance that has been lost. When the reference is to an offense, sin, or crime the words usually imply expiation, but they stress the rendering of satisfaction for the evil that has been done by acts that are good or heroic. Thus, one expiates a sin by doing penance for it, but one atones for it by leading a good life afterwards (she hated herself for this movement of envy . . . and tried to atone for it by a softened manner and a more anxious regard for Charlotte's feelings—Wharton) Sometimes a deficiency or a default rather than an offense may be atoned for (as by an excess of something else that is equally desirable) (for those who kneel beside us at altars not Thine own, who lack the lights that guide us, Lord, let their faith atone!—Kipling) Ana redress, remedy, rectify, *correct, amend: redeem, deliver, save (see Rescue) expiation atonement (see under expiate vb) Ana *penitence, repentance, contrition: *trial, tribulation, cross, visitation expire *pass, pass away, elapse Ana end, terminate, *close: cease, discontinue (see stop) Con *begin, commence, start explain 1 Explain, expound, explicate, elucidate, interpret, construe are comparable when they mean to make oneself or another understand the meaning of something. Explain, the most general term, implies a making of something plain or intelligible to someone by whom it was previously not known or clearly understood (explain to a boy the mechanism of an engine) (the teacher explained the meanings of the new words in the poem) (a poet whose words intimate rather than define, suggest rather than . . . explain—Edman) Expound implies careful, elaborate, often learned setting forth of a subject in order to explain it (as in a lecture, a book, or a treatise) (a clergyman expounding a biblical text) (expound a point of law) (Sir A. Eddington in two masterly chapters . . . expounds the law of gravitation—Alexander) (expound the duties of the citizen) Explicate, a somewhat learned term, adds to expound the idea of development or detailed analysis (the mind of a doctor of the Church who could . . . explicate the meaning of a dogma—T. S. Eliot) Elucidate implies a throwing light upon something obscure (as a subject, a work, or a passage) especially by clear or luminous exposition or illustration (elucidate an obscure passage in the text) (the simplicity of the case can be added . . . when the object is to addle and not to elucidate—Shaw) (the author's linguistic erudition has allowed him to consult the original sources and to elucidate and interpret them authentically—Reinhardt) Interpret implies the making clear to oneself or to another the meaning of something (as a poem, a dream, an abstraction, or a work in a foreign language) which presents more than intellectual difficulties and requires special knowledge, imagination, or sympathy in the person who would understand it or make it understood (I have tried in this all too hasty sketch to interpret . . . the indwelling spirit and ideal of the art of the Far East—Binyon) (it is a sophistry to interpret experience in terms of illusion—Sullivan) (an inscription which no one could understand or rightly interpret—Hudson) Construe is preferred to interpret when the difficulties are textual either because of the strangeness of the language (as by being foreign, ancient, dialectal, or technical) or because of ambiguities or equivocations in it. It therefore may suggest either translation involving careful analysis of grammatical structure (construe ten lines of Vergil) or a highly individual or particular interpretation (the phrase "every common carrier engaged in trade or commerce" may be construed to mean "while engaged in trade or commerce" without violence to the habits of English speech—Justice Holmes) (had construed the ordinarily polite terms of his letter of engagement into a belief that the Directors had chosen him on account of his special and brilliant talents—Kipling) explicate vb *explain, expound, elucidate, interpret, A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
explicit, express, specific, definite, categorical are comparable when applied to statements, utterances, and language and when meaning perfectly clear in significance or reference. Something is explicit which is stated so plainly and distinctly that nothing is left to be inferred or to cause difficulty by being vague, equivocal, or ambiguous. To give an explicit and determinate account of what is meant—Bentham. Something is explicit which is both explicit and is uttered or expressed with directness, pointedness, or force. An express prohibition (express testimony) (the defendant should be enjoined from publishing news obtained from the Associated Press for—hours after publication by the plaintiff unless it gives express credit to the Associated Press; the number of hours . . . to be settled by the District Court—Justice Holmes) (she sent me the now famous drawings, with the express injunction that I was to show them to no one—Pollitzer). Something is specific which is perfectly precise in its reference to a particular thing or in its statement of the details covered or comprehended. He made two specific criticisms of the school, one dealing with its lack of a playground, the other with the defective ventilation of certain rooms. Government workers, by specific law, must be fired if they resort to the Fifth Amendment—Time. Something is definite which leaves no doubt as to its reference or to its details or as to what is excluded; definite, far more than specific, suggests precise and determinate limitations. He was asked to make a definite statement concerning the young man’s prospects with the company. It was a simple, clear, definite question—Sinclair Lewis. In practice specific and definite are often used interchangeably without loss; but specific may be preferred when the intent is to stress particularization of reference or specification of details, and definite when it is to emphasize clear limitations; thus, a worker may be given specific instructions about the sequence in which his tasks are to be performed but a definite order not to smoke on the job. Categorical (see also ultimate 2) implies explicitness without the least suggestion of a qualification or condition; thus, a categorical answer is demanded of a person testifying in court when he is compelled to answer yes or no; a categorical denial is a denial that is complete and contains not the slightest reservations. It is perilous to make categorical assertions—Lowe’s. Ana precise, exact, accurate (see correct): clear, lucid, perspicuous. Ant ambiguous—Con equivocal, vague, enigmatic, cryptic, dark; obscure: implicit, virtual, constructive. Exploit *feat, achievement. Ana act, deed, *action: *adventure, enterprise, quest. Expose display, exhibit, *show, parade, flaunt. Ana *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: demonstrate, evince, manifest, evidence, *show: air, ventilate, vent, voice, utter. *express: publish, advertise, proclaim, broadcast, *declare. Exposure *expose, *exposition. Ana cover: covering—Con shelter, refuge, asylum, retreat. Expound *explain, explicate, elucidate, interpret, construe. Ana dissect, break down, *analyze, resolve: illustrate, *exemplify. Express adj *explicit, definite, specific, categorical. Ana expressed, voiced, uttered (see express vb): lucid, clear, perspicuous: distinct, plain (see evident); precise, exact, accurate (see correct). Con *implicit, constructive, virtual: vague, obscure, cryptic, enigmatic, ambiguous, equivocal. Express vb Express, vent, utter, voice, broach, air, ventilate. Ana comparable when they mean to let out what one feels or thinks. Express, the most comprehensive of these words, implies an impulse to reveal not only thoughts or feelings but also experiences, imaginative conceptions, and personality; it implies revelation not only in words but also in gestures, in action, in dress, or in what one makes or produces, especially as works of art. Once again I have to express surprise and satisfaction—Lucas (in speaking or writing we have an obligation to put ourselves into the hearer’s or reader’s place . . . . To express ourselves is a very small part of the business—Quiller-Couch). There were so many different moods and impressions that he wished to express in verse—Joyce. Vent stresses such an inner compulsion to expression as a pent-up emotion that seeks an outlet or a powerful passion that cannot be controlled. He vented his spleen in libelous caricatures: his heart’s his mouth: what his breast forges, that his tongue must vent—Shak. By means of ferocious jokes . . . he could vent his hatred of pioneer life and all its conditions—Brooks. Utter stresses the use of voice; it does not, however, always imply speak. Utter a yell! utter one’s relief by sobbing. When speech is implied, it is typically both short and significant (utter a command) his tongue and pen uttered heavenly mysteries—Walton and the context may suggest a reason for secrecy as well as for revelation. He was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter—2 Cor 12:4. Begin by encouraging him to utter. Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
freely even his most shocking thoughts—Russell—Voice does not necessarily imply vocal utterance, but it invariably suggests expression in words (I revealed in being able to voice my opinions without being regarded as a dangerous lunatic—MacKenzie) Very often voice suggests that the writer or speaker serves as a spokesman expressing a shared view (the editorial voices the universal longing for peace) (one, bolder than the rest, voiced their disapproval of the proposal) (Webster contributed a pamphlet . . . which effectively voiced the Federalist opposition—Cole)

Broach stresses mention for the first time, especially of something long thought over and awaiting an opportune moment for disclosure (the mayor did not broach the project until he felt that public opinion was in its favor) (the idea of religious radio broadcasts was first broached in 1923—Current Biog.) Air implies exposure, often in the desire to parade one's views, sometimes in the hope of attracting attention or sympathy (air one's opinions of the government) (air a grievance) (he did not air his politics in the pulpit—Murdock) Ventilate implies exposure also but usually suggests a desire to get at the truth by discovering the real causes or by weighing the evidence pro and con; it often means to investigate freely, openly, and thoroughly (the question [the future of literature] has thus been ventilated from every point of view—Times Lit. Sup.)

Ann. *speak, talk: pronounce, *articulate, enunciate: *reveal, disclose, divulge, tell: *declare, proclaim, announce Ant imply —Con hint, intimate, *suggest, insinuate

expression *phrase, locution, idiom expresswise, eloquent, significant, meaningful, pregnant, sententious mean clearly conveying or manifesting a thought, idea, or feeling or a combination of these. Something is expresswise which vividly or strikingly represents the thoughts, feelings, or ideas in which it intends to convey or which it informs or animates; the term is applicable not only to language but to works of art, to performances (as of music or drama), and to looks, features, or inarticulate sounds (a forcible and expressive word) (an expressive face) (he laid great stress on the painting of the eyes, as the most expressive and dominating feature—Binyon) (a growing emphasis on the element [in beauty] that is described by such epithets as vital, characteristic, picturesque, individual—in short, on the element that may be summed up by the epithet expressive—Babbitt) Something is eloquent (see also VOCAL 2) which reveals with great or impressive force one's thoughts, ideas, or feelings (there was a burst of applause, and a deep silence which was even more eloquent than the applause—Hardy) (I could scarcely remove my eyes from her eloquent countenance: I seemed to read in it relief and gladness mingled with surprise and something like vexation—Hudson) or which gives a definite and clear suggestion of a condition, situation, or character (a tremulous little man, in greenish-black broadcloth, eloquent of continued depression in some village retail trade—Quiller-Couch) (a sidewalk eloquent of official neglect—Brownell) Eloquent is also applicable to words, style, and speech when a power to arouse deep feeling or to evoke images or ideas charged with emotion is implied (words eloquent of feeling) (a simple but deeply eloquent style) Something is significant which is not empty of ideas, thoughts, or purpose but conveys a meaning to the auditor, observer, or reader. The term sometimes is applied to words that express a clearly ascertainable idea as distinguished from those words (as prepositions and conjunctions) that merely express a relation or connexion. This honored client had a meaning and so deep it was, so subtle, that no wonder he experienced a difficulty in giving it fitly significant words—Meredith (those who lay down that every sentence must end on a significant word, never on a preposition—Ellis) or to works of art or literature that similarly express a clearly ascertainable idea (as a moral, a lesson, or a thesis) as distinguished from works that exist purely for their beauty or perfection of form and have no obvious purpose or import (art-for-art's-sake men deny that any work of art is necessarily significant) More often, significant applies to something (as a look, gesture, or act) that suggests a covert or hidden meaning or intention (by many significant looks and silent entreaties, did she endeavor to prevent such a proof of complaisance—Austen) (she could not feel that there was anything significant in his attentions—Deland) Something is meaningful which is significant in the sense just defined; the term is often preferred when nothing more than the presence of meaning or intention is implied and any hint of the importance or momentousness sometimes associated with significant would be confusing (of two close synonyms one word may be more meaningful because of its greater richness in connotations than the other) (it was a . . . meaningful smile—Macdonald) (I suppose the most meaningful thing that can be said of her is that she has restored delight (repeat, delight) to poetry—Charles Jackson) Something is pregnant which conveys its meaning with richness or with weightiness and often with extreme conciseness or power (it is pretty and graceful, but how different from the grave and pregnant strokes of Maurice's pencil—Arnold) (the pregnant maxim of Bacon that the right question is the half of knowledge—Ellis) (he had no talent for revealing a character or resuming the significance of an episode in a single pregnant phrase—Maughan) Something is sententious which is full of significance: when applied, as is usual, to expressions, the word basically connotes the force and the pithiness of an aphorism (sententious and oracular brevity—Gibbon) (sententious maxims) But even as an aphorism may become hackneyed, so has sententious come to often connote platitudinousness or triteness ("Contentment breeds happiness" . . . a proposition . . . sententious, sedate, obviously true—Quiller-Couch)

Ana revealing or revelatory, disclosing, divulging (see corresponding verbs at REVEAL): *graphic, vivid, picturesque, pictorial: suggesting or suggestive, adumbrating, shadowing (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST) Con *stiff, wooden, rigid, tense, stark: stern, austere, *severe: inane, jejune, flat, banal, vivid, *insipid: vacuous, empty expunge *erase, cancel, efface, obliterate, blot out, delete Ant wipe, eradicate, extirpate (see EXTERMINATE)

exquisitive adj 1 *choice, recherché, rare, dainty, delicate, elegant

Ant precious, valuable, priceless, *costly: *consummate, finished: flawless, *impeccable, faultless: *perfect, intact, whole, entire 2 *intense, vehement, fierce, violent

Ant *consummate: *perfect: *supreme, superlative: heightened, aggravated, intensified, enhanced (see INTENSIFY): exalted, magnified (see EXALT)

exquisite n *fop, coxcomb, beau, dandy, dude, buck
temporaraneous, extempore, extemporary, improvised, impromptu, offhand, unpremeditated mean composed, concocted, devised, or done at the moment rather than beforehand. Extemporaneous, extempore, and extemporary in their more general applications stress something made necessary by the occasion or situation and may suggest swiftness or crudity in the thing modified (extemporaneous cover during the snowstorm) (the old woman who had erected a clothesline as a sort of extempore tent—Powyss)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
<there was enthusiasm over the extemporary throwing together and dispatching of the United Nations Emergency Force—Punter-Downes> The terms may retain this value when applied to modes of expression or to persons as sources of expression (a detective who has had to resort to extemporaneous prevarications on numerous occasions to crash police lines—Gardner) (the aesthetic horror of extempore prayer—Laski) but more usually, and in technical context routinely, they imply a well thought-out plan or outline that is given spontaneity in presentation by fresh, unstudied choice of words (extemporize speaking is a form of prepared speaking on a selected topic in which everything is ready for delivery except the exact words to be used . . . Extemporize speaking is neither impromptu speech, manuscript reading, nor memorized speech—it is different from all other types and in many ways superior to them—Holley) (guided by notes rather than by a regular script, her own comment is largely extemporaneous in style—Current Biography) Impromptu stresses the absence of foreknowledge of what is to be accomplished and therefore the composing, concocting, devising, or constructing of something without advance thought or preparation and often without the necessary tools, instruments, or other equipment (an improvised musical accompaniment) (an improvised pantomime) (an improvised bed for the night in the open) (when an emergency came an army had to be improvised—Buchan) Impromptu stresses the immediate response to a need or suggestion and the spontaneous character of what is composed or concocted on the spur of the moment: thus, an impromptu speech is one prepared at a moment's notice and delivered without notes or a preconceived plan; an impromptu meal is one prepared from what is available usually at an unusual time or for an unexpected number of people (postponements or changes of plan were always impromptu—Davenport) Offhand, both as adjectival and adverb, carries so much stronger an implication of casualness, carelessness, or indifference than any of the preceding terms that at times it loses its suggestion of an impromptu character and means little more than curt or brusque (an offhand comment) (an offhand salute) (a father can't make offhand remarks to a 4-year-old and have them gently slip into oblivion—McNulty) (an offhand manner of dealing with strangers) Unpremeditated emphasizes less strongly than extemporaneous and impromptu the immediate stimulus of an occasion, but it usually suggests some strong, often suddenly provoked emotion which drives one to action (skyllark) that from heaven, or near it, pourest thy full heart in profuse strains of unpremeditated art—Shelley (unpremeditated murder) Ana *spontaneous, impulsive: ready, prompt, apt, *quick (planned, designed, projected, schemed (see corresponding verbs under PLAN n)): *deliberate, considered, studied, advised, premeditated: formal, ceremonial, *ceremonial, conventional extemporary, extemore *extemporaneous, improvised, impromptu, offhand, unpremeditated Ana & Con see those at extemporaneous extend, lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract all mean to draw out or add to so as to increase in length. Both extend and lengthen (opposed to shorten) connote an increase of length either in space or in time, but extend is also used to connote increase in range (as of kinds of influence, or of applicability); thus, a road may be extended or lengthened; one may extend or lengthen his stay: the power of a monarch, however, may be extended but not lengthened (words with extended meanings) (delays lengthened their trip) Elongate (usually opposed to abbreviate) denotes to increase in spatial length and has wider technical than general use (fibers elongated by stretching) Prolong (opposed to cut short, arrest) means to extend in duration beyond usual or normal limits (prolong one's childhood) (prolong the process of digestion) (exercise prolongs life) Protract (opposed to curtail) adds to the denotation of prolong the connotations of indefiniteness, needlessness, or boredom (protracted debate) (an unduly protracted visit) Ana *increase, enlarge, augment; *expand, amplify, dispense, dilate Ant abridge, shorten —Con abbreviate, curtail, refrain (see shorten): *contract, shrink, condense extension wing, ell, *annex extent *size, dimensions, area, magnitude, volume Ana *range, scope, compass, sweep, reach, radius: stretch, spread, amplitude, *expansion extenuate vb 1 attenuate, *thin, dilute, rarely Ana diminish, lessen, reduce, *decrease: *weaken, enfeeble, debilitate: *moderate, temper, qualify Ant intensify —Con aggravate, heighten, enhance (see intensify) 2 *palliate, glaze, gloss, whitewash, whiten Ana condone, *excuse: rationalize, *explain, justify exterior adj *outer, external, outward, outside Ana *extrinsic, extraneous, foreign, alien Ant interior —Con *inner, inward, internal, inside, intestine: intrinsic: *inherent, ingrained exterminate, extirpate, eradicate, uproot, deracinate, wipe are comparable when they mean to effect the destruction or abolition of something. Exterminate implies utter extinction: it therefore usually implies a killing off (efforts to exterminate such pests as mosquitoes, rats, and ragweed have been only partly successful) (the tribe had been exterminated, not here in their stronghold, but in their summer camp . . . across the river—Cather) Extirpate implies extinction of a group, kind, or growth, but it may carry less an implication of killing off, as exterminate carries, than one of the destruction or removal of the things essential to survival and reproduction; thus, wolves might be exterminated by hunting in a particular area, but large carnivores in general are extirpated by changed conditions in thickly settled regions; a heresy is often exterminated, rather than extirpated, by the removal of the leaders from a position of influence; a vice cannot easily be extirpated so long as the conditions which promote it remain in existence (the ancient Athenians had been extirpated by repeated wars and massacres—Graves) Eradicate stresses the driving out or elimination of something that has taken root or has established itself (diphtheria has been nearly eradicated from the United States) (it is difficult to eradicate popular superstitions) (he must gradually eradicate his settled conviction that the Italians and the French are wrong—Grandgent) Uproot differs from eradicate chiefly in being more definitely figuraiive and in suggesting forcible and violent methods similar to those of a tempest that tears trees out by their roots (hands . . . red with guiltless blood . . . uprooting every germ of truth—Shelley) (end forthwith the ruin of a life—Browning) (refugees from the peoples uprooted by war) Deracinate basically is very close to uproot (disemboweling mountains and deracinating pines—Steven- son) (he fascinated the young Anderson's intellect and deracinate certain convictions—Bennett) but in much recent use it denotes specifically to separate (as oneself or one's work) from a natural or traditional racial, social, or intellectual group (although the author is himself a Negro, his book is . . . deracinated, without any of the lively qualities of the imagination peculiar to his people—Commentary) Wipe (in this sense used with out) Ana analogical words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
extradite, deport, transport, expatriate, *banish, exile.

Extract, excerpt denote a passage transcribed.

Extreme, extremity

extreme adj *outer, exterior, outward outside

external adj *outer, exterior, foreign, alien

Ant internal — Con interior, intestine, *inner, inward, inside: intrinsic, ingrained, *inherent

externalize materialize, actualize, *realize, embody, incarnate, objectify, hypostatize, reify

extinction see under extinguish at abolish

extinguish 1 *crush, quell, suppress, quench, quash

extirpate, exterminate, eradicate, uproot, wipe: Obliterate, efface, blot out, erase: *destroy, demolish, raze

extricate *extricate, disentangle, untangle, disencumber, *extreme extremity

extricate, disentangle, untangle, disencumber, disembarrass are comparable when meaning to free or release from what binds or holds back. Extricate, the most widely useful of these words, implies a situation in which someone or something is so entangled (as in difficulties or perplexities) or so restrained (as from freedom of action or movement) that great force or ingenuity is required to bring about a release (the fly was not able to extricate itself from the spider's web) extricate himself from financial difficulties extricate his car from the mud into which its wheels had sunk my success in having extricated myself from an awkward predicament Heiser Disentangle adheres far more closely than extricate to its basic sense of to free from what entangles; also, it is used typically of things rather than of persons and therefore seldom involves the ideas of difficulty or perplexity except for the person who seeks to free the thing entangled or to unravel what is intrinsically complicated disembarrass a strand from a twisted skein Seneca is a dramatist whom the whole of Europe in the Renaissance delighted to honor. It is obviously a task of some difficulty to disembarrass him from his reputation T. S. Eliot I could not then so far analyze all that is roughly lumped together as "religion" as to disembarrass the essential from the accidental Ellis Untangle is sometimes used in place of disembangle with much the same implications leaned down to untangle his foot from a vine in which it was caught drank, set down his glass, and untangled his legs Basso Disembarrass implies a freeing from what weighs down, clogs, or imposes a very heavy burden he can call a spade a spade, and knows how to disembarrass ideas of their wordy frappiness George Eliot the trees, laden heavily with their new and humid leaves, were now suffering more damage than during the highest winds of winter, when the bouquets are specially disembarrassed to do battle with the storm Hardy Disembarrass implies a release from what embarrasses by or as if by impeding, hampering, or hindering disembarrass himself of his companion Scott disembarrass ourselves of the curse of ignorance and learn to work together Alvin Johnson Chamberlain, at several critical junctures, preferred to disembarrass himself of trained, expert advisers—Na-
### extrinsic

**mier**

**Ana** disengage, *detach, abstract: liberate, release, *free: *rescue, deliver

**Con** *hammer, fetter, trammel, shackles, clog, hog-tie, manacle: impede, obstruct, *hinder, block

**extrinsic**, **exogeneous, foreign, alien** are comparable when they mean external to something or someone or to the true nature or original character of such thing or person. **Extrinsic** applies to something which is distinctly outside the thing in question or is derived from something apart from it; thus, a ring may have *extrinsic* value because of sentimental or historical associations; such extrinsic influences as chance or the assistance of friends may help a man to succeed *(those who would persuade us ...)* that style is something *extrinsic* to the subject, a kind of ornamentation laid on—*Quiller-Couch* *(even life itself might arise from lifeless matter through the influence of favorable extrinsic conditions—Conklin)* **Extraneous**, though often used interchangeably with **extrinsic**, applies more specifically to something which is introduced from outside and may or may not be capable of becoming an integral part of the thing *(advance arguments extraneous to the real issue)* *(water is rarely pure and free from extraneous matter)* *(style ... is not—can never be—extraneous ornament—Quiller-Couch)* *(whatever we gain comprehension of, we seize upon and assimilate into our own being ...)* that which had been **extraneous** is become a part of ourselves—*H. B. Alexander*

**Foreign** applies to something which is so different from the thing under consideration that it is either inadmissible because repellent or, if admitted, incapable of becoming identified with it, assimilated by it, or related to it *(much coal contains foreign matter)* *(inflammation caused by a foreign body in the eye)* *(the mysticism so foreign to the French mind and temper—Brownell)* *(look round our world ...)* *(nothing is foreign: parts relate to whole ...)*; all served, all serving: nothing stands alone—*Pope*

**Alien** applies to something which is so foreign that it can never be made an inherent or an integral part of a thing. The word often suggests repugnance or at least incompatibility or irreconcilability *(a voluptuous devotionality ... totally alien to the austerity and penetrating sincerity of the Gospel—Inge)* *(he would often adopt certain modes of thought that he knew to be really alien to his nature—Wilde)*

**Ana** external, *outer, outside, exterior, outward: acquired, gained (see GET)*

**Ant** intrinsic —*Con* internal, *inner, inside, inward, interior, intestine

**exuberant** lavish, *profuse, prodigal, luxuriant, lush

**Ana** prolific, *fertile, fruitful, fecund: vigoros, lusty, energetic, nervous: rampant, *rank: copious (see PLENTIFUL)

**Ant** austere: sterile

**eyewitness** witness, onlooker, looker-on, *spectator, observer, beholder, bystander, kibitzer

### face

**Fable** 1 *fiction, fabrication, figment

2 myth, parable, *allegory

**Fabricate** *make, fashion, forge, form, shape, manufacture

**Fabrication** *fiction, figment, fable

**Ana** invention, creation *(see corresponding verbs at INVENT)*: art, craft, handicraft *(see TRADE)*: *work, product, production, opus, artifact

**Fabulous** *fictitious, mythical, legendary, apocryphal

**Ana** astonishing, astounding *(see SURPRISE vb): extravagant, inordinate (see EXCESSIVE)*: *monstrous, prodigious, stupendous

**Con** credible, believable, colorable *(see PLAUSIBLE)*: veritable, genuine, *authentic

**Face** 1 *countenance, visage, physiognomy, mug

2 part of the human body including the mouth, nose, eyes, forehead, and cheeks. Face is the simple and direct word *(your face was dirty)* *(she struck him in the face)* *(to feel the fog in my throat, the mist in my face—Browning)* *(was this the face that launched a thousand ships and burnt the topless towers of Ilium?—Marlowe)* **Countenance** applies especially to the face as it reveals mood, character, or changing emotions *(a benign countenance)* *(his face was not the cheerful countenance of yesterday—Cather)* *(his countenance changed when he heard the news)* *(something feminine—not effeminate, mind—is discoverable in the countenances of all men of genius—Coleridge)* *(especially in the phrases “to keep in countenance” (maintain one’s composure) and “to put out of countenance” (cause one to lose one’s composure)*

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

---

**F**

*1* **face**
then a face made after the divine pattern—L. P. Smith
Puss sometimes denotes a facial expression (as of anger or pouting) (she put on a very sour puss when she saw the priest along with me—Frank O'Connor) but it more often denotes the physiognomy (it had the head of a bear, the very head and puss of a bear—Gregory)

face vb 1 *meet, encounter, confront
Ana look, watch (see see): *gaze, stare, glare: await, look, *expect

2 Face, brave, challenge, dare, defy, beard are comparable because all carry the meaning to confront with courage or boldness. Face carries no more than this general sense; basically it suggests the confrontation of an enemy or adversary (here we are together facing a group of mighty foes—Sir Winston Churchill) but in its extended use it implies a recognition of the power of a force, a fact, or a situation which cannot be escaped to harm as well as to help and a willingness to accept the consequences (must face the consequences of your own wrong-doing) (strict justice, either on earth or in heaven, was the last thing that society cared to face—Henry Adams) (like . . . a tailor's bill, something that has to be faced as it stands and got rid of—Montague) Brave may imply a show of courage or bravado in facing or encountering (must hence to brave the Pope. King Louis, and this turbulent priest—Tennyson) More often, however, it implies fortitude in facing and in enduring forces which ordinarily would strike the spirit with terror (firemen braving danger and death to rescue persons trapped in the blazing hotel) (women . . . for his sake had braved all social censure—Wilde) (the search for truth . . . makes men and women content to undergo hardships and to brave perils—Eliot) (if you find yourself in trouble before then, call on your courage and resolution: brave out every difficulty—Kenneth Roberts) Challenge generally implies a confrontation of a person or thing opposed in such a way that one seems an accuser imputing weakness or fault in the one confronted. Often it may lose the feeling of accusation and then may mean no more than to dispute or question (our thoughts and beliefs "pass," so long as nothing challenges them—James) (that "Testament" the authenticity of which, foolishly challenged by Voltaire, is sufficiently established—Bellloc) or, on the other hand, it may go farther and suggest a bold invitation to a contest (as a duel or other test of rightness or skill) which the one challenged cannot refuse (the degree of courage displayed by Malakai, the best medical practitioner turned out by the School, who once dared to challenge the power of the chief of the witch doctors—Heiser) or it may suggest bold measures inviting a response or retaliation (challenge criticism) (challenge attention) Dare also usually emphasizes boldness rather than fortitude, but it rarely suggests the critical or censorious attitude so frequently evident in challenge. Rather, it implies venturesomeness, love of danger, or moral courage and may connote great or especial merit or mere rashness in the action (dare the perils of mountain climbing) (dare to be true: nothing can need a lie—Herbert) (and what they dare to dream of, dare to do—J. R. Lowell) (to wrest it from barbarism, to dare its solitudes—Century) (among the newspapers only the Irish Times dared to discuss the issue frankly—Blanchard) (no American dared to be seen reaching for a sandwich by the side of a known Communist—Sulzberger) Defy, like the others, usually implies a personal agent, but it may be said of things as well. When the idea of challenging is uppermost, the connotation of daring one to test a power which the challenger believes undefeatable or to do what the challenger believes impossible is usually its accomplishment. In either case there is a stronger implication of certainty in one's belief than there is in challenge, and often a clearer suggestion of mockery (from my walls I defy the poor's of Spain—Dryden) (and I defy thee! . . . foul tyrant both of gods and humankind, one only being shalt thou not subdue—Shelley) (I defy the enemies of our constitution to show the contrary—Burke) (I defy him to find the gate, however well he may think he knows the city—Kipling) When the idea of resistance is uppermost there is a suggestion in defy of a power to withstand efforts, opposition, or rules. It is in this sense that a personal agent is most often not implied, for resistance does not always suggest an exercise of will (scenes that defy description) (words that defy definition) (a wooden seat put together with nails—a flimsy contrivance, which defies all rules of gravity and adhesion—Jeffries) (the tall erect figure, defy ing age, and the perfectly bald scalp defying the weather—Upton Sinclair) Beard, although it implies defiance, often differs from defy in suggesting resolution rather than daring or mockery as its motive; in that way it comes somewhat closer to face and to brave (what! am I dared and bearded to my face?—Shak.) (a bold heart yours to beard that raging mob!—Tennyson) (for years she led the life of a religious tramp, bearding bishops and allowing herself many eccentricities—Coulton)

Ana confront, encounter, *meet: oppose, withstand, *resist: *contend, fight

Ant avoid—Con evade, elude, shun, *escape

facet aspect, side, angle, *phase

facetious humorous, jocose, jocular, *witty

Ana joking, jesting, quipping, wisecracking (see corresponding nouns at joke): jolly, jovial, jocund, *merry, blithe: comical, comic, droll, funny, ludicrous, *laughable

Ant lugubrious—Con grave, solemn, somber, *serious, sober, sedate, staid

crude easy, smooth, light, simple, effortless

Ana adroit, deft, *dexterous: fluent, volatile, glib (see vocal): *superficial, shallow, uncritical, cursory

Ant arduous (with reference to the thing accomplished): constrained, clumsy (with reference to the agent or his method)

facility ease, dexterity, *readiness

Ana spontaneity, *unconstraint, abandon: address, poise, *tact: lightness, effortlessness, smoothness (see corresponding adjectives at easy)

Con ineptness, clumsiness, awkwardness, maladroitness (see corresponding adjectives at awkward): stiffness, rigidity, woodenness (see corresponding adjectives at stiff): *effort, exertion, pains: *difficulty, hardship

facsimile copy, carbon copy, *reproduction, duplicate, replica, transcript

faction bloc, party, *combination, combine, ring

Ana clique, set, coterie, circle

factious contumacious, seditious, mutinous, rebellious, *insubordinate

Ana contending, fighting, warring (see contend): contentious, quarrelsome (see belligerent): defaced, estranged, alienated (see estrange)

Ant cooperative—Con companionable, gregarious, *social: *compliant, acquiescent: loyal, true, *faithful

factitious *artificial, synthetic, ersatz

Ana manufactured, fabricated (see make vb): forced, compelled, constrained (see force vb): simulated, feigned, counterfeited, shammed, pretended, affected, assumed (see assume)

Ant bona fide, veritable—Con *authentic, genuine: *natural, simple, artless, naive, unsophisticated
factor 1 *agent, attorney, deputy, proxy

2 constituent, *element, component, ingredient

Ana determinant, *cause, antecedent: *influence:

agency, agent, instrument,instrumental, *mean

facultv 1 *power, function

2 *gift, aptitude, knack, bent, turn, genius, talent

Ana *ability, capacity, capability: property, *quality:

punctual, flair, propensity, proclivity, *leaning: *pre-
dilection

fag vague, *fashion, style, rage, craze, mode, dernier
cry, cry

Ana fancy, whim, whimsy, *caprice, conceit, vagary

fafe *vanish, evanesce, evaporate, disappear

Ana deliquesce, melt (see LIQUEFY): *thin, rarely,

attenuate: reduce, lessen (see DECREASE)

faded *nubbly, dilapidated, dingy, seedy, threadbare

Ana worn, wasted; *haggard: dim, murky, gloomy (see

DARK): *colorless, achronic: *pale, pallid, ashen, wan

fag vb exhaust, jade, fatigue, *tire, weary, tucker

failing a frailty, foible, *fault, vice

Ana *blemish, flaw, defect: weakness, infirmity (see

corresponding adjectives at WALK

Ant perfection (in concrete sense) —Con *excellence,

merit, virtue

failure, neglect, default, miscarriage, dereliction are

comparable when they mean an omission on the part of

someone for something of what is expected or required

of him or of it. Failure basically implies a being found

wanting; it implies a lack or absence of something that

might have been expected to occur or to be accomplished,

performed, or effected (there was a general failure of

crops that year) (a distressing confusion in discussions

of the human-interest story has been caused by a common

failure performed, or effected (there was a general

exemption of all these terms, ill fortune—>Grenfell

failing to define the term—>Mott) (you will hear a great

talk about the failure of Christianity; but where

in the Holy Gospels . . . do you find any suggestion that

Christianity is to be an easy triumph?—>Mackenzie)

Neglect (see also NEGLIGENCE) implies carelessness and

inattentiveness on the part of a person, so that what is

expected or required of him is either left unattended to or

is not adequately performed (in wartime a charge of

neglect of duty is a very serious one) (his neglect of

his health is a source of much worry to his friends)

(the property has become dilapidated through the owner's

neglect) (we made a nice tidy cleanup . . . If I hadn't

done it I ought . . . to have been shot for neglect—H. G.

Wells) Default is now chiefly found in legal use, where it

implies a failure to perform something required by

law (as a failure of a plaintiff or of a defendant to appear

at the appointed time to prosecute or defend an action

or a proceeding) (in case of default on the part of the

plaintiff, he may be nonsuited) (in case of default on

the part of the defendant, he may have a judgment rendered

against him, this being called a judgment by default)

Default may also imply a failure to pay one's debts at

the appointed time (convicted of default in the pay-

ment of a fine) or in extended use a failure to perform

something required, usually by total omission of perti-

nent action (betraying by default the privileges of citizen-

ship in a democratic society—Dean) (lose a tennis match

by default) Miscarriage does not so definitely point the

blame for a failure of someone or something to live up to

expectations or to accomplish certain ends as do the

preceding words; it is often used when there are no

definite persons or things to which culpability can be

assigned or when for some reason or other there is a

desire to avoid casting of blame (there was a serious

miscarriage of justice in that trial) (the causes of the

miscarriage of the project were not clear) (we fear . . .

some miscarriage in the details of our plan—Krutch)

(these various miscarriages cannot all be ascribed to ill

fortune—Grenfell) Dereliction, of all these terms, carries

the strongest implication of a neglect that amounts to

an abandonment of, or a departure from, the thing and

especially the duty, the principle, or the law that should

have been uppermost in a person's mind; ordinarily it

implies a morally reprehensible failure rather than one

resulting from carelessness and inattention or from mis-

hap (they would be answerable with their lives for any

further dereliction of duty—Ainsworth) (it revealed in

him . . . the indisputable signs of a certain dereliction

from some path of development his nature had commanded

him to follow—Brooks)

Ana *fault, failing: shortcoming, deficiency, *imper-

fection: *lack, want, absence, privation, dearth: negli-

gence, laxness, slackness, remissness (see corresponding

adjectives at NEGLIGENT): indifference, unconcerned-

ness or unconcern (see corresponding adjectives at

INDIFFERENT)

fairness adj indolent, slothful, *lazy

Ana supine, passive, *inactive, inert, idle: apathetic,

*impassive, philogematic: *lethargic, sluggish: languorous,

lackadaisical, *languid

fair adj 1 comely, lovely, *beautiful, pretty, bonny,

handsome, beauteous, pulchritudinous, good-looking

Ana delicate, dainty, exquisite (see CHOICE): charming,

attractive, enchanting (see under ATTRACT): pure, *chaste

Ant foul: ill-favored

2 Fair, just, equitable, impartial, unbiased, dispassionate,

uncolored, objective are comparable when they are applied

to judgments or to judges or to acts resulting from or

involving a judgment and mean free from undue or

improper influence. Fair, the most general term, implies

the disposition or the intention to regard other persons

or things without reference to one's own interests, feelings,

or prejudices, often even to the point of conceding every

reasonable claim of the weaker side or of giving oneself

or the stronger side no undue advantage (a fair distri-

bution of one's estate) (a fair decision by a judge)

(a fair play) (when we consider how helpless a partridge

is . . . it does seem fairer that the gunner should have

but one chance at the bird—Jefferyes) (I believe you

will find them a fair solution of this complicated and

difficult problem—Roosevelt) Just implies no diver-

gence from the standard or measure of what has been

determined or is accepted as right, true, or lawful and

dealings that are exactly in accordance with those de-

terminations, no matter what one's personal inclinations

or interests may be or what considerations in favor of

the person or thing judged may be added (a just judge)

(some juster prince perhaps had . . . safe restored me to

my native land—Pope) (how much easier it is to be gener-

ous than just—Junius) (to divert interest from the poet

to the poetry . . . would conduce to a juster estimation

of actual poetry, good and bad—T. S. Eliot) Equita-

ble implies a freer and less rigid standard than just,

often the one which guides a court of equity as distin-

guished from a court of law and which provides relief

where rigid adherence to the law would make for unfair-

ness (he has an equitable claim to the property) More

often the word implies fair and equal treatment of all

concerned (a form of society which will provide for an

equitable distribution of . . . riches—Krutch) (it de-

pended wholly on their individual characters whether

their terms of office were equitable or oppressive—

Buchan) Impartial implies absence of favor for or

absence of prejudice against one person, party, or side

more than the other (an impartial tribunal) (impartial
summing up of evidence) (the law provides for the examination by neutral, impartial psychiatric experts of all persons indicted for a capital offense—Current Biog.) Unbiased expresses even more strongly the absence of all prejudice or prepossession and a disposition to be fair to all (an unbiased history) (give an unbiased opinion) (presents an able, fair, and singularly unbiased picture of the Russian scene—Marquand) Dispassionate implies freedom from the influence of passion or strong feeling, often also implying great temperateness or even coldness in judgment (a dispassionate judgment of the young actor's abilities) (dispassionate men, precise in laboratories, with nothing to consider but the facts—Ciardi) Uncolored (see also colorless) implies freedom from influences (as personal feeling or a desire to embellish) that would affect the truth or accuracy of an account, a statement, or a judgment (an uncolored story of a battle) (an uncolored record of one's experiences) (a statement of facts, uncolored by personal prejudice) Objective implies a tendency to view events or phenomena as apart from oneself and therefore to be judged on purely factual bases and without reference to one's personal feelings, prejudices, opinions, or interests (nor must we be content with a lazy skepticism, which regards objective truth as unattainable—Russell) (we shall be like ice when relating passions and adventures . . . we shall be . . . objective and impersonal—Troy) Ana disinterested, detached (see indifferent) reasonable, *rational Ant unfair —Con partial, prepossessed, biased, prejudiced (see corresponding nouns at predilection) 3 average, *medium, middling, mediocre, second-rate, moderate, indifferent Ana ordinary, *common Con *good, right: *bad, poor, wrong fair n exposition, *exhibition, show, exhibit faith 1 *belief, credence, credit Ana assurance, conviction, *certainty, certitude: assenting or assent, acquiescence, agreement (see corresponding verbs at assent) Ant doubt —Con *uncertainty, skepticism, dubiety, dubiosities: *unbelief, disbelief, incredulity 2 dependence, reliance, confidence, *trust Ana assurance, certitude (see certainty) Con incredulity, *unbelief, disbelief: mistrust, suspicion, *uncertainty, doubt: misgiving, *apprehension 3 creed, *religion, persuasion, church, denomination, sect, cult, communion Anatent, dogmas, doctrines (see singular nouns at doctrine) faithful adj Faithful, loyal, true, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute are comparable when meaning firm adherence to the person, the country, or the cause to whom or to which one is bound by duty or promise. Faithful in its most common sense implies firm and unswerving adherence to a person or thing to whom or to which one is united by some tie (as marriage, friendship, political allegiance, gratitude, or honor) or to the oath, pledge, or promise made when one has accepted a position, an office, or an obligation (a faithful husband is faithful to his marriage vows) (a faithful public servant is faithful to his oath of office) (Cleopatra was faithful to the main policy of her life, the restoration of Egypt to the position which it had held under the first Ptolemies—Buchan) The term is also used when only firm adherence to actuality or reality (as in representation or portrayal) is implied; it then comes close to accurate or exact in meaning (the photograph is a faithful likeness) (the faithful rendering of the observed facts—Encounter) (a faithful description of village life) Loyal implies faithfulness to one's pledged word or continued allegiance to the leader, the country, the institution, or the principles to which one feels oneself morally bound; the term suggests not only adherence but resistance to being lured or persuaded away from that adherence (most of the subjects remained loyal to their sovereign) (your wife, my lord; your true and loyal wife—Shak.) ('I've been loyal to Arch Gunnard for a long time now,' Lonnie said, "I'd hate to haul off and leave him like that")—Caldwell True (see also real) is somewhat stronger than loyal and faithful in stressing a personal or emotional quality as well as steadiness in one's allegiance, devotion, or fidelity (a true friend) (he is a New England poet, perhaps the New England poet, and reaps all the advantage there is in being true to a particular piece of earth—Mark Van Doren) Constant also stresses firmness or steadfastness in attachment, devotion, or allegiance, but it carries a weaker implication of strict adherence to one's vows, pledges, or obligations. Consequently it often implies a state of mind that is the opposite of fickleness rather than a course of action that is the opposite of unfaithfulness and disloyalty (even Rochester, utterly bad and ignoble, was not only a poet and a wit but a loyal husband (constant if not faithful)—Reppplier) (1 have never knew a pair of lovers more constant than those two—Milly) Stauch carries far more strongly than loyal an implication of one's unwillingness to be turned aside from those to whom one owes allegiance or to whom one has pledged one's troth or from an institution (as a church or political party) to which by conviction one belongs. From its earliest and still current nautical sense of being watertight and sound it retains a suggestion of an inherent imperviousness to all influences that would weaken one's loyalty or steadiness in faith (a stauch believer) (a stauch Republican) (stauch fidelity to law and order—Montague) (you, who from a girl have had a strong mind and a stauch heart—Dickens) Steadfast so stresses unwavering or unswerving adherence that the term is applicable not only to persons but to things that maintain a steady course or an unchanging quality or character (which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast—Heb 6:19) (the blue, the steadfast, the blazing summer sky—Woolf) However its most usual application is to persons or their attachments (therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable—1 Cor 15:58) (if love . . . survives through all sorrow, and remains steadfast with us through all changes—Thackeray) (manifest of vision but steadfast in principles—Replinner) Resolute implies steadfastness and, often, staunchness, but it throws the emphasis upon a determination which cannot be broken down as a quality of character and may suggest firm adherence to one's own purposes or ends rather than to those of others (not . . . resolute and firm, but perverse and obstinate—Burke) (she sat there resolute and ready for responsibility—Conrad) (an earthquake in the midst of the proceedings terrified every prelate but the resolute Primate—J. R. Green) Ana devoted, *loving, affectionate: tried, trustworthy, *reliable, dependable Ant faithless —Con disloyal, false, perfidious, traitorous, treacherous (see faithless): fickle, *inconstant, unstable faithless, false, disloyal, traitorous, perfidious mean untrue to a person, an institution, or a cause that has a right to expect one's fidelity or allegiance. Faithless applies to a person, utterance, or act that implies a breach of a vow, a pledge, a sworn obligation, or allegiance. Although often used interchangeably with the
strongest of the terms here discriminated, then implying a betrayal of a person or cause, it is also capable of implying untrustworthiness, unreliability, or loss or neglect of an opportunity to prove one's devotion or faith. And hopeless, comfortless, I'll mourn a faithless woman's broken vow—Burns (the remnant...have been abandoned by their faithless allies—Shelley) (he abandoned one wife and was faithless to another—J. R. Green)

False differs from faithless in its greater emphasis upon a failure to be true or constant in one's devotion or adherence than upon an actual breach of a vow, pledge, sworn promise, or obligation; however it may, like faithless, carry varying connotations with respect to the gravity or heinousness of that failure (betrayed by a false friend) (never was Plantagenet false of his word—Marlowe) (we hope that we can give a reason for the faith that is in us without being false to the strictest obligations of intellectual honesty—Inge) (the conception of a lordly splendid destiny for the human race, to which we are false when we revert to wars and other atavistic follies—Russell) Disloyal implies lack of faithfulness in thought, in words, or in actions to one (as a friend, superior, sovereign, party, or country) whom loyalty is owed (a disloyal subject) (good party people think such open-mindedness disloyal; but in politics there should be no loyalty except to the public good—Shaw) (assumed a tone in their correspondence which must have seemed often disloyal, and sometimes positively insulting, to the governor—Motley) Traitorous implies either actual treason or a serious betrayal of trust or confidence (a traitorous general) (a traitorous act) (traitorous breach of confidence) (by the traitorous connivance of the Bulgarian King and Government, advance parties of the German Air Force...were gradually admitted to Bulgaria—Sir Winston Churchill) Treacherous is of wider application than traitorous; as used of persons or it implies readiness, or a disposition, to betray trust or confidence (a treacherous ally) and as used of things it suggests aptness to lead on to peril or disaster by false or delusive appearances (treacherous sands) (the treacherous ocean—Shelley) (up steep crags, and over treacherous morasses, he moved...easily—Macaulay) Perfidious is a more contemptuous term than treacherous; it implies baseness or vileness as well as an incapacity for faithfulness in the person concerned (perfidious violation of a treaty) (perfidious dealings) (Spain...to lavish her resources and her blood in furtherance of the designs of a perfidious ally—Southey) Ana *inconstant, unstable, fickle, capricious: wavering, fluctuating is seen (see SWING vb): *changeable, changeful Ant faithful—Can...true, staunch, steadfast, resolute, constant (see FAITHFUL)

fake adj  *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, sham, pseudo, pinchbeck, phony
Ana fabricated, forged (see MAKE) framed, invented, concocted (see CONTRIVE) Con *authentic, bona fide, genuine, veritable: true, *real, actual
faker *impostor, mountebank, charlatan, quack
Ana defrauder, cheat or cheat, swindler, cozen (see corresponding verbs at CHEAT)

fall, drop, sink, slump, subside are comparable when they mean to go or to let go downward freely. They are seldom close synonyms, however, because of various specific and essential implications that tend to separate and distinguish them. Fall, which in the relevant sense is intransitive, suggests a descent by the force of gravity and implies a loss of support opposing gravity; in extended use fall may apply to whatever extends downward or gives an effect of going in a downward direction (let a glass fall to the ground and shatter) (the supports gone, the structure fell in a heap) (the roof had fallen in on another speaker—Cerf) (chair falling over a woman's shoulders) (the birthrate fell over a 6-month period, then rose) (let fall a remark about the weather) Drop may suggest a falling drop by drop or bit by bit, but usually it stresses a speed, directness, unexpectedness, or casualness in falling or allowing to fall (dropped a coin into a pond) (dropped seeds into holes) (dropping to the ground at the sound of an air-raid warning) (dropping a hint of coming trouble) (income dropped during the slow winter season) Sink fundamentally implies a gradual descending motion, especially into something, often to the point of total submersion (the ship sank gradually into the placid sea) (the float on the fish line sank a moment, then bobbed furiously) (the thermometer sank far below zero—Carruthers) but in frequent somewhat extended use the stress is so strongly on a slow or gradual falling or descent that the notion of submergence is largely or wholly lost (sinking to her knees from exhaustion) (the sun is sinking in the west) (his voice sank to a whisper) Slump usually implies a sudden falling or collapsing (as of someone suddenly powerless or suddenly totally enervated) (slumping to the ground unconscious) (slumped in his seat) (prices slumped badly in the winter) (when a bird falls asleep, it relaxes and slumps down until its body rests against the perch—J. H. Baker) Subside suggests a gradual descent or return to a normal or usual position, action, or condition after an undue rising, expanding, or boiling up; often it can suggest a sinking below a normal or usual level (a wind rising, then subsiding) (he lost a quarter of an hour waiting for the flood to subside—Mary Austin) (the bustle subsides and relative calm is resumed—Amer. Guide Series; N. C.) (the child's quick temper subsided into listlessness—Reppier) (after the boom prices subsided to a level far below normal) (their voices subsided to a whisper)

Ana *descend, dismount, alight: *droop, sag, flag, wilt; ebb; *abate, wane: *recede
Ant rise—Con *lift, raise, elevate, hoist: ascend, arise, mount, soar, tower (see RISE)

fallacious sophistical, casuistical (see under FALLACY) Ana *irrational, unreasonable: *misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory: equivocal, ambiguous (see OBSCURE) Ant sound, valid

fallacy, sophism, sophistry, casuistry are comparable when meaning unsound and misleading reasoning or line of argument. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are distinguishable in the corresponding adjectives fallacious, sophistical, casuistical. Fallacy and fallacious in specific logical use imply an error or flaw in reasoning that vitiates an entire argument; thus, a syllogism in which one argues from some accidental character as though it were essential and necessary (as, The food you buy, you eat; you buy raw meat; therefore you eat raw meat) contains a fallacy or is fallacious (the many fallacies that lurk in the general and equivocal nature of the terms "inadequate representation"—Burke) In more general use fallacy and fallacious apply to a conception, belief, or theory that is erroneous and logically untenable, whether it has been arrived at by reasoning or by conjecture or has been taken over from others (the arguments of the Federalist are intended to prove the fallacy of these apprehensions—John Marshall) (the separatist fallacy, the belief that
false adj 1 False, wrong mean not in conformity with what is true or right. False in all of its senses is colored by its original implication of deceit; the implication of deceiving or of being deceived is strong when the term implies a contrariety between what is said, thought, or concluded and the facts or reality false statements (you shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor—Exod 20:16) whether it is a genuine insight into the workings of his own mind or only a false explanation of them—Day Lewis you can take a chessboard as black squares on a white ground, or as white squares on a black ground, and neither conception is a false one—James an intent to deceive or a deceptive appearance is implied when the term connotes an opposition to what is real or genuine or authentic false tears false pearls a box with a false bottom a false arch is an architectural member which simulates an arch in appearance but does not have the structure or serve the function of a true arch the term is applied in vernacular names of plants to a kind related to, resembling, or having properties similar to another kind that commonly bears the unqualified vernacular the pinkster flower is sometimes called false honeysuckle even when the word stresses faithlessness (see faithless) there is usually a hint of a deceptive appearance of faithfulness or loyalty or of self-deception in one's failure to be true so far as outward appearances went, one could not believe him to be a false friend only in the sense of incorrect or erroneous a false note a false policy is this implication obscured, though there is often a suggestion of being deceived into believing that the thing so described is true or right wrong, on the other hand, is colored in all of its senses by its original implication of wryness or crookedness; in general it implies a turning from the standard of what is true, right (especially morally right), or correct to its reverse. In comparison with false, wrong is simple and forthright in its meaning; thus, a wrong conception is one that is the reverse of the truth, but a false conception is not only wrong but the result of one's being deceived or of one's intent to deceive; a wrong answer to a question is merely an erroneous answer, but a false answer to a question is one that is both erroneous and lying; wrong principles of conduct are the reverse of ethically right principles, but false principles of conduct are not only wrong but are bound to lead astray; those who accept them give a person wrong advice through bad judgment believed that a lie is always wrong there is something wrong about his appearance there is something false in his courtesy he may be wrong in his opinions, but he is not false to his country in trying to impress them upon others the book is a chic little piece often amusing, always arch and clever, and usually wrong—Farrell he the man, having out of sheer ignorance eaten the wrong end of his asparagus, was thencefore compelled to declare that he preferred that end Ellis any sophistry that the cleverest landlord can devise shaw Rousseau does not often indulge in such an unblushing sophism Babbitt view by a great deal of casuistry more extended senses. In their basic senses both have reference to the science that deals with cases of conscience, or the determination of what is right and wrong in particular cases where there is justifiable uncertainty we now have to lay the foundation of a new casuistry, no longer theological and Christian, but naturalistic and scientific Ellis In their extended use both terms usually imply sophistical and often tortuous reasoning in reference to moral, theological, and legal problems those who hold that a lie is always wrong have to supplement this view by a great deal of casuistry Russell hairsplitting
mechanical triumph that won him wide renown—Anderson

Honor (see also honor 2, honesty) implies a measure of fame (as in a section, a country, a continent, or the civilized world), but it also implies that the knowledge of one's achievements has earned for one esteem or reverence. The length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor—Prov 3:16. One must learn to give honor where honor is due, to bow down... before all spirits that are noble—Benson

Glory usually suggests renown, but more especially it implies a position where attention is fixed on one's brilliance of achievement and the accompaniment of enthusiastic praise or of high honor. The paths of glory lead but to the grave—Gray. To be recognized... as a master... in one's own line of intellectual or spiritual activity, is indeed glory—Arnold. No keener hunter after glory breathes. He loves it in his knihgts more than himself; they prove to him his work—Tennyson

Celebrity is often used in place of fame when the widespread laudation of one's name and accomplishments in one's own time is implied; the term usually carries a stronger implication of famouness and of popularity than it does of deep-seated or long-lived admiration and esteem. The lonely precursor of German philosophy, he still shines when the light of his successors is fading away; they had celebrity. Spinoza has fame—Arnold. Made a sensational debut as a pianist at the age of six... but... by adolescence her celebrity was finished—Tunley

Reputation often denotes nothing more than the character of a person or place, not necessarily as it really is but as it is conceived to be by those who know of him or of it. He has a good reputation in the community. It is a shame to injure a man's reputation but in the sense in which it is here particularly considered, the term implies a measure of fame, typically for creditable reasons. His reputation for wit was countrywide. A man of doubtful reputation. A painter of growing reputation. The purest treasure mortality affords is spotless reputation—Shak.

The fame (reputation is too chilly a word) of Arnold J. Toynbee is a phenomenon in itself worth noting—Brogan. Repute is sometimes used interchangeably with reputation in either sense. Only a general of repute could get recruits—Buchan. More often, however, repute suggests a relation that is closer to honor than to fame, and denotes rather the degree of esteem accorded to a person or thing than the measure of fame it acquires. The book has no little repute among the best critics. His work is held in high repute. He won a great deal of repute for his bravery—Conan

Notoriety implies public knowledge of a person or deed; it usually suggests a meretricious fame and imputes sensationalism to the person or thing that wins such repute. He achieved notoriety as the author of a most salacious novel. That brilliant, extravagant, careless Reverend Doctor Dodd who acquired some fame and much notoriety as an eloquent preacher—Ellis

Éclat may be used in place of renown or of notoriety. To either idea is added the connotation of great brilliancy or display, but when the basic meaning is renown, illustriousness is especially suggested. Consider what luster and éclat it will give you... to be the best scholar, of a gentleman, in England—Chesterfield. And when it is notoriety, flashiness or ostentation is usually implied. His success in such a pursuit would give a ridiculous éclat to the whole affair—Scott

Ana acclaim, acclamation, *applause: recognizing or recognition, acknowledgment (see corresponding verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE): eminence, illustriousness (see corresponding adjectives at FAMOUS)

Ant infamy: obscurity —Con ignominy, obloquy, *disgrace, dishonor, odium, opprobrium, disrepute, shame

famed *famous, renowned, celebrated, eminent, illustrious Ant obscure

familiar 1 Familiar, intimate, close, confidential, chummy, thick are comparable when meaning near to one another because of constant or frequent association, shared interests and activities, or common sympathies, or, when applied to words or acts, indicative of such nearness. Familiar suggests relations or manifestations characteristic of or similar to those of a family, where long-continued intercourse makes for freedom, informality, ease of address, and the taking of liberties; consequently familiar may apply to the relations, words, and acts of persons actually in such a situation and to the attitude or the style of speaking or writing of persons who assume the freedom and ease of address of those who are familiar essays. Time and intercourse have made us familiar—Johnson

(a simpler and more familiar speech, able to express subtleties or audacities that before seemed inexpressible—Ellis. The familiar, if not rude, tone in which people addressed her—Hawthorne. She was a fearless and familiar little thing, who asked disconcerting questions—Wharton

Intimate suggests relations characteristic of those who are in close contact with one another (as through ties of blood, of friendship, or of common interests or aspirations) and who have opened their hearts or their minds to such a degree that they deeply know and understand one another. The intimate political relation subsisting between the president of the United States and the heads of departments, necessarily renders any legal investigation of the acts of one of those high officers peculiarly... delicate—John Marshall. They establish and maintain... more intimate and confiding relations with us—J. R. Lowell. Though Farfrae must have so far forgiven him to have no objection to... him as a father-in-law, intimate they could never be—Hardy

Intimate may also apply to a connection between a person and a thing, especially something he says, does, wears, or uses; it then implies a very close relation between that thing and his inmost thoughts or feelings or his life in the privacy of his home. (Official receptions were few but small, intimate teas were frequent in the governor's home). The inedecy of publishing intimate letters which were never written to be published—Ellis. Her eyes, lively, laughing, intimate, nearly always a little mocking—Cather. A shirt-sleeved populace moved... with the intimate abandonment of boarders going down the passage to the bathroom—Wharton

As applied directly or indirectly to knowledge, intimate differs from familiar not only in idiom but also in implying not merely acquaintance but close or deep study. He has an intimate knowledge of the situation. He is familiar with the facts pertaining to the situation. He is familiar with the poem in question. He has gained, through long study, an intimate knowledge of the poem. Close is often used in place of intimate when one wishes to imply an acquaintance between persons together. In such a way as to suggest the exclusion of others or a very strong degree of affection between them. Close friends. A close friendship. Seeing them so tender and so close—Tennyson

Too close to Theodore Roosevelt ever to receive the confidence of Woodrow Wilson—Paxson. Confidential implies a relationship based upon mutual trust or confidence or upon a willingness to confide intimate matters (as one's hopes, thoughts, or feelings. The growing harmony and confidential friendship which daily manifest themselves between their Majesties—Chatham. He slipped his arm through his father's with a confidential pressure—Wharton. Chummy and thick are less formal terms and usually convey some degree of contempt, derision, or envy of a close association. Chummy suggests an easy informal

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
macy (it is an unprecedented thing, I take it, for a captain to be chimney with the cook—London) Thick stresses constant association more than the strength of the attachment (the two former enemies are now as thick as thieves) but often it carries a sinister suggestion (a friend of gangsters and runrumpers, very thick with people like Jake the Barber—Bellow)

**An** friendly, neighborly, amicable: sociable, cordial, genial, affable, gracious: easy, comfortable, cozy, snug: intrusive, obtrusive, officious, impertinent

**Ant** aloof —Con indifferent, detached, unconcerned, incurious: formal, conventional, ceremonious, ceremonial 2 ordinary, common, popular, vulgar

**Ana** usual, wonted, accustomed, customary, habitual

**Ant** unfamiliar: strange —Con novel, newfangled, new-fashioned, rare, uncommon, infrequent: fantastic, chimerical (see imaginary)

**famous**

famed, renowned, celebrated, eminent, illustrious are comparable when meaning known far and wide among men. Famous and famed apply chiefly to men, events, and things that are much talked of or are widely or popularly known throughout a section, a country, a continent, or a cultural tradition; they also imply good repute or a favorable reputation. Normally these terms are applied without qualification only to those persons or things that are still so known or that were so known in the time under consideration (the once famous poems of Owen Meredith) (a famous American aviator) (some of our most famous physicians have had to struggle pitifully against insufficient means until they were forty or fifty—Shaw) (time has spiraled them from rebellion to eminence. They are respectively famous, and the poet Edith even fashionable—W. T. Scott) (a corpulent, jolly fellow, famed for humor—Hawthorne) Renowned implies more glory or honor and more widespread acclamation than either famous or famed; it is, however, often employed as a stronger or more emphatic term than famous with little actual difference in meaning except for a suggestion of greater longevity of fame (royal kings . . . renowned for their deeds . . . for Christian service and true chivalry—Shak.) (those far-renowned brides of ancient song—Tennyson) Celebrated stresses reception of popular or public notice or attention and frequent mention, especially in print; it may also suggest public admiration or popular honor (the celebrated kidnapping of Charley Ross) (the most celebrated of the cases pending before the Supreme Court) (Benjamin Franklin's celebrated kite) (the greatest, but the least celebrated, general in the war) (it is characteristic that in this whole "Notebook" Maugham seldom mentions any of his celebrated friends—Behrman) Eminent implies conspicuousness for outstanding qualities; it is applicable chiefly to persons or things that are recognized as topping others of their kind (the age produced no eminent writers (many eminent men of science have been bad mathematicians—Russell) (eminent manifestations of this magical power of poetry are very rare and very precious—Arnold)

Illustrious carries a stronger implication of renown than eminent; it also imputes to the thing so described a gloriousness or splendor that increases its prestige or influence (illustrious deeds of great heroes) (his right noble mind, illustrious virtue—Shak.) (boast the pure blood of an illustrious race—Pope)

**Ant** obscure

**fanatic** n bigot, enthusiastic, zealot

**fanciful** imaginative, visionary, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic

**Ana** fictitious, fabulous, mythical, apocryphal, legendary: bizarre, grotesque, fantastic: preposterous, absurd (see foolish): false, wrong

**fancy** vb 1 dote, like, love, enjoy, relish

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

Ana  *approve, endorse, sanction
Con  *disapprove, deprecate
2 imagine, conceive, envisage, envision, realize, *think
Ana  *conjecture, surmise, guess
fantastic 1 chimerical, visionary, fanciful, *imaginary, quixotic
Ana  extravagant, extreme (see EXCESSIVE): incredible, unbelievable, implausible (see affirmative adjectives at PLAUSIBLE): preposterous, absurd (see FOOLISH): *irrational, unreasonable: delusory, delusive, deceptive, *misleading
Con  familiar, ordinary, *common: *usual, customary

2 Fantastic, bizarre, grotesque, antic are comparable when they describe works of art, effects produced by nature or art, ideas, or behavior and mean conceived or made, or seemingly conceived or made, without reference to reality, truth, or common sense. Fantastic stresses the exercise of unrestrained imagination or unlicensed fancy. It therefore variously connotes absurd extravagance in conception, remoteness from reality, or merely ingenuity in devising fantastical figures, with bulbous heads, the circumference of a bushel, grimeatenously in his face—Hawthorne (one need not have a very fantastic imagination to imagine spirits there—Gray) he wove fantastic stories of the hunting bridle—Kipling Bizarre is applied to what is unduly, often sensationally, strange or queer; it suggests the use of violent contrasts (as in color, in sound, or in emotional effects) or of strikingly incongruous combinations (as of the tragic and the comic or of the horrible and the tender) it was bizarre in the extreme. It was as if a judge, wearing the black cap, had suddenly put out his tongue at the condemned—Poweys temple sculpture became bizarre—rearing monsters, fiery horses, great pilared halls teeming with sculptures—Atlantic Grotesque emphasizes distortion of the natural to the point either of comic absurdity or of aesthetically effective ugliness. Technically the word is applied to a type of painting or sculpture of ancient Roman origin which serves a decorative rather than a pictorial purpose and which employs natural details (as animals, men, flowers, and foliage) and conventional designs and figures (as scrolls, garlands, and satyrs) in unnatural combinations or to the comic exaggerations or distortions of human and animal figures in the sculptured decorations and especially the gargoyles of Gothic architecture. It is from the latter association that the adjective in general use derives its leading implications of ridiculous ugliness or ludicrous caricature the camel was crouching ... with his grotesque head waving about in dumb protest to the blows—Hoffman she differed from other comedians. There was nothing about her of the grotesque; none of her comic appeal was due to exaggeration—T. S. Eliot Sometimes the word suggests an absurdly irrational combination of incompatibles (the attempts ... to dress up the Labour movement as a return to Greek and Roman virtues are little short of grotesque—Inge) Antic, chiefly in literary use, though once indistinguishable from grotesque, has come to stress ludicrousness or buffoonery more than unnaturalness or irrationality he came running to me ... making a many antic gesture—Defoe an outrageously funny novel ... basically the product of an antic imagination—Gibbs irresponsibly antic and unabashedly outspoken, he affects a brassy impudence that many of his staid associates appear to find refreshing—Kahn
Ana  imagined, fancied, conceived (see THINK): externalized, objectified (see REALIZE): ingenious, adroit, *clever: eccentric, erratic, singular, *strange, odd, queer
fantasy 1 fancy, *imagination
Ana  imagining, fancying, conceiving, envisioning (see THINK) externalizing, objectifying (see REALIZE)
2 *fancy, phantasy, phantasm, vision, dream, daydream, nightmare
Ana  *delusion, hallucination: vagary, *caprice, whimsy, whim, freak, fancy: grotesquerie, bizarrerie (see corresponding adjectives at FANTASTIC)
far, faraway, far-off *distant, remote, removed
Ant  near, nigh, nearly
farcical comical, comic, ludicrous, *laughable, ridiculous, risible, droll, funny
farfetched *forced, labored, strained
Ana  *fantastic, grotesque, bizarre: eccentric, erratic, strange, queer
Con  natural, normal (see REGULAR): *spontaneous, impulsive: *usual, wonted, accustomed
farming *agriculture, husbandry
farther, further are often used without distinction though originally different words, farther being the comparative of far and further, in its adverbial form (as an adjective, it is without a positive), being the comparative of fore or forth. At any rate farther basically implies a greater distance from a given point in space or sometimes in time; the latter implies oneness or an advance or an addition (as in movement or progression) not only in space but in time, quantity, or degree the farther tree is blocking my view Germany is farther from the United States than England move farther away from the city no further steps are necessary the incident happened farther back than I can remember circumstances such as the present . . . render further reserve unnecessary—Shaw In spite of this fundamental distinction in meaning, there are many occasions where it is difficult to make a choice, since the ideas of distance from a given point and of advance in movement may both be implied. In such cases either word may be used to go further and fare worse—Old Proverb my ponies are tired, and I have farther to go—Hardy as we climb higher, we can see farther—Inge What! . . . was Pat ever in France? Indeed he was, cries mine host; and Pat adds, Ay, and farther—Lover fascination charm, bewitch, enchant, captivate, allure, *attract
Ana  influence, impress, *affect, sway, strike, touch: delight, rejoice, gladden, *please
Con  repugnant, repellent, distasteful, obnoxious, abhorrent
fashion n 1 manner, way, *method, mode, system
Ana  practice, *habit, custom, usage, wont
2 Fashion, style, mode, vogue,fad, rage, craze, dernier cri, cerry are comparable when denoting a way of dressing, of furnishing and decorating rooms, of dancing, or of behaving that is generally accepted at a given time by those who wish to follow the trend or to be regarded as up-to-date. Fashion is thought of in general as the current conventional usage or custom which is determined by polite society or by those who are regarded as leaders especially in the social, the intellectual, the literary, or the artistic world the dictates of fashion follow the fashion nowhere is fashion so exacting, not only in dress and demeanor, but in plastic art itself—Brownell took the view that externals count for much, since they sway opinion, and opinion sways fashion, and fashion is reflected in conduct—Buchan Fashion is also applicable to the particular thing (as costume, furniture, behavior, or subject in literature or art) which is dictated by fashion (this poem . . . provided . . . the fake-progressive
with a new fashion—Day Lewis

Style, in this as in its other senses (see LANGUAGE 2, NAME) implies a manner or way that is distinctive; though often interchangeable with fashion (a dress in the latest style) it particularly suggests the elegant or distinguished way of dressing, furnishing, and living characteristic of those who have wealth and taste (live in style) (judging from the style they keep, they are both wealthy and cultivated) (their clothes, their homes, their tables, their cars have that somewhat elusive quality called style) (an authentic opera queen, temperamental, colorful, obstreperous, who considered traveling in style as important as singing in tune—Kupferberg) Mode, especially in the phrase "the mode," suggests the peak of fashion or the fashion of the moment among those who cultivate elegance in dress, behavior, and interests (the easy, apathetic graces of the man of the mode—Macleay) (that summer Russian refugees were greatly the mode—Rose Macleay) (sleeping on top of television sets is the mode of the day for cats—New Yorker) Vogue stresses the prevalence or wide acceptance of the fashion and its obvious popularity (the slender, undeveloped figure then very much in vogue—Cather) (the word morale, in italics, had a great vogue at the time of the War—Montague) (yet I am told that the vogue of the sermon is passing—Quiller-Couch) Fad, rage, craze, dernier cri all apply to an extremely short-lived fashion.

Fad stresses caprice in taking up and in dropping (many people are inclined to see in the popularity of this new subject a mere university fad—Babbitt) (a fashion is not in France the mere "fad" it is in England and with us—Brownell) Rage and craze imply short-lived and often markedly senseless enthusiasm (Mr. Prufrock fitted in very well with his wife's social circle, and was quite the rage—Day Lewis) (dog racing had begun as an enthusiasm, worked through to being a craze, and ended as being a habit—Westerby) Dernier cri or its equivalent cory (especially in "all the cry") applies to whatever is the very latest thing in fashion (a woman whose clothes are always the dernier cri) (open-toed shoes were all the cry that summer)

Ana trend, drift, *tendency: convention, *form, usage

fashion vb form, shape, *make, fabricate, manufacture, forge

Ana devise, contrive (see corresponding nouns at DEVICE): design, plan, plot (see under PLAN n): produce, turn out (see BEAR)

fashionable *stylish, modish, smart, chic, dashing

Ant unfinished: old-fashioned

fast, rapid, swift, fleet, quick, speedy, hasty, expeditious mean moving, proceeding, or acting with great celerity. Fast and rapid are often used without distinction; but fast frequently applies to the moving object and emphasizes its way in which it covers ground, whereas rapid is apt to characterize the movement itself and often to suggest its astonishing rate of speed (a fast horse) (a fast train) (a fast boat) (a rapid current) (a rapid gait) (rapid progress) (a fast worker) (rapid work)

Swift suggests great rapidity, frequently coupled with ease or facility of movement (fleeter than arrows, bullets, wind, thought, swifter things—Shak) (more swift than swallow shears the liquid sky—Spenser) (the flight of his imagination is very swift: the following of it often a breathless business—Day Lewis) Fleet, which is chiefly in poetic or journalistic use, connotes lightness or nimbleness as well as extreme fastness or rapidity (antelope are fleet of foot) (how the fleet creature would fly before the wind—Melville) Quick (see also QUICK 2) applies especially to something that happens promptly or occupies but little time; it suggests alacrity or celerity, especially in action, rather than velocity of motion (quick thinking saved him from the trap) (thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die—Shak) (slow to resolve, but in performance quick—Dryden) Speedy, when applied to persons or their motions or activities, implies extreme quickness and often hurry or haste; when applied to things and their motion or movement, it also often suggests great velocity; in general, it is opposed to dilatory (no mode sufficiently speedy of obtaining money had ever occurred to me—De Quincey) (hope for their speedy return) (be speedy, darkness—Keats) (make speediest preparation for the journey!—Shelley) Hasty suggests hurry or precipitance rather than speed and often connotes the resulting confusion, disorder, or inattention (gobbled down a hasty meal) (we must, this time, have plans ready—instead of waiting to do a hasty, inefficient, and ill-considered job at the last moment—Roosevelt) Expeditious adds to quick or speedy the implication of efficiency; it therefore implies the absence of waste, bungling, and undue haste (an expeditious movement of troops) (there is no expeditious road to pack and label men for God, and save them by the barrel load—Thompson)

Ant slow

fasten, fix, attach, affix mean to make something stay firmly in place or in an assigned place. All but fix (and that sometimes) imply a uniting or joining of one thing to another or of two things together. Fasten implies an attempt to keep a thing from moving by uniting it (as by tying, binding, nailing, or cementing) to something else or by restraining it by means of some mechanical device (as a lock, a screw, or a hook and eye) (fasten a horse to a post) (fasten down the lid of a box) (fasten a calendar to a wall) (fasten a door) (fasten a dress in the back)

Fix implies an attempt to keep something from falling down or from losing hold; it suggests such operations as driving in or implanting deeply, usually with care and accuracy (fix a stake in the ground) (unless their roots are deeply fixed, plants will not be strong). It is more common in its extended than in its basic sense, but the implications remain the same (fix a face in one's memory) (fix facts in one's mind) (fix a color in a fabric by use of a mordant)

In some phrases where fasten and fix are used interchangeably there may be a distinction in meaning which is subtle but justified; thus, to fix one's affections on someone one connotes concentration and fidelity while to fasten one's affections on someone may, and often does, suggest covetousness or an attempt to hold or control; to fix the blame upon a person implies solid grounds for the accusation, but to fasten the blame upon someone often suggests factitious grounds or selfish motives (his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord—Ps 112:7) (society wanted to do what it pleased; all disliked the laws which Church and State were trying to fasten on them—Henry Adams)

Attach stresses connection or union in order to keep things together or to prevent their separation; it usually implies a bond, link, or tie (the lid is attached to the box by hinges) (attach loose sheets by means of a staple) (the collarbone is attached to the shoulder blade at one end and to the breastbone at the other) (he attached himself to the cause in his youth) (in some countries little odium is attached to drunkenness) (attach a condition to a promise) (she undertakes to attach him to her by strong ties: a child, or marriage—Parshley)

Affix usually implies imposition of one thing upon another; it may convey no further information (affix a seal to a document) (Felton affixed this bull to the gates of the bishop of London's palace—Hallam) but it more often than not suggests

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
either attachment by an adhesive (as paste, gum, or mucilage) (affix a stamp to an envelope) or subscription (as of a name to a document) (he's old enough to affix his signature to an instrument—Meredith)

**Ana** secure, rivet, moor, anchor: join, connect, link, unite: adhere, cleave, cling, stick, cohere: bind, tie

**Ant** unfasten: loosen, lose — *Con* separate, part, sever, Sunder, divorce, divide

**fastidious** finicky, finicking, finical, particular, fussy, *nice, dainty, squeamish, persnickety, picky

**Ana** exacting, demanding (see demand vb): critical, hypercritical, captious: careful, meticulous, punctilious, scrupulous

**Con** negligent, remiss, neglectful, slack, lax: uncritical, cursory (see superfluous)

**fastness** stronghold, *fort, fortress, citadel

**fat** adj: fleshy, stout, portly, plump, corpulent, obese, rotund, ruddy

**Ant** lean — *Con* spare, lank, lanky, skinny, gaunt, scrawny, rawboned, angular (see lean): thin, slender, slim, slight

**fatal** mortal, *deadly, lethal

**Ana** killing, slaying (see kill vb): destroying or destructive (see corresponding verb destroy): baneful, *pernicious

**fate, destiny, lot, portion, doom** are comparable when

fate, destiny, lot, portion, doom are comparable when

**Analogous words**

**fastidious 327 fault**

**faultful** *ominous, portentous, inauspicious, unpropitious

**Ana** momentous, significant, important (see corresponding nouns at importance): decisive, determinative, *conclusive: crucial, critical, *acute

**fathom** vb *Fathom, sound, plumb* all mean to measure the depth (as of a body of water) typically with a weighted line. *Fathom* implies a measuring in fathoms (units of six feet). *Sound* typically suggests the use of a sounding line in measuring, but it may come close to *probe* (see under enter 1) when it deals with the investigation of a body of water to ascertain not only its depth but the character of its bottom or floor *men went overboard with poles in their hands, sounding . . . for deeper water—Defoe* *Plumb* implies the use of a plumb line, a wire or cord to which is attached a plummet that keeps the line in a vertical position as it falls. These differences are seldom apparent, because such measurements are usually taken by similar means, but in extended usage they take on importance and usually determine the specific implications of the words. *Fathom* implies an attempt to get through or beneath the obscuring layers of something mysterious or incomprehensible so as to reveal or comprehend its true nature (the aims of the artist must first be fathomed—Charles Johnson) *(if we can fathom the mystery of the structure of the Milky Way, we shall have learned much about the arrangement of the universe—B. J. Bok)* *(it involved a speculative fathoming of the uncertainties of the human mind—Davis)* *Sound* implies particularly the use of such indirect methods as cautious questioning or examination to elicit information as to someone's views or feelings, as to the real state of affairs in a particular case, or as to the worth, status, or possibility of something *(sound out the attitude of the candidate towards Medicare)* *(sent commissioners . . . to sound for peace—Jefferson)* *(when Delia sounded her cousin, the girl's evasive answer and burning brow seemed to imply that her suitor had changed his mind—Wharton)* *(told Tiberius that Castor was sounding various senators as to their willingness to support him—Graves)* *Plumb* suggests the ascertaining of something hidden usually by minute and critical examination *(she succeeded in plumbing his motives)* *(there were depths . . . beneath the story that he had never plumbed—Brooks)* Sometimes, however it comes pretty close to fathom *(who can plumb what the future holds in store?)*

**fatigue** vb exhaust, jade, *tire, weary, fag, tucker

**Ana** *deplete, drain: debilitate, disable, weaken

**Ant** rest — *Con* refresh, restore, rejuvenate, *renew: relieve, assuage

**fatuous** asinine, silly, foolish, *simple

**Ana** idiotic, imbecile, moronic (see corresponding nouns at fool): *fond, infatuated, besotted, insensate

**Ant** sensible — *Con* sane, prudent, judicious, *wise, sage, sapient

**fault** n 1 *imperfection, deficiency, shortcoming

**Ana** flaw, defect, *blemish: weakness, infirmity (see corresponding adjectives at weak)

**Ant** excellence

2 *Fault, failing, frailty, foible, vice are comparable when they mean an imperfection in character or an ingrained moral weakness. Fault implies failure, but not necessarily serious or even culpable failure, to attain a standard of moral perfection in disposition, deed, or habit *(have many virtues and few faults)* *(he is all fault who hath no fault at all—Tennyson)* *(our modern appreciation is often only the amiable aspect of a fault—an undue tolerance for indeterminate enthusiasms and rapid emotionalism—Babbitt)* *Failing* is even less censorious than fault, for it usually implies a shortcoming, often a
faultfinding 328  

favorable, benign, auspicious, propitious mean being of good omen or presaging a happy or successful outcome. Favorable implies that the persons or circumstances involved tend to assist in attaining one’s ends—persons by being kindly disposed or actually helpful and circumstances by being distinctly advantageous or encouraging. A favorable breeze (a hot dry summer, favorable to contemplative life out of doors—Conrad) (they won’t take a chance of battle unless they can feel sure of most favorable conditions—Alexander Forbes) Benign (see also kind) is applicable chiefly to someone or to something that has power to make or mar one’s fortunes by his or its aspect and is thought of as looking down with favor on one or of presenting a favorable countenance to one (so shall the World go on, to good malignant, to bad men benign—Milton) (on whose birth benign planets have certainly smiled—Broni) (a benign rather than a malevolent phenomenon—Margaret Halsey) Auspicious, like the related augur (see under Foretell), suggests the presence of signs or omens and is applicable to something that is marked by favorable signs or is in itself regarded as a good omen (an auspicious beginning of what proved to be a great career) (for sure the milder planets did combine on thy auspicious horizon to shine—Dryden) (they won’t contemplate life out of doors—Conrad) (to pay the boy . . . he brought auspicious news—Kipling) Propitious suggests an allusion to favoring gods or powers to a great career) (for sure the milder planets did combine on thy auspicious horizon to shine—Dryden) (they won’t contemplate life out of doors—Conrad) (to pay the boy . . . he brought auspicious news—Kipling) Propitious suggests an allusion to favoring gods or powers to be a great career) (for sure the milder planets did combine on thy auspicious horizon to shine—Dryden) (they won’t contemplate life out of doors—Conrad) (to pay the boy . . . he brought auspicious news—Kipling) Propitious suggests an allusion to favoring gods or powers to be a great career) (for sure the milder planets did combine on thy auspicious horizon to shine—Dryden) (they won’t contemplate life out of doors—Conrad) (to pay the boy . . . he brought auspicious news—Kipling) Propitious suggests an allusion to favoring gods or powers to be a great career) (for sure the milder planets did combine on thy auspicious horizon to shine—Dryden) (they won’t contemplate life out of doors—Conrad) (to pay the boy . . . he brought auspicious news—Kipling)
implication of a menial as well as of a fawning attitude in an attempt to ingratiate oneself; often also it suggests the close following of a hanger-on or parasite or the vulgarly imitative behavior of a social climber <toady/ing to the rich boys in his school> <her generosity encouraged toady/ing among her neighbors> <he toadied and worshipped and worried: he became timid and obsequious, feeling himself to be a thing, a little scratching cinder among immen-sities—Enright> <in proportion as he submits and toadies, he also will dominate and bully—Mead> 

Truckle implies subordination of self or submission of one’s de-sires, judgments, or opinions to those of a superior <everybody must defer. A nation must wait upon her decision, a dean and chapter truckle to her wishes—Sackville-West> <there are people who will always truckle to those who have money—Archibald Marshall> 

Cringe implies obsequious bowing or crouching as if in awe or fear; it usually connotes abject abasement <we are sneaking and bowing and cringing on the one hand, or bullying and scorning on the other—Thackeray> <she is very humble and careless of self. “My poor, humble self” . . . is often on her lips; but she never cringes or loses dignity—Symonds> 

Cower always implies abject fear, often cowardly fear, especially in the presence of those who tyrannize or dominate <the whole family cowered under Lady Kew’s eyes and nose, and she ruled by force of them—Thackeray> <having found . . . every incentive to cower and cringe and hedge, and no incentive . . . to stand upright as a man—Brooks> 


Ant domineer

faze disconcert, discomfit, rattle, *embarrass, abash

Ana nonplus, confound, dumbfound, perplex, mystify, *puzzle: *confuse, muddle: fluster, flurry, perturb, *dis-compose

fealty *fidelity, loyalty, devotion, allegiance, piety

Ana faithfulness or faith, trueness or truth, constancy, staunchness, steadfastness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHFUL): *obligation, duty

Ant perfidy —Con perfidiousness, treacherousness or treachery, traitorishness, faithlessness, disloyalty, falsehood (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)

fear n 1 Fear, dread, fright, alarm, dismay, consternation, panic, terror, horror, trepidation denote the distressing or disordering agitation which overcomes one in the anticipa-tion or in the presence of danger. Fear is the most general term: like dread, it implies apprehension and anxiety, but it also frequently suggests a loss of courage amounting to cowardice <fear came upon me, and trembling—Job 4:14> <he had, indeed, an awful dread of death, or rather “of something after death”—Bowsew> <do you know what fear is? Not ordinary fear of insult, injury or death, but abject, quavering dread of something that you cannot see—Kipling> <the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—Roosevelt> 

Fright implies the shock of sudden, startling, and usually short-lived fear; alarm suggests the fright which is awakened by sudden awareness of imminent danger <she had taken fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad> <she stared at her husband in alarm; her golden-hazel eyes were black with apprehension—Wylie> <thou wast born amid the din of arms, and sucked a breast that panted with alarms—Cowper> 

Dismay implies deprivation of spirit, courage, or initiative, especially by an alarming or disconcerting prospect <the storm prevails, the rampart yields a way, bursts the wild cry of horror and dismay!—Campbell> 

Consternation heightens the implication of prostration or confusion of the faculties <‘tis easy to believe, though not to describe, the consternation they were all in—Defoe> 

Panic is over-mastering and unreasoning, often groundless, fear or fright <a blockhead, who was in a perpetual panic lest I should expose his ignorance—De Quincey> 

Terror suggests the extremity of consternation or dread <the terror by night—Ps 91:5> <frozen with terror—Beckford> 

(soul-chilling terror—Shelley) 

Horror adds the implication of shuddering abhorrence or aversion, for it usually connotes a sight, activity, or demand rather than a premo-nition as a cause of fear <the horror of supernatural darkness—Pater> <shrink from the task with all the horror of a well-bred English gentleman—Woolf> 

Trepidation adds to dread the implication of timidity, especially as mani-fested by trembling or by marked hesitation <the Stubland aunts were not the ladies to receive a solicitor’s letter calmly. They were thrown into a state of extreme trepidation—H. G. Wells> 

It is often used for a polite pretense of fear or timidity <I take up with some trepidation the subject of program music—Babbit> 

Ana *approbation, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment: anxiety, worry, concern (see CARE)

Ant fearlessness —Con boldness, bravery, intrepidity, valiancy (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE): *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution: *confidence, assurance, aplomb

2 awe, *reverence

Ana veneration, worship, adoration (see under REVERE): admiration, *wonder, amazement: respect, esteem (see REGARD n)

Ant contempt

fearful 1 Fearful, apprehensive, afraid are comparable when they mean inspired or moved by fear. In such use they are normally followed by of, that, or lest, afraid being never and fearful and apprehensive infrequently used attributively in this sense. Fearful carries no suggestion of a formidable cause of fear; it often connotes timorousness, a predisposition to worry, or an active imagination <the child is fearful of loud noises> <they were fearful that a storm would prevent their excursion> <fearful lest his prize should escape him—J. R. Green> 

Apprehensive suggests a state of mind rather than a temperament and grounds for fear that at least seem reasonable. It always implies a presentiment or anticipation of evil or danger (<in July 1914 all civilized peoples were apprehensive of war> <had driven before them into Italy whole troops of . . . provincials, less apprehensive of servitude than of famine—Gibbon>) 

Fearful, afraid may or may not imply sufficient mo-tivation of fears, but it typically connotes weakness or cowardice and regularly implies inhibition of action or utterance <the trained reason is disinterested and fearless. It always implies a presentiment or anticipation of evil or danger (in July 1914 all civilized peoples were apprehensive of war) had driven before them into Italy whole troops of . . . provincials, less apprehensive of servitude than of famine—Gibbon> 

Fearful, afraid may or may not imply sufficient mo-tivation of fears, but it typically connotes weakness or cowardice and regularly implies inhibition of action or utterance (<the trained reason is disinterested and fearless. It always implies a presentiment or anticipation of evil or danger in July 1914 all civilized peoples were apprehensive of war>) 

Ant: *timid, timorous: anxious, worried, concerned (see under CARE)

Ant fearlessness —Con boldness, bravery, intrepidity, valiancy (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE): *courage, mettle, spirit, resolution: *confidence, assurance, aplomb

2 awe, *reverence

Ana veneration, worship, adoration (see under REVERE): admiration, *wonder, amazement: respect, esteem (see REGARD n)

Ant contempt
fearful country!—Shak.} {a sight too fearful for the feel of fear—Keats} {our fearful trip is done, the ship has weathered every rack—Whitman} In less formal English fearful may not imply apprehension of danger, but it may at least imply that the thing so qualified is a cause of disquiet {the fearful tenacity of a memory} {a fearfully distressing situation} Something is awful which impresses one so profoundly that one acts or feels as if under a spell or in the grip of its influence; the word often implies an emotion such as reverential fear or an overpowering awareness of might, majesty, or sublimity {and wring the awful specter from his fist—Shak.} {God of our fathers . . . beneath whose awful Hand we hold dominion over palm and pine—Kipling} {men living among the glooms and broken lights of the primeval forest, hearing strange noises in the treetops when the thunder crashed, and awful voices in the wind—Buchan} With somewhat weakened force awful may be applied to qualities or conditions which are unduly weighted with significance or which strike one forcibly as far above or beyond the normal {no tribunal can approach such a question without a deep sense . . . of the awful responsibility involved in its decision—John Marshall} {a moment of awful silence before the questions became—Dawes} Suddenly, the awful singleness of purpose of the innocent and intelligent, she believed in Captain Remson—{McFee} Something is dreadful from which one shrinks in shuddering fear or in loathing {the dreadful prospect of another world war} {cancer is a dreadful disease} {she felt her two hands taken, and heard a kind voice. Could it be possible it belonged to the dreadful father of her husband?—Meredith} {dreadful things should not be known to young people until they are old enough to face them with a certain poise—Russell} In weakened use dreadful is applicable to something from which one shrinks as disagreeable or as unpleasant to contemplate or endure {a dreadful necessity} {wouldn’t it be dreadful to produce that effect on people—L. P. Smith} Something is frightful which, for the moment at least, paralyzes one with fear or throws one into great alarm or consternation {a frightful sound broke the quiet of the night} {a frightful tornado} {the Ghost of a Lady . . . a scar on her forehead, and a bloody handkerchief at her breast, frightful to behold—Meredith} Frightful is also often employed without direct implication of fright, but in such use it imputes to the thing so qualified a capacity for startling the observer {as by its enormity, outrageousness, or its shocking quality} {a frightful disregard of decency} {a frightful scandal} {this frightful condition of internal strain and instability—Shaw} {the labor of sifting, combining, constructing, expunging, correcting, testing: this frightful toil is as much critical as creative—T. S. Eliot} Something is terrible which causes or is capable of causing extreme and agitating fear or which both induces fright or alarm and prolongs and intensifies it {many—voices arose. The clamor became} {all the clamor} The clamor became terrible, and confused the minds of all the men—{Andersen} One of those terrible women produced now and then by the Roman stock, unsexed, implacable, filled with an insane lust of power—Buchan} {I have never read a more terrible exposure of human weakness—of universal human weakness—than the last great speech of Othello—T. S. Eliot} {a human being devoid of hope is the most terrible object in the world—Heiser} When the word carries no implication of terrifying or of capacity for terrifying, it usually suggests that the thing so described is almost unendurable in its excess {as of force or power} or too painful to be borne without alleviation or mitigation {knowledge . . . is no longer thought to be a secret, precious, rather terrible possession—Benson} {an evil passion may give great physical and intellectual powers a terrible efficiency—Eliot} {Saint-Beuve believed that the truth is always terrible—L. P. Smith} Something is terrific which is fitted or intended to inspire terror {as by its size, appearance, or potency} {eyes and hairy mane terrific—Milton} {assumes a terrific expression} {one little tool . . . transforms the spark [of electricity] from a form too brief and bright and terrific to be intelligible into one of the most tractable and lucid of the phenomena . . . of Nature—Darrow} Terrific may be preferred to terrible when there is an implication of release of stored-up energy, physical, emotional, or intellectual, and of its stunning effect {a terrific explosion} {a terrific outbreak of rage} {the most admired single phrase that Shakespeare ever wrote—Ripeness is all . . . derives a terrific and pure dramatic impact from its context—Day Lewis} Something is horrible the sight of which induces not only fear or terror but also loathing and aversion; thus, a fearful precipice may not be horrible; in the practice of the ancient Greek dramatists, murder on the stage was avoided as horrible {now that wars are between nations, no longer between governments or armies, they have become far more horrible—Inge} Horrible, like the other words, may be used in a weaker sense; in such cases it seldom suggests horror, but it does suggest hatefulness or hideousness {a horrible suspicion arose in his mind} {a horribly shrill voice} {a horrible taste} Horrible emphasizes the effect produced on a person, horrific the possession of qualities or properties fitted or intended to produce that effect {that horrific yarn [Stevenson's] “The Body-Snatcher”—Montague} {his yearning for the horrific, the revolting, the transcendent mystery of whatever is not “nice”—Times Lit. Sup.} Something is shocking which startles or is capable of startling because it is contrary to one's expectations, one's standards of good taste, or one's moral sense {likes to tell shocking stories} {find a shocking change in a friend's appearance} {the treatment should begin by encouraging him to utter freely even his most shocking thoughts—Russell} Often in extended use shocking does not imply a capacity for startling so much as a blamable or reprehensible character {it is shocking of me, but I have to laugh when people are pompous and absurd—Rose Macaulay} {a solemnism of this kind . . . would have seemed a shocking thing to . . . so accurate a scholar—L. P. Smith} Something is appalling which strikes one with dismay as well as with terror or horror {her overthrow would have been the most appalling disaster the Western world had ever known—Henry Adams} {the defects are appallingly prolific—Shaw} Sometimes appalling comes close to amazing but then retains the notion of dismaying and carries a stronger suggestion of dumbfounding than of surprising {his appalling quickness of mind} {he was squatting in some sepulchral Indian village talking to unwashed old men, and eating the most appalling food—La Farge} Ana frightening, terrifying, alarming (see FRIGHTEN): ghastly, gruesome, grisly, grim, macabre, lurid: *sinister, baleful, malignant: sublime (see SPLENDID) fearless unafraid, dauntless, undaunted, bold, intrepid, audacious, *brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, doughty Ana daring, venturesome, *adventurous: heroic, gallant (see corresponding nouns at HEROISM): plucky, gritty (see corresponding nouns at FORTITUDE) Ant fearful — Con timid, timorous feasible *possible, practicable Ana practical, *practicable: advisable, *expeditious, pol- tic: advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: suitable, appropriate, fitting, *fit Ant unbelievable, infeasible: chimerical (schemes, projects, suggestions) — Con fantastic, visionary, quixotic (see
**feast**

imaginary); utopian, *ambitious, pretentious

**feast** *dinner, banquet*

**feast** n Feat, exploit, achievement denote a remarkable deed or performance. Feat applies particularly to an act involving physical strength, dexterity, and often courage; an exploit is an adventurous, heroic, or brilliant deed; achievement emphasizes the idea of distinguished endeavor especially in the face of difficulty or opposition; all are used frequently with some degree of irony (sights of art and feats of strength went round—Goldsmith) (feats of daring) (I must retreat into the invalided corps and tell them of my former exploits, which may very likely pass for lies—Scott) (great is the rumor of this dreadful knight, and his achievements of no less account—Shak) (achievements of science).


**feature** n *characteristic, trait

**ana** detail, particular, *item: specialty, particularity (see corresponding adjectives at SPECIAL): *quality, character, property

**fecund** fruitful, prolific, *fertile

**ana** bearing, producing, yielding (see BEAR): breeding, propagating, reproducing, generating (see GENERATE)

**ant** barren—Con *sterile, unfruitful, infertile, impotent

**fecundity** fruitfulness, prolificacy, fertility (see under FERTILE)

**ana** producing or productiveness (see corresponding verb at BEAR): profuseness or profusion, luxuriance, lavishness, prodigality, lushness, exuberance (see corresponding adjectives at PROFUSE)

**ant** barrenness

**federation** confederacy, confederation, coalition, fusion, *alliance

**ana** remuneration, compensation (see corresponding verbs at PAY): charge, *price, cost, expense

**feebly** *weak, infirm, decrepit, frail, fragile

**ana** unnerved, enervated, emasculated, unmanned (see UNNERVE): debilitated, weakened, enfeebled, disabled, crippled (see WEAKEN): powerless, impotent

**ant** robust—Con *strong, sturdy, stout, stalwart: *vigorous, lusty, energetic: hale, *healthy

**feed** vb **Feed, nourish, pasture, graze** are comparable when they mean to provide the food that one needs or desires.

**Feed** is the comprehensive term applicable not only to persons and animals but also to plants and, by extension, to whatever consumes something or requires something external for its sustenance (feed the baby) (feed a family of ten on fifty dollars a week) (use bone meal to feed the chrysanthemums) (feed a furnace with coal) (Hugh’s growing vanity was fed by the thought that Clara was interested in him—Anderson) (the press exploits for its benefit human silliness and ignorance and vulgarity and sensationalism, and, in exploiting it, feeds it—Rose Macalvay) (In American but not in British use feed sometimes takes for its object the thing that is fed (feed oats to the horses) (feed coal to the furnace) (he has been feeding bread and butter to the dog—Wiggin) **Nourish** implies feeding with food that is essential to growth, health, well-being, or continuing existence. **Nourish** more often takes as its subject the thing that serves as a sustaining or a building-up food than the person who provides such food (milk, eggs, and meat nourish the bodies of growing boys and girls) (the humid prairie heat, so nourishing to wheat and corn, so exhausting to human beings—Cather) (freedom nourishes self-respect—Channing d. 1842) (his zeal seemed nourished by failure and by fall—Whitier)

**Pasture** is applied chiefly to animals and especially to domestic animals (as cattle, sheep, or horses) fed on grass (cattle are pastured on the ridges and mounds that rise . . . above the swamps—Amer. Guide Series: La.) **Graze** is often preferred specifically to pasture when the emphasis is on the use of growing herbage for food (a field or two to graze his cows—Swift) (graze sheep on the common)

**ana** *nurse, nurture, foster, cherish: support, sustain, maintain (see corresponding nouns at LIVING)

**ant** starve

**feed** n fodder, forage, provender, *food, victuals, viands, provisions, comestibles

**feeling** vb *touch, palpate, handle, paw

**ana** *apprehend, comprehend: perceive, observe, notice (see SEE)

**feel** n feeling, *atmosphere, aura

**ana** see those at FEELING 3

**feeling** n 1 *sensibility, *sensation, sense

**ana** reacting or reaction, behaving or behavior (see corresponding verbs at ACT): responsiveness (see corresponding adjective at TENDER): sensitiveness, susceptibility (see corresponding adjectives at LIABLE)

2 Feel, affection, emotion, sentiment, passion, Feeling, the general term, denotes a partly mental and partly physical, but not primarily sensory, reaction or state that is characterized by an emotional response (as pleasure, pain, attraction, or repulsion). Unless it is qualified or a clue is given in the context, feeling gives no indication of the nature, the quality, or the intensity of the response (whatever feelings were in Sophia’s heart, tenderness was not among them—Bennett) (a feeling of sadness and longing—Longfellow) Often feeling implies a contrast with judgment and connotes lack of thought (her humanity was a feeling, not a principle—Henry Mackenzie) (she had a feeling that all would be well—Parker) **Affection** is applied mainly to such feelings as are also inclinations or likings; the word therefore sometimes suggests desire or striving (the heart . . . we are, by foolish custom . . . impelled to call the seat of the affections—Rose Macaulay) (that serene and blessed mood, in which the affections gently lead us on—Wordsworth) (music played with affection and understanding—Kodolín) **Emotion** usually suggests a condition that involves more of the total mental and physical response than does feeling or implies feelings marked by excitement or agitation (eagerness for emotion and adventure—Sydney Smith) (means of exciting religious emotion—Ruskin) (a sensation of strength, inspired by mighty emotion—George Eliot) 

**Sentiment** connotes a larger intellectual element in the feeling than any of the others; it often is applied specifically to an emotion inspired by an idea (his own anti-slavery sentiments were sincere—Boatfield) Commonly the word suggests refined, sometimes romantic, occasionally affected or artificial, feeling (that moral sentiment which exists in every human breast—Bancroft) (his opinions are more the result of conviction than of sentiment—J. R. Lowell) (Sterne has been called a man over-flowing with sentiment on paper but devoid of real feeling)

**Passion** suggests powerful or controlling emotion; more than affection, it implies urgency of desire (as for possession or revenge) (hark! how the sacred calm, that breathes about, bids every fierce tumultuous passion cease—Gray) (the ruling passion, be it what it will, the ruling passion conquers reason still—Pope) (give me that man that is not passion’s slave—Shak)

**ana** impressing or impression, touching, affecting or affection (see corresponding verbs at ACT 1): *mood, humor, temper, vein

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
female

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

Feint n artifice, ruse, ruse, gambit, ploy, stratagem, maneuver, *trick

Felicitation, congratulate mean to express one's pleasure in the joy, success, elevation, or prospects of another.

Felicitation is the more formal term and carries perhaps a stronger implication that the person who felicitates regards the other as very happy or wishes him happiness (felicitate parents upon the birth of a child) (felicitated His Majesty upon his coronation) (a young pianist came backstage to felicitate Milstein—Current Biol) Congratulate is the more common and often more intimate term; it usually implies that the congratulator regards the other as a person to whom good fortune has come or on whom fortune smiles (it is good manners to congratulate a bridegroom and to felicitate a bride) (congratulate a friend on his promotion) (congratulated himself that he had escaped a trying situation)

Felicitous happy, apt, fitting, appropriate, *suit, suitable, meet, proper

Ana telling, convincing (see VALID) pat, timely, opportunity, *seasonable, well-timed: apposite, pertinent, *relevant

Ant infelicitous: inept, maladroit —Con *awkward, clumsy, gauche: unfortunate, unhappy, unlucky (see affirmative adjectives at LUCKY)

Felicity happiness, bliss, beatitude, blessedness

Ana rapture, transport, *ecstasy: joy, delight, delectation, *pleasure, fruitation

Ant misery

Fell adj cruel, inhuman, savage, barbarous, ferocious, *fierce, turbulent

Ana baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient, *sinister: pitiless, ruthless (see corresponding nouns at SYMPATHY): relentless, unrelenting, merciless, *grim, implacable

Felon n *criminal, convict, malefactor, culprit, delinquent

Female n Female, woman, lady are comparable when meaning a person and especially an adult who belongs to the sex that is the counterpart of the male sex. Female (the correlative of male) emphasizes the idea of sex; it applies not only to human beings but also to animals and plants. Its ordinary use as a synonym for woman was once frequent (three smart-looking females—Austen (to please the females of our modest age—Byron) but this use is now felt as derogatory or contemptuous except in strictly scientific or statistical application, where the term may be employed to designate a person of the female sex whether infant, child, adolescent, or adult (the city's population included 12,115 males and 15,386 females) As compared with woman (the correlative of man), which emphasizes the essential qualities of the adult female, lady (the correlative of gentleman) connotes basically the added qualities implicit in gentle breeding, gracious nature, and cultivated background. Woman is preferred by many whenever the reference is to the person merely as a person (the country expects the help of its women) (the following women assisted in receiving the guests) (a woman of culture) (a saleswoman) (workingwomen) (society women) Lady, on the other hand, is preferred when exalted social position or refinement and delicacy are definitely implied (Alfonso XI at his death left one legitimate son . . . and five bastards by a lady of Seville, Doña Leonor de Guzmán—Altamira y Crevea) (Miss Nancy . . . had the essential attributes of a lady—high veracity, delicate honor in her dealings, deference to others, and refined personal habits—George Eliot) but lady may also be used informally as a mere courteous synonym for woman (please allow these ladies to pass) (the ladies were the decisive factor in rolling up the Republican landslide—Priest) (may I speak to the lady of the house?) though its indiscriminate substitution for woman (as in wash lady, saleslady) carries courtesy into travesty (from that hour to this, the Gazette has referred to all females as women except that police-court characters were always to be designated as ladies—White)

Female adj Female, feminine, womanly, womanlike, womanish, effeminate, ladylike are comparable when meaning of, characteristic of, or like a female especially of the human species. Female (opposed to male) applies to animals and plants as well as to human beings and stresses the fact of sex (the female bee—Milton) (female children were excluded from inheritance) Feminine (opposed to masculine) alone of these words may imply grammatical gender (feminine nouns and pronouns) but it characteristically applies to features, attributes, or qualities which belong to women rather than to men; it has practically displaced all except the more strictly physiological senses of female (her heavenly form angelic, but more soft and feminine—Milton) (the domestic virtues, which are especially feminine—Lecky) (the strangely feminine jealously and religiousness—Steinbeck) Womanly (often opposed to girlish or, from another point of view, to manly) is used to qualify whatever evidences the qualities of a fully developed woman (womanly virtues) It often specifically suggests qualities (as tenderness, sympathy, moral strength, and fortitude) which especially befit a woman and make her attractive especially in her functions as a wife and mother, or it may merely suggest the absence of such mannish qualities as aggressiveness (twas just a womanly presence, an influence unexpressed—J. R. Lowell) (all will spy in thy face a blushing, womanly, discovering grace—Donne) Womanlike (opposed to manlike) is more apt to suggest characteristically feminine faults or foibles (womanlike, taking revenge too deep for a transient wrong done but in thought to your beauty—Tennyson) Womanish (compare mannish, childish) is a term of contempt, especially when applied to what should be virile or masculine (Art thou a man? Thy form cries out thou art; thy tears are womanish—Shak) (womanish or wailing grief—Cowper) Effeminate emphasizes the idea of unmanly delicacy, luxuriosity, or enervation (a woman impudent and mannish growth is not more loathed than an effeminate man in time of action—Shak) (an effeminate and unmanly foppery—Hurd) (something feminine—not effeminate, mind—is discoverable in the countenances of all men of genius—Coleridge) Ladylike is sometimes used sarcastically, especially of men, to imply a dainty and finical affectation of the proprieties (tops at all corners, ladylike in men—Cowper) (that ladylike quality which is the curse of Southern literature—Leech) As applied to girls and women or to their conduct, habits, or manners, ladylike implies conformity to a standard appropriate to a lady (Your daughter may be better paid, better dressed, more gently spoken, more ladylike than you were in the old mill—Shaw)

Ant male —Con masculine, manly, manlike, manful, manish, virile (see MALE)

Feminine *female, womanly, womanish, ladylike, woman—

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
like, effeminate  
**Ant** masculine —**Con** *male, manly, mannish, virile, manlike, manful

**fence** vb 1 *enclose, envelop, pen, coop, corral, cage, wall*

**Ana** confine, circumscribe, *limit: *surround, gird, environ

2 *dodge, parry, sidestep, duck, shirk, malinger*

**Ana** evade, avoid, shun, elude (see ESCAPE): maneuver, feint (see corresponding nouns at TRICK): baffle, foil, outwit (see FRUSTRATE)

**feral** *brutal, brute, brutish, bestial, beastly*

**Ana** *fierce, ferocious*

**ferocious** *fierce, truculent, savage, inhuman, feral*

**vb** ferret out  
*seek, search, scour, hunt, comb, ransack, (see EVADE)*

Inge

<the enormously fruitful idea—John Morley>  
<the enormously fruitful discovery that pitch of sound depends upon the length of the vibrating chord—Ellis>  
<Darwinism ... is a fruitful theory of the means by which nature works—Inge>

<the poet ... is apt to lack the detachment which alone makes fruitful criticism possible—Lowes>

**Prolific** is often interchangeable with *fecund*, but it often suggests even greater rapidity in reproduction and is therefore more frequently used than the latter term in disparagement or derogation especially when applied to types or kinds of things or beings (the starling is so prolific that the flocks become immense—Jeffreys) (uncultivated, defective people . . . are appallingy prolific—Shaw) (the flabby pseudoreligions in which the modern world is so prolific—Krutch)

**Ana** producing, bearing, yielding (see BEAR): inventing or inventive, creating or creative (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): quickening, stimulating, provoking, exciting, galvanizing (see PROVOKE)

**Ant** infertile, sterile —**Con** barren, impotent, unfruitful (see STERILE)

**fertility** fruitfulness, fecundity, prolificacy (see under FERTILE)

**Ant** infertility, sterility —**Con** impotence or impotency, barrenness, unfruitfulness (see corresponding adjectives at STERILE)

**fervent** ardent, fervid, perfervid, *impassioned, passionate*

**Ana** *devout, pious, religious; warm, warmhearted, *tender, responsive: *sincere, wholehearted, heartfelt, hearty, whole-souled, unfeigned: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent*

**Con** *tame, subdued, submissive*

**ferret out** vb *seek, search, scour, hunt, comb, ransack, (see ENTER)*

**Ana** extract, elicit (see EDUCE): penetrate, pierce, probe

**fertile, fecund, fruitful, prolific** mean having or manifesting the power to produce fruit or offspring. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in their corresponding nouns fertility, fecundity, fruitfulness, prolificacy. Fertile (opposed to sterile, in fertile) applies particularly to something in which seeds take root and grow or may take root and grow because it contains the elements essential to their life and development. (fertile soil) (fertility of alluvial land) past fields where the wheat was high . . . it was a fertile country—S. V. Benét>  

Consequently the term often applies to something in which ideas take root and thrive (a fertile mind) (in the heath's barrenness to the farmer lay its fertility to the historian—Hardy) (in him were united a most logical head with a most fertile imagination—Boswell)  

Fertile is also applicable to something which has in itself the elements essential to its growth and development (a fertile egg) (fertile seed) (a fertile idea) or to a person or animal or pair that is able to produce normal living young (a fertile husband) (a fertile couple)  

Fecund (opposed to barren) applies especially to something which actually yields in abundance or with rapidity fruits, offspring or, by extension, projects, inventions, or works of art; thus, one speaks of the fecundity of a mother if one wishes to imply that she has a large family, but of her fertility if the intent is to indicate that she is not sterile; so, by extension, a fecund rather than a fertile inventive genius (a good part of these inventions came to birth—or were further nourished—in the fecund mind of Leonardo da Vinci—Mumford)  

(if you had been born a Dumas—I am speaking of fecundity . . . and of nothing else . . . and could rattle off a romance in a fortnight—Quiller-Couch)  

Fruitful may replace fecund, especially to something which actually yields in abundance or fecundity (a fruitful rain) In its extended sense it is applicable to whatever bears results, especially useful or profitable results (the time has always come, and the season is never unripe, for the announcement of the fruitful idea—John Morley)  

(John Morley)  
<the enormously fruitful discovery that pitch of sound depends upon the length of the vibrating chord—Ellis>  
<Darwinism . . . is a fruitful theory of the means by which nature works—Inge>

<the poet . . . is apt to lack the detachment which alone makes fruitful criticism possible—Lowes>

(**Prolific** is often interchangeable with *fecund*, but it often suggests even greater rapidity in reproduction and is therefore more frequently used than the latter term in disparagement or derogation especially when applied to types or kinds of things or beings (the starling is so prolific that the flocks become immense—Jeffreys) (uncultivated, defective people . . . are appallingy prolific—Shaw) (the flabby pseudoreligions in which the modern world is so prolific—Krutch)

Ana producing, bearing, yielding (see BEAR): inventing or inventive, creating or creative (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): quickening, stimulating, provoking, exciting, galvanizing (see PROVOKE)

Ant infertile, sterile —Con barren, impotent, unfruitful (see STERILE)

fertility fruitfulness, fecundity, prolificacy (see under FERTILE)

Ant infertility, sterility —Con impotence or impotency, barrenness, unfruitfulness (see corresponding adjectives at STERILE)

fervent ardent, fervid, perfervid, *impassioned, passionate*

Ana *devout, pious, religious; warm, warmhearted, *tender, responsive: *sincere, wholehearted, heartfelt, hearty, whole-souled, unfeigned: *intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent*

Con *tame, subdued, submissive*

ferret out vb *seek, search, scour, hunt, comb, ransack, (see ENTER)*

Ana extract, elicit (see EDUCE): penetrate, pierce, probe

**Ana,** analogous words  
**Ant,** antonyms  
**Con,** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
gem or a piece of metal so cut, incised, or engraved. By virtue of this representation it is supposed to be endowed with the same occult influence as what it represents

\[\text{he had stolen from Henry ... a talisman, which rendered its wearer invulnerable—Stubb}^\text{a}\]

In extended use it may be applied to an object felt to exert a magical, extraordinary, and usually happy influence \(\text{the little circle of the schoolboy's copper coin ... had proven a talisman, fragrant with good, and deserving to be set in gold and worn next her heart—Hawthorne}\)

\[\text{the mere touch of a leaf was a talisman to bring me under the enchantment—Jefferies}\]

\[\text{there is no talisman in the word parent which can generate miracles of affection—Butler d. 1902}\]

\[\text{if their hearts had been opened, there would have been found, engraved within, the talisman Education—Brooks}\]

Charm basically applies to something believed to work a spell repelling evil spirits or malign influences or attracting favorable ones. It may be used in reference to an incanta-

tion, a word, or a form of words as well as to an object; thus, fetishes and talismans were often carried as charms

\[\text{the gallant little Abruzzi cob was decorated with ... a panoply of charms against the evil eye—Mackenzie}\]

In its extended application to a quality in persons or in things it connotes a power to attract or allure that is suggest-

give of spell working \(\text{she has great charm} \)

\[\text{you feel the charm of the painting?} \]

\[\text{(one of the great charms of Lawrence ... was that he could never be bored—Huxley}\]

Amulet is usually applied to something worn or carried on the person because of its supposed magical power to preserve one in danger or to protect one from evil and especially from disease \(\text{the French traveler Coudreau ... expressly states that collars made of jag-

uers' or bush hogs' teeth, worn round the neck by small children, are amulets intended to protect them, when they grow bigger, against the attack of ferocious beasts—Karsten}\)

In its rare extended use the word still implies protection \(\text{righteousness will give you love ... but it will not give you an invincible amulet against misfortune—Farrar}\)

fetter vb shackel, *hamper, trammel, clog, manacle, hog-tie

Ana *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar, dam: *restrain, curb, check: baffle, balk, thwart, foil, *frustrate: bind, *tie

Con *free, liberate, release: *extricate, disencumber, disembroil, disentangle, untangle: disengage, *detach

caller *less, lesser, smaller

fib n untruth, falsehood, *lie, misrepresentation, story

fib vb equivocate, palter, *lie, prevaricate

fickle *inconstant, unstable, capricious, mercurial

Ana *changeable, changeful, variable, protean: *fifful, spasmodic: light, light-minded, frivolous, flighty, volatile

(see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

Ant constant, *true —Con *faithful, loyal, staunch, steadfast

fiction, figment, fabrication, fable are comparable when meaning a story, an account, an explanation, or a concep-
tion which is an invention of the human mind. Fiction

so strongly implies the use of the imagination that it serves as the class name for all pro se poetic writings which deal with imagined characters and situations or with actual characters or situations with less concern for the his-
toricity of the details than for the telling of an interesting, coherent story. In the sense here particularly considered, a fiction is something that is made up without reference to

to and often in defiance of fact or reality or truth, typically for some such reason as to avoid telling an unpleasant or inconvenient truth \(\text{Adrian ... was at a loss what to invent to detain him, beyond the stale fiction} \text{that his father was coming tomorrow—Meredith}\) or to describe or explain someone or something about whom or which practically nothing is known \(\text{Karl Joël ... spent fifteen of the best years of his life over the Xenophontic Socrates, to discover that the figure was just as much a fiction as the Platonic Socrates—Ellis}\)

or to impose upon others an interpretation or an assumption that serves one's own ends or that satisfies the unthinking because of its accord with outward appearances \(\text{the notion that a business is clothed with a public interest and has been devoted to the public use is little more than a fiction intended to beautify what is disagreeable to the sufferers—Justice Holmes}\)

\(\text{few of the usual fictions on which society rested had ever required such defiance of facts—Henry Adams}\) or, espe-
cially in legal or scientific use, to provide a convenient assumption or method whereby one can deal with what is beyond the range of rational or objective proof \(\text{the Linnaean and similar classificatory systems} \text{are fictions ... having their value simply as pictures, as forms of representation—Ellis}\)

Fiction may apply to something which appears to be or is believed to be true or which accords with some higher form of truth (as "poetic truth," "philosophical truth," or "spiritual truth") or with the demands of reason when these come into conflict with fact or with the world as apprehended by the senses; figment and fabrication, on the other hand, carry no im-

plication of justification and typically suggest a defiance of truth of whatever kind or degree. Figment usually

suggests the operation of fancy or of unlicensed imagina-
tion and neglect of fact \(\text{the rude, unvarnished gibes with which he demolished every figment of defense—Stevenson}\)

\(\text{a sense of unreality was creeping over him. Surely this great Chamber ... did not exist at all but as a gigantic fancy of his own! And all these figures were figments of his brain—Galsworthy}\)

Fabrication applies to something that is made up with artifice and usually with the intent to deceive; consequently it is often used of a fiction that is a deliberate and complete falsehood \(\text{the common account of his disappearance is a fabrication}\)

\(\text{the legend, though some of its details are obviously fictitious, cannot be dismissed as a pure fabrication}\)

\(\text{it is evidence—fact, fabrication—Partridge}\)

\(\text{the Government story was not a complete fabrication but a careful distortion—Devlin}\)

Fable (see also ALLEGORY) 2 applies to a fictitious narrative that is obviously unconcerned with fact, usually because it deals with events or situations that are mar-

velous, impossible, preposterous, or incredible \(\text{if we may take the story of Job for a history, not a fable—Defoe}\)

\(\text{nothing but whispered suspicions, old wives' tales, fables} \text{invented by men who had nothing to do but loaf in the drugstore and make up stories—Anderson}\)

Ana narrative, *story, tale, anecdote, yarn

fictitious, fabulous, legendary, mythical, apocryphal mean

having the character of something invented or imagined as opposed to something true or genuine. Fictitious

commonly implies fabrication and, therefore, more often suggests artificiality or contrivance than intent to de-
ceive or deliberate falsification \(\text{many authors prefer to assume a fictitious name} \text{he was a novelist: his amours and his characters were fictitious—Gogarty}\)

In an

tended sense fictitious definitely connotes falseness when applied to value, worth, or significance and suggests its determination by other than the right standards \(\text{the furore created by this incident gives it a fictitious impor-
tance} \text{in booms and in panics the market value of a security is often fictitious}\)

Fabulous stresses the mar-

velousness or incredibility of what is so described; only at times, however, does the adjective imply a thing's impossibility or nonexistence \(\text{the fabulous mill which}
ground old people young—Dickens> (the company paid fabulous dividends) > [Lincoln] grows vaguer and more fabulous as year follows year—Mencken> Often it is little more than a vague intensive > [a house with a fabulous view of the mountains] > [we had a fabulous vacation trip] > **Legendary** usually suggests popular tradition and popular susceptibility to elaboration of details or distortion of historical facts as the basis for a thing's fictitious or fabulous character > [the legendary deeds of William Tell] > [the Tarquins, legendary kings of ancient Rome] > [Bradford's John Henry . . . took a famous legendary Negro for its hero—Van Doren] > **Mythical**, like legendary, usually presupposes the working of the popular imagination, but it distinctively implies a purely fanciful explanation of certain events, the creation of human beings and events especially in accounting for natural phenomena. Therefore, **mythical** in its wider use is nearly equivalent to **imaginary** and implies nonexistence > [the mythical beings called nymphs] > > [these ancestors are not creations of the mythical fancy but were once men of flesh and blood—Frazer] > **Apocryphal** typically attributes dubiety to the source of something (as a story or account) and especially suggests that the source is other than it is believed or claimed to be > (this . . . epigram, has a certain fame in its own right. It too has been attributed to Ariosto, though it is evidently apocryphal—Morby) > [the apocryphal work attributed to Chaucer in the 16th century—Philip Williams] > In such use it does not necessarily imply that the matter is in itself untrue, but it stresses the lack of a known responsible source. Sometimes, however, apocryphal loses its stress on source and then may imply dubiety or inaccuracy of the thing itself > [taking to themselves the upper rooms formerly belonging to the apocryphal invisible lodger—Dickens] > [tales, possibly apocryphal and certainly embroidered, of his feats of intelligence work in the eastern Mediterranean—Firth] > **Ana** invented, created (see INVENT): *imaginary, fanciful, fantastic: fabricated, fashioned (see MAKE) > **Ant** historical — > **Con** real, true, actual: *authentic, veritable: veracious, truthful, verisimilar (see corresponding nouns at TRUTH) > **fidelity**, allegiance, fealty, loyalty, devotion, piety denote faithfulness to something to which one is bound by a pledge or duty. **Fidelity** implies strict adherence to what is a matter of faith or of keeping faith; it presupposes an obligation, sometimes natural, sometimes imposed as a trust, and sometimes voluntarily accepted or chosen > [fidelity to one's word] > [fidelity in the performance of one's duties] > [fidelity to one's friends] > Sometimes, even when unqualified, it implies marital faithfulness > [with close fidelity and love unfeigned to keep the matrimonial bond unstained—Cowper] > Sometimes it implies faithfulness to the original > [the Russian . . . finds relief to his sensitiveness in letting his perceptions have perfectly free play, and in recording their reports with perfect fidelity—Arnold] > **Allegiance** implies adherence to something objective which one serves or follows as a vassal follows his lord and which demands unserving fidelity when conflicting obligations dispute its preeminence > [secret societies that exact the allegiance of every member] > But he [the critic] owes no allegiance to anything but to Truth; all other fidelities he must disregard when that is in question—L. P. Smith> > **Fealty**, like allegiance, implies a supreme obligation to be faithful, but unlike the latter it stresses the compelling power of one's sense of duty or of consciousness of one's pledged word > [when I do forget the least of these unspeakable duties, Romans, forget your fealty to me—Shak.] > The extent to which we are accurate in our thoughts, words, and deeds is a rough measure of our fealty to truth—Ballard> **Loyalty** may imply more emotion and closer personal attachment than either fidelity or fealty; it usually connotes steadfastness, sometimes in the face of attempts to alienate one's affections or of a temptation to ignore or renounce one's obligation > [I will follow thee, to the last gasp, with truth and loyalty—Shak.] > But in some contexts it may be taken to imply no more than absence of anything treasonable or subversive > [there are the loyalty programs . . . which undertake to exclude Communists and other disloyal persons from the government payrolls—Cushman] > **Piety** implies adherence to something objective which one serves or follows as a vassal follows his lord and which demands sacrifice; it usually also implies ardent attachment > [he set out to prove the loyalty of his nature by devotion to the Queen who had advanced him—Bello] > [there is . . . something outside of the artist to which he owes allegiance, a devotion to which he must surrender and sacrifice himself—T. S. Eliot] > **Piety** emphasizes fidelity to obligations regarded as natural or fundamental (as reverence for one's parents, one's race, one's traditions, one's country, or one's God) and observance of all the duties which such fidelity requires > [filial piety inspires respect for the wishes of parents] > [religious piety is manifest in faithful and reverent worship] > [having matured in the surroundings and under the special conditions of sea life, I have a special piety toward that form of my past . . . I have tried with an almost filial regard to render the vibration of life in the great world of waters—Conrad] > **Ana** faithfulness, constancy, staunchness, steadfastness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHFUL) > **Ant** faithlessness: perfidy — > **Con** falseness or falsity, disloyalty, treacherousness or treachery, traitorousness, perfidiously (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS) > **fidgety** restless, restive, uneasy, jumpy, jittery, impatient, nervous, unquiet > **field**, domain, province, sphere, territory, bailiwick are comparable when they denote the limits in which a person, an institution, or a department of knowledge, of art, or of human endeavor appropriately or necessarily confines his or its activity or influence and outside of which by implication he or it may not or should not go. **Field** implies restriction by choice or by necessity, but it seldom suggests permanent limitation > [a European war narrows the field of commerce for neutral American nations] > [he chose the development of industries in the South as his field of investigation] > [the philosopher and the practical man . . . each is in his own field, supreme—Buckle] > A writer whose reputation . . . has been pretty much confined to the whodunit field—Kelly> **Domain** is used chiefly in reference to departments of knowledge, of art, and of human endeavor viewed abstractly; it implies exclusive possession and control of a clearly defined field and a title to regard all outside interference or all intrusion into that field as trespass or invasion > [the domain of science] > [the domain of the spiritual] > [what is the difference between the legitimate music of verse and the music it attains by trespassing on the domain of a sister art?] > [Babbitt] > [those who believe in the reality of a world of the spirit —the poet, the artist, the mystic—are at one in believing
that there are other domains than that of physics—

**Jeans** Province is used in reference not only to the arts and sciences, each of which may be said to have its own domain, but also to a person or institution that because of his or its office, aims, or special character can be said to have jurisdiction, competence, power, or influence within clearly defined limits (it is within the province of a parent rather than of a teacher to discipline a pupil for misconduct out of school) (it is often stated that art goes beyond its province when it attempts to teach morals) (the almost imperceptibly realistic explorations into behavior which are the province of the psychiatrist—Sapir) Province is also used in the sense of function (see also FUNCTION n 1) and in the sense of a part of a larger domain (I should like the reader to accept engineering as a province of physics: so that the feats of the one may serve as credentials for the discoveries of the other—Darrow) Sphere, even more than do mothers, thrust themselves to clear circumscription of limits; it therefore suggests aparness rather than fundamental differences and carries no hint of danger of trespass or interference (the aesthetic and ethical spheres . . . were never sharply distinguished by the Greeks—Dickinson) (in the sphere of morals we must often be content to wait until our activity is completed to appreciate its beauty or its ugliness—Ellis) (in the life of a man whose circumstances and talents are not very exceptional there should be a large sphere where what is vaguely termed “herd instinct” dominates, and a small sphere into which it does not penetrate—Russell) (a long and profound process of social change . . . but this time in the economic sphere—Strachey) Territory comes very close to domain in implying a field possessed and controlled and regarded as one’s own; it does not, however, carry the implications so strong in domain of rightful ownership, of sovereignty, and of the title to inviolability; it may even suggest that the field has been usurped or taken over by the science, art, or activity in question (prose has preempted a lion’s share of the territory once held, either in sovereignty or on equal terms, by poetry—Lowes) (if passageways connect the domain of physics with the domains of life or of spirit, physics ought in time to discover these passageways, for they start from her own territory—Jeans) Bailiwick, basically the jurisdiction of a bailiff, is increasingly used in an extended and playful sense in reference to an individual and the special and limited province or domain in which he may do or exercise authority. It often also carries a connotation of petty yet despotic display of power (a politician whose influence does not extend beyond his own bailiwick) (he will not go along with others until he keeps within his own bailiwick) we may neither be angry nor gay in the presence of the moon, nor may we dare to think in her bailiwick—Stephens) (the largest problems are in the bailiwick of the social scientist—Street)

**Ana** limits, bounds, confines (see singular nouns at LIMIT): extent, area, size, magnitude

### fiendish

**devilish, diabolical, diabolic, demonic, demoniac**, demonic are comparable when they mean having or manifesting the qualities associated with infernal or hellish beings called devils, demons, and fiends. Fiendish usually implies excessive cruelty or malignity (fiendish tortures) (the fiendish joy that illumined his usually stolid countenance sent a sudden disgust and horror through me—Hudson) Devilish frequently suggests abnormal wickedness (devilish orgies) (devilish treachery) but it often also suggests superhuman or satanic ingenuity or craft or capacity for destruction (showed no compunction in planning devilish engines of military destruction—Ellis) The term is often used as an intensive that substitutes for profanity (devilish
devilish good dinner—Dickens) Diabolical often and devilish sometimes connote colder and more calculating malevolence than fiendish (diabolical cruelty) (diabolical ingenuity) (a diabolical sneer) (people suffering from the paranoia of persecution often imagine that they are the victims of a diabolical secret society—Huxley) Diabolic is often used interchangeably with diabolical, but the former term may be preferred when the reference is to devils as individuals of a given character or origin rather than to their malign qualities (the difference between the angelic and the diabolic temperament—Shaw) (the heroic age’s) heroes were doughty men to whom diabolic visitors were no more unusual than angelic ones—Krutch) Demonic and demoniac often suggest frenzy or excesses (as of one possessed) (demonic strength) (diabolic laughter) More frequently they suggest the inexplicable or superhuman element in life or, especially, in genius (in the soldest of routine and the senses, he [Goethe] showed the lurking demonic power—Emerson) (the rapt, demonic features of the Magic Muse—Hewlett) (he rode swift horses; he fought duels; he had burning love affairs; he traveled with demoniac restlessness throughout Europe—Hight)

**Ana** hellish, *infernal: malign, malefic, malefent, baleful, *sinister: malignant, malevolent, *malicious

### fierce

**Fierce, truculent, ferocious, barbarous, savage, inhuman, cruel, fell** are comparable when they mean displaying fury or malignity in looks or in actions. Fierce is applied to men or to animals that inspire terror because of their menacing aspect or their unrestrained fury in attack (the other Shape . . . black it stood as night, fierce as ten Furies, terrible as Hell, and shook a dreadful dart—Milton) (no bandit fierce, no tyrant mad with pride—Pope) Truculent, though it implies fierceness, especially of aspect, suggests the intent to inspire terror or to threaten rather than the achievement of that intention. Consequently it often implies a bullying attitude or pose. It is applied chiefly to persons, groups of persons, and nations (a group of truculent schoolboys) (he must . . . worry them toward the fold like a truculent sheep dog—J. R. Lowell) (the America that [Theodore] Roosevelt dreamed of was always a sort of swollen Prussia, truculent without and regimented within—Mencken) Ferocious not only connotes extreme fierceness but it implies actions suggestive of a wild beast on a rampage or in an attack on its prey; it therefore usually implies unrestrained violence, extreme fury, and wanton brutality (ferocious bayonet charge) (take a ferocious revenge) (a particularly ferocious dog) (two bloodthirsty men, more cruel than the most ferocious brutes—Frazer) Barbarous (see also BARBARIAN) in its extended sense applies only to civilized persons or their actions; it implies a harshness, a brutality, and, often, a ferocity thought of as unworthy of human beings in an advanced state of culture (barbarous pleasures of the chase—John Maffey) (barbarous treatment of prisoners) (barbarous methods of warfare) (you have been wantonly attacked by a ruthless and barbarous aggressor. Your capital has been bombed, your women and children brutally murdered—Sir Winston Churchill) Savage (see also BARBARIAN) implies an absence of the restraints imposed by civilization or of the inhibitions characteristic of civilized man when dealing with those whom he hates or fears or when filled with rage, lust, or other violent passion (a savage desire for revenge) (savage punishment of a disobedient child) (a savage criticism of a book) (lashed out with all the oratorical fury and savage invective at his command—Sidney Warren) (the savage wars of religion
figment

n

combat, fray, affray, conflict, *contest

n

fight

battle, war, * contend

vb

1

*spirited, high-spirited, peppery, gingery, mettle-

fiery

v *formed, high-spirited, peppy, gingery, mettle-

Ana

menacing, threatening (see THREATEN): infuriated, maddened, enraged (see ANGER vb): ravening, ravenous, rapacious, *voracious; *fearful, terrible, horrible, horrific

Ant
tame: mild

2

*intense, vehement, exquisite, violent

Ana

extreme, *excessive, inordinate: penetrating, piercing (see ENTER): *supreme, superlative, transcendent

fiery

*virulent, high-spirited, peppy, gingery, mettle-

Ana

impetuous, *precipitate, headlong: passionate, perpervid, ardent, *impassioned, fervid: vehement; *intense, fierce, violent

fight

vb

1 battle, war, *content

Ana

struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT): dispute, debate (see DISCUSS): wrangle, squabble, quarrel, altercation (see under QUARREL n)

2

*resist, withstand, contest, oppose, combat, conflict, antagonize

fight

n

combat, fray, affray, conflict, *contest

Ana

struggle, striving (see under ATTEMPT vb): strife, contention, dissent, *discord, difference, variance

figment

fabrication, fable, *fiction

Ana

*fancy, fantasy, dream, daydream, nightmare: invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at INVENT)

figure

n

1 number, numeral, digit, integer

Ana

symbol, *character

2

*form, shape, configuration, conformation

Ana

outline, contour, profile, silhouette: *character, symbol, sign, mark

3

Figure, pattern, design, motif, device are comparable when they mean a unit in a decorative composition (as in an ornamented textile or fabric) consisting of a representation of a natural, conventionalized, or geometrical shape or a combination of such representations. Figure commonly refers to a small, simple unit which is repeated or is one of those repeated over an entire surface. A figure may be one of the outlines associated with geometry (as a triangle, diamond, pentagon, or circle) or such an outline filled in with color, lines, or a representation of another kind; it may, however, be a natural or conventionalized representation of a natural form (as a leaf, flower, or animal) (an Oriental rug with geometrical figures in blue and red) (a silk print with a small figure) (the wallpaper has a well-spaced figure of a spray of rosebuds) (carved with figures strange and sweet, all made out of the carver's brain—Coleridge) Pattern may be used in place of figure (arranged in a series of simple and pleasing patterns—diamonds, quinconxes, hexagons—Huxley) but figure is not interchangeable with the more inclusive senses of pattern. The latter term is applicable not only to the simplest repeated unit, or figure, or to a larger repeated unit involving several related figures but also to the whole plan of decoration or adornment (the pattern of a lace tablecloth) (the pattern of a rug). Also, pattern may be used of other things than those which are visible, objective works of art and craftsmanship but which nevertheless can be viewed or studied as having diverse parts or elements brought together so as to present an intelligible and distinctive whole (the true pattern of the campaign revealed itself after the first week) (when he said pattern, he did not mean the pattern on a wallpaper; he meant the pattern of life—Sackville-West) (as skepticism grows, the pattern of human conduct inevitably changes—Kruisch) (the nearness of friends in those days, the familiar, unchanging streets, the convivial clubs, the constant companionship helped to knit the strands of life into a close and well-defined pattern—Reppieri) Design (see also PLAN, INTENTION) emphasizes drawing and arrangement and attention to line and the handling of figures and colors; it often specifically denotes a single unit (figure or pattern) which reveals these qualities (branches and leaves were disposed, not as combinations of color in mass, but as designs in line—Binyon) (your golden filaments in fair design across my duller fiber—Millay) Motif (see also SUBJECT 2) is frequently used in the decorative arts for a figure or a design which stands out not necessarily as the only one but as the leading one which gives the distinctive character of the whole (in lace for ecclesiastical use a sheaf of wheat is often the motif of the pattern) Device applies usually to a figure that bears no likeness to anything in nature but is the result of imagination or fancy. Unlike the other terms, it does not exclusively apply to a decorative unit, though it occurs frequently in that application (set in the close-grained wood were quaint devices; patterns in ambers, and in the clouded green of jades—Lowell)

figure

vb cast, *add, sum, total, tot, foot

Ana

compute, *calculate, reckon, estimate: *count, enumerate, number

filch

vb

purloin, lift, pilfer, *steal, pinch, snitch, swipe, cop

Ana

snatch, grab, *take, seize, grasp: *rob, plunder, loot, rifle

file

n

*line, row, rank, echelon, tier

fillet

n

*strip, band, ribbon, stripe

filthy

*dirty, foul, squa;id, nasty

Ana

slovenly, unkempt, disheveled, sloppy, *slipshod: *offensive, loathsome, repulsive, revolt
ing

Ant

neat, spick-and-span —Con cleaned, cleansed (see CLEAN vb): *clean, cleanly: tidy, trim, trig, ship-
shape (see NEAT)

final

terminial, concluding, *last, latest, ultimate, eventual

Ana

closing, ending, terminating (see CLOSE vb): decisive, determinative, *conclusive, definitive

financial

financial

monetary, pecuniary, fiscal are comparable when meaning of or relating to the possession, the making, the borrowing and lending, or the expenditure of money. Financial implies a relation to money matters in general, especially as conducted on a large scale (the financial concerns of the company are attended to by the treasurer) (the financial position of the bank is sound) (the financial interests of the country) (the city is in financial difficulties) Monetary implies a much more direct reference to money as such and therefore often connotes the coinage, distribution, and circulation of money (the monetary unit) (the monetary systems of Europe) (the monetary standard) (monetary gifts) Pecuniary suggests a reference to the practical uses of money; it is

d-

Inge) Inhuman is even stronger than savage, for it suggests not so much undue violence or lack of restraint as absence of all feeling that normally characterizes a human being: on the one hand it may suggest wanton brutality, or on the other hand it may imply absence of all capacity for love, kindness, or pity (an inhuman mother) (thy deed, inhuman and unnatural—Shak.) Cruel implies indifference to the suffering of others and even a positive pleasure in witnessing it or in inflicting it (her mouth crueler than a tiger's, colder than a snake's, and beautiful beyond a woman's—Swinburne) (as cruel as a schoolboy ere he grows to pity—Tennyson) Fell, which is chiefly rhetorical or poetical, connotes dire or baleful cruelty (unsex me here, and fill me from the crown to the toe topful of direst cruelty! . . . stop up the access and passage to remorse, that no compunctious visitings of nature shake my fell purpose—Shak.) (sinister men with . . . their own fell ends—T. I. Cook)

Ana

menacing, threatening (see THREATEN): infuriated, maddened, enraged (see ANGER vb): ravening, ravenous, rapacious, *voracious; *fearful, terrible, horrible, horrific

Ant
tame: mild

2

*intense, vehement, exquisite, violent

Ana

extreme, *excessive, inordinate: penetrating, piercing (see ENTER): *supreme, superlative, transcendent

fiery

*virulent, high-spirited, peppy, gingery, mettle-

Ana

impetuous, *precipitate, headlong: passionate, perpervid, ardent, *impassioned, fervid: vehement; *intense, fierce, violent

fight

vb

1 battle, war, *content

Ana

struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT): dispute, debate (see DISCUSS): wrangle, squabble, quarrel, altercation (see under QUARREL n)

2

*resist, withstand, contest, oppose, combat, conflict, antagonize

fight

n

combat, fray, affray, conflict, *contest

Ana

struggle, striving (see under ATTEMPT vb): strife, contention, dissent, *discord, difference, variance

figment

fabrication, fable, *fiction

Ana

*fancy, fantasy, dream, daydream, nightmare: invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at INVENT)

figure

n

1 number, numeral, digit, integer

Ana

symbol, *character

2

*form, shape, configuration, conformation

Ana

outline, contour, profile, silhouette: *character, symbol, sign, mark

3

Figure, pattern, design, motif, device are comparable when they mean a unit in a decorative composition (as in an ornamented textile or fabric) consisting of a representation of a natural, conventionalized, or geometrical shape or a combination of such representations. Figure commonly refers to a small, simple unit which is repeated or is one of those repeated over an entire surface. A figure may be one of the outlines associated with geometry (as a triangle, diamond, pentagon, or circle) or such an outline filled in with color, lines, or a representation of another kind; it may, however, be a natural or conventionalized representation of a natural form (as a leaf, flower, or animal) (an Oriental rug with geometrical figures in blue and red) (a silk print with a small figure) (the wallpaper has a well-spaced figure of a spray of rosebuds) (carved with figures strange and sweet, all made out of the carver's brain—Coleridge) Pattern may be used in place of figure (arranged in a series of simple and pleasing patterns—diamonds, quinconxes, hexagons—Huxley) but figure is not interchangeable with the more inclusive senses of pattern. The latter term is applicable not only

often employed in preference to financial when money matters that are personal or on a small scale are being considered (to ask for pecuniary aid) (he is always in pecuniary difficulties) (he works only for pecuniary motives) Fiscal implies reference to the financial affairs of a state, a sovereign, a corporation, or an institution whose concerns with revenue and expenditures are managed by a treasurer or treasury department (the fiscal year in the United States ends on June 30) (a fiscal officer of the crown)

fine n amercement (see under penalize)

fine vb *penalize, amerce, mulct

finicky, finicking, finical particular, fussy, fastidious, (nice, dainty, squeamish, persnickety, persnicketty)

Anna exacting, demanding (see demand vb): captious, carping, hypercritical, *critical: meticulous, punctilious, *careful: conscientious, scrupulous (see upright)

Con *slipshod, sloppy, slovenly: *slatternly, dowdy, blousy, frowzy

finish vb complete, conclude, *close, end, terminate

Anna achieve, accomplish, effect, fulfill (see perform)

finished *consummate, accomplished

Anna *perfect, entire, intact, wholer refined, cultivated, cultured (see corresponding nouns at culture): *suave, urbane, smooth: elegant, exquisite (see choice)

Ant crude —Con *rude, rough, raw, callow, green, uncouth

fire vb

Fire, conflagration, holocaust are comparable (fire)

*consummate, accomplished

fine vb (firm flesh) (firm jellies) (firm ground)

Hard (opposed to soft; see also hard 2) implies impenetrability or relatively complete resistance to pressure or tension but, unlike firm, hard rarely implies elasticity (hard as adamant) (hard as steel) (diamond is one of the hardest substances known) Solid (opposed to fluid) implies such density and coherence in the mass as enable a thing to maintain a fixed form in spite of external deforming forces (solid mineral matter) As opposed to flimsy, the term implies a structure or construction that makes a thing sound, strong, or stable (solid furniture) (a solid foundation) (the bungalow was a very solid one—Kipling) As opposed to hollow, it implies the absence of empty spaces within the structure or mass and, usually, the same or similar density and hardness of material throughout (a solid rubber tire) (a solid wall)

In extended use firm implies stability, fixedness, or resolation (a firm purpose) (a firm belief) (guide with a firm hand) (a firm and even tough diplomacy—Gaitskell) Hard implies obduracy or lack of feeling (a hard master) (she was firm, but she was not hard—Archibald Marshall) (a sort of scoutmaster to a hard gang of boys—Lovett) Solid usually implies substantiality or genuineness (a solid meal) (solid facts) (solid virtues) (solid attainments) (money, the great solvent of the solid fabric of the old society, the great generator of illusion—Trilling) but it may imply absolute reliability or seriousness of purpose (solid banks) (a solid character) (his scholarship was solid and sound—McGiffert) or unbroken continuity (as in time, group feeling, or opinion) (put in a solid week on a piece of work) (the solid vote of the members)

Anna compact, *close, dense, thick: tough, tenacious, *strong: *stiff, rigid, inflexible

Ant loose, flabby —Con flaccid, *limp, floppy, flimsy, sleazy

fiscal *financial, monetary, pecuniary

fish vb Fish, angle mean to attempt to catch fish. Fish implies the use of some apparatus and suggests nothing about the reason; angle, which is chiefly literary except in the derivative angler, implies the use of hook, bait, line, and rod and sport as the reason for the activity. Both words are used, without perceptible distinction, in the extended sense to seek to obtain or win by artifice (fish for a compliment) (modesty is the only sure bait, when you angle for praise—Chesterfield) (the first woman who fishes for him, hooks him—Thackeray) (she knew her distance and did angle for me, maddening my eagerness with her restraint—Shak)

fissure *crack, cleft, crevasse, crevice, cranny, chink

Anna *break, gap: *breach, split, rent, rupture, rift

fit n Fit, attack, access, accession, paroxysm, spasm, convulsion are comparable when they denote a sudden seizure or spell resulting from an abnormal condition of body or mind. The last three are too specific in their technical medical senses to be synonyms of the others (except of fit in its narrower significations), but in their extended senses, they are frequently closely parallel. Fit is often used narrowly: sometimes to designate a sudden seizure of a disorder (as epilepsy or apoplexy) characterized by such symptoms as violent muscular contractions or unconsciousness (fall in a fit) or sometimes to designate a period in which there is a marked increase of a physical disturbance characteristic of a disease (hysteria often reveals itself in fits of alternate laughing and weeping) In its wider application, fit still may imply suddenness and violence, but it emphasizes temporariness (a fit of the blues) (he works only by fits and starts) Occasionally it suggests nothing more than the un-
usual and passing character of the condition and is applied to things as well as to persons (enjoy a fit of laziness) 
(a fit of bad weather) Attack always implies a sudden and often violent onslaught but carries no suggestion of length of duration (frequent attacks of pain) (an attack of melancholy) (a prolonged attack of bronchitis) we have a second attack of hot weather—Whitman Access and accession, though often interchangeable with attack, distinctly imply the initiation of an attack or fit and often come close in meaning to outbreak or outburst (now and then an access of . . . sudden fury . . .) would lay hold on a man—Kipling (one of his sudden sharp accessions of impatience at the leisurely motions of the Trujillo boy—Mary Austin) Occasionally they also connote intensification (as of a mood or state of mind) to the point where control is lost or nearly lost (her evident, but inexplicable, access of misery—Meredith) In their technical medical senses paroxysm, spasm, and convulsion are sudden and usually short attacks especially characteristic of certain diseases. The distinguishing marks of a paroxysm are sudden occurrence or intensification of a symptom (as coughing) and recurrence of attacks; those of spasm are sudden involuntary muscular contraction, in some cases producing rigidity of the body or constriction of a passage and in others producing alternate contractions and relaxations of the muscles; those of convulsion are of repeated spasms of the latter kind affecting the whole or a large part of the body and producing violent contortions of the muscles and distortion of features. The implications of these technical senses are usually carried over into the extended senses. Paroxysm commonly occurs in the plural and suggests recurrent, violent attacks (the girls went into paroxysms of laughter) (throughout the night he suffered paroxysms of fear) Spasm, especially when used of emotional disturbances, often implies possession by something that for a moment grips and paralyzes (she could scarcely even look at the wall without a spasm of fear—Bennett) When used in the plural, it usually suggests the more or less rapid alternation of contrasting moods or states of mind (he worked only by spasms) Convulsion implies definite physical effects accompanying the mood or state of mind and closely resembling those symptomatic of disease (the ragged crew actually laughed at me . . . some of them literally throwing themselves down on the ground in convulsions of unholy mirth—Kipling)

fit adj Fit, suitable, meet, proper, appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous are comparable when they mean right with respect to the nature, condition, circumstances, or use of the thing qualified. Something is fit which is adapted or adaptable to the end in view, the use proposed, or the work to be done (good fit for a king) (but when to mischief mortals bend, the ill, how soon they find in instruments of ill!—Pope) (never even in the most perfect days of my development as an artist could I have found words fit to bear so august a burden—Wilde) (a wooden image, movable and fit to be carried in procession—Santayana) Sometimes, in addition, fit connotes competence or the possession of the required qualifications (men fit to command) (he is not a fit father for his children) (they do not know what the boy is fit for) Other times it suggests readiness (as in condition, state of health, mood, or inclination) (the vessel is now fit for service) (he played tennis to keep fit) Something is suitable which answers the requirements or demands of the occasion, the circumstances, or the conditions or suggests no incongruity with them (behavior suitable to his age and station in life) (will begin instinctively to arrange these institutions into suitable conventional categories—Marquand) (clothes suitable for the occasion . . . tennis outfits, hiking outfits, cycling outfits—Laver) Something is meet which is not only suitable but nicely adapted to the particular situation, need, or circumstances; the word usually suggests rightness or justness rather than an absence of incongruity; thus, a punishment of a childish offense may be suitable if it is in accord with the years and mentality of the child, but it is not meet unless it suggests due proportion between the offense and its penalty (fit is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord—Book of Common Prayer) (Sabbath was made a solemn day, meet only for preaching, praying, and Bible reading—Charles & Mary Beard)

Something is proper (see also DECOROUS) which belongs to a thing on some justifiable grounds (as by nature, by custom, or by right reason) (water is the proper element for fish) (the proper observance of Memorial Day) (the article brought only half its proper price) When, as often happens, fitness or suitability is stressed rather than natural or rightful association, proper then implies determination of fitness or suitability by logic, reasonableness, or good judgment (the proper study of mankind is man—Pope) (according to Aristotle the thing to aim at is to be angry “on the proper occasions and with the proper people in the proper manner and for the proper length of time”—Dickinson) Something is appropriate which is so eminently fit or suitable that it seems to belong peculiarly or distinctively to the person or thing with which it is associated, sometimes giving him or it a distinguishing grace or charm through its very congruity (an excitement in which we can discriminate two sorts of elements, the passions appropriate to the subject and the passion proper to the artist—Alexander) (the eighteenth-century gentleman spoke with a refined accent, quoted the classics on appropriate occasions—Russell) (we have agreed that our writing should be appropriate . . . that it should rise and fall with the subject, be grave where that is serious, where it is light not afraid of what Stevenson . . . calls “a little judicious levity”—Quiller-Couch) Something is fitting which is in harmony with the spirit, the tone, the mood, or the purpose (news fitting to the night, black, fearful, comfortless and horrible—Shak) (it is a fitting paradox that he should live today . . . chiefly by those writings which contradict everything he believed—Stewart) Something is apt (see also APT 2; QUICK 2) which is nicely fitted by its nature or construction to attain the end desired, to accomplish the purpose in view, or to achieve the results contemplated (it was recognized that while one style was suited to one set of themes, another was apt for another set—Binyon) (Fourier . . . invented a mathematical process which was not only suitable for handing his problem, but proved to be so universally apt that there is hardly a field of science or of engineering with it has not penetrated—Darrow) Something is happy (see also GLAD, LUCKY) which is singularly appropriate and apt and therefore brilliantly successful or effective considered in its relation to the situation, the conditions, or other important factors (a happy choice of words, nicely expressing the subtlety of his thought) (whether a composite language like the English is not a happier instrument of expression than a homogeneous one like the German—Coleridge) (of all writers he perhaps best combines in his style a felicitous elegance with a happy vernacular—Van Doren) Something is felicitous which is most opportune, tellingly, or gracefully happy (I do not like mottoes but where they are singularly felicitous—Lamb) (some of the most felicitous turns of thought and phrase in poetry are the result of a flash of inspiration under the happy guidance of a rhyme—Lowes) (let us inquire . . . whether the relation of the figures to

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
each other and of groups to the space they occupy is a felicitous one—Binyon

Ana adapted or adaptable, adjusted or adjustable, conformed or conformable (see corresponding verbs at adapt): qualified, capable, *able, competent

Ant unfit

fit vb *prepare, qualify, condition, ready

Ana endow, endue (see dower): furnish, *provide, supply

fitful, spasmodic, convulsive are comparable when they mean lacking steadiness or regularity in course, movement, or succession (as of acts or efforts). Fitful stresses variability and intermittency; it implies an irregular succession characterized by fits and starts *after life's fitful fever he sleeps well—Shak. (the fitful gloom and sudden l cambencies of the room by light—De Quincey) *a fitful, undecided rain—Kipling (a fitful wind swept the careless waste—Conrad) (hitherto I've been gloomy, moody, fitful—Gilbert) Spasmodic implies fitfulness, but it further suggests marked alternations (as of violent activity and inactivity or of great effort and of negligible effort or of zeal or enthusiasm and lack of interest); it therefore implies, even more than fitful, an opposition to what is sustained at a high pitch (spasmodic efforts to reform municipal government) (spasmodic energy) (a continuous discussion of international affairs, not spasmodic action at times of crisis—Attlee) (a spasmodic movement of despair—S. S. Van Dine) (spasmodic industry) Convulsive differs from the preceding terms in not implying intermittency and in stressing unsteadiness, strain or overstrain, and the lack of such regular rhythm as is the sign of control and especially of muscular, mental, or spiritual control *(convulsive rise and fall of the breast) (the convulsive movement of the earth characteristic of an earthquake) (he had a convulsive drive, a boundless and explosive fervor—Behrman) (a convulsive little hug—Turnbull)

Ana *intermittent, periodic, recurrent: desultory, hit-or-miss, *random, haphazard

Ant constant (sense 3) —Con *steady, uniform, even, equal: regular, methodical, systematic, *orderly

fitting adj appropriate, proper, meet, suitable, *fit, apt, happy, felicitous

Ana *relevant, pertinent, germane, apposite, apropos: seemly, *decorous, decent, proper: congruous, *consonant: harmonious, concordant, accordant (see corresponding nouns at harmony)

Ant unfitting

fix vb 1 *set, settle, establish

Ana *stabilize, steady: determine, *decide, rule, settle: *prescribe, define

Ant alter: abrogate (a custom, rule, law) —Con modify, *change, vary: supplant, supersede, displace, *replace

2 *fasten, attach, affix

Ana *install, instill, inculcate: *secure, rivet, anchor, moor

Con eradicate, uproot, extirpate (see exterminate): upset, *overturn, overthrow, subvert

3 *adjust, regulate

Ana repair, *mend, patch, rebuild: *correct, rectify, revise, amend, emend

Con derange, disarrange, disorganize, unsettle, *disorder

fix n *predicament, plight, dilemma, quandary, scrape, jam, pickle

flabbergast amaze, astound, astonish, *surprise

Ana dumbfound, confound, bewilder, nonplus, perplex (see puzzle): disconcert, rattle, faze, discomfit (see em-brass)

flabby flaccid, floppy, *limp, flimsy, sleazy

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
flammable, incendiary, inflammatory, *com-

flagrant, glaring, gross, rank are comparable as derogatory intensives meaning conspicuously or outstandingly bad or unpleasant. Flagrant usually applies to offenses, transgressions, or errors which are so bad that they cannot escape notice or be condoned (his treatise is marked by several flagrant errors) (a flagrant abuse of the executive power) (flagrant injustice) (open and flagrant mutiny — Kipling) (in flagrant violation of all the New York proprieties) heinous, outrageous. Carrying an even stronger implication of obtrusiveness than flagrant, the term is often applied to something which is so evidently or so conspicuously wrong, improper, or faulty as to inflict such distress or pain upon the observer as might too vivid a color or too harsh a light (a glaring fault in a design) (a glaring inconsistency in his argument) (his second novel is in glaring contrast to his first novel) (this evil is so glaring, so inexcusable — Shaw) (glaring imperfections which go far beyond a mere lack of verbal felicity — Krutch) Gross (see also coarse; whole 2) is even more derogatory than flagrant or glaring because it suggests a magnitude or degree of badness that is beyond all bounds and wholly inexcusable or unpardonable. However, the term is not so often referred to evil acts or serious offenses as it is to human attitudes, qualities, or faults that merit severe condensation (gross carelessness) (gross stupidity) (gross superstition) (Elizabethan and Jacobean poetry . . . had serious defects, even gross faults — T. S. Eliot) (the hero is as gross an imposture as the heroine — Shaw) (they must read as the grossest impurity and rankest treason — Sperry) (even illness cannot excuse such unfilial behavior and such gross folly — Graves) Rank (see also rank 1) applies chiefly to nouns that are terms of reproach; it implies that the person or thing described by such a term is extremely, utterly, or violently whatever he or it is declared to be (O, my offense is the grossest and silver of the sideboard — he looked at her and in his supercilious cold smile — Carlyle) Scintillate implies the emission of sparks in a steady stream or a sparkling suggestive of such an emission; coruscate the emission of a brilliant flash or succession of flashes; both words have extended as well as literal use (a night so clear that the stars seem to scintillate) (an ornate style that coruscated with verbal epigrams — Huxley) (coruscating wit) Twinkle suggests a soft and intermittent sparkling, often wavering and lustrous (twinkle, twinkle, little star . . . like a diamond in the sky — Jane & Ann Taylor) (sunbeams . . . twinkled on the glass and silver of the sideboard — Cather) (he looked at her and his eyes twinkled — Anderson) Ana shoot, dart (see fly) (a light, fire)

flame vb* droop, wilt, sag
Anania scandalous, criminal, sinful (see corresponding nouns at offense): shameful, disgraceful (see corresponding nouns at disgrace) *flagrant, gross, glaring

flagrant, glaring, gross, rank are comparable as derogatory intensives meaning conspicuously or outstandingly bad or unpleasant. Flagrant usually applies to offenses, transgressions, or errors which are so bad that they cannot escape notice or be condoned (his treatise is marked by several flagrant errors) (a flagrant abuse of the executive power) (flagrant injustice) (open and flagrant mutiny — Kipling) (in flagrant violation of all the New York proprieties) heinous, outrageous. Carrying an even stronger implication of obtrusiveness than flagrant, the term is often applied to something which is so evidently or so conspicuously wrong, improper, or faulty as to inflict such distress or pain upon the observer as might too vivid a color or too harsh a light (a glaring fault in a design) (a glaring inconsistency in his argument) (his second novel is in glaring contrast to his first novel) (this evil is so glaring, so inexcusable — Shaw) (glaring imperfections which go far beyond a mere lack of verbal felicity — Krutch) Gross (see also coarse; whole 2) is even more derogatory than flagrant or glaring because it suggests a magnitude or degree of badness that is beyond all bounds and wholly inexcusable or unpardonable. However, the term is not so often referred to evil acts or serious offenses as it is to human attitudes, qualities, or faults that merit severe condensation (gross carelessness) (gross stupidity) (gross superstition) (Elizabethan and Jacobean poetry . . . had serious defects, even gross faults — T. S. Eliot) (the hero is as gross an imposture as the heroine — Shaw) (they must read as the grossest impurity and rankest treason — Sperry) (even illness cannot excuse such unfilial behavior and such gross folly — Graves) Rank (see also rank 1) applies chiefly to nouns that are terms of reproach; it implies that the person or thing described by such a term is extremely, utterly, or violently whatever he or it is declared to be (O, my offense is the grossest and silver of the sideboard — he looked at her and in his supercilious cold smile — Carlyle) Scintillate implies the emission of sparks in a steady stream or a sparkling suggestive of such an emission; coruscate the emission of a brilliant flash or succession of flashes; both words have extended as well as literal use (a night so clear that the stars seem to scintillate) (an ornate style that coruscated with verbal epigrams — Huxley) (coruscating wit) Twinkle suggests a soft and intermittent sparkling, often wavering and lustrous (twinkle, twinkle, little star . . . like a diamond in the sky — Jane & Ann Taylor) (sunbeams . . . twinkled on the glass and silver of the sideboard — Cather) (he looked at her and his eyes twinkled — Anderson) Ana shoot, dart (see fly) (a light, fire)
some, savory, sapid, tasty, *palatable: zestful (see corresponding noun at TASTE)
flattery adulation, *compliment
Anna blandishment, cajolery (see corresponding verbs at COAX): fawning, toady ing, truckling (see FAWN vb): eulogy, panegyr  c, *encomium: homage, obeisance, def erence (see HONOR)
flatulent *inflated, timid, turbid
Anna empty, hollow, *vain: *superficial, shallow: bombastic, grandio  quent, magniloquent, *rhetorical
Con weighty (see HEAVY): pithy, compendious, summary (see CONCISE): cogent, telling, convincing, compelling (see VALID): forcible,  owerful, (see POWERFUL)
flaunt parade, expose, display, exhibit, *show
Anna *boast, brag, vaunt, gasconade: *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge: advertise, publish, broadcast, proclaim, *declare
Con cloak, mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage: conceal, *hide, screen, secrete, bury
flavor n *taste, savor, tang, relish, smack
flavorsome toothsome, tasty, sapid, relishing, *palatable,  pecting
Con *insipid, vapid, flat, lathy-washy: bland, mild (see SOFT)
flaw n defect, *blemish
Anna cleaving or cleavage, riving, splitting or split, rend ing or rent, ripping or rip, tearing or tear (see corresponding verbs at TEAR)
flawless faultless, *impeccable, errorless
Anna intact, entire, whole, *perfect: *correct, accurate, precise, right, nice, exact
Con defective, *deficient: marred, impaired, damaged, injured (see INJURE): fallacious (see under FALLACY)
flay vb *skin, decorticate, peel, pare
Anna *abrade, excoriate, chafe: rack, torture, torment, *afflict: chastise, castigate, *punish
flleck vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle
fleeced spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under SPOT vb)
Anna dappled, freaked, *variegated
flee fly, *escape, decamp, abscond
Anna evade, elude, avoid, *escape
fleer vb *scoff, jeer, gibe, gird, sneer, flat
Anna deride, mock, *ridicule: grin, *smile, smirk
fleet vb *while, wile, beguile
Anna *speed, hasten, hurry, quicken, accelerate
fleet adj swift, rapid, *fast, quick, speedy, hasty, expeditious
Anna *agile, brisk, nimble, spry: dashing, skimming, scudding, flying (see FLY vb)
Con deliberate, leisurely, laggard, dilatory, *slow
fleeting evanescent, fugitive, passing, transitory, *transient, ephemeral, momentary, short-lived
Ant lasting
fleshy *carnal, sensual, animal
Anna physical, *bodily, corporeal, corporal, somatic: *sensuous, sensual, voluptuous, luxurious, sybaritic, epicurean
Con *moral, ethical, noble, virtuous: spiritual, divine, religious (see HOLY): intellectual, psychic, *mental
fleshy, fat, stout, portly, plump, rotund, chubby, corpulent, obese mean thick and heavy in body because of superfluous fat. Fleshy and fat are not clearly discriminated in use, although fleshy may imply overabundance of muscular tissue and fat, of adipose tissue; when a derogatory connotation is intended fat is usually preferred <the unreasonable fat woman with legs like tree trunks—K. A. Porter>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
and he fell down on the floor—Chandler> (the bulkhead had buckled; he had actually seen it coming forward—Crofts)

**Analyze**

**Antonyms**

**flexible** *elastic, supple, resilient, springy

**Analyze** *pliable, plant, malleable, ductile, *plastic; tractable (see *obedient): limber, lithe, *supple

**Inflexible** — *Con; stiff, rigid, wooden: tough, tenacious (see *strong): brittle, crisp, frangible, *fragile: *hardened, indurated, callous

**flexuous** *winding, sinuous, serpentine, tortuous

**Analyze**

**vb** flutter, *flit, flitter, hover

**vb** fling, *hurl, *throw, sling, toss, cast, pitch

**adj** sleazy, *limp, floppy, flaccid, flabby

**adj** flimsy

**flitch** coquet, dally, *trifle, toy

**flirt**

**vb** flinch

*recoil, shrink, wince, blench, quail

**flippancy**

*frivolity, *flirtiness

**flightiness**

light-mindedness, volatility, levity, *lightness, *frivolity, frivolity

**Analyze**

**capriciousness, unsteadiness and agitation <till she felt the heart of his—Meredithy**

**flutter** implies a light and swift passing from place to place or of a bird rapidly beating its wings or the movement of a bird or other flying or floating thing and mean to point birds flitted from tree to tree) <the talk that comes forth with the same suddenness, the same intensity conned by *flutter (the poor silly fluttering woman)

**Analyze** children *fluttering here and there) <when he was pressed and irritated to condemn the Cardinal, his eyes *fluttered uncomfortably—Hackett> (flared and *fluttered around them like light gone mad—Rövaag)

**fllicker** implies a light fluttering or a fitfully wavering movement <translucent flickering wings between the sun and me—Stevenon>

**Analyze** <thou small flame, which, as a dying pulse rises and falls, still *flickerest up and down—Shelley> (fireflies *fllicker in the tops of trees—Lowell>

**Hover** implies a hanging suspended over something like a bird maintaining its position in the air by an even usually slow movement of the wings; the word frequently connotes irresolution, sometimes menace, sometimes solicitude <vultures *hovering over a battlefield) <behold him perched in ecstasies, yet seeming still to *hover—Wordsworth> (your servant ... has been *hovering about us and looking at you anxiously for some minutes—Shaw> (the shark was still *hovering about—Birtles)

**Analyze** *fly, dart, skim, float, scud

**flitter** *flit, flutter, flicker

**Analyze** *fly, dart, skim: quiver, quaver, teeter (see shake)

**float** *fly, skim, sail, dart, scud, shoot

**glide, *slide, slip: *flit, hover, flitter

**Analyze**

**vb** thrust, shove, propel, *push: impel, drive, *move

**flippancy**

levity, *lightness, light-mindedness, frivolity, volatiliy, flightiness

**Analyze** sauciness, pertness, archness (see corresponding adjectives at *saucy): impishness, waggishness, roguishness, mischievousness, playfulness (see corresponding adjectives at *playful)

**Ant** seriousness — *Con earnestness, gravity, solemnity, soberness (see corresponding adjectives at *serious)

**flirt**

vb coquet, daily, *trifle, toy

**Analyze** *play, sport, disport: *caress, fondle, pet

**flip**

vb Flit, flutter, flitter, flicker, hover

**Analyze** suggest the movements of a bird or other flying or floating thing and mean to move in a manner like or reminiscent of such movements

**Flit** implies a light and swift passing from place to place or to point birds flitted from tree to tree) <the talk flitting from one subject to another and never dropping so long as the meal lasts—Arnold> (seemed to pass the whole of his life flitting in and out of bedrooms—Bennett>

**Flitter** from person to person—Rose Macaulay>

**Flutter** implies the movement of a bird rapidly beating its wings or the restless flitting of a moth about a light; it especially implies unsteadiness and agitation <till she felt the heart within her fall and flutter tremulously—Tennyson>

**G yaw* moods and mysterious, moth-like meditations hover in my imagination ... but always the rarest, those freaked with azure and the deepest crimson, *flutter away beyond my reach—L. P. Smithy>

**Flitter** a little dark shadow <a little dark shadow reached—L.

**Analyze** flitting from one subject to another and never dropping so

**Analyze** over the depths of his—Cather>

**Analyze** her eyes ... timidly *fluttering over the depths of his—Meredith>

**Flitter** implies the lightness and quickness of movement suggested by *flit but usually also suggests the uneasiness or uncer-
forth that torrent of stinging invective—Hudson < (philosophy . . . provided a foothold for man above the torrent of circumstance—Buchan> Spate refers literally to a stream that has suddenly become full, agitated, and turbulent under the influence of a spring freshet or violent rains; hence in its extended applications it suggests a sudden swelling or outpouring of what usually flows in a quiet stream <when you are a big man, and fish such a stream as that, you will hardly care . . . whether she be roaring down in full spate—Kingsley> he had hardly sat down when he began to talk full spate—about the war, the war of 1914—Henry Miller > <the spate of books on conservatism and liberalism in America—Niebuhr> <a spate of inventions in the early years of the century> Cataract denotes a waterfall or a steep rapid characterized by a great volume of water descending precipitously or headlong; it is sometimes applied to something (as a deluge of rain or of words) that suggests such a waterfall or rapids in its overwhelming downpour or rush <flow, winds, and crack your cheeks! rage! blow! You cataracts and hurricanes, spout—Shak> <the cataract of nastiness which he poured alike on Piso and Clodius and Gabinius—Froude> <no doubt flaming cataracts of lava rushed down the sides of Vesuvius on that terrible day—Lucas> 

Ana flow, stream, tide, current
floppy *limp, flabby, flaccid, flimsy, sleazy
Ana *loose, lax, slack
Con *firm, hard: *stiff, inflexible, rigid, tense, stark: taut, *tight, tense
florid *ornate, flamboyant, rococo, baroque
Ana aureate, flowery, euphuistic, grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical, bombastic: sumptuous, *luxurious, opulent: *showy, ostentatious, pretentious
flounder vb *stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, lumber, galumph, loll, tumble, bumble
Ana struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT): toil, travel, labor (see corresponding nouns at WORK): *wallow, welter
flourish vb 1 *succeed, prosper, thrive
Ana bloom, flower, *blossom, blow: *increase, augment, multiply: *expand, amplify
Ant languish —Con *wither, shrivel: shrink, *contract: ebb, *abate, waste, subordinate
2 brandish, shake, *swing, wave, thrash
Ana wield, manipulate, ply, *handle: flaunt, display, exhibit, *show
flow vb *scrap, gie, gie, gill, gill, sneer
Ana scout, scorn, *despise, contemn, disdain: spurn, repudiate (see DECLINE): deride, *ridicule, mock
Ant revere —Con regard, respect, esteem, admire (see under REGARD n)
flow n issue, emanate, proceed, stem, derive, *spring, arise, rise, originate
Ana emerge, *appear, loom: start, *begin, commence
Flow n Flow, stream, current, flood, tide, flux are comparable when meaning something issuing or moving in a manner like or suggestive of running water. Flow may apply to the issuing or moving mass or to the kind of motion which characterizes it, but in either case it implies the type of motion characteristic of the movement of a fluid; the term may suggest either a gentle or a rapid pace and either a copious or a meager supply, but it consistently implies an unbroken continuity of the particles or parts <the flow of his ideas exceeded his capacity for setting them down in writing> <she expressed herself in a flow of words> <the hardly perceptible flow of a mountain glacier> <the thought of never ceasing life as it expresses itself in the flow of the seasons—Anderson> <she would tell you what she thought about the world and its ways in a flow of racy comment—Rose Macaulay> Stream implies a flow characteristic of a body of running water (as a river) or of water pouring forth from a source or outlet (as a fountain or a faucet). The term places emphasis more upon the volume, the duration, and the constant succession and change of particles than upon the type of motion <for weeks after the surrender a stream of refugees crossed the country’s border> <music, acting, poetry proceed in the one mighty stream: sculpture, painting, all the arts of design, in the other—Ellis> <novelists who present their characters not in action, but through the stream of consciousness of each> <let loose a stream of commentary and discussion—Southern> Current differs from stream in laying greater stress on the direction or course of the movement implied and in carrying stronger suggestions of its force or velocity <streams of people passed him in either direction, but he was finally caught by the current of those moving south> <he could not maintain his position against the current of opposition> <currents of cold air swept in from the north> <he might drift some distance with the democratic current of the age, and then, with Gladstone, grow affrighted—Kirk> <Olds might have won Ford’s success had his mind been more sealed against the currents to which it was exposed—Burlingame> Flood is often used in place of flow or stream to imply extreme copiousness in the supply or to attribute to it an overwhelming or torrential power <it is not, he then feels with a sudden flood of emotion, that America is home, but that home is America—Brownell> <this poem called forth floods of abuse—Day Lewis> Tide applies to something that flows or courses like an ocean tide and suggests either an alternation of directions <swayed by the sweeping of the tides of air—Bryant> or a power to suck one into its course by the force of its outward or inward pull <Stanley was caught in the tide of war fervor—Rose Macaulay> Flux, more specifically than stream, stresses the unceasing change in the parts, particles, or elements and, sometimes, in the direction of what flows <for this and that way swings the flux of mortal things though moving only to one far-set goal—Arnold> <how idle is it to commiserate them for their instability, when not stability but flux is their ideal!—Brownell> Flux often specifically applies to the outward aspect or appearance which is constantly changing in contrast to its real and abiding nature <to distinguish between the transient, unsatisfying flux of things, and the permanent, satisfying reality which lies behind it—Inge> 

Ana *succession, progression, series, sequence: continuity, *continuation, continuance
flower n blossom, bloom, blow (see under BLOSSOM vb)
flow vb *blossom, bloom, blow
Ana flourish, prosper (see SUCCEED)
floryere aureate, grandiloquent, magniloquent, *rhetorical, euphuistic, bombastic
Ana florid, *ornate, flamboyant: *inflated, tumid, turgid: *wordy, verbose, redundant, prolix, diffuse
fluctuate oscillate, *swing, sway, vibrate, pendulate, wave, undulate
Ana alternate, *rotate: wave, vacillate (see HESITATE)
Con fix, *set, establish: settle: resolve, determine, *decide
fluid eloquent, voluble, glib, articulate, *vocal
Ana facile, effortless, smooth, *easy: *quick, prompt, ready, apt
Con stuttering, stammering (see STAMMER vb): stammered, hampered, trammeled (see HAMPER vb)
fluid adj *liquid
Ana liquefied, melted, fused, deliquesced or deliquescent
**fluid**

*liquid (see under LIQUID adj)*

**Ant**

*solid*

**flurry**

*bustle, fuss, ado, *stir, pother

**Ant**

*agitation, disturbance, discomposure (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)*: *haste, hurry*

**flurry vb**

*fluster, agitate, perturb, disturb, *discompose, disquiet

**Ana**

*belder, distract, perplex (see PUZZLE): quicken, excite, galvanize, stimulate, *provok

**flush**

*blush (see under BLUSH vb)*

**Ana**

*color, tinge, tint

**flush vb**

*blush

**Ana**

*color, tinge, tint (see corresponding nouns at COLOR): surge, *rise: betray, divulge, disclose, *reveal

**flush adj**

*even, *level, flat, plane, plain, smooth

**flush vb**

*upset, agitate, perturb, disturbing, *discompose, disquiet

**Ana**

*belder, distract, confound, nonplus, mystify, perplex, *puzzle: rattle, faze, disconcert, discomfit (see EMBARRASS): *confuse, muddle, addle, fuddle

**flutter**

*flutter, flicker, *flit, hover

**Ana**

*shake, tremble, quiver, quaver, wobble: beat, throb, *pulsate, palpitate: fluctuate, vibrate, oscillate, *swing

**fluvial, fluviatile**

*aquatic, lacustrine, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal

**flux**

*flow, current, tide, stream, flood

**Ana**

*swinging or swing, fluctuation, oscillation, wavering, swaying or sway (see corresponding verbs at SWING): shifting, moving (see MOVE vb): *motion, movement, stir

**fly vb**

*fly, dart, float, skim, scud, shoot, sail* are comparable in their extended senses when they mean to pass, or less often to cause to pass, lightly or quickly over a surface or above a surface. *Fly* (see also ESCAPE 1) may be used to imply movement through or as if through the air that suggests swift passage, buoyancy, or lack of impediments like that of a bird or airplane *swift fly the years—Pope*; *saw the snowy whirlwind fly—Gray*; *thy loose hair in the light wind flying—Shelley*; *their Oriental robes flapping and their Oriental beards flying in the wind—Forester*; *pushed one's way through the reeds, which flew back into place and revealed nothing—Beebe* *Dart* in its extended intransitive sense implies movement that is as suddenly initiated and as straight and as swift in its course as that of an arrow or javelin *hawks regularly beat along the furze, darting on a finch now and then—Jeffreys*; *he caught her by the arm as she ran past and ... without trying to check her, simply darted in with her and up the stairs, causing no end of consternation—Conrad* ([stars] darting about our galaxy with speeds that range up to 200 miles per second—Merrill)*

**float**

*float, flooded, or scoria of iron) or on the surface of a body of water* (scum)

**Ana**

*flotant, airdrome, airfield, airstrip, landing field

**Ant**

*airport, airdrome, airfield, airstrip, landing field

**flying field**

*airport, airdrome, airfield, airstrip, landing, landing strip

**foam n**

*foam, froth, spume, scum, lather, suds, yeasts are comparable when they denote either a mass of bubbles gathering in or on the surface of a liquid or something as insubstantial as such a mass. Foam is the most comprehensive of these terms but is not interchangeable with all; it implies an aggregation of small bubbles such as rises to the top of a fermenting liquor or an effervescing or boiling liquid, or appears on the surface of the sea when agitated by high winds or covered with breaking waves; the term is also applicable to a bubbly slaver dribbling from the mouth of one in a rage or in great excitement or to the clotted sweat of an animal driven to exhaustion or suffering from intense heat *the rider from the château, and the horse in a foam, clattered away through the village—Dickens* Of all these words *foam* commonly has the most pleasant associations, usually connoting in poetry whirliness, dелиcacy, and grace (Ithalian Aphrodite beautiful, fresh as the rose—Warren)*

**Ana**

*flit, flutter, flitter, flicker, hover: soar, mount, *rise, glide, *slide, slip

**Ant**

*2 flee, *escape, decamp, abscond

**froth n**

*foam, froth* could also be *mercurial, mercury, mercury carbonate, mercuric oxide, mercuric chloride, copper salts, potassium salts*

**Ant**

*water, liquid, saltwater, seawater*

**froth**

*foam, froth, spume, scum, lather, suds, yeasts are comparable when they denote either a mass of bubbles gathering in or on the surface of a liquid or something as insubstantial as such a mass. Foam is the most comprehensive of these terms but is not interchangeable with all; it implies an aggregation of small bubbles such as rises to the top of a fermenting liquor or an effervescing or boiling liquid, or appears on the surface of the sea when agitated by high winds or covered with breaking waves; the term is also applicable to a bubbly slaver dribbling from the mouth of one in a rage or in great excitement or to the clotted sweat of an animal driven to exhaustion or suffering from intense heat *the rider from the château, and the horse in a foam, clattered away through the village—Dickens* Of all these words *foam* commonly has the most pleasant associations, usually connoting in poetry whirliness, delicacy, and grace (Ithalian Aphrodite beautiful, fresh as the foam—Tennyson)*

**Ant**

*water, liquid, saltwater, seawater*

**ana**

*analogous words

**see also explanatory notes facing page 1*
water): this notion of worthlessness or obnoxiousness is carried over into extended use especially as applied to a class or body of persons (the social scum, the passively rotting mass of people who lie at the bottom of the social scale—Geismar) Lather and suds both apply to the foam produced by agitating water impregnated with soap or detergent. Lather, however, usually suggests a less frothy condition than suds and a heavier aggregation of small soapy bubbles (hard water does not produce a good lather for shaving) Suds, on the other hand, often denotes water so covered with a soapy foam that it is usable for laundering clothes (the laundress likes the soap because it gives her plenty of suds) (soak the cloth in hot suds) Lather, rather than suds, may be preferred when the foam induced by intense sweating or emotional excitement is denoted (a hard-ridden horse working up a lather) (he was in a lather of rage) but suds is more usual when the reference is to something that suggests the appearance of suds in a laundry tub or washing machine (another [medicine man] whips up a mixture of water and meal into frothy suds symbolic of clouds—Frazer) Yeast basically applies to a froth or sediment composed of an aggregate of small fungal cells and found in saccharine liquids (as fruit juices and malt worts) in which it induces fermentation. The same substance is used as a leavening agent in bread; from this stems one line of its extended use in which it suggests a sign of activity, vitality, or agitation (seeing with the yeast of revolt—Dobie) But because yeast often appears as a froth on liquids and is accompanied by fermentation, the term has another line of extended use in which it is applied to a similar froth, foam, or spume, especially one appearing on the surface of an agitated sea (the ship . . . swallowed with yeast and froth—Shak) (they melt into thy yeast of waves—Byron)

focal * central, pivotal
Ana significant, important, momentous (see corresponding nouns at importance): salient, signal, striking, arresting, outstanding (see Noticeable)
focus n heart, nucleus, core, * center, middle, midst, hub
focus vb * center, centralize, concentrate
Ana fix, * set, settle, establish
Con diffuse, disseminate, radiate, * spread
fodder forage, * food, feed, provender, provisions, comestibles, victuals, viands
foe * enemy
Ana antagonist, * opponent, adversary: assailant, attacker (see corresponding verbs at attack): rival, competitor (see corresponding verbs at rival)
Ant friend — Con ally, colleague, confederate, * partner: * associate, comrade, companion
fog n * haze, smog, mist
fog vb * obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, cloud, befog, obfuscate
Ana * puzzle, perplex, mystify, bewilder, distract: * confuse, muddle, addle
foible failing, * fault, frailty, vice
Ana weakness, infirmity (see corresponding adjectives at weak): defect, flaw, *blemish: aberration, * deviation
foil vb thwart, * frustrate, circumvent, balk, baffle, outwit
Ana discomfit, * embarrass, disconcert, faze, rattle: curb, check, * restrain, inhibit
Con * advance, further, forward, promote: abet, foment, * incite, instigate
follow vb 1 Follow, succeed, ensue, supervise mean to come after someone or, more often, something. Although all of these verbs occur as transitives and intransitives, ensue and supervise are more commonly intransitive verbs. Follow is the general term and may imply a coming after in time, in sequence, in pursuit (see follow 2), in logic, or in understanding (the singing of “America” by the audience will follow the introductory prayer) (Queen Victoria followed William IV as British sovereign) (the driving force in education should be the pupil’s wish to learn, not the master’s authority; but it does not follow that education should be soft and easy and pleasant at every stage—Russell) Succeed commonly implies an order (as one determined by descent, inheritance, election, or rank) by which one person or thing comes after another (son succeeds father as head of the business for many generations) (the eldest son succeeds to the title) (the person who will succeed the late congressman will be appointed by the governor of the state) Succeed is often used when the idea of a fixed order is lost, but it still usually retains the idea of taking the place of someone or something (the link dissolves, each seeks a fresh embrace, another love succeeds, another race—Pope) (the anxieties of common life began soon to succeed to the alarms of romance—Austen) (simplicity of concept succeeds complexity of calculation—Bell) Ensue usually implies some logical connection or the operation of some principle of sequence as that of necessity (that such a consequence should ensue) (it was far the better course to do—Pope) (Austen) (each knowing the other, a conversation ensues under the hypothesis that each to the other is unknown . . . a very silly source of equivocque—Poe) Supervene suggests a following by something added or conjoined and often unforeseen or unpredictable (two worlds, two antagonistic ideals, here in evidence before him. Could a third condition supervene, to mend their discord?—Pater) (it was not acute rheumatism, but a supervening pericarditis that . . . killed her—Bennett) (it is in the philosophy that supervened upon the popular creed . . . that we shall find the highest . . . reaches of their thought—Dickinson)

2 Follow, pursue, chase, trail, tag, tail are comparable when meaning to go immediately or shortly after someone or something. Follow is the comprehensive term; it usually implies the lead or, sometimes, guidance of someone or something (the detective followed the boys to their hiding place) (hangers-on who follow the circus) (the vengeance that follows crime—Dickinson) (follow up a clue) (follow a trade) (he should not desire to steer his own course, but follow the line that the talk happens to take—Benson) (not one of the many people I know who followed the hearings thought that the television reporting was slanted or unfair—Selden) Pursue in its earliest sense implies a following as an enemy or hunter (pursue a fox) (pursuing rebels in flight) (pursue happiness) The term therefore usually suggests an attempt to overtake, to reach, or to attain, and commonly in its extended senses, even when the implications of hostility or of a desire to capture are absent, it connotes eagerness, persistence, or inflexibility of purpose in following one’s thoughts, ends, or desires (ye who . . . pursue with eagerness the phantoms of hope—Johnson) (thrice happy man! enabled to pursue what all so wish, but want the power to do!—Pope) (pursuing the game of high ambition with a masterly coolness—Buchan) (pursue the career of a diplomat) Chase implies fast pursuit in order to or as if to catch a fleeing object or to drive away or turn to flight an oncoming thing (chase the fleeing thieves) (the boys chased the intruder out of the school yard) (we were chased by two pirates, who soon overtook us—Swift) (if to dance all night, and dress all day . . . chased old age away . . . who would learn one earthly thing of use?—Pope) Trail implies a following in someone’s tracks (trail a fugitive to his hiding place) (trail a lost child to the edge of a creek) (not daring to accost him . . . she had trailed him to the railroad station—Chidsey) Tag implies a persistent,
following or accompanying (complained that his little sister was always tagging after him) (two unarmed launches tagged behind—Millard) Tail specifically implies close following and surveillance (he employed detectives to tail the suspect)

**Ana** attend, *accompany, convoy: *copy, imitate, ape: *practice, exercise

**Ant** precede (in order): forsake (a teacher or his teachings) —*Con* lead, *guide, pilot, steer: elude, evade, *escape: desert, *abandon

follower, adherent, disciple, sectary, partisian, henchman, satellite are comparable when denoting one who attaches himself to another. Follower is the inclusive term, denoting a person who attaches himself to the person or opinions of another (the followers of Jesus) (followers of Karl Marx) (they are creatures of the Devil, vowed to idolatry, and followers of Mithras—Nevil Shute) Its synonyms divide themselves into two groups, the first three designating a follower through choice or conviction and the last three a follower in whom personal devotion overshadows or eclipses the critical faculty. Adherent connotes closer and more persistent attachment than follower; it may be used without any implication of the personality of the teacher or leader (a doctrine that gained many adherents) (the candidate lost many adherents when he announced his views on reform) (adherents to the Communist party—Conant) Disciple typically presupposes a master or teacher and implies personal, often devoted, adherence to his views or doctrines (though . . . an enthusiastic student of Fourier . . . he was never a mere disciple—the individualistic stamp was too strong—Rosenzweig) but it may also imply similar adherence to a school of thought or governing principle (there is no anger, not even the most aesthetic disciple of the dry fly—Alexander MacDonald) (during the war years the disciples of the extreme Left sounded very much like the worst of the Negro-hating Southerners—Current Biog.) Sectary (see also HERETIC) usually implies the acceptance of the doctrines of a teacher or body (sectaries of Mohammed) (there dwelt, unchallenged, the spirit of the Puritans and the Friends, the stiff-necked sectaries of Cromwell's army—Brooks) (Aristotle . . . has suffered from the adherence of persons who must be regarded less as his disciples than as his sectaries—T. S. Eliot)

Partisan suggests such devotion to the person or opinions of another or to a party, a creed, or a school of thought that there is incapacity for seeing from any other point of view. It often, therefore, connotes bigotry or prejudice (Laura was always a passionate partisan of her young brother—Mary Austin) (a few partisans argued for him—Mencken) Henchman is commonly applied to a subservient follower of a political leader or boss; in extended use it connotes abject submission to the will of a dominating and, usually, unscrupulous leader or group (the cat's-paw of corrupt functionaries and the henchman of ambitious humbugs—Shaw) Satellite, more than any of the others, suggests devotion to the person of the leader and constant obsequious attendance on him (Boswell was . . . made happy by an introduction to Johnson, of whom he became the obsequious satellite—Irving)

**Ana** devotee, votary, *addict, habitué: *parasite, sycomorph, toady

**Ant** leader

following n Following, clientele, public, audience are comparable when they denote the body of persons who attach themselves to another especially as disciples, patrons, or admirers. Following is the most comprehensive term, applicable to a group that follows either as a physical train or retinue or as the adherents of a leader, the disciples of a philosopher, the customers of a salesman, the admirers of a young woman, or the fans of an actor (such a man, with a great name in the country and a strong following in Parliament—Macaulay) (he unconsciously follows a following of like-minded persons—Montague) Clientele is chiefly used of the persons, collectively, who go habitually for services to a professional man (as a lawyer or physician) or who give their patronage to a business establishment (as a hotel, a restaurant, or a shop) (Dr. Doe has among his clientele all the leading families in the town) (summer hotels usually send out circulars to their clientele in the spring)

Public basically denotes a group of people with a common interest and may come close to following in many of its applications (as to adherents, disciples, customers, and admirers); often, however, it distinctively conveys the notion of a group making active demands rather than one passively or admiringly following (a novelist's public, in fact, is people who read everything he writes even when they hate it—Carly) (a public relations program must be concerned with the policies of the institution, their interpretation and announcement to the college's various publics—Brecht) (protecting movie stars from their publics—New Yorker) (these two books on Spain are different in purpose, different in scope, and aimed at different publics—Bergin) Audience is applicable to a following that listens with attention to what a person has to say whenever he addresses them (as in a speech or a book) (still govern thou my song, Urania, and fit audience find, though few—Milton) (the stricken poet [Leopardi] . . . had no country, for an Italy in his day did not exist, he had no audience, no celebrity—Arnold) Audience, rather than spectators (see SPECTATOR), is also the usual term for designating the body of persons attending a lecture, a play, or a concert on the assumption that they are there primarily to hear, only secondarily to see (the audience at the opera packed the house)

**foment** abet, *incite, instigate

**Ana** good, spur (see corresponding nouns at MOTIVE): stimulate, quicken, excite, galvanize, *provoke: nurture, *nurse, foster, cultivate

**Ant** quell —*Con* suppress, repress: check, curb, *restrain

fond adj 1 Fond, infatuuated, besotted, insensate are comparable when they mean made blindly or stupidly foolish (as by passion or drink). Fond implies a judgment misled by credulity, undue optimism, or excessive affection (Cowper's characterization of the Biographia Britannica: "Oh, fond attempt to give a deathless lot to names ignoble, born to be forgot!") (grant I may never prove so fond, to trust man on his oath or bond—Shak) (how are we to rid ourselves of our fond prejudices and open our minds?—James Ford) Infatuated implies a weakening rather than the absence of judgment, especially under the influence of violent passion or unreasoning emotion; it is therefore correctly applied to the acts or qualities of men from whom sagacity or self-control might have been expected (what the infatuated ministry may do, I know not; but our infatuated House of Commons . . . have begun a new war in America—Burke) (your people are so shortsighted, so jealous and selfish, and so curiously infatuated with things that are not . . . good—Jefferies) Besotted adds to infatuated the implications of a stupefying or intoxicating influence that destroys the capacity to think clearly and sometimes makes its victim disgusting or repulsive (men besotted by drink) (are these so far besotted that they fail to see this fair wife-worship cloaks a secret shame?—Tennyson)

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
food 1 Food, feed, victuals, viands, provisions, comestibles, ♦ provender, ♦ fodder, ♦ forage are comparable when meaning things that are edible for human beings or animals. ♦ Food is the most general of these terms and is typically applicable to all substances which satisfy hunger and build up or repair waste in the body of men or animals ♦ conserve a nation's supply of food ♦ refrigerators that keep food fresh ♦ It is sometimes distinguished from drink ♦ there was no lack of food or drink during their sojourn on the island ♦ or applied specifically to human needs and then distinguished from feed, which normally denotes food for domestic animals ♦ he needed food for his family and feed for his livestock —Gustafson ♦ victuals and viands basically denote food for human beings, especially food that is prepared and ready for eating. ♦ victuals is a racy or pungent word used for special effect ♦ I worked hard enough to earn my passage and my victuals —Shaw ♦ when I bear in mind how elegantly we eat our victuals —L. P. Smith ♦ Viands is bookish or affected and occurs chiefly where daintiness, rarity, or an especially fine quality is to be suggested ♦ all the dainties and viands that could be wanted for a feast —Wilde ♦ he dashed the wine on the earth and scattered about the other viands —Milman ♦ provisions applies to food in general as offered for sale in a market or kept in store as supplies ♦ a country store stocked with all sorts of staples and provisions ♦ there were not enough provisions in the hotel to care for the weekend influx of guests ♦ a basket of provisions ♦ Comestibles, which stresses edibility, is now found chiefly in playful use for victorious ♦ he resolved upon having a strong reinforcement of comestibles —Hook ♦ bills are also discussed, and butchers and grocers, and the price of comestibles —Rose Macaulay ♦ The remaining three terms, provender, fodder, and forage, basically denote feed for animals, but all may occasionally be used, typically derogatorily, of human food. ♦ provender in its basic use applies to food (as hay, oats, or corn) for horses, mules, or asses ♦ they must be fed like mules and have their provender tied to their mouths —Shak. ♦ fodder applies to food for domestic cattle and especially to coarse food (as hay, silage, and straw) that is harvested and fed out, as distinguished from forage, food consumed by grazing or browsing. 2 Food, aliment, pabulum, nutriment, nourishment, sustenance, ♦ pap are comparable especially when they denote material which feeds and supports the mind or the spirit. ♦ Food is applicable to whatever is taken in and assimilated to enlarge the mind or spirit or to contribute to its vitality and growth ♦ praise was her favorite food —Phillpotts ♦ those books that provide food for the imagination —Aliment and pabulum are not always distinguishable from each other, but aliment is more often applied to what nourishes or builds one's mind and nature (mischief, love, and contradiction, are the natural aliments of a woman —Richardson ♦ the aliments nourting our nobler part, the mind, thought, dreams, passions, and aims . . . at length are made our mind itself —Lytton ♦ and pabulum to something, and often something overrefined, bland, or worthless, which serves as an article or sometimes as the substance of one's mental diet ♦ many motion pictures provide poor pabulum for the adolescent mind ♦ where every man's hand is out for pabulum, and virile creativeness has given place to the patronizing favor of swollen bureaucracy —Vannevar Bush ♦ Nutriment and nourishment are both applied to what is needed for healthy growth (as of the body, the mind, or an institution) ♦ the central sources of the ideology, the abundant larder from which the nutriment of ideology is being drawn —A. A. Cohen ♦ self-esteem, one of the properties of the ego, is first regulated by the supply of nourishment from the outside —Blum ♦ but nourishment in addition suggests, as nutriment does not, the nourishing effect produced ♦ Professor Perry's conclusion: "The chief source of spiritual nourishment for any nation, must be its own past, perpetually rediscovered and renewed" —Time ♦ lacking the nourishment which enthusiasm or imagination can give, their writing is unlikely to be either robust or vivid —Gloag ♦ sustenance stresses the supporting and maintaining function rather than the nourishing ♦ the blossoms of Beaumont and Fletcher's imagination draw no sustenance from the soil, but are cut and slightly withered flowers stuck into sand —T. S. Eliot ♦ Pap is found chiefly in contemptuous or ironical use and applies in its extended sense to nourishment that is as slight, as diluted, and as innocuous as soft bland food for an infant or invalid ♦ college courses that are mere intellectual pap ♦ a preacher whose sermons are nothing more than pap ♦ fool, idiot, imbecile, moron, simpleton, natural are often used popularly and interchangeably of one regarded as lacking sense or good judgment but each can be more precisely applied to someone mentally deficient in a given degree. ♦ Fool, the most general, can apply to anyone mentally deranged as well as mentally deficient, implying lack or loss of reason or intelligence; it may be used as an extremely offensive term of contempt ♦ fools rush in where angels fear to tread —Pope ♦ he was a fool and liable, as such, under the stress of bodily or mental disturbance, to spasmodic fits of abject fright which he mistook for religion —Norman Douglas ♦ I was a fool, if you like, and certainly I was going to do a foolish, overbold act —Stevenson ♦ act like a fool ♦ Idiot, imbecile, and moron are technical designations for one mentally deficient. ♦ An idiot is incapable of connected speech or of avoiding the common dangers of life and needs constant attendance. ♦ An imbecile is incapable of earning a living but can be educated to attend to simple wants or avoid most ordinary dangers. ♦ A moron can learn a simple trade but requires constant supervision in his work or recreation. In more general and nontechnical use idiot implies utter feeblemindedness, imbecile implies half-wittedness, and moron implies general stupidity ♦ comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers —Millay ♦ actually there never is a status quo, except in the minds of political imbeciles —Henry Miller ♦ even morons get college degrees —Warfel ♦ All three, however, may imply no more than often mild derogation or disapprobation of a person or his conduct ♦ got a little high ♦ got a little high . . . and Peeps climbed up into the guard
foolhardy 349

chair, mumbled about the brains of certain morons—

Boys' Life> Simpleton, a term of indulgent contempt, implies silliness or lack of sophistication (a sweet-natured simpleton who wrote lovely songs for children—Damron)

(in spite of her experience of his lying, she had never suspected that that particular statement was a lie. What a simpleton she was!—Bennett) Natural, which persists chiefly in historical context, may designate any congenitally feebleminded person (the man is not a natural; he has a very quick sense, though very slow understanding—Steele) with the vacant grin of a natural—Charles Gibbon

foolhardy daring, daredevil, rash, reckless, *adventurous, venturesome

Ana bold, audacious (see brave): headlong, *precipitate, impetuous

Ant wary —Con *cautious, circumspect, calculating

foolish 1 simple, silly, fatuous, asinine

Ana idiotic, imbecilic, moronic (see corresponding nouns at fool.)

Con *intelligent, clever, quick-witted, bright, smart

2 Foolish, silly, absurd, preposterous, as applied to a person, his acts, behavior, and utterances, mean ridiculous because not exhibiting good sense. Something is foolish which does not commend itself to the judgment of others as wise or sensible or judicious (a foolish investment) courageous behavior is easier for a man who fails to apprehend dangers, but such courage may often be foolish—Russell) only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment—Roosevelt) Something is silly which seems witless, pointless, or futile (a silly sacrifice) (how silly an ardent and unsuccessful wooer can be, especially if he's getting on in years—Hammett) Something is absurd which is inconsistent with accepted ideas, common sense, or sound reason; the word is applied, therefore, to ideas and projects considered impersonally as well as to persons and their acts (the absurd . . . dogma that the king can do no wrong—Shaw) (the absurd predicament of seeming to argue that virtue is highly desirable but intensely unpleasant—Lippmann) Something is preposterous which is glaringly absurd (if a man cannot see a church, it is preposterous to take his opinion about its altarpiece or painted window—T. H. Huxley) or sometimes merely highly unsuitable or ridiculously out of keeping (as with a particular character or situation) (he put on his preposterous old flowered cashmere dressing gown—Deland)

Ana ridiculous, ludicrous, *laughable

Ant sensible —Con *wise, sane, judicious, prudent, sage, sapient

foot vb figure, cast, *add, sum, total, tot

fon Fop, dandy, beau, coxcomb, exquisite, dude, buck are comparable when denoting a man who is conspicuously fashionable or elegant in dress or manners. Fop is applied to a man who is preposterously concerned with fashionableness, elegance, and refinement not only in respect to dress and manners but in respect to such matters as literary or artistic taste (his tightened waist, his stiff stock . . . denoted the military fop—Disraeli)

(f) I might have taken him for a fop, for he wore white lace at throat and wrists—Kenneth Roberts) (his love of good clothes and good living gave Bennett a reputation as a fop—Time) Dandy carries a weaker implication of affectation and overrefinement than fop and a stronger suggestion of concern for stylish or striking apparel and a spruce or dapper appearance (that he had the tastes of a dandy, we learn from a letter of the time describing his "smart white hat, kid gloves, brown frock coat, yellow cassimere waistcoat, gray duck trousers, and blue silk handkerchief carelessly secured in front by a silver pin"—Walsh) (this character, one of the most comical in Stendhal, should . . . figure very high, in the list of his dandies. He never smiles, never thinks, and belongs to the Jockey Club—Girard) Beau suggests as much attention to details of personal appearance as does fop (a beau is one who, with the nicest care, in parted locks divides his curling hair; one who with balm and cinnamon smells sweet—Elton) Coxcomb, like fop, is applicable to a beau as a term of contempt; it often stresses fatuousness and pretentiousness as much as or more than foppishness (of all the fools that pride can boast, a coxcomb claims distinction most—Gay) (the young coxcombs of the Life Guards—Emerson) Exquisite is a somewhat old-fashioned designation of a dandy who manifests the extreme delicacy and refinement of taste characteristic of a fop (the particular styles. . . he affected had their marked influence on the young exquisites of the Mayfair balls and Pall Mall club windows—Wilde) Dude applies chiefly to a man who makes himself conspicuously different in dress or manners from the ordinary man; it is therefore the rough man's term for the carefully dressed and groomed man, the quiet gentleman's term for the obvious dandy, or a Western American's term for an Easterner or a city-bred man (her father told her he would not allow her to marry a dude) (the boys jeer at every young man wearing a high hat and call him a dude) (they were all mountain-wise, range-broken men, picked . . . for diplomacy in handling dudes—Scribner's Mag.) (the dudes ogled the ladies, striking their mustaches, adjusting their ties and scooting their shoe toes up their calves to restore the shine—Berrigan) Buck applies usually to a dashing fellow, a dandy in dress, but not conversically, or necessarily, a gentleman in manners (the dashing young buck, driving his own equipage—Irving) (I remember you a buck of bucks when that coat first came out to Calcutta—Thackeray)

for conj *because, since, as, inasmuch as

forage n fodder, provender, *food, feed, provisions, comestibles, victuals, viands

forbear 1 forgo, abnegate, eschew, sacrifice

Ana restrain, curb, bridle, inhibit: avoid, *escape, evade, shun: desist, cease (see stop)

2 *refrain, abstain

Ana suffer, tolerate, endure, *bear

forbearance 1 long-suffering, *patience, longanimity, resignation

Ana & Ant see those at FORBEARANCE 2

2 tolerance, clemency, mercifulness, leniency, indulgence (see under FORBEARING)

Ana patience, long-suffering, longanimity: *mercy, lenity, grace, charity

Ant vindictiveness: anger

forbearing, tolerant, clement, merciful, lenient, indulgent mean disinclined by nature, disposition, or circumstances to be severe or rigorous. The same differences in implications and connotations are observable in their corresponding nouns forbearance, tolerance, clemency, mercifulness, leniency, indulgence and adverbs forbearingly, tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently, indulgently. Forbearing, forbearance, and forbearingly imply patience under provocation and deliberate abstention from judging harshly, exacting punishment, or seeking vengeance or revenge (Madame Beck was . . . forbearing with all the world—Bronte) (he thought of old days: of his father's forbearance, his own willfulness—Meredith) (spoke forbearingly of the lack of facilities that handicapped his work) 'Tolerant, tolerance, and tolerantly imply both
a freedom from bias or bigotry and a liberal attitude to opinions, especially to religious, philosophical, and political doctrines, other than one's own that keep one from severity or rigor in judging others who hold such opinions or doctrines or from wanting to impose restrictions upon their freedom to think as they will (<i>Anatole</i> France). As usual, professed a very tolerant attitude. One must gratify whatever tastes one has and seek whatever happiness one may be able to find—Krutin)—(<i>rules</i>): (a <i>clement</i> rule), (a judge known far and wide for his clemency). (He was clement whenever he could be clement with safety, and he began to pardon the proscribed—Buchan). *Merciful, mercifulness, and mercifully* imply both compassionate and forbearing treatment, especially of those who have offended or of those who merit severity or are defenseless against it. (Good my lord, be good to me; your honor is accounted a <i>merciful</i> man—Shak.) (Like a perfect nightmare, it was <i>mercifully</i> short—W. J. Locke). *Lenient, leniency, and leniently* differ from <i>clement</i> in suggesting usually softness rather than gentleness of temper, and a relaxation of discipline or rigor (A <i>too lenient</i> parent) I would ask you, dearest, to be, . . . very <i>lenient</i> on his faults when he is not by—Dicken's). She could not show the slightest <i>leniency</i> towards the romantic impulses of her elder daughter—Bennett). (No matter how <i>leniently</i> you may try to put it, in the end we have a struggle between men—Wister). *Indulgent, indulgence, and indulgently* usually imply complacency as well as leniency; they imply, even more strongly than <i>lenient, leniency,</i> and <i>leniently</i>, concessions made out of charity or the exercise of clemency in the treatment of those who offend or who are under one's government or control (That one congenial friend . . . more <i>indulgent</i> of his shortcomings, and, in all respects, closer and kinder than a brother—Hawthorne). (Indulgently dismisses them as basically nice boys—P. D. Whitney) before her children reached school age . . . her treatment alternated spasmodically between excessive indulgence and petulant severity—Gorer).<br/>

<i>Ana</i> gentle, mild (see SOFT): patient, long-suffering, longanimous (see corresponding nouns at PATIENCE). <i>Ant</i> unrelenting—Con implacable, merciless, relentless, *grim: *impatient, nervous, restive.<br/>

Forbearingly tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently, indulgently (see under FORBEARING) forbid, prohibit, enjoin, interdict, inhibit, ban are comparable when meaning to debar a person from using, doing, or entering or to order something not be used, done, or entered. <i>Forbid</i> is the more direct and familiar, <i>prohibit</i>, the more formal or official; they do not widely differ in their essential implications, for they both imply the exercise of authority or the existence of conditions which prevent with similar imperativeness. However, <i>forbid</i> carries so strong a connotation of expected obedience that it is preferred when the order is that of one in authority (as a parent, a master, an employer, or a physician) (<i>forbid</i> a child to leave the house) <i>Smoking is forbidden on these premises</i> (<i>suffer</i> the little children to come unto me, and <i>forbid</i> them not—Mark 10:14). (The whole attraction of such knowledge consists in the fact that it is <i>forbidden</i>—Russell). When circumstances absolutely debar, <i>forbid</i> is also preferred (His health forbade the use of tobacco).<br/>

<i>Prohibit</i> has been used for so long in reference to laws, statutes, and regulations that it tends to connote a less despotic exercise of authority and to suggest restraints imposed for the good of all or for the sake of orderly procedure (<i>prohibit</i> the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors) (The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor <i>prohibited</i> by it to the States—U. S. Constitution) (The act was wrong in the sense that it was <i>prohibited</i> by law—Cardozo). <i>Enjoin</i> (see also <i>Command</i>) is a legal term implying a judicial order forbidding a particular action (by the decision of the Court the defendant should be <i>enjoined</i> from publishing news obtained from the Associated Press for—[a certain number of] hours after publication by the plaintiff—Justice Holmes). *Interdict implies prohibition by authority, usually civil or ecclesiastical authority, typically for a given time and for a salutary purpose (as the maintenance of neutrality or the prevention of the spread of disease) or as an exemplary punishment (<i>interdict</i> trade with belligerents) (<i>interdict</i> the administration of the sacraments in a rebellious diocese) (<i>Sunday</i> . . . until two o'clock), was a solemn interval, during which all the usual books and plays were <i>interdicted</i>—Mary Austin). *Inhibit* implies the imposition of restraints or restrictions that amount to prohibitions, not only by authority but also by the exigencies of the time or situation (A clause was . . . inserted which <i>inhibited</i> the Bank from advancing money to the Crown without authority from Parliament—Macaulay). (The peril that besets a highly gifted poetic nature, when at bad moments thought <i>inhibits</i> imagination—Lowes). In psychological use inhibit suggests the restraints imposed by inner psychological impediments and conflicts or by the interaction of human will with cultural and social factors of the environment which cause one to suppress certain thoughts or desires before they can find full expression (<i>inhibited</i> from bold speculation by his personal loyalties and interests—Parrington). (He is <i>inhibited</i>, he <i>inhibits</i> himself, even from seeking on his own account that vital experience which is the stuff of the creative life—Brooks). *Ban* carries an implication of legal or social pressure as the source of prohibition and with it a strong connotation of condemnation or disapproval (<i>ban</i> all obscene magazines) (<i>ban</i> profane language) (<i>categories</i> of persons <i>banned</i> from Federal employment—Ginzburg). More and more landlords were <i>banning</i> tenants with children—Wecter).<br/>


<i>Force</i> <i>n</i> 1 *power, energy, strength, might, puissance <i>Ana</i> *stress, strain, pressure, tension: *speed, velocity, momentum, impetus, headway. 2 *Force, violence, compulsion, coercion, duress, constraint, restraint* denote the exercise or the exertion of power in order to impose one's will on a person or to have one's will with a thing. *Force and violence* ordinarily apply to physical powers used upon either persons or things; *compulsion, coercion, duress, constraint, restraint* apply to either physical or moral power used upon personal agents except in certain figurative uses—compulsion, coercion, and <i>duress</i> usually implying exercise of such power upon others than oneself, constraint or <i>restraint</i> upon oneself or others. *Force* (see also <i>power</i> 1) applies to an exercise of physical strength or of power comparable to physical strength by means of which an agent imposes his will upon another against that person's will or causes a thing to move as desired in spite of its resistance (Rude fishermen . . .
force

by force took Dromio—Shak.> {to work in close design, by fraud or guile, what force effected not—Milton} {move a huge boulder by main force> {the skeptical criticism that "justice" is merely another name for force—Dickinson} {force used by attendants in an asylum . . . force used by the police when they control a crowd . . . force used in war—Huxley} Violence is often used in place of force, then commonly implying a greater display of power or fury and often connoting the infliction of injury or cruelty {they will by violence tear him from your palace—Shak.> {the rest of the party kept off the crowd by mingled persuasion and violence—Shaw} Violence often implies a violation of another's legal rights or property, or it may imply a corruption or abuse of someone or something entitled to respect, observance, or security {a burglar in entering a house by forcing a door enters it by violence} {do violence to no man—Lk 3:14> {all these many and varied powers had been acquired without doing violence to republican sentiment—Buchan} {the phrase “every common carrier engaged in trade or commerce” may be construed to mean “while engaged in trade or commerce” without violence to the habits of English speech—Justice Holmes} Compulsion and, still more, coercion imply the application of physical force or of moral pressure or the exercise of one’s authority in order to control the action of a voluntary agent and to make him obedient to one’s will {I would give no man a reason upon compulsion—Shak.} {coercion by threat or intimidation} {masterpieces I read under compulsion without the faintest interest—Russell} {solutions forced upon a most practical mind by the stern compulsion of facts—Buchan} {in the submissive way of one long accustomed to obey under coercion—Dickens} {some form of coercion, overt or covert, which encroaches upon the natural freedom of individuals—Dewey} Duress implies compulsion to do or forbear some act by means that are illegal (as by imprisonment or threats to imprison or by violence} {a person is not guilty of duress when he does or threatens to do something he has a legal right to do—Fisk & Snapp} It may also imply compulsion or coercion through fear of a penalty that will or may be exacted {a false declaration of love by the heroine under duress—Dyneley Hussey} {we must eliminate the condition of economic duress under which so many human beings are unjustly forced to live—Ashley Montagu} Compulsion and restraint imply the exercise of physical or moral power either by an active agent or by the force of circumstances; constraint sometimes implies an urging or driving to action but more frequently implies its forcible restriction or confinement, whereas restraint suggests its actual hindrance or curbing {the . . . lion . . . roared with sharp constraint of hunger—Shak.> }{prose is memorable speech set down without the constraint of meter—Quiller-Couch} {absolute liberty is absence of restraint; responsibility is restraint; therefore, the ideally free individual is responsible only to himself—Henry Adams} {the emotion . . . was the deeper and the sweeter for the restraint that he had put upon himself—Archibald Marshall} Ana intensity, vehemence, fierceness (see corresponding adjectives at INTENSE): *effort, exertion, pains, trouble

force vb Force, compel, coerce, constrain, oblige are comparable when meaning to make a person or thing yield to the will of a person or to the strength or power of a thing, Force, the ordinary and most general word in this group, implies the exertion of strength, typically physical strength, or the working of something (as circumstances or logical necessity) analogous in moving power or effectiveness to such strength {force slaves to labor} {force food upon a child} {he said hunger forced him to steal the food} {his conscience forced him into repaying what he had stolen} {force himself to smile} {the man could not be forced from the position he had taken} Sometimes the term takes a simple object, naming the person forced or the thing brought about by force; in such cases the verb often carries additional implications acquired from its idiomatic use in a particular phrase; thus, {force a woman is to rape her; to force a door is to break it open; to force laughter or a smile or tears is to make oneself laugh or smile or cry against one's will; to force bulbs is to hasten their development by artificial means {forced language} {a forced style} Compel differs from force chiefly in typically requiring a personal object; any other type of object such as a reaction or response is possible only in extended or poetic language when the specific connotations of compel (as the exertion of irresistible power or force or a victory over resistance) are to be carried by the verb {she always compels admiration} {an argument that compels assent} or a concrete thing {such a breeze compelled thy canvas—Tennyson} Compel commonly implies the exercise of authority, the exertion of great effort or driving force, or the impossibility for one reason or another of doing anything else {they} submit because they are compelled: but they would resist, and finally resist effectively, if they were not cowards—Shaw} {we see nothing in the Constitution that compels the Government to sit by while a food supply is cut off and the protectors of our forest and our crops are destroyed—Justice Holmes} {there is no possible method of compelling a child to feel sympathy or affection—Russell} {the westering sun at length compelled me to quit the wood—Hudson} Coerce suggests more severity in the methods employed than compel does; commonly it connotes the exertion of violence or duress or the use of threats or intimidation {there are more ways of coercing a man than by pointing a gun at his head—Inge} {Charles the First signed his own death warrant when he undertook to coerce that stubborn will [of Londoners]—Repplier} Constrain stresses more than does compel, its closest synonym, the force exerted by what pressures or binds; it usually suggests the influence of restrictions, self-imposed or placed upon one by force, by nature, by necessity, or by circumstances, that compel one to do a stated or implied thing, live a stated or implied way, or think certain thoughts {I describe everything exactly as it took place, constraining my mind not to wander from the task—Dickens} {causes which he loathed in his heart but which he was constrained to consider just—Brooks} {tied him to the wall, where he was constrained to stay till a kind passerby released him—Galsworthy} Oblige usually implies the constraint of necessity, sometimes physical necessity {a sharp pain obliged him to close his eyelids quickly—Hardy} but equally often moral or intellectual necessity {he is obliged, in conscience, to undo the harm he has done to a man's good name} {even the so-called laws of nature are only instruments to be used . . . we are not obliged to believe them—Inge} The term also is used with reference to a person or thing which is regarded as authoritative or as having the right to determine one's course or acts {the discipline of their great School . . . obliges them to bring up a weekly essay to their tutor—Quiller-Couch} {the convention which obliged a satirist to be scathing—Inge} {she is obliged to learn by heart a multitude of songs—Hearn} Ana impel, drive, *move: *command, order, enjoin: exact, *demand, require

forced, labored, strained, faretched are comparable when
they mean produced or kept up through effort and, therefore, neither natural nor easy nor spontaneous. **Forced** is the widest in range of application of any of these terms, being referred not only to what is brought about by compulsion 〈works of a kind which had normally been performed in antiquity by the **forced labor** of slaves—**Farrington**〉 or to what is accomplished by exerting force beyond the usual limit 〈a **forced march**〉 many women talk excitedly at a **forced** pitch for long periods and finish a conversation almost exhausted—*Hewitt* but also to what seems artificial because not natural, logical, or spontaneous or because constrained or affected 〈his . . . resolute rejection of **forced** and fantastic interpretation of Holy Scripture—**Foxbroke**〉 the old man was grinning. It was a little **forced** and a little painful, but it was a grin—*Irwin Shaw* 〈**Labored** carries a stronger connotation of heaviness or of ponderousness or, sometimes, of tediousness as a result of great effort 〈a **labored** style〉 suggests that the woman loves the man because he alone can give her the baby that fulfills her femininity . . . . These explanations are ingenious, *il laboré—La Barre* 〈uncomfortably aware of his men behind him; of their cushioned footsteps and **labored** breathing—**Hervey**〉 **Strained** adds to these an implication of tenseness or of a result that is unnaturally or distortedly labored 〈**strained attention**〉 〈a **strained** comparison 〉〈in the style of each there is at times evidence of **strained** composition, a lack of verbal ease or elegance—*Arnold Chapman* 〉 〈a **strained** air of reasonableness prevails with a good deal of nervous anxiety showing through on both sides—**Bendiner**〉 three patients were sitting, with **strained** expectant eyes—*Glasgow* 〈a long period of [chemical analysis] . . . . was an essential **precursor** of the present period of synthesis which has been so fruitful of good to mankind—**Morrison**〉 〈a long period of [chemical analysis] . . . . was an essential **precursor** of the present period of synthesis which has been so fruitful of good to mankind—**Morrison**〉 〈the sinister white owl . . . . the **harbinger**〉 〈the sinister white owl . . . . the **harbinger**〉 〈the sinister white owl . . . . the **harbinger**〉 〈the sinister white owl . . . . the **harbinger**〉 〈the sinister white owl . . . . the **harbinger**〉

**Farfetched** applies especially to an expression, an idea, an argument, or an explanation which has been carefully sought out so that it seems unduly strained and not quite naturally used 〈his ideas were always **farfetched**〉 〈a **farfetched** comparison〉 **straining** these methods of interpretation . . . . seem gratuitously farfetched, fantastic—*Edmund Wilson*〉 〈his ideas were always **farfetched**〉

*An* compelled, coerced, constrained (see **force**); factitious, *artificial*: fatiguing, exhausting (see **tire**)

**Con** *easy*, effortless, smooth: *spontaneous*, instinctive, impulsive: *natural*, unsophisticated, unaffected, artless

**forceful** *powerful*, potent, forcible, **puissant**

**compelling**, *potent*, forcible

**puissant** 〈see **force** vb〉: virile, manful (see **male**); cogent, telling, convincing, compelling (see **valid**); *effective*, efficient

**Ant** feeble—**Con** *weak*, infirm, decrepit, frail

**forcible** *forceful*, powerful, potent, puissant

**vehement**, *intense*, violent: energetic, strenuous, *vigorous*, aggressive, militant, assertive, self-assertive: coercing or coercive (see corresponding verb at **force**)

**forebear** forefather, progenitor, *ancestor*

**forebode** portend, presage, augur, prognosticate, *foretell*, predict, forecast, prophesy

**betoken**, **bespeak**, *indicate*: import, signify (see **mean**); fear, dread (see corresponding nouns at **fear**)

**foreboding** *misgiving*, presentiment, *aprehension*

**Ant** foretoken, presage, omen, portent, augury, prognostic: forewarning, warning (see **warn**)

**forecast** vb predict, *foretell*, prophesy, prognosticate, augur, presage, portend, forebode

**Ant** foresee, foreknow, anticipate, apprehend, divine: surmise, *conjecture*, guess: *infer*, gather, conclude

**forefather** forebear, progenitor, *ancestor*

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

**Ant** following

**foreign** alien, extraneous, *extrinsic* 〈*inconsonant*, inconsistent, incongruous, incompatible; *repugnant*, repellent, obnoxious, distasteful; adventitious, *accidental* 〈**germane**—**Con** *relevant*, pertinent, material, apposite, apropos, applicable; akin, alike, uniform (see **like**)

**foreigner** alien, *stranger*, outlaw, outsider, immigrant, émigré

**foreknow** divine, *foresee*, anticipate, apprehend

**Ana** foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy, prognosticate: *infer*, gather, conclude

**foremost** leading, *chief*, principal, main, capital

**forensic** n debate, dispute, *argumentation*, dialectic

**forerunner**, **precursor**, **harbinger**, **herald** are comparable when they denote someone or something that comes before another person or thing and in some way indicates his or its future appearance. **Forerunner** may denote a messenger that goes before a personage (as a king, prince, or lord) to warn others of his approach 〈there is a **forerunner** come from . . . the Prince of Morocco, who brings word the prince his master will be here tonight—Shak.〉 〈there should also be one or more **forerunners** to visit the town before the company arrives, to speak . . . upon the plays—Masefield〉 but more often the term is applicable to something that serves as a sign, presage, or warning of something to follow 〈a coma is often the **forerunner** of death〉 〈a black sky and a sudden squall are the usual **forrunners** of a thunderstorm〉 〈the increase is a **forerunner** to a general rise in interest rates—New **Public**〉 **Precursor** commonly carries an implication of making ready or of paving the way for the success or accomplishments of another person or thing rather than, as **forerunner**, one of serving as an announcement or prediction of what is to come 〈the medieval sects which Dr. Rufus Jones describes as **precursors** of Quakerism—*Inge*〉 〈Kepler, more than any man, was the **precursor** of Newton—*Ellis*〉 〈a long period of [chemical analysis] . . . . was an essential **precursor** of the present period of synthesis which has been so fruitful of good to mankind—**Morrison**〉 〈his ideas were always **farfetched**〉
forethought  354  forgetful  oblivious  unkind

announce, *declare, proclaim: *reveal, divulge, disclose, discover: forewarn, *warn

forethought  foresight, providence, discretion, *prudence  Ana  premeditatedness or premeditation, deliberateness or deliberation (see corresponding verbs at DELIBERATE): wisdom, judgment, *sense, gumption

forethoughtful  foresighted, provident, discreet, prudent  (see under PRUDENCE)  Ana  *cautious, circumspect, wary, calculating: *deliberate, premeditated, considered, advised, studied

foretoken  n  Foretoken, presage, prognostic, omen, augury, portent  are comparable when meaning something (as an event, a phenomenon, or a condition) that serves as a sign of future happenings. Foretoken, the general term, is applicable to anything observable which may be the basis of a prediction or forecast (the usual foretokens of a thunderstorm, intense sultriness, a heavily overcast sky, and suddenly arising winds)  Presage is applied chiefly to indications which inspire such emotions as fear or hope, dread or longing, and confidence or despair and therefore give rise to presentiments rather than serve as a basis for prediction  three times, while crossing the ocean, he sees a lunar rainbow and each time he takes it as a presage of good fortune—Brooks  Prognostic  applies to an advance indication or symptom from which a skilled person can infer what is coming; it is used in medicine of a symptom or sign useful to a physician in predicting the course or the termination of an illness  prognostics do not always prove prophhecies, at least the wisest prophets make sure of the event first—Walpole  (prognostics) are those circumstances on which a prognosis is based—Flint  Omen  is applicable chiefly to an extraordinary event or circumstance which one feels, especially under the influence of superstition, to be a promise of something to come (may I have had some omens: I got out of bed backwards too this morning, without premeditation; pretty good that too; but then I stumbled coming downstairs, and met a weasel: bad omens those: some bad, some good, our lives are checkered—Congreve)  Consequently, an event of ill omen or of good omen is one that is felt to be a presage of ill or of good. Augury and omen are often interchangeable, but augury is applicable to ordinary as well as to phenomenal circumstances, and it usually suggests discernment rather than superstition in determining whether it presages good or evil  (achievements that he regarded as auguries of a successful career for his son)  I had felt there was a mysterious meaning in that moment, and in that flight of dim-seen birds an augury of ill-omen for my life—L. P. Smith  Portent  is applicable chiefly to prodigies or marvels (as an eclipse, a comet, or an earthquake) which are interpreted as forewarnings or supernatural intimations of an event to come (what plagues and what portents, what mutiny, what raging of the sea, shaking of earth, commotion in the winds—Shak)  the interest in eclipses began in seeing them as portents that might be avoided—Kroeker  Ana  *sign, symptom, token, mark, badge, note: *forerunner, harbinger, precursor, herald

forewarn  *warn, caution  Ana  notify, advise, apprise, *inform: admonish (see REPROVE): advise, counsel (see under ADVICE)

foreword  preface, exordium, *introduction, prologue, prelude, preamble

forge vb  fabricate, fashion, manufacture, form, shape, *make

Ana  *beat, pound; produce, turn out (see BEAR): counterfeit, simulate (see ASSUME): *copy, imitate

forget  overlook, ignore, disregard, *neglect, omit, slight  Ana  remember —Con collect, recall, bethink, mind (see REMEMBER)

forgetful, oblivious, unkind are comparable when they mean losing or letting go from one's mind something once known or learned. Forgetful usually implies a propensity not to remember or a defective memory (bear with me, good boy, I am much forgetful—Shak)  she is growing forgetful  Sometimes it implies a not keeping in mind something which should be remembered; it then connotes negligence or heedlessness rather than a poor memory  he should not be forgetful of his social obligations  be not forgetful to entertain strangers—Heb 13:2  Oblivious stresses forgetfulness, but it rarely suggests a poor memory. Rather, it suggests a failure to remember, either because one has been robbed of remembrance by conditions beyond one's control (the accident made him for a few hours oblivious of all that weighed upon his mind) or because one has deliberately put something out of one's mind (a government oblivious of the rights of the governed) or because one has considered something too slight or trivial to note and remember it (a people so long unused to aggression as to be oblivious of its dangers)  In some instances oblivious is employed without a clear connotation of forgetfulness, and in a sense close to unconscious, unaware, and insensible  walking along, oblivious of the passing crowds  those who hope to render themselves, through absorption in the mere habit and technique of writing poetry, oblivious to the harsh interruptions of reality—Day Lewis  oblivious of the laws and conditions of trespass—Meredith  Oblivious also is sometimes used attributively and without a succeeding of or to in the sense of causing oblivion  she lay in deep, oblivious slumber—Longfellow  Unmindful is a close synonym of forgetful in the sense of not keeping in mind, but it may imply a deliberate consignment to oblivion as well as inattention, heedlessness, or negligence  a mother, solicitous of the health of every member of her family but unmindful of her own  every person was willing to save himself, unmindful of others—Goldsmith  for at her silver voice came death and life, unmindful each of their accustomed strife—Shelley  totally unmindful of their mutual dependence—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.  Ana  remiss, *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack: heedless, thoughtless, *careless  Con conscious, *aware, cognizant, sensible, alive, awake: *thoughtful, considerate, attentive

forgive pardon, remit, *excuse, condone  Ana  absolve, *exculpate, acquit, exonerate, vindicate

forgo, forbear, abnegate, eschew, sacrifice are comparable when they denote to deny oneself something for the sake of an end. One forgoes for the sake of policy, expediency, or the welfare of others something already enjoyed or indulged in, or within reach (he agreed ... to forgo all remuneration until his apprenticeship was completed—Brooks)  Often the word implies surrender or abandonment (in electing this peculiar freedom of its own, vers ... in being willing to forego, clasp sometimes one's hand with this other, hold on with all might ... forgo not to hold on in awe—Lowes)  he foregoes the mere habit and technique of writing poetry, oblivious to the harsh interruptions of reality—Day Lewis  oblivious of the laws and conditions of trespass—Meredith  Oblivious also is sometimes used attributively and without a succeeding of or to in the sense of causing oblivion  she lay in deep, oblivious slumber—Longfellow  Unmindful is a close synonym of forgetful in the sense of not keeping in mind, but it may imply a deliberate consignment to oblivion as well as inattention, heedlessness, or negligence  a mother, solicitous of the health of every member of her family but unmindful of her own  every person was willing to save himself, unmindful of others—Goldsmith  for at her silver voice came death and life, unmindful each of their accustomed strife—Shelley  totally unmindful of their mutual dependence—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.  Ana  remiss, *negligent, neglectful, lax, slack: heedless, thoughtless, *careless  Con conscious, *aware, cognizant, sensible, alive, awake: *thoughtful, considerate, attentive
abnegate implies renunciation or self-effacement, but this distinction is not as commonly maintained in the verb as in the derivative noun abnegation <communities dedicated to the living of a humble and self-abnegating life—Mumford> One eschews (see also escape 2) something tempting, sometimes on moral or aesthetic grounds but more often because abstention or self-restraint is necessary for the achievement of a more significant desire or end (to work within these strict limits, eschewing all the helps to illusion that modeling and shadow give, was doubtless an exercise of incomparable service to the artist—Binyon> <some of the millionaires eschewed palatial magnificence—F. L. Allen> One sacrifices something highly desirable or in itself of great value for the sake of a person, ideal, or end dearer to one than the thing or person involved; the term typically connotes renunciation and self-denial and a religious or ethical motive comparable to that of self-immolation <sacrificed a college education for the sake of supporting his mother> <sacrificed his life in defense of his country> (I do not mean that the well-to-do should ... forgo educational opportunities which ... are not open to all. To do that would be to sacrifice civilization to justice—Russell> <sacrificed their fortune in the world for theology's sake—H. O. Taylor>

Ana waive, *relinquish, surrender, abandon: renounce, resign, *abdicate

forlorn 1 lorn, lone, desolate, lonesome, lonely, *alone, solitary
Ana separated, parted, divorced, severed, sundered (see separate vb): forsaken, deserted, abandoned (see abandon vb): wretched, *miserable: depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see depress)

2 hopeless, *despondent, despairing, desperate
Ana pessimistic, *cynical: futile, vain, fruitless
Con *elastic, resilient, buoyant, expansive, volatile: optimistic, *hopeful, roseate, rose-colored

forlornness hopelessness, despondency, despair, desperation (see under despontent)
Ana dejection, depression, gloom, melancholy, blues, dumps, *sadness

form n 1 Form, figure, shape, configuration, configuration are comparable when they denote the disposition or arrangement of content that gives a particular aspect or appearance to a thing as distinguished from the substance of which that thing is made. Form is not only the most widely applicable of these terms, but it is also the least definitely fixed in its meaning, largely because of its being assigned various denotations in philosophy and aesthetics and because of its frequent use in reference to literature, music, and thought, where more is involved than the disposition or arrangement of content as immediately perceived by the senses. In general, form more than any of the other words implies reference to internal structure and disposition of details as well as to boundary lines and suggests unity in the whole (the earth was without form, and void—Gen 1:2) <a sense of interdependence and interrelated unity that gave form to intellectual stirrings that had been previously inchoate—Dewey> (you might go in for building ... you've got a feeling for form—Mary Austin> 

Figure applies usually to the form as determined by the lines which bound or enclose a thing <flowers have all exquisite figures—Bacon> The term also may often suggest the lines or sometimes the visible form characteristic of a kind or type <Christ painted under the figure of a lamb> <because of the darkness it was hard to say whether the person had the figure of a man or of a woman> or the lines which follow a more or less conventional pattern rather than represent something actual <cut figures on the ice in skating> <decorate the border with figures of scrolls, circles, and crescents> <a rug design in geometrical figures> Shape, like figure, suggests reference to the boundary lines, but it carries a stronger implication of a mass or of a body than does figure and is therefore precisely applicable to something that is shown in its bulk rather than in its lines; thus, one draws the figure rather than the shape of a circle or a triangle, but one forms a mass of clay in the shape in preference to the figure of a ball or of a man <the color of his beard, the shape of his leg—Shak> Often, shape applies to outlines that have been given to a mass (as by molding, carving, or pressure) <Brooke is a very good fellow, but pulpy; he will run into any mold, but he won't keep shape—George Eliot> <it is the business of the sensitive artist in life to accept his own nature as it is, not to try to force it into another shape—Huxley> Form, figure, and shape are also used in reference to the bodies or forms of living creatures, especially of men and women. Form is perhaps the most shadowy of these terms; it is applied chiefly to persons or animals identified but not clearly seen or noted in detail <the reddleman watched his form as it diminished to a speck on the road—Hardy> <busy forms bent over intolerable tasks, whizzing wheels, dark gleaming machinery—Benson> Figure usually suggests closer vision than form and some perception of details but stresses lines, carriage, and posture <here and there a figure ... leaned on the rail—Conrad> <they watched her white figure drifting along the edge of the grove—Cather> Shape differs little from figure except in its clearer suggestion of flesh and body <some human shapes appearing mysteriously, as if they had sprung up from the dark ground—Conrad> <and the shade under the ash trees became deserted, save by the tall dark figure of a man, and a woman's white shape—Galsworthy> Conformation stresses the structure of something as composed or fashioned of related or carefully adjusted parts or as constituting a harmonious whole; it carries only a slight suggestion of reference to the outer lines or shape <beef steers of excellent conformation> <the conformation of the vocal organs> Configuration emphasizes the disposition or arrangement of parts and the pattern that they form especially over an extent of space or territory <the conformation of the county is represented in this relief map> <the remarkable configuration of the Atlantic seabed—T. H. Huxley> <in every province there was a network of roads following the configuration of the country—Buchan>

Ana contour, *outline, profile, silhouette: *structure, anatomy, framework, skeleton: organism, *system, economy, scheme

2 Form, formality, ceremony, ceremonial, rite, ritual, liturgy mean an established or fixed method of procedure especially as enjoined by law, the customs of social intercourse, or the church. Form is the comprehensive term applicable to a recognized way of doing things in accordance with rule or prescription <observing the forms of polite society> <nothing could be worse form ... than any display of temper in a public place—Wharton> <a transfer of property made in due form> <the occasional exercise of a beautiful form of worship—Irving> Form often implies show without substance or suggests an outward shell devoid of its life or spirit <for who would keep an ancient form if the spirit breathes no more?—Tennyson> Formality applies to some more or less perfunctory or conventional procedure required by law, custom, or etiquette <there was now and then the formalities, toed without any formalities, as usual—Bennett> The

Analogue forlorn 355 form

Ant anomalous words: Ant antonyms: Con contrasted words: See also explanatory notes facing page 1
term often implies endless detail or red tape (Outland was delayed by the formalities of securing his patent—

*Cather*). Ceremony is more specific than form and implies certain outward acts, usually of an impressive or dignified character, associated with some religious, public, or state occasion or, collectively, with a church or a court (the marriage ceremony). The ceremonies attending the coronation of a king. Ceremony also applies to the conventional usages of civility (the appurtenance of welcome is ... ceremony—*Shak*). You need not stand on ceremony (the beauty of an inherited courtesy of manners, of a thousand little ceremonies flowering out of the most ordinary relations and observances of life—Binyon).

After the death of a king, a solemn ceremony of purification was performed by a princess (Frazer). Ceremonial (compare ceremonial adj) is occasionally used in place of ceremony in its concrete applications; more often it is a collective noun applied to an entire system of ceremonies prescribed by a court or a church (the gorgeous ceremonial of the Burgundian court—Prescott).

The last three terms of this group refer primarily to religious ceremonies and only secondarily to the ceremonies or forms of civil life. A rite is the form prescribed by a church or other organization for conducting one of its ceremonies; in the case of a church, for administering one of its sacraments, giving not only the words to be uttered but the acts to be performed (the marriage rite of the Church of England). The rite for the ordination of priests.

Ritual is, in effect, a collective noun applied either to all the rites that make up an elaborate religious service or to all the rites or all the ceremonies of a particular church, religion, or organization; it is, however, applicable to a rite when that represents the one form in use in the specific religion or body (the ritual of the Roman Catholic Church is traditionally in Latin). Sacrifices, dances, mimetic games, processions, plays, ordeals, and feasting may enter into the ritual of primitive religions (the ritual of a lodge). Consequently, in extended use, rite and ritual both refer to the customary or established order of procedure for conducting not only a ceremony or a series of ceremonial acts, but all kinds of formalities or forms (Archer ... went conscientiously through all the rites appertaining to a weekend at Highbank—Wharton). He knew well enough how it would be at the Hondo; the black-shawled woman sitting against the wall, the ritual of bereavement, impressive in its poverty—Mary Austin. Liturgy applies primarily to the Eucharistic service, especially that of the Orthodox and the Unitarian churches (specifically called “Divine Liturgy” in many of these) and of the Roman Catholic Church (specifically called the “Mass” in the Latin Church). In the Anglican Communion liturgy applies to the Book of Common Prayer, the service book of that church. It is applied also to a strictly religious rite or ritual, but this is confusing because the term ritual stresses the form to be followed and liturgy the complete service as followed in a particular church; thus, the Roman Catholic Church is now generally followed in the liturgy of that branch of the Roman Catholic Church called the Latin Church (he insisted on … the maintenance of full ritual in the liturgy—Bellow).


3 Form, usage, convention, convenience are comparable when they mean a fixed or accepted way of doing or sometimes of expressing something. Form can apply to a prescribed or approved way of behaving, method of procedure, or technique in any sphere of activity where correctness or uniformity of method or manner is thought essential (the forms of good conduct) (the forms of worship) (good form in swimming) (a form of address).

Usage implies the sanction of precedent or tradition and often designates a form preserved out of respect for a class, profession, or religion (descriptions of usages presuppose descriptions of uses, that is, ways or techniques of doing the thing, the more or less widely prevailing practice of doing which constitutes the usage—Ryle). Convention often replaces form especially in application to social behavior, where it stresses general agreement and therefore applies to some set way of doing or saying something that is sanctioned or believed to be sanctioned by general unquestioning acceptance (this music followed conventions perfectly understood by the contemporaries—P. H. Lang). Certain parliamentary conventions which exist to supplement the rules of procedure—May (this genius who was too wild and elemental ever to conform to any aesthetic convention—Ledig-Roholt). Formality is a somewhat literary word applied to social conventions especially regarded as essential to propriety or decorum (disregarding the social conventions, continued to chatter on—Richard Hull).

The conveniences of life—Benson

The conveniences of life—Richard Hull. Form

VB *make, shape, fashion, fabricate, manufacture, forge

Ana devise, contrive (see corresponding nouns at DEVICE): *invent, create: produce, turn out (see BEAR): design, project, scheme, plan, plot (see under PLAN n): organize, *found, establish

Formal conventional, ceremonial, *ceremonial, solemn

Ana systematic, methodical, *orderly, regular: *decorous, proper, seemly

Ant informal

Formality *form, ceremony, ceremonial, rite, liturgy, ritual

Ana convention, convenience, usage, *form: practice, custom, *habit, use, wont

Former prior, previous, *preceding, antecedent, precedent, foregoing, anterior

Ant latter—Con following, succeeding, ensuing, supervening (see FOLLOW)

Formless, unformed, shapeless are comparable when they mean having no definite or recognizable form.

Something is formless which is so fluid or so shifting in its outlines, structure, or character that it does not assume, or is incapable of assuming, a fixed or determinate form (the rising world of waters ... won from the void and formless infinite—Milton) (sprang from the billows of the formless flood—Shelley) (a formless fear) (the formless welter of his prose works—Sainsbury). Something is unformed which has existence but has not yet attained the form or character proper to it when it has reached the height of its possible growth or development (an unformed girl of twelve) (an unformed mind) (an unformed genius). Often it suggests crudeness or callousness (very clever in some ways—and very unformed—childish almost—in others—Ward) (this unformed government is the “legitimate” one—Gorrell).

Formless which has existence but has not yet attained the form or character proper to it when it has reached the height of its possible growth or development.

Something is unformed which has existence but has not yet attained the form or character proper to it when it has reached the height of its possible growth or development (an unformed girl of twelve) (an unformed mind) (an unformed genius). Often it suggests crudeness or callousness (very clever in some ways—and very unformed—childish almost—in others—Ward) (this unformed government is the “legitimate” one—Gorrell).

Something is shapeless which lacks or has lost the clear cut outline or contour that is regarded as proper to a thing or essential to its beauty (a shapeless old woman) (beat a silver dish into a shapeless mass) (conversation, which before had a beginning and an end, now grew shapeless and interminable—Richard Hughes).

Thin fluid, *liquid: rough, raw, crude, *rude

Fornication *adultery, incest
forth forward, * onward
1 also
Forthright, downright are
forswear 1 *abjure, renounce, recant, retract
forthright, nonargumentative turn of his mind—Shaw}
downright sort work—Jefferies}
*bluff, blunt, brusque: candid, open, plain, *frank
anaologous words
ana antonyms con contrasted words
ana forsyke desert, *abandon
ana repudiate, spurn, reject (see decline): *abdicate, renounce, resign: quit, leave (see go)
ant return to; revert to
forswear 1 *abjure, renounce, recant, retract
ana *abandon, desert, forsake: repudiate, spurn, reject (see decline): *deny, contravene, traverse, gainsay
2 *perjure
fort, fortress, citadel, stronghold, fastness denote in common a structure or place offering resistance to a hostile force. A fort is an enclosed, fortified structure occupied by troops. A fortress is a large fort of strong construction intended for long-term occupancy (as on the border of a hostile country). A citadel is a fortification, usually on an eminence, that protects a city or keeps it in subjection. A stronghold is a strongly fortified place whose resistance to attack or siege affords protection to its occupants (here ... a famous robber had his stronghold—Richie) A fastness is a place whose inaccessibility or remoteness makes for security. It may or may not be fortified (a strong and almost impenetrable fastness—H. H. Wilson)

These terms often have extended use. In such use a fort is something that by its very nature resists attack (oft breaking down the pales and forts of reason—Shak) and a fortress is something that gives a feeling of security (my rock and fortress is the Lord—John Wesley) Citadel and stronghold are very similar in their extended uses, both being applied to a place where or, sometimes, to a class or group in which something prevails or persists in spite of attacks or encroachment (the very headquarters, the very citadel of smuggling, the Isle of Man—Burke) (the scientific world has been the very citadel of stupidity and cruelty—Shaw) (the South of Somersetshire, one of the strongholds ... of the Anglo-Saxon dialect—Jennings) Fastness characteristically suggests impenetrability or inaccessibility (in the impregnable fastness of his great rich nature he [the Roman] defies us—J. R. Lowell)

forth forward, * onward
forthright adj I also adv Forthright, downright are comparable because they agree in their basic sense of moving or in the habit of moving straight to the mark. Forthright (see also straightforward) applies to whatever gets its effect by a straight thrust as if of a sword driven by the arm of one person into the breast of another; it therefore usually connotes dexterity, directness, straightforwardness, or a deadly effectiveness (reach the good man your hand, my girl: forthright from the shoulder, like a brave boxer—Meredith) (the home thrust of a forthright word—J. R. Lowell) (the practical, forthright, nonargumentative turn of his mind—Farrar)

Downright, on the other hand, suggests a falling down or descending with the straightforwardness and swiftness of one who leaps from a cliff or of a weapon that delivers a crushing blow. The word, therefore, usually implies crude force rather than dexterity, and concern for the effect produced rather than the point reached; often, in addition, when applied to persons or things it connotes plainness, bluntness, flat-footedness, or an out-and-out quality (he ... shot to the black abyss, and plunged downright—Pope) (sculling against a swift current is work—downright work—Jeffries) (you seem a pretty ... downright sort of a young woman—Shaw) (a baby. What a coarse, downright word for the little creature—Rose Macaulay) (this admirably downright, if not highly sophisticated, ukase has been cited in almost every trade-secrets case ... since—John Brooks)
ana *bluff, blunt, brusque: candid, open, plain, *frank
ana analogues words ana antonyms con contrasted words see also explanatory notes facing
planned, projected, designed, schemed, plotted (see corresponding verbs under PLAN n)

fortunate *lucky, providential, happy

Ana auspicious, propitious, *favorable, benign: advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: felicitous, happy (see FIT adj)

Ant unfortunate: disastrous —Con *sinister, baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient

fortune *chance, accident, luck, hap, hazard

Ana *fate, destiny, lot, portion, doom: *opportunity, occasion, break, time

Con *misfortune, mischance, adversity, mishap: design, intent, *intention

forward adj advanced, *premature, untimely, precarious

Ant backward —Con retrograde, regressive, regressive (see BACKWARD)

forward adv 1 ahead, *before

Ant backward

2 forth, *onward

Ant backward

forward vb 1 advance, promote, further

Ana *speed, accelerate, quicken, hasten: *help, aid, assist: *support, uphold, back, champion

Ant hinder: balk —Con impede, obstruct, bar, block (see HINDER): *frustrate, thwart, baffle, outwit, foil, circumvent

2 *send, dispatch, transmit, remit, route, ship

foster vb *nurse, nurture, cherish, cultivate

Ana *support, uphold, back, champion: *harbor, shelter, entertain, lodge, house: promote, further, forward, *advance: favor, accommodate, *oblige

Con oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight: curb, inhibit, *restrain: forbid, prohibit, interdict, ban

foul adj filthy, *dirty, nasty, squiald

Ana putrid, stinking, fetid, noisome, *malodorous: *offensive, revolting, repulsive, loathsome: obscene, gross, vulgar, *coarse

Ant fair: undefiled

foul vb *soil, dirty, sully, tarnish, befoul, smirch, befumble, grim, begrime

Ana pollute, defile, *contaminate: profane, debase, profane (see corresponding nouns at PROFANATION)

found vb 1 *base, ground, bottom, stay, rest

Ana *set, fix, settle, establish: sustain, *support: *build, erect, raise, rear

2 Found, establish, institute, organize are comparable when meaning to set going or to bring into existence something (as a business, a colony, or an institution).

Found implies nothing more than a taking of the first steps or measures to bring into existence something that requires building up. Just what these steps and measures are vary in usage; thus, a person who provides the funds for a new educational institution may be said to have found it, and those who first devised the project and won his support may also be said to have founded it, as may also those who took the next steps (such as the choice of a site, the erection of buildings on that site, and the selection of the staff) <found a parish in a new section of a city> <the Pilgrims in 1620 founded Plymouth Colony in what is now the state of Massachusetts> <a school of philosophy founded by Plato> Establish (see also SET) is often employed in the sense of found; however, it may imply not only the laying of the foundations but also a bringing into enduring existence; thus, Brook Farm was founded (not established, because its existence was short) by George Ripley and others as an experiment in communistic living; Vassar College was not established until some years after the date of its founding <the . . . Sisters of Loretto, who came to found the Academy of Our Lady of Light. The school was now well established —Cather> Institute stresses an origination or an introduction; like found, it implies the taking of the first steps and like establish, the actual bringing into existence, but it differs from both words in its far wider range of application and in being referable to things (as a method, a study, or an investigation) which do not have a continuous life or a permanent existence <institute a new society> <institute a new method of accountancy> <institute an inquiry into an official’s conduct of his office> Organize (see also ORDER vb 1) may imply founding, but it usually implies the taking of the steps whereby an organization (as a business, an institution, or a government) is set up so that it functions properly, with its departments clearly distinguished and governed by a responsible head and with a supervisory staff responsible for the working of the whole <Smith College was founded by Sophia Smith but was organized by its first president and board of trustees> <the company sent him to Germany to organize its new branch there>

Ana *begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate: form, fashion (see MAKE)

Con uproot, eradicate, deracinate, extirpate, *exterminate, wipe

foundation basis, *base, ground, groundwork

Ant superstructure

foxy insidious, wily, guileful, tricky, crafty, cunning, *sly, and crafty

Ana devious, *crooked, oblique: deceitful, *dishonest

Ant straightforward, aboveboard, forthright: candid, open, plain, *frank

fracas *brawl, broil, melee, row, rumpus, scrap


fraction fragment, piece, *part, portion, section, segment, sector, detail, member, division, parcel

fractious *irritable, peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant, pettish, huffy, fretful, querulous

Ana *unruly, refractory, recalcitrant, ungovernable, intractable, willful: perverse, *contrary, froward, restive, wayward

Con plain, dispassionate, unemotional: mild, moderate, unemotional

frangible 1 Fragile, frangible, brittle, crisp, short, friable

mean easily broken. They are, however, not often interchangeable. Fragile (see also WEAK) is applicable to whatever must be handled or treated carefully lest it be broken <a fragile antique chair> <a fragile dish> <a fragile flower> <I found the skeleton, or, at all events, the larger bones, rendered so fragile by the fierce heat they had been subjected to, that they fell to pieces when handled —Hudson> <this nation, molded in the heat of battle against tyranny . . . is not a fragile thing—W. O. Douglas>

Frangible stresses susceptibility to being broken rather than positive weakness or delicacy of material or construction <frangible stone> <avoid using frangible materials in ship construction> <using the butresses of intellect and imagination to shore up the trembling pillars of our frangible era—Fadiman> brittle implies hardness plus frangibility because of the inflexibility of, or lack of elasticity in, the substance of which a thing is made; it also suggests susceptibility to quick snapping or fracture when subjected to pressure or strain <glass is especially brittle> <as a person ages, his bones grow more brittle> <brittle sticks of candy> The term is often extended to things that are dangerously lacking in elasticity or flexibility <he would take no risks with a thing so brittle as the Roman polity, on which depended the fate of forty-four

A colon (;) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
millions of men—Buchan> Crisp usually suggests a good quality which makes a thing firm and brittle yet delicate and easily broken or crushed, especially between the teeth <crisp toast> <crisp lettuce> In extended use it implies freshness, briskness, cleanliness of cut, incisiveness, or other qualities that suggest the opposite of limpness, languor, or slacking <a crisp morning> <a crisp style> <a crisp answer> <a languorous work . . . with occasional interludes of crisp brilliance—Anthony West> Short implies a tendency to crumble or break readily and is applicable to several kinds of substance <a short biscuit is rich in butter or other fat and is crisp and crumbly when eaten> <short mortar is difficult to spread because of oversanding> <short timber is desiccated wood> <short (or hot-short) steel is brittle when heated beyond a certain point because of an excess of sulfur> Friable is applicable to substances that are easily crumbled or pulverized <friable soil> <friable sandstone> <friable blackboard chalk> <particles of shale, mica, or other friable and unsound minerals—Bateman> Ant tough —Con *elastic, resilient, flexible: *strong, stout, sturdy, tenacious 2 frail, *weak, feeble, decrepit, infrim Ana impotent, *powerless: delicate, dainty (see choice): evanescent, ephemeral, *transient, transitory Ant durable fragment fraction, piece, *part, portion, section, segment, sector, division, detail, member, parcel Ana remnant, *remainder fragrance, perfume, incense, redolence, bouquet are comparable when denoting a sweet or pleasant odor. Fragrance usually suggests the odor diffused by flowers or other growing things, though it is applicable to odors that merely suggest the presence of flowers <fragrance after showers—Milton> <flowers laugh before thee on their beds and fragrance in the footling treads—Wordsworth> <through the open doors . . . the soft wind . . . brought in the garden fragrance—Stark Young> <a fragrance such as never clings to aught save happy living things—Millay> Perfume originally applied either to the pleasantly odorous smoke emitted by some burning things (as various spices, gums, or leaves) <three April perfumes in three hot Junes burned since first I saw you—Shak> or to some natural or prepared substance which emits a pleasant odor. The latter sense predominates in current use, especially in reference to a preparation in liquid form, also called a scent (for full treatment of this term see SMELL), that contains the essence of fragrant flowers or is a synthetic concoction <rose like a steam of rich distilled perfumes—Milton> <a perfume redolent of the odor of violets> When applied to an odor rather than to a preparation, perfume differs little from fragrance except that it usually, when unqualified, suggests a heavier and more redolent odor, or at least a less delicate one <the perfume of lilies had overcome the scent of books—Galsworthy> <a gigantic rose tree which clambered over the house . . . filling the air with the perfume of its sweetness—L. P. Smith> Incense is usually used in place of perfume for the agreeably odorous smoke emitted by burning spices and gums <the church was filled with the odor of incense> The term, from association with the use of incense in religious ceremony, tends to apply to odors or things comparable to odors that are not only pleasant but grateful to the senses or that for some cause uplift or are mentally or spiritually exalting <the breezy call of incense-breathing Morn—Gray> <grateful the incense from the lime-tree flower—Keats> <love wraps his wings on either side the heart . . . absorbing all the incense of sweet thoughts so that they pass not to the shrine of sound—Tennyson> <this is that incense of the heart, whose fragrance smells to heaven—Cotton> Redolence usually implies a mixture of fragrance, often pungently agreeable, odors <redolence of a forest after a rain> <the fascinating redolence and toughness of New Orleans' red-lighted Storyville, where jazz was born—Time> <the redolence of a garden in spring> Bouquet applies especially to the distinctive fragrance of a good wine, which is perceptible when one inhales the delicate and agreeable odor <lifting his glass to his lips, [he] voluptuously inhaled its bouquet—Lytton> but it may be extended to other delicate and distinctive odors (as of cooking food) that suggest the excellent savoury character of the source of the odor <the grateful smell of cooking pork gave every moment more perfect in bouquet—Ethel Anderson> Ana *smell, scent, odor, aroma Ant stench, stink
ness, and freedom from affectation more than fairness of mind *(I am no orator, as Brutus is; but, as you know me all, a plain blunt man—Shak)* *(the difference between ordinary phraseology that makes its meaning plain and legal phraseology that makes its meaning certain—Gowers)*

**Anguished**, naïve, unsophisticated, simple, *natural:*
  *forthright, downright: straight-forward, above-board*

**Ant** reticent —*Con* silent, taciturn, reserved, uncommunicative: *furtive, secret, covert, underhand*

**Fragrant** adj *furious, frenzied, wild, frenetic, delirious, rabid*

**Angry** crazy, crazed, mad, *insane: hysterical (see corresponding noun at MANIA):* *irrational, unreasonable*

**Fraud** n 1 *deception, trickery, chicane, check, checkered, dappled, sidelong-dealing*

**Anony** duplicity, *deceit, guile, dissimulation: defrauding, swindling, cheating, cozening, overreaching (see CHEAT vb)*

2 *imposition, cheat, sham, fake, humbug, deceit, deception, counterfeiting*

**Fray** n affray, fight, conflict, combat, *contest*

**Anony** fracas, broil, *brawl, melee: altercation, wrangle, quarrel: contention, strife, dissension, *discord*

**Freak** n caprice, fancy, whim, whimsy, conceit, vagary, crotchety, capricious, *capricious*

**Fur** makes us *fancy, fancy, dream, dreamy, variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled*

**Facet** spotted, flecked, speckled, splattered, sprinkled (see under SPOT vb)

**Free** adj Free, independent, sovereign, autonomous, autarchic, autarkic are comparable when they mean not subject to the rule or control of another. The same differences in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding nouns: *freedom, independence, sovereignty, autonomy, autarchy, autarky* when they denote the state or condition of not being subject to external rule or control.

**Free and freedom** *(see also FREEDOM 2)* stress the absence of external compulsion or determination and not the absence of restraint. For *free* as applied to a state, a people, a person, or the will implies self-government and therefore the right to determine one's own acts, one's own laws, and one's own restraints or to accept or reject those that are proposed from without *(for liberty is to be free from restraint and violence from others, which cannot be where there is no law—Locke)* *(freedom makes man to choose what he likes; that is, makes him free—Quiller-Couch)*

**Independent and independence** have for their fundamental implication lack of relatedness to anyone or anything else; therefore *independent* implies that the person or thing so described stands alone *(words have a meaning independent of the pattern in which they are arranged—Huxley)*

When applied to a state or government, it implies not complete detachment from other states or governments and a refusal to have allies or dominions, but a lack of connection with a state or government that has the power to interfere with one's liberty of action *(the Thirteen Colonies sacrificed their independence, but not their freedom, when they joined the federation that became the United States of America)*

When applied to a person or his acts and opinions, it implies either a disposition to stand alone and apart from others, or refusal to accept another's judgments, or self-reliance amounting almost to a fault; thus, a person who is *independent* in politics is attached to no political party; one might wish that a person he is trying vainly to help were less *independent* *(an economist should form an independent judgment on currency questions, but an ordinary mortal had better follow authority—Russell)*

**Sovereign** (see also DOMINANT) and sovereignty stress the absence of a superior power and imply the supremacy within its own domain or sphere of what is so described or so designated. As applied to a state or government, these words usually involve the ideas both of political independence and of the possession of original and underived power *(for many years before the Civil War it was debated whether the federal government was sovereign)* *(the powers of the general government, it has been said, are delegated by the States, who alone are truly sovereign . . . . It would be difficult to sustain this proposition—John Marshall)* *(although it [the government of the United States] is sovereign and supreme in its appropriate sphere of action, yet it does not possess all the powers which usually belong to the sovereignty of a nation—Tanner)*

When used in reference to a thing, both words impute to that thing unquestioned supremacy and imply that everything within its sphere of influence is subject to it *(the noble and most sovereign reason—Shak)* *(the sovereignty of man lieth hid in knowledge: wherein many things are reserved that kings with their treasure cannot buy, nor with their force command—Bacon)*

**Autonomous and autonomy** may imply independence combined with freedom. The terms are much used in philosophy to describe or designate a theoretical or ideal freedom in which the individual is absolutely self-governing and acknowledges no claim of another to interfere or control *(the question is often asked whether an autonomous state and an autonomous church can exist side by side)* *(if this preeminence and autonomy of the spiritual be not granted to another, can God at all—Inge)*

In political use the words seldom imply such absolute independence and freedom, for they are employed largely in reference to states which belong to an empire, a federation, or a commonwealth of nations. In reference to such states autonomy and autonomous commonly imply independence from the central power only in matters pertaining to self-government but recognition of the central governmental sovereignty in matters (as foreign policy) affecting the empire, federation, or commonwealth of nations as a whole. When a state is granted autonomy or become autonomous, the terms of such a grant are usually precisely stated *(the Imperial Conference of 1926 defined the Dominions as "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or foreign affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations"—Statesman's Year-Book)*

**Autarchic and autarchy** historically implied absolute sovereignty or absolute or autocratic rule, but they have become interchangeable with *autarkic and autarky,* and both pairs of words imply economic and especially national economic self-sufficiency; the words are used in reference to states or governments that favor isolation through a policy of rigidly and arbitrarily planned economic self-sufficiency as a means of maintaining their independence *(the totalitarian countries . . . . have created a self-encirclement by their abnormal economic policy, their costly and unnatural autarky—Manchester Guardian)* *(each community in Old China was cell-like, largely autonomous and autarkic—Lehberger)* *(the issue today is, therefore, whether a policy aimed at economic nationalism—self-sufficiency—autarchy—creates an environment favorable to the recon-
struction of a peaceful, tranquil, confident world—Lewis Douglas\(\langle a\ network\ of\ more\ or\ less\ closed,\ autarchic\ economies,\ each\ trying\ to\ the\ best\ of\ its\ ability\ to\ exist\ on\ a\ self-sufficient\ basis—Dean\)

**Ana** liberated, emancipated, delivered, freed, released, enfranchised (see **FREE** vb)

**Ant** bond —Con compelled, coerced, forced, constrained, obliged (see **FORCE** vb)

**free** vb Free, release, liberate, emancipate, manumit, deliver, discharge, enfranchise are comparable when meaning to set loose from whatever ties or bonds or to make clear of whatever encumbers or holds back. Free is the ordinary general term interchangeable with many of the succeeding terms; it may be used not only in reference to persons that are in bondage or in a state of dependence or oppression or under restraint or constraint (**free** one's slaves) (**free** an oppressed people) (**free** a person from prison or from a charge) (**free** one from the necessity of speaking against a proposal) but also in reference to things that are confined, entangled, or encumbered and may therefore be unfastened, unloosed, disentangled, or disengaged (**free** a squirrel from a trap) (**free** her hair from a net) (flower scents, that only nighttime **frees**—Lowell)

**Release** carries a stronger implication of loosing or of setting loose from confinement, restraint, or obligation (**release** a prisoner) (**release** a person from a promise) (**release** me from my bands with the help of your good hands—Shak.) (activities that **released** his stored-up energy) (death has **released** him from his sufferings) (only by inducing a deep impulse towards sermonizing could he **release** those other impulses which made him the great writer he was—Sykes) **Liberate**, a very close synonym of the preceding words, differs from them chiefly in carrying a stronger suggestion of resulting liberty. The term may therefore connote, as do the others, emergence from some more or less disagreeable bondage or restraint (**liberate** all slaves by a proclamation) or it may merely suggest a cutting of a tie, relationship, or connection without regard to the power of another thing or things to restrain or restrict, thereby approaching separation, disengage, or detach in meaning (**oxygen is liberated when potassium chlorate is heated**) (**an electric current will decompose water, liberating hydrogen** (**the poet draws life . . . from the community . . .: to cut himself off from this source of life is much more likely to cripple than to liberate him—Day Lewis**) (**liberate a certain group of individuals . . . from shackles inherited from feudalism—Dewey**)

**Emancipate** basically means to free one person from subjection to another (as a child from subjection to his parent or a slave from subjection to his master) (**little more hope than had the son of an Athenian slave to be emancipated—Quiller-Couch**) but the term is more frequently found in an extended sense, implying a liberation of someone or something from what controls or dominates; it usually also suggests a freedom by which one's own judgment or conscience or intelligence decrees the course to be taken or the principles to be followed (**if we can imagine the various County Councils of England emancipated from the control of Parliament and set free to make their own laws—Dickinson**) (**all the philanthropic and humanitarian movements to which the Quakers, now emancipated from the notion that all initiative in such matters is an attempt to force the hand of the Almighty, devoted themselves in the nineteenth century—Inge**)

**Manumit** differs from **emancipate** in its historical sense in always implying liberation from slavery or servitude; it is therefore sometimes preferred as the more definite term (**Darnall . . . was the son of a white man by one of his slaves, and his father executed certain instruments to manumit him—Taney**)

**Deliver** is comparatively rare as a close synonym of **free**. But in all of its many extended senses the idea of freeing is the basic, though not the strongest, implication. It is specifically a synonym of **rescue** (see **RESCUE**) when it implies release from peril, danger, or other evil (**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil—Mt 6:13**) It comes close to **transfer** or **convey** when it implies a disburdening of oneself of something which belongs to another or is intended for him (**deliver a letter to the addressee**) (**deliver a package to the purchaser**) or to **utter** or **pronounce** when it implies a relieving oneself of something one must say or is charged by oneself or another with saying (**deliver a message over the telephone**) (**deliver a speech**) The term may denote the disburdening of a woman of offspring at the time of its birth (**the queen was safely **delivered** of a son and heir**) or the freeing of all prisoners confined in a prison (**deliver a jail**) **Discharge** (see also **DISMIS** 1; **PERFORM**) implies the release of someone or something that is held in confinement or under restraint or within the bounds of a thing; it may suggest liberation (**discharge a prisoner**) (**discharge a hospital patient**) but often it implies an ejection (**discharge a shot**) (**discharge an arrow**) or an emission (**discharge passengers from a train**) (**discharge a cargo**) or a pouring forth through an outlet or vent (**the smoke is discharged through a very large chimney**) (**the stream discharges its waters into the Hudson (Bay)** or a payment or settlement (as of an obligation) (**discharged his debts**). Often **discharge** differs from **release** in carrying a stronger connotation of force or violence (**many creative writers have a critical activity which is not all discharged into their work—T. S. Eliot**) (**all his accumulated nervous agitation was discharged on Maud like a thunderbolt—Bennett**)

**Enfranchise** basically implies a freeing from subjection (**the nobles desired . . . to enfranchise themselves . . . from the power of the king—Bello** but in its commonest sense it specifically implies the removal of political disabilities and admission to full political rights as a freeman or as a citizen (**slaves were emancipated by the proclamation of President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, but were not enfranchised until the fifteenth amendment went into effect in 1870**)

**Con** *hamper, fetter, manacle, shackles, shackle, trammel, hog-tie:* **imprison, incarcerate, jail, immerse, intern:** **confine, circumscribe, restrict, limit:** **restrain, curb, inhibit**

**freebooter** *pirate, buccaneer, privateer, corsair*

**freedom** 1 independence, autonomy, sovereignty, autarchy, autarky (see under **FREE adj**)

**Ana** liberation, emancipation, release, delivery, enfranchisement, manumission (see corresponding verbs at **FREE**): liberty, license (see **FREEDOM**)

**Ant** bondage —Con *servitude, slavery* 2 **Freedom**, liberty, license are comparable when meaning the state or condition of one who can think, believe, or act as he wishes. **Freedom** (see also under **FREE adj**) is the term of widest application; in philosophy, for example, it often implies a state or condition in which there is not only total absence of restraint but release even from the compulsion of necessity; at the other extreme, in ordinary casual use, **freedom** merely implies the absence of any awareness of being restrained, repressed, or hampered; between these two extremes the term may imply the absence of a definite restraint or of compulsion from a particular power or agency (**me this unchartered freedom tires—Wordsworth**) (**the freedom of the press**) (**he was not affected by her reserve, and talked to her with the same freedom as to anybody else—Archibald Marshall**) (**who would not say, with Huxley, “Let me be wound up every day like a watch, to go right fatally, and I ask no**

*Ana* analogous words  *Ant* antonyms  *Con* contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
better freedom’’—James}  Liberty is often used interchangeably with freedom, but it often carries one of two implications which are not so marked in the use of freedom. The first of these implications is the power to choose what one wishes to do, say, believe, or support as distinguished from the state of being uninhibited in doing or thinking (had the liberty to come and go as he pleased) {in totalitarian states there is no liberty of expression for writers and no liberty of choice for their readers—Huxley}  {in freedom in thought, the liberty to try and err, the right to be his own man—Menciken}  The second of these implications is deliverance or release from restraint or compulsion {set a slave at liberty} {the prisoners were willing to fight for their liberty} {from bondage freed, at liberty to serve as you loved best—Baring}  License often implies the liberty to disobey the rules or regulations imposed on the many, but not necessarily governing all, when a great advantage is to be gained by disobedience {poetic license} {sometimes, with truly medieval license, singing to the sacred music . . . songs from the street—Pater} {a general must be allowed considerable license in the field} {has little truck with those who have taken literary license—Horner}  More often, however, the term implies an abuse of liberty in the sense of the power to do exactly what one pleases {license they mean when they cry Liberty—Milton} {many persons think that freedom of the press and liberty of free speech often degenerate into license} {Caesar’s legions . . . were enjoying their victory in the license which is miscalled liberty—Froude}  

**Ana** *exemption, immunity: scope, *range, compass, sweep

**Ant** necessity — **Con** compulsion, constraint, coercion (see corresponding verbs at **FORCE**)

freethinker unbeliever, *atheist, agnostic, deist, infidel

freezing adj *cold, frigid, frosty, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic, chilly, cool

freight n cargo, *load, burden, lading

frenetic adj *furious, frantic, frenzied, wild, delirious, rabid

freight n cargo, *load, burden, lading

frenzy 1 delirium, *mania, hysteria 2 fury, *inspiration, afflatus

freight n cargo, *load, burden, lading

frequently often, oft, oftentimes

fret vb *abrade, excoriate, chafe, gall

friar *religious, monk, nun

friend, acquaintance, intimate, confidant are comparable when they designate a person, especially not related by blood, with whom one is on good and, usually, familiar terms. **Friend**, in its application, ranges from a person who is not hostile or is a well-wisher to a person whose society one seeks or accepts with pleasure because of liking, respect, or affection. **Acquaintance** is applied to a person with whom one is on speaking terms. However, when these words are used in contrast, both imply a degree of familiarity, **friend** distinctively connoting close bonds of love and affection and **acquaintance**, comparative infrequency of contact and less close personal interest {you understand that I am not their friend. I am only a holiday acquaintance —Conrad}  {a companion loves some agreeable qualities which a man may possess, but a friend loves the man himself—Boswell}  This distinction is not invariably observed, especially when **acquaintance** is used as a collective plural {he has a wide circle of friends; he has a large acquaintance—Austen}  {he never speaks much, unless among his intimate acquaintance—Austen}  **Intimate** adds to friend the implications of a close affection and a closeness of association that tend to preclude reserve {only his intimates were aware of his plans}  **Confidant** usually designates that intimate who actually is entrusted with one’s secrets or is admitted to confidential discussions.

**Ana** comrade, companion, crony, *associate: ally, colleague, *partner

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

friendly *amicable, neighborly

amicable, neighborly

friend *familiar, intimate, close: *loving, affectionate, devoted: loyal, true, steadfast, *faithful

**Ant** unfriendly: belligerent — **Con** hostile, antagonistic, antipathetic (see corresponding nouns at **ENMITY**)

friendship, amity, comity, goodwill are comparable when they denote the relation (or, in the first three instances, the alliance) existing between persons, communities, states, or peoples that are in accord and in sympathy with each other. **Friendship** is the strongest of these terms in its implications of sentiment in the relation and of closeness of attachment {the friendship between me and you I will not compare to a chain; for that the rains might rust, or the falling tree might break—Penn}  Sometimes it suggests an alliance; at other times it excludes that suggestion {peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations—entangling alliances with none—Jefferson}  {friendship, that exquisite sense of a mutual sympathy of heart and mind which occasionally arises between independent individuals—Cecil}  **Amity** implies the absence of enmity or discord. Positively, it may imply nothing more than amicable relations {the colonists and the Indians seldom lived together in amity} or it may suggest reciprocal friendliness {on his arrival he found amity instead of enmity awaiting him. Father Vaillant had already endeared himself to the people—Cather}  Often the term suggests benevolent understanding and mutual tolerance of potentially antagonistic aims or views {the amity that wisdom knits not, folly may easily untie—Shak}  {the less we have to do with the amities or enmities of Europe, the better—Jefferson}  **Comity** has come to imply comradeish based either upon an interchange of courtesies or upon a similarity of interests and aims. The word often denotes a group bound together by friendship or by common interests but without implying loss of independence by members of the group or transference of sovereignty from the members to the group {outside the comity of the empire, beyond the border provinces and client-kings, lay the unknown lands and the
strange peoples—Buchan> (a Europe which pretends to have founded its comity upon brotherhood—La Barre> 
Goodwill derives its chief implication of a benevolent attitude or of reciprocal good feeling largely from the Authorized Version's translation of the Angelic Hymn > (glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men—Lk 2:14) The term is often used in international diplomacy to designate a reciprocal friendliness which constitutes an informal bond between nations and works to the advantage of all concerned > (goodwill is the mightiest practical force in the universe—Dole>) (to promote the exchange of intellectual ideas and goodwill between Belgium and America—School and Society>) be assured that none of us have anything but goodwill toward you personally—Ellison> 
Ana sympathy, affinity, *attraction: sympathy, empathy: accord, concord, consonance, *harmony: alliance, league, coalition, fusion, federation 
Ant animosity —Con *enmity, hostility, antagonism, antipathy, rancor: *hate, hatred

fright vb 

n alarm, consternation, panic, *fear, dread, dismay, terror, horror, trepidation 
frightening In informal and conversational use Gray>) 
you have death perpetually before your eyes, by the revelation that startled Rose Macaulay> 
their constant depredations and that the depredations of Conrad)> expression in the woman's face—Ana see those at FRIGHTEN 
work not to start, however much one may be startled—Ana startle implies surprise and a sudden shock that causes one to jump or flinch; occasional-ly its suggestion of fright is very weak > one learns in parish service not to strike for wages—Emerson>

frighten, fright, scare, alarm, terrify, terrorize, startle, affray, affright

Ana those at FRIGHTEN

frighten, fright, scare, alarm, terrify, terrorize, startle, affray, affright 
mean to strike or to fill with fear or dread.

Frighten is the perhaps the most frequent in use; it is the most inclusive, for it may range in implication from a momentary reaction to a stimulus to a state of mind in which fear or dread prevails. Typically, however, it implies a more or less paralyzing fear affecting either the body or the will 
the silence of the house . ..frightened Clara—Anderson> (in the world too frightened to be honest—T. S. Eliot>)

Fright is an older and chiefly literary or dialect form of frighten > you have death perpetually before your eyes, only so far removed as to compose the mind without frightening it—Gray>)

In informal and conversational use scare is often equivalent to frighten; in more formal use itusually implies fear that causes one to run, shy, or tremble 
scented, to disperse, *scatter: dispense, ^distribute: disburse, *spend, expend

frivolity levity, flippantly, light-mindedness, volatility, lightness, *lightness

frivolous levity, flippantly, light-mindedness, volatility, lightness, *lightness

frolic vb *play, sport, divert, rollick, romp, gambol

frolic n *play, sport, divert, rollick, romp, gambol (see under PLAY vb)

frolicsome *playful, sportive, roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous

frosty chilly, *cold, cool, frigid, freezing, gelid, icy, glacial, arctic

froth n *foam, scum, lather, suds, yeast

frown, scowl, glower, lower, gloom

frown, scowl, glower, lower, gloom are com-pared when they mean to put on a dark or malignant countenance or aspect. Frown commonly implies a stern face and contracted brows that express displeasure, disapprobation, anger, or contempt > (that Stonehenge circle of elderly disapproving faces—faces of the uncles, and schoolmasters and the tutors who frowned on my youth—L. P. Smith>) Scowl carries an implication of wrinkled drawn-down brows that express ill humor, sullenness, or discontent > a spinner that would not rebel, nor mutter, nor scowl, nor strike for wages—Emerson> Glower implies a more direct stare or gaze than frown or scowl and carries a stronger connotation of anger, contempt, or defiance > (the stewart ... glowered at Powell, that newcomer, that ignoramus, that stranger without right or privileges—Conrad>) he ... stood glowering from a distance at her, as she sat bowed over the child—D. H. Lawrence>

Lower implies a menacing darkness and sullenness of face or of aspect; the term is used in reference not only to persons but to skies that give promise of a storm > (wandering from chamber to chamber . . . all distinguishable by the same lowering
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
fulsome, oily, unctuous, oleaginous, slick, soapy are comparable when they mean too obviously extravagant or ingratiating to be accepted as genuine or sincere. Fulsome stresses a surfeit of something which in proper measure is not displeasing but which in abundance is cloyingly extravagant and offensive. Typically the term is applied to praise, flattery, and compliments, with the intent to suggest that they exceed the bounds of good taste and are lacking in truth and sincerity. "fulsome flattery" (Brooks) (the fulsome strains of courtly adulation—Edgeworth) (he could never be made ridiculous, for he was always ready to laugh at himself and to prick the bladder of fulsome praise—Buchanan) Oil and unctuous both suggest the smoothness and blandness of oil. Oily, as applied to persons and their utterances and acts, carries a strong implication of an offensively ingratiating quality and sometimes suggests a surliness, a benevolence, or a kindliness that is assumed as a mask for evil or dubious ends (an oily scoundrel) (oily manners) (oily smugness) (only oily and commonplace evasion—Stevenson) (an oily, sycophantic press agent—Rogow) Unctuous, on the other hand, suggests the assumption, often in hypocrisy, of the tone or manner of one who is grave, devout, or spiritual (the unctuous grandiloquence of Dickens's Chadband) (the look was, perhaps, unctuous, rather than spiritual, and had, so to speak, a kind of fleshy effulgence.... He... smiled with more unctuous benignity than ever—Hawthorne) (Mark Twain writes those words with an almost unctuous gravity of conviction—Brooks) (the devastating portrait of the unctuous literary opportunist—Cordell) Oleaginous is sometimes used in place of oily or unctuous when pomposity is connoted or a mocking note is desired (the lank party who snuffles the responses with such oleaginous sanctimony—Farren) Slick may suggest the assumption of smooth, ingratiating manner, but it usually stresses the speciousness of that appearance and often imputes slyly trickiness to the person who assumes it (this slick type of younger anticipates exactly how adults will react to him and plays on their sensibilities—Meyers) (a pair of slick operators had given the district a bad name by salting a barren claim—Oscar Lewis) Soapy comes close to unctuous in its extended sense, but it carries almost no suggestion of hypocrisy: rather it connotes an unduly soft, bland, or ingratiating manner (soap supplications for unity—New Republic) Ana lavish, *profuse, exuberant: *excessive, extravagant: cloying, satiating, satiating (see SATIATE): bombastic, grandiloquent, magniloquent (see RHETORICAL) fumble vb *botch, bungle, muffer, cobble Ana blunder, flounder, *stumble fumigate disinfect, sanitize, *sterilize fun, jest, sport, game, play are comparable when they denote something (as an activity, an utterance, or a form of expression) that provides diversion or amusement or is intended to arouse laughter. Fun implies amusement or an engagement in what interests as an end in itself, or it may apply to what provides this amusement or interest and then often additionally implies a propensity for laughing or for finding a usually genial cause for laughter or amusement (had such a zest for everything and thought it all such fun—Rölaag) (make living more fun, life more complete—Printers' Ink) (a man full of jollity) Jest (see also joke) is comparable to fun chiefly in fixed phrases (as in jest) or when applied to activity or utterance not to be taken seriously. In such uses, however, jest commonly carries a stronger implication of ridicule or hoaxing (a man given to making his most significant remarks in jest) (make jest of very serious problems) Sport (see also under PLAY vb 1) is often interchangeably with fun (there is a good deal of sport in many serious activities) or jest (play a trick on a friend for the sport of it) But its most common use is in certain idiomatic phrases (as make sport and in sport) in which it suggests an intent to induce amusement or provoke laughter by putting someone or something up to gentle or malicious ridicule (make sport of a suggestion) (make a good deal of sport out of his friend's misfortune) (teasing begun in sport ended in an ugly brawl) Game as a close synonym of fun survives chiefly in the phrase to make game of where, like sport in the corresponding idiom, it usually carries a suggestion of mischief or malice and implies a certain ridicule (make game of an unfortunate rival) In more general related use game (see also games under ATHLETICS) may apply to an activity carried on in a spirit of fun (there have been few poets more successful... in having fun with poetry. To Mr. Frost it is a pleasant game—Leary) Play, which stresses in all senses an opposition to earnest, may replace fun or sport or jest when a thoroughly innoxious implication of lack of earnestness or seriousness is desired (pretend to spank a child in play) Ana amusement, diversion, recreation, entertainment (see under AMUSE) (enjoyment); merriment, jocundity, blitheness, joviality (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY): *mirth, glee, hilarity, jollity function n 1 Function, office, duty, province are comparable when they mean the act, acts, activities, or operations expected of a person or thing by virtue of his or its nature, structure, status, or position. Function is the most comprehensive of these terms, capable of referring not only to a living thing or to a part or member of a living thing but to anything in nature (as the sun, the stars, or the earth) or in art (as poetry, painting, music, or an example of one of these) or to anything constructed that serves a definite end or purpose or is intended to perform a particular kind of work (fulfill one's function as a mother) (the function of the stomach is to digest food sufficiently to enable it to pass into the intestine)
function

function of language is twofold: to communicate emotion and to give information—Huxley (the function of the leaves of a plant) (the function of criticism) what after all . . . is the true function of religion?—Dickinson Office applies usually to the function of or the work to be performed by a person as a result of his trade, profession, employment, or position with relation to others; in this sense it refers to a service that is expected of one or to a charge that is laid upon one (O, pardon me for bringing these ill news, since you did leave it for my office, sir—Shak.) (to suppose she would shrink . . . from the office of a friend—Austen) (they exercise the offices of the judge, the priest, the counsellor—Gladstone) Duty (see also task) applies not only to the tasks expected or required to be performed in the course of occupation or employment (the duties of a cook) (the duties of a hotel porter) but to the offices associated with status, rank, or calling and generally regarded as inherent in that status, rank, or calling and as imposing an obligation upon the person so stationed (a man and wife fulfill their biological function when they produce children, but they now still perform their duties as parents in rearing, protecting, and educating those children) (the governor regarded it as his duty to warn the citizens of the dangers ahead) (it is not only the right, but it is the judicial duty of the court, to examine the whole case as presented by the record—Tuney) (it is in large part because of our failure to discharge our peacetime responsibilities as citizens that we must do our grim duty in war or perish—Lodge) Province (see also field) denotes a function, office, or duty which comes within one's range of jurisdiction, powers, competence, or customary practice (nursing does not belong to a man; it is not his province—Austen) (it is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is—John Marshall)

Ana end, goal, object, objective, purpose (see intention): business, concern, *affair: *task, job

function vb operate, work, *act, behave, react fundamental adj 1 Fundamental, basic, basal, underlying, radical are comparable when they mean forming or affecting the groundwork, roots, or lowest part of something. Fundamental is used chiefly in reference to immaterial things or to abstractions, whether they are thought of as built up on a foundation or as having their origins in roots (the fundamental rules of poetry) (a fundamental change in his attitude to life) (the fundamental rock in a geological formation) (the fundamental absurdity of the plot . . . remains—FitzGerald) (fatigue nor worry nor professordom could extinguish his fundamental gaiety—J. M. Brown) Basic is often used interchangeably with fundamental when the latter implies reference to a substructure (the fundamental or basic argument) But basic is preferred to fundamental when the reference is to a definite or concrete groundwork, bottom, or starting point (the basic stone of a pillar) (a basic wage in the electrical industry) (the distinction between basic scientific research and applied research—News Front) Basal differs from basic chiefly in not being used as often in reference to immaterial things and is more often implying reference to the bottom or to the lowest point or regions of a thing (geologizing the basal parts of the Andes—Darwin) (the basal plane of a crystal) (basal leaves on a stem) Underlying may be used to suggest nothing more than extension beneath something else (underlying rock strata) (the underlying layer of tissue) However, especially when the reference is to something immaterial, the term frequently comes close to fundamental, differing from it chiefly in suggesting a depth that removes the thing from one's range of vision or a remoteness that demands study or research on the part of one who would detect it (the underlying motive for his act) (the underlying causes of World War I) (underlying differences between Communism and socialism) (the social transformation now demanded of us by our underlying technical, economic and social development—Strachey) Radical (see also liberal 2) implies reference to the root or origin or ultimate source of a thing; thus, a radical change is one that is so thoroughgoing that it affects the fundamental character of the thing involved; a radical error touches the very center and source of a thing's life (actual differences distinguishing the different races of mankind—diffences that may be ascribed to radical peculiarities of mind—Bridges)

Ana *primary, primal, primordial, prime: *elementary, elemental 2 *essential, vital, cardinal Ana requisite, *needful, necessary, indispensable: paramount, *dominant; principal, capital, foremost. *chief Con *superficial: *subordinate, secondary fundamental n *principle, axiomatic, law, theorem Ana *element, constituent, component, factor: ground, basis, foundation, *base, groundwork funny *laughable, risible, ludicrous, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical, droll Ana humorous, *witty, jocose, jocular, facetious: amusing, diverting, entertaining (see amused) grotesque, bizarre, *fantastic, antic Con *serious, solemn, grave, sober: melancholy, plaintive, doleful, dolorous, lugubrious furious, frantic, frenzied, wild, frenetic, delirious, rabid are comparable when they mean possessed with uncontrollable excitement especially under the stress of a powerful emotion. Furious implies strong excitement or violence that characterizes the movements or activities of one aroused by a powerful emotion; it may be applied to the activities or to the emotion (he was in a furious rage) (she worked with furious zeal while the mood lasted) (she was now entering into that stage of furious activity which represented the exalted phase of the mental circular state—Ellis) Furious may also mean nothing more than intensely angry with or without an outward display of excitement (beneath her calm she was furious against her favorite—Bennett) Frantic implies actions or words that indicate temporary mental disturbance under the stress of a powerful emotion (as grief, worry, anxiety, fear, or rage); it usually suggests, especially when applied to actions or behavior, a situation from which it is almost impossible to escape (his frantic efforts to free himself resulted only in his becoming worse entangled) (there was a full moon at the time, and . . . every dog near my tent was baying it. The brutes . . . drove me frantic—Kipling) (a frantic beating of wings—Cather) (my father, frantic with anxiety over my safety—Heiser) Frenzied suggests uncontrollable excitement under the sway of an emotion, often one not explicitly designated, but it differs from frantic in carrying no clear suggestion of a desperate situation (a frenzied welcome by the populace) (why do we let these abstractions and implausible dogmatisms take possession of us . . . and fight their futile, frenzied conflicts in our persons?—L. P. Smith) (could hear the prosecutor's frenzied denunciations of the accused—H. W. Carter) (ignoring the frenzied nervous attempts of an unprepared city to make some semblance of defense—Gardner)
Wild comes close to \textit{frantic} in its meaning but stresses a distracted rather than a nearly deranged state of mind; it therefore may be used with reference not only to the effect of a violent emotion but to the effect produced by any undue strain on the nerves or the mind (\textit{she is wild with grief}) \textit{wild screams of anguish} (\textit{the news of the death of her father}) \textit{these are but wild and whirling words, my lord—Shak.}). \textit{wild with hatred and insane with baffled desire—Thackeray}) \textit{Frenetic} suggests a loss of balance, especially a tendency to be affected by extreme excitement under the stress of religious or partisan emotions (some of the more \textit{frenetic} of the franc-tireurs of liberalism—\textit{Pall Mall Gazette}) \textit{when inspired, their [the sacred writers']} individuality was intact. They were never \ldots \textit{frenetic—J. P. Newman}) \textit{Delirious}, like \textit{frenzied}, implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}) \textit{Delirious, like} \textit{frenzied}, \textit{implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}) \textit{Delirious, like} \textit{frenzied}, \textit{implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}) \textit{Delirious, like} \textit{frenzied}, \textit{implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}) \textit{Delirious, like} \textit{frenzied}, \textit{implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}) \textit{Delirious, like} \textit{frenzied}, \textit{implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}) \textit{Delirious, like} \textit{frenzied}, \textit{implies uncontrollable excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering) typically associated with delirium (\textit{the children were delirious}) \textit{excitement, but it more specifically suggests symptoms} (\textit{as lightheadedness, incoherence, and wandering} typi-\textit{cal in a riding dress—Dickens}).
may be applied to something contemplated but not yet tried, vain more often suggests a judgment based on previous experience and futile, one based on reasoning from self-evident principles (but it is vain to talk of form and symmetry to the pure expansionist—Babbit) (it is futile to ask which [Shakespeare or Dante] undertook the more difficult job—T. S. Eliot) Fruitless is often interchangeable with vain. But its basic meaning makes it especially applicable to undertakings that entail long, patient, arduous effort and severe disappointment (whom he had long time sought with fruitless suit—Spenser) (he nursed a grievance and, with Scotch persistence, kept up for years his fruitless efforts at reinstatement—Ashley) Bootless, chiefly poetic, is especially applied to petitions or efforts to obtain relief (they would not

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
garrulity, garrulousness talkativeness, loquacity, volubility, glibness (see under TALKATIVE)

 Ana *verbiage: prolixity, verbosity, diffuseness, wordiness (see corresponding adjectives at WORDY): chattering, prating, babbling, jabbering (see CHAT vb)

garrulous *talkative, loquacious, voluble, glib

 Ana glib, voluble, fluent, *vocal, articulate, eloquent

 Ant taciturn — Con reserved, reticent, *silent, uncommunicative, close: laconic, terse, *concise: curt, brusque. blunt (see BLUFF)

gasconade vb vaunt, *boast, brag, crow

gastronome *epicure, gourmet, gourmand, bon vivant, glutton

gate *door, portal, gateway, postern, doorway

 gateway gate, portal, *door, postern, doorway

gather vb 1 Gather, collect, assemble, congregate mean to come or to bring together so as to form a group, a mass, or a unit. The same distinctions in applications and in implications characterize their derivative nouns gathering, collection, assemblage (which see) or assembly, congregation. Gather is the most widely applicable of these words; it may be used in reference not only to persons and objects but to intangible things (a crowd gathers wherever there is excitement) (gathering the boys and girls of the neighborhood for a picnic) (leaves gather in heaps on windy days) (gathering the leaves for burning) (beads of moisture gathered on his brow) (gathering his ideas together before planning his speech.) In certain phrases *gather acquires additional specific connotations; thus, gathering flowers or crops implies plucking and culling as well as bringing together; gathering a ruffle implies a drawing together or into folds on a thread; gathering one's wits connotes an effort at concentration or at mustering or rallying mental forces. Collect is often used in place of gather with no intended difference in meaning (collect leaves) (leaves collect) (beads of moisture collected on his brow) But collect may convey, as gather does not, the ideas of careful selection or a principle of selection, of orderly arrangement, or of a definitely understood though not always expressed end in view; thus, to collect butterflies implies a selection of specimens and, usually, their cataloguing; to collect books (as in book collector) implies a choice of books with regard to some such principle as rarity, beauty of binding, or authorship. There is a subtle difference between to gather one's thoughts, which often merely implies previous scattering, and to collect one's thoughts, which implies their organization; there is also a difference between to gather money, which may mean merely to accumulate it, and to collect money, which usually suggests either raising a fund by gifts, subscriptions, and contributions or taking action to obtain possession of money due. Collect and collection are often preferred to gather and gathering when various things are brought together; thus, a jumble or an omnium-gatherum is a miscellaneous collection rather than a gathering; collect rather than gather enough chairs for all the guests to sit down. Assemble stresses more emphatically than either gather or collect a close union of individuals and a conscious or a definite end in their coming or in their being brought together. It is used chiefly in reference to persons who gather together, either of their own will or at the call of another, so as to form a group or body that will unite in action or join in counsel or discussion (the democratic rights of free speech and free assembly) (the most renowned experts on the history, geography, economics, and politics of all the nations of the world . . . assembled under one roof—Allop & Braden) (after even a new crew had . . . been assembled, I had qualms about setting forth over the treacherous waters of the China Sea—Heiser) In reference to things assemble implies an agent who collects them in order to unite them into a single body or structure or into a distinct and isolated group; thus, the assembly department of an automobile plant is the department in which the workmen build the cars by assembling the component parts made in other departments or in other factories (it took twenty years to assemble this collection of musical instruments) Congregate implies a flocking together into a crowd, a huddle, or a mass (cattle congregate during a storm) (pass laws forbidding persons to congregate on the streets) (congregations of atoms excited and lucent, mingled with free electricity—Darrow) Congregation is specifically applied to an assembly meeting for religious worship, but it usually retains the suggestion of a crowd that has flocked together. Ana *accumulate, amass, hoard: *heap, pile, stack, mass

 2 *reap, glean, garner, harvest

 Ana see those at GATHER 1

 3 *infer, deduce, conclude, judge

 gathering collection, assemblage, assembly, congregation (see under GATHER vb)

 Ana *crowd, throng, press, horde, mob, root, crush: accumulation (see corresponding verb ACCUMULATE)

gauche maladroit, *awkward, clumsy, inept

gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy, meretricious are comparable when meaning vulgar or cheap in its showiness. Something is gaudy which uses gay colors and conspicuous ornamentation lavishly, ostentatiously, and tastelessly (gaudy floral prints) (false eloquence, like the prismatic glass, its gaudy colors spreads on ev'ry place—Pope) (another attendant, gaudy with jingling chains and brass buttons, led us along a corridor—Kenneth Roberts) Something is tawdry which is not only gaudy but cheap and sleazy (beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons gleare—Gay) (a fancy . . . fruitful, yet not wanton, and gay without being tawdry—Cowper) (he saw nothing else; the tawdry scenery, the soiled cotton velvet and flimsy crumpled satin, the reek of vulgarity, never touched his innocent mind—Deland) Something is garish which is distressingly or offensively bright (hide me from day's garish eye—Milton) (for this week he would produce a bunch of [flowers] as garish as a gypsy, all blue and purple and orange, but next week a bunch discreet as a pastel, all rose and gray with a dash of yellow—Sackville-West) Something is flashy which dazzles for a moment but then reveals itself as shallow or vulgar display (Tom Paine was considered for the time as a Tom Fool to him, Paley an old woman, Edmund Burke a flashy sophist—Hazlitt) (the flashy rich boy in public school, buying toadyism —La Farge) (what the public wants" is being translated into the flashy, the gadgety, the spectacular—Loewy) Something is meretricious which allures by false or deceitful show (as of worth, value, or brilliancy) (the jewels in the crisped hair, the diadem on the polished brow, are thought meretricious, theatrical, vulgar—Hazlitt) (the false taste, the showy and meretricious element . . . invading the social life of the period and supplanting the severe elegance, the instinctive grace of the eighteenth century—Binyon) (if a writer's attitude toward his characters and his scene is as vulgar as a showman's, as mercenary as an auctioneer's, vulgar and meretricious will his product for ever remain—Cather)

 Ana *showy, pretentious, ostentatious: vulgar, *coarse, gross: resplendent, gorgeous (see SPLENDID)

 Ant quiet (in taste or style) — Con modest, *chaste, decent, pure

gauge n *standard, criterion, yardstick, touchstone

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
generate, engender, breed, beget, sire, get, procreate, propagate, reproduce are comparable when they mean to give life or origin to or to bring into existence by or as if by natural processes. Generate, which means no more than this, is used rarely in reference to human beings, seldom in reference to animals or plants (mushrooms are not generated from seeds) but is the technical term in reference to electricity (generated an electric current) and is used commonly in reference to ideas, emotions, passions, moods, or conditions that have a traceable cause or source (a habit of thought . . . only to be generated by intimate knowledge of good literature—Russell) (I do not think religious feeling is ever aroused, except by ideas of objective truth and value; but these ideas are certainly not generated by feeling—Inge) (the mood generated in me by the intellectual convictions current in my time—Krutch) Engender, like generate, is chiefly found in extended use, where it more often suggests an originating or a sudden or immediate birth than a gradual bringing into fullness of life or being (to hunger for the hope and happiness which . . . the dance seemed to engender within them—Hardy) (a sudden spontaneous illumination . . . engendered in the course of writing a poem—Day Lewis) (the strike, during which three men had been killed and ill-feeling engendered in hundreds of silent workers—Anderson) Breed basically means to produce offspring by mating or gestation (yet every mother breeds not sons alike—Shak.) Often the term carries a less specific meaning and suggests merely the production of offspring (mankind will in every country breed up to a certain point—Paley) sometimes by parental action but more often by the activity of those who determine the parentage, the time of mating, and the number of offspring (specialists who breed horses for racing) (cattle bred for milk production) (the notion of a Govern-Lowt department trying to make out what cows or trans-domestic breeds were necessary, and how many persons of each type, and proceeding to breed them by appropriate marriages, is amusing but not practicable—Shaw) Sometimes breed adds the implication of nurturing or rearing to that of producing offspring and may so stress this that there is no reference to the life processes involved in generation (he was bred in a manner befitting the son of a king) (he was born and bred in your house—Jowett) In its extended sense breed usually implies a gradual or continuous process of coming into being; it may specifically suggest a period of latency or quiescence before breaking out (an iniquitous government breeds despair in men’s souls—John Morley) (the yoke a man creates for himself by wrongdoing will breed hate in the kindliest nature—George Eliot) (incensant recurrence without variety breeds tedium—Loves) Beget, get, and sire imply the procreating act of the male parent; usually beget is preferred in reference to men and get and sire in reference to animals (he that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow—Prov 17:21) (a bull may be unable to get calves—Diseases of Cattle) (a Thoroughbred sire by a famous stallion) Only beget and sire have extended use derived from their basic meaning. In such use there is very little difference between beget, sire, and engender, the terms often being employed interchangeably without loss (motion picture industry, sired and nourished by private enterprise—Hays) though beget sometimes stresses a calling into being on the spur of the moment or without any previous preparation or expectation (beauty that begets wonder and admiration) (stories . . . spring from the fillip of some suggestion, and one begets another—Lowes) Procreate, a word now seldom used, is close in meaning to breed in the sense of to produce offspring. Though sometimes used as a synonym of beget, it more...
often refers to sexual acts involved in a mating and their results in the production of children (the time-honored presumption that a child born to a married woman during copu-ter was procreated by her husband—JAMA)

Unlike the foregoing terms, *propagate* carries no inherent implication of sexual activity but rather stresses the preserving and increasing of a kind of living being, be it plant, animal, or human, whether by generating, by breeding, or by growing (as from seeds, grafts, cuttings, or bulbs) (the rabbit propagates itself with great rapidity) (from cuttings . . . he propagated what he first named the Tokay but later the Catawba grape—Jenkins) In its extended use *propagate* implies not only giving rise to something or bringing it into existence but often also a continuation of that existence or the widespread dissemination of the thing that is brought into existence (Oh! does patience beget patience?) said Adrian. I was not aware it was a propagating virtue—Meredith) (the Rights of Man, rights which the French Revolution had propagated—Barr)

*Reproduce*, like *propagate*, may be used in reference to any living thing capable of bringing into existence one or more of its kind and is applicable whether the means is sexual or asexual (the tribe was dying out: infant mortality was heavy, and the young couples did not reproduce freely—the life-force seemed low—Cather) (the residents of the urban places probably did not reproduce themselves—Oscar Handlin)

**Anna** *bear, produce, yield: teem, abound gener-ic* general, universal, common **Anna** typical, regular, normal: specific (see SPECIAL) **Con** individual, peculiar, distinctive, *characteristic: particular, individual, *special
gener-ous bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, *liberal, handsome **Anna** lavish, prodigal, *profuse, exuberant: benevolent, philanthropic, eleemosynary, *charitable, altruistic **Ant** stingy—**Con** close, closefisted, niggardly, par-simonious, penurious, miserly (see STINGY): *mean, ignoble

**genesis** *beginning, rise, initiation**

**Anna** *origin, source, root, inheritance, provenience: derivation, origination (see corresponding verbs at SPRING): commencement, start (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN)

**genial** sociable, affable, *gracious, cordial**


**genius** talent, *gift, faculty, aptitude, knack, bent, turn**

**Anna** *ability, capacity, capability: originality (see corresponding verbs at AFFIRM): *inspiration, affluence, *ability, capacity, gift, endowment

**genre** class, category, genus, denomination, species

**gentle** soft, mild, smooth, lenient, bland, balmy

**Anna** *moderate, temperate: pleasant, agreeable, grateful: pleasing, welcoming: *calm, tranquil, serene, placid, peaceful, balmy

**Ant** rough, harsh —**Con** vehement, *intense, fierce, violent: powerful, forcible, forceful: stimulating, exciting, provocating or provocative (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE)

**gentleman** patrician, aristocrat are comparable when they denote a person of good or noble birth. **Gentleman** basically implies descent from good family, the right to bear a coat of arms, and social rank just below that of the noble and above that of the yeoman. The term has been widely extended in its application and has acquired connotations which have little or nothing to do directly with lineage or heraldic rights but suggest only such outward marks of good birth as elegance of person and of manners and a life of leisure (a gentleman . . . I'll be sworn thou art; thy tongue, thy face, thy limbs, actions and spirit, do give thee five-fold blazon—Shak) (somebody has said that a king may make a nobleman, but he cannot make a gentleman—Burke) (the gentleman may be a drunkard, a gambler, a debauche . . . he may be a man of spotless life, able and honest; but he must on no account be a man with broad palms, a workman amongst workmen—Tom Collins) **Patrick** derives its implications from its historical applications but chiefly from its earliest reference to a Roman citizen who belonged to one of the original families of ancient Rome which, after the growth of the plebeian order, kept power and authority in their own hands. In reference to present-day persons the word suggests a distinguished ancestry, superior culture, and aloofness from what is common or vulgar; it is applied chiefly to descendants of established and influential families when they constitute a social caste, especially one marked by exclusive vested pride in birth (the merchant/patricians [of Boston]), like the nobles of Flanders and Flanders in times gone by, wished to perpetuate their names and glorify their capital not only in the elegance of their mansions but also in churches, parks and public buildings—Brooks) **Aristocrat** carries fewer suggestions of inbred physical characteristics than gentleman or patrician, but it suggests a sympathy with the point of view common to them. In historical use it commonly implies an opposition to democrat and is applicable to a person who believes in government by superior persons or by the class which includes such persons; in more general use it is commonly applied to a person who by reason of birth, breeding, title, wealth, or outlook is accorded recognition as a member of the highest caste and especially to one who holds himself somewhat aloof from the ordinary forms and observances of social life (two kinds of aristocrats: one that assumes the right to govern without the consent of the people; the other that assumes the privilege of an exclusive private life—Charles Beard) (a genuine aristocrat, he was at home in all walks of life—Smelser & Kirwin)

**Ant** boor—**Con** lout, clown, churl (see BOOK)

**gentry** *aristocracy, county, nobility, elite, society
genuine *authentic, bona fide, veritable

**Anna** true, *real, actual: adulterated, unsophisticated (see affirmative verbs at ADULTERATE): *pure, sheer, absolute: *sincere, unfeigned

**Ant** counterfeit: fraudulent—**Con** simulated, feigned, shammed or sham, counterfeited (see corresponding verbs at ASSUME): *false: fictitious, apocryphal, mythical: factitious, *artificial, ersatz

**genre** class, category, species, denomination, genre **Anna** *type, kind, sort, nature, description
germ, microbe, bacterium, bacillus, virus, though not strict synonyms, are comparable because all denote organisms invisible to the naked eye, including organisms that are the causative agents of various diseases. Germ and microbe are the ordinary nonscientific names for such an organism and especially for one that causes disease. Bacteria, the plural of bacterium and the form commonly in general use, is often employed as the equivalent of germs and microbes. Technically, it is the scientific designation of a large group of prokaryotic microbes which are found widely distributed in water, air, soil, living things, and dead organic matter, which have structural and biological characteristics distinguishing them from other unicellular microorganisms (as protozoans), and

---

*See also explanatory notes facing page 1*
germane *relevant, pertinent, material, apposite, applicable, apropos
Ana appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous (see Fit): akin, analogous, comparable, parallel (see Like): related, allied, cognate, kindred
Ant foreign —Con alien, extraneous, extrinsic: incongruous, inconsonant, incompatible
Germicidal antisepic, bactericidal, disinfectant (see under Antiseptic n)
Germicide bactericide, antisepic, disinfectant

only some of which are instrumental in producing disease in man, animals, and plants. In addition to the pathogenic or disease-causing bacteria there are the saprophytic bacteria which live upon dead or decaying organic matter and which, for the most part, are beneficial in their effects which include many natural chemical processes (as fermentation, oxidation, and nitrification). Bacillus is often employed as though it designated any of the pathogenic bacteria. In technical scientific usage it designates any of a genus of bacteria which originally included all or most rod-shaped forms and is now restricted to a group of mostly soil-inhabiting, aerobic, and saprophytic forms that produce endospores. However, it is often used of rod-shaped bacteria in general, especially as distinguished from those which are globe-shaped (the cocccus form, of which the streptococcus is an example) and those which are spiral (the spirillum form, of which the vibrio which causes Asiatic cholera is an example, and the spirochete form, exemplified by the treponema of syphilis). It is common, especially in medical usage, to speak of the bacilli of such diseases as typhoid, diphtheria, and tetanus, though many of these true bacilli in the restricted taxonomic sense. Virus, in earlier use, was an imperceptible infectious principle of unknown nature occurring in the body of a diseased individual and held to be involved in the transfer of infectious diseases. In this sense it has been applied to most germs or microbes while their specific nature remained unknown, as well as to bodily fluids and discharges containing such infective agents by [virus] is understood a principle, unknown in its nature and inappricable by the senses, which is the agent for the transmission of infectious diseases. Thus we speak of the variolic, vaccine, and syphilitic viruses—Dunglison A vestige of this meaning persists in immunological usage with respect to materials (as vaccine lymph) that are antigenic but not usually infective when the doctors inoculate you... they give you an infinitesimally attenuated dose. If they gave you the virus at full strength it would overcome your resistance and produce its direct effect—Shaw In general modern usage virus is equivalent to filterable virus and is restricted to a variety of parasitic and infective agents which are able in nature to multiply only in living tissues, are so small that they pass through the pores of bacteriological filters, and are generally invisible with the ordinary light microscope. They include noncellular microbes (as herpesviruses, po- liovirus, and tobacco mosaic virus) that lie on the border between the living and nonliving, may consist of a single macromolecule of DNA or RNA in a protein case, and are capable on the one hand of existing in the crystalline state and on the other, when introduced into suitable cells, of multiplying like a true organism if it appears that energy for virus synthesis is provided by enzyme systems already present in the normal host cell. ... Investigations carried out thus far have not detected any biochemical activity by the virus. However, if the assumption is made that the virus simply stimulates its own production by the host cell, it would appear that it is a very inefficient parasite—Weiss

gesticulation *gesture

get 1 Get, obtain, procure, secure, acquire, gain, win are comparable and often interchangeable when they mean to come into possession of. Get is very general in its meaning and simple and familiar in its use. Thus, one may get something by fetching get a book from the table), by extracting get gold from ore), by receiving (get a present), or as a return get interest on a loan) Obtain is likewise rather general. It may suggest that the thing sought has been long desired or that it has come into possession only after the expenditure of considerable effort or the lapse of considerable time (the satisfaction obtained by the sentiment of communion with others, of the breaking down of barriers—Dewey) (in western New York, where her early education was obtained—Knott) Procure is likely to suggest planning and contriving over a period of time and the use of unspecified or sometimes questionable means (the Duma laid claim to full power...and on March 15 procured the abdication of the frightened and despondent Nicholas II—Ogg & Zink) some gifted spirit on our side procured (probably by larceny) a length of mine fuse—H. G. Wells) Secure may suggest safe lasting possession or control (the large income and fortune which a prospering business secures for him is of his own making—Hobson) or it may suggest the gaining of what is hard to come by (as by reason of rarity or competition for possession); thus, one secures, rather than gets or acquires, a rare stamp by offering a higher price than other interested persons will pay (almost absolute safety against infection could be secured by the simple precaution of using safe, potable water—Heiser) Acquire may suggest devious acquisition (the destruction of that ship by a Confederate cruiser, although it had acquired a British registry in order to avoid capture—Knott) It may also indicate continued, sustained, or cumulative acquisition (the habit of any virtue, moral or intellectual, cannot be assumed at once, but must be acquired by practice—Grandgent) Gain often implies competition in acquiring something of value (if a London merchant, however, can buy at Canton for half an ounce of silver, a commodity which he can afterwards sell at London for an ounce, he gains a hundred percent—Smith) (few men are placed in such fortunate circumstances as...
to be able to gain office—Oliver> Win, though often interchangeable with gain, may suggest, as gain does not, favorable qualities leading naturally to the acquisition of something desired despite competition or obstacles (the errors of his time were connected with his labors to remedy them, and win a firmer knowledge than dialectic could supply—H. O. Taylor> Mrs. Woolf’s fiction is too negligent of the requirements of the common reader to win a wide following—Millet>r> Ana fetch, *bring: extract, elicit, extort, *educe, evoke; *receive, accept: seize, *take, grasp, grab, clutch; effect, accomplish, achieve (see PERFORM): *incur, contract, catch
Con *fargo, eschew, abnegate, sacrifice, forbear 2 beget, procreate, sire, *generate, engender, breed, propa-
gate, reproduce
Ana see those at BEGET 3 *induce, persuade, prevail
Ana *move, actuate, drive, impel: *incite, instigate, abet ghastly, grisly, gruesome, macabre, grim, lurid are com-
parable when they mean horrifying and repellent in appear-
ance or aspect. Ghastly suggests the terrifying aspects of
death or bloodshed (the dying man’s ghastly pallor)
death grinned horrible a ghastly smile—Milton (the im-
ages of a hideous—of a ghastly thing—of the gallowy—
Poey). The term also is used as a strong, intensive equivalent
hideous or horrifying (the growing conviction that the
defeat was the result of a ghastly and unnecessary boun-
der) is heaped upon ghastly detail with a kind of
stolid objectivity until the cumulative picture is one of
madness and chaos—Edmund Fuller> Grisly and grue-
some imply an appearance that inspires shuddering or un-
canny horror (so spake the grisly Terror—Milton)
look down, and see a grisly sight; a vault where the bodies
are buried upright—Wordsworth> the thick 566-page
literary work is literally horrible. It is filled with gruesome
details of murder and torture—Blinen b. 1916> many readers
find Keats’s Isabella too gruesome for enjoyment) Mac-
cabre may imply marked or excessive preoccupation with
the horrors especially of death (a macabre tale) weirdly
masked, macabre figures that in time became . . . the
hallmark of his painting—Coates> or it may come close to
ghastly in its implication of a hideous or horrifying
quality (in a macabre climax, a substantial portion of
Berlin was blown up by the Germans themselves—Wechs-
berg) Grim suggests a fierce and forbidding aspect
(should a murderer look, so dead, so grim—Shak.) (with
countenance grim glared on him passing—Milton> an
unused, airless attic, a place the reader soon begins to
think of as no less grim than a chamber of horrors—Stern>r>
the grim hows and not the difficult whys of battle—Mc-
Caren> Lurid comes into comparison with ghastly as
resembling to light or color; it suggests either a ghastly
talor or coloring reminiscent of death (death . . . pale as
yonder wan and horned moon, with lips of lurid blue—
Shelley> or more frequently a sinister and murky glow (he
colored the color of what was passing about him but mixed
with the lurid and portentous hue—Hawthorne)> no lurid
fire of hell or human passion illumines their scenes—
Eliot> Sometimes lurid differs little from gruesome except,
possibly, in its stronger suggestion of sensationalism
reporters who like to give all the lurid details of a catas-
trophe) the detective story may be described as lurid
rather than as mysterious
Ana deathly, *deadly: frightful, horrible, horrific, dread-
ful, *fearful, appalling: repellent, *repugnant: repulsive,
revolting, loathsome, *offensive
ghost spirit, specter, shade, *apparition, phantasm, phan-
tom, wraith, revenant
Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1

**giant adj** *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian
**gibber vb** prate, chatter, *chat, gab, patter, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber
**gibberish, mummary, hocus-pocus, abracadabra** are com-
parable as terms of contempt applied to something which
is in itself unintelligible or meaningless to the person con-
cerned. They are often used interchangeably but are not
true synonyms. Gibberish suggests language; it is applied
especially to inarticulate but expressive sounds or attempts
at speech (a baby’s gibberish) When applied to articulate
but unintelligible utterance it may imply a low-grade or
disordered intelligence in the speaker, or it may suggest
jargon. One or more of these implications is carried over
when the word is used to express contempt (I have often
warned you not to talk the court gibberish to me—
Fielding) (I’ve endured just about enough gibberish
about the modern woman, how she complicates her life,
has sacrificed her femininity and competes in a man’s world
—Mckuliffe> Mummery suggests not language but
actions uninterpreted by words (as in the old dumb
shows). As a term of derogation, however, it is applied
crassly to rites, proceedings, and performances which,
whether or not accompanied by words, appear theatrical
and ridiculous as well as meaningless to the observer (it
was hardly worthwhile for a Protestant to have stripped
off the mummeries of Rome in order to fall a victim to an
agile young man in a ten-foot mask—Graves> the mum-
meries and ceremonial of modern life—W. P. Webb) Hocus-
pocus suggests jugglery and incantations. Sometimes,
in its extended use, the stress is placed upon tricks intended
to mystify or confuse, sometimes upon empty but impres-
sive-sounding words (the potency of movies depends
upon the quality of their dramatic articulation, not upon
the working of hocus-pocus on the eyes—Crowther>
denounced dialectics—that curious heritage from Hegeli-
an philosophy which Marx adopted and adapted for his
own thought— as meaningless hocus-pocus—A. G. Meyer>
Abrasadabra basically applies to a magical formula or a
mystical figure and in extended use is applied chiefly to
discourse and implies not only its unintelligibility and
formulism but its complete unfitness for the ends it pro-
poses to achieve (psychology is either true knowledge
concerning the spiritual nature of man or it is moonshine
and abracadabra—Murry>
gibe vb *scoff, jeer, sneer, flout, gibe, gibe
Ana *ridicule, deride, mock, taunt, twit, rally
giddy, dizzy, vertiginous, swimming, dazzled are compara-
ble when meaning affected by or producing a sensation
of being whirled about or around and consequently con-
fused. Giddy and dizzy are often used interchangeably
with one another but giddy is sometimes preferred for
stressing the mental confusion which results and dizzy
for emphasizing the physical quality of the sensation (I
am giddy; expectation whirs me round. The imaginary
relish is so sweet that it enchants my sense—Shak.) (this
universe of astronomical whirligigs makes me a little
giddy—L. P. Smith> how fearful and dizzy ‘tis to cast
one’s eyes so low! The crows and thowgs that wing
the midway air show scarce so gross as beetles—Shak.) (with
my heart beating and my head quite dizzy—J. W. Car-
by) Both giddy and dizzy are also used in an extended
sense implying a lack of balance in persons or in things and,
usually, an undue lack of steadiness or seriousness
(giddy girls) (I got a bifocal slant on this world which
was now making me giddy with names, dates, legends—
Henry Miller> prices rising at a dizzy rate) (the dizzy
multitude—Milton> Vertiginous retains in its extended
uses much of the connotation implicit in its basic relation to vertigo; it may come close to dizzy in its suggestion of lack of steadiness and constancy (inconstant they are in all their actions), vertiginous, restless, unapt to resolve of any business—Burton (his vertiginous, and apparently unconscious, changes of subject make heavy going after a few pages—Corke) or may attract a dizzying effect to the thing qualified (events occur at vertiginous speed, whole civilizations are summed up in a few words, and long processes are reduced to a paragraph if not to a sentence—Krutch) (the delicious vertiginous sense of human destinies hanging by slender threads—R. W. Brown) or it may stress a confusing effect like that of vertigo (that vertiginous bewilderment which comes to creatures of mere routine when they face the unfamiliar—Cohen) (the reader . . . is inspired with the conviction that of these writers only Austin Dobson, James Russell Lowell, and Miss Godden were really sane, that the rest of them were either actually mendacious or possibly vertiginous—Yale Review)

Swimming is applied especially to the head—brain, or eyes of a person suffering from dizziness; when so used, it suggests the physical sensations of swift, unimpeded, yet uncontrollable movement (my head is swimming) (and slowly by his swimming eyes was seen a lovely female face—Byron) (she yielded, and was borne with swimming brain and airy joy, along the mountainside—Bridges) Dazzled applies to the physical, mental, or spiritual vision when overpowered and confused by or as if by a blinding light; it connotes, therefore, an effect suggestive of dizziness but without the sensation of being about to fall (the sun's rays tapered into a luminous cone . . . a hypnotizing focal point for dazzled eyes—Beebe) (one knew that the sun-dazzled summer world would soon open about one again—Edmund Wilson) (the solicitations of the dazzled swains of Cambria for the honor of the two first dances—Peacock) (dazzled by the prospect of a brilliant future)

Ana whirling, reeling (see reel): confusing, adding, fuddling, muddling (see confuse): bewildering, distracting, confounding, addling, vertiginous, dizzy (see vertigo vb): bewildering, distract—swimming . . . dizzy (see dizzy vb): dizzy, dizziness (see dizziness), dizzy (see vertigo vb)


gift n 1 Gift, present, gratuity, favor, boon, largess are comparable when they denote something, often of value but not necessarily material, given freely to another for his benefit or pleasure. Gift is the most inclusive term, but it is not interchangeable with some of the others, for apart from the context the term carries no hint of remuneration for something done or received and excludes all suggestion of return (a birthday gift) (a gift to a museum) (gifts to the poor) (I fear the Greeks bearing gifts) (every good gift and every perfect gift is from above—Jas 1:17)

Present is ordinarily applied to something tangible which is offered as a compliment or expression of goodwill (she used to define a present, "That it was a gift to a friend of something he wanted or was fond of, and which could not be easily gotten for money"—Swift) (flowers and fruits are always fit presents—Emerson) (little odd presents of game, fruits, perhaps wine—Lamb) Gratuity implies voluntary compensation, usually in money, for some service for which there is no fixed charge or for special attention or service over and beyond what is normally included in a charge (he distributed gratuities so generously that he received more attention than any other guest of the hotel) (pays five or six dollars for his dinner in a smart Mayfair club and then distributes another dollar or so in gratuities—Joseph) Favor applies to something given or granted to another as a token of one's affection, regard, or partiality or as an indulgence or concession. The term is often intentionally vague, especially when what is given is not a concrete thing (he said he did not deserve so many favors from his party) (queen's favors might be fatal gifts, but they were much more fatal to reject than to accept—Henry Adams) Concretely the term applies to various small things (as a ribbon, a cockade, or a lady's glove) given to a lover or admirer as a token or to some knockknack or other trifle given to guests (as at a wedding, a dance, or a party). Favor, rather than gift, is used in requests for something that can be had only from the person addressed (ask the favor of a prompt reply) (begging the favor of a copy of his beautiful book—Meredith) boon applies to any gift or favor either as petitioned for or prayed for as something much desired or needed yet not necessarily regarded as a right (high emperor, upon my feeble knee I beg this boon, with tears not lightly shed—Shak.) (if you mean to please any people, you must give them the boon which they ask—Burke) (I ask justice from you, and no boon—Sheridan) or as given gratuitously and bringing with it such benefits or advantages that it is regarded as a blessing or cause for gratitude (our forefathers have given us the boon of freedom) (the boon of free and unbought justice was a boon for all—J. R. Green) (Corinth was given certain boons, since it was a Julian colony, but Athens . . . was left to academic decay—Buchan) Largess is a somewhat pompous term for a bountiful gift (as of money or of food and drink) or a liberal gratuity; it usually suggests an ostentatious bestowal (the newly consecrated king bestowed largesses on all the heralds and minstrels) (contrasting his [Anthony's] meager bounty with the largess of Octavius—Buchan) dependent for her livelihood on the largess of a moody Danish lover—Jean Stafford)

Ana *donation, benefaction, contribution, alms

2 Gift, faculty, aptitude, genius, talent, knack, bent, turn are comparable when they mean a special ability or a capacity for a definite kind of activity or achievement. Gift applies not only to an ability but also to a quality; it suggests an origin not easily explainable by natural laws and often implies that the recipient is favored by God, by nature, or by fortune. It is, therefore, precisely applied to an innate ability, capacity, or quality, especially to one not commonly found and not possible of acquirement (a gift of humor) (she has a real gift for arranging flowers—Wharton) (men have always reverenced prodigious inborn gifts, and always will—Eliot) (an artist is the sort of artist he is, because he happens to possess certain gifts—Huxley) Faculty (see also power 2) applies to either an innate or acquired ability or capacity; it does not apart from the context impute an extraordinary value or rarity to that power, but it does usually imply distinction or distinctiveness in its quality and skill or facility in its exercise (he had not that faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements—Dickens) (she seemed to have lost her faculty of discrimination; her power of easily and graciously keeping everyone in his proper place—Cather) Aptitude usually implies a natural liking and taste for a particular activity or pursuit as well as a native capacity for it and the ability to master its details or technique (there are all sorts of people today who write from all sorts of motives other than a genuine aptitude for writing—Ellis) (at fourteen education should begin to be more or less specialized, according to the tastes and aptitudes of the pupil—Russell) Genius, when it applies to ability or capacity rather than to a person who possesses that ability or capacity, suggests an inborn gift of impressive character or a combination of such gifts. Further than this the implications of the term are various and shifting, for the word is tied up in use with psychological, aesthetic, and critical explanations of the nature of genius; however, the
word often retains its original implication of a controlling spirit and may denote an inner driving energy which compels utterance or performance, often of a lofty or transcendent quality (the claim to possess a style must be conceded to many writers—Carlyle is one—who take no care to put listeners at their ease, but rely rather on native force of genius to shock and astonish—Quiller-Couch) (in the contemporary novel genius is hard to find, talent is abundant—Brit. Book News) The word is often employed in current English in the sense of gift, usually with a connotation of transcendence or of uniqueness (she made her drawing room a sort of meeting place; she had a genius for it—Woolf) (Mr. G. K. Chesterton has a genius for saying new and surprising things about old subjects—Huxley) In ironic use the connotation of transcendence is especially strong, but that of supreme unawareness is also usually evident (he has a genius for ineptness of remark) (the genius for illogicality of the English people—Inge)

Talent comes very close in its meaning to gift when the latter term denotes a native capacity or an innate ability. Talent, however, often carries the implication, derived from the Scriptural parable of the servants’ use of the talents (pieces of money) entrusted them by their master, that the gift is a trust and that its possessor has an obligation to develop it and put it to profitable use (it is quite probable that many . . . who would make the best doctors are too poor to take the course. This involves a deplorable waste of talent—Russell) (was he to leave such talents lying idle (and that after chafing for eight years to employ them)?—Bellow) This basic implication in talent has led inevitably to another implication: that the gift is under the control of its possessor because its proper exercise depends on industry and the acquirement of necessary knowledge and skill.

Talent is sometimes opposed to genius in the most exalted sense of that word as a lesser kind of power, capable of development through study and industry, completely under the control of the will, and tending to facilitate, agreeable, and effective, rather than exalted, performance or utterance (while talent gives the notion of power in a man’s performance, genius gives rather the notion of felicity and perfection in it—Arnold) (to achieve conspicuous mundane success in literature, a certain degree of good fortune is almost more important than genius, or even than talent—Benson) Knack stresses ease and dexterity in performance, though it usually implies an aptitude (she has, certainly, something of a knack at characters—Bunyan) (an uncommon knack in Latin verse—Eliot) (improvisation was his knack and forte; he wrote rapidly and much—sometimes an entire novel in a month—Van Doren)

Bent usually implies a natural inclination or taste; it often carries the same implications as aptitude and is sometimes preferred in general use because of technical use of aptitude in educational psychology (it doesn’t seem to me that you’ve shown any great bent towards a scholastic life—Archibald Marshall) (the bent thus revealed for precise observation and classification—Babbitt) Turn not only implies a bent but its actual proof in performance and often suggests skill or proficiency (he had a turn for mechanics; had invented a plow in his district, had ordered wheelbarrows from England—Woolf) (must possess . . . artistic sensibility and a turn for clear thinking—Clive Bell)

Ana

Prodigious, stupendous, tremendous, monstrous, monumental

Gigantic, gigantean huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
spontaneous flow of good spirits either as a result of feeling glad or happy or as a result of an equable disposition or of a naturally sanguine temperament (suicidal thoughts... could not enter the cheerful, sanguine, courageous scheme of life, which was in part natural to her and in part slowly built up—Ellis) (time went by as we drank and talked in a world that was rosy, cheerful, and full of fellowship and peace on earth—Hammett) Lighthearted stresses freedom from care, worry, and discontent. Since it also implies high spirits, vivacity, or gaiety, it commonly suggests in addition youth or an easygoing and somewhat volatile temperament (he whistles as he goes, lighthearted, wretched, cold and yet cheerful—Cowper) (why, man, I was lighthearted in my prime, I am lighthearted now; what would you have?—Browning) Joyful and joyous imply keen gladness or happiness with resulting elation; they are often used as though they were equivalent terms. However, joyful usually suggests a mood or an emotional reaction to an event or situation, and it implies rejoicing (in the day of prosperity be joyful—Eccles 7:14) (and joyful nations join in leagues of peace—Pope) (a joyful countenance) (a bright and happy Christian, a romping optimist who laughed away sin and doubt, a joyful puritan—Sinclair Lewis) Joyous, on the other hand, applies more to something which by its nature or character is filled with joy or is a cause of joy (all that ever was joyous, and clear, and fresh, thy music doth surpass—Shelley) (the happy and joyous temper, which characterizes a fresh and confident spirit—Inge) (that joyous serenity we think belongs to something which by its nature is filled with a better world than this—Sir Winston Churchill)

Ana pleased, delighted, gratified, tickled, rejoiced (see please): blithe, jocund, *merry, jolly, jovial: gleeful, mirthful, hilarious (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH)

Ant sad —Con depressed, dejected, melancholy (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS)

gladden delight, rejoice, *please, gratify, tickle, regale

Ana *comfort, console, solace: enliven, animate, *quicken, vivify

Ant sadden —Con *depress, weigh, oppress: vex, irk, *annoy, bother

glance n glimpse, peep, peer, *look, sight, view

Con scrutiny, examination, inspection (see under SCRUTINIZE): contemplation, studying or study, consideration (see corresponding verbs at CONSIDER)

glare vb 1 glow, flare, *blaze, flame

Ana *flash, gleam, glitter, glisten, scintillate, coruscate, twinkle

2 stare, peer, gloat, gape, *gaze

Ana glower, lower, scowl, *frown

glare n flare, glow, blaze, flame (see under BLAZE vb)

Ana effulgence, refulgence, radiance, brilliance (see corresponding adjectives at BRIGHT): glittering or glitter, sparkling or spark, flashing or flash (see FLASH vb)

glaring adj *flagrant, gross, rank

Ana *noticeable, conspicuous, outstanding: obtrusive (see IMPERTINENT): extreme, *excessive, inordinate

glaze n gloss, sheen, *lustre

glaze vb *flash, glance, glint, sparkle, glitter, glisten, scintillate, coruscate, twinkle

glean *reap, gather, garner, harvest

Ana pick (see CHOOSE): *strip, divest
glee *mirth, jovity, hilarity

Ana delight, joy, *pleasure, enjoyment, delectation: merriment, jocundity, blitheness, joviality (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY): gladness, happiness, cheerfulness, joyfulness, joyousness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD)

Ant gloom —Con *sadness, dejection, depression, melancholy, blues, dumps

glib 1 fluent, voluble, *vocal, articulate, eloquent

Ana garrulous, loquacious, voluble, *talkative: facile, smooth, effortless, *easy

Con hesitant, hesitating (see corresponding nouns at HESITATION): stammering, stuttering (see STAMMER vb): deliberate, leisurely (see SLOW)

2 *talkative, loquacious, garrulous, voluble

glibness talkativeness, loquacity, garrulity, volubility (see under TALKATIVE)

glide vb *slide, slip, skid, glissade, slither, coast, toboggan

Ana float, *fly, skim, scud, sail, shoot

glimpse n glance, peep, peer, *look, sight, view

Con surveying or survey, observing or observation, contemplating or contemplation (see corresponding verbs at SEE): scrutiny, examination, inspection (see under SCRUTINIZE)

glint vb glance, gleam, *flash, sparkle, glitter, glisten, scintillate, coruscate, twinkle

glissade vb glide, *slide, slip, skid, slither, coast, toboggan

glister vb glint, *flash, gleam, glance, glisten, scintillate, coruscate, twinkle

gloat *gaze, gape, stare, glare, peer

Ana envy, *covet, grudge, begrudge

gloom vb lower, glover, *frown, scowl

Con *threaten, menace

gloom n dejection, depression, melancholy, melancholia, *sadness, blues, dumps

Ana despondency, forlornness, hopelessness, despair, desperation (see under DESPONDENT)

Ant glee —Con *mirth, jollity, hilarity: cheerfulness, gladness, happiness, joyousness, joyousness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD)

glumly 1 murky, obscure, *dark, dim, dusky

Ant brilliant (with reference to illumination) —Con *bright, effulgent, radiant, luminous: illuminated, lighted, lightened (see ILLUMINATE)

2 glum, *sullen, morose, satirune, dour, surly, sulky, crabbled

Ana depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS)

Ant cheerful —Con joyful, joyous, happy, *glad, light-hearted: *merry, blithe, jocund, jovial

glorify *dignify, ennoble, honor

Ana extol, laud, acclaim (see PRAISE): *exalt, magnify

glorious *splendid, resplendent, sublime, superb, gorgeous

Ana radiant, brilliant, effulgent, lustrous (see BRIGHT): transcendent, superlative, surpassing, peerless, *supreme: illustrious, renowned, eminent (see FAMOUS)

Ant inglorious

glory n renown, honor, celebrity, *fame, éclat, reputation, repute, notoriety

Ant ignominy, shame —Con *disgrace, infamy, dishonor, disrepute, obloquy, odium

gloss n sheen, *lustre, glaze

Ana sleekness, slickness, glossiness (see corresponding adjectives at SLICK)

gloss vb glaze, *palliate, extenuate, whitewash, whiten

Ana disguise, cloak, mask, disguise, camouflage: rationalize, account, justify, *explain

gloss n annotation (see under ANNOTATE)

Ana commentary, comment, note, *remark, observation

gloss vb *annotate

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

*Analogous Words*
- sleek, slick, velvety, silken, satiny

*Antonyms*
- *translucent*

*Contrasted Words*
- *translucent*

**good**

*Analogous Words*
- joyous, pleasant, agreeable, pleasant, benign

*Antonyms*
- evil, bad, wicked, foul, mean

*Contrasted Words*
- *bad*
**good-looking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>good-looking</th>
<th>378</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
passing, he will be sure to blab, and it will be all over the town in no time—Conrad} <confessions made to him are . . . rarely blabbed—Morley> {Tattle sometimes is more closely akin to gossip, sometimes to blab, or it may combine the implications of the two. It suggests loose and loquacious gossip, or unsolicited revelation to one having power of discipline or punishment of some trivial misdeed on the part of another, or blabbing gossip that is usually a betrayal of confidence {Mary always tattled to the teacher when a classmate threw a spitball} <so that no discovery . . . might be made by any tattling amongst the servants—Hook>

gourmand glutton, gastronome, bon vivant, *epicure, gourment glutton
gourmet *epicure, bon vivant, gastronome, gourmand, glutton
govern, rule are comparable when they mean to exercise power or authority in controlling or directing another or others, often specifically those persons who comprise a state or nation. Govern may imply power, whether despotic or constitutional, or authority, whether assumed by force, acquired by inheritance or through election, or granted by due processes of law, but it usually connotes as its end the keeping of the one or ones directed or controlled in a straight course or in smooth operation, where perils are avoided and the good of the individual or of the whole is achieved {parents who cannot govern their children} <govern one's emotions> <every prince should govern as he would desire to be governed if he were a subject—Temple> {the [Roman] Senate was more than a modern constitutional monarch, reigning and not governing; it had a substantial amount of governing to its share—Buchan} <formulating the principles which should govern the creation of proletarian literature—Glicksberg> {as Matthew Arnold pointed out . . . educated mankind is governed by two passions—one the passion for pure knowledge, the other the passion for being of service or doing good—Eliot> {Rule is not always clearly distinguished from govern} <the territory is ruled by a high commissioner—Americana Annual> {Often it implies the power to lay down laws which shall determine the action of others or to issue commands which must be obeyed; it therefore commonly suggests the exercise of arbitrary power and is not ordinarily used of one that exercises authority over the people as an elected official {resolved to ruin or to rule the state—Dryden} <the country is ruled but not governed; there is little administration and much lawlessness—Pucke} <it's damnable to have to hurt the people we love—but, after all, we can't let our parents rule our lives—Rose Macaulay>

Ana *conduct, direct, control, manage; *restrain, curb, inhibit

Grab vb grasp, clutch, *take, seize, snatch
Ana *catch, capture

Grace n 1 *mercy, clemency, lenity, charity
Ana kindnessliness, kindness, benignity, benevollency (see corresponding adjectives at kind): tenderness, compassionateness, responsiveness (see corresponding adjectives at tender): indulgence, forbearance, leniency (see under forbearing)

2 *elegance, dignity
Ana lovely, beautifulness or beauty, fairness, comeliness (see corresponding adjectives at beautiful), suppleness, liteness, lisomeness, lissomeness (see corresponding adjectives at supple): attractiveness, alluringness or allurement, charminess or charm (see corresponding adjectives under attrac)

Gracious, cordial, affable, genial, sociable are used to describe persons or their words or acts who or which are markedly pleasant and easy in social intercourse. Gracious implies kindliness and courtesy especially to inferiors. When it carries the latter implication, it more often suggests kindly consideration than condescension {gracious to everyone, but known to a very few—Cather} <heartened by her gracious reception of a nervous bow—Shaw> {cordial stresses warmth and heartiness} <a cordial welcome> <a cordial handshake> <be on cordial terms> <they gave us a cordial reception, and a hearty supper—Melville> {affable implies approachiability and readiness to talk in the person conversed with or addressed; when applied to a social superior, it sometimes connotes condescending familiarity but more often a gracious willingness to be friendly {I don't find . . . that his wealth has made him arrogant and inaccessible; on the contrary, he takes great pains to appear affable and gracious—Smollett} <his father was an excellent man . . . his son will be just like him—just as affable to the poor—Austen} <easy of approach and affable in conversation. They seldom put on airs—Maugham> {Genial} sometimes emphasizes cheerfulness and even joviality. Often, however, it stresses qualities that make for good cheer among companions (as warm human sympathy and a fine sense of humor) {a genial host} <he was neither fanatic and nor ascetic. He was genial, social, even convivial—Goldwin Smith> {sociable implies a genuine liking for the companionship of others and readiness to engage in social intercourse even with strangers or inferiors} {was genial and sociable, approachable at all times and fond of social intercourse—Reeves} {ana obligeing, complaisant, *amiable: benignant, benign, kindly, *kind: courteous, courtly, chivalrous (see civil) {ant ungracious—Con churlish, boorish (see under boor): brusque, curt, crusty, blunt, gruff (see bluff): surly, crabbed, *sullen

Gratitude n 1 class, grade, rank, rate, graduate

Gradation, shade, nuance are comparable when they mean the difference or variation between two things that are nearly alike. Gradation in the singular implies a small difference or variation of this kind, but the term is used more frequently in the plural, so that it usually implies the successive steps by which a thing passes from one type or kind into something else of a different type or kind; thus, if we take the primary colors of the spectrum as blue, yellow, and red, the gradations between these are not the colors green, orange, purple, which are clearly seen, but all of the intermediate colors by which blue gradually passes into green, and green into yellow, and yellow into orange, and so on; therefore the word is often modified by some adjective (as sensible, apparent, perceptible, or imperceptible) {the gradations between prose and verse are fine but perceptible} <by insensible gradations shae becomes slate> <by imperceptible gradations her love was transformed into pity> {shade} implies a minute or barely perceptible degree of difference (as in thought, belief, meaning, or position) {every shade of religious and political opinion—Macaulay} <discover fine shades of meaning in synonyms> Shade is also often used adverbially in this sense with comparatives of adjectives or adverbs to imply a degree of difference that is barely noticeable {he drew his chair a shade nearer} <his second attempt was a shade better than his first> {nuance}, though often interchangeable with shade, tends to stress even more the slightness or delicacy of the difference (as between musical tones, tints of color, or feelings) {I . . . think that there is a shade, a nuance of expression . . . which does imply this; but, I confess, the only person who can really settle such a question is M.
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
concession ought to be—Burke> (as an instrument of mind-training, and even of liberal education, it [science] seems to me to have a far higher value than is usually conceded to it by humanists—Inge> (even his harshest critics concede him a rocklike integrity—Time>) One vouchsafes something prayed for, begged for, or expected as a courtesy, when one grants it to a person inferior in dignity or station. The word is often found in supplications where it implies humility in the suppliant <vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin—Book of Common Prayer>) Often it is ironical and then usually suggests absurd condescension <he vouchsafed no reply to our question> (the occasional answers that Stalin used to vouchsafe to inquiries from American correspondents—Davis>) One accords to something another admittedly his due or in keeping with his character or status <he treated bishops with the superficial deference that a sergeant major accords to a junior subaltern—Mackenzie>) <children . . . will readily accord to others what others accord to them—Russell>) One awards something that is deserved or merited; the word usually implies determination by legal adjudication or by judges in a contest or competition <the plaintiff was awarded heavy damages> (awards a prize for the best story—this victory was duly acclaimed by Senate and People; he was given the title of Imperator and awarded a triumph—Buchan>)

2 Grant, concede, allow are comparable when they are used to admit something in question, especially a point or contention of one's opponent in an argument. Grant usually implies voluntary acceptance in advance of proof in order to clarify the issues or to center attention on what are regarded as the main issues <I grant there is no obvious motive> (let us take his goodwill for granted>) (the consistency of arithmetic being granted, that of projective geometry follows—Sawyer>) Concede implies reluctant acceptance either before or after proofs have been advanced; it usually suggests the strength of the opponent's contention <he was unwilling to concede the supremacy of any group> (still less does he concede that the British have any claim to the gratitude of the inhabitants—Michael Clark>) Allow implies acceptance, but usually a somewhat qualified acceptance; it often suggests admission on the ground of apparent truth, logical validity, or reasonableness <even Wickham had allowed him merit as a brother—Austen>) (if one allows that it is impossible to define God in intelligible terms, then one is allowing that it is impossible for a sentence both to be significant and to be about God—Ayer>) (allowing that Harding was her first lover—S. H. Adams>)

Ana admit, *acknowledge: *agree, concur, coincide
grant *appropriation, subvention, subsidy
*donation, benefaction, contribution

graph *chart, map
Ana plot, scheme, design, *plan: diagram, outline, sketch (see under sketch vb)

graphic *chart, map (see under chart n)
Ana see those at graph n

graphic, vivid, picturesque, pictorial are comparable when they mean having or manifesting a quality or character that produces a strong, clear impression, especially a visual impression. All of these words apply particularly but not exclusively to works of art and especially of literature. Something graphic has the power to evoke a strikingly clear-cut, lifelike picture; the term categorizes such arts as painting, drawing, engraving, and etching (the graphic arts), the object of each of which is to present a picture, but it is also meaningfully applied to a representation of things in words (a graphic description of the face of a young Hindu at the sight of castor oil—Darwin>) (it is also one of the best-written works on the subject, enlivened by a keen sense of humor and a witty and graphic style—Ullmann>) Something vivid is so vigorously alive that it is felt, seen, heard, or otherwise apprehended with a sense of its intense reality. The term may apply to what actually exists and impresses itself with such sharp force on the imagination that the memory retains the sight, sound, or other impression (a vivid sensation of fear) (figures so vivid that they seem to breathe and speak before us—L. P. Smith>) (how sights fix themselves upon the mind! For example, the vivid green moss—Wood>) The term may also apply to a mental state or process of which one is oneself intensely aware (Ripon awoke . . . to the vivid consciousness of hunger—Meredith>) (my sense of right or wrong—of individual responsibility—was more vivid than at any other period of my life—Hudson>) (those for whom the belief in immortality is most vivid—Krutch>) or which defines its content clearly and sharply (a man of wide and vivid interests—Russell>) (a vivid realization of approaching danger) (all three had kept a vivid . . . conception . . . of what they believed to be the future—Harton>) Frequently the term applies to whatever represents itself or one's imaginative conceptions (as a picture, or a play, or a story) or to matters (as style, colors, language, or situations) which are involved in such a representation; then the implication is of a power, either in the representation itself or in the means of representation, to evoke clearly defined pictures and to give a strong sense of their distinct quality and of their living force (moving pictures are only less vivid than reflections from a mirror—Justice Holmes>) (in his odes, with their thunder of place-names, he [Horace] makes vivid the territorial immensity of the empire—Buchan>) Something picturesque has, in general, the qualities or the character which one believes essential to a striking or effective picture. The term is applicable to a place, a person, or a building or other construction (a picturesque costume—Scott's Meg Merrilies is a picturesque character) (a picturesque ruin) as well as to a work of graphic, literary, or plastic art (a picturesque landscape) (picturesque details) and to a style or manner (as in writing or painting) (the picturesque force of his style—Hawthorne>) and it carries in every use an implication that the thing has been observed and judged with regard for its form, color, atmosphere, striking or unfamiliar detail, or sharp contrasts rather than for qualities which are not perceptible to the eye or that do not draw the eye because they are lacking in distinctness and charm. Sometimes picturesque specifically implies a kind of wild, rugged beauty associated with untouched or undiscovered nature or with things being reclaimed by nature (wide prospects of startling beauty, rugged mountains, steep gorges, great falls of water—all the things that are sup- posed to be picturesque—Benson>) (a venerable family mansion, in a highly picturesque state of semidegradation—Peacock>) In still other contexts the term implies a charm arising rather from remoteness, strangeness, quaintness, informality, or diversity (though the upper part of Durnover was mainly composed of a curious congeries of barns and farmsteads, there was a less picturesque side to the parish—Hardy>) (the Square is rather picturesque, but it's such a poor, poor little thing!—Bennett>) (the most picturesque Mediterranean craft, with colored sails and lazy evolutions—Brownell>) Sometimes pictorial presents or aims to present a vivid picture; thus, the pictorial arts are the same as the graphic arts, but the emphasis is upon the objective rather than upon the medium; a pictorial style of poetry uses words as though they were

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
colors or pigments by which a vivid representation is produced (she has evidently been very anxious to maintain the tradition of picturesqueness in biography that Strachey founded, and in many places is more than picturesque, is in fact pictorial—Times Lit. Sup.) <he made pictorial drama out of the most commonplace intimacies of French bourgeois home life—Soby>

**Ana lucid, perspicuous, *clear: clear-cut, *incisive:** telling, convincing, compelling, cogent (see VALID)

**grapple** vb *wrestle, tussle, scuffle

**Ana battle, fight, *content:** vie, compete (see RIVAL): oppose, combat, *resist

**grasp** vb *clutch, grab, seize, *take, snatch

**Ana *catch, capture: apprehend, *arrest: apprehend, comprehend

**grasp** n *hold, grip, clutch

**Ana control, *power: sway, comprehension, understanding, appreciation (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND)

**grasping** greedy, avaricious, acquisitive, *covetous

**Ana rapacious, ravening, ravenous (see VORACIOUS):** extorting or extortionate (see corresponding verb at EDUCES)

**grate** vb *scrape, scratch, rasp, grind

**Ana *abrade, chafe, gall: harass, annoy, harry (see WORRY):* offend, outrage: exasperate, *irritate

**grateful** 1 **Grateful, thankful** both mean feeling or expressing one's gratitude. Grateful is more commonly employed to express a proper sense of favors received from another person or other persons <a grateful child> <a grateful recipient of charity> <the Queen herself, grateful to Prince Gration for service done—Tennyson> Thankful is often employed by preference to express one's acknowledgment of divine favor or of what is vaguely felt to be providential <for what we are about to receive make us truly thankful> <it was really the Lord's Day, for he made his creatures happy in it, and their hearts were thankful—Landor> (I am endlessly thankful that I was among the last persons to see the original Rheims intact—Ellis)

**Ana appreciating or appreciative, valuing, prize, cherishing (see corresponding verbs at APPRECIATE): gratified, pleased, delighted (see PLEASE): satisfied, contented (see under SATISFY)

**Ant ungrateful**

2 **agreeable, gratifying, *pleasant, pleasing, welcome

Ana comforting, consoling, solacing (see COMFORT vb): refreshing, restoring or restorative, renewing, rejuvenating (see corresponding verbs at RENEW): delicious, *delightful, delectable

**Ana connubious—Con distasteful, abhorrent, *repugnant, repellant

**gratify** *please, delight, rejoice, gladden, tickle, regale

**Ana content, *satisfy: indulge, humor, pamper

**Ant anger: offend, affront (by inattention): disappoint (desires, hopes)

**Gratifying** grateful, agreeable, pleasing, welcome, *pleasant

**Ana satisfying, contenting (see SATISFY): delighting, rejoicing, gladdening, regaling (see PLEASE)

**Con distasteful, obnoxious, invidious, repellent, *repugnant: offensive, revolting

**gratuitous** *supererogatory, uncalled-for, wanton

**Ana *voluntary, willing: unrecompensed, unremunerated (see corresponding affirmative verbs at PAY): unprovoked, unexecuted (see affirmative verbs at PROVOKE): unjustified, unwarranted (see affirmative verbs at JUSTIFY)

**gratuity** *gift, largess, boon, favor, present

**grave** adj solemn, somber, sedate, sober, *serious, earnest, staid

**Ana austere, stern, ascetic, *severe: saturnine, dour (see SULLEN)

**Ant gay—Con light, light-minded, frivolous, flirty, flippant, volatile (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS): *vain, idle, otiose, nugatory, empty, hollow

**graze** vb *pasture, *feed, nourish

**graze** vb *brush, glance, shave, skim

**Ana touch, contact (see corresponding nouns at CONTACT): *injure, hurt, harm: *deface, disfigure: wound, bruise, contuse (see corresponding nouns at WOUND)

**grease** vb lubricate, anoint, *oil, cream

**great** *large, big

**Ana enormous, immense, *huge, mammoth: tremendous, prodigious, stupendous, monumental, *monstrous: eminent, illustrious, renowned (see FAMOUS): *supreme, superlative, surpassing, transcendent

**Ant little—Con *small, diminutive: *petty, paltry, puny, trivial, trifling, measly

**greatly** *largely, mostly, chiefly, mainly, principally, generally

**greed** *cupidity, rapacity, avarice

**Ana greediness, covetousness, avariciousness, acquisitiveness (see corresponding adjectives at COVETOUS): voraciousness, ravenousness, rapaciousness, gluttonousness or gluttony (see corresponding adjectives at VORACIOUS)

**Con prodigality, lavishness, exuberance (see corresponding adjectives at PROFUSE): bountifulness, bounteousness, openhandedness, munificence, generousness or generosity, liberality (see corresponding adjectives at LIBERAL)

**greedy** *covetous, acquisitive, grasping, avaricious

**Ana rapacious, ravening, ravenous, *voracious, gluttonous: *stingy, parsimonious, miserly, close, closefisted

**Con bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, generous, *liberal, munificent: prodigal, lavish, exuberant, *profuse

**green** adj callow, raw, crude, *rude, rough, uncouth

**Ant experienced: seasoned—Con grown-up, ripe, matured, *mature: trained, instructed, educated (see TEACH): *proficient, skilled, skillful

**greet** salute, hail, *address, accost

**greeting, salutation, salute** denote the ceremonial words or acts of one who meets, welcomes, or formally addresses another. Greeting is the ordinary term which carries no suggestion of formality and no implication of inferiority in the one who greets or of superiority in the one who is greeted. On the contrary, the term usually suggests friendliness or goodwill or lack of concern for social or official inequalities (O, to what purpose dost thou hoard thy words, that thou return'st no greeting to thy friends?—Shak.) <why we meet on the bridge of Time to change one greeting and to part?—R. F. Burton> Salutation applies to a more or less formal phrase, gesture, or ceremonial act whereby one greets another; specifically it applies to such phrases as the conventional "How do you do" or the familiar "Hello," or to the words of a letter with which the writer first directly addresses his correspondent, or to such acts as a kiss, an embrace, or a bow. Salute is the only one of these words that applies only to gestures determined by convention or to ceremonial acts: though it seldom applies to a speech, it may be used when to the gesture or act a word or two is added (waved a salute to the friends awaiting his arrival) <the presidential salute of twenty-one guns> <the officer returned his subordinate's salute> <Sir Austin bent forward, and put his lips to her forehead. Carola received the salute with the stolidity of a naughty doll—Meredith>

**gregarious** *social, cooperative, convivial, companionable, hospitable

**grief** *sorrow, anguish, woe, heartache, heartbreak,
grim 1 Grim, implacable, relentless, unrelenting, merciless

mourn, sorrow mean to feel or express one's grief, grievance

Ana rejoice

Ant lenient

one to relent and to restrain through compassion the fury or violence of one's rage, hatred, hostility, or vengeance<br>

Merciless differs from relentless and unrelenting mainly in stressing an innate capacity for inflicting cruelty without qualms or an unparalleled fierceness or savagery; otherwise it carries much the same implications (a merciless whipping)<br>

lament, lamentation, bewailing, bemoaning, deploring<br>

(See corresponding verbs at DEPLORE)<br>

Con comforting or comfort, solacing or solace, consolation<br>

(See corresponding verbs at COMFORT)<br>

grievance wrong, *injustice, injury

Ana hardship, rigor (see DIFFICULTY): *trial, tribulation, affliction, cross<br>

Ant analogous words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
comical, comic, droll (see laughable)

**ground n** 1 *base, basis, foundation, groundwork
*Ana* *background, backdrop
2 *reason, argument, proof
*Ana* *evidence, testimony: determinant, *cause, antecedent, demonstration, proof, trial, test (see under **prove**)
3 In plural form **grounds** *deposit, precipitate, sediment, dregs, lees

**ground vb** *base, found, bottom, stay, rest
*Ana* establish, fix, settle, *set: *implant: sustain, *support, buttress

**groundless** *baseless, unfounded, unwarranted
*Ana* unsupported, unsustained (see corresponding affirmative verbs at **support**)

**groundwork** foundation, basis, ground, *base
*Ant* superstructure

**group n** Group, cluster, bunch, parcel, lot mean a collection or assemblage of persons or of things. Group implies some unifying relationship, however tenuous (as a similarity of activity, of purpose, or of nature), and ordinarily a degree of physical closeness (*a group waiting for the bus*) (*the group of workers unloading the cargo*) (*a group of partisans*) (*a group of soldiers in the picture*) (*can man only make progress in cooperative groups—Bagehot*) (*a group of statues in the museum*) (*a group of islands*) (*an ethnic group*)

Cluster basically refers to a group of things (as fruits or flowers) growing closely together (*a cluster of grapes*) (*climbing roses producing clusters of flowers*)

In extended use the term may be applied to persons or things that form distinguishable groups and especially smaller groups within larger masses (*the people at the reception gathered in clusters*) (*clusters of small yachts in the harbor*) (*cATALOGING THE CLUSTERS OF STARS*) (*Clem Henry's house was in a cluster of Negro cabins below Arch's big house—Caldwell*) (*Bunch* (see also **bundle**) often replaces **cluster** in referring to natural groups of certain edible fruits (as grapes or bananas). In its extended use it implies a natural or homogeneous association of like persons or things and carries a weaker implication of a common origin or point of growth than **cluster** usually does (*Clark is by far the best swimmer of the bunch*) (*a bunch of keys*) (*girls with bunches of streamers which they flicked in your face as you passed—Bennett*) (*a piece about a bunch of hillbillies in the South, each one almost precisely as crazy and lovable as the next—Gibbs*)

**Parcel** and **lot** refer to a separate or detached collection of persons or things. **Parcel** in this sense (see also **part, bundle**) usually carries some implication of disapproval of the thing so grouped (*a parcel of lies*) (*became merely a . . . parcel of tricks—Binyon*) (*lessons to a parcel of young girls thumping out scales with their thick fingers—Galsworthy*)

**Lot** applies to persons or things that are associated or should for one reason or another be thought of or treated as a whole (*the auctioneer sold the books in lots*) (*the men in this battalion are an interesting lot*) (*the future generation of scientists will be a sorry lot if the best teachers leave the academic circles—Rabi*) (*till you have read a good lot of the Fathers—Keble*) (*I could ignore the fuzzy doings on the screen, knowing that if you have slept through one you've slept through the lot—Malcolm*)

When the plural is used, the idea of grouping is lost or obscured and the implication of numbers or quantity increases (*I have lots of time for that*) (*there were lots and lots of children there*)

*Ana* *company, party, band, troop, troupe: set, circle, coterie, clique: *crowd, mob, horde

**grovel** *wallow, welter
*Ana* *fawn, cringe, cower, toady, trucule: crawl, *creep;

**growl** *bark, bay, howl, snarl, yelp, yap
*Ana* *threaten, menace: *irritate

**grown-up** adult, *mature, matured, ripe, mellow
*Ant* childish: callow

**grub** *dig, delve, spade, excavate

**grudge vb** begrudge, envy, *covet
*Ana* *deny: refuse (see **decline**

**grudge n** *malice, ill will, malevolence, spite, despite, malignity, malignancy, spleen
*Ana* disanimus, antipathy, animosity, rancor (see **enmity**): *hate, hatred: grievance, *injustice, injury

**gruesome** macabre, *ghastly, grisly, grim, lurid

**Ana** daunting, appalling, horrifying (see **dismay vb**): horrendous, horrific, *horrible: baseball, *sinister

**gruff** crusty, brusque, blunt, curt, *bluff
*Ana* surly, morose, *sullen, saturnine, crabbed, dour: churlish, boorish (see under **boor**): truculent, *fierce
*Con* *suave, urbane, bland, smooth: unctuous, oily, slick, soap, *fusible

**guarantee n** Guarantee, guaranty, surety, security, bond, bail are comparable when they mean either something that is given or pledged as assurance of one's responsibility (as for the payment of a debt, the fulfillment of a promise or obligation, or the performance of a duty) or the person who accepts such responsibility and gives or pledges something by way of assurance. **Guarantee** and **guaranty** generally imply acceptance and especially contractual acceptance of this responsibility for another in case of his default; they may, however, imply an agreement to ensure for another the possession or enjoyment of a right, privilege, or prerogative. The words may be used interchangeably not only of something given as a pledge or guarantee of the person making the pledge but also of the contract or promise accepting the responsibility or obligation. In idiomatic use, however, they are often distinguished, **guarantee** being more often applied to the person and **guaranty** the preferred term for the contract or promise; either word is acceptable as a designation for what is given or pledged (*stand guarantee*) (*the small nations begged for guarantees against invasion*) (*his parents gave a guarantee for his good behavior*) (*he even threatened the King of England with interdict, if, as guarantee of the treaty, he should enforce its forfeiture—Milman*)

Many laws which it would be vain to ask the Court to overthrow could be shown, easily enough, to transgress a scholastic interpretation of one or another of the great guarantees in the Bill of Rights—Justice Holmes) **Surety** and security stress provision for the protection of a person who is in a position to lose by the default of another. Both words are employable as designating either the person who accepts the responsibility or the money or property turned over to be forfeited in case of default. However, **surety** is the usual term for the person or corporation that serves as guarantee or guarantor for another, and security for the money, property, or certificates of ownership turned over to a creditor, beneficiary, or obligee or hypothecated for a loan and forfeitable in the case of one's own or another's default (*every employee handling money is obliged to find a surety*) (*a contractor provides a surety (as an insurance corporation) for his performance of a job according to the terms of the contract, but he gives security to the bank that loans him money to begin the job*) (*unsureg debts are those for which no security has been given to the creditors*) Though **guarantee** and **surety** usually imply a legal status and documentary proof of that status, they are also subject to more general use in which no such proof is implied, and they come close to **certainty** or **assurance** in
meaning <devoted exclusively to clocks, watches, and the
telling of time . . . a museum has a virtual guarantee of
popularity—Kirby> <modern men have the additional
surety of Christ the mediator—Bush> Bond implies docu-
mentary proof of one's acceptance of an obligation and a
legally binding promise to repay the holder of that docu-
ment a sum of money due him on one's own account or in
case of the default of another for whom one serves as
surety. Bond, therefore, is used either of the document
which is given as a pledge <government bonds> <give a
bond as proof of one's suretyship> <his word is as good
as his bond> or for the person or corporation that serves
as a legally bound surety <go bond for another> <the King
of England shall be bond for him—Pepys> Bail implies
responsibility for the sure reappearance, at the time pre-
scribed by the court, of a prisoner who has been released
from jail pending his trial. The term is applicable to the
security given and forfeitable if the prisoner does not return
<the court asked $5000 as bail> <the prisoner was not
released because the bail was not forthcoming> or to the
person serving as surety and providing the security
<sirrah, call in my sons to be my bail—Shak.> <his bail
produced him in court at the appointed time> or to the
state of being out of prison and in the custody of a surety
<admit to bail> <be out on bail>
Ana *pledge, earnest, token: guarantor, surety (see
SPONSOR)
guarantor surety, *sponsor, patron, backer, angel
Ana *guarantee
guaranty *guarantee, surety, security, bond, bail
Ana *pledge, earnest, token: *contract, bargain
guard vb shield, protect, safeguard, *defend
Ana watch, attend, *tend, mind: convoy, escort, chaper-
on, conduct, *accompany
guerdon reward, meed, bounty, award, prize, *premium,
bonus
guess vb *conjecture, surmise
Ana speculate, *think, reason: imagine, fancy (see
THINK): gather, *infer, deduce: estimate, reckon (see
CALCULATE)
guess n conjecture, surmise (see under CONJECTURE vb)
Ana *hypothesis, theory: belief, *opinion, view
Ant certainty
guest *visitor, caller, visitant
guide vb Guide, lead, steer, pilot, engineer are comparable
when meaning to direct a person or thing in his or its
course or to show the way which he or it should follow.
Guide usually implies assistance either by means of a
person with intimate knowledge of the course or way and
of all its difficulties and dangers <some heavenly power
guide us out of this fearful country—Shak.> <how shall I
tread . . . the dark descent, and who shall guide the way?—
Pope> <men who guide the plough—Crabbe> <the
teacher, the parent, or the friend can often do much . . . to
guide the pupil into an enjoyment of thinking—Eliot> or
by means of something (as a light, the stars, a principle, or
a device on a machine) which prevents a person or thing
from getting off course or going astray <the fine taste
which has guided the vast expenditure—Disraeli> <a
vehement gloomy being, who had quitted the ways of vul-
gar men, without light to guide him on a better way—
Hardy> Lead stresses the idea of going in advance to
show the way and, often, to keep those that follow in order
or under control <a band led each division of the proces-
sion> <the flagship led the fleet> <he longed . . . to lead
his men on to victory—Maryaty> <this influence should
rather lead than drive—Eliot> Often, especially in idiom-
atic phrases, lead implies the taking of the initiative, the
giving of example, or the assumption of the role of leader,
director, or guide <he . . . allured to brighter worlds, and
led the way—Goldsmith> <lead people astray by giving
them a bad example> <led the van in solving problems
"susceptible of certain knowledge"—Sellery> Steer stresses
the guidance by one able to control the mechanism
which determines the course or direction (as of a boat,
an automobile, an airplane); it carries a stronger impli-
cation of governing or maneuvering than any of the preceding
terms <steer a ship safely through a narrow channel>
<fortune brings in some boats that are not steered—Shak.>
<I eagerly desire to steer clear of metaphysics—Lowes>
<secure in the faith that his reasoned intelligence will
steer him correctly at all times—H. N. Maclean> Pilot
implies the assistance of a person competent to steer a
vessel safely through unknown or difficult waters (as into
or out of a port) <pilot a vessel through Ambrose Channel
into New York harbor> In its extended use it implies
guidance over a course where one may easily lose one's
way because of its intricacy or may run afoot of various
obstacles or dangers <their room steward piloted them to
the ship's dining room> <we know not where we go, or
what sweet dream may pilot us through caverns strange
and fair of and pathless passion—Shelley> <piloting
important bills through the Senate—Current Biog.>
Engineer means to lay out and manage the construction of
some project (as a tunnel under a river, a highway,
or a bridge <a firm of experts was called upon to engineer
the irrigation project> but in its more common extended
sense it means to serve as a manager in carrying through
something which requires contrivance and maneuvering
<engineer a resolution through the House of Repre-
sentatives> <engineer an elaborate fraud> <the corner
in grain engineered by parties in Chicago—Gould> <the
coup d'état was engineered by high-ranking army officers>
Ana conduct, convoy, escort, chaperon, *accompany:
direct, manage, control, *conduct
Ant misguide —Con distract, bewilder, perplex, mys-
tify, *puzzle: mislead, delude, beguile, *deceive
guile n duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, *deceit
Ana trickery, double-dealing, chicanery, chicane, *de-
cession; craft, artifice (see ART)
Ant ingenuousness: candor
guileful *sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, wily,
artful
guilt *blame, culpability, fault
Ana sin, crime, *offense: responsibility, answerability,
liability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)
Ant innocence: guiltlessness
guilty *blameworthy, culpable
Ana *responsible, answerable, accountable: indicted,
impeached, incriminated (see ACCUSE)
Ant innocent
gulf, chasm, abyss, abyss basically denote a hollow place
of vast width and depth in the earth. Gulf and chasm sug-
gest a depth which, though vast, is still measurable;
abyss and abyss suggest immeasurable depth. Gulf is the
most general term and may properly be used of any wide
and deep hollow place <slippery cliffs arise close to deep
gulfs—Bryant> In its extended use gulf suggests separa-
tion by a great, often unbridgeable distance <the broad and
wide water because of its intricacy or may run afoul of various
obstacles or dangers <their room steward piloted them to
the ship's dining room> <we know not where we go, or
what sweet dream may pilot us through caverns strange
and fair of and pathless passion—Shelley> <piloting
important bills through the Senate—Current Biog.>
Engineer means to lay out and manage the construction of
some project (as a tunnel under a river, a highway,
or a bridge <a firm of experts was called upon to engineer
the irrigation project> but in its more common extended
sense it means to serve as a manager in carrying through
something which requires contrivance and maneuvering
<engineer a resolution through the House of Repre-
sentatives> <engineer an elaborate fraud> <the corner
in grain engineered by parties in Chicago—Gould> <the
coup d'état was engineered by high-ranking army officers>
Ana conduct, convoy, escort, chaperon, *accompany:
direct, manage, control, *conduct
Ant misguide —Con distract, bewilder, perplex, mys-
tify, *puzzle: mislead, delude, beguile, *deceive
guile n duplicity, dissimulation, cunning, *deceit
Ana trickery, double-dealing, chicanery, chicane, *de-
cession; craft, artifice (see ART)
Ant ingenuousness: candor
guileful *sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, wily,
artful
guilt *blame, culpability, fault
Ana sin, crime, *offense: responsibility, answerability,
liability (see corresponding adjectives at RESPONSIBLE)
Ant innocence: guiltlessness
guilty *blameworthy, culpable
Ana *responsible, answerable, accountable: indicted,
impeached, incriminated (see ACCUSE)
Ant innocent
gulf, chasm, abyss, abyss basically denote a hollow place
of vast width and depth in the earth. Gulf and chasm sug-
gest a depth which, though vast, is still measurable;
abyss and abyss suggest immeasurable depth. Gulf is the
most general term and may properly be used of any wide
and deep hollow place <slippery cliffs arise close to deep
gulfs—Bryant> In its extended use gulf suggests separa-
tion by a great, often unbridgeable distance <the broad and
deep gulf which . . . divides the living from the dead—
Inge> (a mere physical gulf they could bridge . . . but the
gulf of dislike is impassable and eternal—Shaw> Chasm
adds the implication of a deep and sometimes wide breach
in a formerly solid surface <the chasm of the Grand Can-
yon, worn by the Colorado river> <the brink of a precipice,
of a chasm in the earth over two hundred feet deep, the
sides sheer cliffs—Cather> In extended use chasm still
stresses a sharp break in continuity <those chasms of
momentary indifference and boredom which gape from time to time between even the most ardent lovers—Huxley> Abysm and abyssy may designate the bottomless gulf or cavity of ancient cosmogonies and both have been applied to hell when thought of as a bottomless pit; in other applications they usually connote not only fathomlessness but also darkness and horror. Abyss is somewhat old-fashioned (when my good stars . . . have emptied their orbs, and shot their fires into the abyss of hell—Shak.) what seest thou else in the dark backward and abyss of time?—Shak.> Abyss is commoner in modern usage (the abyss of Tartarus, fast secured with iron gates—Thirlwall) and, like abyss, it carries over into its extended uses the notion of vast, immeasurable void (the respectability and prosperity of the propertied and middle classes who grew rich on sweat labor covered an abyss of horror—Shaw)
gull vb *dupe, befool, trick, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle Ana delude, beguile, deceive, mislead, double-cross, betray gullibility credulity (see under CREDULOUS) Ant astuteness gullible *credulous

habit

1 Habit, habitude, practice, usage, custom, use, wont are comparable when they mean a way of behaving, doing, or proceeding that has become fixed by constant repetition. These words may be used also as collective or abstract nouns denoting habits, usages, or customs, considered as a directing or compelling force. Habit refers more often to the way of an individual than to the way of a community or another group; the term applies to a way of behaving (as in acting or thinking) which has become so natural to one through repetition that it is done unconsciously or without premeditation <he has formed the habit of fingering a coat button when he speaks in public> <break a bad habit> <habits acquired very early feel, in later life, just like instincts; they have the same profound grip—Russell> it was her habit to write chatty letters to a number of politicians . . . discussing with them the maneuvers of politics—R. P. Randall> we have two opinions: one private . . . and another one—the one we use—which we force ourselves to wear to please Mrs. Grundy, until habit makes us comfortable in it—Mark Twain>

Habitude more often suggests an habitual or usual state of mind or attitude than an habitual response to a given stimulus <I think, Pericles, you who are so sincere with me are never quite sincere with others. You have contracted this bad habitude from your custom of addressing the people—Landor> the sense of fitness and proportion that comes with years of habitude in the practice of an art—Cardozo>

Practice (see also practice n under PRACTICE vb) applies to a habit which is by its nature an act or a method which is followed regularly and often by choice it is his practice to rise early each morning and take a walk before breakfast it is the practice of this surgeon to give local anesthetics wherever possible the team made a practice of leaving their scenarios unfinished until actual production—Current Biog.>

Usage (see also FORM 3) applies mainly to a practice that has been so long continued and has been adopted so generally that it serves to guide or determine the action or choice of others it is the usage in certain European countries to breakfast on a roll and a cup of coffee the . . . inveterate usages of our country, growing out of the prejudice of ages—Burke makes it difficult . . . to earn a living in a business community without yielding to its usages—W. H. Hamilton>

Specifically, in reference to the meanings of words, grammatical constructions, and idiomatic forms where there is a difference of opinion, usage implies the long-continued and established practice of the best writers and speakers as the determining factor <all senses of all words are founded upon usage, and nothing else—Paley> Custom applies to a habit, practice, or usage that has come to be associated with an individual or a group by reason of its long continuance, its uniformity of character, and, sometimes, its compulsory nature it is his custom to smoke each evening after dinner in contemporary society it is not a fashion that men wear trousers; it is the custom—Sapir> is it the custom in your church for the minister to greet each member of his congregation? it is not the custom to speak from the floor before being recognized by the presiding officer> Often custom denotes an established practice or usage or the body of established practices and usages of a community or of a people that has the force of unwritten law; thus, the English common law is based upon custom rather than upon legislation the answer, “It is the custom,” is final for the savage, as for the lady of fashion. There is no other reason why they behave in a certain way—Inge> Consequently, custom when used as a collective or abstract noun commonly implies a force as strong, as binding, and as difficult to escape as that exerted by those who enforce the law of the land and custom lie upon thee with a weight, heavy as frost, and deep almost as life—Wordsworth>

Use (see also use n 1) commonly denotes an action, manner, rite, or practice that is customary to an individual or a particular group and distinguishes him or it from others <more haste than is his use—Shak.> it had been a family use . . . to make a point of saving for him anything which he might possibly eat—Mary
habitation, *analogous words

*Austen* <change and turmoil . . . are surface phenomena, while, underneath, life is an affair of use and wont and persists substantially unchanged—*Moebly*>

Wont usually applies to a habitual manner, method, or practice distinguishing an individual or group; it not only differs little from use except in its narrower range of application but is often coupled with use as a term of equivalent content <the painter followed the religious use and wont of his time—*Oliphant*>

sad beyond his wont—*Tennyson*>

Renan . . . begins after the romantic wont by an outburst of sympathy and comprehension for the Parthenon and the Athenians and Pallas Athene—*Babbitt*>

Ana instinc{t (see under INSTINCTIVE): convention, convenience, usage, *form

2 *physique, build, constitution

Ana *body, carcase: *structure, anatomy, framework: figure, *form, shape: *outline, contour

habitat, biotype, range, station are comparable in their technical biological senses in which they agree in denoting the place in which a particular kind of organism lives or grows. Habitat refers especially to the kind of environment (as desert, seacoast, grassland, marsh, or forest) in which an animal naturally grows or lives and throughout which it is distributed. Bio- types are in the pastoral region, and the habita tions are in the agricultural and is natural that for a single family or individual, often as opposed to a place (as farm, village, or a nation) where one lives and in such use carries specific legal implications (as of being the seat of one’s principal and permanent home and therefore the place where one has a settled connection for such important legal purposes as determination of civil status and jurisdiction to impose personal judgments and taxes) in which it is often specifically contrasted with residence <the term “domicile” has been defined by the courts of one state as follows: “The domicile of a person is where he has his permanent home and principal establishment, to which, whenever he is absent, he intends to return—*Ackerman*>

Domicile in reference to a building carries no special connotations <grandfather’s domicile was considered an architectural curiosity; it was an oversized log cabin with a second story reached by an outside staircase—*Burkley*>

In wider reference to a place it may be quite neutral (with the advance of astronomy, the domicile of the Deity had been transposed to the unknown center of the universe—*S. F. Mason*) or it may have very definite legal implications (as of being the seat of one’s principal and permanent home and therefore the place where one has a settled connection for such important legal purposes as determination of civil status and jurisdiction to impose personal judgments and taxes) in which it is often specifically contrasted with residence <the term “domicile” has been defined by the courts of one state as follows: “The domicile of a person is where he has his permanent home and principal establishment, to which, whenever he is absent, he intends to return—*Ackerman*> domicile is not to be confused with residence. It is of a far more permanent nature, as where a man establishes a home in a jurisdiction with the intention of remaining there more or less permanently. The six weeks’ residence in Reno, with which we are all familiar, does not establish legal domicile if the residence is solely for the purpose of obtaining a divorce—*Payton*>

Home, like the foregoing terms, is used either of a structure or a place of residence or sometimes of origin <had lived in New York for years but still thought of Georgia as his home> <built a home in the new section of town> but of all these terms home distinctively conveys the notion of one’s dwelling as the seat and center of family life and the focus of domestic affections <without hearts there is no home—*Byron*>

some women can make a truer home of a shanty than others can of a mansion> Unlike the other terms house is not used of a place as distinct from a structure; basically it applies to a building used or intended for use as a dwelling place and, especially as compared with home, is a very general and neutral term; thus, a landlord’s house may become the home of a tenant <a speculative builder of houses>

habitual *usual, customary, wonted, accustomed

Ana habituated, addicted (see HABITUATE): practiced, drilled (see PRACTICE vb): confirmed, *invertebrate, chronic, deep-seated, deep-rooted

Ant occasional —Con *infrequent, sporadic, rare, uncommon

habituate, accustom, addict, inure mean to make something. Habituate distinctively implies the formation of habit through repetition <by constant practice she habituated herself to accurate observation> to habituate ourselves, therefore, to approve . . . things that are really excellent, is of the highest importance—*Arnold*>

Language blunter than the protected executive ears were habituated to—*S. H. Adams*>

A generation habituated to regard properly inscribed paper as the principal, if not the only, symbol of wealth—*G. W. Johnson*>

Accustom implies adjustment to something by frequent or protracted experience or by constant exposure <accustom oneself to cold>

A generation habituated to regard properly inscribed paper as the principal, if not the only, symbol of wealth—*G. W. Johnson*>

Accustom implies adjustment to something by frequent or protracted experience or by constant exposure <accustom oneself to cold>

Accustom students to severe criticism <this opportunity to accustom the girl to sea life by a comparatively short trip—*Conrad*>

To accustom oneself to nagging is to become inured to nagging by another person; to habituate oneself to nagging is to form the habit of nagging others. Sometimes accustom also connotes reconciliation by
overcoming one's resistance or distaste (gradually accustomed his ears to the din of the factory) Addict, which is used chiefly in a reflexive construction or in the passive, adds to habituate the implication of overindulgence or surrender to inclination (the Japanese as a nation are addicted to sight-seeing—Faubion Bowers) (addicted to study) he has always . . . been addicted to prefacing his poems with quotations and echoing passages from other poets—Edmund Wilson (and frequently refers to bad habits addicted to gambling (a man gross . . . and addicted to low company—Macaulay) Hugh tried to protest and to explain that he was not addicted to the habit of drinking—Anderson and specifically to compulsive use of habit-forming drugs. Inure is a somewhat formal word that is a close synonym of accustomed (a man inured to hard physical labor—G. W. Johnson) but distinctively it may suggest a becoming callous or indifferent as a result of repeated exposure (for men's minds have been inured to situations of measurable and surmountable danger—Romulo) A afraid that reality could not be endured unless the mind had been gradually inured to it—Krugch Ana train, discipline, school (see teach): *harden, season, acclimatize, acclimate: *practice, exercise, drill habituate *habit, practice, usage, custom, use, wont Ana attitude, stand, *position: *state, condition, situation Con *mood, humor, temper: *caprice, whim, freak, vagary habitué *addict, votary, devotee hack adj hireling, *mercenary, venal Ana toiling, drudging, grinding, laboring (see corresponding nouns at work): hired, employed (see hire vb): *mean, abject, sordid hackneyed *trite, stereotyped, threadbare, shopworn Ana antiquated, archaic, obsolete, antediluvian, *old: worn, wasted (see HAGGARD): attenuated, diluted (see thin vb) Con fresh, novel, original, *new Hadean chthonian, *infernal, Tartarean, stygian, hellish haggard, worn, careworn, pinched, wasted, cadaverous are comparable when they mean thin and drawn by or as if by worry, fatigue, hunger, or illness. Haggard may imply a wild frightening appearance (as of a person driven distraught by fear, anxiety, privation, or suffering) whose haggard eyes flash desperation—Cowper (the strong face to which that haggard expression was returning—Conrad) she stood at the door, haggard with rage—Joyce but it usually also implies an extreme thinness or wasted or pinched wasted body of a consequence of privation or of a wasting disease (pinched faces of poorly nourished children) (the wasted body of a consumption) thought he looked pinched and cold—Carter Cadaverous is often used in place of pinched or wasted when there is the intent to suggest the appearance of a corpse; it usually implies a deathly paleness and an extreme emaciation so that the skeleton is apparent though not visible he has a cadaverous countenance, full of cavities and projections—Irving (for a queer second I did see us all in that . . . mirror . . . cadaverous, palsied—L. P. Smith) Ana gaunt, scrawny, skinny, *lean: fatigued, exhausted, wearied, flagged, jaded (see tire vb): wan, pallid, ashen, *pale Con *vigorous, lusty, energetic, strenuous hail vb salute, greet, *address, accost halcyon *calm, serene, placid, tranquil, peaceful hale adj robust, *healthy, sound, wholesome, well Ana lusty, *vigorous: sturdily, stalwart, *strong, stout: spry, *agile Ant infirm —Con feeble, frail, fragile, decrepit, *weak hale vb haul, *pull, draw, drag, tug, tow hall, hallway *passage, passageway, corridor, gallery, arcade, cloister, aisle, ambulatory hallow vb consecrate, dedicate, *devote Con see those at consecrate hallucination *delusion, mirage, illusion Ana *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith: fantasy, *fancy, vision, dream, nightmare hamper vb Hamper, trammel, clog, fetter, shake, manacle, hog-tie are comparable when meaning to hinder or impede one so that one cannot move, progress, or act freely. To hamper is to encumber or embarrass by or as if by an impediment or restraining influence (the long dress hampered her freedom of movement) (the view is vigorously urged today that rhyme and meter hamper the poet's free expression—Lowes) (never . . . had she so desired to be spontaneous and unrestrained; never . . . had she so felt hampered by her timidity, her self-criticism, her deeply ingrained habit of never letting herself go—H. G. Wells) To trammel is more specifically to entangle or confine as if enmeshed in a net (people whose speech and behavior were trammeled . . . by the usages of polite society—Gibbs) (their life was at once dangerously trammeled and dangerously free—Buchan) To clog is to hamper the movement, often the ascent, of someone or something by something extraneous, encumbering, or useless (the wings of birds were clogged with ice and snow—Dryden) man is ever clogged with his mortality—Bromfield (the Cynic preached abstinence from all common ambitions, rank, possessions, power, the things which clog man's feet—Buchan) To fetter is to confine or restrain so that one's freedom or power to progress is lost I refused to visit Shelley that I might have my own unfettered scope —Keats (we reverence tradition, but we will not be fettered by it—Inge) watched a world prepare for war while he was fettered by the nation's propensity for isolationism—Kefauver To shake and to manacle differ little in their extended use, both implying such interference with one's freedom that one feels that movement, progress, or action is impossible if the bonds are not broken (he would not be shackled in his reasoning by the rules of logic) (grief too can shackle and to manacle differ (fettered while he was) was soon as the senator can get us hog-tied by restrictions on imports of raw materials) (as soon as the senator can get us hog-tied to that extent, he will not be able to see those at Congress—Congressional Record) Ana hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar: *embarrass, discomfit: baffle, balk, thwart, foil, *frustrate Ant assist (persons): expedite (work, projects) hand n operative, workman, workingman, laborer, crafts-
handicap

1. handle, manipulate, wield, swing, ply are comparable when they mean to deal with or manage with or as if with the hands typically in an easy, skillful, or dexterous manner. **Handle** implies the acquirement of skill sufficient to accomplish one’s ends (a child can be taught early to handle a spoon, but it takes longer to teach him to handle a knife and fork) (*tools to be handled with care—T. S. Eliot*) (he knows how to handle men so as to get what he wants out of them) (Richelieu sent Charnacé out to handle that situation—Bellloc) **Manipulate** implies dexterity and adroitness in handling. Especially in its basic sense the term suggests mechanical or technical skill (able to manipulate the most delicate scientific apparatus) (the kind of courage required for mountain-climbing, for manipulating an airplane, or for managing a small ship in a gale—Russell) In its extended sense the term often specifically implies crafting or artful and sometimes fraudulent handling for the attainment of one’s own ends (a small group of doctors by manipulating the convention were able to procure the nomination of their candidate) (agencies by which some human beings manipulate other human beings for their own advantage—Dewey) **Wield** in its most common sense implies mastery and vigor in the handling of an implement (as a tool or weapon) (he knows how to wield an axe) (wield a sword) (navvies wielding their hammers in the streets—Ellis) Wield also may be employed with reference to such an instrument as a writer's pen, an artist's brush, or a king's scepter to imply not the vigorous movement of the implement itself but its effectiveness as a tool in producing a desired result or as a symbol of power; thus, to wield a scepter means to exercise sovereign power or to hold sway (of Wu Tao-tzu it is said that as if a god possessed him and wielded the brush in his hand—Binyon) The term may also take for its object such words as authority, influence, or power when their masterful exercise is implied (a great editorial writer wields a tremendous influence over the minds of men) (her newborn power was wielded . . . by unprincipled and ambitious men—De Quincey) **Swing** may be used in place of wield when a flourishing with a sweep is also suggested (he swings his golf club with great effectiveness) In extended and often informal use it may mean to handle successfully, often in spite of great difficulties (can swing 20,000 workers behind the Party line—Arke) (the corporation was able to swing its bond issue) (he could not swing the deal) Ply may be used in place of handle or wield when great diligence or industry are also suggested (go ply thy needle; meddle not—Shak.) (plying patiently the chisel and mallet—Montague) (plied his oars) The term may also be used when constant and dillgent employment (as of a power or faculty or at a trade) is also suggested (the housewife plied her own peculiar work—Wordsworth) (plying his trade as a bookseller)

**Ana** analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
hapless  *unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless  

Anna unhappy, infelicitous (see unfit): *miserable, wretched

happen  vb  Happen, chance, occur, befall, betide, transpire  are comparable when they mean to come to pass or to come about. Happen is the ordinary and general term and may imply either obvious causation or seeming accident, either design or an absence of design; in its simplest use the term takes the event, situation, or circumstance as its subject (the incident happened two weeks ago) but it may take the impersonal it or the anticipatory there as its subject (it happened that at Dante's time thought was orderly the lack of human power to foreknow or forestall them implication of a superior power determining events or of especially in poetry or in literary prose, when there is an

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

Ana *bait, badger, hound, ride, hector, chivy, heckle; vex, irk, bother (see ANNOY)

Con *comfort, solace, console: *relieve, assuage, alleviate

harbor n Harbor, haven, port are comparable because they have at one time or another meant a place where ships may ride secure from storms. Harbor applies to a portion of a large body of water (as the sea) that is partially or almost wholly enclosed so that ships or boats may enter it for safety from storms or may be anchored or moored there in security (two promontories whose points come near together enclose the harbor) (the great natural harbor at Sydney, Australia). In extended uses harbor carries over the notion of quiet and safety inherent in its basic use (the beauty and the harbor of a snug house—Le Sueur). Haven is chiefly literary or occurs in names of towns and cities where a natural harbor (as a bay, an inlet, or a river mouth) exists and where boats may go for safety during a storm (Mildford Haven in south Wales) (a blessed haven into which convoy could slip from the submarine-infested Atlantic—Stewart Beach). More than the other words here considered, it connotes a refuge or place of quiet in the midst of storms (my... only haven... is in the arms of death—Carlyle). (The Colony acquired an unsavory reputation for providing a friendly haven for pirates—Amer. Guide Series: R.I.). Port denotes both a place of security for ships and one suitable for landing men or goods (to set me safe ashore in the first port where we arrived—Swift). Consequently, in extended use, it suggests a destination or goal (me... always from port withheld, always distressed—Cowper). In commercial use port applies to a place, sometimes a harbor, sometimes, especially in place-names, a city or town and its harbor, but still more often in the case of the great ports of transatlantic and transpacific shipping all the approaches, all the inlets, all the facilities (as docks, wharves, and offices) involved in the business of loading and unloading ships or of embarking and disembarking passengers (the ports of New York, Cherbourg, and Southampton).

harbor vb Harbor, shelter, entertain, lodge, house, board are comparable when they mean to provide a place (as in one's home, quarters, or confines) where someone or something may stay or be kept for a time. Harbor usually implies provision of a place of refuge especially for a person or an animal that is evil or hunted or noxious (harbor thieves) (cellars that harbor rats and cockroaches) (deportation... is simply a refusal by the Government to harbor persons whom it does not want—Justice Holmes) (what good is he? Who else will harbor him at his age for the little he can do?—Frost). In its extended sense the term suggests the receiving into and cherishing in one's shelter, more often than in Craven's Haven's harbor, than the other words here considered, it connotes a refuge or place of quiet in the midst of storms (my... only haven... is in the arms of death—Carlyle). (The Colony acquired an unsavory reputation for providing a friendly haven for pirates—Amer. Guide Series: R.I.). Port denotes both a place of security for ships and one suitable for landing men or goods (to set me safe ashore in the first port where we arrived—Swift). Consequently, in extended use, it suggests a destination or goal (me... always from port withheld, always distressed—Cowper). In commercial use port applies to a place, sometimes a harbor, sometimes, especially in place-names, a city or town and its harbor, but still more often in the case of the great ports of transatlantic and transpacific shipping all the approaches, all the inlets, all the facilities (as docks, wharves, and offices) involved in the business of loading and unloading ships or of embarking and disembarking passengers (the ports of New York, Cherbourg, and Southampton).

harbor

Ana analogical words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Sheridan said, is "darned hard writing."—Montague

the American habit of tipping . . . is a hard one to break.
—Joseph

Difficult commonly implies the presence of obstacles to be surmounted or of complications to be removed; it therefore suggests the necessity for skill, ingenuity, sagacity, or courage [the tutor] armed for a work too difficult for thee; prepared by taste, by learning, and true worth, to form thy son, to strike his genius forth—Cowper

men like fly-fishing, because it is difficult; they will not shoot a bird sitting, because it is easy—Russell

Difficult is more widely applicable than hard, because it often means specifically hard to understand because abstruse, intricate, or abstract, or hard to deal with because thorny, knotty, cumbersome, delicate, or exacting [he is a very difficult writer—Inge]

the difficult beauty of many passages . . . of Winter's Tale or Coriolanus—Alexander

I do not propose . . . to enter upon the difficult question of Disestablishment—T. S. Eliot

it was a difficult design and had to be executed exactly right—Roark Bradford

Arduous stresses the need of laborious effort, of perseverance, and persistent exertion; thus, one may find a task difficult, but not arduous, because one has no sense of being kept at against one's inclination; an ascent of a mountain may be arduous, but not especially difficult [the arduous task of formulating legislation necessary to the country's welfare—Roosevelt]

determined to save him from a life of arduous toil—Cole

Ana *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting: intricate, knotty, complicated, involved, *complex: exhausting, fatiguing, wearying, tiring (see TIRE vb)

Ant easy —Con facile, light, simple, effortless (see EASY)

harden 1 Harden, solidify, indurate, petrify, cake are comparable when they mean to make or to become physically hard or solid. Harden usually expresses an opposition to soften and therefore may be as often used of the process as of the effect. The term suggests a change in degree with an approach toward a state of firm consistency or texture, though it need not imply imperceptibility or resistance to efforts to break, cut, pierce, or bend (Java as it cools hardens into rock) [<harden candy by chilling it>]

Solidify, although differing little from harden, usually expresses an opposition to liquefy and places more stress upon the effect produced than upon the process involved; the term, therefore, suggests a change in quality rather than in degree and is more often applied to a mass subject to compacting or consolidation (Java becomes rock when it is solidified) [<water solidifies into ice>

Indurate, which means to make very hard or very compact, implies usually the making of something that is firm in texture still harder [<heat indurates clay>]

surgeons . . . spend raptures upon perfect specimens of indurated veins, distorted joints—E. B. Browning

Petrify implies a making or becoming stone or stonelike in hardness; the word is used of organic bodies that by a process (called petrification) of infiltration by water containing mineral deposits (as silica, calcium carbonate) and the replacement, particle by particle, of the organic matter by the introduced mineral become replaced by stony mineral while the original form is more or less perfectly retained. Cake implies the formation into a firm, hard, or solid mass (as by baking, fusing, or congealing) [<a barrel of gunpowder] had taken water, and the powder was caked as hard as a stone—Defoe

(the salt had caked in the shakers and did not flow)

Ana *compact, consolidate, concentrate: compress, condense, *contract

Ant soften —Con *liquefy, melt

2 Harden, season, acclimatize, acclimate denote to make (as a person) proof against hardship, strain, or exposure. All imply a becoming accustomed or adapted by time or experience. Harden implies habituation that toughens one and makes one insensible of one’s own pain or discomfort or callous and insensitive to others' misery [<harden to the rigors of arctic exploration>]

I could . . . hear faint echoes of their grief. It was an experience to which I never became hardened—Heiser

its influence did not harden him; he has always risen above cynicism—Triebel

Season implies a gradual bringing into mature, sound, efficient condition; it does not, when referred to persons, necessarily imply what is to be undergone is uncongenial [<a seasoned marathon runner>]

a seasoned actor

with much less compass of muscle than his toe, that which he had was more seasoned—iron and compact—Lytton

Acclimatize and acclimate imply adaptation to a new and adverse climate or, by extension, to new and strange surroundings in general. Some writers have distinguished acclimatize from acclimate by restricting the first to adaptation by human agency, but this distinction is not commonly observed [<a race . . . well seated in a region, fixed to the soil by agriculture, acclimated by natural selection—Ripley>

I have not been long enough at this table to get well acclimated—Holmes

Ana *habitude, accustom, inure: *adapt, adjust, accommodate

Ant soften —Con enervate, emasculate (see UNNERVE):

*weaken, debilitate, enfeeble, sap, undermine

hardened, indurated, callous mean grown or become hard. These terms are comparable in both literal (compare HARDEN 1) and extended use. Hardened is the most inclusive because it is applicable to any substance, whether originally fluid or solid, or loose or firm in texture, or elastic or inelastic, that has become solider and firmer and increasingly resistant to efforts to cut, pierce, or bend [<harden soap>]

<harden lava> [harden steel]

Consequently, in extended use hardened usually implies a fixing or setting with loss of qualities (as flexibility, elasticity, pliancy, susceptibility, and impressionableness) indicative of a capacity for change [<harden beliefs>]

<harden distrust> [a hardened criminal] [a hardened heart]

[a hardened little prostrate—Thackeray]

Indurated is common in geological and in medical use with the implication of an increase of hardness or compactness usually in something already firm or hard and sometimes to the point of abnormality [<indurated clay>] [<indurated sandstone>]

[an indurated abscess] In its extended use it usually stresses abnormal or excessive hardness or stoniness that repels all efforts to penetrate or to soften [<Indurated stocic as 1 am—Adams>]

(her husband's indurated conscience—Henry James]

Callous, in its earliest and still common sense, implies a hardening and thickening of the skin by constant pressure or friction and a consequent loss of sensitivity in the part affected [<a callous spot on the sole of his foot>]

[a callous fingertip] In extended use it usually also implies a loss of sensitivity or an insensitiveness that results from constant experience [he has grown callous to such appeals] [now callous to criticism]

(the tiresome and callous repetition of old motives which marked the decadence of the classic tradition—Binyon]

(pity . . . is made callous and inactive by kneeling too much—Landor] but sometimes callous means simply means poorly unfelling and carries little implication of the process of hardening [<a callous answer>]

Ana consolidated, compacted, concentrated (see COMPACT vb)

Ant softened —Con liquefied, melted, thawed, fused (see LIQUEFY): weakened, enfeebled, debilitated (see WEAKEN)

hardihood *temerity, audacity, effrontery, nerve, cheek,
gall
Analogous words: Valour, Vigour, Strength
Antonyms: Fear, Weakness

harmonize 1 accord, *agree, correspond, square, conform, tally, jibe
Analogous words: Cooperate, Conform, Accommodate
Antonyms: Disagree, Misfit, Misalign

harmony
Analogous words: Concord, Accord, Consonance
Antonyms: Discord, Dissonance, Diversity

harshness
Analogous words: Coarseness, Roughness
Antonyms: Softness, Smoothness

harm
Analogous words: Injury, Damage
Antonyms: Benefit, Advantage

harmful
Analogous words: Noxious, Noisome
Antonyms: Innocuous, Harmless
haste

Haste, hurry, speed, expedition, dispatch are commonplace synonyms for quickness or swiftness in performance, action, or behavior. Haste implies an urgent or hurried movement, often with a sense of impatience or frustration. It is often used in business situations, where efficiency and timeliness are essential. In contrast, speed is a measure of velocity, often used in contexts where performance is timed or measured. Expediency, on the other hand, suggests a sense of necessity or urgency, often in the context of decision-making or action. Dispatch implies a rapid and efficient manner of proceeding, often with a focus on getting things done quickly and effectively.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
used without reference to particular individuals \{love you cannot help, and hate you cannot help; but contempt is—for you—the sovereign idiocy—Galsworthy\} \{it takes a very remarkable poet, like Pope . . . to elevate malice into hate—Day Lewis\} In concrete use hate is seldom found outside of poetry except when contrasted with love, also in concrete use; it then denotes the object of one's hate \{the scum of men, the hate and scourge of God—Marlowe\} \{a generation whose finest hate had been big business—Paxson\} Hate is the preferable term when the emotion referred to is actually experienced and is therefore personal and individual in character; hate is definable because men are in agreement concerning its distinguishing marks, but hatred escapes exact definition because its implications, other than that of intense dislike, can be gathered only from the context or reference to its object. Usually it implies in addition one or more such emotions as antipathy, aversion, rancor, vindictiveness, resentment, or fear \{he had a deep-seated hatred of aristocrats\} \{a violent hatred of restrictions on his freedom\} \{a healthy hatred of scoundrels—Carlyle\} \{his special type of satire had its roots not in hatred but in sympathy. His wrath was an inverted love—Perry\} 

hate vb Hate, detest, abhor, abominate, loothe. Hate, the general term, implies extreme aversion especially as coupled with enamel or malice \{she did not hate him; she rather despised him, and just suffered him—Thackeray\} \{whom we fear more than love, we are not far from hating—Richardson\} \{the hates Lucy Wales. I don't mean dislike, or find distasteful, or have an aversion for; I mean hate—Basso\} Detest connotes violent or intense antipathy or dislike but usually lacks the active hostility and malevolence associated with hate \{the mob is a monster I never could abide . . . I detest the whole of it, as a mass of ignorance, presumption, malice, and brutality—Smollett\} \{I mortally detest cards—Fielding\} Abhor suggests profound, shuddering repugnance \{swelling from tears and supplications to a scene, of all things abhorred by him the most—Meredith\} \{Rome had made him abhorred throughout the world by the violence and avarice of her generals—Froude\} Abominate suggests strong detestation \{one of something ill-omened or shameful\} \{the Egyptians . . . lived only on the fruits of the earth, and abominate flesh eaters—Newton\} Loothe implies utter disgust or intolerance \{except when I am listening to their music I loathe the whole race; great stupid, brutal, immoral, sentimental savages—Rose Macaulay\} The same distinctions in implications and connotations are evident in the derivative nouns hate, hatred (for a distinction between these terms see HATE n 2), detestation, abhorrence, abomination, loathing. Ana *despite, contemn, scorn, disdain: *disapprove, *deprecate Ant love —Con *like, enjoy, relish, fancy, dote: respect, esteem, admire (see under REGARD n) hatefull, odious, abhorrent, detestable, abominable are sometimes used with little distinction. But hateful more frequently applies to something which excites actual hatred; odious, to something which is excessively disagreeable or which gives offense or arouses repugnance \{why shouldn't we hate what is hateful in people, and scorn what is mean?—Thackeray\} \{between these two natures, so antipathetic, so hateful to each other, there was depending an unpardonable affront—Stevenson\} Our blind poet, who in his later day stood almost single, uttering odious truth—Wordsworth \{it was an odious face—crafty, vicious, malignant, with shifty, light gray eyes—Doyle\} Something is abhorrent which outrage one's sense of what is just, right, honorable, or decent \{she [his wife] was his property . . . To me it is a view that has always been abhorrent—Galsworthy\} Something is abominable which is so abhorrent as to deserve execration \{on board ship ready to sail away from this abominable world of treacheries, and scorns and envies and lies—Conrad\} \{all the living conditions were abominable—Cather\} Ana *antipathetic, unsympathetic, averse: repellant, *repugnant, obnoxious, distasteful Ant lovable: sympathetic —Con congenial, compatible, *consonant: attractive, alluring, charming (see under ATTRACT)
or legal right to hold as one's property and under one's full control (own a house) (own several horses) (when a child is old enough, he should . . . be allowed to own books—Russell) (some parents treat their children as if they owned them) Possess is preferred in law to own as implying one's having full title and right to a particular property to the exclusion of everyone else; thus, a husband and wife might say that they own a piece of land when legally only the husband possesses it. In general use possess differs from own in being referable to other things than property (as a characteristic, a quality, a power, or a faculty) possess contentment (the States possessed the power to exclude or admit them [slaves]—John Marshall) (that astonishingly retentive memory which we possessed as little boys—Inge) (the great medicinal value possessed by this water—Heiser) Enjoy (see also LIKE) implies the having of something as one's own or for one's use with all its benefits and advantages; in this sense there is no necessary connotation of pleasure or delight in having or using, but, except in law, the word often does carry a hint if not a definite suggestion of it (during his lifetime he enjoyed a distinguished reputation for the excellence of his sermons—T. S. Eliot) (while man enjoyed . . . an unlimited freedom to be wicked—Henry Adams) (classes that enjoy certain rights and privileges)

Con want, *lack, need

haven *harbor, port
Ana asylum, refuge, retreat, *shelter, cover
havoc *ruin, devastation, destruction
Ana calamity, cataclysm, catastrophe (see DISASTER): ravaging, pillaging, despoiling (see RAVAGE)

hazard n 1 accident, *chance, fortune, luck, hap
2 jeopardy, peril, *danger, risk
Ana possibility, probability, likelihood (see corresponding adjectives at PROBABLE): contingency, exigency, emergency (see JUNCTURE)

hazard vb *venture, risk, chance, jeopardize, endanger, imperil
Ana dare, bear, *face: confront, encounter, *meet: expose, open, subject (see corresponding adjectives at LIABLE)

hazardous precarious, risky, *dangerous, perilous

Con secure, *safe

haze n Haze, mist, fog, smog denote an atmospheric condition which deprives the air near the earth of its transparen-cy. Haze applies to such a condition as is caused by the diffusion of smoke, dust, or a light vapor through the air in such a way as to impede but not obstruct the vision and to convey little or no impression of dampness (the early morning haze on a warm day in autumn) (there is haze today because the wind carries the smoke from the railroad yards) Mist applies to a condition where water is held in suspension in fine particles in the air, floating or slowly falling in minute drops. A fog differs from a mist only in its greater density and its greater power to cut off the vision and differs from a cloud in being near to the ground (not the thin glassy mist of twenty minutes ago, but a thick, dense, blinding fog that hemmed in like walls of wadding on every side—Hugh Walpole) Smog applies to a fog made heavier and darker by the smoke of an industrial area (a Los Angeles smog)

In extended use haze suggests vagueness or lack of clear definition of thought or feeling (looking back through the haze of years—Allen Johnson) Mist applies to what can be only dimly apprehended because of its remoteness (its origins are lost in the mists of antiquity—Coulton) or to something which prevents exact knowledge or clear understanding (times . . . half shrouded in the mist of legend—Freeman) Fog implies an obscuring of the mental or spiritual vision or of whatever can be detected only by such vision (the fog of ignorance in which so many live) (life and its few years—a wisp of fog betwixt us and the sun—Reese) (the subject is wrapped in fogs of vague thinking—Overstreet)

head, headman *chief, leader, chieftain, master
headlong *precipitate, impetuous, abrupt, hasty, sudden
Ana rash, reckless, daring, daredevil, foolhardy (see ADVENTUROUS)

headstrong ungovernable, *unruly, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful
Ana perversive, *contrary, froward, wayward: stubborn, *obstinate, pigheaded, stiff-necked
Con submissive, *tame, subdued: docile, tractable, ame-nable, biddable, *obedient

headway pace, *speed, velocity, momentum, impetus
Ana advance, progress (see under ADVANCE vb): *motion, movement

heal *cure, remedy

healthful, healthy, wholesome, salubrious, salutary, hygien-ic, sanitary are comparable when they mean conducive or beneficial to the health or soundness of body or mind. Healthful is more common than healthy as the term carrying this sense (see also HEALTHY 2), but the two are often interchangeable (a healthy climate) (one of the healthiest climates in England—Bennett) (healthy recreation) (the French boy gets healthy recreation—Grandgent) (sound sleep is healthy) (all mothers wish their children to sleep, because it is . . . healthy—Russell) (the second fruit of friendship is healthful and sovereign for the under-standing—Bacon) Wholesome (see also HEALTHY 2) is a more homely word than healthful that is typically perfectly interchangeable with the latter (provide wholesome, well-balanced meals) (books that are wholesome reading) (mathematics . . . is a wholesome discipline because it requires a high degree of concentration and because it shows so inexorably the difference between right and wrong—Grandgent) but wholesome is the one of these words that may also be used in a much weakened sense to mean not detrimental to health or well-being (some sau-ages may contain wholesome filler as well as meat and seasonings) (reexamining our idea of a wholesome food, particularly from the point of view of its freedom from chemical additives which may be harmful to the consumer—JAMA) Salubrious applies chiefly to climate or air that is pleasantly invigorating yet devoid of harshness or extremes (the salubrious mountain air and water—C. B. Davis) Salutary implies a tonic, corrective, or similarly beneficial effectiveness; often it is applied to something that is in itself unpleasant (salutary advice) (idle ladies and gentlemen are treated with salutary contempt—Shaw) (the use of force in education should be very rare. But for the conquest of fear it is, I think, sometimes salutary—Russell) Hygienic suggests reference to the means and the rules of promoting physical or mental health, especially of the public. The term therefore commonly implies use of approved means or obedience to approved rules because they are conducive to health (instruct children in the hygienic care of mouth and teeth) (stuffy schoolrooms are not hygienic) (provision is made . . . for safe and hygienic working conditions—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) Sanitary implies reference to measures taken or that can be taken to guard against infections or conditions that pro-mote disease. The term therefore usually implies the promotion of health, especially public health, through interference with causes that bring about disease or epide-mics (sanitary plumbing) (sanitary regulations) (the
heap

parable as verbs when they mean to bring together into a more or less compact group or collection a number of things and as nouns when they denote the group or collection so assembled. Heap is the least definite in its implications; it usually implies a moundlike shape and more or less careless or fortuitous arrangement; it may or may not imply a personal agent, an assemblage of like things, close packing, or a large quantity (throw all the discarded clothes into a heap) (heap the sand in this corner of the lot) (the miser gloated over his heaps of coins) (the wind heaps the leaves under the garden wall) (stacks of firewood were heaped all about the stove—Mason) Pile distinctively implies the laying of one thing or one layer on top of another in a more or less orderly formation; it usually implies a personal agent and an assemblage of like things or things of approximately the same size or shape (pile magazines according to their sizes) (a pile of letters on a desk) (pile logs) (a pile of bricks) Stack more strongly implies orderly and compact arrangement and the assembling of like things; it almost invariably suggests personal agency and a particular shape or form, and it has a distinctly restricted range of idiomatic reference. Thus, one stacks hay, straw, or grain in the sheaf into a cone or a four-sided, round-cornered formation designed to shed rain; one stacks firewood by arranging the pieces neatly into a rectangular pile; one stacks arms when one sets up rifles so that they form a pyramid; one stacks lumber by so arranging it in a pile that air may circulate and warping be minimized (hay curing in the stack) (a stack of lumber) So strongly does stack suggest care in arrangement that it carries specific connotations in some of its applications; thus, to stack cards is to arrange them secretly for cheating; a stack is in Great Britain a measure of stacked coal or firewood equal to four cubic yards. Shock and cock are the narrowest of these terms. Shock is used primarily of sheaves of grain (as wheat, rye, or oats) or of stalks of Indian corn which are stacked upright with butt ends resting on the ground (when the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock—Riley) Occasionally it, like cock, is used with reference to hay stacked in a conical pile (cock up the hay from the windrow) Mass (see also mass n under bulk) usually suggests amorphousness; it also implies either a capacity in the things which are brought together for cohering with or adhering to each other so as to form a blended or fused whole or a highly compact or dense agglomerate, or an external process which forces them to cohere or adhere; thus, a pasty substance used in making up pills and troches is called a mass by pharmacists; some flowers (as violets) tend to grow in masses or to mass themselves in growing; to massing in muscularity, fresh color, a strong voice, and an active life—Dickens) Healthy, sound, wholesome, robust, hale, well are comparable when meaning having or manifesting health of mind or body or indicative of such health. Healthy may imply the possession of full vigor and strength of body or mind or it may merely imply freedom from signs of disease or abnormality (a healthy body) (a healthy boy) (during a healthy and active life—Eliot) Often the term applies not to one having health but to what manifests one's health or vigor or serves as a sign of it (he had a healthy color in his cheeks—Dickens) (she has a healthy appetite) (healthy craving for the sap and savor of a more personal, national art—Binyon) (in healthy reaction to the romantic fustian of the...nineteenth century—Christopher Fry) Sound even more strongly implies the possession of perfect health or the absence of all defects and therefore suggests not even the slightest sign of disease or of physical weakness or defect (a sound mind in a sound body) (that child is...much too emotional to be ever really sound—Conrad) (his tastes were healthy, his wits sound—Rose Macaulay) Wholesome (see also healthy) implies a healthiness that impresses others favorably, especially as indicative of a person's physical, mental, and moral soundness or often more specifically of a person's balance or equilibrium (thankful...that he had his mother, so sane and wholesome—D. H. Lawrence) (such studies...promote...a wholesome dislike of sophrisy and rhetoric—Inge) (her eyes shining, her face aglow, looking oddly wholesome in a smeared white painter's smock—Wouk) Robust implies the antithesis of all that is delicate; it usually connotes manifest vigor of health as shown in muscularity, fresh color, a strong voice, and an ability to work long and hard (exercise tends to develop robust boys and girls) (a hearty, robust man in his middle sixties—Mann) (he is in robust health) (speak in a robust voice) HALE, which is a close synonym of sound, is applied chiefly to elderly or aged persons who not only show no signs of infirmity or senility but manifest qualities of men in their prime (he is Hale and hearty at 85) (Pete Gurney was a lusty cock turned sixty-three, but bright and hale—Masefield) Well, which is commoner as an attributive adjective, is a rather noncommittal term; it implies freedom from disease or illness but does not necessarily suggest soundness or robustness (is your father well?) (he is always well) (she has never been a well person) (however ill one has been, he (usually) get better, and keep getting better—he can get well—Menninger) Ana *vigorous, lusty, energetic: *strong, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious Ant unhealthy —Con infirm, frail, feebie, *weak heap n pile, stack, shock, cock, mass, bank (see under heap vb) Ana *aggregate, aggregation, conglomerate, conglomeramation: collection, assemblage (see under gather) heap vb Heap, pile, stack, shock, cock, mass, bank are comparable as verbs when they mean to bring together into a more or less compact group or collection a number of things and as nouns when they denote the group or collection so assembled. Heap is the least definite in its implications; it usually implies a moundlike shape and more or less careless or fortuitous arrangement; it may or may not imply a personal agent, an assemblage of like things, close packing, or a large quantity (throw all the discarded clothes into a heap) (heap the sand in this corner of the lot) (the miser gloated over his heaps of coins) (the wind heaps the leaves under the garden wall) (stacks of firewood were heaped all about the stove—Mason) Pile distinctively implies the laying of one thing or one layer on top of another in a more or less orderly formation; it usually implies a personal agent and an assemblage of like things or things of approximately the same size or shape (pile magazines according to their sizes) (a pile of letters on a desk) (pile logs) (a pile of bricks) Stack more strongly implies orderly and compact arrangement and the assembling of like things; it almost invariably suggests personal agency and a particular shape or form, and it has a distinctly restricted range of idiomatic reference. Thus, one stacks hay, straw, or grain in the sheaf into a cone or a four-sided, round-cornered formation designed to shed rain; one stacks firewood by arranging the pieces neatly into a rectangular pile; one stacks arms when one sets up rifles so that they form a pyramid; one stacks lumber by so arranging it in a pile that air may circulate and warping be minimized (hay curing in the stack) (a stack of lumber) So strongly does stack suggest care in arrangement that it carries specific connotations in some of its applications; thus, to stack cards is to arrange them secretly for cheating; a stack is in Great Britain a measure of stacked coal or firewood equal to four cubic yards. Shock and cock are the narrowest of these terms. Shock is used primarily of sheaves of grain (as wheat, rye, or oats) or of stalks of Indian corn which are stacked upright with butt ends resting on the ground (when the frost is on the punkin and the fodder’s in the shock—Riley) Occasionally it, like cock, is used with reference to hay stacked in a conical pile (cock up the hay from the windrow) Mass (see also mass n under bulk) usually suggests amorphousness; it also implies either a capacity in the things which are brought together for cohering with or adhering to each other so as to form a blended or fused whole or a highly compact or dense agglomerate, or an external process which forces them to cohere or adhere; thus, a pasty substance used in making up pills and troches is called a mass by pharmacists; some flowers (as violets) tend to grow in masses or to mass themselves in growing; to mass colors in a painting or in stained-glass windows is to combine the various colors used in any one significant portion of the whole so that they seem to flow into each other and give a unitary effect when the painting or window is viewed in perspective. Mass, therefore, usually implies integration, but it may be a physical, a spiritual, an emotional, an intellectual, or a purely aesthetic integration (massed his arguments) (compounding the American people into one common mass—John Marshall) (dense masses of smoke hung amid the darting snakes of fire—Meredith) (a vine, remarkable for its tendency, not to spread and ramble, but to mass and mount—Cather) Bank (the verb is often followed by up) is used chiefly in reference to substances which when affected by moisture, freezing, or pressure form, or seem to form, into compact masses (bank up the snow on each side of the path) (bank up a sandpile) (build a snowbank) (cloud banks) (the wiser heads in Rome, seeing the clouds banking in the North, had clamped for the employment of the ablest of Roman comm...
hearsay

heavenly

heave

raise, *lift, hoist, elevate, boost, rear

hearty

*sincere, hearty, unfeigned, wholehearted, heartfelt

*encourage, inspire, embolden, cheer, nerve, hearten

center, middle, core, hub, nucleus, midst, focus

heartache, heartbreak

*sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, regret

hearten

*encourage, inspire, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel

*strenthen, fortify, invigorate, energize: rally, arouse, rouse, *stir

Ant dishearten —Con *discourage, dispirit, deject:

*depress, weigh

heartfelt

*sincere, hearty, unfeigned, wholehearted, whole-souled

Ana genuine, veritable, *authentic, bona fide: profound, *deep

heartfelt, *sincere, unfeigned, wholehearted, whole-souled

Ana warm, warmhearted, responsive (see TENDER):

*deep, profound: exuberant, *profuse

Ant hollow

heave

vb

raise, *lift, hoist, elevate, boost, rear

heavenly

*celestial, empyrean, empyreal

Con hellish, *infernal: earthly, earthy, terrestrial, mundane, worldly, sublunary

heavy, weighty, ponderous, cumbrous, cumbersome, hefty

Something is heavy which is denser and more compact in substance or larger in size or amount than the average of its kind or class and so weighs more in proportion (lead is a heavy metal) (a heavy stone) (a heavy child for his age) (a heavy silk) (a heavy bread) In extended use what is heavy weighs down the senses or the spirits or is of such nature that the mind or the body finds difficult to bear or endure (there came through the open door the heavy scent of the lilac—Wilde) (there was the crushing sense . . . of having been put down as a tiresome and heavy young man—Benson) (when a great writer . . . creates a speech of his own which is too clumsy to be flexible and too heavy to be intimate—Ellis) Often, also, heavy is applied to the heart, the mind, or the body to imply a being weighed down (as with grief, worry, weariness, or overwork) (the old minister's heart was often heavy in his breast—Deland) (when he was not too heavy with fatigue—Mary Austin) At other times the term merely implies a lack of some quality (as lightness, vivacity, or grace) which enlivens and stimulates (compared with her, other women were heavy and dull . . . they had not that something in their glance that made one's blood tingle—Cather) Something is weighty which is actually and not merely relatively heavy (the larger trucks will carry the weighty packages) (as weighty bodies to the center tend—Pope) In extended use what is weighty is highly important or momentous (weighty matters of state) (weighty questions for consideration) (a work whose weighty theme should give it unity enough—Tmes Lit. Sapr.) or produces a powerful effect or exerts an impressive influence (weighty arguments) (a weighty speech) (there were also weighty reasons of statecraft to influence him—Buchan) Something is ponderous which is exceedingly heavy because of its size or its massiveness and cannot move or be moved quickly (a ponderous shield) (a ponderous machine) (the sepulcher . . . hath oped his ponderous and marble jaws—Shak.) In extended use what is ponderous is unduly intricate, involved, complicated, or labored (his ponderous work on the fairy mythology of Europe—Meredith) (ponderous jests) (I have heard mathematicians groaning over the demonstrations of Kelvin. Ponderous and clumsy, they bludgeon the mind into a reluctant assent—Huxley) Something is cumbrous or cumbersome which is so heavy and so bulky that it is difficult to deal with (as in moving or carrying) (the only currency in circulation was of iron, so cumbrous that it was impossible to accumulate or conceal it—Dickinson) (its space was pretty well occupied with the two beds, and the cumbrous furniture that had been bought for a larger house—Archibald Marshall) (the cumbrous old table with twisted legs—Dickens) In extended use both words are applicable to what is both ponderous and unwieldy (he is the Philistine who upholds and aids the heavy, cumbrous, blind, mechanical forces of society—Wilde) (he also uses a cumbrous and high-sounding terminology which has a mystifying effect—Weldon) Something is hefty which one estimates as heavy or weighty (as by holding in one's hands or by measuring with one's eyes) (a hefty fellow, in the habit of standing no nonsense—Maugham) (a hefty chair) (she has grown hefty since I saw her last) In extended use the word may imply a generous amount or portion (a hefty boost in wages) (a good, hefty slice of pie)

Ana solid, hard, *firm: oppressing or oppressive, weighing down or upon, depressing (see corresponding verbs at DEPRESS)

Ant light

heckle

vb

*bait, badger, hector, chivy, hound, ride

Ana plague, pester, harass, harry, *worry, annoy; disconcert, rattle, faze, discomfit, *embarrass: rack, torment (see AFFLICTION)

hector

vb

*bait, badger, chivy, heckle, hound, ride

Ana tease, tantalize, plague, pester, *worry: bother, vex, irk, *annoy; fret, chafe, gall (see ABRACE)

heedless

thoughtless, *careless, inadvertent

Ana *forgetful, oblivious, unmindful: *abstracted, absent, absorbed, distracted: frivolous, light-minded, flippant, volatile (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS); remiss, lax, slack, *negligent, neglectful

Ant heedful —Con attentive, *thoughtful, considerate: *watchful, vigilant, alert

hefty

*heavy, weighty, ponderous, cumbrous, cumbersome

height, altitude, elevation mean the distance a thing rises above the level on which it stands, or the vertical distance between a given level taken as a base and a thing that is above it. Height may be used with reference to whatever can be so measured, whether high or low by a standard of comparison (letters not more than one-twentieth of an inch in height) (the tree rises to a height of one hundred feet) It may be used interchangeably with any of the other words, but it is not so explicit. While altitude and elevation are often interchangeable, altitude may be preferred in referring to vertical distance above the surface of the earth or above sea level or to the vertical distance above the horizon in angular measurement (an airplane flying at an altitude of 12,000 feet) (the altitude of a cloud) (the altitude of a star) Elevation is used especially in reference to vertical height above sea level on the surface of the earth; thus, one would speak of the altitude rather than the elevation of a balloon; a village situated at an elevation, preferable to altitude, of 2000 feet (atmospheric pressure depends on elevation) (Pike’s Peak has an elevation of 14,110 feet).

heighten enhance, *intensify, aggravate

heinous *outrageous, atrocious, monstrous

help, aid, assistance (see under HELP n)

Heredic n Heretic, schismatic, sectarian, sectary, dissenter, nonconformist are comparable when denoting a person who from the point of view of a particular church or religious faith is not orthodox in his beliefs. Heretic applies to one who teaches and maintains doctrines that are contrary to those which are actually taught by the church or faith to which he belongs or has belonged (the precursors of Luther were for the most part regarded as heretics) (he drew a circle that shut me out—heretic, rebel, a thing to flout—Markham) (to delete from history its heretics and its radicals would be to deprive it of that rare quality known as independence of mind—Neff) Schismatic applies to one who separates from or provokes division in a church or communion usually by differing on a minor point or points of doctrine; thus, from the point of view of the Roman Catholic Church, those Eastern Christians who seceded to form the Orthodox Church are schismatics, whereas Luther, Calvin, Cranmer, and other leaders of the Reformation are heretics; to the Church of England, the early Puritans and Quakers were schismatics (it was difficult to get any bishop to run the risk of ordaining men whom Rome regarded as schismatics—Moss) Sectarian may be applied to a member of a religious denomination or sect, often neutrally but sometimes with the implication of a rigorous and bigoted adherence. Sectary, which is chiefly historical, more than sectarian, implies membership in a sect that is relatively small and composed of ardent and often by connotation narrow-minded and bigoted partisans (the passing of the bill by Parliament was advocated both by churchmen and by sectarian) (collectivist movements within Christianity have proceeded almost entirely from the Anabaptists and other sectaries—Inge) Dissenter, which basically means one who dissent, in the present connection, applies to a person who separates himself from and worships in a communion other than an established church (as the Church of England); nonconformist is ordinarily synonymous with dissenter, but the term has been specifically applied in England to persons who refused to accept certain religious doctrines or to follow certain religious practices imposed by the established church; thus, many of the 2000 clergymen who refused to subscribe to the Act of Uniformity in 1662 were regarded as nonconformists; Roman Catholics in England (as dissenters) have been held to be nonconformists rather than dissenters, since they did not accept the Church of England at any time. Nevertheless the terms are often used interchangeably (Wesley was not a schismatic, or even, in the doctrinal sense, a dissenter. He desired, not to secede from the Established Church, but to fill it with new life—Atlantic) (the English and Scotch Nonconformists have a great horror of establishments
heretical, heterodox

heritage, inheritance, patrimony, birthright denote something which one receives or is entitled to receive by succession (as from a parent or predecessor). Heritage is the most widely applicable of these words, for it may apply to anything (as a tradition, a right, a trade, or the effect of a cause) that is passed on not only to one's heir or heirs but to the generation or generations that succeed. [Livy] made the average Roman realize the grandeur of the past and the magnitude of his heritage—Buchan

our neglect of the magnificent spiritual heritage which we possess in our own history and literature—Inge

but the war had left its heritage of poverty . . . of disease, of misery, of discontent—Rose Macaulay

a . . . party whose heritage is vision and boldness—Straight

Inheritance applies to what passes from parent to children, whether it be money, property, or traits of character.

(my father's blessing, and this little coin is my inheritance—Beaumont & Fletcher) but the term may be used in place of heritage when such descent is implied. [a good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children—Prov. 13:22] Inheritance, but not heritage, may also apply to the fact of inheriting or to the means by which something passes into one's possession (come into possession of a property by inheritance) (the power of regulating the devolution of property by inheritance or will upon the death of the owner—Justice Holmes)

Patrimony applies basically to the money or property inherited from one's father, but is also used in the more general sense of ancestral inheritance (to reave the orphan of his patrimony—Shak.) content . . . to leave his patrimony not worse but something better than he found it—Quiller-Couch

a most important part of the intellectual patrimony of Italy—R. A. Hull

Birthright is now more often used in its extended sense (see Right) than in its original sense of the property, goods, privileges, or rank which belong to one by reason of one's birth. But in this sense birthright is often more specific than inheritance, because it usually applies only to what belongs to the firstborn son by the law of primogeniture (and Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? . . . and he sold his birthright unto Jacob—Gen 25:31-33) a race which . . . has taught its children to struggle on though despair be their birthright—Gerald Beaumont

hermaphroditic, hermaphrodite

*bisexual, androgynous, epicene

hermit eremite, anchorite, *recluse, cenobite

Con *religious, monk, friar, nun: *ascetic, mystic

heroes, valor, prowess, gallantry are comparable when they mean conspicuous courage or bravery in conduct or behavior especially during conflict. Heroism, the strongest term, distinctively implies superlative, often transcendent, courage or bravery not only as exhibited by daring deeds in the presence of danger (as in a battle, a fire, or a wreck at sea) but in carrying through without submitting or yielding an eminently arduous but exalted enterprise (as an exploration) or in the same spirit fulfilling a superhumanly high purpose (as the conquest of self or the institution of a great moral reform) where the odds are against one (acts of heroism are in the very essence of them but rare: for if they were common they would not be acts of heroism—Bentham) the characteristic of genuine heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity . . . . The

heroic cannot be the common, nor the common the heroic—Emerson

Valor has been applied to the quality of mind of one ready to meet dangers or hazards with courage and gallantry (my valor is certainly going . . . I feel it oozing out—Sheridan) but far more often it implies both the possession of a high degree of sometimes moral, sometimes physical courage and the exhibition of that quality under stress (as in battle) (awarded a medal for valor in action) In contrast with heroism, valor implies illustrious rather than superlative courage or bravery; it carries a far weaker implication of a persistent struggle against odds but a stronger one of fearlessness and audacity in conflict with a powerful enemy (real valor consists not in being insensible to danger, but in being prompt to confront and disarm it—Scott) the stupid valor of the Englishman never knows when it is beaten; and, sometimes, . . . succeeds in not being beaten after all—Kingsley

must men conscientiously risk their careers only for principles which hindsight declares to be correct, in order for posterity to honor them for their valor—Kennedy

Prowess has become essentially a literary term in its original sense, in which it differs from valor chiefly in its greater emphasis upon brilliant achievements or exploits in arms (how insignificant a thing . . . does personal prowess appear compared with the fortitude of patience and heroic martyrdom—Wordsworth) warfare was a means of demonstrating tribal prowess and superiority to other tribes—Fauthauer

Often prowess loses its basic implication of distinguished skill and bravery in arms and means little more than success in competition typically as based on the possession of many skills (as in athletics or hunting) (among male animals, the human male is . . . (at least for constancy if not for prowess) without doubt the best mammal in the business—La Barre) (power derived from . . . technical prowess—Aron)

Gallantry more than valor, its close synonym, stresses mettle and spirit as well as courage and an almost gay indifference to danger or hardship (few augured the possibility that the encounter could terminate well for . . . the Disinherited Knight, yet his courage and gallantry secured the general good wishes of the spectators—Scott) the desperate gallantry of our naval task forces—Marshall

Ana bravery, intrepidity, dauntlessness, doughiness (see corresponding adjectives at Brave)* courage, tenacity, resolution, mettle, spirit: *fortitude, pluck, grit, guts, sand

hesitancy *hesitation

Ana reluctance, averseness, indisposedness or disposition (see corresponding adjectives at Disinclined): failing, wavering, vacillation (see corresponding verbs at Hesitate)

Con resolution, tenacity, spirit, *courage: backbone, pluck, grit, guts, sand, *fortitude

hesitant reluctant, loath, averse, indisposed, *disinclined

Ana *fearful, afraid, apprehensive: diffident, *shy, bashful: recoiling, flinching, blenching, shrinking (see Recoil)

Con *eager, avid, keen: resolute, steadfast, staunch (see Faithful)

hesitate, waver, vacillate, falter all mean to show irresolution or uncertainty. Hesitate, the general term, usually implies a pause or other sign of indecision before one makes up one's mind what to do, say, or choose (I have for many months hesitated about the propriety of allowing . . . any part of my narrative to come before the public eye—De Quincey) (when delivering a speech to pour out in a copious stream, without pausing to take breath or hesitating over a word—Hudson)

Waver (see also Swing 2) implies hesitation after a decision has been
hesitation

resisted and so usually connotes weakness or treat (let us hold fast . . . without wavering—Heb 10:23)

the front line which had been advancing rapidly wavered under the heavy fire

you waver in your convictions—Jeffries

Vaccinate implies prolonged hesitation resulting from one's inability to reach a fixed or final decision; the term connotes alternate decision and indecision or a shifting (as in opinions, choices, or loyalties) (he may pause, but he must not hesitate—and tremble, but he must not vaccinate—Ruskin) (he had vaccinates between various substitutes for Oswald up to the very moment when he named the four upon whom he decided finally—H. G. Wells)

I have vaccinates when I should have insisted; temporized when I should have taken definite action—Marsh

Falter suggests a waver in purpose or action that is evident or is made evident in such signs of fear or nervousness as trembling or the breaking of the voice (with voice that did not falter though the heart was moved—Wordsworth) (neither to change, nor falter, nor repent—Shelley)

his eyes did not flinch and his tongue did not falter—Conrad

Ana *buckle, rive, split (see TEAR)

hew

*miscellaneous, motley, promiscuous, hesitation, Ana

Ana cleave, rive, split (see TEAR)

hesitation, hesitancy

Ana *uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosty, mistrust; procrastination, delaying or delay, dawdling (see corresponding verbs at DELAY)

Con resolution, spirit, mettle, *courage, tenacity: *confidence, assurance, self-possession, aplomb

heterodox, heretical are comparable when they mean not in conformity with orthodox beliefs or teachings.

What is heterodox is at variance with accepted doctrines, especially of religion or science, or interpretations (as of the Bible or the Constitution), or with views regarded as authorized by reason, revelation, tradition, or convention (Milton's heterodox opinions on divorce and the episcopacy) (Darwin's contemporaries were slow in accepting his heterodox theory of the origin of species: What is heretical is not only heterodox but is regarded as not merely erroneous but destructive of truth a great Christian society defending itself against heretical anarchy from within—Bello) (heretical books) (the propagation of heretical doctrines) (Galileo's writings championing the heterodox Copernican theory of the solar system were condemned by the Inquisition as heretical)

Ant orthodox

heterogeneous

*miscellaneous, motley, promiscuous, assorted

Ana diverse, disparate, various, divergent, *different: mixed, mingled, commingled (see MIX): multifarious, divers (see MANY)

Ant homogeneous —Con uniform, identical, alike, akin, analogous, comparable, parallel (see LIKE)

hew

*chop, *cut, carve, slit, slash

Ana cleave, rive, split (see TEAR)

hiatus

*break, gap, interruption, interval, interim, lacuna, Ana

hick

bumpkin, yokel, rube, clodhopper, clown, lout, *boor, churl

hide vb

Hide, conceal, screen, secrete, cache, bury, en- sconce are comparable when meaning to withdraw or to withhold from sight or observation. Hide, the general term, and conceal are often interchangeable. But hide may or may not suggest intent (let me go, that I may hide myself in the field—I Sam 20:5) (the snow hides all the ground) or a putting into a place out of the range of others' sight (hide the money under a mattress) (he hid somewhere in his grimy little soul a genuine love for music—Kipling)

Conceal, on the other hand, more often implies intention (hidden things that had never been concealed, that had merely been dropped into forgotten corners and out-of-the-way places, to be found a long while afterward—Roberts) or effective hiding (Sophia had held that telegram concealed in her hand and its information concealed in her heart—Bennett) or a refusal to divulge (I am glad to be constrained to utter which torments me to conceal—Shak)

Elizabeth was forced to conceal her lover from her father—Woolf

Screen implies a hiding or concealment of someone or something in danger of being seen or known by interposing between him or it and others something (as a screen or curtain) which shelters and prevents discovery (Wilde screened himself under a bush and waited—Hardy)

(the mere idea of a woman's appealing to her family to screen her husband's business dishonor—Wharton)

Secrete implies a depositing, often by stealth, in a place screened from view or unknown to others (secrete smuggled goods in a cave) (squirrels secrete their winter supply of nuts) (and in mere sound secretes his inmost sense—de la Mare)

Cache implies an even more carefully chosen hiding place than secrete, for it usually implies protection from thieves or from the elements; sometimes the notion of secure storage more or less completely obliterates that of concealment (the explorers took only enough food and ammunition for the three days' trip, the rest they cached in pits dug for that purpose) Bury implies a covering with or a submerging in something that hides or conceals or serves as a hiding place (buries his face in his hands) (his intention had been to bury the incident in his bosom—Wharton)

Enconce in the relevant sense implies concealment especially in a raised or enclosed place (bounded into the vehicle and sat on the stool, ensconced from view—Hardy) (ensconced the boy in a cubbyhole—Peggy Bacon)

Ana *cloak, mask, *disguise, disguise, camouflage: *sup- press, repress

Con expose, parade, flaunt, display, exhibit, *show: emerge, loom, *appear

hide n

*skin, pelt, rind, bark, peel

hidebound

*illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, intolerant, bigoted

Ana restricted, circumscribed, limited (see LIMIT vb)

hideous

*ugly, ill-favored, unsightly

Ana revolting, repulsive, *offensive, loathsome: repellant, obnoxious, abhorrent, distasteful (see REPUGNANT): homely, *plain

Ant fair —Con* beautiful, lovely, comely, pretty, beauteous, handsome

high, tall, lofty mean above the average in height. High, the general term (opposed to low), implies marked extension upward and is applied chiefly to things which rise from a base or foundation (a high hill) (a high building) or are placed at a conspicuous height above a lower level (as a floor or the ground) (a high ceiling) (a high-arched bridge) Tall (often opposed to short) applies to what rises
or grows high as compared with others of its kind, especially when its breadth or diameter is small in proportion to its height; thus, in idiomatic use one would ordinarily refer to a high hill but a tall man a tall tree. Lofty is often poetically high, but it usually implies even greater and more imposing altitude (a lofty mountain peak) a lofty perch. The loftiest star of unascended heaven—Shelley High alone of these words is used to express degree or intensity high speed (high power) (high color) (high seasoning) (a high wind) (a high fever).

In extended use high connotes distinction, elevation, and sometimes pride or arrogance heaven's high king—Milton here . . . thought him cold, high, self-contained, and passionless—Tennyson nobody else could utter those two words as he did, with such gravity and high courtesy—Cather Lofty suggests moral grandeur or dignity (exultation . . . solemn, serene and lofty—Shelley) that lofty musing on the ultimate nature of things which constitutes, for Pascal, the whole dignity and business of man—Huxley The term may also imply haughtiness or superciliousness (she is greatly disliked because of her lofty airs) (looked down upon him with the loftiest contempt—Dickens) Tall in extended use is usually slangy or informal and often implies exaggeration or departure from the strict truth indulging in tall talk about the vast mysteries of life—White (he is given to tall stories) Ana elevated, lifted, raised, reared (see lift vb) *deep, profound, abysmal: heightened, enhanced, intensified (see intensify vb) increased, augmented (see increase vb) low

high-spirited *spirited, merrymaker, spunky,ify, pep- pery, gingery anal merriment, blitheness, jocundity (see corresponding adjectives at merry): cheerfulness, gladness, joyfulness, joyousness, lightheartedness (see corresponding adjectives at glad) *fun, play, sport, jest, game hind adj hinder, rear, *posterior, after, back Ana fore, front hinder vb Hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar, dam all mean to put obstacles in the way of a person or thing or of his action. To hinder is to check or hold back someone or something in action or about to act, move, or start; the term usually stresses harmful or annoying delay or interference with progress from your affairs hinder you too long—Shak. [the artist's] education is . . . hindered rather than helped by the ordinary processes of society which constitute education for the ordinary man—T. S. Eliot) Sometimes, however, hinder definitely implies prevention the rain hindered their going (machines are sometimes hindered by speed from delivering their best performance—Diehl) To impede is to impose upon a person or thing that is moving or in action or in progress something that slows him or it up (as by clogging, hampering, or fettering); the term seldom suggests the stopping of movement or progress, but it commonly implies difficulties so great that movement or action are painfully slow or seriously impaired around their tattooed limbs they often wore coiled brass rings or bands, which in time became so tight that they impeded the circulation—Heiser the teaching of mathematics is . . . impeded by the use of Roman symbols—Grangenoit he . . . placed his hand on hers, impeding the rapidity of her embroidery needle—Rose Macaulay To obstruct is to hinder free or easy passage; the word implies interference with something in motion or in progress or obstacles in the path or channel (highways obstructed by fallen trees after a storm) (the tall building obstructed the light from the west) (the view was obstructed by billboards) (the restriction of the power of the House of Lords to obstruct legislation—Plummer) To block (often with up) is to obstruct so effectively as to close all means of egress or ingress and to prevent all passage shifting sand blocked the entrance to the channel his nose was blocked up by a cold in these wild places . . . a snowstorm . . . does not block the King's highways and paralyze traffic as [in] London—Jefferies To bar is to block or to prohibit passage, ingress, or egress (a long freight train . . . barred the passage along the road—Anderson) (that route is barred to steemers—Kipling) Sometimes the implication of prohibition is so strong that there is no hint of blocking (the law of arms doth bar the use of venomed shot in war—Butler d. 1680) To dam (often with up) is to obstruct with obstacles that prevent a continued flow (as of water, speech, or emotion) and so provide no outlet or exit fallen trees dammed up the brook the strait pass was dammed with dead men—Shak. (trembling with dammed-up emotion) Ana arrest, check, interrupt: *hamper, fetter, clog, trammel, shackles, manacle, hog-tie: *restrain, inhibit, curb, check: baffile, balk, *frustrate Ana further—Con *advance, forward, promote: *speed, accelerate, quicken hinder adj hind, rear, *posterior, after, back Ana front, fore hinge vb *depend, hang, turn Ana *swing, fluctuate, undulate hint vb intimate, insinuate, imply, *suggest Ana allude, advert, *refer Con voice, utter, *express, vent: declare, *assert, affirm, aver, profess hire n *wage or wages, pay, salary, stipend, fee, emolument hire vb Hire, let, lease, rent, charter are comparable when they mean to take or engage something or grant the use of something for a stipulated price or rate. Because some of these words are referable only to the act of the owner and some only to the act of the one who engages, and because they vary in their applications, they are not always true synonyms. In their narrowest use hire and let are complementary terms, hire meaning to engage the use or occupancy of something at a price or rate, and let meaning to grant its use or occupancy for a stipulated return we hired a house for the summer after having some difficulty in persuading the owner to let it. Nevertheless hire, especially when used of persons or, by implication, their services, may be employed in either sense hire a servant (hire oneself often with out) as a servant hire workers by the day men willing to hire themselves out at any wage In distinctive use lease means to let on a contract by which the owner conveys to another for a set term, and usually at a fixed rate, land, buildings, or similar property (the lands in America [in Colonial days] . . . are in general not tenanted nor leased out to farmers—Smith) But lease may also be employed in the sense of to hire on a lease (they have leased the house where they live for three years) Rent implies payment in money (or in kind) for the use of land and the buildings thereon. As long as this idea is stressed, the verb may denote either to hire or to let a property rent their house from the college the college rents these houses only to professors rent (in the sense of either hire or let) is also employed in reference to various commodities other than real property (rent books from a circulating library) rent an automobile for the summer Charter means to hire by a contract (charter party) similar to a lease whereby the use of a ship is given for a certain time and the safe delivery of its cargo
is promised (it was impossible to charter a ship for the purpose—Irving) The word is often extended to other means of transportation (as buses or airplanes) and then usually implies to reserve by hiring or leasing the exclusive use of a vehicle that is normally available to the general public 

<chart a bus for a club picnic>

Anna secure, obtain, *get, procure: engage, contract, *promise

hiringling adj *mercenary, venal, hack

Anna servile, menial, *subserviient: *mean, abject, sordid

historic, historical are sometimes distinguished in meaning. Historic is used when the idea of association with history in the sense of being celebrated, well-known, or deserving to be well-known is stressed (we shall visit many historic spots on our trip) this is historic ground on which we are standing (the incident became historic in the Square—Bennett) the historic conference in 1948, when Lyseko announced his formal endorsement by the Communist Government—Martin Gardner Historical, on the other hand, implies use of or dependence on or relation to history, especially of facts or events; thus, an historic event is one that is important or famous, while an historical event is one that is supported by the evidence of history (he is conducting an historical investigation of the Pelagian heresy) an historical novel (we doubt the historical truth of his conclusions) a historical phenomenon as deeply rooted as English snobbery is not to be swept away in a night—Brogan (the author examines his own background and the historical accident which caused him to reverse the emigration of his ancestors from England to America—R. B. West)

Anna famed, *famous, celebrated, renowned

history, chronicle, annals mean a written record of events important in the life or career of a race, a nation, an institution, or a region. A history is more than a mere recital of what has occurred; in the modern conception, at least, it requires order and purpose in narration, but not necessarily a strictly chronological order nor a common definitely defined purpose. Usually, also, it is thought of as an interpretation of events especially in their causal relationships. It may exhibit fullness and completeness or, on the other hand, selection of details, especially when a single aspect is considered or a thesis is to be proved. A chronicle is a recital of events in chronological order without interpretation (the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) the Holinshed's Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland) Annals is not always clearly distinguishable from chronicle except in its emphasis upon the progress or succession of events from year to year. The term need not imply a discursive treatment or a continued narrative, for some of the ancient annals are merely records of important events in each year of the time covered. However, in the selection of titles for modern historical works these distinctions are not always observed, for chronicle and annals are sometimes chosen as less formal or pretentious than history or because chronicle stresses narrative quality and annals the selection of noteworthy events (in the earlier Middle Ages, history was written chiefly in the form of annals, that is, the enumeration of the notable events of each year, or of chronicles, in which happenings were recorded in somewhat more continuous, but still strictly chronological and unanalytical form—R. A. Hall)

In their extended senses only history and annals are closely comparable. Both of these words designate more or less shifting abstractions. History usually signifies the sum total of events, with their dates, that have become fixed in the mind because of the momentousness, often tragic momentousness, of those events (the short and simple annals of the poor—Gray) (happy the people whose annals are blank—Carlyle) Chronicle, on the other hand, is often applied to something concrete (as a person or thing) that records, relates, or manifests events as they happen (pitch upon the veriest camp follower of the New Poetry as the abstract and brief chronicle of its procedure—Lowes) (the neighborhood . . . was one of those highly favored places which abound with chronicle and great men—Irving)

histrionic adj *dramatic, theatrical, dramaturgic, melodramatic

Anna acting, playing, impersonating (see act vb)

hit vb *strike, smite, punch, slug, slog, swat, clout, slap, cuff, box

Anna *beat, buffet, pound, pummel, thrash

hit-or-miss *random, haphazard, happy-go-lucky, desultory, casual, chance, chancy

hoard vb amass, *accumulate

Anna collect, assemble, *gather: pile, *heap, stack, mass

Con dissipate, disperse, *scatter: *distribute, divide, dispense

hoarse raucous, strident, *loud, stentorian, earsplitting, stertorous

Anna harsh, *rough: gruff, crusty (see BLUFF)

hoax vb hoodwink, bamboozle, *dupe, gull, baffle, trick

Anna delude, mislead, *deceive: *cheat, cozen, overreach, defraud

hobo n tramp, vagrant, *vagabond, truant, bum

hocus-pocus mummary, *gibberish, abracadabra

hog-tie *bind, bind

hoist vb lift, raise, elevate, boost, heave, rear

Anna *rise, arise, ascend, mount, levitate

hold vb 1 hold back, withhold, reserve, detain, retain, *keep, keep back, keep out

Anna *restrain, inhibit, curb, check: preserve, conserve, *save

Con *relinquish, surrender, abandon, resign, yield

2 *contain, accommodate

Anna *carry, bear, convey: *receive, admit, take: house, lodge, *harbor, shelter: *include, comprehend

3 *have, own, possess, enjoy

Ana control, direct, manage, *conduct

hold n Hold, grip, grasp, clutch are comparable when they denote the power of getting or of keeping something in possession or under control. Hold is the most comprehensive of these terms, for it may apply to material, intangible matters and may imply mere possession or control or possession and control securely maintained (lay hold on the deserts) (lost his hold on the side of the boat) (keep his hold on the property in dispute) (kept a hold on himself) (afraid they may lose their hold on the domestic market—Sydney Bulletin) (the hold of the public school upon the middle-class mind has not weakened—Lewis & Maude) Grip primarily implies the power of taking hold of by the hand, but in its secondary senses it definitely suggests a firm and tenacious hold (as on a country by an oppressor, on a person's system by a disease, or on a body of facts or principles by an eager mind) (he clutched Father Joseph's hand with a grip surprisingly strong—Cather) (the country was on the verge of bankruptcy and in the grip of a series of . . . insurrections—London Calling) (this interest . . . has been to strengthen the ruins is a land without memories—a land without memories is a land without history—Ryan) Annals most often signifies the sum total of events, with their dates, that have become fixed in the mind because of the momentousness, often tragic momentousness, of those events (the short and simple annals of the poor—Gray) (happy the people whose annals are blank—Carlyle) Chronicle, on the other hand, is often applied to something concrete (as a person or thing) that records, relates, or manifests events as they happen (pitch upon the veriest camp follower of the New Poetry as the abstract and brief chronicle of its procedure—Lowes) (the neighborhood . . . was one of those highly favored places which abound with chronicle and great men—Irving)

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
empty space, especially one of marked extent or of conspicuous duration, whether in a thing that is normally continuous (the air-filled voids of the soil—A. M. Bateman) or between things that are normally separate (the American planner will have... to give up his opaque passion for the transparent wall and go back to the alternation of solid and void that is characteristic of the Japanese house—Mumford) (the immense void between the earth and the nearest of the planets) (we suffer when we have time to spare and no printed matter with which to plug the void—Huxley) Vacuum basically and especially in technical use applies to space entirely devoid of matter; more often, however, it is applied to the space within an enclosed vessel in which by mechanical means the air has been practically, though seldom completely, exhausted. In its extended use the term applies to a condition or situation which resembles a true vacuum in its emptiness of all that normally should fill it or exert influence on anyone or anything that remains in it (you are not asked, as you are by so many novelists, to concern yourself with the fortunes of two or three people who live in a vacuum... but with the fortunes of all the sorts and conditions of men who make up the world in which we all live—Maughan) (he felt a sort of emptiness, almost like a vacuum in his soul—D. H. Lawrence)

Ana *aperture, orifice, interstice: perforation, puncture, bore, prick (see corresponding verbs at perforate): slit, slash, cut (see cut vb)

holiness, sanctity are often used without distinction to mean either the state or the character of one who is spiritually perfect or of something which is sacred or hallowed. Holiness more often implies spiritual perfection, whether intrinsic and essential (the holiness of the Lord) or acquired by effort (the holiness of a saint) than it does sacredness, although the latter implication is not uncommon (and an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it—Isa 35:8) Sanctity may be used either as denoting saintliness or the holiness attained by a saint (die in the odor of sanctity) (men of eminent sanctity—Burke) or the quality of being sacred or by law and especially by natural or divine law immune from violation (the sense of the dignity of human nature is an even more civilized feeling than the sense of the sanctity of human life—Brownell) (there is no greater sanctity in the right to combine than in the right to make other contracts—Justice Holmes)

Ana sacredness, divinens or divinity, spirituality, blessedness, religiousness (see corresponding adjectives at holy): devoutness or devotion, piousness or piety (see corresponding adjectives at devout): *goodness, virtue, rectitude

holler vb *shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, whoop

Ana vociferate, clamor, bellow, *roar

holler n shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, whoop (see under shout vb)

hollow adj empty, *vain, nangatory, otiose, idle

Ana & Con see those at empty adj 2

hollow n cavity, *hole, pocket, void, vacuum

Ana excavation, digging (see corresponding verbs at dig): *gulf, chasm, abyss: orifice, *aperture

holocaust *fire, conflagration

holy, sacred, divine, spiritual, religious, blessed are comparable chiefly as epithets applied to persons or things associated with religion or worship and therefore either regarded with special reverence or veneration or thought of as having a character apart from what is material or...
secular. Their choice is often a matter of idiom rather than of meaning inherent in the term. Holy (compare HOLINESS) usually implies some quality or some attribute in the thing itself which makes it either suitable for use in worship or an object of veneration. As the strongest of these terms in its suggestion of a claim upon one's reverence, it is the only one directly applied to the Supreme Being in praise or laudation. It also forms a part of some titles of the godhead or of a person of the Trinity. It is also applied to some persons or group of persons as a mark of highest reverence or esteem; thus, the Holy Family consists of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus; the Holy Father is a frequent designation of the Pope; the Holy Synod is the governing body in some Orthodox churches. The term is comparably applied to particular things with a similar implication of reverence and esteem; thus, the central Eucharistic service of Christian churches is often called Holy Communion; Palestine is known as the Holy Land; water blessed for use in religious services is holy water; Holy Week is a week set apart for especially pious observances. In more general use holy is often the word chosen when one wishes to impute to what is so described some inherent character that dissociates it from what is mundane, material, or transitory. (so holy and so perfect is my love—Shak.) All is holy where devotion kneels—Holmes (some words are considered so holy they must never be spoken aloud, such as the ancient Hebrew word for God—Chase) Sacred (see also SACRED) differs from holy chiefly in implying a character given to a thing by blessing, dedication, consecration to religion or worship or to the uses of religion or worship, or by its being devoted wholly to such ends or uses; the term therefore usually suggests an opposition to what is profane or exists for profane uses; thus, the vessels used in a Eucharistic service are preferably called sacred vessels; sacred as opposed to profane history is biblical history or history dealing with biblical characters or biblical events; sacred as opposed to profane literature may denote any or all of the books of the Bible or sometimes any or all writings (as the Bible, the Talmud, and the Koran) which are regarded by various religions as sources of revealed truth. Sacred Writ (see its appointed compartment in the synagogue rested the sacred Torah—Time) In more general use sacred applies chiefly to what one treasures as a thing apart, not to be violated or contaminated by being put to vulgar or low uses or associated with vulgar or low ends (when they saw all that was sacred to them laid waste, the Navajos lost heart. They did not surrender; they simply ceased to fight—Cather) Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of our own mind—Emerson) Divine in its oldest and most definite sense implies either the character of deity or an origin from or an association with deity; thus, “divine being” implies both a difference from “human being” and from “angelic being” and the possession of some nature or essence of deity. (The belief that Christ is both human and divine) (A divine right is one that comes from God) Divine service is a service having for its end the worship of God) In its weaker senses divine may suggest a supernatural or a superhuman character or origin or, in hyperbolic use, a perfection that is above that which is found on earth. (The great mysteries declare that their experiences have some kind of cosmic and divine significance—Jour. of Religion) (that mighty orb of song, the divine Milton—Wordsworth) (the strains ... of divinest music—Farrar) (by what magic was it that this divine sweet creature could be allied with that old churl!—Meredith) Spiritual implies an opposition in character or in quality to what is bodily, material, earthy, or mundane; it may suggest incorporeal existence (angels are conceived of as spiritual beings) or independence from the merely physical or sensible (a spiritual marriage) (the leaders of Islam saw its spiritual foundations endangered by the subtle infidelities of pure rationalism—Gibb) or a definite relation to the soul or spirit in its aspiration toward or dependence on a higher power or in its perception of eternal values (the responsibility of human nature, not merely on the moral side, but equally on the spiritual side—Mackenzie) The spiritual richness, the subtle emotional qualities, which illuminated the great styles of the past—Belluschi) (our Declaration of Independence was written by men whose minds reached the spiritual level of eternal principles—McGranery) Spiritual in some chiefly technical legal and theological uses is more or less equivalent to ecclesiastical and then usually implies an opposition to temporal or civil (a spiritual lord, or lord spiritual, is a bishop or archbishop of the Church of England who has a right to sit in the House of Lords; the boundary between lay and spiritual authority was never defined in pre-Conquest England—Stenton) Religious (for the application of this term to persons, see DEVOUT) implies an opposition to secular and a relation of some kind to religion; thus, religious history is the history of a religion or religions; religious literature is not the same as sacred literature but has a character that is determined by religion or by religious belief or feeling; religious music, unlike sacred music, is not necessarily suitable for use in services or prayer, for, although it includes sacred music, the term may also apply to music not composed for church use but animated by feeling or prompted by themes associated with religion (he stated that his discourses to people were to be sometimes secular, and sometimes religious, but never dogmatic—Hardy) (except for the nominal subjects of the legends, one sees nothing religious about them; the medallions, when studied ... turn out to be less religious than decorative—Henry Adams) Blessed basically means consecrated (the Blessed Sacrament) and usually also suggests a supremely sacred character (our Blessed Lord) (the Blessed Virgin) In its derived senses blessed means beatified and supremely happy because enjoying the sight of God in heaven (the blessed spirits in heaven) In general use blessed may mean no more than enjoyable, pleasant, or satisfying (that extra blessed quarter hour in bed—Spectorisky) (we have no green vegetables here in winter, and no one seems ever to have heard of that blessed plant, the lettuce—Cather) Ana hallowed, consecrated, dedicated (see DEVOTE) adored, worshiped, venerated, revered (see REVERE): devout, pious, religious Ant unholy —Con *profane, secular: *impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious, profane homage reverence, deference, obeisance, *honor worship, adoration, veneration, reverence (see under REVERE): fealty, *fidelity, devotion, loyalty, allegiance: tribute, panegyric, eulogy, *encomium home house, *habitation, dwelling, abode, residence, domicile homely *plain, simple, unpretentious Ana *familiar, intimate, close: *usual, wonted, customary, habitual: ill-favored, *ugly Ant comely, bonny homily sermon, talk, *speech, address, oration, harangue, lecture homunculus manikin, midget, *dwarf, pygmy, runt honest *upright, just, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable Ana truthful, veracious (see corresponding nouns at
honesty, honor, integrity, probity are comparable when meaning uprightness as evidenced in character and actions. Honest implies refusal to lie, steal, defraud, or deceive (you can rely on his honesty) (he is a man of scrupulous honesty) (this crisis will be surmounted if the Church has the faith and courage, and, above all, the common honesty, to face it candidly—Inge) (was not greatly pleased with Lincoln, though admitting his honesty and fair-mindedness—W. C. Ford) Honor (see also fame) adds to honesty the implication of high-mindedness or a nice sense of allegiance to the standards of one's profession, calling, or position (business honor is the foundation of trade) (I could not love thee, dear, so much, loved I not honor more—Lovelace) (the fourth generation of Ralstons had nothing left in the way of convictions save an acute sense of honor in private and business matters—Wharton) (a national administration of such integrity ... that its honor at home will ensure respect abroad—Eisenhower) Integrity implies such rectitude that one is incapable of being false to a trust or a responsibility or to one's own standards (his unimpeachable integrity as treasurer of a widows' and orphans' fund—Howthorne) (the poet's sense of responsibility to nothing but his own inner voice, is perhaps his only way of preserving poetic integrity against the influences of a perverse generation—Day Lewis) Probity stresses tried or proved honesty or integrity (that sort of probity which such men as Bailey possesses—Keats) (probity in domestic policy and wise judgment in foreign policy—A. E. Stevenson)

Ana veracity, *truth, verity: uprightness, justness, conscientiousness, scrupulousness (see corresponding adjectives at upright): candidness or candor, openness, plainness, frankness (see corresponding adjectives at frank): reliability, trustworthiness, dependability (see corresponding adjectives at reliable): rectitude, virtue, *goodness

Ant dishonesty —Con untruthfulness, deceitfulness, mendacity, or mendacity or mendacity (see corresponding adjectives at dishonest): guile, duplicity, *deceit

honor n 1 glory, renown, *fame, celebrity, éclat, reputation, repute, notoriety

Ana esteem, respect, *regard, admiration: reverence, veneration, worship, adoration (see under reverence): prestige, credit, authority, *influence, weight

Ant dishonor —Con *disgrace, disrepute, shame, ignominy, infamy

2 Honor, homage, reverence, deference, obeisance all mean respect or esteem shown another as his due or claimed by him as a right. Honor may apply to the recognition of one's title to great respect or esteem or to an expression or manifestation of such respect and esteem (hold every good and conscientious man in high honor) (he declined the honor that was offered him) (they feel deeply the honor of belonging to the Senate, and the necessity of protecting the Senate against dishonorable men—New Republic). Homage adds to honor implications of accompanying praise or tributes of esteem especially from those who owe allegiance or service (all these are ... thy gentle ministers, who come to pay thee homage, and acknowledge thee their Lord—Milton). In its extended use the term carries a stronger implication of a worshipful attitude than honor carries (to the poetry of Byron the world has ardently paid homage—Arnold) ("They say I'm hand-some." "You're lovely, Bella!" she drank in his homage—Meredith) Reverence (see also reverence) implies profound respect mingled with love or devotion (in general those parents have the most reverence who desire it—Johnson) (it behooves those of us who cherish the past to study Alfred's life and works with a special reverence—Malone) Deference implies such respect for the person or his position or such reverence for his personality or such honor for his years or achievements that one courteously yields or submits one's own judgment, opinion, or preference to his (the arrangements for the flower show were altered out of deference to the wishes of the duchess—a certain deference, not to say servility, to the heads of colleges is perhaps necessary to a physician that means to establish himself here—Gray) (looked like a great man ... deriving dignity from a carriage which, while it indicated deference to the court, indicated also habitual self-possession and self-respect—Macaulay) (an attitude of hostility to aristocracy because it was aristocracy, was as incomprehensible to him as an attitude of deference—Galsworthy) Obeisance implies a show of honor or reverence by some act or gesture (as bowing or kneeling) that indicates submission, humility, or acknowledgment of defeat (the Spanish prince was welcomed ... by a goodly company of English lords, assembled to pay him their obeisance—Prescott). Sometimes the term is used in place of one of the other words in this group to suggest abject humiliation on the part of the one who pays honor or reverence (a throne to which conquered nations yielded obeisance—Steel) (continually making humble obeisance to supercilious superiors—Wier)

Ana recognition, acknowledgment (see corresponding verbs at acknowledge): adulation, *compliment: tribute, panegyric, eulogy, *encomium

Con contempt, disdain, scorn, despite (see under despise)

3 *honesty, integrity, probity

Ana uprightness, justness, honorableness, scrupulousness, conscientiousness (see corresponding adjectives at upright): *truth, veracity: straightforwardness, forthrightness (see corresponding adjectives at straightforward): rectitude, virtue (see goodness)

honor vb *dignify, ennoble, glorify

Ana *exalt, magnify, aggrandize: extol, laud, acclaim (see praise): reverence, *revere, venerate

honorable 1 Honorable, honorary are sometimes not clearly distinguished. Honorable commonly applies to something which is worthy of honor (as in being noble, high-minded, or highly commendable) (an honorable calling) (an honor service). It is also used as a prefix to the names of some persons of distinction (as members of Congress or of Parliament, mayors, and certain scions of the nobility) and as a merely courteous appellation in speaking of an opponent in a debate or controversy (my honorable colleague says ...). > Honorary regularly and honorably occasionally apply to what is conferred, awarded, or given as an honor (an honorary degree) (an honorary mention) (an honorary title) Honorary, but not honorable, is also used before a title of an office which is held without emolument or without responsibility for services (the honorary president of a society) (an honorary pallbearer)

Ana respected, esteemed, admired (see corresponding verbs under regard n): illustrious, eminent (see famous)

2 *upright, just, scrupulous, conscientious, honest

Ana trustworthy, *reliable, dependable: noble, virtuous, righteous, *moral, ethical

Ant dishonorable

honorary *honorable

hoodwink vb hoax, trick, *dupe, gull, befoul, bamboozle

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
hop vb *skip, bound, curvet, lope, lollipops, ricochet

hope vb *expect, look, await

hopeless desponding, *despondent, desperate, forlorn

despair, despondency, desperation, forlorn—hopelessness

hopeful, optimistic, roseate, rose-colored are comparable when they mean having or showing confidence that the end or outcome will be favorable or for the best. Hopeful, which is often used in distinction from sanguine (see CONFIDENT), usually implies some ground, and often reasonably good grounds, for one's having hope; it therefore typically suggests confidence in which there is little or no self-deception or which may be the result of a realistic consideration of the possibilities (the air of youth, hopeful and cheerful—Milton) (I am hopeful of purification [in politics], but not sanguine—J. R. Lowell) (the vitamins of idealistic romance have been important in the expansive, the hopeful view of life—Candy) Optimistic usually implies a temperamental confidence that all will turn out for the best; unlike hopeful, it often suggests a failure to consider things closely and realistically or, even, a willingness to be guided by illusions rather than by facts (the optimistic or sentimental hypothesis that wickedness always fares ill in the world—John Morley) (the barren optimistic sophistries of comfortable moles—Arnold) Sometimes, however, the term carries a suggestion not of weakness but of a fundamental faith in the triumph of good or right (there is a species of discontent which is more fervently optimistic than all the cheerfulness the world can boast—Repliner) Roseate and rose-colored in their relevant extended senses imply the optimism of an abnormally cheerful temperament which enables one to see persons, events, or situations in their most attractive and alluring aspects. The terms definitely imply illusion or delusion and therefore connote an element of falsity, though not necessarily intentional falsity (a persuasive person who could depict the merits of his scheme with roseate but delusive eloquence—Goldwin Smith) (a rose-colored view of the world's future) (delivers a final ... talk, capping the rose-colored impression of life in this particular branch of the services—Christian Science Monitor)

Ana expecting, hoping, awaiting (see EXPECT): anticipating, foreseeing, divining (see FORESEE): sanguine, sure, *confident, assured

Ant hopeless, desparing —Con *despondent, desperate, forlorn: pessimistic, *cynical

hopeless desparing, *despondent, desperate, forlorn

Ana deserted, depressed, melancholy, sad (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS): gloomy, glum, morose (see SULLEN): acquiescent (see COMPLIANT)

Ant hopeful —Con optimistic, roseate, rose-colored (see HOPEFUL): *confident, assured, sanguine, sure

hopelessness despair, despondency, desperation, forlorness (see under DESPONDENT)

Ana dejection, depression, melancholy, gloom (see SADNESS)

Ant hopelessness —Con optimism (see corresponding adjective at HOPEFUL): *confidence, assurance, aplomb: *courage, spirit, tenacity, resolution

horque m nub, throng, *crowd, crush, press, rout

horizon *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, ken, purview

Ana *limit, bound, confine, term, end: spread, stretch, amplitude, *expanse

horrendous horrific, *horrible, horrid

horrible 1 Horrible, horrendous, horrid, horrific, horrendous mean inspiring horror or abhorrence. Horrible (see also FEARFUL 2) is the general term for what inspires horror (some ... horrible form, which might deprive your sovereignty of reason—Shak.) (wrongs and shames, horrible, hateful, monstrous, not to be told—Tennyson) (coconuts in the horrible likeness of a head shrunk by headhunters—Sinclair Lewis) Horrid, often practically synonymous with horrible, sometimes carries a stronger implication of inherent or innate offensiveness or repulsiveness (<this emperor ... from Rome retired to Capreae ... with purpose there his horrid lusts in private to enjoy—Milton) (<some horrid beliefs from which ... human nature revolts—Bagel). In modern colloquial usage the word is often weakened to a general term of aversion (<horrid weather) (<horrid little boys) (gave her a loud ... smack on the back, with horrid familiarity—O'Flaherty) Horrific (see also FEARFUL 2), a somewhat bookish term, stresses the power to horrify (she was a brave narrator ... her voice sinking into a whisper over the supernatutral or the horrific—Stevenson) (horrific black headlines in our daily papers—Charles Jackson) Horrendous is used chiefly in producing a literary effect (as the suggestion of extreme frightfulness, an apt rhyme for tremendous or stupendous, or an onomatopoetic rhythm) (damnings most dreadful ... execrations horrendous, blasphemies stupendous—Edward Hooker)

Ana abhorrent, abominable, detestable, *hateful: *repugnant, repellent, obnoxious: *offensive, repulsive, revolting, loathsome

Ant fascinating —Con *pleasant, pleasing, grateful, gratifying: attractive, alluring, charming, enchanting (see under ATTRACT)

2 horrific, shocking, appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful, terrible, terrific

Ana, Ant, & Con see those at HORRIBLE 1

horrid *horrible, horrific, horrendous

Ana distasteful, repellent, *repugnant, obnoxious: loathsome, *offensive, revolting, repulsive

Ant delightful —Con attractive, alluring, fascinating, charming (see under ATTRACT): *pleasant, pleasing, gratifying, grateful

horrific 1 *horrible, horrid, horrendous

Ana horrifying, appalling, dismaying, daunting (see DISMAY vb): terrorizing, terrifying, frightening, alarming (see FRIGHTEN)

2 horrible, terrible, terrific, shocking, appalling, *fearful, awful, dreadful, frightful

Ana see those at HORRIFIC 1

horrfy daunt, appall, *dismay

Ana agitation, upset, perturb, *discompose: *offend, outrage

Con delight, rejoice, gladden, gratify, *please

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

Ana aversion, *antipathy: repugnance, abhorrence, repel- lency or repulsion, distastefulness or distaste (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT): recoiling or recoil, flinching, shrinking, blenching (see corresponding verbs at RECOIL)

Ant fascination

hors d'oeuvre *appetizer, aperitif

horse sense see SENSE n 2

hospitalable *social, gregarious, convivial, cooperative, companionable

Ant

inhospitable — Con
churlish, boorish (see under BOOK): *indifferent, aloof; detached: reserved, taciturn, uncommunicative (see SILENT)

host

*multitude, army, legion

hostage

pawn, *pledge, earnest, token

hostility

*enmity, animosity, antagonism, antipathy, rancor, animus

*host, *hate: ill will, malevolence, malignity, malignancy, *malice: aggression, *attack: opposing or opposition, combating, resisting or resistance (see corresponding verbs at RESIST)

Con

*friendship, amity, comity, goodwill: forbearance, tolerance, clemency, leniency, indulgence (see under URBAN)

holl

vb
ride, hector, *bait, badger, heckle, chivvy

huffy

*hang, suspend: poise, balance (see STABILIZE): float, *fly, skim, sail

howl

vb
1 *bark, bay, growl, snarl, yap
2 *roar, blower, bluster, bawl, vociferate, clamor, ululate

Ana

A watt, blubber, *cry: lament, bewail, *deplore

house

n
home, habitation, dwelling, abode, residence, domicile

house

vb
lodges, shelter, *harbor, entertain

hove

*flit, flutter, flicker

Ana

*hang, suspend: poised, balance (see STABILIZE)

howl

vb
1 *bark, bay, growl, snarl, yap
2 *roar, blower, bawl, vociferate, clamor, ululate

Ana

A wail, blubber, *cry: lament, bewail, *deplore

howler

boner, *error, mistake, blunder, slip, lapse, faux pas, bull

hub

n core, center, middle, nucleus, heart, focus, midst

hubbub

*din, uproar, pandemonium, hubbub, babel, clamor, racket

hue

*color, shade, tint, tone

huff

n
dudgeon, pique, resentment, *offense, umbrage

Ana

*petulance, huffiness, irritability, fractiousness (see corresponding adjectives at IRRITABLE): *anger, indignation, rage, wrath

huffy

petulant, pettish, *irritable, fractious, peeved, snappish, waspish, fretful, querulous

Ana

*angry, mad, indignant, irate

huge

*large
vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, mammothian, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian are comparable when meaning exceedingly or excessively large. Huge is a rather general term indicating extreme largeness, usually in size, bulk, or capacity an enormous volume of heavy, inky vapor, coiling and pouring upward in a huge and ebony cumulus cloud—H. G. Wells

The Texan question and Mexican War made huge annexations of Southwestern territory certain—Nevis & Commager

Vast
denotes extreme largeness or broadness, especially of extent or range (the Great Valley of California, a vast elliptical bowl averaging 50 miles in width and more than 400 miles long—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.)

Consider the vast varieties of religions ancient and modern—Cohen

Immense
suggests size far in excess of ordinary measurements or accustomed concepts an immense quill, plucked from a distended albatross' wing—Melville

found the balcony at an immense height indeed, and the earth's convexity had now become strikingly manifest—Poe

the immense waste of war—Brogan

Enormous also indicates a size or degree exceeding accustomed bounds or norms (heavy wagons, enormous loads, scarcely any less than three tons—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.)

Ant

The princes of the Renaissance lavished upon private luxury and display enormous amounts of money—Mumford

Elephantine suggests the cumbersome or ponderous largeness of the elephant

similar elephantine bones were being displayed... as relics of the "giants" mentioned in the Bible—R. W. Murray

Elephantine grain elevators—Amer. Guide Series: N. Y.

Mammoth is similar to elephantine (her parties were... mammoth—she rarely invited fewer than 100 people—Time

a mammoth cyclotron—Whicher

Giant
Indicates unusual size or scope loaded with a typical unit of giant industrial equipment, the new car weighs more than a million pounds—Pa. Railroad Annual Report (1952)

his giant intellect—Gigantic and the uncommon gigantean are close synonyms of gigantic perhaps more likely to be used in metaphorical extensions gigantic jewels that a hundred Negroes could not carry—Chesterton

a justice of the Supreme Court... however gigantic his learning and his juridic rectitude—Mencken

Colossal
may suggest vast proportion three sets of colossal figures of men and animals... the largest man is 167 feet long—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.

the sun blasted down... the heat was colossal—Forester

Gargantuan
suggests the hugeness of Rabelais' Gargantuas and is often used in reference to appetites and similar physical matters (gargantuan breakfasts... pigs' knuckles and sauerkraut, liver and bacon, ham and eggs, beef stew—Ferber)

Herculean
suggests the superhuman power of the Greek hero Hercules or the superhuman difficulties of his famous labors a Herculean task confronted them. Some 1700 miles of track had to be laid through a wilderness—Nevis & Commager

Cyclopean
suggests the superhuman size and strength of the Cyclops of Greek mythology (of cyclopean masonry, consisting of very large blocks of stone—Scientific American)

Titanic
suggests colossal size and, often, primitive earth-shaking strength (titanic water fronts speedily choked both those rivers—H. G. Wells)

it was his titanic energy that broke the fetters of the imagination—Cohen

Brobdingnagian
suggests the hugeness of the inhabitants of the Brobdingnag of Gulliver's Travels (a brand-new Brobdingnag hotel—Disraeli)

Ana
stupendous, tremendous, prodigious, monumental, monstrous: big, great, large

hullabaloo
*din, uproar, pandemonium, babel, hubbub, clamor, racket

humane
humanitarian, *charitable, benevolent, philanthropic, eleemosynary, altruistic

Ana

Ant
barbarous, inhuman: atrocious—Con
savage, cruel, fell (see FIERCE): merciless, relentless, implacable (see GRIM)

humanitarian
humane, benevolent, philanthropic, eleemosynary, *charitable, altruistic

humble adj
Humble, meek, modest, lowly are comparable when they mean lacking all signs of pride, aggressiveness, or self-assertiveness either in spirit or in outward show.

All are applicable to persons and their attitudes and manners, and all but meek may also be applied to homes, occupations, interests, and ways of life. Humble may suggest a virtue that consists in the absence of pride in oneself or in one's achievements and, in religious use, a consciousness of one's weakness and a disposition to ascribe to the Supreme Being all credit for whatever one is or does that is meritorious God resists the proud, but giveth grace to the humble—las 4:6

Knowledge is proud that he knows no more—Cowper

Often humble connotes undue self-deprecation or humiliation sometimes verging on abjectness (she is humble to abjection—De Quincey). As applied to a person's circumstances, humble suggests low social rank, poverty, or insignificance (a man of humble
humble adj imitation, personation, masquerade, disguise, show of knowledge, show of virtue, pretense, sham, pretension, imposture, impostor, sham, fraud, cheat, deceit, sham, sham, sham

hume v humor, amuse, gratify, delight, please, rejoice, gladden, tickle, satisfy

hurricane n wind, breeze, gale, zephyr, hurricane, whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, tornado, waterspout, twister

hurt v injure, harm, damage, impair, mar, spoil

hurry v speed, quicken, precipitate, hasten, hurry, hasten, expeditious, expeditiously

husky adj muscular, brawny, sinewy, athletic, burly

hymm n hymn, song, chant, sing, troll, carol, descant, warble, trill, chant, intone

hymeneal adj nuptial, marital, connubial, conjugal, matrimonial

hymn vb sing, roll, carol, descant, warble, trill, chant, intone

hygienic adj sanitary, healthful, healthy, wholesome, salubrious, salutary

hydrangea n hydrangea

hygiene n health, cleanliness, sanitation, purity, cleanliness, hygiene, health, health, cleanliness, sanitation

hydric adj aquatic, aquiferous, hydrophilic, hydrophobic, hydroscopic, hydrophilic

hydropathy n water therapy, hydrotherapy

hydronephrosis n hydronephrosis

hydronephrotic adj hydronephrotic

hydronephrosis n hydronephrosis

hydronephrotic adj hydronephrotic

If you have any further questions or need more assistance, please let me know! 😊
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
icon *image, portrait, effigy, statue, photograph, mask
iconoclast *rebel, insurgent
icy glacial, arctic, gelid, *cold, frigid, freezing, frosty
cool, chilly

**Ant** fiery

idea, concept, conception, thought, notion, impression mean what exists in the mind as a representation of something that it apprehends or comprehends or as a formulation of an opinion, a plan, or a design. **Idea** is the most comprehensive and widely applicable of these terms: it may be used of an image of something at one time or another actually perceived through the senses, or of something never perceived but visualized from bits of information (described his idea of a penthouse) (his idea of heaven does not correspond to that of most persons) (our ideas of a good time aren't the same, and never will be—Rose Macaulay) or of something that is the clearly or vaguely defined product of fancy, imagination, or inventive power (he . . . invented a new kind of buoy which was found by the authorities to be excellent in idea, but impracticable—Ellis) (the idea of holiness has its history, like other religious ideas, and the history is not edifying—Inge) (one of those accepted ideas, which are always wrong, that China is and was a country of immovable and unchanging traditions—Binny). It may denote a mere supposition (I had no idea that the law had been so great a slavery—Austen) or a good or practical solution or suggestion (a very clever point that . . .). You are really full of ideas—Show or a ridiculous or preposterous suggestion (Mr. Elton in love with me! What an idea!—Austen)

**Concept** applies in logic to the idea of a thing which the mind conceives after knowing many instances of the category to which it belongs and which is devoid of all details except those that are typical or generic (the concept of “horse,” “table,” “mountain”) (the author of Mein Kampf has abolished the whole concept of the citizen as we have known it from the days of Pericles—Dorothy Thompson). In more general use the term applies to a formulated and widely accepted idea of what a thing should be (we find among the Greeks germinal concepts which are a vital part of modern thought—Buchan) (thus the popular concept of what news was came more and more to be formed upon what news was printed—Mott). **Conception** is often used in place of concept in this latter sense; in fact it is sometimes preferred by those who wish to keep concept as a technical term of logic. However conception so strongly suggests the activity of the mental power of bringing into existence an idea of something not yet realized or not yet given outward form that it often implies not only the exercise of the reflective powers but of the imagination as colored by feeling; the term therefore more often applies to a peculiar or an individual idea than to one held by men as a whole or by an entire class, profession, or group (compare Poe’s conception of poetry as “the rhythmical creation of beauty” with the Aristotelian conception of it as the imitation of human actions “according to probability and necessity”) (what I needed was . . . some clear conception of the meaning of existence—L. P. Smith). **Conception** is also, especially in literary and art criticism, the usual term for the idea or design conceived by the writer or artist in advance of or in company with his giving it expression or form (Dante’s boldness of conception) (the dramatist’s power to express his conception with frankness and daring) (the conception comes through the actual execution—Alexander). **Thought** applies either to an expressed or to an unexpressed idea, especially one that comes into the mind as a result of meditation, reasoning, or contemplation (a child’s thoughts about God) (he had not a thought of disaster) (have to wait for the occasional genius, or the occasional lucky thought—Whitehead) (his mind ran over the great cities . . .). Of them all, only New York was as it had always been, and he was angered at the thought—Buck). **Notion** often adds to idea’s implication of vagueness the suggestion of caprice or whim or of half-formed or tentative purpose or intention (her notion of a delta was a lot of channels and islands—Forester) (one never does form a just idea of anybody beforehand. One takes up a notion, and runs away with it—Austen) (modest, sober, cured of all her notions hyperbolical—Cowper) but notion may also come close to concept in suggesting a general or universal concept (arriving at the notion of law—Babbitt) or to conception in denoting the meaning content assigned by the mind to a term (have no adequate notion of what we mean by causation—Sapir). **Impression** (see also IMPRESSION I) usually suggests an idea which comes into the mind as the result of an external stimulus (I should like to know your first impressions of this book) (poetry. . . aims at the transmission . . . of impressions, not facts—Lowes) (looking out over the steep hills, the first impression is of an immense void like the sea—Jefferies)

**Ana** *opinion, view, belief, conviction, sentiment: *hypothesis, theory, law

**ideal adj** *abstract, transcendent, transcendental

**Ana** utopian (see AMBITIOUS): surpassing, peerless, *supreme

**Ant** actual

**ideal n** pattern, exemplar, *model, example, standard, beau ideal, mirror

**Ana** *truth, verity: perfection, *excellence

**identical 1** also identical selfsame, *same, very, equivalent, equal, tantamount

**Ana** corresponding, correlatable, convertible (see RECIPROCAL)

**Ant** diverse —Con *different, disparate, divergent: *distinct, separate, several

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

**Ana** matching, equaling (see MATCH): agreeing, squaring, tallying, jibing, corresponding (see AGREE)

**Ant** different

**identification** *recognition, apperception, assimilation

**Ana** perception, *discernment, discrimination: image, percept, sense-datum, sensum, *sensation

**identify, incorporate, embody, assimilate** are comparable when they mean to bring (one or more things) into union with another thing. **Identify** involves the idea of a union of things that are or are thought of as identical, or the same; it may imply the actual making of a thing or things the same as another (every precaution is taken to identify the interests of the people and of the rulers—Ramsay) (it is the writer’s business to identify words with things, emotion with thought—Muller) or it may refer to the mental apprehension of a real or imagined identity between things (Min was identified with Horus the son of Isis—Mercer) (should make us wary toward those who . . . have identified Americanism with a partisan policy in behalf of concealed economic aims—Dewey). This latter use may
connotation in thought or self-deception (it is easy to identify cynicism with honesty and hence with truthfulness—Hamburger) Incorporate implies a union of one or more things with another, or of different things, so that when blended, fused, or otherwise united they constitute a uniform substance, a single body, or an integral whole (fertilizers should, in general, be incorporated with the soil) (what is learned is of no value until it is incorporated into one's stock of knowledge) (what he does is to incorporate verbatim a good many of Leonardo's notes into a narrative that is entirely his own—William Murray) Embody (see also realize 1) is more restricted in its range of application than incorporate because it can be used only when one or more things are made part of another thing that is ordered as a whole (as an organized structure, a group, or a system) (yet so much of these treaties has been embodied in the general law of Europe—Mackintosh) (a recognized scholar, whose discussion... embodies the finest fruits of contemporary opinion and research—E. H. Swift) Assimilate (see also absorb 1) fails short of identify because it does not always imply the actual fusion or blending or, when self-deception is connoted, the actual confusion, of two things. Like identify, however, assimilate implies the making of two or more things exactly alike, either actually or in thought; thus, to assimilate one's beliefs to those of another is to change them so that they become the same as his; to identify one's beliefs with those of another is to make them one and indistinguishable as well as the same; the d of the Latin prefix ad- is often assimilated to a following consonant as in affectus (our manufacturing class was assimilated in no time to the conservative classes—H.G. Wells) Ana fuse, blend, merge (see mix): *mistake, confuse, confound idiom 1 dialect, *language, speech, tongue Ana jargon, patois, cant, argot (see dialect) 2 expression, location, *phrase idiosyncrasy *eccentricity Ana peculiarity, individuality, distinctiveness or distinction, characteristic or characteristic (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic): manner, way, *method, mode: mannerism, affectation, *pose idiot imbecile, moron, *fool, simpleton, natural adj 1 vain, nugatory, otiose, empty, hollow Ana fruitless, bootless, *futile, vain: *ineffectual, inefficacious, trivial, paltry, *petty, trifling Con significant, pregnant, meaningful (see expressive): profitable, *beneficial, advantageous 2 *inactive, inert, passive, supine Ana indolent, faineant, *lazy, slothful: dawdling, lagging, procrastinating (see delay) Ant busy —Con industrious, diligent, assiduous, sedulous (see busy) idle vb Idle, loaf, lounge, loll, laze mean to spend time not in work but in idleness. Idle may be used with reference to persons or to things that move lazily or without purpose; it may also be employed to connote either strong censure or a pleasant or justifiable action (why do you idle away all your days?) (it is impossible to enjoin idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do—Jerome) (the brook idles through the pasture) (her fingers idled over the keys) (it is pleasant to saunter out in the morning sun and idle along the summer streets with no purpose—L.P. Smith) Loaf suggests either a resting or a wandering about as though there were nothing to do; it does not necessarily imply contempt, although its agent noun loafer when used seriously nearly always carries that implication and has often affected the meaning of the verb (Tennyson does the greater part of his literary work... between breakfast and lunch, and loafs the rest of the day—Boston Journal) (I loaf and invite my soul, I lean and loaf at my ease observing a spear of summer grass—Whitman) (the idea of the university as a place of leisure where rich young men loaf for three or four years is dying—Russell) (men who came into the shop to loaf during winter afternoons—Anderson) Lounge, though occasionally used as equal to idle or to loaf, typically conveys an additional implication of lazily resting or reclining against a support or of physical comfort and ease in relaxation (he stood... lounging with his elbow against the bar—Dickens) (against the sunny sides of the houses, men lounged, or played at dusk on a rock—Mary Austin) The agent noun loungier is, however, usually derogatory, though slightly less so than loafer (he is not a loafer, but he is a loungier on street corners during his free hours) (the loungers at the bar were beginning to show signs of leaving—MacFall) Loll also carries an implication of a posture similar to that of lounge, but it places greater stress upon an indolent or relaxed attitude (there were not yet any jaded people in street supine in carriages—Sheron) (on Sunday afternoons... when a crowd was there to loll on the front porch and swap stories—Caldwell) Laze usually implies the relaxation of a busy person enjoying a vacation or his moments of leisure (I had a very pleasant time, sailing, fishing, and lazing about—J. R. Lowell) (it was nice lazing this way. About time she had a holiday—Christie) Ana rest, relax, repose (see corresponding nouns at rest): *saunter, stroll, amble idolize *adore, worship Ana dote, love, *like: venerate, *revere, reverence Con *despise, contempt, scorn, disdain: *hate, abhor, detest, loathe, abominate if, provided are both used to introduce conditional clauses. When merely a possibility which may or may not be true is expressed, if is the usual conjunction (if this counsel... be of men, it will come to naught—Acts 6:38) When the clause which follows names a stipulation or proviso, provided (or sometimes providing) is the usual form (it is not hard to know God, provided one will not force oneself to define him—Arnold) (providing they pay you the fixed rent—Ruskin) ignite kindle, *light, fire Ant stifle: extinguish ignoble *mean, sordid, abject Ana base, low, vile: churlish, boorish, loutish (see under boor) Con *petty, puny, paltry, measly, trivial: abased, degraded (see base) Ant noble: magnanimous —Con lofty, *high: sublime, glorious, *splendid: illustrious, eminent (see famous) ignominy infamy, shame, *disgrace, opprobrium, dishonor, disrepute, obloquy, odium Ana humiliation, degradation, abandonment (see corresponding verbs at abandon): contempt, scorn, disdain, despite (see under despise): mortification, chagrin (see corresponding adjectives at ashamed) Con honor, glory (see fame): respect, esteem, admiration, *regard ignorant, illiterate, unlettered, uneducated, untaught, untaught, unlearned mean not having knowledge. One is ignorant who is without knowledge, whether in general or of some particular thing (a very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow.—Shak.) (the disputants on both sides were ignorant of the matter they were disputing about—Ellis) One is illiterate who is without the necessary rudiments of education; the term may imply a failure to attain a standard set for the educated or cultivated man (you might read all the books in the British Museum (if you...
ill-fated, ill-starred, disastrous, unlucky, unfortunate,
adj
illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, intolerant, 
bigoted, hidebound implies an inability to read or write (illiterate in the sense that they could not read or write, or . . . functionally illiterate in the sense that they were unable to understand what they read—Kandel) illiterate voters
When applied to words or alterations of words or grammatical constructions, it implies violation of the usage of educated men or a status below that of the standard English of the day; thus, most teachers would stigmatize the expression “I seen it” as illiterate. The word, however, is often used merely as a contemptuous description of one (as a person, an utterance, or a letter) that shows little evidence of education or cultivation (his speech is positively illiterate) or shows inability to read and understand (it is common knowledge that our professional students and candidates for the Ph.D. are illiterate. One thing you learn very quickly in teaching students at the loftiest levels of education is that they cannot read—Hutchison) One is uneducated who is without the learning that is to be gained through the knowledge of books. Often it implies being able to read and write, but with no facility in either reading or writing (unlettered peasants) but sometimes it implies general ignorance or illiteracy (his addiction was to courses vain, his companies [companions] unlettered, rude and shallow—Shak.) One is uneducated, untaught, untutored, or unlearned who either has had no training in the schools or under teachers or whose ignorance or crudeness, or general lack of intelligence suggests such a lack: none of the words, however, is used with great precision or in a strict sense (beliefs common among uneducated men) (lo, the poor Indian! whose untutored mind sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind—Pope) (experiences of an unlearned man in the search for truth and understanding—Brit. Book News) (taught so many flat lies that their false knowledge is more dangerous than the untutored natural wit of savages—Shaw)

Ana *rude, crude, raw, callow, green, uncouth: simple, ingenuous, unsophisticated, naïve (see natural)
Ant cognizant (of something): conversant: informed —
Con *learned, erudite, scholarly: conscious, *aware
ignore disregard, overlook, slight, *neglect, omit, forget
Ana blink, *wink: evade, elude, *escape, avoid, shun, eschew
Ant heed (a warning, a sign, a symptom): acknowledgment (sense 2)
ilk kind, sort, *type, nature, description, character, stripe, kidney
ill adj *bad, evil, wicked, naughty
Ana see those at evil
Ant good
ill n *evil
Ant good
illegal *unlawful, illegitimate, illicit
Ana legal —Con *lawful, legitimate, licit
illegitimate *unlawful, illegal, illicit
Ana legitimate —Con *lawful, legal, licit
ill-fated ill-starred, disastrous, *unlucky, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless, hapless
Ana *ominous, portentous, fateful: malefic, malign, baleful—sinister
ill-favored *ugly, hideous, unsightly
Ana *plain, homely
Ant well-favored: fair —Con handsome, comely, *beautiful, lovely, beautuous, pretty
illiberal adj Illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, intolerant, bigoted, hidebound mean so lacking in breadth of mind or experience as to be unwilling or unable to understand the point of view of others. Illiberal implies a lack of freedom of spirit, mind, or thought that prevents one from entering into sympathy with the aims, beliefs, policies, or attitudes of others; it usually suggests an ungenerous or grudging mind (the illiberal or fanatically intolerant spirit which war psychology always engenders—Cohen) Narrow-minded and narrow stress an ingrained temperament that is incompatible with breadth of mind; they usually suggest an inability to see and understand others' beliefs or aims owing to such determining circumstances as birth, breeding, or environment (the American Puritans are frequently described as narrow-minded) (there was nothing narrow or illiberal in his early training—J. R. Green) (he shows to the full their narrow-minded hatred of the preceding century—Stephen) Intolerant may imply illiberality or narrow-mindedness or it may imply an avoidance of weak permissiveness, but it emphasizes unwillingness to tolerate ideas contrary to one's own or to those accepted either generally or in accord with some standard (intolerant refusal to listen to an opponent . . . has no business in such a representative nineteenth-century drawing room—Shaw) (what force, what fury drove us into saying the stupid, intolerant, denunciatory things we said—L. P. Smith) (always intolerant of loose thinking and of verbosity, he compressed into the masterly introductory essays . . . his entire theory—Bidwell) Bigoted implies complete satisfaction with one's religious or social creed and unwillingness to admit truth in others; it usually suggests unreasonableness, obstinacy, and narrow-mindedness (“The heart has its reasons which the intellect knows not of.” How often have these words of Pascal been abused to justify a temper too indolent to inquire, too bigoted to doubt—Inge) (in spite of his wide outlook and interests, he could be narrow and bigoted in theoretical views and general prejudices—Malinowski) Hidebound implies the strong restraint of custom, tradition, or habit and aversion to change. There is less suggestion in this word of antagonism to those who hold other opinions, but a strong suggestion of unwillingness to be moved (small-town persons, hidebound in their beliefs and conventions) (a nature sometimes hidebound and selfish and narrow to the last degree—Coulton)

Ant liberal —Con progressive, advanced, radical (see liberal)
illicit *unlawful, illegal, illegitimate
Ana licit —Con *lawful, legal, legitimate: sanctioned, endorsed, approved (see approve): permitted, allowed (see let)
ilimitable boundless, *infinite, uncircumscribed, eternal, sempiternal
Ana endless, *everlasting, intermediate
illiterate adj unlettered, uneducated, untaught, *ignorant, untutored, unlearned
Ant literate —Con taught, instructed, educated, schooled (see teach)
ilmannered *rude, uncivil, ungracious, impolite, discourteous
Ana boorish, loutish, churlish (see under boor)
Ant well-bred
ill-starred ill-fated, disastrous, *unlucky, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless, hapless
Ana malefic, malign, baleful—sinister: *ominous, portentous, fateful
ill-treat maltreat, mistreat, *abuse, misuse, outrage
Ana *wrong, oppress, persecute, aggrieve: *injure, harm, hurt
illuminate, illumine, light, lighten, enlighten, illustrate are comparable when meaning to fill with light or to throw light upon. Illuminate implies the use of a bright light or of something comparable to it in such a way that what

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
illustrate 1 enlighten, *illuminate, illumine, light, lighten

*apparent, seeming, ostensible illusion

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
imaginal *imaginative, imaginable, imaginary

imaginary adj 1 Imaginary, fanciful, visionary, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic are comparable when they are applied to conceptions or to the persons who form the conceptions and mean unreal or unbelievable and out of keeping with things as they are or conceiving such unreal or unbelievable things. Something is *imaginai which is fictitious and purely the product of an active or an excited imagination (imaginary ills and fancied tortures—Addison) those nervous persons who may be terrified by imaginary dangers are often courageous in the face of real danger—Ellis) Something is or, less often, one is fanciful which or who indicates a giving rein to the power of conceiving or producing things that have no real counterpart in nature or in fact (in Wales he found a cottage perfectly roofed with fern . . . Had a painter put this in a picture, many would have exclaimed: "How fanciful!"—Jeffreys) Rousseau’s fanciful image of primitive man, uncontaminated by science or art, undepraved by thought—Grandgent) Something is visionary which, although it seems real and practical to the one who conceives it, is usually the product of a dream or vision or is characterized by an unrestrained imagination and is incapable of realization (visionary schemes for world conquest—Goldsmith had long a visionary project, that . . . he would go to Aleppo, in order to acquire a knowledge . . . of any arts peculiar to the East, and introduce them into Britain—Boswell) (this was a visionary scheme . . . a project far above his skill—Swift) One is visionary who is given to such dreams, visions, and fancies and inspired by the hopes they arouse (if a man happens not to succeed in such an enquiry, he will be thought weak and visionary—Burke) (planning, as his visionary father might have done, to go to Brazil to pick up a fortune—Van Doren) Something is fantastic (see also FANTASTIC 2) which is or, more often, seems extravagantly fanciful or queer and hence incapable of belief or, sometimes, approval (in words, as fashions, the same rule will hold; alike fantastic, if too new, or old—Pope) (his strange coming, his strange story, his devotion, his early death and posthumous fame—it was all fantastic—Cather) (a fantastic world inhabited by monsters of iron and steel—Bromfield) Something is chimerical which is wildly or fantastically visionary or unreal (an universal institutional church is as chimerical an idea as an universal empire—Inge) (the defeat was more complete, more humiliating . . . the hopes of revival more chimerical—Times Lit. Sup.) Something is or one is quixotic which or who is motivated by extravagantly chivalrous devotion to visionary ideals (quixotic as a restoration of medieval knighthood—Cohen) (to insist upon clemency in the circumstances would . . . have required quixotic courage—Buchan) (the economic notion that our present population . . . can live on this island and produce by their work a real income that will give them a rising standard of comfort and leisure, is utterly quixotic—Hobson) Ana fictitious, fabulous, mythical, legendary, apocryphal: transcendent, transcendental, *abstract: utopian (see AMBITIOUS): delusory, delusive (see MISLEADING): illusory, seeming, *apparent Ant real, actual 2 *imaginative, imaginal, imaginable

imagination, fancy, fantasy are comparable when denoting either the power or the function of the mind by which mental images of things are formed or the exercise of that power especially as manifested in poetry or other works of art. The meanings of all of these terms have been greatly influenced by changing psychological and aesthetic theories, with the result that in the past they have often carried implications or connotations and sometimes denotations not observable in modern use. Imagination is not only the most inclusive of these terms but the freest from derogatory connotations. As an inclusive term it may apply either to the power of forming images of things once known but now absent (our simple apprehension of corporeal objects, if present, is sense; if absent, is imagination—Glansvill) or to the power of forming images of things not seen, or actually nonexistent, or incapable of actual existence (one feels that a livelier melodic imagination would serve the needs of classical opera better—Evett) In the first instance the term suggests the use of memory as well as of the image-making power (recall the past in one’s imagination) (her face haunted his imagination) In the second it usually suggests either a new combination of elements found in one’s experience or an ability to conceive of something, seen only fragmentarily or superficially, as a complete, perfected, and integral whole (a man of no imagination is less likely to feel physical fear) (with imagination enough to see the possible consequences) and *imaginai, imaginative, imagined, imagination, bodied forth the forms of things unknown, the poet’s pen turns them to shapes and gives to airy nothing a local habitation and a name—Shak) (it is only through imagination that men become aware of what the world might be—Russell) (facts . . . give us wherewithal to think straight and they stimulate the imagination; for imagination, like reason, cannot run without the gasoline of knowledge—Grandgent) Fancy (see also FANCY 3) usually means the power to conceive and give expression to images that are far removed from reality or that represent purely imaginary things (she saw, with the creative eye of fancy, the streets of that gay bathing place covered with officers—Austen) (the world which any consciousness inhabits is a world made up in part of experience and in part of fancy—Krutich) In aesthetic use there is a tendency to make imagination and fancy antithetical. Imagination is often used to designate the power of representing the real or what gives an illusion of reality in its entirety and organic unity and, usually, in its ideal or universal character; fancy, the power of inventing the novel and unreal by recombining the elements found in reality. So interpreted, imagination represents men not only in their outward but in their inward life, and produces a Hamlet; fancy presents them in alien surroundings, or essentially changed in their natural physical and mental constitution, and produces centaurs and Brobdingnagians (the imagination, or shaping or modifying power; the fancy, or the aggregative and associative power—Coleridge) (Martians, the little green men of popular fancy) (Mendelssohn’s fancy gives additional soaring power to the poet’s—Kolodin) Fantasy often takes the place of fancy in naming the power of unrestrained and often extravagant or delusive fancy or its exhibition in art (readers . . . live a composite, fanciful life of fantasy between the lines of print—Huxley) (this mechanical man or robot idea has been decidedly overdone in the writings of fantasy—Furnas) Ana invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): conceiving or conception, realizing or realization (see corresponding verbs at THINK) imaginative, imaginal, imaginable, imaginary, though not synonymous, are sometimes confused because of their verbal likeness. Imaginative applies to something which is the product of the imagination or has a character indicating the exercise or the power of the imagination; thus, imaginative writings are often distinguished from such factual writings as historical, expository, and argumentative; an imaginative poet is one whose imagination
heightens his perception of people and things (it is a common fallacy that a writer... can achieve this poignant quality by improving upon his subject matter, by using his "imagination" upon it and twisting it to suit his purpose. The truth is that by such a process (which is not imaginative at all!) he can at best produce only a brilliant sham —Cather} [workaday scientists]... are prone to identify the poetical with the impractical, the imaginative with the imaginary, the fictional with the false—Muller} Imaximal, meaning of the imagination or within the conceptive powers of the imagination, has been used, especially by psychologists, to fill the need for an adjective which refers to the imagination only as a function of the mind rather than as a creative power or to images as the mental representations which follow a sensation; thus, a person belongs to one imaginative type rather than to another because of his tendency to have sensory images of a particular kind (as visual, tactile, or auditory) (perhaps they owe their imaginative coloration to some childhood experience—Cutsforth} Imaginable often means little more than conceivable, but more precisely it may imply that the thing so qualified can be seen or apprehended in a clear mental image. St. Thomas was perhaps of all the apostles the one most easily imaginable in the present—Mackenzie} Imaginary (for fuller treatment see imaginary 1) implies existence only in the imagination. Imaginative, wondrous (Imaginary Conversations, a book by Walter Savage Landor giving imaginary dialogues and imaginary letters between famous persons of long ago) (the vague unrest of a husband whose infidelities... letters between famous persons of long ago). Ana imagining, fancying, realizing, conceiving (see think): creative, inventive (see corresponding verbs at invent)

Con *prosatic, prosy, matter-of-fact imagine conceive, fancy, realize, envisage, envision, *think
Ana *invent, create: fabricate, form, fashion, shape, *make: *conjecture, surmise, guess
Imbecile idiot, moron, *fool, simpleton, natural
Imbibe *absorb, assimilate
Ana *receive, take, admit, accept: *soak, saturate, steep, impregnate: *permeate, pervade, penetrate, impenetrable: acquire, obtain, *get
Ant ooze, exude
Imbue inoculate, leaven, Ingram, *infuse, suffuse
Ana *inform, inspire, fire, animate: impregnate, saturate, *permeate, pervade
Imitate *copy, mimic, ape, mock
Ana impersonate (see act vb): simulate, feign, counterfeit (see assume): caricature, burlesque, parody, travesty (see under caricature n)

Immaterial, spiritual, incorporeal are comparable when meaning not composed of matter. Immaterial is the most comprehensive of these terms because it makes the line of cleavage between itself and its opposite, material, not only clear and sharp but not open to confusion. If, therefore, one wishes a word to carry no other possible implication immaterial is the appropriate term; it may then apply to things believed to have real but not actual (compare real) or phenomenal existence or to things that are purely mental or intellectual constructions (immaterial beings) you feel like a disembodied spirit, immaterial —Maugham} immaterial forces (immaterial objects of thought) (in making mind purely immaterial... the body ceases to be living—DeWey} Spiritual (see also holy) may imply the absence of the material or tangible (millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth unseen —Milton) The term, however, so often applies to some-

thing which has another side or nature variously spoken of as material, animal, physical, or bodily that the word is frequently used, not to describe the character of a whole (a man, all creatures, a belief, or the world), but to distinguish the part which has the nature of a spirit or soul from the part which has not. In distinction from immaterial it frequently, therefore, connotes a supernatural, an intellectual, or a moral character (it is the spiritual always which determines the material—Carlyle} (great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force, that thoughts rule the world—Emerson)} Incorporeal basically denies the possession or presence of a body or material form; in general use it usually suggests invisibility (incorporeal intelligences) (the supposed activities and transactions of putative incorporeal beings—Flew) but, especially in legal use, it may imply intangibility or impalpability (the second group of intangibles... are incorporeal rights which do not diminish the rights of others in material things. Such rights as patents, royalties, trademarks, goodwill, and franchises fall into this category—W. H. Anderson} A

Ant material —Con physical, corporeal, sensible, objective (see material)

Immaterial, unmatured, unripe, unmellow mean not fully developed. Except for this denial of full development, the terms agree in implications and connotations with the affirmative adjectives matured, ripe, mellow discriminated at mature.

Ant crude, callow, green, *rude: *premature, precocious, untimely; childish, *childlike
Ant mature —Con matured, ripe, mellow, adult, grown-up (see mature adj)

Immediate *direct
Ana *nearest, next: intuitive, *instinctive
Ant mediate (knowledge, relation, operation): distant (relatives)

Immense *huge, vast, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian
Ana tremendous, prodigious, stupendous, *monstrous: *large, big, great
Immerse *dip, submerge, duck, souse, dunk
Ana drench, *soak, saturate, sop, impregnate: *infuse, imbue, ingraining: engross, absorb (see monopolize)
Immigrant n 1 *stranger, alien, foreigner, outsider, outsider, émigré
2 *emigrant
Immigrate emigrate (see under emigrant)
Immigration emigration (see under emigrant)

Imminent *impending
Ana threatening, menacing (see threaten): likely, *probable, possible: *inevitable, ineluctable, inescapable, unescapable, unavoidable: expected, awaited (see expect)

Con *distant, remote, far-off: *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic
Immobile *immovable, immotive
Ant mobile

Immoderate inordinate, *excessive, exorbitant, extreme, extravagant
Ana *profuse, lavish, prodigal, exuberant: teeming, over-flowing (see teem)
Ant moderate —Con temperate (see moderate adj): restrained, curbed, checked, inhibited (see restrain): reasonable, *rational

Immoral, immoral, nonmoral, amoral are all briefly definable as not moral, yet they are not often interchangeable and are frequently confused, largely because the implications and connotations of the second element are not the

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
same in each compound. **Immoral**, which implies an active opposition to what is **moral**, may designate whatever is discordant with accepted ethical principles or the dictates of conscience <morality cannot be legislated but . . . legislation can be immoral—Gallagher> (in the way in which he conceded the smaller points in order to win the important objectives and mastered the political game without yielding his own integrity, Roosevelt symbolized the moral man confronted by the dilemmas that an immoral society creates—Link> and then indicates that what is so designated is fundamentally wrong, unjustifiable, or sinful. But, like moral, immoral may often base its values not on principle but on custom and then may imply no more than discordance with accepted social custom or the general practice <refusal to acknowledge the boundaries set by convention is the source of frequent denunciations of objects of art as immoral—Dewey> (for a farm settler to start out with a decent home, efficiently produced, still seems immoral in many quarters—New Republic) In its frequent specific application to sexual and, especially, irregular sexual matters immoral tends to fluctuate between the two extremes of its usage range according to the concurrent rigidity of the social outlook. It may in the former case come close to licentious or lewd in pejorative quality and in the second lose most of its pejorative force and mean little more than improper or immodest <lead an immoral life> <immoral people> Unmoral, nonmoral, and amoral all, in contrast to immoral, imply in one way or another a passive negation of what is moral especially as indicated by absence of or freedom from a code that ought to prevail and the evasion of which constitutes wrongdoing. In its most typical use **unmoral** implies a lack of moral perception and ethical awareness and is appropriately applied to persons or to their behavior when these exhibit such a lack: thus, an infant or an idiot may be described as **unmoral** because in neither case is there a capacity to distinguish right from wrong <a man so purely unaware of or freedom from a code that ought to prevail and the evasion of which constitutes wrongdoing>.

**Impact**, impingement, collision, clash, shock, concussion, percussion, jar, jolt mean a forcible or enforced contact between two or more things, especially a contact so violent as to affect seriously one or the other or all of the persons or things involved. **Impact**, though it often means this and no more, may be used more generally to imply contact between two things, one of which at least is driven or impelled in the direction of the other and produces a definite effect on it, though not necessarily a physical effect or one that results in injury <the impact of a hammer upon a nail> <a target constructed to resist the impact of a bullet> <live in an age where every mind feels the impact of new ideas> <it is not electricity which we see, it is the air rendered incandescent by the vibration of the impacts of the electrons against its molecules>.
Darrow} {the impact of world war on the lives of count-
less millions—R. H. Jackson} Impact impingement often means little more than impact, but distinctively it may imply a sharper or more forcible contact than impact (each little ling of sound struck on her consciousness—
Langley} or may carry, as impact does not, a suggestion of encroachment {the impingement of scientific theories upon religious beliefs} Collision implies the coming together of two or sometimes more things with such force that both or all are more or less damaged or their progress is seriously impeded {a collision has occurred when any part of the automobile comes in contact with another object, whether moving or stationary—Gee} {his uneasiness grew by the recollection of the forty tons of dynamite in the body of the Ferndale; not the sort of cargo one thinks of with equanimity in connection with a threatened collision—Conrad} Collision may be used when the things which come together so as to seriously affect one another are immaterial rather than physical entities {discrepancies between ideas and collisions between beliefs had to be reconciled and mediated—De Kiewiet} {the collision of contrary false principles—Warburton} Clash primarily applies to the sharp discordant sounds produced by an impact or series of impacts between two or more bodies, especially metallic bodies; it is often used in preference to collision when two or more things come into contact with one another in such a manner that noises of crashing and jangling are more apparent than the destruction or ruin wrought {the clash of swords in battle} {the clash of cymbals, and the rolling of drums—Maccay} Clash, also, is used more often of immaterial things (as beliefs, theories, and ideas) which are irreconcilable or incompatible and lead to violent conflict or controversy {a clash of creeds} {in Le Misanthrope} the silent clash between the high-strung demands of Alceste and the un-
ending reasonableness of the social standard—Alexander} {an appeal to the workers and employers to be good boys and not paralyze the industry of the nation by the clash of their quite irreconcilable interests—Shaw} Shock denotes the effect (as shaking, rocking, agitating, or stunning) produced by an impact or collision. It may imply a physical, mental, or emotional effect, but in every case it carries a strong suggestion of something that strikes or hits with force and often with violence {he stood the shock of a whole host of foes—Addison} {the shock of cataract seas that snap the three-decker's oaken spine—Tennyson} {the soft shock of wizened apples falling ... upon the hilly rock—Milley} {for strong emotion, how-
ever, the shock of sudden external stimulus is necessary 
—Ellis} Concussion, found more often than shock in learn-
ed and technical use, may mean a blow or collision but more often suggests the shattering or disrupting effects of a collision or explosion or the stunning weakening effects of a heavy blow {the air seemed rent apart by a concussion like the firing of a great cannon—Chippendale} {was so careful lest his descent should shake the earth and made him accustom to ideas—Colum} {Professor Murray has ... interposed between Euripides and our-
selves a barrier more impenetrable than the Greek language—T. S. Eliot} Often, however, impenetrable is preferred to impassable when implying an exceedingly dense growth that prevents passage {an impenetrable fog} {impenetrable darkness} this gentleman was impenetrable to ideas—Colum}来讲,教授认为，Target（目标）应该更加注重......

```java
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
```
with the preserve "good form" that we are impervious to the claims and clamor of that ill-bred creature—life!—

Galsworthy). Impervious implies impenetrability, whether natural or artificially acquired, by a liquid or a gas and incapacity for becoming soaked or permeated; the term applies chiefly to substances (as some clays) which do not absorb water, to cloths treated so as to be rainproof, or to materials which do not admit the passage of air, light, gas, or water (cosmo-regulation in the eel is achieved by an impermeable outer covering of slime—Dowdeswell) (impermeable rocks) (gas pipes should be made of an impermeable metal) (impermeable roofing) (he was not drunk, since the resilient composition of which his nerves were made was almost impermeable to alcohol—West)

Ant: passable

Impassible insensitive, *insensitive, anesthetic

impassioned, passionate, ardent, fervent, fervid, perfervid mean actuated by or showing intense feeling. Impassioned, though applicable to persons, is more often found in reference to utterance or artistic expression or to the mood or mental state which evokes such utterance or expression. The word usually implies intensity without violence and feeling of such depth, sincerity, and potency that it passes naturally and inevitably from the person into his expression (poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge; it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all science—Wordsworth) (the letters... are written by this master of impassioned recollection in a style so musical, so magical and moving, that the experiences he recounts become our own—L. P. Smith) (as his impassioned language did its work the multitude rose into fury—Froude) Passionate, on the other hand, implies vehemence and, often, violence of emotion; when the latter idea is suggested, the word also may connote loss of rational guidance or wasteful diffusion or misdirection of emotional power (a passionate denunciation) (a passionate reformer) (passionate partisanship) (passionate feeling is desirable, provided it is not destructive—Russell) (to match more good, sound reasons, against the passionate conclusions of love is a waste of intellect bordering on the absurd—Con) (the passionate and unreasonably ruthless war spirit, common to Communists and Fascists—Cohen) Ardent differs from passionate largely in its freedom from derogatory implications and in its connotations of qualities suggestive of flame or fire. It is especially appropriate when vehemence is implied and the intense feeling expresses itself in eagerness, zeal, enthusiasm, or acts of devotion (an ardent desire for the truth) (an ardent supporter of liberal ideas) (an ardent lover) (heredity in man is hardly the simple thing that many of the ardent eugenists would have us believe—Furnas) (gave constant proofs of his ardent longing for an education—Merriman) Fervent also implies a quality of fire, but it suggests a fire that glows rather than one that bursts into flame. Hence, though it implies strength and depth of feeling, it more often suggests steadiness than vehemence and inward quiet rather than outward activity. It is applicable especially to wishes, prayers, or hopes that are heartfelt or devout, but it is also applied to an emotion, or to a person feeling such an emotion, that is free from turbulence (fervent thanks) (fervent good wishes) (a fervent Christian) (fervent prayers) (Jane's feelings, though fervent, were little displayed—Austen) (the gods approve the depth, and not the tumult, of the soul; a fervent, not ungodly, love—Wordsworth) Fervid, like impassioned, is applied more to moods and expressions than to persons; in contrast to impassioned, however, it sometimes suggests more obvious, more warmly expressed, and, often, more spontaneous emotion (who could help liking her? her generous nature, her gift for appreciation, her wholehearted, fervid enthusiasm?—L. P. Smith) Frequently it carries a strong suggestion of feverishness which distinguishes it sharply from fervent; thus, fervent thanks suggest the depth and sincerity of the emotion which prompts them; fervid thanks suggest profuseness or an overwrought state of mind (his fervid manner of love-making offended her—Bennett) Perfervid carries an implication of too great emotional excitement or of overwrought feelings; more than fervid, it casts doubt upon the sincerity of the emotion that is displayed with vehemence (to court their own discomfiture by love is a common instinct with certain perfervid women—Hardy) (in his perfervid flag-waving moments—S. H. Adams) Ana: vehement, *intense, fierce, violent: *deep, profound: *sentimental, romantic, maudlin

Ant: impassioned—Con: dispassionate, uncolored, objective (see Fair adj)

Impassive, stoic, phlegmatic, apathetic, stolid are comparable when they mean slightly if at all responsive to something that might be expected to excite emotion or interest or to produce a sensation. The distinctions to be drawn between these adjectives hold true also of their corresponding nouns, impassivity or impassiveness, stoicism, phlegm, apathy, stolidity. One is impassive who feels or shows no emotion or sensation, without necessary implication of insusceptibility (his majestic impassivity contrasting with the overt astonishment with which a row of savagely ugly attendant chiefs grinned and gaped—Shaw) (under their impassive exterior they preserve... emotions of burning intensity—Lathrop) One is stoic who is indifferent to pleasure or pain; the word frequently suggests unfinching fortitude (not only the cataclysm of a world, but also the stoic and incomparable temper that endures it—Lowes) (a stoic atmosphere of fortitude in adversity—Orville Prescott) Phlegmatic implies a temperament or constitution in which emotion is hard to arouse or, when aroused, is moderate or restrained (cold and phlegmatic must he be who is not warmed into admiration by the surrounding scenery—Waterston) (a lofty phlegm, a detachment in the midst of action, a capacity for watching in silence—Edmund Wilson) Apathetic usually implies either a remiss and culpable indifference or such a preoccupation with a particular depressing emotion (as care, grief, or despair) or bodily pain as makes one insensitive to other emotion or pain and deficient in or devoid of the usual human interests (there is only one alarming aspect of our national debt... the apathy and ignorance of the American public with regard to it. The common attitude is...: why should an ordinary citizen add the national debt to his other workaday worries—Scherman) (the row of stolid, dull, vacant plowboys, ungainly in build, uncomely in face, lifeless, apathetic—Butler d. 1902) (an uncomplaining apathy displaced this anguish; and, indifferent to delight, to aim and purpose, he consumed his days, to private interest dead, and public care—Wordsworth) Stolid implies heavy, dull, obtuse impassivity or apathy or utter blankness of countenance mirroring or suggesting such quality; often, specifically, it suggests impassive, mechanical, plodding, unquestioning, unresourceful adherence to routine (stolid Saxon rustics, in whom the temperature of religious zeal was little... above absolute zero—Huxley) (the stolidest mask ever given to man—Meredith) Ana: *cool, composed, collected, imperturbable; reserved, taciturn, *silent, reticent: callous, *hardened, indurated: *insensible, insensitive

Ant: responsive—Con: *tender, compassionate, sympathetic, warm, warmhearted

Impassivity, impassiveness apathy, stolidity, phlegm,
impatient, nervous, unquiet, restless, restive, uneasy, fidgety, jump, jittery are comparable when they mean manifesting signs of unrest or an inability to keep still or quiet. Impatient implies an inability to bear some trial (as delay, opposition, discomfort, or stupidity) with composure; it therefore connotes, as a rule, not physical but mental or emotional unrest and may suggest uncontrolled reactions (as of eagerness, irascibility, busyness, testiness, or intolerance) (so tedious is this day as is the night before some festival to an impatient child that hath new robes—Shak.) (cease your contention, which has been too long; I grow impatient—Pope) (when we pursue the ultimate significance of the colors into yet wider regions . . . I fear the august common sense of the Occident becomes af-fron-ded and impatient—Binyon) (the temper of the youth of his country is violent, impatient, and revolutionary—Fischer)

Nervous implies unsteadiness of nerves and a proneness to excitability (a nervous, fretful woman) (you and I, whose ordinary daily talk maintains its slow or hurried, nervous or phlegmatic . . . but always pedestrian gait—Lowes) (becoming more nervous as the gloom increased—Hudson)

Unquiet, though basically meaning no more than not quiet, is usually used with a strong implication of prolonged or conspicuous agitation or of troubling or disturbing distractions that hinder one’s peace of mind or spirit or prevent concentration; the word is applicable both to the person and to the thing which troubles him (these unquiet times) (unquiet meals make ill digestions—Shak.) (they have not the restless unquiet tempera-ment associated with the Anglo-Saxon race—Alfred Buchanon)

Restless usually implies constant and more or less aimless motion or activity; often, specifically, it connotes mental agitation (our heart is restless, until it repose in Thee—Pusey) (indubitably not happy . . . restless and disquieted, his disquietude sometimes amounting to agony—Arnold) or eagerness to change (he was restless and dissatisfied with his life—Anderson) or continuous or unceasing movements to and fro or back and forth (the restless sea) (a restless crowd) (he was as restless as a hyena—De Quincey) Restive (see also CONTRARY 2), which once meant unwilling to move, has gradually become a synonym of restless. In this sense it implies impatience under attempts to restrain, to control, or, especially, to keep attentive and suggests either inability to keep still or to persist in what one is doing (they were all becoming restive under the monotonous persistence of the missionary—Cather) (as restive and dissatisfied as a party of 7 bridge players—Eddington)

Uneasy usually implies restlessness born of anxiety, doubt, uncertainty, or insecurity (he is uneasy over business conditions) (an uneasy conscience) (an uneasy sense that all was not well with his family) (uneasy lies the head that wears a crown—Shak.) (so we come down, uneasy, to look, uneasily pacing the beach. These are the dikes our fathers made: we have never known a breach—Kipling) (the first uneasy stir of the sleeper—Mumford)

Fidgety implies restless movements resulting from nervousness, boredom, or uneasiness of mind; it usually suggests an inability to keep one’s hands, feet, or body still or to settle down to a task or occupation (toward the end of the day the pupils become fidgety) (he declared if I was fidgety he should have no occasion to make) (he perhaps did not realize . . . that the persons who felt fidgety or disquieted about the matter were not likely to write in about it, lest they appear ir-reverent—E. B. White) Jumpy and jittery imply extreme nervousness that exhibits itself in tremulous, uncertain movements. Jumpy, however, usually suggests a fearful or apprehensive mood and lack of control over one’s temper as well as over one’s muscles (if you didn’t drink so much, you wouldn’t be so jumpy—Barnaby Conrad) Jittery sug-gests domination not only by fears but by recollections that destroy one’s nervous control and impair one’s mental stability (soldiers still jittery from their experiences under heavy fire) (the chief factor in making children jittery is jittery parents—Time)

Ana frettful, querulous, *irritable, snappish, waspish: *eager, anxious, avid, keen: impetuous, *precipitate, headlong, hasty, sudden, abrupt

Ant patient —Con composed, imperturbable, unfappable, unfruffled, *cool: *calm, serene, tranquil, placid

Impeach indictment, incriminate, *accuse, charge, arraign

Con *exculpate, vindicate, exonerate, acquit, absolve

Impeccable, faultless, flawless, errorless are comparable when they mean absolutely correct and beyond criticism. Impeccable usually applies to something with which no fault can be found or which is irreprouachably correct (the only impeccable writers are those that never wrote—Haz-litt) (her logical process is impeccable—Grandgent) (an impeccable figure in trim dinner jacket and starched shirt—Capote) Faultless is often used in place of impec-cable without loss, but it is sometimes preferred when the emphasis is upon the absence of defect or blemish rather than upon technical correctness (whoever thinks a faultless piece to see, thinks what ne’er was, is nor, nor e’er shall be—Pope) (in faultless English and with merciless logic, lashed all the miners’ socialist theories—Collins)

Its distinctive implication, however, is often that of insipidity or tediousness (faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null, death perfection, no more—Tennyson)

Flawless applies especially to natural products in which no cracks, blemishes, or imperfections can be detected (a flawless diamond) or to character or reputation which is admirably excellent (destroyed his flawless reputation by a single act) or to a work of art or its execution when comparatively fine (a flawless lyric) (the flawless technique of the pianist) (a flawless story published in 1895 . . . some-what forecasts James’s final type—Van Doren) Errorless usually implies absence of all mistakes, especially of such mistakes as are technically regarded as errors; thus, an errorless baseball game may not involve flawless playing. Ana inerrant, unerring, *infallible: *correct, accurate, precise, right, nice: *perfect, entire, whole, intact

Con *deficient, defective: *superficial, shallow, uncriti-cal, cursory: culpable, *blameworthy

Impecunious *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, poverty-stricken, necessitous

Ant flush —Con *rich, wealthy, affluent, opulent

Impede *hinder, obstruct, block, bar, dam

Ana clog, *hamper, fetter, tramnel, shackle, manacle, *rich, wealthy, affluent, opulent

Ant curb, check, inhibit (see RESTRAIN)

Impending, imminent are comparable when they mean very likely to occur soon or without further warning. Both retain in this sense some feeling of now rare or disused
impenetrable

senses in which they essentially denote being physically elevated and hanging over or projecting as if about to fall and, as a result, tend to convey an ominous or portentous note (impending doom) (imminent disaster) Occasionally this feeling may be lacking and the words imply no more than the near futurity of the thing qualified (the look of anticipation, of sweet, impending triumph—Weston) (the mounting heat of June warned us . . . that our departure was imminent—Repplier) Distinctively impending suggests that the thing likely to occur is foreshadowed far enough ahead to allow one time for worry and suspense or for aversive action (at the sound of thunder we hurried in to avoid the impending storm) (worrying over his position in the impending reorganization of the company) (the country must swiftly prepare to defend itself against this impending economic rape—Walinsky) Imminent usually implies greater immediacy and may suggest that the thing is on the point of happening (thrown into sweats of suspicion that discovery was imminent—Meredith) (we were in imminent danger of being swamped by the white-caps—London) but imminent, unlike impending, may lose much or all of its suggestion of futurity and then attributes nearness in some other than temporal relation to the thing qualified (they could hear the city, evocative and strange, imminent and remote; threat and promise both—Faulkner) (in matters where the national importance is imminent and direct even where Congress has been silent, the States may not act at all—Justice Holmes) (all that we had ever thought or felt for home was real again, made imminent and present by the arrival of the Fortresses—Skidmore) Ana *close, near, nigh: approaching, nearing (see approach vb): likely, *probable: threatening, menacing (see threaten)


impenetrate interpenetrate, penetrate, *permeate, per-vade, impregnate, saturate Ana *enter, probe, penetrate: invade, entrench (see trespass): drench, *soak

imperative 1 peremptory, imperious, *masterful, domineering Ana commanding, ordering, bidding (see command vb): magisterial, *dictatorial, dogmatic, oracular: arbitrary, autocratic, despotic (see absolute) Con supplicating or supplicatory, entreating, imploring, beseeching, begging (see corresponding verbs at beg): mild, gentle, lenient, *soft 2 *pressing, urgent, crying, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant Ana compelling, constraining (see force vb): critical, crucial, *acute

imperceptible, insensible, impalpable, intangible, inappreciable, imponderable all mean incapable of being apprehended by the senses or intellect (as in form, nature, extent, or degree) even though known to be real or existential. Except for this denial of apprehensibility, these terms carry the same implications and connotations as the affirmative adjectives discriminated at perceptible (the imperceptible movement of the hour hand) (he grew into the scheme of things by insensible gradations—H. G. Wells) (the almost imperceptible beauties of style and expression—Prescott) (we shall consider that more subtle and intangible thing, the soul which he sought to build up in his people—Buchan) (that inappreciable particle of an ele-
moment called an atom) (the imponderable factors, such as temperament and mental stability, which make or mar a promising career)

Ant perceptible

imperfection, deficiency, shortcoming, fault mean a failure in persons or in things to reach a standard of excellence or perfection. Imperfection is the most general of these words; it usually does not imply a great departure from perfection and is usually replaceable by a more specific term (as flaw, blemish, defect, failing, frailty, or foible) which emphasizes its slightness rather than its enormity (the statue has one imperfection) (the early Christians followed the Stoics: property was a result of man's imperfection. It should be accepted regrettfully, and society should take care that too much did not collect in too few hands—Agar) (coffee is graded by the number of imperfections in the sample—Ukers) Deficiency carries a clear implication of lack or of inadequacy, whether moral or mental, physical or spiritual; it applies particularly to persons, but it may refer also to an inadequacy in things which affects the persons involved. Unlike imperfection, it often implies a great departure from a standard of perfection or sufficiency (Mr. Collins was not a sensible man, and the deficiency of nature had been but little assisted by education or society—Austen) (the disastrous want and weakness of Shelley . . .—his utter deficiency in humor—Arnold) (another food deficiency was responsible for one of the most debilitating and crippling diseases of the Orient—Heiser) Shortcoming implies deficiency but is seldom used in quite the same sense. Often it implies a standard of perfection or of excellence which is hard to reach and then suggests not so much the degree of imperfection or deficiency as (the doer's) sense of failure to reach the standard or (the critic's or judge's) unwillingness to use a harsher or more direct term (the shortcomings of representative government) (my book has many shortcomings. I fear) (do not let them, as poor people, make everyone else suffer for their shortcomings—Shaw) (let him only preach well, and all his shortcomings as a curate would be forgiven—Mackenzie) (management shortcomings in one form or another cause most business failures—Nation's Business) Fault (see also fault) is more direct and clear-cut in statement than any of the others; it usually implies personal culpability for the failing in a person or direct blameworthiness for the shortcomings or defect in a thing; often, also, it permits description of the failing or defect (he has . . . the fault of defective mantelpiece clocks, of suddenly stopping in the very fullness of the tick—Conrad) (Sophia observed a fault in the daily conduct of the house—Bennett) Ana *failure, neglect, dereliction: *fault, failing, frailty, foible: *blemish, flaw, defect: weakness, infirmity (see corresponding adjectives at weak)

Ant perfection

imperial *kingly, regal, royal, queenly, princely Ana majestic, august, stately, noble, *grand: sovereign, *dominant

imperl *venture, hazard, risk, chance, jeopardize, endanger Ana dare, brave (see face): encounter, confront, *meet, face; *threaten, menace

imperious domineering, *masterful, peremptory, imperative Ana *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial: despotic, tyrannical, arbitrary, autocratic (see absolute): lordly, overbearing (see proud) Ant absent —Con obsequious, servile, menial, *subservient, slavish: *compliant, acquiescent

impermeable impervious, impermeable, *impassable Ana solid, hard, *firm: *tight

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Con absorbing or absorbent, imbibing, assimilating or assimilative (see corresponding verbs at ABSORB)

impersonate play, *act

Ana imitate, mimic, ape, *copy: simulate, counterfeit, feign (see ASSUME): caricature, burlesque (see UNDER CARICATURE n)

impersonator *actor, player, mummer, mime, mimic, performer, thespian, trouper

impertinent, officious, meddlesome, intrusive, obtrusive are applied to persons and their acts and utterances and mean exceeding or tending to exceed the bounds of propriety regarding the interposition of oneself in another person’s affairs. Impertinent (see also RELEVANT) implies a concerning oneself more or less offensively with things which are another’s business or, at least, not in any sense one’s own business (I should have liked to ask the girl for a word which would give my imagination its line. But how was one to venture so far? I can be rough sometimes but I am not naturally impertinent—Conrad) (approach complete strangers, ask them a battery of impertinent questions—S. L. Payne) (when he became hot and vulgar, she turned grande dame, so that he felt like an impertinent servant—Sinclair Lewis) Officious implies the offering, often well-meant, of services, attentions, or assistance that are not needed or that are unwelcome or offensive (twas but the officious zeal of a well-meaning creature for my honor—Sterne) (I cannot walk home from office, but some officious friend offers his unwelcome courtesies to accompany me—Lamb) (the foremen grew more officious in manner and shouted their orders—Bromfield) Meddlesome carries a stronger implication of annoying interference in other people’s affairs than the preceding terms; it may imply the qualities of character suggested by any of the other words, but it usually also connotes a prying or inquisitive nature (a meddlesome old man) (the people found the government unduly meddlesome (it was in no way from any desire to interfere in other people’s affairs... he had none of my own meddlesome quality—Hugh Walpole) Intrusive applies largely to persons, actions, or words that reveal a disposition to thrust oneself into other people’s affairs or society or to be unduly curious about what is not one’s own concern (Navajo hospital is not intrusive. Eusabio made the Bishop understand that he was glad). Meddlesome quality—Hugh Walpole) Impertinent, officious, meddlesome, intrusive, obtrusive

impetus 1 momentum, *speed, velocity, pace

Ana energy, force, *power: impelling or impulse, driving, moving (see corresponding verbs at MOVE)

2 *stimulus, excitant, incitement, stimulant

Ana incentive, impulse, spur, goad, * motive, spring

impingement *impact, collision, clash, shock, concussion, percussion, jar, jolt

Ana hitting or hit, striking or stroke, smiting (see corresponding verbs at STRIKE): encroachment, entrenchment (see corresponding verbs at TREAPSHOT): impression, impress, imprint, stamp, print

impious, profane, blasphemous, sacrilegious mean showing marked irreverence for what is sacred or divine. Impious usually implies extreme disrespect for God or the laws of God or for those endowed with God-given authority particularly as shown positively in thought or in actions (against the throne and monarchy of God, raised impious war in Heaven—Milton) (when vice prevails, and impious men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station—Addison) (who is there more impious than a backsliding priest—Steinbeck) Profane (see PROFANE 1) applies to men and to words and acts that manifest not only impurity but defilement or desecration, sometimes thoughtless and sometimes intentional, of what is worthy of highest reverence or respect (shall I... add a greater sin by prostituting holy things to idols... what act more execrably unclean, profane?—Milton) (then speech profane, and manners profligate, were rarely found—Cowper) Blasphemous (compare BLASPHEMY) adds to profane the implication of indignity, either deliberate or inadvertent, offered directly or indirectly to the Supreme Being (it is blasphemous because it attributes to God purposes which we would not respect even in an earthly parent—Pike) (we have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God—Acts 6:11) Sacrilegious basically implies the commission of a sacrilege (see PROFANATION), but in its more usual extended sense it implies the defilement of what is holy or sacred (as by acts of depredation, disrespect, or contempt) sacrilegious despoilers of ancient churches) (a most sacrilegious breach of trust—Bolingbroke) (she saw that it was a terrible, a sacrilegious thing to interfere with another’s destiny, to lay the tenderest touch upon any human being’s right to love and suffer after his own fashion—Wharton)

Ana nefarious, iniquitous, flagitious (see VICIOUS): *irreligious, ungodly, godless

Ant pious: reverent —Con *holy, sacred, blessed, religious, spiritual, divine

impish roguish, waggish, mischievous, *playful, frolicsome, sporting

Ana *saucy, pert, arch: naughty, *bad: *sly, cunning, tricky

implacable relentless, unrelenting, merciless, *grim

Ana *inflexible, inexorable, obdurate, adamant: pitiless, ruthless, compassionless (see corresponding nouns at SYMPATHY)

Con yielding, submitting, capitulating (see YIELD): merciful, lenient, clement, *forbearing, indulgent, tolerant

implant, inculcate, instill are comparable when they mean to implant, instill, or assimilative (see corresponding verbs at ABSORB)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
implement, tool, instrument, appliance, utensil

Implement, tool, instrument, appliance, utensil mean a relatively simple device for performing a mechanical or manual operation. Nearly all of these words (the distinct exception is appliance) are interchangeable in their general senses, but custom and usage have greatly restricted them in their specific and most common applications. An implement, in general, is anything that is requisite to the effecting of an end one has in view or to performing that work or a part of the work. The implements of modern warfare consist of all the weapons necessary to a well-equipped army, navy, and air force. Mathematics is still the necessary implement for the manipulation of nature.

In specific use implement is the usual term when the reference is to a contrivance for tilling the soil (as a spade, a plow, a harrow, or a cultivator) or for doing work that may be accomplished more slowly by manual labor and tools are called machine tools (as the lathe). An instrument (see also mean n 2, paper 1) is in general a delicately constructed device by means of which work (not exclusively a mechanical operation) may be accomplished with precision. Many instruments are by definition tools, but instrument is the preferred term among persons (as surgeons, dentists, draftsmen, surveyors, and artists) whose technique requires delicate tools and expertness and finesse in their manipulation. Some instruments, however, are not tools, but implements in the larger sense, for they are requisite to the achieving of definite purposes but do not necessarily facilitate any manual operations (a thermometer and a barometer are recording instruments essential to the meteorologist) (a telescope is an astronomical instrument) (a piano, a violin, a cello are musical instruments by means of which a performer evokes musical sounds) (language is the essential instrument for the acquirement and communication of ideas).

An appliance may be a device that adapts a tool or machine to a special purpose usually under the guidance of a hand; thus, a dentist’s drill may be called an appliance when it is attached to a dental engine; in industry an appliance is often distinguished from a tool, though they may both do the same kind of work, in that a tool is manipulated by hand and an appliance is moved and regulated by machinery. Additionally, an appliance may be a device or apparatus designed for a particular use and especially one (as a mechanical refrigerator or a vacuum cleaner) that utilizes an external power supply, especially an electric current. A utensil is in general anything that is useful in accomplishing work (as cooking and cleaning) associated with the household; it may be applied to tools (as egg-beaters, graters, rolling pins, brooms, and mops) used in cookery and other household work, but it is most commonly applied to containers (as pots, pans, pails, and jars), especially those which form part of the kitchen, dairy, or bedroom equipment. Consequently utensil, in other than household use, often means a vessel.

implicate *involve

implication, inference are often interchangeable, but they may be distinguished when they specifically refer to something that is hinted at but not explicitly stated. Implication applies to what is hinted, whether the writer or speaker is aware of it or not or whether the reader or hearer recognizes it or not (speak of their own language with at least an implication of disparagement). When, however, the reader or hearer recognizes what is implied and gathers from it its full significance or makes an explicit statement of it, he has drawn or made an inference. He said no more, waiting for someone to draw the desired inference from this utterance. Implication is implied (as by the words, acts, appearance, character, or methods of the person or thing concerned) but is not definitely stated or expressed.

implicit, virtual, constructive mean being such by correct or justifiable inference rather than by direct statement or proof. Something is implicit (as opposed to explicit) which is implied (as by the words, acts, appearance, character, or methods of the person or thing concerned) but is not definitely stated or expressed. A good present behavior is an implicit repentance for any miscarriage in what is past.
**Spectator** (the distinction between poetry and drama, which Mr. Archer makes explicit, is *implicit* in the view of Swinburne—T. S. Eliot) Something is *virtual* (as opposed to *actual*) which exists in essence or effect but is not actually designated or recognized or put forward or regarded as such (his statement is a *virtual* confession) (the virtual abdication of parents from their role as educators—Barclay) (the dictator's constant associate and his virtual chief of staff—Buchan) Something is *constructive* (as opposed to *manifest*) which is inferred from a text, from known acts, or known conditions and which rests therefore on an interpretation of this text, these acts, or these conditions rather than upon direct statement or direct evidence (if the law explicitly gives a governor the right of removal of certain officials, he may claim the right to control and direct their official acts as a constructive power) (a mere failure to obey the orders of the court may be interpreted by the judge as constructive contempt) (an employer who confronts a foreman with an option of demotion or withdrawal from a foreman's union is guilty of a constructive discharge—B. F. Tucker)

**Ana** implied, suggested, intimated, hinted (see suggest): inferred, deduced, gathered (see infer) Imply—Con express, definite, specific (see explicit): expressed, voiced, uttered (see express vb) stated, recited, recounted, described (see relate)

**Implore** entreat, beseech, supplicate, *beg, importune, adjure**

**Ana** pray, plead, sue, appeal, petition (see under prayer): *ask, request, solicit

**Imply** 1 involve, comprehend, *include, embrace, subsume**

**Ana** import, *mean, signify, denote: *contain, hold: convey, *carry, bear

2 *suggest, hint, intimate, insinuate**

**Ana** connote, *denote: *presuppose, presume, assume, postulate: betoken, bespeak, *indicate, attest, argue, prove

**Ant** express—Con state, *relate: utter, voice, broach (see express vb): declare, predicate, affirm, *assert, aver, profess

**Impolite** uncivil, discourteous, *rude, ill-mannered, impertinent*

**Ana** churlish, boorish, loutish (see under boor): curt, gruff, brusque, blunt (see bluff)

**Ant** polite—Con *civil, courteous, chivalrous, gallant: *suave, urbane, diplomatic, politic: *thoughtful, considerate, attentive

**Imponderable** impalpable, *imperceptible, inappreciable, insensible, intangible**

**Ant** ponderable, appreciable—Con *weighty, consequential, important, significant, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE)**

**Import** vb *mean, denote, signify**

**Ana** *denote, connote: involve, imply, *include, comprehend; *suggest, imply, intimate, hint: mean, *intend

**Import n 1 significance, *meaning, sense, acceptance, signification**

**Ana** denotation, connotation (see under denote 2): interpreting or interpretation, construing or construction (see corresponding verbs at explain): drift, tenor (see tendency): implication

2 significance, *importance, consequence, moment, weight**

**Ana** *worth, value: purpose, intent, design, object, objective (see intention): *emphasis, stress

**Importance, consequence, moment, weight, significance, import** are comparable when they denote the quality or the character or the state of someone or something that impresses others as of great or sometimes eminent worth, value, or influence. Importance, probably the most inclusive of these terms, implies a judgment of the mind by which superior value or influence is ascribed to a person or thing (there are no cities of importance in this state) (he always attaches importance to what seems to others trivial events) (tradition gives importance to the study of the classics) (hence flowers come to assume [in Oriental art] ... an importance equal to that of figure painting with us—Binyon) (issues which, whilst not of major significance, have some importance—Current History)

**Consequence (see also effect)** is often used interchangeably with importance especially in implying superior social rank or distinction (men of consequence) but it usually implies importance because of the thing's possible or probable outcome, effects, or results (he ... was eager to have the Cathedral begun; but whether it was Midi Romanesque or Ohio German in style, seemed to him of little consequence—Cather) (to marry one of the right people ... is of the greatest consequence for a happy life—Rose Macaulay) (to cultivate the love of truth, it is of the utmost consequence that children should study things as well as words, external nature as well as books—Eliot) (I cannot think of a single poet of consequence whose work does not ... condemn modern civilization—Auden) Moment implies consequent or self-evident consequence (enterprises of great pith and moment—Shak) (a mistake of no very great moment —in fine, a mere slip—Barham) Weight implies a judgment of the relatively great importance or of the particular moment of the thing under consideration (the judge gave great weight to the testimony of the accused man) (in such a point of weight, so near mine honor—Shak) (I looked for you at dinner time; I forget now what; but then 'twas a matter of more weight than laying siege to a city—Millay) Significance and import are often used as though they were indistinguishable in meaning from importance or consequence, but they typically imply a quality or character in a person or thing which ought to mark it as of importance or consequence but which may or may not be recognized; thus, one may miss the significance of an occurrence; one may recognize the import of a piece of testimony (a widespread recognition of the significance of that achievement—Ellis) (the book was invested with a significance ... which its intrinsic literary and philosophical merits could not justify—Huxley) (a fear that the spectator might lose, in the shock of crude sensation, the spiritual import of the catastrophe—Binyon)

**Ana** prominence, conspicuousness, saliency (see corresponding adjectives at noticeable): eminence, illustriousness (see corresponding adjectives at famous): seriousness, gravity (see corresponding adjectives at serious): magnitude, *size, extent

**Ant** unimportance—Con *pettiness, triviality, paltriness* (see corresponding adjectives at petty)

**Importunate** *pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, insistent, exigent, instant

**Ana** demanding, claiming, requiring (see demand): persistent, persevering (see corresponding verbs at persevere): pertinacious, dogged (see obstinate)

**Importune** *beg, entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate, adjure

**Ana** implore—Con *tease, pester, plague, harry, *worry: hound, hector, bolster (see bait): plead, appeal, sue (see under prayer)

**Impose** *dictate, prescribe, ordain, decree

**Ana** order, enjoin, *command, charge: exact, *demand, require: constrain, oblige, compel (see force)

**Imposing** stately, majestic, august, noble, magnificent, *grand, grandiose

**Ana** *showy, pretentious, ostentatious: impressive, *moving: regal, imperial (see kingly): monumental, asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
impersonator, faker, quack, mountebank, charlatan denote a person who makes pretensions to being someone or something that he is not or of being able to do something he cannot really do. Impostor applies especially to one who passes himself off for someone else (there is an impostor abroad, who takes upon him the name of this young gentleman, and would willingly pass for him—Addison). However the word often serves as a general term for anyone who assumes a title, character, or profession that is not his own (charged that Kim II Sung was an impostor trading on the name of a legendary Korean resistance leader—Time). Faker applies to one who gives himself the appearance of being what, in character or in profession, he is not (the accused man is not insane, he is merely a clever faker—a hypocrite is a moral or religious faker). He is essentially a faker with a large contempt for the ignorance and gullibility of the American voter—Current History. Quack is the popular and contemptuous term for an ignorant, untrained, or unscrupulous practitioner of medicine or law or seller of remedies or treatments, and usually carries a strong implication of fraud or self-delusion (dishonesty is the raw material of quacks only, but also, in great part, of dupes—Carlyle). One of the most notorious cancer-cure quacks of the day—JAMA. Mountebank sometimes suggests quackery, but it regularly suggests cheap and undified efforts to win attention (political mountebanks). Our Sabbaths, closed with mummeries and buffoons; preaching and pranks will share the motley scene . . . God’s worship and the mountebank between—Cowper. Charlatan applies to a writer, speaker, preacher, professor, or expert who covers his ignorance or lack of skill by pretentious, flashy, or magniloquent display (insolent, pretentious, and given to that reckless innovation for the sake of noise and show which was the essence of the charlatans—George Eliot) (replaced by the charlatans and the rogues—by those without learning, without scruples, or both—Asher Moore).

Cheating, fraud, fake, humbug (see imposture): deceiver, beguiler, miserader (see corresponding verbs at deceive)

Imposition, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, deceit, deception, counterfeit all mean something which pretends to be one thing in its nature, character, or quality but is really another. Imposture applies not only to an object but to an act or practice which is passed off to another as genuine, authentic, or bona fide (several of the gallery’s paintings reputed to be the work of Rubens and Rembrandt were impostures). (The hero is as gross an imposture as the heroine—Shaw) (its values . . . are an imposture: pretending to honor and distinction, it accepts all that is vulgar and base—Edmund Wilson).

Cheating applies chiefly to something or sometimes to someone that wins one’s belief in its or his genuineness, either because one is deliberately misled or imposed upon by another or is the victim of illusion or delusion (when I consider life, it’s all a cheat. Yet fooled with hope, men favor the deceit—Dryden). (What a man . . . shall prove (what argument could never yet) the Bible an imposture and a cheat?—Cowper). (Hence, pageant history! hence, gilded cheat!—Keats). (If I passed myself off on Miss Carew as a gentlewoman, I should deserve to be exposed as a cheat—Shaw). Fraud applies to a deliberate, often criminal, perversion of the truth (many persons persisted in believing that his supposed suicide was but another fraud—M’Carthv) (we may take it as undisputed that Swinburne . . . did something that had not been done before, and that what he did will not turn out to be a fraud—T. S. Eliot). Applied to a person it may be less condemnatory and suggest pretense and hypocrisy (the pious fraud who freely indulges in the sins against which he eloquently preaches—La Farge). Sham applies to a close copy of a thing, especially to one that is more or less obviously a fraudulent imitation (a strong living soul in him, and sincerity there; a reality, not an artificiality, not a sham!—Carlyle). (He smiled, in his worldliest manner. But the smile was a sham—Bennett). 

Fake applies either to a person that represents himself as someone he is not or, more often, to a worthless thing that is represented as being something that it is not; fake differs from fraud in not necessarily implying dishonesty in these representations, for a fake may be a joke or a theatrical device, or it may be a clear fraud (this testimonial is clearly a fake). (One of the great fakes of all time was the Cardift Giant). (Actors using fakes instead of real swords on the stage). (He pretends everything is what it is not, he is a fake—K. A. Porter). 

Humbug applies to a person or sometimes a thing that pretends or is pretended to be other and usually more important than he or it is, not necessarily because of a desire on the part of the person involved to deceive others but often because he is self-deceived (you will take to politics, where you will become . . . the henchman of ambitious humbugs—Shaw) (what humbugs we are, who pretend to live for beauty, and never see the dawn!—L. P. Smith). Deceit and deception both apply to something that misleads one or deludes one into taking it for what it is not. Deceit, however, usually suggests the work of a deceiver or of one that misleads or leads astray (the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil—Book of Common Prayer). (They [Indians] held that the basest trickery or deceit was not dishonorable if directed against a foe—Amer. Guide Series: R.I.) Deception, on the other hand, often suggests a quality or character in the thing which causes one to mistake it or frankly to take it as other than it really is (the rising and the setting of the sun are pure deceptions). Counterfeit applies to a close imitation or copy of a thing (as a coin, a banknote, or a bond) that depends upon pictorial devices or engraved designs for assurance of its genuineness; the term usually also implies the passing or circulation of such an imitation as if it were genuine (the city is being flooded with counterfeits of five-dollar bills). The term is also applicable to a thing or, less often, to a person that passes for something other than it actually or truly is (his newly purchased painting by Raphael was proved to be a clever counterfeit). (She had the illusion that she was not really a married woman and a housemistress, but only a kind of counterfeit—Bennett). 

Cheating, fraud, fake, humbug (see imposture): deceiver, beguiler, miserader (see corresponding verbs at deceive)

Impotence 1 *powerless

Ama *ineffectual, ineffectual, inefficacious, inefficient: *incapable, incompetent: disabled, crippled, debilitated, enfeebled (see weaken). Ant potent—Con *powerful, puissant, forceful, forcible: *vigorous, energetic, strenuous: *effective, effectual, efficacious, efficient: *able, capable

2 *sterile, barren, unfruitful, infertile

Ant virile

Impoverish bankrupt, exhaust, *deplete, drain

Ant enrich—Con enhance, heighten, *intensify: augment, *increase

Imprecation curse, malediction, anathema

Ant execration, damning, objurgation (see corresponding verbs at execrate): *blasphemy, profanity, swearing

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

**Ant** prayer

**Impregnable** inepugnable, unassailable, invulnerable, *invincible, unconquerable, indomitable*

**Ana** secure, *safe: protected, shielded, guarded, safe-guarded, defended (see **DEFEND**)

**Con** exposed, open, *liable, susceptible, subject

**Impregnable** 1 saturate, *permeate, pervade, penetrate, impenetrate, interpenetrate

**Ana** imbue, inculcate, ingrain, *infuse, suffuse, leaven: *enter, pierce, probe, penetrate

2 *soak, saturate, drench, steep, sop, waterlog

**Ana** immerse, submerge, *dip, sojourn

**Impress** vb touch, strike, *affect, influence, sway

**Sentient, sensitive, impressionable, responsive, susceptible**

**Ana** subject, exposed, open, *liable, prone: predisposed, predisposed, disposed, inclined (see **INCLINE**)

**Impressible** *sentient, sensitive, impressionable, responsive, susceptible*

**Ana** subject, exposed, open, *liable, prone: predisposed, predisposed, inclined (see **INCLINE**)

**Impression** 1 Impression, impress, imprint, print, stamp are comparable when denoting the perceptible trace or traces left by pressure. **Impression** is the most widely applicable of these terms. It may be used with reference to a mark or trace or a series or combination of marks or traces which are produced by the physical pressure of one thing on another (as of a seal upon wax, of a foot upon mud, or of inked type or an etched plate upon paper) *In general, the first impressions made from an etcher's plate are the most valuable.* The detectives found a clear impression of fingertips on the handle of the door *The dentist must get a plaster of paris impression of the jaw before he can make a denture.* But **impression** may also be used of a definite or distinct trace or traces left on the mind, spirit, character, or memory by the impact of sensation or experience *The shock has left its impression on her nerves.* *His first impression of Paris still remains clear in his memory.* *The incident made no impression on his mind.* **Impress** is often used in place of **impression** especially when the reference is to a clear trace left on the character or the personality by some influence *His father's uprightness has left a lasting impress on his character.* *He reveals the impress of Keats's influence in every poem he writes.* The dusting of the white paper ... is a symbol of the sweeping clear from the mind of all accumulated prejudice that it may receive the impression of beauty in all its freshness and power—Binyon **Imprint** carries a strong implication of sharpness, clearness, or permanence in outline. It may be used in reference to an impression left on a plastic substance *The imprint of a heel in the soil.* *The children left imprints of their feet on the fresh cement of the walk.* The term specifically applies to the printed name of the publisher or, sometimes, of the printer and place and date of publication at the foot of a book's title page *This book bears the imprint of the G. & C. Merriam Company.* **Print** is often interchangeable with **imprint** in the general sense of that word but is more likely to be used when the trace is considered with reference to its retention of every line or characteristic detail of the original *The clear print of a fingertip.* It is the preferred term in combinations *Footprints in the sand.* *Footprints.* **Stamp** applies to an impression produced by or as if by a tool or machine which strikes so hard that it leaves a distinct imprint, often one that serves to authenticate or to approve what is so imprinted, to indicate its origin, or to authorize its passage through the mails. Hence, in extended use, **stamp** designates a marked or conspicuous impress which wins almost immediate recognition *We do wish as many sons of this university as may be to carry forth that lifelong stamp from her precincts—Quiller-Couch* *These works have the "classic" stamp upon them, and have been to the artists of the Far East what Greek marbles have been to us—Binyon* **Ana** *trace, vestige, track: mark, token, sign: stigma, brand, blot, stain* 2 notion, thought, *idea, concept, conception** Ana* image, percept, sense-datum, sensum, sensation: sentiment, opinion, view** Con** explanation, interpretation, elucidation (see corresponding verbs at **EXPLAIN**) 3 *edition, reprint, printing, reissue

**Impressionable** *sentient, sensitive, impressionable, responsive, susceptible*

**Ana** affectable, influenceable (see corresponding verbs at affect): open, *liable, subject, exposed, prone: predisposed, disposed, inclined (see **INCLINE**)

**Impressive** *moving, affecting, poigniant, touching, pathetic*

**Ana** imposing, majestic, august, noble, magnificent, grandiose, *grand: sublime, superb, glorious, splendid: striking, arresting, remarkable, noticeable*

**Ana** unimpressive—Con *ineffective, ineffectual, inefficacious: vain, nugatory, empty, hollow, idle, otiose

**Imprint** n print, *impression, impress, stamp**

**Imprison, incarcerate, jail, immure, intern** mean to confine closely so that escape is impossible or unlikely. The first three words **imprison, incarcerate, jail** imply a shutting up in or as if in a prison, **imprison** being the general term, **incarcerate** the bookish or journalistic term, and **jail** the common word. Distinctively, **imprison** implies seizure and detention in custody and is applicable even when the one confined is not in a prison or jail or suffering a penalty *Deftly and with one arm only, he imprisoned her—Ertz* *The tremendous forces imprisoned in minute particles of matter—Inge* **Incarcerate** implies a shutting up in or as if in a prison cell *He easily obtained bail and will, in all probability, not be incarcerated before his trial.* *We got the bride and bridegroom quietly away... having incarcerated all the newspaper reporters in the little drawing room—Sayers* **Jail** may be preferred to **incarcerate** as a simpler and more generally intelligible term *Risked being jailed for life* Often, however, jail, the verb, following jail, the noun, in its accepted sense connotes imprisonment in a building in which persons are held for short periods, either paying the penalty for minor offenses or for the purpose of awaiting legal proceedings. **Immure** is a literary rather than technical term. When it implies punishment for a crime, it may connote burial alive within a wall; usually, however, the term suggests restriction to closely confined quarters typically as a captive or a devotee to duty or to religion *Constance was now immured with her father, it being her "turn" to nurse—Bennett* *A convent of nuns vowed to contemplation, who were immured there for life, and never went outside the convent walls—L. P. Smith* **Intern** is used chiefly of military or wartime conditions; it seldom implies incarceration and usually suggests a keeping within prescribed limits (as in a guarded camp) and under severe restraints *Intern all enemy aliens for the duration of a war* *Intern all the war refugees entering a neutral country* *The plane was landed safely and the crew was interned—Lawson* **Ana** confine, circumscribe, restrict, *limit: restrain, curb, check**

**Impromptu** unpremeditated, offhand, improvised, *extemporaneous, extemporaneity, extemporary*

**Ana** *spontaneous, impulsive: ready, prompt, quick, apt
improper

Con considered, premeditated, *deliberate, studied, designed, advised: finished, *consummate

improper 1 inappropriate, unfitting, unsuitable, *unfit, inapt, unhappy, infelicitous

Ana wrong, *bad, poor: *amiss, astray: incongruous, *inconsonant

Ant proper — Con right, *good: *regular, natural, normal, typical: *due, rightful, condign: legitimate, licit, *lawful, legal

2 *indecorous, indecent, unseemly, unbecoming, indelicate

Ana unconventional, unceremonious, informal (see affirmative adjectives at CEREMONIAL): *shameless, brazen, impudent, brash, barefaced: obscene, ribald, *coarse, vulgar, gross

Ant proper — Con right, *correct: *decorous, decent, seemly, nice

improve 1 Improve, better, help, ameliorate are comparable when denoting to mend or correct in part or in some degree. Improve, the general term, and better, more vigorous and homely, apply both to objects and to states or conditions that are not of necessity bad. The faculties of the mind are improved by exercise—Locke. (striving to better, oft we mar what's well—Shak.) With a reflexive pronoun improve implies a change for the better within oneself, better a change for the better in one's social or financial status. Had from her youth improved herself by reading—Fordyce. Girls marry merely to "better themselves," to borrow a significant vulgar phrase—Wollstonecraft. To help is to improve while still leaving something to be desired. A coat of paint would help that house.

Ameliorate is used chiefly in reference to conditions that are hard to bear or that cause suffering and implies partial relief or changes that make them tolerable. There is no hope whatever of ameliorating his condition—Peacock. Abolish feudalism or amend, *correct, rectify, reform—Martin Gardner. Gain simply means to make progress especially, but not always, in health. The term is used typically in periodic reports of condition and like improve carries no implication of whether or not progress will continue or result in permanent recovery. (the doctor thinks he is gaining) (he gains very slowly)

Improvised unprepared, impromptu, offhand, *ad hoc, *ad hoc, extemporaneous, extempore, extemporary

Ana & Con see those at IMPROMPTU

impudent *shameless, brazen, barefaced, brash

Ana *impertinent, intrusive, obtrusive, officious, meddlesome: rude, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, ungracious

Ant respectful — Con *shy, modest, diffident, bashful

impugn gainsay, contradict, negative, traverse, *deny, contravene

Ana *attack, assault: refute, rebut, confute, controvert, *disprove

Ant authenticate: advocate — Con *confirm, corroborate, substantiate: *support, uphold, back

impulse n *motive, spring, incentive, inducement, spur, goad

Ana impetuous, *stimulus, incitement, stimulant, exciting: urge, passion, lust, *desire, appetite: moving or movement, driving or drive, impelling or impulsion, actuation (see corresponding verbs at MOVE)

impulsive *spontaneous, instinctive, automatic, mechanical

Ana impetuous, *precipitate, headlong, abrupt, sudden, hasty

Ant deliberate (sense 1) — Con *voluntary, intentional: premeditated, considered, *deliberate, designed: *cautious, circumspect, calculating

impure attribute, *ascribe, assign, refer, credit, accredit, charge

Ana attach, *fasten, affix: *accuse, charge, indict: allege, advance, *adduce: intimate, insinuate, hint (see SUGGEST in prep 1) *at, on

2 *at, on

inability, disability are sometimes confused because of their verbal likeness. Although both denote a lack of ability to perform a given act or to follow a given trade or profession, they are otherwise clearly distinguished. Inability implies lack of power to perform; it may suggest mental deficiency or temperamental unfitness, but more often it suggests a limiting factor (as lack of means, lack of health, or lack of training) an inability to laugh—Lucas an inability to see—Huxley the inability of the economic system to effect a cure—Hobson. Disability implies the loss or the deprivation of such power (as by accident, illness, or disqualification); the term is applicable not only to the resulting inability but to whatever it is that makes one unable to do a certain thing or hold a certain office or position

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
inactive, idle, inert, passive, supine mean not engaged in work or activity. Inactive is applicable to anyone or to anything that for any reason is not currently in action, in operation, in use, or at work. Inactive machines express the idea that children are usually inactive. An inactive charge account expresses the idea that children are usually inactive. In winter, when . . . mosquitoes, exceptionally large, numerous, and aggressive in this section, are inactive—Amer. Guide Series: La.) Idle (see also VAIN 1) applies chiefly to persons who are without occupation or not busy at the moment, but it is also applicable to their powers or to the implements they use. Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us—Mt 20:6-7) Though his pen was now idle, his tongue was active—Macaulay) Is a field idle when it is fallow?—Shaw) Every idle miner directly and individually is obstructing our war effort—Roosevelt) Inert as applied to a thing (as matter, a substance, or a drug) implies inherent lack of power to set itself in motion or by itself to produce a given or understood effect (comets) were now shown to be mere chunks of inert matter, driven to describe paths round the sun by exactly the same forces as prescribed the orderly motions of the planets—Jeans) Commercial fertilizers consist of three to five hundred pounds of available plant food . . . extended with harmless inert materials to make a ton of product—Morrison) As applied to persons or their activities, inert suggests inherent or habitual indisposition to activity or extreme difficulty in stimulating or setting in motion (inert citizens are not easily aroused to action by evidence of graft or waste) (many students are too inert to derive much stimulation from the books they read) (the inert were roused, and lively nature naps away!—Wordsworth) Passive implies immobility or a lack of a positive reaction when subjected to external driving or compelling forces or to provocation (the mind is wholly passive in the reception of all its simple ideas—Locke) (to sit as a passive bucket and be pumped into . . . can in the long run be exhilarating to no creature—Carlyle) (depreciate . . . the passive reception of everything that comes from a foreign press—Warfel) In an extended sense passive often implies submissiveness without such positive responsiveness as would help the person or side that attacks or seeks to impose its will (passive obedience) but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance (to be passive in calamity is the province of no woman—Meredith) Supine implies abject or supine but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance (to be passive in calamity is the province of no woman—Meredith) Supine implies abject or supine but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance (to be passive in calamity is the province of no woman—Meredith) Supine implies abject or supine but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance (to be passive in calamity is the province of no woman—Meredith) Supine implies abject or supine but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance (to be passive in calamity is the province of no woman—Meredith) Supine implies abject or supine but it still more often implies a failure to be provoked to action or resistance (to be passive in calamity is the province of no woman—Meredith)
incentive inducement, *motive, spring, spur, goad, impulse
Ana *stimulus, incitement, stimulant, excitant, impetus; provoking or provocation, excitement, stimulation (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): reason, *cause, determinant

inception *origin, source, root, provenance, provenience
Ana beginning, commencement, starting or start, initiation, inauguration (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN): rising or rise, origination, derivation (see corresponding verbs at SPRING)

Ant termination —Con *end, ending, terminus: completion, finishing, concluding or conclusion, closing (see corresponding verbs at CLOSE)

incessel continuous, constant, unremitting, perpetual, *incessant
Ana unceasing, interminable, endless, *everlasting: *steady, constant: vexing, irking, annoying, bothering (see ANNOY)
Ant intermittent —Con periodic, recurrent (see IN-TERMITTENT)

incessant *adultery, fornication
Ana *impotence, impotency

inciting *continual, perennial
Ana perpetual, *incessant, *adultery, fornication

incisive, trenchant, clear-cut, cutting, biting, crisp are
Incisive usually implies not only qualities in the thing so cut through but also the production of such an effect upon the person perceived; thus, an incisive voice or tone of voice is one that is not only sharply clear and edged but one that affects the nerves of the ear as though it were cutting into them; an incisive command is so sharply imperative and direct that it can neither be misunderstood nor disobeyed —Bismarck's will had not that incisive,rapier quality, that quality of highly tempered steel—lessened or memory; it therefore often suggests a caustic or mordant quality —her biting words—domineering and censorious of any that stood in his way, with a biting wit—T. D. Bacon

Crisp (see also FRAGILE) suggests not only incisiveness but either vigorous terse ness of expression or a braving or invigorating quality —the brittle, crisp sentence, decisive as a child's expression of its needs—Pater (it is a relief to come to a diction that is frequently crisp, and incisive, and terse—Lowes)

A languorous work . . . with occasional interludes of crisp brilliance—Anthony West


incentive, trenchant, clear-cut, cutting, biting, crisp are
Ana *subordinate, secondary, collateral: associated, related, linked, connected (see JOIN)

Ant essential (sense 2) —Con fundamental, cardinal, vital (see ESSENTIAL)

incise engrave, etch, chisel, *carve, sculpture, sculpt, scalp
Ana imprint, print, stamp, impress (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION): depict, delineate, limn (see REPRESENT)

Incisive, trenchant, clear-cut, cutting, biting, crisp are
Ana *subordinate, secondary, collateral: associated, related, linked, connected (see JOIN)

Ant essential (sense 2) —Con fundamental, cardinal, vital (see ESSENTIAL)

incise engrave, etch, chisel, *carve, sculpture, sculpt, scalp
Ana imprint, print, stamp, impress (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION): depict, delineate, limn (see REPRESENT)

incite, instigate, abet, foment are comparable when they mean to spur on to action or to excite into activity. Incite stresses stirring up and urging on; frequently it implies active prompting —the riot was incited by paid agitators—it was just like Lady Pinkerton . . . to have gone round to Hobart inciting him to drag Jane from my office—Rose Macaulay

Instigate, in contrast with incite, unequivocally implies prompting and responsibility for the initiation of the action; it also commonly connotes underhand edness and evil intention; thus, one may be incited but not instigated to the performance of a good act; one may be incited or instigated to the commission of a crime —the early persecutions were . . . instigated . . . by the government as a safety valve for popular discontent—Inge

His peculiar tastes had instigated him to boldness in some directions—Edmund Wilson

Abet tends to lose its original implication of baiting or hounding on and to emphasize its acquired implications of seconding, supporting, and encouraging —unthinkingly, I have laid myself open to the charge of aiding and abetting the seal cutter in obtaining money under false pretenses—Kipling

(Mr. Howells . . . seconded him as often as not in these innocuous, infantile ventures, abetting him in the production of . . . plays of an abysmal foolishness—Brooks

Foment stresses persistence in goading; thus, one who incites rebellion may provide only the initial stimulus; one who foments rebellion keeps the rebellious spirit alive by supplying fresh incitements —the apparent moral certainties of the mid-thirties—such as the notion that wars are fomented by munitions makers—F. L. Allen

Ana stimulate, excite, *provoke, pique, galvanize: arouse, rouse,*stir

Ant restrain —Con curb, check, inhibit (see RESTRAIN): *frustrate, thwart, foil, circumvent, baffle, balk, outwit
incitement *stimulus, stimulant, excitant, impetus

Ana spur, goad, incentive, inducement, impulse, *motive, spring: provoking or provocation, excitement, stimulation, piqing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): motivation, activation, actuation (see corresponding verbs at ACTIVATE)

Ant restraint: inhibition

incite vb 1 lean, *slant, slope

Ana bend, *curve: *swerve, veer, deviate: deflect, *turn

2 Incite, bias, dispose, predispose mean to influence one to take a stated or implied attitude to something or to someone or to have such an attitude as a result of prior influences. Incite (see also SLANT) implies that the mind or the feelings have been so affected that one is already leaning toward one of two or more possible conclusions, projects, decisions, or objects (as of affection). The word suggests no more than the tipping of the balance toward one and therefore connotes merely a tendency to favor one more than the other or others (such considerations are not supposed to be entertained by judges, except as excluding them to one of two interpretations—Justice Holmes) <the vast majority of people do not incline to be drunkards—Fishbein> <Mr. Owen inclines to cover up Lloyd George's odious treatment of King George V—Sykes> (on this visit I found Australia generally inclined to be inimical—Heiser) Bias implies a stronger and more settled leaning than incline; it usually connotes a prejudice for or against (it would be mortifying to . . . many ladies could they . . . understand how little the heart of man is affected by what is costly or new in their attire; how little it is biased by the texture of their muslin—Austen> (she was unfairly biased towards the Liberal party in the state, and too apt to approve of the measures they passed—Rose Macaulay) Dispose differs from incline in stressing the implication of putting one into a frame of mind that is proper or necessary for the end in view or that makes one ready or willing to do something or to take some stand; therefore it often connotes the sway of one's disposition, mood, temper, or attitude (his open face disposes one to believe him innocent) (the depression disposed many persons to become more thrifty) (a thinker so little disposed to treat the names of these religious philosophers with respect—Inge) (those disposed to violate or evade the decrees of the sovereign—Cohen) Predispose differs from dispose in implying the existence of the frame of mind or of the proper disposition in advance of the opportunity to manifest itself in action (circumstances are predisposing men to accept principles which they attacked a few years ago) (if she is flattered and indulged, she will be predisposed to be favorable to him) (we are much influenced in youth by sleepless nights; they disarm, they predispose us to submit to soft occasion—Meredith) Predispose is also used of a physical tendency or condition which makes one susceptible to a given infection or disease (predisposed to tuberculosis) (the coldness and dampness . . . predispose the miner to rheumatism—Pose) (Ant predisposed to tuberculosis) (the geniuness of one's disposition, mood, temper, or attitude—Austen)

incidence

Ana include, *comprehend, embrace, involve, imply, subsume are comparable when meaning basically to contain something within as a part or portion of a whole. Include suggests that the thing included forms a constituent, component, or subordinate part (the genus Viola includes the pansy as well as various violets) (the collection will not include any examples of the artist's earlier paintings) (an edition of the Bible which includes the Apocrypha) (it would not be argued today that the power to regulate does not include the power to prohibit—Justice Holmes) (few of the great men of our early national history extended their humanitarianism to include the Indian tribes—Hyman) Comprehend suggests that within the scope or range of the whole under consideration (as the content of a term, a concept, a conception, or a view) the thing comprehended is held or enclosed even though it may or may not be clearly distinguished or actually distinguishable (it was not tolerance; it was something greater that comprehended tolerance but went far beyond it—G. W. Johnson) (for philosophy's scope comprehends the truth of everything which man may understand—H. O. Taylor) Embrace (see also ADOPT) suggests a reaching out to gather the thing embraced within the whole (as the content of a mind or of a course of study or a construction or interpretation of a law) (the scene before the reddleman's eyes . . . embraced hillocks, pits, ridges, acclivities, one behind the other—Hardy) (by Baudelaire's time it was no longer necessary for a man to embrace such varied interests in order to have the sense of the age—T. S. Eliot) (whatever disagreement there may be as to the scope of the phrase "due process of law," there can be no doubt that it embraces the fundamental conception of a fair trial—Justice Holmes) Involve suggests inclusion by virtue of the nature of the whole, whether by its natural or inevitable consequence (surrender involves submission) (it is quite probable that many of those who would make the best doctors are too poor to take the course. This involves a deplorable waste of talent—Russell) or one of the antecedent conditions (clerkship did not necessarily involve even minor orders—Quiller-Couch) (I should . . . supply the humanistic elements of education in ways not involving a great apparatus of learning—Russell) or one of the parts or elements which comprise it by necessity or definition (that fusion of public and private life which was involved in the ideal of the Greek citizen—Dickinson) Imply is very close to involve in meaning but stresses a thing's inclusion not, as involve does, by the nature or constitution of the whole but as something which can be inferred because hinted at (see also SUGGEST 1) (the tone of the book was implied by shrewd advertisements featuring the author's open, smiling face—J. D. Hart) or because normally or customarily part of its content especially by definition (embrace implies a reaching out to gather to oneself or within one's grasp) (emergency and crisis imply conflict—Langfield) or because invariably associated with the thing under consideration as its cause or its effect or as its maker or its product (a watch implies a watchmaker) For this reason imply may, in comparison with involve, suggest a degree of uncertainty; thus, silence is often said to imply consent, but it would be rash to say that it involves consent. Subsume, a technical term in logic, philosophy, and the classificatory sciences, implies inclusion within a class or category (as an individual in a species or a species in a genus) or a being comprehended by a general principle or proposition (absolutely generic unity would obtain if there were one sumnum genus under which all things without exception could be eventually subsumed—James)

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

**Ana** unrivaled, unmatched, unapproached, unequalled (see affirmative verbs at MATCH)

**Con** ordinary, *common: fair, mediocre, *medium, second-rate, average

**incompatible** incongruous, *inconsonant, inconsistent, discordant, discrepant, uncongenial, unsympathetic

**Ana** antagonistic, counter, *adverse: *antipathetic, adverse: contrary, contradictory, antithetical, antipodal, antipodean, *opposite: irreconcilable, unconformable, unadaptable (see corresponding affirmative verbs at ADAPT)

**Ant** compatible —**Con** congruous, *consonant, consistent, congenial: harmonizing or harmonious, corresponding or correspondent, agreeing (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)

**incompetent** unqualified, *incapable

**Ana** inefficient, *ineffective

**Ant** competent —**Con** *able, capable, qualified: skilled, *proficient, expert, masterly

**incongruous** *inconsonant, uncongenial, incompatible, inconsistent, discordant, discrepant, unsympathetic

**Ana** alien, foreign, extraneous (see EXTRINSIC): grotesque, bizarre, *fantastic

**Ant** congruous —**Con** fitting, suitable, appropriate, meet, *fit: *consonant, compatible, congenial, consistent

**inconsistent** *inconsonant, incompatible, incongruous, uncongenial, unsympathetic, discordant, discrepant

**Ana** divergent, disparate, diverse, *different: irreconcilable (see corresponding affirmative verb at ADAPT)

**Ant** consistent —**Con** *consonant, compatible, congruous: according or accordant, agreeing, tallying, jibing, corresponding or correspondent (see corresponding verbs at AGREE)

**inconsonant, inconsistent, incompatible, incongruous, uncongenial, unsympathetic, discordant, discrepant** mean not in agreement with one another or not agreeable one to the other. Except for this denial of reciprocal agreement or agreeableness, the first six words correspond to the affirmative adjectives as discriminated at CONSONANT especially in regard to their specific implications. Discordant is more common than inconsonant when applied, in the sense of devoid of harmony, to things coming into contact or comparison with each other (discordant voices) (the discordant views of cabinet officers) Discrepant is often preferred to inconsistent in attributive use especially when a wide variance between details of two things that should be alike or consistent is to be suggested; thus, “two discrepant accounts of an accident” suggests more obvious differences in details than “their accounts are inconsistent.” Inconsistent is more frequent in predicative use.

**Ant consonant** —**Con** congruous, compatible, consistent, congenial (see CONSONANT): harmonized or harmonious, attuned (see corresponding verbs at HARMONIZE)

**inconstant** fickle, capricious, mercurial, unstable mean lacking or showing lack of firmness or steadiness in purpose, attachment, or devotion. Inconstant, usually applied to persons though sometimes to things, suggests an inherent or constitutional tendency to change frequently; it commonly implies an incapacity for fixity or steadiness (as in one’s affections, aspirations, or course) (shrew not by the moon, the inconstant moon, that monthly changes in her circled orb—Shak.) (people seldom know what they would be at, young men especially, they are so amazingly changeable and inconstant—Austen) (Spanish assistance from the sea was inconstant, almost accidental—Jones) Fickle retains only a hint of its basic implication of deceitfulness or treacherousness, but its basic implications of instability and unreliability are colored by the suggestion of an incapacity for being true, steadfast, or certain (Fortune, Fortune! all men call thee fickle—Shak.) (bitter experience soon taught him that lordly patrons are fickle and their favor not to be relied on—Huxley) (she is fickle! How she turns from one face to another face—and smiles into them all!—Milly) Capricious suggests qualities which manifest or seem to manifest a lack of guidance by a power (as law, authority, or reason) that tends to regularize movements or acts. When used in reference to persons, it suggests guidance by whim, mood, freak, or sudden impulse (Louis XIII . . . a boy of eight at his accession . . . grows up capricious, restricted and cold, hardly normal—Bello) (he judged her to be capricious, and easily wearied of the pleasure of the moment—Wharton) When used in reference to things, it implies an irregularity, an uncertainty, or a variability that seems incompatible with the operation of law (a capricious climate) (the capricious hues of the sea—Lamb) (the capricious uncertain lease on which you and I hold life—Quiller-Couch) (the olive is slow-growing, capricious in its yield—Huxley) Mercurial is a synonym of the other words here discriminated only when it carries a strong implication of resemblance to the metal mercury and its fluctuations when subjected to an external influence. The word, however, also carries implications (as of swiftness, eloquence, cleverness, and volatility) derived from its cultural association with the god Mercury. Consequently when it applies to persons, their temperaments, or their natures, it usually suggests a pleasing even if baffling variability, an amazing succession of gifts capable of being displayed at will or at need, and such other qualities as sprightliness, restlessness, flashing wit, and elusive charm (the gay, gallant, mercurial Frenchman—Disraeli) (I was ardent in my temperament; quick, mercurial, impetuous—Irving) (it seems impossible that her bright and mercurial figure is no longer among us, that she will delight us no more with the keen precision and stabbing brilliance of that jewelled brain—New Republic) Unstable, which is applicable to persons as well as to things, implies a constitutional incapacity for remaining in a fixed position mentally or emotionally as well as physically; it suggests, therefore, such fluctuations in behavior as frequent and often unjustified changes in occupation or in residence or sudden and startling changes of faith or of interests (unstable as water, thou shalt not excel—Gen 49:4) (his nature, lamentably unstable, was not ignoble—Macauley) (woman’s love . . . is volatile, insoluble, unstable—M. L. Anderson) (an unstable world economy . . . subjected to periods of wars, inflation, and depression—Farmer’s Weekly)

**Ana** *changeable, changeful, variable, protean, mutable: *faithless, disloyal, false, treacherous, traitorous, perfidious: volatile, frivolous, light, light-minded (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)

**Ant constant** —**Con** *reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty: true, loyal, staunch, steadfast, *faithful

**inconvenience** vb Inconvenience, incommode, disincommode, trouble are comparable when they mean to subject to disturbance or annoyance. Inconvenience usually suggests little more than interference with one’s plans, one’s comfort, or one’s freedom of action; it seldom carries suggestions of more than a temporary or slight disturbance or annoyance (I hope the new arrangement will not inconvenience you) (do not inconvenience him by intruding upon him while he is writing) (she was frequently inconvenienced by the strong scent of tobacco which the fresh breeze conveyed through the porthole—Wylie) Incommode and, even more, disincommode carry a somewhat heightened suggestion of disturbance or annoyance, but not enough to imply actual suffering or injury; rather, they connote some mental agitation (as embarrassment or
incorporate 432 incur

Increase, enlarge, augment, multiply mean to increase incorporeal

Incorporate vb embody, assimilate, *identify An incorporate 432 incur

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

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
literary and most ordinary of these terms, usually implies infection or something analogous to it <i>catch a heavy cold</i> (religion, in point of fact, is seldom taught at all; it is <span class="highlight">caught</span>, by contact with someone who has it—Inge)

<i>Ana</i> *get, obtain, acquire

<i>Con</i> *escape, elude, evade, avoid, shun, eschew: avert, ward, *prevent

indecisive unconcerned, *indifferent, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested

<i>Ana</i> *abstracted, preoccupied, absent, absentminded, distraught

<i>Ant</i> curious, inquisitive —<i>Con</i> prying, snoopy, nosy (see <i>CURIOUS</i>): intrusive, meddlesome, *impertinent: observing or observant, remarking, noticing, noticing (see corresponding verbs at <i>SEE</i>)

indecisive unbecoming *indecisive, indecorous, unbecoming

<i>Ana</i> obscene, ribald, *coarse, gross, vulgar: lewd, lascivious, *licentious: *immoral: *offensive, revoltin, repulsive, repugnant, loathsome

<i>Ant</i> decent —<i>Con</i> *chaste, pure, modest: virtuous, *moral, ethical

indecisive, improper, unseemly, indecent, improper, *indecorous, unbecoming

<i>Ana</i> indecorous in carrying a stronger implication of interrupted activity; often they specifically suggest an extraordinary ability to go on continuously and without a break while <i>indecisive</i> and <i>indecisive</i>, by contrast, often imply repeated returns over a very long course of time <i>indecisive</i> for a lost child <i>indecisive</i> efforts to attract attention <i>indecisive</i> devotion to a cause <i>indecisive</i> reiteration of a call <i>indecisive</i> pursuit of an ideal <i>indecisive</i> activity engaged in <i>indecisive</i> to the end of his life he was an <i>indecisive</i> worker—McGiffert

<i>Ant</i> unyielded differs little from <i>indecisive</i> in its meaning, but it is more often applied directly to the person or thing concerned than to the activity engaged in <i>indecisive</i>, so long a worshipper of nature, hitherto unyielded in that service—Wordsworth

<i>Ant</i> the unyielded and disinterested seeker after truth—Jowett <i>Ant</i> men who recalled the days of the Armada did not feel proud over James's unyielded appeasement of Spain—Bush

<i>Ant</i> Unflagging differs little from <i>indecisive</i>, for it too stresses a display of power to continue without signs of weariness; but it also stresses no diminution of activity, and it applies to a person's powers rather than to the person himself <i>indecisive</i> attention <i>indecisive</i> <i>Ant</i> a purpose . . . which he pursued with unflagging energy—Froude

<i>Ant</i> such a hold on the imaginations of scholars . . . that they pursued it with unflagging zeal—Southern

<i>Ana</i> diligent, assiduous, sedulous, industrious, *busy: dogged, pertinacious (see <i>OBSTINATE</i>): energetic, strenuous, *vigorous

<i>Con</i> wearying, tiring (see <i>TIRE</i> vb): lagging, dawdling, procrastinating (see <i>DELAY</i>): indolent, feainet, slothful, *lazy

indefinable *indefinable, indecipherable

<i>Ana</i> indecisive indecent, unseemly, improper, *indecorous, unbecoming

<i>Ant</i> *coarse, gross, vulgar, obscene: *rude, rough, crude, callow, uncouth: lewd, wanton (see <i>LICENTIOUS</i>)

<i>Ant</i> delicate, refined —<i>Con</i> pure, modest, *chaste, decent
indemnify 434 indifferent

**indemnify** reimburse, recompense, compensate, remunerate, *pay, repay, satisfy

**indemnity** *reparation, redress, amends, restitution

**indented** article, *bound, bond

**independence** autonomy, freedom, sovereignty, autarchy, autarky (see under FREE adj)

**Ana** liberty, *freedom, license

**Ant** dependence —Con *subordination, subjection (see corresponding adjectives at SUBORDINATE); *servitude, slavery, bondage

**independent** autonomous, *free, sovereign, autarchic, autarkic

**Ana** *alone, solitary: self-governed, self-ruled (see base words at GOVERN)

**Ant** dependent —Con *subordinate, subject, tributary: *subservient, servile, slavish: relative (see DEPENDENT)

**indescribable** *unutterable, inexpressible, ineffable, un-speakable, indefinable

**indicate**, betoken, attest, bespeak, argue, prove can all mean to give evidence of or to serve as ground for a valid or reasonable inference. One thing indicates another when the former serves as a symptom or a sign pointing to the latter as a justifiable or necessary conclusion, treatment, or remedy (the facts revealed by the auditor’s investigation indicate that the peculiarations were not confined to one person) (conflicting findings indicate further neurological research—Collier’s Yr. Bk.) (such symptoms indicate an operation) (the results . . . are believed to be the first to indicate a possible magnetic effect directly attributable to a solar eclipse—Harradon) One thing betokens another when the former serves as visible or sensible evidence or, more narrowly, as a presage or portent of the latter (his appearance betokened complete security—Meredith) (the black clouds betoken a storm) (like a red morn, that ever yet bespeaks the seaman, tempest to the field—Shak.) (towering business buildings, great warehouses, and numerous factories betoken its importance—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) One thing attests another when the former serves as indisputable evidence of the latter and has the force though not necessarily the character of legal testimony or documentary proof (the great seal . . . attests . . . the verity of the presidential signature—John Marshall) (their success is attested by the marvelous exactness with which eclipses are foretold—Darrow) One thing bespeaks another when the former leads to the inference that it is the outward manifestation of the latter (to Him whose works bespeak his nature—Cowper) (the large abstinence from voting in our elections must certainly bespeak an indifference not without meaning—Frankfurter) (a glint of pride in her eyes that bespoken her new dignity—Lasswell) One thing argues another when the former gives good reason for belief in the existence, the reality, or the presence of the latter (his evasion, of course, was the height of insolence, but it argued unlimited resource and verve—Kipling) (to the grub under the bark the exquisite fitness of the woodpecker’s organism to extract him would certainly argue a diabolical designer—James) (a becoming deference argues deficiency in self-respect—Whitehead) One thing proves another when the former serves to demonstrate or manifest the truth of the latter (your language proves you still the child—Tennyson) (to become a writer was, however, in Thoreau’s mind; his verses prove it, his journal proves it—Canby)

**Ana** intimate, hint, *suggest: evince, evidence, demonstrate, manifest, *show: import, signify, denote, *mean

**Ana** blame, denounce, condemn (see CRITICIZE)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
indignation: *anger, ire, rage, fury*

*native, autochthonous, endemic, aboriginal*

*poverty, destitution, privation*

*indirect, circuitous, roundabout*

*rich, wealthy, affluent*

*indifferent, aloof*

*complacent, smug, self-satisfied: indifferent, unconcerned*

*injury, wrong, injustice, grievance: offending, offense, outraging or outrage (see corresponding verbs at OFFEND)*

*affront, insult*

*circuitous, roundabout are comparable when applied to ways, routes, or means with the meaning not leading by a straight path to a destination or goal. Indirect basically implies departure from the straight and short line between two points (by what bypaths and indirect crooked ways I met this crown—Shak.) In its extended use indirect implies following a course that is not plain, obvious, explicit, or straightforward (Jane's mother was making indirect but perfectly legitimate inquiries into his prospects—Mary Austin) INDIRECT TAXATION <indirect taxation> we have seen grow up . . . a whole new family of subtle, indirect influences—Kefauver> *man's possible development from non-Homo stock, must be based upon indirect evidence—R. W. Murray* CIRCUITOUS implies not only indirection but usually a winding and, because of its length, slow way or course (they were forced to take a circuitous route on account of the floods) <two lines possible—the one direct by sea, the other circuitous through Gaul—Mahan> paths . . . more circuitous, but not less sure to reach the point marked out by Heaven—Wordsworth> <in speech and in action most Japanese are indirect and circuitous—Buchanan>* Roundabout may be used interchangeably with circuitous, but specifically it implies a following of a more or less circular or semicircular course from one point to another; the term more often than indirect or circuitous, especially in its extended use, implies deliberate, often blameworthy evasion or avoidance of the direct course or way (take a roundabout course to one's destination) <a roundabout explanation> <the roundabout, diffident appeal for pity—Day Lewis> <she declared that she would have nothing to do with any roundabout ways, but go openly and instantly to law—Burney>* Devious, oblique, crooked: winding, sinuous, tortuous

Direct: forthright, straightforward

Indiscriminate, wholesale, sweeping are comparable when they mean including all or nearly all within the range of choice, operation, or effectiveness. Something is indiscriminate which does not distinguish the deserving from the undeserving but acts (as in giving, treating, selecting, or including) regardless of individual deserts or merits <indiscriminate charity> <indiscriminate praise> <the critic does a wrong who brings them under his indiscriminate censure—Quiller-Couch> <an indiscriminate lavish Irish meal, sausages, eggs, bacon, all together on one plate—O'Flaherty>* Wholesale often implies indiscriminateness, but sometimes it carries almost no such suggestion; however, it regularly stresses extensiveness, usually suggesting that no person or thing within the range of choice, operation, or effectiveness has escaped <the wholesale vaccination of a community> <communism can spread only . . . as a development of existing economic civilization and not by a sudden wholesale overthrow of it—Shaw> <the continuous battle of this generation against wholesale character assassination through the application of indiscriminate labels—Roy> Sweeping implies a reaching out in or as if in a wide circle to draw in everyone or everything within range; it usually carries a stronger suggestion of indiscriminateness than wholesale and often specifically implies exceeding the bounds of right, justice, or jurisdiction or suggests generality rather than a concrete, specific character <sweeping reforms> <sweeping accusations> <a sweeping and consummate vengeance for the indignity alone should satisfy him—Meredith> <the statute is of a very sweeping and general character—Justice Holmes>* Promiscuous, motley, heterogeneous, assorted, miscellaneous: uncritical, superficial, shallow

Selective: discriminating

Indispensable essential, necessary, requisite, necessary

Vital, cardinal, fundamental, essential

Indispensable

Indispensible disinclined, loath, aversive, hesitant, reluctant

Inimical, hostile, antagonistic, antipathetic (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY)

Indisposed answer—Con eager, keen, anxious: friendly, amicable, neighborly: sympathetic, responsive (see TENDER)

Individually 1 particular, specific, special, especial

Indiscernible

Indissoluble

Indolent lethargic, sluggish, comatose: inactive, inert, idle, passive, supine: languid, languorous, lackadaisical, listless

Industrious busy, diligent, assiduous, industrious

Industrious

Indomitable invincible, unconquerable, impregnable, impuugnable, unassailable, invulnerable

Indomitable

Induce persuade, prevail, get are comparable when meaning to move another by arguments, entreaties, or promises to do or agree to something or to follow a recommended course. Induce usually implies overcoming indifference, hesitation, or opposition especially by offering for consideration persuasive advantages or gains that depend upon the desired decision being made; the term usually suggests that the decision is outwardly at least made by the one induced rather than forced upon him by the one that induces <only those . . . doctors who were possessed of superior courage and capable of supreme self-sacrifice could be induced to continue at the work—Heiser>*
is often used to imply attentions that are likely to have this effect ("She talks a great deal, sir," Elizabeth apologized. "She's our only little girl, and I'm afraid we spoil her"—Deland) Baby implies excessive attentions, especially of the kind given to those who are unable to care for themselves and need the constant attention of a mother or nurse; it also carries a strong implication of humoring or pampering (babying Americans, telling them what they should read and should not read—Sokolsky) (Lydia had two methods of taking men down: babying them and harping on their faults—Edmund Wilson) Mollycoddle usually implies babying; it distinctively suggests inordinate attention to another's health or physical comfort or undue efforts to relieve another of strain or hardship. It often also connotes, as the effect or danger of such treatment, effeminateness or infantilism (schools where grown boys and girls are mollycoddled) (look here, mother dear: I'm as well as ever I was, and I'm not going to be mollycoddled any more—Braddon)

Ana favor, accommodate, *oblige: gratify, *please, regale, delight

Ant discipline (others): abstain (with reference to oneself, one's appetite)

indulgence forbearance, tolerance, clemency, mercifulness, leniency (see under FORBEARING)

Ana *mercy, charity, lenity, grace: kindness, benignity or benignity, benignness, kindliness (see corresponding adjectives at KIND): mildness, gentleness (see corresponding adjectives at SOFT)

Ant strictness —Con severity, sternness (see corresponding adjectives at SEVERE): rigorousness, rigidity (see corresponding adjectives at RIGID): harshness (see corresponding adjective at ROUGH)

indulgent lenient, *forbearing, tolerant, clement, merciful

Ana humor, pampering (see INDULGE): forgiving, pardoning, condoning, excusing (see EXCUSE vb): benignant, benign, *kind, kindly: mild, gentle (see SOFT)

Ant strict —Con stern, *severe: rigorous, stringent (see RIGID): harsh (see ROUGH)

indulgently forbearingly, tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, leniently (see under FORBEARING)

indulge vb *harden, solidify, petrifY, cake

Ana season (see HARDEN): fix, establish, *set

indurate vb *hardened, callous

Ana rigid, *stiff, inflexible: obdurate, adamant, adamantine, inexorable, *inflexible

Ant pliable —Con *flexible, pliant, ductile, malleable: flexible, *elastic, supple, resilient

industrious diligent: *busy, assiduous, sedulous

Ana *active, operative, live, dynamic: persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSIST): *indefatigable, tireless, untiring, unflagging, unwearied

Ant slothful, indolent —Con idle, *inactive, inert, supine: *lazy, faineant: *lethargic, sluggish, torpid

industry *business, trade, commerce, traffic

inebriate n *drunkard, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler

Ant teetotaler

inebriated adj *drunk, drunken, intoxicated, tipsy, tight

ineffable *unutterable, inexpressible, unspeakable, indecipherable, indefinable

Ana *celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal: ethereal (see AIRY): spiritual, divine, *holy, sacred: transcendent, transcendental, ideal, *abstract

Con expressible, utterable (see corresponding verbs at EXPRESS)

ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient, inefficacious mean not producing or incapable of producing results. Except for
ineffactual 437

depth and ineluctable—A. S. Paton

inescapable and unescapable carry a stronger suggestion than either inevitable or ineluctable that the person concerned would, if he could, avoid what must be but is convinced of its inexorable character his inescapable fate continuity in design appears to be inescapable—Gloag

the unescapable expansion of the nation’s foreign policy—D. S. Freeman

Unavoidable carries a weaker implication of necessary occurrence than the other terms, but it does imply that the exercise of foresight or care has not enabled one to escape what has occurred <unavoidable delays> <an unavoidable accident>

An a certain, necessary: determined, settled, decided (see decide): inexorable, inflexible

Ant evitable —Con escapable, avoidable, eludable, evadable (see corresponding verbs at ESCAPE): preventable (see corresponding verb at PREVENT) 2 certain, necessary

An a infallible, inerrant, unerring: perfect, entire, whole: definitive, determinative, decisive, conclusive

Inexorable obdurate, adamant, adamantine, inflexible

An a rigid, rigorous, strict: resolute, steadfast (see FAITHFUL): implacable, implacable: inescapable: impenetrable, relentless, merciless: grim

Ant inexorable —Con compassionate, responsive, sympathetic, tender: merciful, clement, lenient, indulgent, forbearing

Inexpressible unutterable, ineffable, unspeakable, inexpressible, indefinable

Ant tenuous, rare (see THIN): infinite, boundless, illimitable

Ant expressible

Inexpugnable unassailable, impregnable, invincible, unconquerable, invulnerable, indomitable

An a uncombatable, irresistible, unopposable (see corresponding affirmative verbs at RESIST)

Ant expugnable —Con assailable, attackable, stormable (see corresponding verbs at ATTACK)

Infallible, inerrable, inerrant, unerring are comparable when they mean incapable, or manifesting incapability, of making mistakes or errors. Infallible occurs in this narrow sense chiefly in reference to something (as a person, institution, or book) that is accepted as the divinely inspired medium for the revelation of moral or spiritual truth (the pope is held by Roman Catholics to be infallible only when he speaks ex cathedra and defines a doctrine or a rule of morals held by the church) (believed in an infallible Bible—Sweet) (no mathematician is infallible; he may make mistakes; but he must not hedge—Eddington) Inerrable and inerrant are erudite synonyms of infallible and may be preferable to the latter when it is desired to avoid connotations associated with the notion of papal infallibility (decision from the inerrable and requisite conditions of sense—Brownie) (not an inerrable text—Gladstone) but inerrant may imply not so much the incapacity for making mistakes or errors as the fact of their absence <an inerrant account of the battle> (the Church was ubiquitous, omniscient, theoretically inerrant and omnicompetent—Coulton) (the inerrant literary sense which gave us the Prayer Book Collects—Sperry) Unerring implies inerrancy, but it stresses reliability, unremitting, exactness, or accuracy (as of aim or observation) (a marksman of unerring aim) (an unerring eye for fleet expression of the moral features of character—J. R. Lowell) (a man is infallible, whose words are always true; a rule is infallible, if it is unerring in all its possible applications—Newman) (a man’s language is an unerring index of his nature—Binyon)

An a certain, inevitable, necessary: impeccable, flaw-
Infectious, contagious, communicable, catching

infamous nefarious, flagitious, iniquitous, *vicious, villainous, corrupt, degenerate

Ana ignominious, disgraceful, displeasurable, shameful

 delaude (see FAME): degradation, humiliation, de-basement, abasement (see corresponding verbs at ABASE)

Con honor, glory, renown, celebrity, *fame, repute: prestige, authority, *influence, credit, weight

infancy minority, nonage denote the state or period of being under the age established by law for the attainment of one’s full civil rights and independence of guardianship.

Infancy is seldom used in this denotation outside of legal documents and court reports; in these it is especially likely to be chosen when reference is made to the condition or status of the person who is not of age (<the defendant pleaded infancy at the time the lease was made>). Minority is widely used in general as well as in legal writing and is the word most often chosen when reference is made to the period or term of being under age (<he inherited the title during his minority>). Nonage is the equivalent of infancy and minority in their legal senses, but it is often distinguishable from them in its acquired connotations and by its greater susceptibility to literary and extended use. Nonage may suggest mere immaturity (<an adolescent Parisienne . . . bored with the nonage of her contemporaries—NewswEEK>). Not infrequently it suggests adolescence and its weaknesses and strengths and may be thought of as the opposite of dotage, or senility (the brook we leaped so nimbly in our nonage is a mere ditch or too wide for our nonage—HILLYER). A world which is still after all young and has plenty of time to make good the mistakes of its nonage—Times Lit. Sup.>

infatuated 1 *fond, besotted, insensate

Ana deluded, deceived, beguiled, misled (see deceive): duped, gulled, befuddled (see DUPE): foolish, silly, fatuous, asinine (see SIMPLE)

Con sensible, prudent, sane, judicious, *wise: *rational, reasonable

2 *enamored

infected Infectious, contagious, communicable, catching in their basic use as applied to diseases are distinguishable though closely similar in meaning. Infectious designates a disease resulting from the invasion of and multiplication in the body by germs (as bacteria, protozoans, or viruses) that produce toxins or destroy or injure tissues. Contagious more precisely designates an infectious disease caused by receiving living germs directly from a person afflicted with it or by contact with a secretion of his or some object he has touched. Communicable in this relation is nearly equivalent to infectious, but it emphasizes the transmissibility of the disease rather than the method by which it is acquired. Catching, a less formal term, is close in meaning to contagious, but it implies even more the dangers of contact.

Infectious, contagious, and catching all have extended use but in such use the fine distinctions exhibited in their technical senses are not carried over with the result that they are nearly exact synonyms meaning rapidly imparted to others; thus, one may speak of contagious, or infectious, enthusiasm or of enthusiasm that is catching (<what a bad temper! I hope it’s not catching> (<fear is exceedingly infectious: children catch it from their elders even when their elders are not aware of having shown it—Russell>).

Ana toxic, mephitic, pestilent, pestilential, virulent, *poisonous

2 Infectious, infective as applied to agents related to the causing of disease may be interchangeable and then mean capable of infecting or tending to infect. Infectious, however, is more often restricted to the technical and figurative senses expounded in the preceding article. Infective may be distinctively applied to matter and means potentially infectious (<an infective secretion> (<an infective wart>). In extended use it preserves the implication of corruption, strong in infect but often absent in infectious (<infective doctrines>.

infected Infected

Ana contaminating, tainting, polluting, defiling (see CONTAMINATE): corrupting, vitiating (see DEBASE): *poisonous, virulent, toxic, mephitic

Con salutary, hygienic, *healthful, wholesome

infelicitous Infelicitous, unhappy, inapt, inappropriate, unfitting, *unfit, unsuitable, improper

Ana unconforming, unseemly, *indecorous, improper, indelicate, indecent: inept, maladroit, gauche, *awkward

Ant felicitous —Con happy, apt, appropriate, fitting (see FIT (adj)): apposite, apropos, germane, pertinent, *relevant

infer, deduce, conclude, judge, gather are comparable when they mean to arrive at by reasoning from evidence or from premises. All except gather are so clearly differentiated in logical use that these distinctions tend to be retained in general use. The derivative nouns inference, deduction, conclusion, judgment, especially as applied to the propositions or mental formulations derived by reasoning, are even more precisely fixed in usage. Infer basically implies a formulating (as of an opinion, a principle, a fact, or a probability) from evidence presented or premises accepted. In general use the term often connotes slightness in the evidence and so comes close to surmise; in logic, however, it and inference convey no suggestion of weakness or strength (<"I see motion," said Thomas: "I infer a motor!" This reasoning . . . is . . . stronger than some more modern inferences of science—Henry Adams>) (<"Oh, well, don't worry. Jane hasn’t got any complexes." From which Gard . . . inferred she thought he [Gard] had—Mary Austin

Deduce, in nontechnical language, usually means to infer, with added implications of very definite grounds for the inference; in strict logical use, it means to derive an inference from a general principle; that is, to make a deduction as opposed to an induction (see DEDUCTION 3). This distinction, an important one to logicians and philosophers, is nearly lost in general use (<what a man is as an end perishes when he dies; what he produces as a means continues to the end of time. We cannot deny this, but we can deny the consequences deduced from it—Russell>). (<the last entry was in pencil, three weeks previous as to date, and had been written by someone with a very unsteady hand. I deduced from this that the management was not overparticular—Chandler>). Conclude is often employed as an equivalent of deduce in its general sense. More precisely used, it means to draw the inference that is the necessary consequence of preceding propositions whether these propositions are the premises of a syllogism or the members of a series of previously drawn inferences constituting an unbroken chain of reasoning. A conclusion is therefore either the third proposition of a syllogism or the final, summarizing proposition in a rational process. In general use conclude and conclusion frequently preserve the implication of logical necessity in the inference (<do not conclude that all State activities will be State monopolies—Shaw>). (<the more one scans the later pages of Mark Twain’s history the more one is forced to the conclusion that there was something gravely amiss with...>
inferior

Inferior, underling, subordinate mean one, usu-

ratiocinative (see under INFERENCE 2)

inference

Belloc) first, gravely his inferior <they are

analogous words Ana

Ant

Ana

Ant

infertile

 sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful

Infertile

*sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful

infest

*infest

*infertile

* sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful

or underlings—Vannevar Bush) Subordinate likewise

suggests subjection but has an entirely different flavor

from underling. The term implies a being in subjection to

the will or wishes of another but seldom carries a sug-

gestion of disdain and usually expresses no more than

relative position in a hierarchy <his tendency to meddle

and give orders to Welles and his subordinates annoyed

Welles—Beale> <marked in the eyes of his young sub-

ordinate a subtle light—Guy Fowler> <matters. . . talked

ever endlessly by . . . Captain Anthony’s faithful sub-

ordinates—Conrad>

Ana dependent, subject (see corresponding adjectives at

SUBORDINATE)

Ant superior —Con *chief, head, master, leader

infernal, chthonian, hellish, Hadean, Tartarean, stygian

mean of or characteristic of the abode of the dead. In-

fernal basically denotes of or characteristic of the under-

world regions once held to be inhabited by the earth gods

and spirits of the dead. Through confusion of pagan con-

ceptions of the underworld with Jewish and Christian

conceptions of hell as the abode of devils and a place of

torment for the souls of the damned infernal has acquired

connotations of horror, torturing fiends, and unendurable

suffering through fire, which nearly always blur and some-

times blot out its original subterranean implications

<from the infernal Gods, 'mid shades forlorn—Words-

worth) > <the most abhorred fiend in the infernal regions

is sent to torment me—Scott> When the classical con-

ception of the underworld must be suggested without an

admixture of alien connotations, chthonian is sometimes

used <but the worship of the dead . . . and of the chthonian

gods, was marked off by broad lines from that of the Olymp-

ian gods—Hastings> Hellish comes close to the current

meaning of infernal but carries so strong an implication of

devilishness that it more nearly approaches fiendish in

its meaning <heavenly love shall outdo hellish hate—

Milton> <burned them both with hellish mockery—

Shelley> Hadean, Tartarean, and stygian are used in

poetry in place of infernal, sometimes without any re-

grence to the conception of Hades, Tartarus, and the Styx

in classic mythology. Very frequently Hadean is a loose

equivalent for chthonian, Tartarean suggests darkness

and remoteness, stygian connotes bounds with no outlet

for escape, but all three are without fixed content.

Ana *fiendish, devilish, diabolical, demoniac: damnable,

accursed, cursed, *execrable: nefarious, flagitious,

iniquitous, villainous, *vicious

Ant supernal

infertile

*infertile

* sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful

infest

*infest

*BROOKS> <on the basis of years of intensive

work . . . [he] concludes that comic books are a profound

"anti-educational" influence—Mills> Judge and judgment

are nearly equivalent to conclude and conclusion but

usually connote careful examination of evidence or critical

testing of premises and the fitness of the conclusion for

affirmation <an economist should form an independent

deduction on currency questions, but an ordinary mortal

had better follow authority—Russell> <his career will

inevitably be judged by the achievements or failures of

his Government as a whole—Wills> <most of the tribes of

Southern Iraq, judged by their physical characteristics,

are of very mixed origin—Thesiger> To gather is to con-

clude, but it connotes reflection rather than careful reason-

ing, and the putting of two and two together <thereby

he may gather the ground of your ill will—Shak> > <from

Thomasin’s words and manner he had plainly gathered

that Wildeve neglected her—Hardy>

Ana reason, speculate, *think: surmise, *conjecture, guess

inference 1 deduction, conclusion, judgment (see under

INFER)

2 Inference, ratiocination denote the process of arriving

at conclusions from data or premises. Inference often con-
notes guesswork based on trivial or inadequate data or

premises; in technical logical use it names the process

of inferring (see INFER) but does not in itself suggest care-

reasoning or in deduction. Ratiocination adds the impli-
cation of exactitude and of an extended process or the

passing by steps from one inference to another. It often
carries the connotation of tediousness or of hairsplitting.

The same distinctions in implications are observable in

the corresponding adjectives inferential and ratiocinative.

Ana deduction, conclusion, judgment (see under INFER): reason,

thinking, speculation, cogitation (see cor-

responding verbs at THINK); surmise, conjecture (see under

CONJECTURE vb)

Con intuition, understanding (see REASON): assumption,

presumption, presupposition (see under PRESUPPOSE)

* implication

inferential ratiocinative (see under INFERENCE 2)

Ana hypothetical, putative, purported, conjectural, sup-

positious, *supposed: *theoretical, speculative, aca-
demic: *implicit, constructive, virtual

Con *explicit, express, definite, categorical: intuitive, *instinctive: proved, demonstrated, tried, tested (see

PROVE)

inferior n Inferior, underling, subordinate mean one, usu-

ally a person, who is lower than another. Inferior, the

most inclusive of these terms, may be applied to anyone

that is lower in some significant matter (as rank, station,

quality, or value) than another; the term suggests, ex-

plicitly or by implication, a comparison, sometimes with

those obviously and individually higher or superior but

sometimes with those merely belonging to a level felt as

higher <that an inferior should punish a superior, is

against nature—Locke> > <he would be judged by his peers,

and safeguarded against the obtuse hostility of his inferiors

—Mencken> > <Napoleon was his equal or superior in the

first, gravely his inferior in the second—Bellow> > <they

are gracious to equals, abrupt to inferiors—Temple Field-

ing> Underling routinely implies subjection to the will

or wishes of another; it may apply to a condition from

that of a slave or servant to that of one who is just below

the master but ordinarily it implies some degree of con-

tempt <the fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in

ourselves, that we are underlings—Shak> > <the discon-

idered underling was in danger of becoming his master

—Buchan> > <scientists need to be used not as lackeys

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
running or spreading is to be conveyed (the cellar is over-
run with mice) (the garden is overrun with weeds) 
(heavily wooded and overrun with flowers—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (conformity of belief has . . . overrun whole populations like a plague—MacLeish) (he found the East already overrun with refugee conductors—Green Peyton) Beset has usually the meaning to trouble through frequency and persistence, and often connotes assailing or attacking (he was beset by enemies on every side) 
(she hurried at his words, beset with fears—Keats) (the road is beset with dragons and evil magicians—Costain) (subject to none of the pressures that beset American and English papers—Mott)

Ana *teem, swarm, abound: harass, harry, pester, plague, *worry, annoy

Ant disinfest —Con *exterminate, extirpate, eradicate, wipe: *abolish, annihilate, extinguish, abate

infidel unbeliever, *atheist, freethinker, agnostic, deist

infinite, eternal, sempiternal, boundless, illimitable, un-circumscribed mean having neither beginning nor end or being without known limits. Infinite especially as applied to God or his attributes implies immeasurability or an incapacity for being estimated in any conceivable respect (as duration or extent) (great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite—Ps 147:5) (great are thy works, Jehovah! infinite thy power! what thought can measure thee, or tongue relate thee—Milton) In mathematical and scientific use the term usually stresses indeterminableness; often it implies that no limits can be set to which a thing does or may extend, or that no point at which it ends can be discerned; thus, the number of positive integers is infinite since no one can set a limit to the number that can be indicated; an infinite decimal is one (as a repeating decimal) that cannot be brought to a termination (the total number of stars is supposed, even by those who reject the idea of infinite extension, to run into thousands of millions—Inge) In more general use, infinite usually implies not only exceeding greatness or vastness but indefiniteness or seeming endlessness of extent (Chinese landscape [painting] is certainly preeminent . . . in suggesting infinite horizons, the look of mountains . . . melting away into remote sky—Binyon) (the Truth . . . is of necessity infinite and so is not for any poor finite creature like man—Babbitt) (the infinite ingenuity of man—Webb) Eternal, in its earliest and still prevailing sense, implies having neither beginning nor end in time; it is therefore applied chiefly to God, in the sense of being uncaused or uncreated and unending (the eternal God is thy refuge—Deut 33:27) But it may be applied with essentially the same meaning to things and especially to abstractions and concepts for which no beginning is known or under present conditions is discoverable, and for which no end can be foreseen or predicted (argue that matter is eternal) (the idea that the world is eternal is now seldom advanced) (the consideration of the general flux of events leads to this analysis into an underlying eternal energy—Whitehead) (the tradition that nature is ruled by hard, eternal, immutable laws—Cohen) In more general use eternal may be indistinguishable in meaning from endless and is then applied to things with a known or evident beginning but no ending or an ending infinitely remote or completely indeterminable (the Christian's hope of eternal life) (no eternal historical trend toward economic equality can be discovered—Sorokin) This sense is frequent in hyperbolic use in which it may imply either endless duration or constant recurrence often to the point of weariness or disgust (the eternal effort to discover cheap and agreeable substitutes for hard work—Justice Holmes) (the staircase door opened with its eternal creak—Bennett) but it also applies to something which, though it changes in appearance, form, or method, never dies out (Macaulay, who has a special affinity for the eternal schoolboy—Inge) (princes were mortal, but the commonwealth eternal—Graves) Sempiternal, a bookish word, is an intensive of eternal with somewhat greater emphasis upon the continuity of the thing so described (all truth is from the sempiternal source of Light Divine—Cowper) (he did not really believe that infinity was infinite or that the eternal was also sempiternal—Shaw) but it is chiefly a hyperbolic term (full dinners . . . with the sempiternal saddle of mutton—Jekyll) (the oldest, deepest, and seemingly sempiternal controversy involves the definition of itself—Hentoff)

Boundless implies little more than an apparent lack of restrictions or bounds, or a capacity for extending, expanding, or increasing indefinitely; it often applies to something which so far exceeds in range, measure, or amount what is usual for a thing of its kind that it staggered the mind (boundless wealth) (boundless impudence) (my bounty is as boundless as the sea—Shak) (a boundless command of the rhetoric in which the vulgar express hatred and contempt—Macaulay) (this long and sure-set liking, this boundless will to please—Housman) In mathematical and scientific usage, boundless applies specifically to a surface or a space (as a closed curve or line or a spherical surface) which has the property of permitting an object starting from any point in the space and proceeding by one mathematical law to return to the same point without being interrupted (the surface of a sphere is boundless but not infinite) Illimitable also stresses a lack of bounds or limits, and may be used in place of boundless (an illimitable appetite—Stephen) but it is often applied specifically to something (as a distance) that can theoretically be measured in extent but in actuality exceeds the capacity of human ingenuity or of human instruments for measurement or determination of extent (the heavens' illimitable height—Spenser) (the illimitable distances between the earth and the stars) Uncircumscribed implies the lack of a determinable limit in any conceivable direction; it applies to something that extends or expands or seems to extend or expand in all directions in the manner of radii from the center of a circle (uncircumscribed freedom) (so arbitrary and uncircumscribed a Power—Charles I) (the lighthouse symbol penetrates the novel with uncircumscribed power—Robert Humphrey) Ant finite —Con circumscribed, limited, restricted (see LIMIT vb): *dependent, conditional, contingent, relative

infirm feeble, decrepit, *weak, frail, fragile

Ana debilitated, disabled, crippled (see WEAKEN)

Ant hale —Con *strong, sturdy, stalwart, stout: *healthy, robust, sound

inflammable *combustible, flammable, incendiary, inflammatory

Ana igniting, kindling, firing, lighting (see LIGHT vb): glaring, blazing (see BLAZE vb): infuriating, enraging, incensing (see ANGER vb)

Ant extinguishable

inflammatory *combustible, inflammable, incendiary

Ana inciting, instigating (see INCITE): stimulating, exciting (see PROVOKE): sensitive, susceptible (see LIABLE)

inflate distend, swell, *expand, amplify, dilate

Ana enlarge, *increase, augment: magnify, aggrandize, 

Ant deflate —Con *contract, compress, shrink, condense, constrict

inflated, flatulent, tumid, turgid mean filled with some-
thing insubstantial (as air or vapor). Inflated implies ex-
pansion by the introduction of something (as a gas) lacking in
substance to the point where the walls are stretched
taut or tension is evident (an inflated tire) (an inflated
balloon) In its extended use inflated implies a stretching
or expanding, often by artificial or questionable means,
to a point not justified by reality or truth; thus, currency
is said to be inflated when the amount in circulation far
exceeds the amount normally necessary to meet the de-
mands of trade and commerce; one's ego is said to be
inflated when one is puffed up with self-confidence and
pride not warranted by one's ability or achievements;
a style may be described as inflated when it is far more
pretentious or imposing than its subject matter warrants
(a pretentious and inflated tract on feminism—Men-
ninger) (caricaturing the inflated elegance of Eastern
culture as represented in its refined fiction—J. D. Hart)

Flatulent applies basically to persons or their organs when
gases generating in the alimentary canal cause distention
of stomach or bowels. In its extended use flatulent usu-
ally implies emptiness with the appearance of fullness or
a lack of pith or substance (flatulent with fumes of self-
approbation) (a score or two of poems, each more or
less flatulent than the last—Swinburne) (enthusiasts who
read into him all sorts of flatulent bombast—Mencken)

Tumid implies noticeable enlarge-
ment by swelling or bloating, especially as a result of an
abnormal condition (my thighs grow very tumid—John-
son) (his face looked damp, pale under the tan, and
slightly tumid—Cossens) In its extended use tumid im-
plies an abnormal or conspicuous increase in volume with-
out a proportionate increase in substance and often sug-
gests pretentiousness or bombast (to compare, in thy
tumid pride, with me?—Shelle) (while Shakespeare,
great words on the lower subject, contrives to make
them appropriate, with Burke, writing on the loftier sub-
ject, the same or similar words have become tumid—
Quiller-Couch)

Turgid is not always distinguishable from
tumid; however, it is more often used when normal
distention as distinct from morbid bloating is implied
(healthy living cells are turgid) (woody tissue turgid
with sap) Consequently, in extended use, especially as
applied to literary expression or style, turgid often adds
to tumid the connotation of unrestrained vitality or of
undisciplined emotion, especially as manifest in bom-
bast, rant, or rhapsody (see bombast) (the effects . . .
already . . . show in French architecture—which is grow-
ing repulsive—and in French prose—which is growing
turgid—Bello) In general, however, turgid may be used
to describe anything that is not measured or restrained
and perfectly in keeping with orderly thought (the turgid
intricacies the modern foundation gets itself into its
efforts to spend its millions—Dwight Macdonald)

football . . . a turgid struggle of monolithic masses—
Thurber)

Inflection, intonation, accent are comparable when they
designate a particular manner of employing the tones of
the voice in speech. Inflection implies change in pitch or
tone; it often suggests a variation expressive of emotion
or sentiment, and, usually, a momentary mood (it was not
her words, but her inflection, that hurt) (a slight inflection
made one feel that one had received a great compliment—
Cather)

Intonation is often individual but it is seldom
thought of as the result of a mood; it is applied to the rise
and fall in pitch that constitutes what is called "speech
melody" and that distinguishes the utterance of one
individual or group from another (a ministerial intonation)
(we still write . . . for the actors, reckon upon their in-
tonations, their gestures—Quiller-Couch) (that peculiar
and pleasant intonation that marks the speech of the
Hebridean—Black) In some languages (as Chinese),
called "tone languages," fixed pitch, or intonation, dis-
tinguishes the various meanings of single words. In a
more specific sense, intonation often (as into always)
implies reciting or speaking religious matter (as a psalm
or a prayer) in a singing voice, usually in monotone (in-
tonation of that majestic iambic verse whose measure
would have been obscured by a rapid and conversational
delivery—Dickinson) Accent denotes such manner or
quality of utterance or tone as may distinguish a particular
variety of speech (as one peculiar to a person, race,
district, or class) (a Southern accent) (a Parisian accent)
(speak with a refined accent)

Like the other terms in
this group, it often suggests, and sometimes indicates,
the speaker's feelings (a different accent was notable
in Joseph's voice when he spoke of Azariah—George
Eliot)

Inflection, pronunciation, articulation (see corre-
sponding verbs at articulate)

Inflexible 1 rigid, *stiff, tense, stark, wooden

Ana hard, solid, *firm: rigid, rigorous, strict, stringent:
tough, tenacious, stout, *strong: immutable, *immoveable

Ant flexible—Con *elastic, resilient, supple, springy:
pliable, pliant, *plastic, malleable, ductile: fluid, *liquid

2 Inflexible, inexorable, obdurate, adamant, adamantine
mean not to be moved from or changed in a predetermined
course or purpose. All are applicable to persons, decisions,
laws, and principles; otherwise, they vary in their appli-
cations. Inflexible usually implies firmly established prin-
ciples rigidly adhered to; sometimes it connotes resolute
steadfastness, sometimes slavish conformity, sometimes
mere pigheadedness (society's attitude toward drink and
dishonesty was still inflexible—Wharton) (a morality
that is rigid and inflexible and dead—Ellis) (arbitrary and
inflexible rulings of bureaucracy—Shils) Inexorable,
when applied to persons, stresses deafness to entreaty
(more fierce and more inexorable far than empty tigers
or the roaring sea—Shak) (our guide was inexorable,
saying he never spared the life of a rattlesnake, and
killed him—Mark Van Doren) When applied to decisions,
rules, laws, and their enforcement, it often connotes re-
liantlessness, ruthlessness, and finality beyond question
(nature inexorably ordains that the human race shall
perish of famine if it stops working—Shaw) It is also
often applied to what exists or happens of necessity or
cannot be avoided or evaded (inexorable limitations of
human nature) (inexorable destiny) (you and I must see
the cold inexorable necessity of saying to these in-
human, unrestrained seekers of world conquest . . . "You
shall go no further"—Roosevelt)

Obdurate is applicable chiefly to persons and almost invariably implies hardness of
heart or insensitiveness to such external influences as
divine grace or to appeals for mercy, forgiveness, or assistance (if when you make your prayers, God should be
so obdurate as yourselves, how would it fare with your
deposed souls?—Shak) (the obdurate philistine material-
ism of bourgeois society—Connolly) Adamant and ada-
mantine usually imply extraordinary strength of will or
impenetrability to temptation or entreaty (Cromwell's
adamantine courage was shown on many a field of battle—
Goldwin Smith) (when Eve upon the first of men
the apple pressed with specious cant, O, what a thousand

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

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

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

**influence**

- **influence**, **authority**, **prestige**, **weight**, **credit** are comparable when they mean power exerted over the minds or acts of others either without apparent effort or as the result of the qualities, the position, or the reputation of the person or thing that exerts this power. **Influence** suggests a flowing from one thing into another of something imperceivable or impalpable; this connotation is retained when the word implies the effect or effects which one person or thing insensibly has on another or the ascendancy which one person or thing similarly acquires over another. *(he was not strong enough to resist the influence of bad companions)* *(we find primitive men thinking that almost everything . . . can exert influence of some sort—James)* *(as provost of the Swedish clergymen he exercised a quickening influence over all the Swedish congregations—Gzenzer)* **However** influence often loses this implication of insensible or unconscious operation and suggests instead the conscious use of personal power or, sometimes, of underhanded means to determine the acts of another; in this sense it often follows the verb *use* or one of its synonyms *(use undue influence over a person making a will)* *(used his influence in getting a bill through a legislature)* **Authority** originally was applied to one (as a preacher, teacher, or writer) or to writings or utterances having the power to compel belief or to win acceptance. *(he is still applicable to a person or publication that is able to command respect or obedience)* *(by turning o'er authorities, I have . . . made familiar to me . . . the blest infusions that dwell in vegetives, in metals, stones—Shak.)* **This sense persists and authority is still applicable to a person or publication that is able or qualified to gain credence or to inspire belief in its authoritative ness** *(do not cite this historian; he is not an authority)* *(an economist should form an independent judgment on currency questions but an ordinary mortal had better follow authority—Russell)* *(scholars who held that Cicero was an unchallengeable "authority"—Hight)* From this use mainly, but also from its other sense *(see power 3), authority has come to be applied also to the power resident in a person or thing that is able because of his or its inherent qualities to win the devotion or allegiance of men and to gain rather than exact their obedience and belief *(a book of manifest authority)* *(that personal authority, which, far more than any legal or constitutional device, was the true secret of his later power—Buchan)* *(a doctrine that has acquired authority in our own time—Alexander)* *(some of the new philosophies undermine the authority of science, as some of the older systems undermined the authority of religion—Inge)* *(to face a good orchestra with inward and outward authority and assurance—Burk)* **Prestige**, in contrast with authority, implies the power to gain ascendancy over the minds of men and to command their admiration for distinguished and superior performance, or for conspicuous excellence in its kind *(nothing more affects the prestige of a power than its dramatic and rapid defeat in the field—Bello)* *(the almost magical prestige that had belonged to the original humanists—Huxley)* *(such lustre—or prestige or mana—as individual writers possess—Times Lit. Sup.)* **Weight** denotes measurable influence, especially in determining the acts of others *(Mrs. Hawthorne's authoritative air was beginning to have some weight with him—Archibald Marshall)* *(men who take the lead, and whose opinions and wishes have great weight with the others—Frazer)* **Credit** *(see also belief 1) denotes influence that arises from one's reputation for inspiring confidence or admiration *(Buckingham . . . resolved to employ all his credit in order to prevent the marriage—Hume)* *(as it [the ballet] declined as an art, so also it declined in credit and in popularity; it became scarcely respectable even to admire dancing—Ellis)* *(driving or drive, compelling or impulsion, actuation (see corresponding verbs at move): *power, control, dominion, sway, authority: ascendancy, *supremacy: dominance (see corresponding adjective at dominant)*

**influence** *affect, sway, impress, touch, strike*

**inform** *move, actuate, drive, impel: stimulate, *provoke, excite: *stir, arouse, rouse: *incline, dispose, predispose, bias*

**inform** *1* *(inform, animate, inspire, fire are comparable when they mean to infuse (a person or thing) with something (as a spirit, a principle, an idea, or a passion) that gives him or it effective power or an urge to action or activity. Sometimes, especially in the last three words, the idea of driving or actuating is so strong that it becomes their common denotation and the idea of infusion is merely a common connotation. To inform is to give character or essence to or to so permeate as to become the characteristic, peculiar, essential, and often abiding, quality of (the inspiration of religion passed on to inform and subtly to perfume an art nominally concerned with the aspects of earth and sky, wild creatures and wild flowers—Burns)* *(everything that is made from without and by dead rules, and does not spring from within through some spirit informing it—Wilde)* *(sentimental, Protestant ethos that has always informed his writing—Fiedler)* **To animate is to endow with life, a vital principle, or an impulse to action. Although animate is often used where inform is also possible, it suggests, far more than inform, vitality and living energy *(religion . . . which is animated . . . by faith and hope—Johnson)* *(when what is affected is a person or when motivation of action or transiency of impulse is to be implied, animate is the more precise word)* *(he was animated with love for all men)* *(when the community is animated with anger against some heinous offence—Alexander)* *(his hatred of restraint animated his resistance to authority)* **To inspire is to communicate to a person, as if by breathing into him, power or energy in excess of what he believes to be his own. The word usually implies both the operation of a supernatural power or of some inexplicable agency and such an effect as a spiritual illumination, or a quickening of intellectual or imaginative activity, or an exaltation of feeling *(great artists know or believe that they are inspired from something outside themselves—Alexander)* *(that sublimated language used by the finest minds in their inspired moments—Hudson)* *(we climb the mountains for their views and the sense of grandeur they inspire—Jefferies)* **Inspire** may also imply indirect rather than inexplicable influence, methods, or source *(as in imparting knowledge or arousing a feeling)* *(teachers should inspire their pupils to work hard)* *(today's editorial on the mayor's policy was certainly inspired: it does not represent the editors views but those of someone in power)* **To fire is to animate or inspire so powerfully that one is inflamed with passion, ardor, or enthusiasm *(one step beyond the boundary of the laws fires him at once in Freedom's glorious cause—Cowper)* *(O how they fire the heart devout—Burns)* *(inform, imbue, impute, leaven: instill, *implant,
information

443

infuse

infuse: enlighten, *illuminate: fire, kindle (see LIGHT vb); endue, endow (see DOWER)

2 Inform, acquaint, apprise, advise, notify are comparable when meaning to make (one) aware or cognizant of something. One informs a person of something when one imparts knowledge, particularly of occurrences or of facts necessary to the understanding of a situation (inform a person of his success in a competition) (the radio announcer informed his audience of the accident) (kept the staff informed of Chinese public opinion concerning the American military action there—Current Biol.) Also, one informs oneself when by study or investigation one gathers the pertinent facts (his obligation as a citizen is to inform himself . . . regarding the controversial issues—Houston) Inform in one specific use also carries the implication of talebearing or accusation (I shall not inform upon you. It is not my business—Wilde) One acquaints a person with something when by introducing him to the experience of it or by imparting information concerning it one makes him familiar with it (in the first meeting of the class, the teacher acquainted his pupils with the program of study) (to acquaint people with information instead of just telling it to them—Gowers) Familiarity is even more strongly implied in the participial adjective acquainted (the examination) is clear enough to anyone acquainted with the history of Puritan thought—Parrington) (a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief—Isa 53:3) One apprises a person of something when by a message or sign one communicates it to him (he has apprised his employer of his intention to resign) (I made up my mind to send the waiter to . . . apprise him that I was there—Mary Austin) One advises a person of something when one gives him information about it, especially of a kind that is important to him (as in making a decision, determining a policy, or arranging plans) (the president asked to be kept advised of changes in public sentiment) (consulted the wine card and advised me that the wine I had chosen had no special merit—Lovett) Often there is a suggestion of forewarning or counsel (see also advise under ADVISE 1) (the passengers were advised of the risk before the vessel left New York) (against which a solemn trespass board advised us—Mary Austin) One notifies a person of something when one sends a notice or formal communication concerning it, usually as a matter requiring his attention (notify students of a change in the date of opening) (the court clerk promised to notify the witnesses when to appear) In commercial use, advise is used in preference to notify when information is given by letter, telegram, or cable (please advise us when the shipment is made)

An Analogue

An *communicate, impart: *teach, instruct, school, discipline, educate, train: *warn, forewarn, caution

An *news, tidings, intelligence, advice

Infraction

*breach, violation, transgression, infringement, trespass, contravention

An *offense, sin, crime, vice, scandal: slip, lapse, faux pas, *error

Ant observance

Infrequent, uncommon, scarce, rare, occasional, sporadic

are comparable when they mean appearing, happening, or met with so seldom as to attract attention. Something is infrequent which does not occur often, especially within a given period of time, or which does not recur except at very wide intervals of time or of space (torpedoes are infrequent in New England) (far from being infrequent, the crystalline state is almost universal among solids—Dawson) (infrequent pines dot the forest) (though it was only a few hundred miles north of Santa Fe, communication with that region was so infrequent that news traveled to Santa Fe from Europe more quickly than from Pikes Peak—Cather) Something is uncommon which does not occur or is not found ordinarily and which therefore is singular, exceptional, or extraordinary (smallpox is now uncommon in most parts of the United States) (in certain country districts in Europe families of fifteen are not uncommon enough to be regarded as extraordinary—Shaw) (such muscular strength is uncommon among girls) (a writer possessing uncommon inventive ability—A. C. Ward) (Mr. Coates’s life has not been especially eventful, but he has enjoyed it with uncommon relish—Richard Findlater) Something is scarce which at the moment in mind is not easily found or which does not exist or is not produced in sufficient quantities (a bad harvest makes wheat scarce) (highly skilled mechanics are now scarce) (the Boones wanted land where deer and buffalo were numerous and men and cabins scarce—J. M. Brown) Something is rare (see also choice, thin) of which but few examples, specimens, or instances are found; also, the term often carries such implications of uncommon as being exceptional or of extraordinary character (rare postage stamps) (rare books and first editions) (a perfect union of wit and judgment is one of the rarest things in the world—Burke) (great men are scarce . . . but great biographers are positively rare—Seccombe) (I may say again, if only rare, how this butterfly would be prized!!!—Jeffreys) (reported to give very indifferent wines to the rare guests he received in his grim old house—Wharton) Something is occasional which happens or is met with merely now and then. Occasional more than any of the preceding terms implies irregularity or nonconformity to a rule or law that might govern occurrences or appearances (this was not an occasional outburst of activity; it was Wesley’s routine—Crothers) (Artemus Ward was all fun and sweet reasonableness . . . , with an occasional barb that by its unexpectedness did the more damage—Lucas) Something is sporadic which has no continuous existence or continuity in its manifestations and which comes into existence or occurs only in rare and, usually, isolated instances (sporadic cases of an infectious disease) (sporadic outbursts of opposition to high taxes) (humanism and religion are thus, as historical facts, by no means parallel; humanism has been sporadic, but Christianity continuous—T. S. Eliot)

An *exceptional: singular, unique, *strange: *irregular, anomalous, unnatural

Ant frequent —Con *usual, customary, accustomed: ordinary, *common, familiar

Infringe

encroach, entrench, *trespass, invade

An *infringe, violate, transgress, transgression, contravention

Ant encroachment, invading or invasion, entrenchment

Infringement

*breach, infringement, violation, trespass, transgression, contravention

An encroachment, invading or invasion, entrenchment

Infuriate

enrage, incense, *anger, madden

An provoke, rile, exasperate, aggravate (see irritate): outrage, insult, affront, *offend

Infuse, suffuse, imbue, infuse, inoculate, leaven mean to introduce one thing into another so as to affect it throughout. Infuse implies a permeating like that of inflating fluid, usually of something which imbues the recipient with new spirit, life, or vigor or gives it or him a new cast or new significance (thou
ingeminate 444 inhabitant
didst smile, infused with a fortitude from heaven, when I . . . under my burden groaned—Shak. 〈he infused his own intrepid spirit into the troops—Gibbon 〈whose work is for the most part infused with the spirit of scientific materialism—L. A. White〉 Suffuse implies an over-spreading of a surface by or a spreading through an extent of something that gives the thing affected a distinctive or unusual color, aspect, texture, or quality 〈a blush suffused her cheek〉 〈eyes suffused with tears〉 〈when purple light shall next suffuse the skies—Pope〉 〈she . . . pulled the chain of the incandescent mantle . . . the room was suffused with the sickly illumination—Mackenzie〉 〈the poetic faculty will, in fact, have to deal—not with an abstract idea—but with an idea suffused and molded by emotion—Day Lewis〉 Imbue implies the introduction of something that enters so deeply and so extensively into the thing’s substance or nature that no part is left untouched or unaffected; unlike infuse, which it otherwise closely resembles, imbue takes as its object the person or thing affected, not the thing that is introduced 〈infuse courage into his soldiers〉 〈imbue his soldiers with courage〉 〈infuse grace into the soul〉 〈imbue the soul with grace〉 〈thy words, with grace divine imbued, bring to their sweetness no satori—Milton〉 〈Virgil〉 has imbued every object that he touches, with the light and warmth and color absorbed from its contact with life—Lowe 〈individuals or societies whose life is imbued with a cheerful certitude, whose aims are clear—Krutch〉 Ingrain is found in the past participle or passive forms only; like imbue, it implies an incorporation of something comparable to a pervading dye with the body, substance, or nature of whatever is affected, but unlike imbue, it takes for its object or, when the verb is passive, as its subject the thing introduced rather than the person or thing affected 〈cruelty and jealousy seemed to be ingrained in a man who has these vices at all—Helps〉 〈the idea of absolute financial probity as the first law of a gentleman’s code was . . . deeply ingrained in him—Wharton〉 〈the feeling . . . is so deeply ingrained in human nature—F. M. Miller〉 Inoculate implies imbuing a person with something that alters him in a manner suggestive of a disease germ or an antigen. Often, the term implies an introduction of an idea, a doctrine, an emotion, or a taste by highly surreptitious or artificial means, in order to achieve a desired end; less often, it additionally implies an evil and destructive quality in what is introduced 〈students inoculated with dangerous ideas〉 〈the theory . . . that if the great masses of the plain people could be inoculated with it [a taste for music] they would cease to herd into the moving-picture theaters—Mencden〉 Leaven implies a transforming or tempering of a body or mass by the introduction of something which enlivens, elevates, exalts, or, occasionally, causes disturbance, agitation, or corruption 〈knowledge . . . must be leavened with magnanimity before it becomes wisdom—A. E. Stevenson〉 〈there was need of idealism to leaven the materialistic realism of the times—Parrington〉 Ana impregnate, saturate, impenetrate, *permeate, pervade: *inform, inspire, animate, fire; instill, inculcate, *implant


inhabitant, denizen, resident, citizen are comparable when meaning one whose home or dwelling place is in a definite location. Inhabitant, the least specific word, implies nothing more than an abode in a given place (in 1940 the city had 243,718 inhabitants) 〈certain disagreeable inhabitants of open impounded water supplies, known as algae—Morrison〉 Denizen denotes one that belongs by birth or naturalization to a given locality 〈denizens of the deep〉 〈winged denizens of the crag—Scott〉 (as if the old denizens of the forest had been felled with an axe—Maury) Even when substituted in literary use for inhabitant, denizen retains something of its own flavor of belonging to the locality by birth or naturalization 〈judged and oversophisticated denizens of towns—Lowes〉 Resident is not always clearly distinguished from inhabitant, especially when a town or city, as distinguished from a state or country, is in question. Often the term implies nothing more than tenancy of a room, an apartment, a house, or a locality for a considerable length of time 〈the summer residents of Bar Harbor〉 Often, in the case of a person who has several residences or who lives mainly in a place other than the one regarded as his home, the term suggests not permanent inhabitants but legal recognition of one of these places as his domicile, and as the seat of his fundamental legal rights (as of voting) and responsibilities (as of paying income tax) 〈proof that the multimillionaire was a resident of Massachusetts brought several million dollars in inheritance taxes to that state〉 〈are the students at this college considered residents of the town and entitled to vote in town matters?〉 In reference to a country, resident is more usual than inhabitant as a designation of an alien living in that country for a time and regarded as subject to certain taxes (an alien actually present in the United States who is not a mere transient or sojourner is a resident of the United States for purposes of the income tax—Income Tax Regulations, U. S.) Citizen when denoting a person that is an inhabitant is rarely wholly free from its political sense (see citizen 2); hence, it usually carries some suggestion of membership in, as distinct from mere presence in, a community and of possession of the privileges and obligations inherent in such membership. It is particularly applicable to an adult and substantial resident of a city or town (no mere pedant, but a leading citizen of the town, serving as justice of the peace and as its first postmaster—Starr) 〈the body of citizens or those who were members of the

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
inhibit, forbid, prohibit, interdict, ban, enjoin

savage, barbarous, *fierce, truculent, ferocious, inhuman

inherited

*heritage, patrimony, birthright

iniquitous

nefarious, flagitious, *vicious, villainous, infamous, corrupt, degenerate

initiate

vb 1 *begin, commence, start, inaugurate

Ant *found, establish, organize, institute

Ant consummate —Con *effect, fulfill, execute, accomplish, achieve, *perform: *enforce, implement

2 Initiate, induct, inaugurate, install, invest are comparable when meaning to put one through the processes, ceremonies, or other formalities regarded as essential to one's being admitted to one's duties as a member or an official. Initiate (see also BEGIN) usually implies admission to some organization, cult, or craft and especially to one requiring indoctrination in its mysteries or mysterious rites or ceremonies in the introduction of new members <initiate the newly elected members of a college fraternity> <initiate young people in the elements of physical science

Ana / Con / Ant

inherent, ingrained, intrinsic, essential, constitutional mean being a part, element, or quality of a thing's internal character or inmost being. Something is inherent which is so deeply infixed in a thing that it is apparently part of its very nature or essence <certain inherent and indestructible qualities of the human mind—Wordsworth> (is the inferiority of the modern to the ancient languages, as a means of mental discipline, inherent in these tongues, or does it arise from causes that can be overcome?—Grandgent) Something is ingrained which seems to be wrought into the fiber or texture of a person's being <ingrained prejudice> <attributable rather to the ingrained law-abidingness of the people than to the perfection of the Paris police system—Brownell> (her deeply ingrained habit of never letting herself go—H. G. Wells) Something is intrinsic which belongs to or is a property of a thing itself, as considered apart from all the external relations, connections, or conditions that affect its usefulness, value, or significance <when the subject has no intrinsic dignity, it must necessarily owe its attractions to artificial embellishments—Johnson> (the knowledge of geographical facts is useful, but without intrinsic intellectual value—Russell) Something is essential (see also ESSENTIAL 2, NEEDFUL) which is an element of a thing's essence and therefore indissolubly involved in its very nature or being <certain essential differences between verse and prose—Quiller-Couch> (that essential sweetness of the moor, born of the heather roots and the southwest wind—Galsworthy) <has not shown that the merits of puritan thought are essential and the defects accidental—M. G. White> Something is constitutional which is inherent in the fundamental makeup of the body or mind <a constitutional infirmity> (his vigor is constitutional) <the thoughtful ones will assure you that happiness and unhappiness are constitutional, and have nothing to do with money—Shaw> (a constitutional optimist, emotionally addicted to the view that any adventure into the unknown is worth the risk—Garvin)

Ana *innate, inborn, inbred, congenital: *inner, inward, internal: natural, typical, normal, *regular: integrated or integral (see corresponding verb at INTEGRATE)

Ant adventitious —Con *accidental, fortuitous, incidental: extraneous, foreign, alien, *extrinsic

inheritance *heritage, patrimony, birthright

inherited hereditary, inborn, inbred, *innate, congenital

Ana transmitted, conveyed (see CARRY): generated, engendered, bred (see GENERATE)

Con acquired, gained, obtained, gotten (see GET)

inhibit 1 *forbid, prohibit, interdict, ban, enjoin

Ana *prevent, preclude, obviate, avert, avoid: debar, rule out, *exclude: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar

Ant allow —Con *let, permit, suffer, leave

2 *restrain, curb, check, bridle

Ana *suppress, repress: *prevent, forestall: *arrest, check

Ant animate (sense 2): activate (sense 2)

inhuman savage, barbarous, *fierce, turbulent, ferocious, cruel, fell

Ana pitiless, ruthless (see corresponding nouns at SYMPATHY): malignant, malignant, *malicious: merciless, relentlessness, implacable, *grim: *fiendish, diabolical, devilish

Ant humane —Con benevolent, humanitarian, *charitable, altruistic, philanthropic, eleemosynary: compassion, *tender

iniquitous nefarious, flagitious, *vicious, villainous, infamous, corrupt, degenerate


Ant righteous —Con virtuous, *moral, ethical, noble: just, *upright, honorable, honest

initial adj Initial, original, primordial can all mean existing at or constituting the beginning or start of a thing, especially of a thing that gradually assumes shape or form or that manifests itself in many ways. Nevertheless, in spite of this agreement in meaning, the words are rarely interchangeable, usually because of additional and differing implications, but often also because of the determination of their use by idiom. Initial, in general, is used in reference to things seen as a whole, often in fact but sometimes in thought; the term, therefore, usually implies an end or completion <the initial letter of a word> (the initial stage of a disease) <an aggressor nation would always have the initial advantage—Dean> (the great incentive to effort, all through life, is experience of success after initial difficulties—Russell) Original (see also NEW) is used especially with reference to what is the very first in order or constitutes the ultimate beginning or source; in this sense it usually connotes the idea of being undervis or uninitiated and implies that there is nothing from which the original thing has sprung. A court that has original jurisdiction has the right to try a case to determine both the facts and the application of the law to them, as distinguished from a court with appellate jurisdiction. "Original sin" was committed by Adam and Eve as the first human beings but, in theological use, the phrase also means that sin as it leaves its traces upon every human being <great books are original communications, but our authors are communicating what they themselves have discovered—Adler> Sometimes, however, original means something more specific; thus, the original owner of a piece of land would strictly be the one who first held it by a natural or legal right, but in legal interpretation the phrase may be used of an earlier owner when successive owners are mentioned; an author's original work may be the work first produced by him, but more often it means (without regard to order of writing) a work independently conceived and executed by him <an original print is not, of course, original in the same sense as a painting. With a painting there is only one true original, whereas there may be as many as 50 or 75 originals of a given print—Cain> Primordial (see also PRIMARY) is comparable with initial and original through its implied reference to what forms the actual beginning or starting point or the earliest form taken by something that follows a course, an evolution, a progression, or an unfolding <speculate on the nature of the primordial universe> (the primordial mind) (<the new discoveries . . . strongly support the theory that the universe has been expanding ever since a primordial explosion in which it was born—Walter Sullivan>

Ana starting, beginning, commencing (see BEGIN): *primary, primal, primeval, pristine: *elementary

Ant final —Con *last, latest, terminal, concluding

initiate vb 1 *begin, commence, start, inaugurate

Ana *found, establish, organize, institute

Ant consummate —Con *effect, fulfill, execute, accomplish, achieve, *perform: *enforce, implement
initiation

T. H. Huxley

initiate a new reporter into the secrets of successful news gathering

Induct may often be used in place of initiate, especially when introduction with guidance is also implied (induct a person into the duties of a new position)

But induct, as well as inaugurate, install, and invest, may imply a formal or ceremonious endowing of a person with the powers and prerogatives of an office or post

Induct the new governor of a colony

Induct is used technically of clergymen who are put in possession of a benefice or living, or of officials who are established in their office with appropriate rites or ceremonies

The new superintendent of schools was inducted into office at last night's meeting of the board of education

Inaugurate (see also BEGIN) usually implies more formal and dignified ceremonies and much more publicity than induct

Inaugurate the president of the United States

Inaugurate the new president of the university

Install implies induction into an office associated with a seat

Install the officers of a society

Install a bishop as the archbishop of his new diocese

The term also may be used in reference to persons who are formally or comfortably seated

Install the guest of honor in the most comfortable chair

Install the tottering old lady in a chair by the fireside

It is also the only one of these terms which may be used in reference to things as well as to persons

Install new machinery in a factory

Install electric light fixtures

Invest usually suggests a clothing with the robes or other insignia of an office and, by extension, with the powers of that office. It often also implies a ceremony but it may suggest only the addition of powers that come to one on one's induction into a position or office

The constitution of the United States the president is invested with certain important political powers

John Marshall

Ana introduce, admit, *enter

Con *eject, oust, expel, dismiss: *exclude, eliminate, disbar, blackball, shut out: divest, *strip

initiation *beginning, genesis, rise

Ana starting or start, commencing or commencement (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN): introducing or introduction, entering or entrance (see corresponding verbs at ENTER)

Con finishing or finish, completion, conclusion, ending or end, termination, closing or close (see corresponding verbs at CLOSE)

initiative referendum, *mandate, plebiscite

injunction *command, order, bidding, behest, mandate, dictate

Ana instruction, direction, charging or charge (see corresponding verbs at COMMAND): warning (see WARN): precept, rule, regulation, *law, statute, ordinance, canon

injure, harm, hurt, damage, impair, mar, spoil all mean to affect someone or something so as to rob it of soundness, strength, or perfection or to reduce its value, usefulness, or effectiveness

Injure in its earliest and still frequent sense means to do an injustice to or to wrong another (as by robbing him of his good name or of a rightful possession); in this sense it often suggests intent or knowledge on the part of one that injures (when have I injured thee? when done thee wrong?—Shak.)

Another injured burgher speaking of their forfeited rights—Cloete

The verb may also imply the infliction not of injustice but of something detrimental to one's appearance, health, success, or comfort (a bullet injured his eye) (industrialism has been very injurious to art; may it not have injured religion also?—Inge)

Has to withhold information the release of which might injure the national security—Mott

Harm is more specific than injure in stressing the infliction of pain, suffering, or loss (the boy is so gentle that he would not harm a fly) (the circulation of the rumor greatly harmed his business) (for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth—Shak.)

(bitterness among the elders must not be permitted to harm or wound the innocent children of either race—Beverly Smith) (every time any one of us . . . fails to make the fullest possible contribution to . . . justice, he harms himself spiritually—Atlantic)

Hurt usually implies the infliction of a wound whether to the body or feelings or to a thing capable of sustaining an injury; often, it is used where injure is also possible (he was severely hurt by a falling brick) (hurt a friend's feelings)

It's damnable to have to hurt the people we love—Rose Macaulay

A limitless desire to hurt and humiliate—H. G. Wells

Damage implies an injury that results in lowered value or involves loss in effectiveness, attractiveness, or efficiency (his automobile was damaged in a collision) (the frost damaged the late crops) (whatever psychoanalysts may say, the parental instinct is essentially different from the sex instinct, and is damaged by the intrusion of emotions appropriate to sex—Russell)

(like Hemingway, he was permanently damaged and therefore permanently inspired by war—Morton)

Impair, though coming close to damage in its meaning and often interchangeable with it, more frequently suggests deterioration or diminution (as in value, strength, or validity)

A weak piece of evidence often impairs the strength of a good argument (his value as a candidate has been impaired by his hysterical attacks on his opponent) or a weakening (as of a function or power of functioning) (his eye was injured and his vision impaired) (kindness that left an impression on my heart not yet impaired—De Quincey)

(like physical prowess of all sorts is in no way impaired by heavy drinking and smoking, of course—Christopher La Farge)

Mar implies the infliction of an injury that disfigures or maims or involves the loss of a thing's perfection or well-being (striving to better, oft we mar what's well—Shak.)

A man who had spoiled his constitution with bad living—Shaw

When a child persistently interferes with other children or spoils their pleasures, the obvious punishment is banishment—Russell

A great novel spoiled by hasty (and lazy) composition—Laski

Ana *deface, disfigure: *deform, distort, contort: *injure

injure is also possible (he injured his eye) (industrialism has been very injurious to art; may it not have injured religion also?—Inge)

Has to withhold information the release of which might injure the national security—Mott

Injury 1 Injury, hurt, damage, harm, mischief mean the act or the result of inflicting on a person or thing something that causes loss or pain. Injury is the comprehensive term referable to an act or to a result of that act which involves a violation of a right or of health, freedom, and soundness of body or mind, or causes a partial or entire loss of something of value (an injury to his eyes) (an injury to his reputation) (for an injury) (the very essence of civil liberty . . . consists in the right of every individual to claim the protection of laws, whenever he receives an injury—John Marshall)

Mental or emotional
upset is just as truly an injury to the body as a bone fracture, a burn or a bacterial infection—G. W. Gray

A great injury could be done to our nation . . . if this political campaign were to descend to the level of competitive threats and veiled hints—A. E. Stevenson

Hurt, applies basically to a physical injury (as a wound, lesion, or contusion) that results from a hit, a stab, or a blow

get him to bed, and let his hurt be looked to—Shak.

rattleweed, made into a tincture, is better than arnica for hurts of every sort—Emily Holt

In extended use hurt applies chiefly to an act or result that involves pain, suffering, or loss; thus, a person whose rights as an heir have been violated may be said to suffer an injury but not a hurt; a person whose reputation has been damaged by a false rumor has suffered both an injury to his business and a hurt to his feelings; a dentist in drilling a tooth may cause a hurt, but not commonly an injury (leaving forever to the aggressor the choice of time and place and means to cause greatest hurt to us—Eisenhower)

Damage applies to an injury that involves loss (as in property, in value, or in usefulness)

the fire caused great damage to the house

repair the damage done to the cathedral by the bombs

deliver Helen, and all damage else—as honor, loss of time, travel, expense . . . shall be struck off—Shak.

Harm (usually without an article) is referable to an evil that injures or may injure; often it suggests a consequent suffering (as grief or shame)

I meant no harm

almost every evening he saw Lucy. The inexperienced little wife apprehended no harm in his visits—Meredith

the men were terrified of Yusuf's cruelty, and wanted to retreat every evening he saw Lucy. The inexperienced little wife apprehended no harm in his visits—Meridith

the men were terrified of Yusuf's cruelty, and wanted to retreat every evening he saw Lucy. The inexperienced little wife apprehended no harm in his visits—Meredith

Mischief carries a stronger reference to the person or thing that works harm or is capable of inflicting injury; it applies either to the harm or injury that results from an agent or agency

one failure led to another, suspicion became general, and the mischief was done—Todd

that’s the mischief of the Modernists . . . They don’t claim that the Divine revelation has been supplantled or even added to, but that it has been amplified—Mackenzie or occasionally to the aspect of a situation that causes harm or vexation

the mischief is that people—especially the young—do not confine themselves to one cocktail—Bennett

and faith, 'tis pleasant till 'tis past: the mischief is that 'twill not last—Housman

Anna *distress, suffering, agony, misery: *pain, pang: violation, transgression, trespass, infringement (see breach): detriment (see corresponding adjective at pernicious): *evil, ill

2 wrong, *injustice, grievance

Anna see those at injury 1

injustice, injury, wrong, grievance are comparable when they denote an act that inflicts undeserved damage, loss, or hardship on a person. Injustice is the general term applicable not only to an act which involves unfairness to another or a violation of his rights (class privileges which make injustices easy—Spencer) (the injustices that angered him were never quite genuine—Mailer) but, as a collective noun, to all acts which come under this description

he flamed out against injustice because he was a lover of justice—Perry

the appropriate attitude toward prejudice and injustice and cruelty is indignation—Hicks

Injury applies to an injury to a person for which the law allows an action to recover compensation or specific property, or both (every person who suffers damage to his person, his property, or his reputation as a result of an infringement of the law suffer a legal injury—Rubenstein)

Wrong is in law, a more general term than injury for it applies not only to all injuries as just defined (private wrongs) but to all misdemeanors or crimes which affect the community (public wrongs) and which are punishable according to the criminal code. But in general use wrong differs little from injustice, except in carrying a stronger connotation of flagrancy or of seriousness

we are . . . steel to the very back, yet wrung with wrongs more than our backs can bear—Shak.

so many were the wrongs that were to be righted, the grievances to be redressed—Muggeridge

Grievance applies to a circumstance or condition that, in the opinion of those affected, constitutes a wrong or that gives one just grounds for complaint

they sent to the king a statement of their grievances—Keightley

In an early state of society any kind of taxation is apt to be looked on as a grievance—Freeman

Anna damage, hurt, harm, mischief, *injury: infringement, trespass, transgression, violation, infliction, *breach: unfairness, inequitableness (see affirmative adjectives at fair)

Con *justice, equity

innate, inborn, inbred, congenital, hereditary, inherited are comparable but not wholly synonymous terms that refer to qualities which either are or seem to be derived from one's inheritance or from conditions attending one's birth or origin. Innate and inborn are often used without distinction. But innate (opposed to acquired) is frequently synonymous with inherent, essential, or constitutional, and then tends to apply to qualities, characters, or elements that are not inherited but belong as part of the nature or essence to something imbued with life

innate ideas exist in the mind as a result of its constitution and are therefore found wherever a mind exists

I do not believe that a sense of justice is innate, but I have been astonished to see how quickly it can be created—Russell

this stubbornness has been explained as being innate in the German's, as a natural racial characteristic. But some of the stubbornness is not innate but acquired—Woody

Innate also may apply to elements or qualities (as virtues or defects) which arise out of the very nature or character of a thing that has no life and therefore literally no birth

the innate defect of this plan

the innate magnetism of the proton—Davis

the innate tendency of a dictatorship to overreach itself

On the other hand, inborn, which is frequently synonymous with natural or native, retains more specific reference to what is actually born in one or is so deep-seated as to seem to have been born in one; the term is therefore usually applied to qualities or characters that are peculiar or distinctive, sometimes to the type, often to the individual

inborn aptitudes

the tendency towards schizophrenia was inborn—N. Y. Times

his inborn ability to sing

an inborn love of country life

Inbred implies reference to breeding, or to the processes concerned with the generation, nourishment, and rearing of offspring; the term therefore is more readily applied to what is deeply rooted or ingrained as a result of one's immediate parentage or the circumstances attending one's earliest education or training than to what is constitutional or merely natural

an inbred love of freedom

an inbred feeling of superiority

those inbred sentiments which are . . . the true supporters of all liberal and manly morals—Burke

a methodical man, an inbred Yankee—White

Congenial applies chiefly to something which dates from the birth or inception of the individual concerned

congenital hip disease

congenital blindness

the theory that what was acquired habit in the ancestor may become congenital tendency in the offspring—James

yet art for art's sake suffers from a congenital disease; it professes to create substance out of form, which is physically impossible—Santayana

Both hereditary and inbred are applied to a result of natural heredity (an inherited bearing defect)

unless he had the hereditary dispositions which he has, he would not behave the way he does—Pop or some-
times of social heredity (the reciter who might graft on to an inherited body of literature a few embellishments of his own—Lerner & Mims) <(several hereditary enemies of the Olivesa brothers—Cather) In technical biological use congenital and hereditary are clearly distinguishable, for congenital implies presence at birth (as of a disease or an organic defect) from whatever cause and hereditary implies transmission (as of a tendency, a weakness, or a quality) from an ancestor through the chromosomal mechanism and DNA <(a birthmark is a congenital blemish of the skin) <(the color of the eyes is hereditary) Ana constitutional, *inherent, intrinsic, essential, ingrained: *instinctive, intuitive: natural, typical, regular, normal: *native, indigenous Ant acquired —Con *accidental, adventitious, incidental, fortuitous: assumed, affected, feigned, simulated (see ASSUME): cultivated, fostered, nurtured (see NURSE) inner, inward, inside, interior, internal, intestine are comparable when they mean being or placed within something. Although in many cases interchangeable, they are more or less restricted in their applications and therefore clearly distinguished in their implications. Inner typically applies to something far within or near the center <(thrust them into the inner prison—Acts 16:24) <(an inner room) <(the inner bark of a tree) while inward typically applies to something directed within or toward the center <(the inward curve of a scroll) Both words apply also to the mental or spiritual, frequently with the added implication of something intimate, secret, or inaccessible <(the sense by which thy inner nature was apprised of outward shows —Shelley) <(outer events only interest me here insofar as they affected my inner life—Ellis) <(with an inward smile she remembered Spandrell's summary—Huxley) <(the inward struggle of the heroes to find their own truth—Rees) Inside is used chiefly of spatial relations <(an inside seat) <(the inside track) but it may be used with reference to persons who are so placed in their work or who have such contacts that they may be said to be figuratively inside a place or group; thus, inside work implies a contrast with field or road work; inside knowledge of a negotiation implies participation to some extent in that negotiation (have inside information of what is going on in a club) Interior and internal usually suggest more abstract or technical and less intimate relations than inner and inward. Interior frequently implies contrast with the outer limits of the thing itself; thus, the interior features of a country are by implication opposed to those of the coast or boundaries; interior decoration deals with the decoration and furnishing of the inside of a house or other building rather than with its outside; one's interior life is one's life as expressed in thoughts and aspirations rather than in outward activities. Internal implies contrast with something beyond or outside of the outer limits of a thing: thus, internal evidence of a poem's authorship is gained from a study of the poem itself rather than from outside sources; the internal affairs of a country is its domestic, as opposed to its foreign, affairs; internal medicine is that branch of medicine dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the internal organs (as the heart, lungs, stomach, and liver). Intestine is a close synonym of internal used specifically of what may otherwise be described as domestic or civil (as opposed to foreign) with, however, the connotation of an evil or mischievous origin or nature (as of a worm and foreign and intestine war occasioned the neglect . . . of these works—Lord) <(a coalition . . . was paralyzed from the start by intestine quarrels—Current History) Ana central, middle, focal, nuclear (see corresponding nouns at CENTER): intimate, close, *familiar: intrinsic, constitutional, essential, *inherent: *instinctive, intuitive: deep-seated, deep-rooted (see INVETERATE) Ant outer —Con outward, outside, exterior, external (see OUTER) innocent *harmless, innocuous, inoffensive, unoffending Con harmful, hurtful, injurious, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY) innocuous *harmless, innocent, inoffensive, unoffending Ant pernicious —Con *poisonous, venomous, virulent, toxic: injurious, harmful, hurtful (see corresponding nouns at INJURY) innuendo *insinuation Ana hinting or hint, intimation, suggestion (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST): *implication, inference: Allison (see corresponding verb at REFER) inoculate *infuse, imbue, ingrain, leaven, suffice Ant impregnate, saturate, interpenetrate, permeate, pervade: introduce, admit, *enter: instill, inculcate, *implant offensivE *harmless, innocuous, innocent, unoffending Ant offensive —Con loathsome, repulsive, revolting (see OFFENSIVE): distasteful, obnoxious, repellent, *repugnant inordinate *excessive, immoderate, exorbitant, extreme, extravagant Ana *irrational, unreasonable: *supererogatory, wanton, uncalled-for, gratuitous: *superfluous, surplus, extra: *unnecessary: *additional; (rare): Con: *moderate: restrained, curbed, checked, inhibited (see restrain): *due, rightful, condign: *fair, just, equitable inquest investigation, probe, *inquiry, inquisition, research Ana examination, inspection, scrutiny, audit (see under SCRUTINIZE): questioning, interrogation, catechizing, examining (see corresponding verbs at ASK) inquire query, question, *ask, interrogate, catechize, quiz, examine Con reply, *answer, respond, rejoin, retort inquiry, investigation, inquest, inquiry, protest, research all mean a search for truth, knowledge, or information. Inquiry is the most general of these terms, applicable to such search regardless of the means (as questioning, observation, or experimentation) used or of the end in view (make inquiries about a sick friend) <(the passion for pure knowledge is to be gratified only through the scientific method of inquiry—Elliot) <(witnesses convicted of contempt of Congressional inquisitions—Current Biog.) <(legislative inquiry into the acts of a man or group of men—Thomas) <(a primitive but effective police inquiry—T. S. Eliot) Inquisition ordinarily carries heightened implications of searchiness and of penetration far below the surface to uncover what is concealed or withheld <(strenuously protested against being subjected to an inquisition into his motives) The term, however, is chiefly applied to a judicial inquiry aiming to unearth facts or conditions to support suspicions or charges; probably from its historical application to the ruthless ferreting out of heretics or heresy especially in the late Middle Ages and in the Reforma-
down of something that one hopes to discover or needs to know (a strong movement to make American universities centers of scholarly work and scientific investigation—Conant) (an investigation of the causes of the prolonged depression) (the bank never employs a clerk or teller without an investigation of his habits and record) Inquest applies chiefly to a judicial or official inquiry or examination especially before a jury, and specifically to one conducted by a coroner and jury in order to determine the cause of a death (when the rumors of murder became rife, the body was exhumed and an inquest held) In more general use, the term usually applies to an investigation that has some of the characteristics of a coroner's inquest (as the exploration of the grounds for an accusation or suspicion in relation to some disastrous or troubling event) (can inquest on the fall of Singapore and the sinking of H. M. S. Repulse and H. M. S. Prince of Wales—New Yorker) Probe applies to an investigation that searches deeply and extensively with the intent to determine the presence or absence of wrongdoing; it suggests methods of exploration comparable to a surgeon's probing for a bullet (a legislative probe of banking activities) (another probe would result merely in a reshuffle in police and political circles—Newsweek) Research applies chiefly to an inquiry or investigation which requires prolonged and careful study, especially of actual conditions or of primary sources of information. It is especially applicable to scholarly and creative inquiries or investigations (as by scientists, historians, or linguists) especially for the sake of uncovering new knowledge, of getting at the facts when these are not known, or of discovering laws of nature (basic research in science is concerned with understanding the laws of nature—Grainger) (research is a creative activity engaged in by talented human beings—Leedy) but it may sometimes be used for a study leading to the writing of a résumé of facts or laws already known (research has shown and practice has established the futility of writing of a résumé of facts or laws already known—Justice Holmes) or even for quite casual or trivial investigations (I... managed to get involved in a highway accident. All in the interest of research, you understand—Joseph) Ana questioning, interrogation, catechizing (see corresponding verbs at ask): examination, inspection, scrutiny, audit (see under scrutinize)

inquisition inquest, *inquiry, probe, investigation, research

Ana see those at inquiry

inquisitive *curious, prying, snoopy, nosy

Ana *impertinent, intrusive, meddlesome: interfering, meddling, intermeddling (see meddle)

Ant incurious —Con *indifferent, unconcerned, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested

inroad *invasion, incursion, raid

Ana intrusion, butting in (see corresponding verbs at intrude): encroachment, entrenchment, infringement, trespassing or trespass (see corresponding verbs at trespass): *entrance, entry, ingress

insane, mad, crazy, crazed, demented, deranged, lunatic, manic, non compos mentis are comparable in their general or nontechnical senses (for senses of corresponding nouns used technically see insanity) and as meaning afflicted by or manifesting unsoundness of mind or an inability to control one's rational processes. Insane as applied to persons usually implies such unsoundness of mind that one is unable to function safely and competently in ordinary human relations, usually does not recognize one's own condition, and is not responsible for one's actions (adjudged insane after a period of observation) (an extreme antisocial, perverted personality whose reactions differ widely from the normal, but are not necessarily to be classified as insane—Foulkes) In more general use insane implies utter folly or irrationality; the person or the act or utterance so described is, by implication, governed by blind passion or senselessness (the insane ambition and insatiable appetite which have caused this vast... war—Sir Winston Churchill) (dumbfounded by the insane assault—Al Newman) (now that wars... have become far more horrible and... insane—Inge)

Mad usually implies more frenzy than insane and therefore carries a stronger suggestion of wildness, rabidity, ravage, or complete loss of self-control (O, let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven! Keep me in temper: I would not be mad!—Shak.) (>he's mad. He always was. But he's worse than mad now. He's possessed—Graves) (>he has fallen in love... with a stupid cocotte who has begun by driving him mad with jealousy—Edmund Wilson)

Crazy often suggests such mental breakdown as may result from illness or old age (>he has gone crazy) (>we will bestow you in some better place, fitter for sickness and for crazy age—Shak.) (>Stuff!" exploded the Doctor. "You're not crazy and you never were and you're not going to be, unless you keep on making such a commotion about nothing"—Nancy Hale) or it may suggest a distraught or wild state of mind induced by some intense emotion (as anger, grief, joy, desire, etc.) (Lunette is a woman who finds but goes crazy if she hears Murdoch's voice—just swallows and trembles all over—Gerald Beaumont) (>she was crazy with desire for sleep—Ruth Park) (>somebody had shot a squirrel and he took on about it as though he had lost a child. I said then he was crazy—Anderson) As applied to such things as schemes, projects, or notions crazy usually suggests that they are the product of a disordered or ill-balanced mind (>no educated Socialist believes such crazy nonsense—Shaw) (>who would pay such a crazy price for a book) Crazed is often used in place of crazy when a temporary disorder, usually with a specific cause, is implied (>crazed with grief) (>they were crazed by the famine and pestilence of that last bitter winter—Amer. Guide Series: Wash.) Demented and deranged are more formal than the preceding words and less rich in connotations; both terms, moreover, imply a change from mental soundness to unsoundness, demented usually suggesting clear signs (as profound apathy or incoherence in thought, speech, or action) which indicate deterioration of the mental powers (>there was now no doubt that the sick man was demented) (>the great part of the German army in the early stages of the war was really an army of demented civilians—H. G. Wells) (>apparently not clearly demented until after 1818, he was for years dangerously near the border of insanity—Amer. Guide Series: Va.) and deranged (compare derangement under aberration 2) suggesting a loss of mental balance or a state of mental disorder resulting from a functional disturbance of the brain or nervous system (he was temporarily deranged by the shock) (>in our culture a person who falls sick, hears voices, communicates with shadows, and acquires special abilities from them is inevitably classed as deranged—Kroeber)

Maniac is approximately the equivalent of insane but is less frequently applied to persons and may imply no more than extreme folly (consuming with lunatic speed the assets of the earth—Agar) Maniac comes closer to mad, for it commonly connotes violence, fury, or raving (>the maniac rage of the multitude) (>the maniac dreamer; cruel... is he with fear—Shelley) Non compos mentis (Latin for "not sound of mind") is a legal term which specifies a state, but does not

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
define the particular condition or kind, of mental unsoundness. It is often used, especially in its shortened form non compos, more generally with similar indefiniteness. "Bar-ron's non compos. Lear controls him completely—Ken-neth Roberts\)

\textit{Ana} *irrational, unreasonable: distracted, bewildered (see PUZZLE vb)

\textit{Ant} sane —\textit{Con} sensible, judicious, *wise, sapient, prudent

**insanity, lunacy, psychosis, mania, dementia** are the leading general terms denoting serious mental disorder. Insanity as a technical term belongs to law rather than to medicine. It is used to cover a wide variety of mental disorders, all of which have in common one characteristic—an un-fitting of the afflicted individual to manage his own affairs or perform his social duties. Mental deficiency and delirious conditions are usually excluded, the former as in-born and not acquired, the latter as temporary and not long-lasting. Since in law a person's sanity or insanity becomes an issue when he is charged with a crime or when his legal capacity to make a will or contract or to transfer property is questioned, proof of insanity is tantamount to proof of his inability to act rationally and to understand the nature of his act and its natural consequences in affect-ing his rights, obligations, and liabilities. In general use insanity is commonly distinguished from mental deficiency and from neuroses and is applied to disorders involving unsoundness or derangement of mind. Lunacy in general use often applies to insanity manifested in spells of madness and fury or interrupted by intervals of lucidity. (Cervantes's hero was led into amiable but disastrous lunacy by a belated obsession with the literature of chival-ry—Muggeridge) (it's the tangle of good and badness; it's the lunacy linked with sanity makes up, and mocks, humanity!—Stringer) Lunacy sometimes is used interchangeably with insanity in law (a lunacy commission).

\textit{Psychosis} is the psychiatric term for a profound disorga-nization of mind, personality, or behavior resulting from an individual's inability to cope with his environment. Though in content often coextensive with insanity or lunacy it carries none of the special implications of these two terms.

\textit{Mania} (for fuller treatment see MANIA 2) denotes a phase marked by sustained and exaggerated elation, excessive activity (as in emotional expression or physical action), or delusions of greatness that characterize certain psychoses. Dementia implies a marked decline from a former level of intellectual capacity often accompanied by emotional apathy and is applicable to most psychoses that involve organic deterioration, not only those mani-festing themselves in spells of excitement but those manifesting themselves in apathy, depression, flightiness, or personality disintegration.

\textit{Ana} alienation, derangement, *aberration: frenzy, delirium, *mania, hysteria

\textit{Ant} sanity

**inscription, legend, caption** are comparable when they mean something written, printed, or engraved (as on a coin or a medal or under or over a picture) to indicate or describe the purpose or the nature of the thing. Inscription may apply to something written or printed, but it more often applies to something engraved, incised, or impressed on some hard surface (as stone, bronze, or silver); the word often carries an implication of durability or of permanence that is lacking, usually, in the others, and therefore often suggests a statement that has been framed or selected with care. (the inscription on a monument) (the bronze tablet has the following inscription) (some god direct my judg-ment! Let me see; I will survey the inscriptions back again. What says this leaden casket? "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath"—Shak.) A legend (see also MYTH) is basically a very short inscription (as on a coin, a medal, or a heraldic shield) that is a motto or a statement of an aim, an ideal, or a guiding principle (the legend "In God we trust" is found on all coins of the United States of America) (the legend on the Victoria Cross is "For Valour"). The term is also used for the printed statement giving the title or a brief description or explanation of an illustration or diagram (as in a textbook or a work of reference) (according to the legend, this illustration is that of "A Roman legionary") Caption basically applies to a heading or title (as of a document, an article, a chapter, or a section) (an editorial under the caption "Where are we headed?") (the stories have appeared in a running series under the caption of "The Adventures of Brigadier Gerard"—N. Y. Evening Post) But the implication of a catching or arresting quality in the title is often evident, and caption may refer to a title or name given a story, an article, or an illustration that is designed to seize the atten-tion of the reader (delighting the readers of the Athenaeum with the treasures of his ... reading, under the caption, "A Budget of Paradoxes"—Grosart) The term caption is also used interchangeably with legend for the printed statement describing or explaining a picture or illustration (a diagram of a motor with all the working parts explained in the caption) (under each [picture] was an appropriate caption, such as Surprise, Grief—S. E. White) Caption is also used in motion pictures for any of the brief statements or bits of dialogue thrown on the screen to explain the scenes of a silent motion picture or of a sound motion picture in which the actors speak in a foreign language.

**inscrutable** *mysterious, arcane

\textit{Ana} profound, abysmal, *deep: baffling, balking, thwarting, frustrating, foiling (see FRUSTRATE); hidden, concealed, secreted (see HIDe); enigmatic, cryptic, dark, *obscure, vague: mystifying, perplexing, puzzling (see PUZZLE vb)

\textit{Con} obvious, plain, clear, manifest, *evident, patent

**insensitive** besotted, *fond, infatuated

\textit{Ana} fatuous, asinine, foolish, silly (see SIMPLE): *stupid, slow, dense, crass, dull, dumb: *irrational, unreasonable

\textit{Con} sensible, sane, judicious, *wise, prudent, sapient, sage: *rational, reasonable: *intelligent, quick-witted, knowing, alert

**insensible** 1 Insensible, insensitive, impassive, anesthetic mean unresponsive to stimuli or to external influences. Insensible usually implies total insensitiveness, and therefore unawareness or unconsciousness such as may result from blunted powers of sensation, obtuseness of mind, apathy, or complete absorption in something else. (he also warned me against X, a local professor of history, as a man full of prejudice and quite insensible to evidence—Laski) (so engrossed in his work that he was insensible of the flight of time) (men have a keener relish for privileges and honors than for equality, and are not insensible to rewards—Sédillot) Insensitive implies sluggishness in response or less than normal susceptibility; more specifically, it suggests dullness rather than acuteness of sensation or perception, thickness rather than thinness of skin, callousness rather than sympathy or compassion (an ear insensible to changes of pitch) (he was insensitive to all kinds of discourtesy—Joyce) (insensitive to the misery of others) (many... Europeans still think Americans are soulless and insensitive machines, a raw society of mass-produced healthy extroverts—Viereck)

Impassible basically and historically implies absence of response because of incapacity for feeling or suffering.
insensitive

but is often used synonymously with impassive or in reference to persons who by discipline have conquered the normal human susceptibility to pain or suffering (the Hindu striving for Nirvana renders himself impassible) or in reference to things in contrast with persons or creatures thought of as beings who through necessity of nature suffer pain or are susceptible to injury (the language of strategy and politics is designed . . . to make it appear as though wars were not fought by individuals . . . but either by impersonal and therefore wholly nonmoral and impassible forces, or else by personified abstractions—Huxley) <Svengali was sitting, quite impassible, gazing at Monsieur J—, and smiling a ghastly, sardonic smile—du Maurier> Anesthetic implies a deadening of the mind or senses by or as if by such a drug as ether and therefore an induced rather than a natural insensitiveness (the intelligentsia . . . neither as anesthetic to ideas as the plutocracy on the one hand nor as much the slaves of emotion as the proletariat on the other—Mencken) (all except the young girls are in a state of possession, blind, deaf and anesthetic—Cary)

insipid, vapid, flat, jejune, banal, wishy-washy, inane mean devoid of qualities which give spirit, character, or substance to a thing. Something insipid is without taste, or savor, or pungency; the term is applied not only to food and drink which are so tasteless as to give no pleasure or stimulation or to the qualities (insipid substitutes for coffee) but also to persons and their utterances and ideas which strike one as thin, weak, and characterless and leave one completely indifferent (the tepid quality of the expatriate American novel, which has escaped vulgarity to become insipid instead—Connolly) <happiness is a wine of the rarest vintage, and seems insipid to a vulgar taste—L. P. Smith> (the insipid veracity with which Crabbé used to report some of the most trite doings of Nature and of man—Montague) Something vapid is stale, uninteresting, or pointless because it has lost its characteristic taste, freshness, spirit, sparkle, or tang (the table beer was sour . . . the wine vapid—Smollett) <had a genius for making the most interesting things seem utterly vapid and dead—Graves> (we could spare a lot of the more frivolous and even vapid content of our papers—Mott) Something flat is so vapid that it seems dead or lifeless. The word is applied chiefly to what has lost all savor, sparkle, zest, or capacity for stimulating interest or pleasure (how weary, stale, flat and unprofitable, seem to me all the uses of this world—Shak) <the sonnet became, in the hands of innumerable practitioners, a thing . . . of artificial sentiment, flat as the lees and dregs of wine—Lowes> (the action follows the standard interpretation of Russian history in a flat and mechanical way—Newsweek) Something jejune is so devoid of substance or nutritive quality that it cannot satisfy the appetite; the word is only occasionally used with reference to physical hunger and is usually employed with reference to hunger of the mind or the emotions. It often connotes barrenness, aridity, or meagerness in addition to its basic implications (read through the sermon once more). It seemed more jejune than ever—MacKenzie> (literary history without evaluative criteria becomes jejune and sterile—Glicksberg) Something banal is so commonplace or so trite that it lacks all freshness or power to stimulate or appeal. The term often also

Ana obtuse, *dull, blunt: *impassive, apathetic, phlegmatic, stolid, stoic: *hardened, indurated, callous: engrossed, absorbed, *intent, rapt
Ant sensible (to or of something) —Con conscious, *aware, cognizant, alive: awake: impressed, affected, influenced, touched (see AFFECT)

insight

mean covert suggestion or a covert allusion to something. Insinuation applies chiefly to a remark, comment, or question which conveys or seems to convey a hint or implication, often one that is discreditable to the person at whom it is aimed (by tacit agreement they ignored the remarks and insinuations of their acquaintances—D. H. Lawrence) <we reject any insinuation that one race or another, one people or another is in any sense inferior or expendable—Eisenhower> Innuendo more often applies to the method of covert suggestion than does insinuation, and when it applies to a definite instance, it is referable to meaningful smiles, glances, inflections, as well as to remarks; in both cases the term definitely implies a suggestion of something that is injurious to the reputation of the person concerned (I prefer the most disagreeable certainties to hints and innuendos—Byron) (in this play Middleton shows his interest . . . in innuendo and double meanings—T. S. Eliot) <He—eventually—married her." There were volumes of innuendo in the way the eventually was spaced, and each syllable given its due stress—Wharton> (he learned by chance remarks overheard, from innuendo, a dropped word here and there, a sly, meaningful snicker—Harold Sinclair)

Ana hinting or hint, implying or implication, suggestion, intimation (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST): *animadversion, aspersio, reflection: imputation, ascription (see corresponding verbs as ASCRIBE): allusion (see corresponding verb at REFER)

insipid, vapid, flat, jejune, banal, wishy-washy, inane mean devoid of qualities which give spirit, character, or substance to a thing. Something insipid is without taste, or savor, or pungency; the term is applied not only to food and drink which are so tasteless as to give no pleasure or stimulation or to the qualities (insipid substitutes for coffee) but also to persons and their utterances and ideas which strike one as thin, weak, and characterless and leave one completely indifferent (the tepid quality of the expatriate American novel, which has escaped vulgarity to become insipid instead—Connolly) <happiness is a wine of the rarest vintage, and seems insipid to a vulgar taste—L. P. Smith> (the insipid veracity with which Crabbé used to report some of the most trite doings of Nature and of man—Montague) Something vapid is stale, uninteresting, or pointless because it has lost its characteristic taste, freshness, spirit, sparkle, or tang (the table beer was sour . . . the wine vapid—Smollett) <had a genius for making the most interesting things seem utterly vapid and dead—Graves> (we could spare a lot of the more frivolous and even vapid content of our papers—Mott) Something flat is so vapid that it seems dead or lifeless. The word is applied chiefly to what has lost all savor, sparkle, zest, or capacity for stimulating interest or pleasure (how weary, stale, flat and unprofitable, seem to me all the uses of this world—Shak) <the sonnet became, in the hands of innumerable practitioners, a thing . . . of artificial sentiment, flat as the lees and dregs of wine—Lowes> (the action follows the standard interpretation of Russian history in a flat and mechanical way—Newsweek) Something jejune is so devoid of substance or nutritive quality that it cannot satisfy the appetite; the word is only occasionally used with reference to physical hunger and is usually employed with reference to hunger of the mind or the emotions. It often connotes barrenness, aridity, or meagerness in addition to its basic implications (read through the sermon once more). It seemed more jejune than ever—MacKenzie> (literary history without evaluative criteria becomes jejune and sterile—Glicksberg) Something banal is so commonplace or so trite that it lacks all freshness or power to stimulate or appeal. The term often also

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
carries one or more of such various connotations as
tastelessness, pedestriamism, triviality, or platitudinous-
ness (a simple person marvelously protected from vul-
gularity and the balan—T. E. Brown) (the "poor working
girl" of the balan songs of the period—Farrell) (the aver-
age man, doomed to some balan and sordid drudgery all his life long—Mencken) Something wishy-washy has
the essential or characteristic qualities so weak or diluted
that it strikes one as extremely insipid or vapid (she is
too wishy-washy to attract interesting friends) (his cour-
age in expressing opinions that are always judicious but
never wishy-washy—W. R. Crawford) (they accepted
the wishy-washy, almost meaningless, resolution—Spec-
tator) (Baudelaire's notion of beatitude certainly tended
to the wishy-washy—T. S. Eliot) Something inane is
devoid of sense, significance, or point (to us the book
seems a very inane, tiresome, and purposeless affair—
Manchester Examiner) (in order to cover his embar-
sassment, he made some inane remark on the weather
—Conrad)
Ana *thin, slight, tenuous, rare: *weak, feeble: *tame, subdued: bland, mild, *soft
Ant sapid: zestful —Con *pungent, piquant, poignant, racy, spicy: *spirited, high-spirited, mettlesome, spunky, fiery, piquant, gingerly: savory, tasty, *palatable, appe-
tizing: stimulating, exciting, piquing, provoking or pro-
vocative (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE)
insistent *pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, importunate, exigent, instant
Ana persistent, persevering (see corresponding verbs at
PERSEVERE): pertinacious, dogged (see OBSTINATE):
obtrusive, *impertinent
insolent arrogant, overbearing, supercilious, disdainful,
haughty, lordly (see PROUD)
Ana domineering, *masterful, imperious, peremptory, impera-
tive: pretentious, ostentatious (see SHOWY):
*dictatorial, magisterial: scornful, contemptuous (see corresponding nouns under DESPISE vb)
Ant deferential —Con *submissive (see TAME): courteous, polite, *civil
inspect *scrutinize, examine, scan, audit
Ana survey, view, observe, notice (see SEE): probe, penetrate (see ENTER): inquire, interrogate, question, research: surveillance, *oversight, supervision
inspection examination, scrutiny, scanning, auditing (see
under SCRUTINIZE vb)
Ana investigation, probe, inquire, *inquiry, inquisition, research: surveillance, *oversight, supervision
inspiration, afflatus, fury, frenzy, especially when quali-
fied by divine or poetic, all designate the seemingly in-
voluntary element in the arts of expression for which the
artist often holds a power outside himself responsible.
Inspiration may distinctively imply a preternatural en-
lightening and quickening of the mind and connote,
especially when used by religious persons, the intervention
of or as if of such a supernatual influence as the Holy
Spirit among such men there remains a . . . belief in
what is vaguely called inspiration. They know by hard
experience that there are days when their ideas flow
freely and clearly, and days when they are dammed up damnable—Mencken) Often, from its use in connection
with the authorship of the Scriptures, inspiration implies
supernatural or supranatural communication of knowl-
edge (has the highest aspect of Greek religion ever been
to be inspiration and not from books?—Inge) Afflatus distinctly applies to the inspiring influence rather than to the process or its effects (the artists and
poets who but once in their lives had known the divine
afflatus, and touched the high level of the best—Henry
James) (we imagine that a great speech is caused by
some mysterious afflatus that descends into a man from
above—Eastman) but it also may name a quality rather
than an influence or an operation (he never again achieved
that delicate balance of cold, scientific investigation and
imaginative afflatus—Scalia) Fury and frenzy emphasize
the emotional excitement that attends artistic creation and
the tendency of the artist to be carried out of himself.
Fury found most often in the phrases "poetic fury" and
"divine fury," does not in ordinary use imply extreme
agitation; it characteristically connotes profound ecstasy
induced by the poet's vision or conception (they are so
beloved of the Gods, that whatsoever they write, pro-
ceeds of a divine fury—Sidney) (in an age of formalism,
poetic fury itself became a formal requirement—Babbitt) Frenzy usually implies agitation rather than rapture,
and stresses the imaginative or inventive element in
creation, sometimes to the exclusion of any extraneous
influence (does he compose in a frenzy of mystical
exaltation or does he work out his lines slowly and even
laboriously?—Kilby) (caught the first fire of the writer's
frenzy in the classroom when a long dead poet was being
discussed—Dock Leaves) (Mencken and his Mercury
were anything but cold. They were always in a state of
frenzy—Angoff)
Ana enlightenment, illumination (see corresponding verbs at
ILLUMINATE): *ecstasy, rapture, transport: *revelation,
vision, apocolypse, prophecy
inspire animate, *inform, fire
Ana enlighten, *illuminate: quicken, stimulate, excite,
galvanize, *provoke: activate, energize, *vitalize: endue,
endow (see DOWER)
inspirit encourage, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve, steel
Ana enliven, animate, *quicken, vivify: stimulate, excite,
galvanize (see PROVOKE)
Ant dissipate —Con *dissourge, dishearten, deject: *de-
press, weigh
in spite of *notwithstanding, despite
install induct, inaugurate, invest, *initiate
instance n Instance, case, illustration, example, sample,
specimen mean a concrete thing which has or manifests
the qualities, characters, or nature of a type, a class, or a
group. Instance applies to an individual person or thing
brought forth in support or disproof of a general statement
(he instance may be rejected, but the principle abides
—Cardozo) (Herodotus is a shining instance of the strong
Greek bent to examine and prove or disprove—Edith
Hamilton) or as a means of indicating the character of
a class (this novel is a good instance of his best work)
(the patterns on the breasts are an instance of the formal-
ism of the period—Saunders) Case applies to an act, situa-
tion, condition, or event demonstrating the occur-
rence or the existence of something which is being con-
sidered, studied, investigated, or dealt with or exhibiting
it in actual operation (cite cases of bribes given as pay-
ments for services never performed) (students of the
effects of poverty now base their conclusions on
instances for services never performed) (there has been no case of malaria in this section for three years) Illustration applies to an
instance adduced or cited as a means of throwing light
upon what has been explained or discussed in general
terms (give several illustrations of the use of a word in
a particular sense) (cites indiscriminately . . . materials
of such different value that they provide illustration
rather than documentation of his points—Dinkler)
Example (see also MODEL) applies to a typical, repre-
sentative, or illustrative instance or case (if I were asked
to define what this gentlemanliness is, I should say that
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
instance vb *mention, name, specify

Aprooof, *reason, ground: *evidence: particular, *item, detail

instant n Instant, moment, minute, second, flash, jiffy, twinkling, split second are comparable when they mean a particular point of time or a stretch of time of almost imperceptible duration. Instant and moment are often used interchangeably to us . . . the moment 8.17 a.m. means something . . . very important, if it happens to be the starting time of our daily train. To our ancestors, such an odd eccentric instant was without significance—did not even exist—Huxley but instant carries so much stronger a suggestion of infinitely small duration that it is better fitted than moment for contexts that imply urgency, extreme transiency, or inconceivable swiftness to trace the visionary company of love, its voice an instant in the wind (I know not whither hurled)—Hart Crane to come this instant (he was not an instant too soon) it passed in an instant Moment, on the other hand, is particularly serviceable when the word or the context carries the implication of a definitely apprehended, even though extremely brief, point of time to wait a moment a moment of dreadful suspense—Greene (it was the finest moment of her life) I haven't had a moment to attend to it) Minute and second technically apply to measured fractions of an hour, but in the present relation minute, even more than moment, suggests an appreciable though short duration of time, and second, quite as much as instant, suggests its imperceptible duration who buys a minute's mirth to wait a week—Shak. the train will start in a minute I was gone only a minute standing in the middle of the street he would blow, and in a minute boys would come swarming to him—John Reed they showed a second or two of hesitation, and then plunged off the road—Ingamells I'll get it this second. Flash suggests duration comparable to that of a flash of lightning; the term is therefore often used when incredible speed in movement, action, or thought is implied the secret of the poor wretch's death was plain to me in a flash—Kipling eyes that in a flash could pick out a friend from a throng—Cather Jiffy is found chiefly in the phrase in a jiffy, equivalent to very quickly or directly she could have tossed off an article for The Times in a jiffy—Nicolson the fisherman raises the submerged net in a jiffy—Nat'l Geog. Mag. I'll be there in a jiffy Twinkling, often with an added "of the eye," suggests the quickness of a wink or blink (his patient would be carried off by ménimins in the twinkling of an eye—Stafford the kettle will boil in a twinkling—Punch) Split second, basically denoting a fractional part of a second, heightens the implication of brevity as expressed by second Mr. Moon stood for one split second astonished—Chesterston one split second of surprise—Sharp

instant adj *pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, importunate, insistent, exigent

Ama immediate, *direct: compelling, constraining, obliging (see force vb)

instigate *incite, abet, foment

Ama *activate, actuate, motivate: *suggest, hint, insinuate: plan, plot, scheme (see under PLAN n)

instill inculcate, *implant

Ama *infuse, inculcate, imbue, ingrain, leaven: impregnate, *permeate, saturate, pervade, impenetrate, interperetrate

ininstinct intuition (see under INSTINCTIVE) Ama incitement, impetus, *stimulus: impulse, spring, *motive: bent, turn, faculty, aptitude, knack, *gift

instinctive 1 Instinctive, intuitive both mean not involving, based on, or determined by the ordinary processes of reasoning, but as applied to human mentation they are not normally interchangeable because of consistent differences in connotation. Instinctive in this connection (see also SPONTANEOUS) implies a relation to instinct, the more or less automatic and unreasoned reactive behavior characteristic of a natural group (as a species) rather than of the individual; as applied to human mental activity and behavior instinctive stresses sometimes the automatic quality of the reaction, sometimes the fact that it takes place below the level of conscious reasoning and volition whether as a true expression of instinct or as being through habituate as deeply ingrained as instinct (a baby may be born with a fear of a loud, sudden noise and a fear of falling. Those things we call instinctive—Fishbein) while yet a boy he was a thorough little man of the world, and did well rather upon principles which he had tested . . . and recognized as principles, than from those profounder convictions which in his father were so instinctive that he could give no account concerning them—Butler d. 1902 some of our most inevitable and instinctive sentiments . . . cannot be brought directly under logical laws—Coulton) Intuitive, correspondingly, indicates relationship to intuition, the highly personal intellectual capacity for passing directly from stimulus to response (as from problem to solution or from observation to comprehension) without the intervention of reasoning or inferring; as applied to the human mind and to products of its activities intuitive suggests activity above and beyond the level of conscious reasoning (God's thought obviously differs in its character from that of man. The latter . . . proceeds in step-by-step fashion from premise to conclusion; God's thought is entirely intuitive . . . it grasps its object by a single flash of insight—Thilly) every scientific generalization is intuitive, for while the scientist may see a phenomenon just by looking, as at Newton's apple, he must use creative imagination and intuition to relate this apple to the moon and so discover the universal law—G. R. Harrison an intuitive mind, passionate in its attempt to capture a great truth in a few words, but impatient of logical sequences—Canby

Ama *innate, inborn, congenital: constitutional, *inherent, ingrained

Ant reasoned

2 impulsive, *spontaneous, automatic, mechanical

Ama natural, normal, typical, *regular: habitual, customary, wonted, accustomed, *usual

Ant intentional —Con *voluntary, deliberate, willful, willing

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
institute vb *found, establish, organize

Ana *begin, commence, start, initiate, inaugurate: introduce (see ENTER)

Ant abrogate —Con end, terminate, conclude, *close, finish, complete

Instruct 1 *teach, train, educate, discipline, school


2 direct, enjoin, bid, *command, order, charge

Ana *prescribe, assign, define

Instrument 1 *mean, instrumentality, agency, medium, agent, organ, vehicle, channel

Ana *method, system, mode, way, manner, fashion: machinery, apparatus, tackle, gear, *equipment, paraphernalia: *device, contrivance, contraption

2 tool, *implement, appliance, utensil

3 *paper, document

Instrumentality *mean, agent, agency, instrument, medium, organ, vehicle, channel

Ana *work, labor, toil: *effort, exertion, trouble, pains: *power, energy, force, might: *action, deed, act

Insubordinate, rebellious, mutinous, seditious, factious, contumacious mean having or showing defiance or indifference to constituted authority. Insubordinate is used primarily in reference to a person whose status is that of a subordinate and especially of a member of an organized group (as a force, a crew, or a staff) under the control of a head (as a military or naval officer, a chief, or a master) who is responsible for their service as individuals and their discipline as a group; the term implies disobedience to orders or infraction of rules either as a particular instance or as a habit (insubordinate sailors are confined in the warship's brig) (insubordination . . . may consist simply in a persistent and concerted refusal or omission to obey orders, or to do duty, with an insubordinate intent—Manual for Courts-Martial) Rebellious implies disaffection and insubordination; it may refer to a state of mind or to a temperamental tendency (temperamentally rebellious, instinctively disliking externally imposed authority—Biddle) but more often it suggests active or organized resistance (rebellious troops) (an outlaw'd desperate man, the chief of a rebellious clan—Scott) (the sword his grandsire bore in the rebellious days of yore—Longfellow) Mutinous is a stronger and more derogatory term than rebellious which may imply justifiable resistance, for it suggests the refusal to obey the lawful demands or commands of an officer in charge, especially a military, naval, or ship's officer, with the result that there is no longer discipline and efficiency in the group or, if the mutiny is successful, that a new and usually unlawful control is set up (the master ordered the mutinous sailors put into irons) (the mutinous members of the crew finally gained the upper hand) (each one . . . gave him to understand, roughly and roundly, that to go to sea in her they would not. In the midst of this mutinous uproar, the alarmed con-
sul stood fast—Melville) Mutinous is also frequently applied to active forces (as passions, winds, or waters) that are exceedingly turbulent or uncontrollable (I have . . . called forth the mutinous winds—Shak.) (mutinous passions, and conflicting fears—Shelley) Seditious implies treasonable activities and often specifically a stirring up of discontent or of opposition to or rebellion against the go-

vernment (seditious societies) (seditious writings) (seditious factionalism went on a rampage and began to wreck our foreign policy—Ascoli) (revolutions that were not made in Boston, by Boston gentlemen, were quite certain to be wicked and seditious—Parrington) Factious stresses the contentious, perverse, or turbulent provocation of party spirit or a tendency to break up into embittered and irreconcilable factions. Only when it implies as a result the destruction of peace in the group as a whole does it suggest indifference to or defiance of constituted authority; very frequently it suggests the opposition of legislative groups or blocs to the government (a quarrelsome, factious race) (the government's plan to entertain the proposals for peace aroused the factious spirit of the parliament) (Florence . . . sow ing the wind and reaping the whirlwind, wearing her soul out by factious struggles—Oliphant) (the Opposition will be vigilant but not factious. We shall not oppose merely for the sake of opposition—Attlee) Contumacious is found chiefly in legal and ecclesiastical use. It implies persistent, willful, or open disobedience of the orders of a court or of one's superiors; often, it specifically suggests contempt of court by a bold refusal to obey a summons or subpoena, or open and stubborn defiance of laws or orders that are seldom disobeyed (con her refusal to appear in person or by her attorney, she was pronounced contumacious—Lingard) (magistrates and populace were incensed at a refusal of customary marks of courtesy and respect for the laws, which in their eyes was purely contumacious—Inge)

Ana recalcitrant, refractory, *unruly, ungovernable, intractable

Con *obedient, amenable, docile, tractable, biddable: submissive, subdued, *tame

Insular, provincial, parochial, local, small-town are comparable when they mean having or indicating the limited or restricted point of view considered characteristic of the geographically isolated. Insular is usually applied to people or the ideas of people who are in one way or another isolated, so that they become or are regarded as self-contained or self-sufficient and disinterested in matters remote from their own concerns. The term implies an aloofness that proceeds from this isolation, but it usually also connotes narrowness of attitude, circumscription of interests, or prejudices in favor of one's own people or one's own kind (as of customs, literature, and art) (much of the impetus for international thinking and planning has come from our schools and our colleges, and the pressures for insular chauvinism have come from self-seeking groups of adults—Brown) (Bradley was fighting for a European and ripened and wise philosophy, against an insular and immature and cranky one—T. S. Eliot) Provincial sometimes applies to what is characteristic of outlying districts as in opposition to what is characteristic of such metropolitan centers as London or New York (a provincial accent) (provincial theaters) (provincial fashions) but the word tends to connote narrowness of view or of interest as opposed to what is cosmopolitan or catholic (he replaced a philosophy which was crude and raw and provincial by one which was, in comparison, catholic, civilized, and universal—T. S. Eliot) (harm commitment to a given ideal is not equivalent to provincial intolerance towards other forms of excellence—Nagel) (Stalin, a provincial, Victorian philistine, fancied himself as an infallible connoisseur—Willets) Parochial, with its reference to a parish, a local unit of administration in the church or, in some regions, in the state, implies confinement to views and interests of a particular place and connotes extreme narrowness and, often, intolerance (of all kind of human energy. Art is surely the most free, the least parochial; and demands of us an essential tolerance of all its forms—Galsworthy) (even so great a historian as Toynbee, who has, compared with Mr. Toynbee, who has literally taken the world . . . as his province—Brogan) (small wonder that the news is often out-of-date, and that it is mostly political polemics or parochial gossip—Kim
insulate

vb *isolate, segregate, seclude, sequester
*

impalpable, *imperceptible, insensible, intangible, *immaterial, *incorporeal, whole, entire, *perfect

insure

integrate, integer

insult

*affront, indignity
*

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
intelligent 1, *mind, soul, psyche, brain, intelligence, wit

*reason, understanding, intuition

intellgential *mental, psychic, cerebral, intelligent

Ant carnal —Con *bodily, physical, corporeal, corporal, somatic: fleshly, animal, sensual (see CARNAL)

intelligence 1, brain, *mind, soul, psyche, wit

*sense, judgment, wisdom, gumption; *discernment, penetration, insight, acumen: sagaciousness or sagacity, perspicaciousness or perspicacity, astuteness, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREW)

2 *news, tidings, advice

intelligent 1, *mental, cerebral, psychic

2 Intelligent, clever, alert, quick-witted, bright, smart, knowing, brilliant are comparable when they mean mentally quick or keen. Intelligent implies greater than average power to use one's mind successfully when demands are made upon it (as in understanding the new or abstruse or in meeting and solving problems) (Puritanism presupposed an intelligent clergy capable of interpreting Scripture)—Amer. Guide Series: Mass.) (the vigor of his quick and lucid mind, keenly intelligent rather than deeply intellectual—Lustgarten) Clever implies resourcefulness or aptness more strongly than intelligent, and it emphasizes quickness in apprehension rather than fullness of comprehension, and dexterity or adroitness, rather than soundness, in the mental processes (the poor girl liked to be thought clever, but she hated to be thought bookish—Henry James) (he could deal competently with effects, but he was not clever at assigning causes—Sinclair) Often the word suggests a contrast with higher or more substantial qualities (be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever—Kingsley) (a clever boy trains for an examination as he trains for a race; and goes out of training as fast as possible when it is over—Inge) Alert stresses quickness in the mental processes, especially in comprehending a situation (she seemed more feeble in body . . . but her mind was still alert—L. P. Smith) (after Munich alert observers urged more forcefully that our country must hurry to develop its military power—Feis) Quick-witted also implies quickness in thinking but in addition it suggests promptness in action in an emergency, in response to a challenge, in conversation, or in debate (we are not a quick-witted race; and we have succeeded . . . by dint of a kind of instinct for improvising the right course of action—Inge) Bright and smart are more often applied to young or promising persons than to those who are proficient or of proved intelligence. Bright suggests cleverness that is manifested especially in liveliness of mind or in liveliness of talk or manner (how they could, who had once been so eager and bright, be so stodgy now—Edman) (bright young fellows with a charming literary swagger, they aspired to be wits—Parrington) Smart, too, implies cleverness but it also suggests alertness or quick-wittedness that enables one to get ahead (I wish I was smart enough to invent something and maybe get rich—Anderson) (the master said he was the smartest lad in the school—D. H. Lawrence) (the race is no longer to the strong, but to the smart—Drake) Both words are used ironically, bright then implying dullness or stupidity and smart, pertness, facetiousness, or sometimes trickery or duplicity (a smart aleck) (given to making smart retorts) (other bright ideas—some showing a superabundance of practical feasibility, as well as of the weld of any unfortunates who might happen to be in the experiment area—include the scattering of concentrated sulphuric acid—The Countryman) (I do not want . . . to be converted by a smart syllogism—Birrell) (the smart work is hidden in the wording of the Monroe doctrine—Emporia Gazette) Knowing carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding terms of the possession of information or knowledge that is necessary or useful under given circumstances (the knowing collectors of records—Sat. Review) (bipartisanship, as a knowing Republican politician once remarked, is a fine thing—between elections—Collins) Occasionally the term further suggests a less agreeable quality such as sophistication, secretiveness, or the possession of knowledge of others' secrets (a knowing wink) (a face so mean, so knowing—Thackeray) (his work has a distasteful air of pretentious smartness, of being altogether too knowing—Read)

Brilliant adds to intelligent the implication of unusual and outstanding keenness of intellect that manifests itself so openly or effectively as to excite admiration; the term usually suggests an opposition to qualities that characterize one whose mind works more slowly or cautiously (a brilliant mathematician) (John Todhunter was esteemed a shrewd sensible man—only not brilliant—Meredith) (Einstein's brilliant solution of the . . . puzzle—Zinsser) (the brilliant anthropologist whom de Gaulle wished to place in charge of a combined intelligence service—Funk)

Ana *sharp, keen, acute: *shrewd, sagacious, perspicuous, astute: cunning, ingenious, adroit, *clever

Ant unintelligent—Con foolish, idiotic, imbecilic, moronic (see corresponding nouns at IDIOT): *stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass, dumb: *irrational, unreasonable

intend, mean, design, propose, purpose signify to have in mind as an end, end, or function. Intend implies that the mind is directed to some definite accomplishment or to the achievement of a definite end (if one earnestly intends a conspiracy, one does not commence with a series of public readings—Kristol) (intended twenty-four books, sketched fourteen, but left only four—Highet) or is bent upon some person or thing (as an invention or a writing) serving a certain purpose or use, or fulfilling a certain destiny (a play, intended for great Theseus' nuptial day—Shak.) (a strong suspicion that the new instrument with which Einstein has presented the mathematicians is being put to use for which it was never intended—Inge) (a man set aside and intended by nature to lead a blameless life—Anderson) Intend often implies an aim to express a definite idea by a given word or phrase (just what the framers of the constitution intended by the phrase "to be twice put in jeopardy" is still a matter of some doubt) (he caught the phrase as it dropped from his lips with a feeling that it said more than he intended—H. G. Wells) Mean often carries a denotation close to that of intend (those organ tones of his were meant to fill cathedrals or the most excided of tribunals—Cardozo) but it does not convey so clear an implication of determination to effect one's end as does intend and, sometimes, it implies little more than volition or decision (he always means to work harder) (a book that I mean to get when I reach Beverly—Justice Holmes) (I don't mean to defend Charles' errors, but before I form my judgment of either of them I intend to make a trial of their hearts—Sheridan) (he shouldn't have done it, of course; but he was thoughtless. And he meant to pay the money back—Dela) Design (see also under PLAN) usually stresses forethought and deliberation in arriving at an intention (the American people) (did not design to make their government dependent on the States—John Marshall) (we wanted absolute surrender and we wanted it within a matter of hours, and the bomb of Nagasaki was designed to achieve just that, which it did—Cousins) Often, the term also implies scheming or contriving, especially by underhand means, in an attempt to effect what is designed (your father and sister, in their civilities and invitations, were
intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite, violent are comparable
to do when your funds run out? © I
propose (E. Freeman) M.
(intense concentration) of an end or effect) (intense
great depth (as in quality, reach, or effect) is to be implied.
when meaning extreme in degree, power, or effect. Al-
natures, working intensely, had come to him
(tions. Intense is especially appropriate when the idea of

to a greater degree than
vehement, impetuosity, or urgency (jealousy is cruel as the grave:
—Anderson) © if
suspiciousness of all the arts—
aggravates
false rumors that
aggravate
transactions of the more austere pleasures of the afternoon—
Arch-
m took the last inch out of the workers—Shaw © he was in such an
intense mood that humor was entirely barred out—
M. E. Freeman) © one of the inspired moments that come to
intense natures, working intensely, had come to him
—Anderson) Vehe
and fervent (see also FER\E:\E:s) sug-
gest a manifestation of abundant energy or force, and con-
otope, fervent to a greater degree than vehement, ardency, impetuosity, or urgency (jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coalo thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehe-
ment flame—Song of Sol 8:6) © the temper of monists has been so vehement, as almost at times to be convulsive
—James © (If vehement assertions on the one side have
inished me into too vehement dissent on the other, I crave
pardon—Quiller-Couch) © she burns with a fierce pietistic
suspiciousness of all the arts—Trilling) © so fierce were the passions that had been aroused, that again he was in
danger of violence—Froude) Exquisite (see also CHOICE) raises the implications of intense to a point suggesting an
extreme near to consummation or completeness. In this sense it has been applied indifferently to things good or bad but often with the result that, when applied to things as nasty as the soul's feelings, judgments, or color which may be called good, its meaning is taken as equal to that of exquisite at CHOICE; thus, although exquisite cleanliness may mean cleanliness so extreme that it suggests immoderateness, it is usually thought of as cleanliness so perfect that it gives joy to the fastidious. Consequently, exquisite in this sense is more often applied to what is felt or appreciated keenly or acutely (with a brilliant mind, nervous temperament, intense susceptibil-
ity to artistic and spiritual impressions . . . [she] was at-
tuned to exquisite pleasure and exquisite pain—Hanscom
(subject a person to exquisite torture—Violent (for
(senses of acting with or caused by violence compare vio-
ence under FORCE) implies immoderate strength or force and, usually, the exceeding of normal bounds even in
something that is strong or forcible; the term need not
impute a disagreeable quality to that to which it is applied,
but the possibility of this implication is more frequent than
in the other terms © violent heat) © his intense faith and his
violent spiritual agonies are experiences which few of us
today are able to share—Day Lewis) © an unreasoning
passion of despair descended upon them both, violent yet
essentially slight—Wyle) ©
intensified, enhanced, heightened, aggravat
uated (see INTENSIFY) accentuated, emphasized, stressed (see cor-
responding nouns at EMPHASIS)
Ant subduced (colors, lights, emotions)

intensify, aggravate, heighten, enhance mean to increase
markedly in degree or measure. Intensify implies a deep-
ening or strengthening of a thing or especially of its char-
acteristic quality (a clear atmosphere intensifies the blue
of the sky) (an unfortunate atmosphere . . . it is that
intensi
s the suspicions with which the hardheaded and skep-
tical naturally approach such revolutionary claims—
Flew) © historical circumstances of recent years have
conspired to intensify nationalism—Huxley) © Aggravate
implies a manifest increase in the seriousness of a situa-
tion or condition that is already unpleasant or difficult
false rumors that aggravate racial animosities) © truth and
frankness dispel difficulties, but the attempt at
repressive moral discipline only aggravates them—Russ-
ello) © these considerable defects in a parish priest were
aggravated rather than offset by his talents as an orator—
Anthony West) © Heighten and enhance both imply a lift-
ing or raising: heightened, however, tends to imply a
lifting above the ordinary, the trite, or the commonplace, and
a consequent increase in sharpness and poignancy, and
enhance a lifting above the norm or the average in desir-
ability or attractiveness by the addition of something that
increases the value, charm, or prestige of the thing en-
hanced © a dramatist heightens the effect of his scenes by
rapidity of the action and he enhances his dialogue by the
addition of witty repartee) © had heightened his apprecia-
tion of the more austere pleasures of the afternoon—Arch-
ibald Marshall) © a painter discards many trivial points
of exactness, in order to heighten the truthfulness of a few
fundamentals—Montague) © (Augustus sought . . . in
every way to enhance its [the Roman Senate's] prestige and dig-
nity—Buchan) ©

Ant accentuate, emphasize, stress, accent (see corre-
ponding nouns at EMPHASIS) magnify, aggravate, exalt
Ant temper: mitigate, allay: abate (sense 2) —Con *mod-
erate, qualify: alleviate, lighten, *relieve: reduce, lessen, diminish, * decrease

intent n *intention, purpose, design, aim, end, object, objec-
tive, goal
Ant will, volition, conation

intent adj Intent, engrossed, absorbed, rapt mean having one's mind or attention deeply fixed on something. Intent
implies that one's mind, one's desires, or one's energies are eagerly bent on something; it therefore suggests a
directing of the entire attention toward a particular end or thing (persons whose hearts are wholly bent toward plea-
sure, or intent upon gain—Spectator) © (the wise author
intent on getting at truth—Quiller-Couch) © for all its hid-
eous scars is no dead city, but one grimly intent on surviv-
all—Cassidy) © Engrossed implies monopolization of one's

Analogous words: Ana
Antonyms: Ant
Contrasted words: Con
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
attention either by a driving purpose or emotion or an easier interest or by the force or urgency of circumstances beyond one’s control (he appears to have been so engrossed by domestic issues as to have given little attention to foreign problems—W. L. Langer) (Sieveking was naturally engrossed in the musical problem, which was perplexing enough—Hilton) (these constitutional changes . . . were pushed through during and after the war by a group of busybodies who were not too much engrossed by the agony of their country to conduct a raging agitation in all parts of England—Inge) Absorbed often differs little from engrossed in this sense (the point is that Broch is never engrossed in, and never permits the reader to become absorbed by, the story itself—Arendt) but it may carry a stronger suggestion of the power of the thing on which the attention is fixed to capture one’s attention and to hold it firmly so that there is difficulty in distracting it (wholly absorbed in his preparations for saving souls in the gold camps—blind to everything else—Ana) Farthest North. Imogen, at eight years old, had read it, absorbed, breathless, intent, tongue clenched between teeth—Rose Macaulay) Rapt implies both extreme intentness and complete absorption, as though one were taken out of oneself or were in an ecstatic trance (rapt in adoring contemplation—Farrar) (expounded the ultimate meaning of existence to the white, rapt faces of Humanity—L. P. Smith) (in openmouthed wonder the lama turned to this and that, and finally caught in rapt attention before a large alto-relief representing a coronation or apotheosis of the Lord Buddha—Kipling) 

Ana attending or attentive, minding, watching (see corresponding verbs at TEND): *abstracted, preoccupied: concentrated (see COMPACT vb): riveted (see SECURE vb) Ant distracted

intention, intent, purpose, design, aim, end, object, objective, goal are comparable when meaning what one proposes to accomplish or to attain by doing or making something, in distinction from what prompts one (the motive), or from the activity itself (the means), or from the actual or envisioned outcome (the effect). The first four of these words stress the clearly defined will to do or make something. Intention, however, often denotes little more than what one has in mind to do or to bring about (she had not had an intention or a thought of going home—Dickens) (she had divined the intention behind her mother’s tolerance—Joyce) (announced its intention to divide its Indian Empire into two dominions—Current Biog.) Intent suggests clearer formulation and greater deliberateness than intention (they become enamored of official declarations of intent, though not much is said about the machinery to translate intent into action—Cousins) (behind my look you saw such unmistakable intention—Millet) Purpose implies more settled determination or more resolution than intention (have a purpose in life) (the missionary was here for a purpose, and he pressed his point—Cather) (there lie youth and irresolution: here manhood and purpose—Meredith) Design carries further the notion of deliberateness and purposiveness in formulating an intention; in this sense it is not always clearly distinguishable from design denoting plan (see under PLAN n), for it retains the implications of careful ordering of details, of calculation, and sometimes of scheming (a great man by accident rather than design—Laski) I had suspected him of harboring sinister designs—Hudson) (the United States has no ulterior designs against any of its neighbors—Vandenberg) Aim implies a clear definition of something that one hopes to effect and a direction of one’s efforts or energies to its attainment; thus, one who proposes to make the best of his powers and of his opportunities may be said to have a purpose in life: one who has clearly defined the mark he hopes to reach and determines his actions by it may be said to have an aim in life (her steadiness and courage in the pursuit of her aims—J. R. Green) (the aim of the Elizabethans was to attain complete realism—T. S. Eliot) The remaining words of this group, like aim, imply that what one does is affected by what one hopes to accomplish or attain. End in this relation retains some of the suggestion of remote ness and finality inherent in some of its other senses (see LIMIT, END 2) and therefore is appropriately applied to an aim or purpose which takes its nature from principle or logical necessity and of which the attainment requires a definite and planned course of action leading to the modification of existent reality (holding that the good of the end justified all the evil of the means) (the relation between means and ends is clearly bound up with a temporal view. Ends are in the future, means in the present. We do control means, we do not control ends. Hence the foolishness of conceiving ends apart from means. On the contrary, ends must be judged, and evaluated, in the light of the means available for their attainment—Visalberghi) (provide the safeguard we need against the abuse of mankind’s scientific genius for destructive ends—Dean) (the end of law was to bring about the widest possible abstract individual liberty—Roscoe Pound) (it is commonly said and commonly believed that science is completely neutral and indifferent as to the ends and values which move men to act: that at most it only provides more efficient means for realization of ends that are and must be due to wants and desires completely independent of science—Dewey) Object and objective apply to an end as being that toward which effort or action or emotion (as hope) is directed (the object is to gather data that can be taken only during a total solar blackout—Coven) (one of the important objectives of public education has been and will always be to inspire in youth a deep appreciation of the basic spiritual and religious values which give meaning to existence—Current Biog.) Distinctively, object may suggest an end based on more individually determined desires, needs, or intentions (Colonel Belgrave, who is bent on aborting Amanda . . . pursues his object with a pertinacity and ingenuity that does credit to his understanding—Crothers) (the object of a legislator, he declares, is to make not a great but a happy city—Dickinson) (we call a man cruel who takes pleasure in the suffering of others and inflicts it with that object—Bellow) while objective may suggest one which is concrete and immediately attainable or at least one which involves no obviously insurmountable problems (the objectives of the Guild are to promote and advance the spiritual, social, educational and recreational welfare of the blind persons in the Diocese—Humrah) (Columbia included among its earliest stated objectives the instruction of youth in surveying, navigation, husbandry, commerce, government, and manufacture—Eurich) Goal often evokes the image of one running a race: usually it implies struggle and endurance of hardships and cessation of effort at attainment (the Goal, which is the goal of all moral endeavor—Inge) (In the average man’s mind leisure is a goal to strive for—Furnas) (equality is, of course, a goal or ideal rather than an immediately attainable objective—Gallagher)

Ana *plan, design, scheme, project: desiring or desire, wishing or wish (see corresponding verbs at DESIRE)

intentional *voluntary, deliberate, willful, willing

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

**Ana** intendent, meant, purpose, proposed (see INTEND), considered, premeditated, advised, studied, designed, *deliberate

**Ant** instinctive —**Con** *accidental, casual, fortuitous: inadvertent, thoughtless, *careless, heedless

**intercalate** interpolate, insert, *introduce, interpose, interject, insinuate

**intercede** mediate, intervene, *interpose, interfere

**interchange** vb *exchange, bandy

**Ana** transpose, *reverse

**intercourse, commerce, traffic, dealings, communication, communion, conversation, converse, correspondence** are comparable when meaning the connection established between persons or peoples through a medium that permits interchange (as of information, of opinions, of ideas, or of goods). **Intercourse** usually means little more than this and requires a qualifying adjective to indicate the things interchanged or the medium permitting interchange (business intercourse) (trade intercourse) (sexual intercourse) (social intercourse). In ordinary use, when employed without qualification, intercourse means social intercourse or the normal interchange of such things as ideas, opinions, news, and civilities between one person or group and another with whom there are more or less intimate relations (the truth was, he could not be happy for long without human intercourse —Cather) (the keen and animated intercourse with its exchange of disputable convictions —Repliger) (he welcomes extra-class intercourse with students and encourages them to think critically —G. H. White) (if nations are to cooperate, the first condition must be that they have social and political intercourse —E. B. White). **Commerce**, which applies primarily to the interchange of goods by buying and selling (for this sense, see BUSINESS 3) also is used in the more general sense of intercourse in which it is considered a type of behavior between living creatures characterized by mutuality, rooted in biological heredity, and constituting one of the general manifestations of life —(Révéz) or of the process or art of effectively interchanging symbols (in order to develop and maintain that basic consensus of values, beliefs, and institutional behavior upon which its existence must rest . . . a society must maintain effective communication among its parts . . .). Indeed, the effectiveness of the communication process is a measure of the social integration of a society —Cottrell) (Lilly was not expert in communication, and did not try to draw Mr. Sprockett out although it would have been easy —Ethel Wilson) or, in the plural, of the means by which spatially or temporally separated individuals or groups engage in such exchanges (communication) were disrupted by the storm (there is . . . no conclusive evidence that the organized life of any Romanos-British town survived the severance of its communications in the troubles of the fifth century —Stenton) (the poor communications that exist in many factories between the front office and the men at the workbenches —Purtell). **Communion** usually implies intercourse between those who are close in love or sympathy or in mutual understanding; it often suggests rather than implies spiritual intercourse or the absence of words (the consummation of communion with God coincides with the final resolution of the sense of estrangement from Him —Inge) (Delia sat down beside her, and their clasped hands lay upon the coverlet. They did not say much . . . their communion had no need of words —Wharton) (most of the time my father was buried in his religious books, and my mother recognized it as her function to keep this communion undisturbed —Behrman). **Conversation** has a use, chiefly in the phrase criminal conversation, in which it is equivalent to sexual intercourse, and converse has a poetic sense in which it approaches communion (to hold fit converse with the spiritual world —Wordsworth) (to spend in pure converse our eternal day —Rupert Brooke). In general use, however, both terms usually imply free and often lively oral interchange of opinions, comments, or news between two or more persons; conversation often applies specifically to the act of interchanging opinions, ideas, and information in talk, and converse, to the ideas, gossip, and opinions involved in such conversation (an important general . . . deep in converse with the wealthiest of all the astrologers of those war years —Han Suyin) (give a freedom to resolve difference by converse —Oppenheimer) (we had talk enough, but no conversation; there was nothing discussed —Johnson) (genuine conversation —by which I mean something distinguishable from disputation, lamentation, and joke telling —Krutch). **Correspondence** implies intercourse through an interchange of letters (there has been no letup in their correspondence for fifty years) (the business was conducted by correspondence).

**interdict** vb ban, inhibit, enjoin, *forbid, prohibit

**Ana** proscribe (see SENTENCE): debar, rule out, *exclude: *restrain, curb, check

---

**ana** analogous words

**ant** antonyms

**con** contrasted words
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
interject, introduce, insert, insinuate, interpose 1
interpenetrate
nuncio, legate, *ambassador, minister, envoy, internuncio
internal
interpolante
interpose
*throw, toss, cast: *intrude, obtrude: *push, shove, thrust
interfere, interfere, intervene, mediate, intercede
interfere with radio reception) <wooden palings that did not see those at IMPENETRATE
interpolate
interpose, interject
*enter, introduce, admit: *intrude, interlope: *add, superadd, annex, append
interpose 1 interject, introduce, insert, interpose, intercalate
*throw, toss, cast: *intrude, obtrude: *push, shove, thrust

2 Interpose, interfere, intervene, mediate, intercede all basically mean to come or to go between two persons, two things, or a person and thing. Interpose (see also INTRODUCE 2) may be used in place of any of the succeeding words largely because it carries no further implications, except as they are derived from the context <the tops of the trees behind him interposed between him and the sun—Forster> he should not interpose between other engineers and their clients when unsolicited—Wagner> our host . . . interposed and forbade the experiment, pleading at the same time for a change of subject—Shaw> Interfere (see also MIDDLE) implies a getting in the way of a person or thing whether by crossing his or its path—or, more often, by creating a condition that hinders his movement, activity, or vision or its free operation or full effectiveness <parliament interfered to protect employers against their laborers—Froude> the atmospheric disturbance interfered with radio reception) <wooden palings that did not interfere with a wide view—Mackenzie>
Intercede may be used with reference to something that interposes itself or is interposed between things in space or time <a huge and at that time apparently barren waste . . . intervenes between the St. Lawrence basin and the fertile prairie—Sandwell> <the events of the intervening years—Dewey> or between persons <the interjection of a third party who has a valid interest, or who intervenes between the physician and the patient—W. T. & Barbara Fitts> or between a person and his interests, work, or goal <the trained self-consciousness, which . . . intervenes between the poet's moods and his poetry—Day Lewis> <fortunately, mercy and diplomacy intervened and the vengeful sentence was never carried out—Thruelsen>

Mediate often specifically implies intervention between those who are hostile, antagonistic, or otherwise opposed to each other, for the sake of reconciling them or settling their difficulties; mediate usually implies, as intervene need not imply, an interest in both sides or freedom from bias toward either side <Bacon attempted to mediate between his friend and the Queen—Macaulay> <I want to mediate between the two of you now, because if this breach continues it will be the ruin of us all—Graves> But mediate may also be used abstractly in reference to something that lies between extremes or contradictions and effects either their union or a transition between them <critics . . . who mediated between extreme points of view—Glicksberg>
Intervene implies intervention on another's and usually an offender's behalf and the use of one's good offices in imploring mercy or forgiveness for him from the one who has been injured or offended <for each at utter need—true comrade and true foeman—Madonna, interceded—Kipling> <the Duchess of Aiguillon interceded for Marie de Médicis with Richelieu> <the conviction that the Western powers would not intercede in favor of the peoples of the satellites—Timasheff>

*intrude, butt in, interlope: *meddle, intermeddle: interrupt (see ARREST)
interpret elucidate, construe, *explain, expound, explicate
illustrate, *exemplify: gloss, *annotate: comment, commentate (see REMARK vb)
Con distort, contort, *deform: *misrepresent, garble: *mistake, confuse, confound
interrogate question, catechize, quiz, examine, *ask, query, inquire
Con *answer, reply, respond, rejoin, retort
interrupt *arrest, check
Ana suspend, stay, interrupt, *defer, postpone: *intrude, obtrude, intervene, butt in: interfere, intervence
*break, gap, interval, interim, hiatus, lacuna
*pause, recess, respite, lull, intermission: *breach, rupture, rent, split, rift
interstice *aperture, orifice
interval *break, gap, interruption, interim, hiatus, lacuna
*period, epoch, age, era: *pause, respire, lull, interruption: *breath, rupture, rent, split, rift
interfere, interfere, intervene, intercede, interfere
*indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak: allude, advert, refer
Con *express, voice, utter, vent, air: declare, *assert, affirm, aver, avouch, profess: *suppress, repress: conceal, *hide
intimate adj *familiar, close, confidential, chummy, thick
*answer, reply, respond, rejoin, retort
*mistake, confuse, confound

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
by implied threats (a mean, stingy, bulldozing poseur with woodchuck whiskers—Pegler) (through the sheer strength of his reputation and the force of his will bulldozing them into making loans—F. L. Allen) (some irate customer who had come in to bulldoze me ... and had tried to bully me with mere words—White) (Bully) implies intimidation through overbearing, swaggering threats or insults, and in schoolboy usage it usually suggests bulldozing of small boys by those who are larger or more aggressive (suppose the cabman bullies you for double fare—Shaw) (1) (I know what you're going to call me ... but I am not to be bullied by words—L. P. Smith) (Browbeat) implies a cowering through arrogant, scornful, contemptuous, or insolent treatment (he browbeat the informers against us, and treated their evidence with ... little favor—Fielding) (who saw my old kind parents ... too much trustful ... cheated, browbeaten, stripped and starved, cast out into the kennel—Browning) (Ana) terrorize, terrify, *frighten: hector, hound, ride, chivy, *bait, badger: coerce, *force, compel, constrain, oblige (Con) *coax, wheedle, cajole, blandish: persuade, prevail, *induce (intol) intolerant *illiberal, narrow-minded, narrow, bigoted, hidebound (Ana) obdurate, *inflexible: *antipathetic, unsympathetic, adverse (Ant) tolerant—Con *forbearing, indulgent, lenient intonation *inflection, accent (intone) *sing, roll, carol, descant, warble, trill, hymn, chant intoxicated *drunk, drunken, inebriated, tipsy, tight (Ana) fuddled, befuddled, confused, muddled (see confuse): maudlin, *sentimental (Con) *sober, temperate intractable *unruly, ungovernable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong (Ana) obstreperous, boisterous (see vociferous): contumacious, rebellious, factious, *insubordinate: froward, perverse, *contrary, wayward, balky (Ant) tractable—Con *obedient, docile, biddable, amenable: *tame, submissive, subdued: *compliant, acquiescent intrepid *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, valiant, valorous, dauntless, undaunted, doughty, bold, audacious (Ana) daring, venturesome, *adventurous, daredevil: mettlesome, high-spirited, *spirited, fiery: plucky, gritty (see corresponding nouns at fortitude) (Con) timorous, *timid: *fearful, apprehensive, afraid intricate complicated, involved, *complex, knotty (Ana) perplexing, puzzling, mystifying, bewildering (see puzzle vb): tortuous (see winding): difficult, *hard, arduous (Con) *easy, simple, light, smooth, facile, effortless: obvious, plain, clear, patent, *evident, manifest intrigue n 1 conspiracy, machination, *plot, cabal (Ana) scheme, design, *plan: stratagem, maneuver, ruse, artifice, *trick, feint, gambit, ploy 2 liaison, affair, *amour intriguing *interesting, engrossing, absorbing (Ana) provoking or provocative, piquing, exciting (see corresponding verbs at provoke): mystifying, puzzling (see puzzle): luring, tempting, enticing, inveigling (see lure) intrinsic *inherent, ingrained, constitutional, essential (Ana) *inner, inward, internal, interior, inside, intestinal: *innate, inborn, inbred, congenital: natural, normal, typical, *regular extrinsic *outer, outward, external, outside, exterior: adventitious, *accidental, incidental: added, annexed, appended, superadded (see add): extraneous, alien, foreign (see extrinsic) introduce 1 *enter, admit (Ana) induct, install, inaugurate (see initiate): instill, inculcate, *implant: *infuse, inoculate, imbue 2 Introduce, insert, insinuate, interpolate, intercalate, interpose, interject mean to put something or someone in a place among or between other things or persons. Introduce (see also ENTER 2) implies a bringing forward of someone or something not already in company with the other persons or things, but it also suggests as the aim of such an act the placing of the person or thing in the midst of that group or collection so as to form a part of it (introduce a new subject into the conversation) (introduce several amendments into a bill before the legislature) (domestic science was introduced into the high school curriculum—Current Biology) (insert) implies a setting of a thing in a fixed place between or among other things; thus, to insert lace in a garment is to put it between two pieces of the material which forms the garment; to insert leaves in a book is to put leaves into their proper places (as by the use of glue) (insert additional words in a statement) (nowhere else, surely, can there be such a compulsion to make plays out of books, musicals out of plays ... to insert scenes, delete characters—Kronenberger) (Insinuate (see also SUGGEST) implies a slow, careful, often gentle or artful introduction (as into or through a narrow or winding passage) by pushing or worming its or one's way (the dog liked to insinuate his nose into his master's closed hand) (slang ... has to insinuate itself into the language: it cannot pressure or push its way in—Sat. Review) (trees which insinuate their roots into the fissures of nearby rocks) (slowly but surely they insinuated themselves through the crowd to the edge of the pavement) (he couldn't quite insinuate the Huntingtons into American society, but he did pretty well for them in England—Behrman) (Interpolate) implies the insertion of something that does not belong to and requires to be distinguished from the original, whether because it is extraneous to the subject under discussion or because it is spurious or simply because it is in fact not part of the original (although here and there, I omit some passages, and shorten others and disguise names, I have interpolated nothing—Le Fanu) (he has interpolated editorial and critical comments of his own—Redman) (Intercalate) primarily implies an insertion in the calendar (as of a day or month) (since the calendar year contained only 355 days, an extra month was occasionally intercalated—R. H. Baker) but in its extended sense it implies insertion into a sequence or series, then often also connoting intrusion (lava beds intercalated between sedimentary layers of rock) (some of these discrepancies ... are obviously due to the fact that Chaucer is intercalating stories previously written—H. S. Bennett) (Interpose) (see also INTERPOSE 2) differs from interpose mainly in its implication that what is inserted serves as an obstacle, obstruction, or cause of delay or postponement (she actually interposed her body between him and the street door then, as though physically to prevent him from going—Ferber) (the early Church fought against the tendency to interpose objects of worship between God and man—Inge) (Professor Murray has simply interposed between Euripides and ourselves a barrier more impenetrable than the Greek language—T. S. Eliot) (All of these words, interject carries the strongest implication of abrupt or forced introduction (he remained silent for the most part but occasionally interjected a question) (as they chewed on bones and roots, they paused to interject grunts of encouragement for the narrator—Mott) The word is often employed in place of said in introducing a remark, statement, or ques-
introduction, prologue, prelude, preface, foreword, exordium, preamble are comparable when denoting something that serves as a preliminary or as an antecedent to an extended treatment, development, discussion, or presentation (as in an exposition, a dramatic or musical work, or a poem). In their extended senses many of these terms are interchangeable, but in the special or technical senses in which they are here chiefly considered they tend to be mutually exclusive. **Introduction**, the ordinary term of this group, and the comprehensive one, specifically applies to that part of a work (as a discourse, treatise, play, or musical composition) which precedes the reader or auditor for the body of the work, especially by giving him material necessary for his understanding of what follows. He always writes the body of his treatise first and then adds the introduction and conclusion. **Prologue** applies specifically to the initial and distinct part of a poetic or dramatic work which may serve the purposes of an introduction (as by describing the characters or expounding the situations in which they find themselves) **Chaucer's Prologue to the Canterbury Tales** or which may be a discourse preceding the opening of a play, by a character of the play or by an actor who serves as a mouthpiece for the author, and giving a hint of the author's purposes or methods or attempting to attract the auditors' attention to or interest in the play to come (the Prologue to Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida and to each act of his King Henry V). In his prologue, which contains some of the finest poetry-in-prose writing of our day, Dr. MacIver explores the meaning of time—Donald MacIver—In its extended use, therefore, the prologue often suggests an action or an event that sets the stage or paves the way for a series of exploits, achievements, or significant events (this as a prologue to her own later dazzling history—Hugh Walpole). **Prelude** applies in its general sense to something (as a series of events, actions, or natural phenomena) which constitute figuratively a short play or performance and serve as a sign or indication of or a preparation for what is to follow (functional changes in glands often serve as a prelude to structural changes). This was the prologue to a stormy afternoon—H. G. Wells). As a technical term in music prelude applies sometimes to an opening voluntary in a religious service but more often, and more specifically, to an introductory piece forming a section or a movement, especially of a fugue or a suite but sometimes of an oratorio or of an opera, and serving usually to introduce the theme or chief subject of the work. In this sense prelude applies sometimes to musical, or occasionally other, works which have something of the character of an introductory section or movement but are so constructed that they have intrinsic and independent value (Wordsworth's poem "The Prelude"). In ecclesiastical use preface applies to the prayer of exhortation to thanksgiving and of divine praise which opens the important part of a solemn Eucharistic service where the consecration of the bread and wine occurs. In its more common general sense preface applies specifically to a short discourse which is distinct from the literary work (as a treatise, a novel, a poem or collection of poems) which follows, is written usually by the author but sometimes by an editor or a friend, and has for its main purpose either to put the reader into the right frame of mind for the understanding or appreciation of the work he is about to read or to supply him with information that may be necessary to his proper understanding or use of it. When, however, a work is preceded by both a preface and an introduction, preface is usually applied to the introductory discourse written, and often also signed, by the author or editor, and introduction to the one which is definitely informative rather than personal in its character and usually carries no signature. In extended use preface may apply to something which serves as an introduction or prelude (as an introductory work on or a more or less tentative treatment of a subject) Walter Lippmann's book entitled A Preface to Morals or to an act or speech, or series of acts or speeches, which has no other purpose than to prepare the way for what is to follow (they walked in the rose garden. "Do you read Utopias?" said Mr. Direck, cutting any preface, in the English manner—H. G. Wells) we fight for lost causes because we know that our defeat and dismay may be the preface to our successor's victory—T. S. Eliot. **Foreword** when used in place of preface in reference to front matter of a book may suggest simplicity and brevity of treatment and more often than not applies to material prepared by someone other than the author. **Exordium**, a technical term of rhetoric, applies to a formal beginning, especially of an oration but sometimes of a written exposition or argument, in which the speaker or writer makes an approach to his subject by remarks intended to awaken the interest of his auditors or readers and to pave the way for their understanding of what he is to say or for their acceptance of his conclusions. **Preamble** applies to a formal introduction, often only an introductory paragraph (as in a statute, a constitution, a treaty, a deed, or a set of resolutions) which states the grounds, purposes, or guiding principles of what follows. It is sometimes used as a designation of a long monotonous preface. **Introductory** adj. *preliminary, preparatory, prefatory*. *Ant closing, concluding*. **Intrude**, obtrude, interlope, butt in are comparable when meaning to thrust oneself or something in without invitation or authorization. Intrude both transitively and intransitively carries a strong implication of forcing someone or something in without leave, without right, or against the will of others; it often connotes rudeness, officiousness, or invasion of another's property, time, or personal privacy (this court always had disavowed the right to intrude its judgment upon questions of policy or morals—Justice Holmes). **Sayer** I stood there, feeling very abashed at intruding on all these busy people—Mannix. **Obtrude** in this relation retains much of its basic notion of pushing or extending something into view; it may imply nothing beyond this fact (I intended plain prose, but a rhyme obtruded itself and I became poetical—Cowper) or it may suggest the impropriety and objectionableness of the act or the disagreeableness of the offense (the first sin against style as against good manners is to obtrude one's personality—Quiller-Couch). **Interloper** implies an interposition of oneself in a place or position which has an injurious effect on one or both of the persons or things concerned (he regarded her new acquaintance as an interloping ruffian who don't know the rules of the game—Time). **Buff** in implies an abrupt or offensive intrusion suggestive of the manner in which a horned animal attacks its enemy; in this sense the term usually suggests absence of ceremony, a sense of propriety, or decent restraint (it's a thankless job to butt in and tell a man that in your important opinion his wife is a vampire bat—Sinclair Lewis).
invasion, inroad are comparable when incursion, inure
*habituate, accustom, addict
inundation
*flood, deluge, torrent, spate, cataract
priceless, precious, valuable, dear, *costly,
nullify, negate, annul, abrogate
invalidate
*nullify, negate, annul, abrogate
*enforce, implement
invalid
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nullify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nullify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nullify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, negate, annul, abrogate
*nulify, neg...
inventory

Create stresses a causing of something to exist; it not only implies previous nonexistence but it often suggests an evoking of something into being out of, or as if out of, nothing (as by fiat, by an act of the will, or by inspiration) (God created the heaven and the earth—Gen 1:1) (the law creates rights) (the king created an earldom for his favorite) (to this strange force within him, to this power that created his works of art, there was nothing to do but submit—Huxley) (I do not believe that a sense of justice is innate, but I have been astonished to see how quickly it can be created—Russell) (modern science, which created this dilemma, is also capable of solving it—Bliven b. 1889) Discover (see also DISCOVER 2: REVEAL) presupposes both the existence of and a lack of knowledge about something; the term therefore implies the finding of such a thing, often as the result of mental or physical effort (as by exploration, investigation, or experiment) (remains of this Belgic culture have often been discovered—Jacquetta & Christopher Hawkes) (men who were fighting Communism long before McCarthy ever discovered it—Davis) (William Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood) Thus, in discriminative use one invents processes or ways of doing something, as well as instruments, tools, implements, or machines, but one discovers things which exist but have not yet been known (as lands, stars, or natural laws) (Newton invented the differential and the integral calculus ... and discovered the laws of motion—Darow)

Ana

fabricate, fashion, form, shape, forge, *make: imagine, conceive, envision (see THINK); design, project, plan, plot, scheme (see under PLAN 2A); produce, turn out (see BEAR)

inventory

n *list, register, schedule, catalog, table, roll, roster

invest

v b transposes, *reverse

Ana

upset, *overturn, capsize: interchange, *exchange: Ana

divest, strip (of robes, insignia, power): unfrock Ana

endue, endow (see DOWER): consecrate (see DEVOTE)

Ant

destitute, destitute, destitute, destitute

investigation

probe, inquest, inquiry, *inquiry, research

Ana

inspection, examination, scrutiny, audit (see under SCRUTINIZE); surveying or survey, observing or observation (see corresponding verbs at SEE)

invertebrate, confirmed, chronic, deep-seated, deep-rooted

are comparable when meaning so firmly established or settled that change is almost impossible. Invertebrate applies especially to something which has persisted so long and so obstinately that it has become a fixed habit or an almost inalterable custom or tradition (the growing infirmities of age manifest themselves in nothing more strongly than in an invertebrate dislike of interruption—Lamb) (supported by precedent so invertebrate that the chance of abandonment is small—Cardozo) When applied to a person, the term implies the formation of a seemingly ineradicable habit, attitude, or way of acting or behaving (an invertebrate smoker) (an invertebrate and formidable foe—Peacock) Confirmed applies chiefly to something which has grown stronger or firmer with time until it resists all attack or assault or attempts to uproot it (a confirmed belief in God) (a confirmed hatred of a person) not so easy to say that a confirmed anti-American mood has settled on the British people—Barbara Ward) Like invertebrate, it may also apply to a person who is such as he is described in the noun by the strengthening or crystallization of a taste, a vice or virtue, or an attitude (a confirmed bachelor
inviolable
—H. O. Taylor— Something material (as a fortress) or intangible (as virtue) is impregnable when it is strong enough or sufficiently guarded to repel all attacks or assaults. There is no such thing as impregnable defense against powerful aggressors who sneak up in the dark and strike without warning—Roosevelt. Cato was a fanatic, impregnable to argument, and not to be influenced by temptation—Froude. There was always a traitor in the cabinet; and after he (or generally she) had surrendered the keys, what was the use of pretending that it was impregnable?—Wharton. A thing is inexpugnable or unassailable either because it is impregnable or because it offers no point at which it can be attacked or no occasion or reason (as a weakness or a defect) for attacking or impugning. Castles were often built at the tops of craggy mountains in the hope that they might be inexpugnable. That we are conscious, sentient, evaluating and thinking creatures . . . is an inexpugnable fact of existence—Nagel. Nothing but an unassailable alibi would save them—Stong. An argument so logical and convincing that it is unassailable. A person or thing is invulnerable that cannot be wounded or penetrated by a destructive weapon or piercing instrument. They had lived through the Nazi plague and, having survived, were henceforth invulnerable to its poison—Dean. Ironclad warships were once believed to be invulnerable. How was one to pierce such hidebound complacency? It was invulnerable except to the Grace of God—Mackenzie. Ana dauntless, undaunted, intrepid (see BRAVE). Con conquerable, vanquishable, surmountable, subduable (see corresponding verbs at CONQUER).

inviolable
inviolable, *sacred, sacrosanct
Ana hallowed, consecrated, dedicated (see DEVOTE): *holy, sacred, blessed, divine, religious: pure, *chaste.

inviolate
sacrosanct, *sacred, inviolable
Ana violated—Con profaned, desecrated (see corresponding nouns at PROFANATION): polluted, defiled (see CONTAMINATE).

invite, bid, solicit, court, woo are comparable when they mean to request or encourage a person or a thing to come to one or to fall in with one's plans or desires. Invite in its ordinary and usual sense implies a courteous request to go somewhere, do something, or give some assistance which it is assumed will be agreeable or at least not disagreeable to the person invited. Invite an acquaintance to spend the night. Invite an audience to express their opinions. He had invited all the girls, including Miss Tolman, to go out with him on various occasions, but . . . everyone declined his offer—Woodfin. In this sense the word usually implies providing an opening for those who otherwise might hesitate to go, or do, or give without such a request. Consequently, in its extended sense invite implies providing an opening by such means as a seductive manner or a challenging statement or policy that serves as an encouragement or temptation to another. Dress so conspicuously as to invite unwelcome attentions. Fairly imminent collisions invited by the Captain's inept conning—Heggen. The writer who brings a new revelation is not necessarily called upon to invite the execution of the herd—Ellis. Bid (see also COMMAND vb) is increasingly uncommon in the sense of to request the presence of (as at a feast or great occasion) as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage—Mt 22:9 (usually with for), from its sense to offer a price for something up for sale, has developed an extended use in which it means to make an effort to win or attract or an appeal (as for sympathy) and in this use sometimes comes close to invite in conveying the notion of offering a tempting opening for something (in his difficult position he could not bid for their affection; he wanted only their obedience—Douglas). Stood for Congress in this virgin district, bidding for the support of labor—Green Peyton. Solicit (see also ASK 2) differs from invite in stressing urgency or need rather than courtesy in requesting or encouraging. We may come to feel a little impatient at having our pet so continually solicited—Edmund Wilson. Moral utterances which solicit the obedience of children—Melden. Court basically implies an endeavor to win the favor of a person (as by flattery, attentions, or making love) Only in its extended sense does it imply a providing of a favorable opportunity by tempting or encouraging something to come to one or to happen to one (he kept himself somewhat aloof, seeming to avoid notice rather than to court it—Arnold). So long as a scientific textbook is obsolete in a decade or less, to poetize science is to court mortality—Lowes. Woo basically implies amorous courting; consequently, in its extended sense it frequently stresses a drawing to or upon one by allurements, blandishments, and extravagant promises. Herodotus in search of a public . . . found a favorable "pitch," as we should say, and wooed an audience to him—Quiller-Couch. The young author trying to woo his reader, via heavy humor—Keene. Occasionally the word is very close to court and scarcely distinguishable from it. You . . . woo your own destruction—Shak.


involve 1 *entangle, enmesh

3 Involve, Implicate mean to bring a person or thing into circumstances or a situation from which he or it is not easily freed. Involve (see also INCLUDE) need not impute disgrace to the circumstances or situation but it usually implies complication or entangling and often suggests extreme embarrassment (the war may not end until every nation in Europe is involved in it). The case of a judge involved by the exigencies of his office in a strong conflict between public duty and private interest or affection—Colvin. Had been involved in some affair that made it uncomfortable for him to return to live in that city—Anderson. The controversies . . . moved on in all their ugliness to involve others—J. M. Brown. Implicate usually implies a disgraceful connection or one that casts a reflection on a person's reputation; it may even imply definite proof of association with a crime (the detectives discovered that an uncle of the child was implicated in its kidnapping). They were unable to implicate any of the suspected political leaders in the conspiracy to defraud the city (all men, even the most virtuous and wise, are implicated in historic evil—Niebuhr.

Ana ensnare, entrap, snare, trap (see CATCH): connect, link, associate, relate (see JOIN): *embarrass: fetter, shackles, *hamper.


involved intricate, complicated, knotty, *complex
Ana confused, muddled (see CONFUSE): perplexing, puzzling, bewildering, mystifying (see PUZZLE): difficult, *hard, arduous.

Con simple, *easy, facile.

invulnerable impregnable, inexpugnable, unassailable.
irritable, choleric, splenetic, testy, touchy, cranky, cross

mean easily angered or enraged. Irritable implies the possession of a fiery or inflammable temperament or a tendency to flare up at the slightest provocation. (the irritable but kindhearted deity who indulges in copious curses to ease his feelings—Cohen) (a peppy and irritable old gentleman—Shak.) (a testy and choleric gentleman easily wrought into passion—Cooper) Splenetic implies a similar temperament, but one especially given to moroseness and fits of bad temper which exhibit themselves in angry, sullen, or intensely peevish moods, words, or acts (that splenetic temper, which seems to grudge brightness to the flames of hell—Landor) (he was not splenetic: nay, he proved in the offending volume he could be civil, courteous, chivalrous—Meredith) Testy implies irritability occasioned by small annoyances (the testy major was in a frame to find no hunter standing waiting—Masefield) (he raged . . . he was ever more autocratic, more testy—Sinclair Lewis) Touchy suggests readiness to take offense; it often connotes undue irritability or oversensitiveness. (I am not touchy under criticism—Stevenson) (touchy about their own sacred symbols and alert to interpret any slight as an insult—Blanshard) Cranky and cross often mean little more than irritable and difficult to please. But cranky may carry an implication of the possession of set notions, fixed ideas, or unfounded standards which predispose one to anger or a show of temper when others (as in their speech, conduct, requests, or work) do not conform to the standards (a cranky critic) (a cranky employer) (a cranky teacher) (old age seemed to settle on me; I grew nervous, cranky and thin, I quarreled with the travelers—Rosenfeld) Cross, on the other hand, may imply a being out of sorts that results in irritability or irritability only but for the duration of one's mood (sometimes, when I am cross and cannot sleep, I engage in angry contests with the opinions I object to—L. P. Smith) (the attempts to persuade the Intelligent Woman that she is having a glorious treat when she is in fact being . . . bored and tired out and sent home cross and miserable—Shaw) (a irritable, fractious, snappish, waspish, huffy, querulous, petulant, peevish: *impatient, restive, jumpy, jittery, nervous: crabbed, surly (see Sullen) Con good-natured, *amiable, complaisant, obliging: *calm, placid, serene, tranquil

irate *angry, wrathful, wroth, mad, indignant, acrimonious

Provoked, exasperated, nettled, irritated (see irritate); incensed, infuriated, enraged (see anger vb) Con *forbearing, tolerant, clement, lenient, indulgent, merciful

ire rage, fury, *anger, indignation, wrath

passion: temper, humor, *mood

ireric *peculiar, peaceful, peaceful, pacifist, pacificist

conciliating or conciliatory, placating or placatory, propitiating or proprietary (see corresponding verbs at

Ana ambiguous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
... and the reserve, passivity, and isolation which myopia enforced, seemed to him absolutely irrational—Ellis] <though normal and very intelligent in most respects Mrs. Lincoln was irrational on one subject: she could not think straight in matters that pertained to money—R. P. Randall> Unreasonable implies guidance or control by some force (as self-will, passion, ambition, greed, or stubbornness) which makes one deficient in judgment or good sense. As applied to one's acts or utterances, it suggests lack of justification by reason; the term therefore comes close to inequitable, immoderate, excessive, unfair, or extravagant (you will not be so unreasonable as to send your child out in this storm) (his demands are unreasonable) (obstinate and unreasonable pertinacity) (an unreasonable price for beef) (the earnings ... were found materially in excess of a fair return, and the general level of their rates was found unjust and unreasonable—J. C. Nelson) (it is a little unreasonable to find fault with his maxims because they do not apply to all times and places—A. M. Young>

**Ana** absurd, preposterous, *foolish, silly*; fatuous, asinine, *simple; crazy, demented, mad, insane*  
**Ant** rational —Con reasonable (see RATIONAL): *wise, judicious, sage, sapient, prudent, sane, sensible*: "logical

irregular, anomalous, unnatural mean outside the sphere of what conforms to or is explainable by law, rule, custom, or principle. **Irregular** implies failure to conform to a rule, a law, or a pattern, especially to one imposed for the sake of uniformity in method, practice, or conduct; thus, an irregular marriage is one that does not conform to the regulations of church or state; an irregular verse does not conclude with the practice of civilized nations or conventional military theory; **irregular** conduct may or may not be morally reprehensible, but it defies the code or standard of the community or class (there are always irregular fluctuations of the seasonal weather—Ellis) (made a strong appeal for the highest standards of medical education in an effort to combat irregular practitioners—Vioet) (the chicanery was gross, the forgery patent, the procedure irregular and illegal—Woodward) Anomalous stresses lack of conformity to what might be expected of a thing because of the class or type to which it belongs, the laws which govern its existence, or the environment in which it is found (all seven of us ... appeared on the show under pseudonyms. Which may sound highly anomalous, considering that we're the children of vaudevilians, a sect not usually antipathetic to publicity—Salinger) Sometimes it specifically implies inconsistency or a conflict of principles (<acts so anomalous, in such startling contradiction to all our usual ways and accepted notions of life and its value—L. P. Smith>) and sometimes it specifically means unclassifiable or indefinable (<anomalous literary works such as Holmes's Autocrat of the Breakfast Table> <anomalous emotions>) Again, it suggests the absence of the character or of the characteristics essential to a thing of its kind (a few judges find in her last book new support for the anomalous opinion that its author was a great artist, but insignificant—Beck) or it suggests a contradiction between the professed aims or intentions of a person or institution and the conditions in which that person or institution exists or finds himself or itself at a given time (the anomalous position of the free Negro in the slave states—E. T. Price) (President Wilson found himself in an anomalous position when Congress rejected his proposal that the United States enter the League of Nations> Unnatural is the strongest of these words in its implication of censure, especially when it implies a violation of natural law or of principles accepted by all civilized men as based on reason and essential to the well-being of society. In such cases it often specifically connotes moral perversion (<an unnatural practice>) (she had been vicious and unnatural; she had thriven on hatred—S. S. Van Dine) or abnormal indifference or cruelty (<an unnatural parent> Sometimes the word merely means contrary to what is received as natural, either because it is not in accordance with the normal course of nature (<snow in May is unnatural in this region>) or because it is not in keeping with what one regards as normal, balanced, proper, or fitting under the circumstances (<an unnatural appetite for acid foods>) (a poetic language which appears natural to one age will appear unnatural or artificial to another—Day Lewis) (thy deed, inhuman and unnatural provokes this deluge most unnatural— Shak.) (a daughter who left her father was an unnatural daughter; her womanhood was suspect—Woolf) **Ana** aberrant, *abnormal, atypical*: *exceptional: singular, unique, *strange, peculiar, odd, queer

**Ant** regular —**Con** natural, normal, typical (see regular): *usual, customary, wonted, accustomed, habitual*; licit, legitimate, legal, *lawful

irreligious, unreligious, nonreligious, ungodly, godless mean not religious or not devoted to the ends of religion. Irreligious is not only the most common of the negative forms of religious but the most clearly defined in meaning, for it implies not merely lack of religion but hostility to religion or courses in opposition to it or in violation of its precepts (that non-churchgoers are not necessarily irreligious—Streit) It may even suggest impurity, immorality, or blasphemy (it is unworthy a religious man to view an irreligious one either with alarm or aversion—Carlyle) (they are so irreligious that they exploit popular religion for professional purposes without delicacy or scruple—Shaw) Unreligious, a somewhat uncommon term, implies nothing more than lack of religion; it therefore applies aptly to men, their utterances, or their works and suggests merely the absence of religion or of religious training or religious ideas (the popular poetry ... became unreligious . . . in some parts irreligious—Milman)   

**Nonreligious** applies not so much to persons as to institutions, activities, projects, and themes for art that are outside the sphere or province of religion or not under the control of a religious body; it therefore comes close in meaning to secular (see under PROFANE) <nonreligious education> <nonreligious charitable societies> <made it hard for them to trust a nonreligious institution, such as the State University—Amer. Guide Series: Ind>) Ungodly often comes close to irreligious, but it carries a stronger suggestion of disobedience to or defiance of divine law (blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly—Ps 1:1) (they decided to leave so ungodly a land—Usher) Godless commonly implies atheism or agnosticism and often definitely implies rejection of religion (<godless philosophers> <godless teachings>) (<here were decent godless people: their only monument the asphalt road—T. S. Eliot>) (fercely predicting the end of Lorenzo and all his godless court—Moorehead)

**Ana** impious, profane, blasphemous, sacrilegious: *im-moral, amoral, unmoral

**Ant** religious —**Con** pious, *devout

irritable, fractious, frolicious, peevish, snappish, wapish, petulant, pettish, huffy, fretful, querulous apply to persons or to their moods or dispositions in the sense of showing impatience or anger without due or sufficient cause. Irritable implies extreme excitability of temperament, often associated with or arising from fatigue or physical or mental
irritate, to make one exceedingly easy to annoy or difficult to please. Mental work brings on an irritable and nervous disgust—Arnold. A hot day and the clerk in the store was irritable... had not slept much the night before and he had a headache—Saxon. Fractious carries a stronger implication of willfulness or of unreasonableness than irritable, and although it also implies extreme excitability, it suggests even greater loss of self-control; the term is often applied to animals as well as to persons. Those who are spoilt and fractious, who must have everything their own way—Swinnerton. She was fractious in the saddling paddock and slow leaving the starting gate—Audax Minor. Peevish implies childish irritability and a tendency to give expression to petty complaints or ill-humored trivial criticisms. Peevish because he called her and she did not come, and he threw his bowl of tea on the ground like a willful child—Buck. I have heard some London wits, rather peevish at Macaulay's superiority, complain that he occupied too much of the talk—Thackeray. Snappish implies irritability or sometimes peevishness that manifests itself in sharp, cutting questions, comments, or objections that discourage conversation or sociability. Snappish is not easily ruffled, snappily is the more common oblique of bickering and snappish comment—Bester. Waspish stresses testiness rather than irritability, but it implies a readiness to sting or hurt others without warrant or without sufficient warrant. Beware of his waspish temper—her comments may be amusing but they are always waspish—a little waspish woman who... snapped out at a man who seemed to be with her—C. S. Lewis. Petulant usually suggests the sulkiness of a spoiled child as well as peevishness and capricious irritation. As he had no means of confuting his nephew, all he could do... was to utter petulant remarks on his powerlessness to appear at the dinner table that day—Meredith. In his youth the spoiled child of Boston, in middle life he was petulant and irritable, inclined to sulk when his will was crossed—Parrington. Pettish implies sulky or childish ill humor (as of one who is slighted or offended) said many careless, many foolish, many merely petty things—Fadiman. Stephen's resistance was but the pettish outbreak of a ruined man—J. R. Green. Huffy also implies a tendency to take offense without due cause, but it suggests more of a display of injured pride than pettish when he is reproved, he is huffy for the rest of the day—W. J. Locke. I hear no grudge at all against you. I am not huffy and crabbit—Gregory. Fretful implies irritability and restlessness that may manifest itself in complaints or in a complaining tone of voice. A fretful child but often is merely suggested by a lack of ease and repose—several villages were isolated by the storm—find an isolated spot in which to live. Her intensity, which would exasperate him sharply—Huxley. The air, breathed many times and spent, was fretful with a whispering discontent—Milly. Weary days of fretful argument—Charles & Mary Beard. Querulous implies an often habitual discontent that manifests itself in whining complaints or in fretfulness of temper; it often also suggests petulance. The man himself grew old and querulous and hysterical with failure and repeated disappointment and chronic poverty—Hughes. Ana cranky, cross, testy, touchy, choleric, splenetic, irascible. Ant easygoing—Con amiable, good-natured, complaisant, obliging; genial, sociable, affable, cordial, graceful; from momentary impatience to an outburst of rage the chattering crowd, with their rude jokes... irritated him sharply—Andersen. Her intensity, which would leave no emotion on a normal plane, irritated the youth into a frenzy—D. H. Lawrence. Something which exasperates arouses bitter or intense irritation. The word, however, sometimes expresses nothing more than keen vexation or annoyance an opportunity to... aggravate his poor patient wife, and exasperate his children, and make himself generally obnoxious—Simeon Ford. Though she could exasperate she could never offend—H. G. Wells. Something which nettles irritates sharply but momentarily and stings or piques more than angers a touch of light scorn in her voice nettled me—W. J. Locke. Something which provokes awakens strong annoyance or vexation and often incites to action a Tory resident who provoked local animosities and was charged with high treason—Amer. Guide Series: Conn. Though they were definitely provoked to extremity before they did this deed—Ingamells. He is provoked with me for not talking more—Burney. Something which aggravates (see also intensify) arouses displeasure, irritation, or anger often through prolonged or repeated action nothing so aggravates an earnest person as a passive resistance—Melville. It is aggravating to have you talking about so small a business—Shaw. Something which riles disturbs one's serenity or peace and agitates as well as angers with raucous taunting and ribald remarks to rile up the proprietor—White. Something which peeves excites often petty or querulous fretfulness or a tendency to be easily irritated... a restless night—when she ventured to criticize it, even mildly, he was peeved—Auchincloss. Ana *annoy, vex, irk, bother: incense, anger, madden, enrage, infuriate: offend, affront: fret, chafe (see abrade) Con appease, mollify, conciliate, propitiate, placate, pacify: gratify, please, gladden, delight isolate, segregate, seclude, insulate, sequester are comparable when they mean to separate from the usual or natural environment, but they are rarely interchangeable because their other and differentiating implications are often stressed. Isolate implies a detachment of someone or something from his or its usual environment so that he or it will not affect or be affected by others. The word is sufficiently general that it may be employed in reference either to an actual separation or to a separation that is merely virtual, arbitrary, or speculative. Several villages were isolated by the storm—find an isolated spot in which to live. Under present conditions no country can remain isolated—he was singularly isolated, untouched by the interest or the gossip or the knowledge of the life about him—Deland. We must remember that religion, like some chemical substance, is never found pure, and it is not at all easy to isolate it in order to learn its properties—Inge. Segregate also applies to both persons and things and usually refers to them as a group separated from the mass or main body; its secondary implication is often, therefore, a collection in one place, one class, one mass and it may in addition imply a holding incommunicado. Segregate is less decided than the rest of the population segregate hardened criminals from first offenders in prisons. That innate instinct which ever aimed at uniting, not segregating groups of Christians—D. P. Hughes. Seclude implies a removal or withdrawal from external influences; it is therefore often used reflexively or at least in such a way as to imply acceptance of the protection afforded by such removal or withdrawal seclude in their childhood from all evil influences—so she sat hard and close at her writing
isolation

470

An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group. A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated.
Brook invents fresh and interesting groupings—Knight> <Winchester rather than London was regarded as the official capital of the peripatetic monarchy—Trevelyan> <our peripatetic Scot has apparently ended his fictional travels and is now shorebound—Barkham> Ambulatory and ambulant both basically imply a relation to walking and may be close synonyms of pedestrian (ambulatory exercise) <an ambulant traveler> but more often they stress, as pedestrian does not, ability to walk or capability of walking as distinguished from the fact or practice of walking (ambulatory patients treated at the clinic) <he seemed an ambulant variety of cactus standing strangely in our way—Samples> When applied to things, ambulatory and ambulant imply lack of fixity especially in physical station (an ambulant radio station) <small ambulatory businesses> or occasionally (as in legal usage) in immaterial qualities; thus, the provisions of a will are ambulatory so long as the testator is alive and legally competent to alter them. Nomadic is applicable to individuals <he merely walked off and set out upon a nomadic career, finding work where he could—Lindner> but is more often used to designate groups or tribes of men who have no fixed place of residence but wander, according to season or food supply or the needs of their means of livelihood, from one place or region to another <the Bedouins are a nomadic tribe found in the deserts of Arabia, Syria, and North Africa> <a system that compels a large segment of labor to be nomadic, trailing endlessly from end to end of the country—G. W. Johnson> Vagrant (see also vagrant n under VAGABOND) as applied to human beings stresses lack of a fixed place of residence but unlike nomadic is applicable typically to individuals rather than to groups; in this use it commonly lacks the pejorative quality of the corresponding noun (the humility with which this vagrant and utterly original genius turned to them for wisdom—Sinclair Lewis) <I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life—Masefield> But in its more common application to things vagrant usually stresses the slight, fleeting, ephemeral quality of what is vaguely wandering rather than either firmly fixed or following a fixed course <to catch vagrant currents of air, door and window flaps were propped open—Heiser> <nature itself in its vagrant moods and infinite variety—Schlesinger d. 1965> <her mind, called vagrant, is like a butterfly, seemingly fragile and even awkward in erratic flight—Beck> <tasks too vagrant or too taxing ever to have been accomplished—Hilton> <the great increase in numbers of vagrant boys during the depression> An> wandering, roving, rambling, straying, roaming, ranging (see WANDER): moving, shifting (see MOVE vb)
snatching, locking, or breaking suddenly) <the hounds were fine beasts . . . lank and swift as they bent over the food to snap it into their jaws and swallow it quickly—Roberts> or a taking of possession with avidity <the syndicate snapping up land as soon as it is for sale> or sometimes specifically an uttering with the brisk sharpness of a bite <snapped at her because Theophilus did not eat enough—Dundal> Twitch may imply quick, sometimes spasmodic, and often light action combining tugging and jerking <shrunken body continued to jerk and quiver, tongues twitching at his gray beard—Gerald Beaumont> <one Pan ready to twitch the nymph's last garment off—Brown> <put out his hand to twitch off a twig as he passed—Cather> Yank implies a quick and heavy tugging and pulling <watches two-year-old stand passive while another child yanks his toy out of his hand—Mead> <she yanked the corset strings viciously—Chidsey> <by means of long blocks and tackle they set to yanking out logs—S. E. White> 

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
of attachment; it is therefore the more precise word when one wishes to preserve the basic implications of connect and yet to avoid its common connotations of a weak or severable attachment; thus, to link a person with a crime is, by implication, to have ample evidence of his involve-
ment with it (Augustus set himself to revive the state religion... as part of his policy of linking up past and present, and as an instrument in securing the restoration of the old morality—Buchan) none of the subjects that linked us together could be talked about in a bar—Nevil Shute (mobilize civilian science and link it effectively with the war effort—Baxter) Associate primarily implies a joining with another usually in an amiable relationship and on terms of equality (a group of men associated in business) when bad men combine, good men must associate—Burke (my father's conviction that they were too lowly to associate with me, when it was so clear that I was too poor to associate with them, may have had some sort of imaginary validity for him; but for me it was snobbish nonsense—Shaw) In its extended use as re-
ferred to things, the implication of companionship on equal terms gives way to the implication of a connection in logic or in thought which comes naturally or involun-
tarily to the mind of the observer either because the things traditionally go together, or naturally or rightfully belong together, or for some reason have come to be linked together in one's thoughts (for the artist life is always a discipline, and no discipline can be without pain. That is so even of dancing, which of all the arts is most asso-
ciated in the popular mind with pleasure—Ellis) (sur-
realism has been associated with psychological and intel-
lectual atmosphere common to periods of war—
Bernard Smith) (a fir tree is not a flower, and yet it is
associated in my mind with primroses—Jefferies) Relate implies a connection, or an attempt to show a connection, between two or more persons or things. In reference to persons it implies a connection through a common ancestor or through marriage (John and James are remotely related to each other) In reference to things or to persons objectively regarded, it implies that each has some bearing on the other and often indicates the existence of a real or presumed logical connection (related his misfortunes to events which preceded them) (the two circumstances are not related) (their ability to relate what they observe to what they know or have previously observed—Hil-
dreth)

Ana conjoin, *unite, combine, cooperate, concure: articu-
late, concatenate, *integrate: attach, affix, *fasten: knit, *
weave: *tie, bind
Ant disjoin: part —Con *separate, sever, sunder: *de-
tach, disengage: disentangle, untangle, disembarrass (see EXTRICATE)

Joint, articulation, suture denote a place where two things are united or the mechanism by which they are united. Joint is the most inclusive of these terms and is freely usable in reference both to anatomical and mechanical structures. In anatomical reference it applies to a junction whether rigidly fixed or capable of more or less complex movements of two skeletal parts (as vertebrate bones or cartilages or molluscan shell valves) and is the one of these terms that is equally applicable to the bodily region or part at which there is such a junction (the knee joint) (the joint at the elbow is flexible) he aches in every joint) Similarly, in mechanical reference, joint applies to a junction between two parts that serves as a coupling and may be rigid (a dovetail joint at the corner of a drawer) (a joint in a gas pipe) (mortar joints between bricks carefully finished to shed water) or may form a flexible union (a swivel joint) (the ball joints... have a lateral as well as up-and-down action, thus cushioning against bumps—Ford Times) or even (as in a universal joint) one through which motion is transmitted from one part to the other. Articulation is chiefly an anatomical term, though it has some extended use (see under INTE-
GRATE). Anatomically articulation is applicable to the same parts of the skeleton as joint but distinctively it implies, as joint does not, the fitting together or adjustment of two parts or bones with relation not only to each other but to the entire structure and its function and is therefore not applicable, as joint is, to the bodily region or part where a joint occurs. It is especially appropriate when the mechanism of a joint or the elements entering into its formation are under consideration (ball-and-socket structure of a movable articulation) (various articulations are supported by ligaments) (the synovial membrane reduces friction at an articulation) The word may also denote the process of joining or the adjustment in joining (in the flat bones the articulations usually take place at the edges—Henry Gray) Suture is used of a joint or articulation that suggests a seam or that has been brought about by sewing (the joints of the two parts of a pea pod are called respectively the ventral and dorsal sutures) (the form of articulation observable in the skull where two flat bones meet in a line is called a suture) Suture is used in surgery of a seam, especially of one whereby two edges of an incision are brought together so that they may ultimately unite.

I joke, jest, jape, quip, witticism, wisecrack, crack, gag are comparable when they mean a remark, story, or action intended to evoke laughter. Joke, when applied to a story or remark, suggests something designed to promote good humor and is especially an anecdote with a humorous twist at the end; when applied to an action, it often signifies a practical joke, usually suggesting a fooling or deceiving of someone at his expense, generally though not neces-
sarily good humor in intent (everyone knows the old joke, that "black horses eat more than white horses," a puzzling condition which is finally cleared up by the statement that "there are more black horses"—Reilly) (issues had become a hopeless muddle and national politics a biennial joke—Wecter) (a child hiding mother's pocketbook as a joke) (the whole tale turns out to be a monstrous joke, a deception of matchless cruelty—Redman) Jest may connote raillery or ridicule but more generally suggests humor that is light and sportive (continually... make a jest of his ignorance—J. D. Beres-
ford) (won fame by jests at the foibles of his time, but... his pen was more playful than caustic—Williams & Pollard) Jape is identical with jest or joke (the merry japes of fundamentally irresponsible young men—Ed-
mund Fuller) (the japes about sex still strike me as being prurient rather than funny—McCarten) Quip suggests a quick, neatly turned, witty remark (full of wise saws and homely illustrations, the epigram, the quip, the jest—Cardozo) (many quips at the expense of individuals and their villages—Mead) (enlivened their reviews with quips—Dunham) Witticism, wisecrack, and crack all apply to a clever or witty, especially a biting or sarcastic, remark, generally serving as a retort (all the charming witticisms of English lecturers—Sevareid) (a vicious witticism at the expense of a political opponent) (merely stroll by, makes a goofy wisecrack or screwball suggestion—Hugh Humphrey) (though the gravity of the situation forbade their utterance, I was thinking of at least three priceless cracks I could make—Wodehouse) Gag, which in this relation basically signifies an interpolated joke or laugh-provoking piece of business, more generally applies to a remark, story, or piece of business considered
funny, especially one written into a theatrical, movie, radio, or television script. Sometimes the word has extended its meaning to signify a trick whether funny or not but usually one considered foolish <gags grown venerable in the service of the music halls—Times Lit. Sup.> <the gag was not meant to be entirely funny—Newsweek> <gave a party the other night and pulled a really constructed gag . . . had every guest in the place vaccinated against smallpox—Hollywood Reporter> <a frivolous person, given to gags and foolishness> **An**a *prank, caper, antic, monkeyshine, dido: *trick, ruse, wile: travesty, parody, burlesque, *caricature: raillery, *badinage, persiflage: jocoseness, jocularity, facetiousness, witlessness, humorousness (see corresponding adjectives at WITTY): *wit, humor, repartee, sarcasm

**Jollity** hilarity, glee, *mirth

**Ana** erriment, joviality, jocundity, blitheness (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY): sport, disport, play, frolic, rollick, gambol, romp (see under PLAY vb): diversion, amusement, recreation (see under AMUSE): *fun, jest, sport, game, play

**Con** gloom, dejection, depression, melancholy, *sadness: solemnity, gravity, seriousness, earnestness, steadiness, sedateness, somberness (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS)

**Jolly** adj jovial, jocund, *merry, blithe

**Ana** bantering, chaffing, jollying, joshing (see BANTER vb): jocular, jocose, *witty, humorous, facetious: sportive, *playful, mischievous, roguish, waggish, frolicsome: gay, *lively, vivacious, animated, sprightly

**Con** solemn, somber, grave, sedate, staid, *serious, earnest: lugubrious, doleful, dolorous, *melancholy, rueful: morose, gloomy, glum, *sullen, dour, saturnine

**jolly vb** *banter, chaff, kid, rag, rib, josh

**Ana** blandish, cajole (see COAX): deride, *ridicule, twit, rally, mock, taunt

**Jolt n** jar, shock, *impact, impingement, collision, clash, concussion, percussion

**Ana** shaking or shake, rocking or rock, convulsing or convulsion (see corresponding verbs at SHAKE)

**Josh vb** *banter, chaff, kid, rag, rib, jolly

**Jot n** tittle, iota, *particle, bit, mite, smidgen, wht, atom

**Journal, periodical, newspaper, magazine, review, organ** are comparable when denoting a publication which appears regularly at stated times. Basically, a **Journal** is a publication which is issued daily and gives an account of matters of interest occurring during the preceding twenty-four hours. Continued use, however, has made it an acceptable designation both of a publication that appears less often (as a weekly, a monthly, or a quarterly) (<the Hibbert Journal> appeared every three months and called itself a Journal—Mackenzie) and of one that is the official publication of some special group (<the Journal of the American Medical Association> **Periodical** applies to a publication appearing at regular intervals and especially to weeklies, biweeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies (<the periodicals are assembled in a special room of the library> **Newspaper** is the usual term for a sheet or group of sheets of which the main function is to provide the news of the day and which is usually issued daily; such a publication is called a **journal** only in formal speech or writing, although those whose profession is writing for newspapers are often termed **journalists** and although the language and style believed to be typical of the newspaper is commonly called **journalese. Magazine** applies chiefly to a periodical, often illustrated, that offers a miscellaneous collection of articles, fiction, poetry, descriptive sketches, and commentary. **Review** applies to a periodical that emphasizes critical writings or articles commenting on important events and significant questions of the day. **Organ** usually applies to a publication by an organization (as a political party, church, business, or institution) that gives news of interest to its members or adherents or presents its particular principles and views authoritatively (<Science is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science>)

**Journey, voyage, tour, trip, jaunt, excursion, cruise, expedition, pilgrimage** mean travel or a passage from one place to another. **Journey**, the most comprehensive term in general use, carries no particular implications of the distance, duration, destination, purpose, or mode of transportation involved (<plans a journey to California> <wished him a happy journey home> <the journey to Italy will not take more than two months> <a journey of twenty-five miles in Britain will often afford . . . much variety of scenery—Stamp> <the sound film took four years to make the journey from Hollywood to Rome—Jarrett> **Voyage** normally implies a journey of some length over water, especially a sea or ocean (<with a fair sea voyage, and a fair land journey, you will be soon at his dear side—Dickens> <Gordon made the voyage from San Francisco around the Horn on a big full-rigged Glasgow sailing ship—Current Big> but sometimes it may indicate a journey through air or space (<through the long 109-day, 180,000,000 mile voyage, Mariner was precisely controlled—Christian Science Monitor> **Tour** applies to a somewhat circular journey from place to place that ends when one reaches one’s starting point (<set out on a walking tour> <tour of Western Europe> <penologists made a tour of all the prisons in the state> <my next design was to make a tour round the island—Defoe> <left in September for a seven-week goodwill tour of northern and western Europe—Current Big>) **Trip** is the preferable word when referring to a relatively short journey, especially one for business or pleasure (<his new position requires frequent trips to New York> <the English came over in droves on the day trips—A. V. Davis> <surveys revealed that 59 percent of city-driver trips . . . were made for purposes of making a living—American Annual> The term is also used in place of **journey** to refer to more extensive travels (<conclusions I had reached on my trip around the world—Willkie> <a trip through western Pennsylvania, then down the Ohio—L. M. Sears> **Jaunt** carries a stronger implication of casualness and informality than any of the others and is especially applicable to a short trip away from one’s home or one’s business, usually for pleasure or recreation (<they are off for a day’s jaunt> <a jaunt to the shore or the hills—F. L. Allen> <lip service is paid . . . to the idea of Congressional travel but the general tone throughout runs: They’re off again on their jaunts at public expense—H. A. Williams> **Excursion** applies to a brief pleasure trip, usually no more than a day in length (<the rural neighborhood of Sneyd, where they had been making an afternoon excursion—Bennett> **Excursion** is the preferred term, especially in railroad and steamship use, for a round trip at reduced rates to a point of interest (as a resort or an exposition or a metropolis) (<the Minneapolis, Northfield & Southern Ry. runs excursions to Bush Lake on tournament days—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.> When the excursion involves a voyage of some days or weeks and, often, a sight-seeing tour with frequent stops during which the participants use the ship as their living quarters, **cruise** is the usual term (<a Mediterranean cruise> <the steamship lines are featuring winter cruises through the Caribbean and their yacht is off with a party on an> **Expedition** applies to a journey intended to further a definite purpose (<he called this trip frankly a begging
joyous
joy, delight, *pleasure, enjoyment, delectation, fruition
jovial
jocular, jocund, *merry: rapturous, ecstatic, trans-
joyful joyous, cheerful, happy, *glad, lighthearted
joy, bliss, beatitude, *happiness, felicity: *ecstasy, rapt-
joy, bliss, beatitude, *happiness, felicity: *ecstasy, rapture, transport
Ant sorrow (as emotion): misery (as a state of mind): abomination (in concrete sense)
joyful joyous, cheerful, happy, *glad, lighthearted
blithe, jocund, *merry, jolly: buoyant, effervescent, expansive (see ELASTIC)
joyless —Con *despondent, despairing, desperate, forlorn, hopeless: depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS)
joyous joyful, happy, *glad, cheerful, lighthearted
blithe, jocund, *merry: rapturous, ecstatic, transported (see corresponding nouns at ECSTASY)
Ant lugubrious —Con dolorous, doleful, *melancholy: *miserable, wretched
judge vb 1 Judge, adjudge, adjudicate, arbitrate mean to decide something in dispute or controversy upon its merits and upon evidence. All these words imply the existence of a competent legal tribunal or of its equivalent. Judge implies mainly the investigation of evidence on both sides, a comparison of the merits of each case, and a decision as to where the truth lies (the court must judge between the claimants) the matter is to be judged on the facts as they appeared then —Justice Holmes Adjudge stresses decision by a court either at the end of a trial or during a legal process (the evidence was adjudged inadmissible) the court adjudged the will void the district court adjudged the 1946 agreement void Harvard Law Review Adjudicate, on the other hand, stresses formal deliberate determination of an issue by or as if by a court and often the pronouncing of a judgment, sentence, or decree the court proceeded to adjudicate the rights and interests of the parties it is useless to reargue a seemingly adjudicated case —Lowes A bitter dispute that was not adjudicated until 1972 —Amer. Guide Series: Conn. all former WW II POWs whose claims were adjudicated by the commission —The Naval Review Arbitrate implies deliberate determination of a matter in dispute by one or more persons who constitute a tribunal that may or may not be legally recognized and who are usually acceptable to both sides to the controversy the strikers and the employers finally agreed on a group of three men to arbitrate their differences litigation has virtually ceased: it is possible, of course, that the elders are arbitrating these cases out of court —Gunn
Analogous to judge: arbiter, arbitrator, referee, umpire are comparable when they denote a person who decides or helps to decide questions or issues that are unsettled or in controversy. Judge implies the assumption or the possession both of superior knowledge, experience, or wisdom, and of the power to determine the truth by weighing critically and impartially the merits of a case (it doth appear you are a worthy judge; you know the law, your exposition hath been most sound —Shak.) the polls in each district or precinct are in charge of two judges, who help decide disputes —Ogg & Ray the question is whether in language the results justify the quibble. Well, the public is here the best judge —Barzun Arbitrators have disagreed or are tied. In sports and games both umpire and referee are technical terms applied to the official or officials charged with the regulation and supervision of a contest (as by enforcement of rules of a game, making decisions on plays, and determining penalties for faults). In most sports either one term or the other is used; thus, these officials in baseball, cricket, and tennis are designated umpires, while in boxing, basketball, football, and ice hockey they are designated referees. In nontechnical use referee usually is applied to one to whom disputants have recourse when agreement seems impossible, umpire to one who enters in and arbitrarily ends the struggle or dispute (clear-sighted, unprejudiced, sagacious . . . he was the universal referee —Disraeli) just death, kind umpire of men's miseries —Shak.
judgment vb judgment implies deliberate determination of an issue by or as if by a court and often the pronouncing of a judgment, sentence, or decree (the court proceeded to adjudicate the rights and interests of the parties) it is useless to reargue a seemingly adjudicated case —Lowes (a bitter dispute that was not adjudicated until 1972 —Amer. Guide Series: Conn. all former WW II POWs whose claims were adjudicated by the commission —The Naval Review Arbitrate implies deliberate determination of a matter in dispute by one or more persons who constitute a tribunal that may or may not be legally recognized and who are usually acceptable to both sides to the controversy the strikers and the employers finally agreed on a group of three men to arbitrate their differences litigation has virtually ceased: it is possible, of course, that the elders are arbitrating these cases out of court —Gunn
Analogous to judge: arbiter, arbitrator, referee, umpire are comparable when they denote a person who decides or helps to decide questions or issues that are unsettled or in controversy. Judge implies the assumption or the possession both of superior knowledge, experience, or wisdom, and of the power to determine the truth by weighing critically and impartially the merits of a case (it doth appear you are a worthy judge; you know the law, your exposition hath been most sound —Shak.) the polls in each district or precinct are in charge of two judges, who help decide disputes —Ogg & Ray the question is whether in language the resultsjustify the quibble. Well, the public is here the best judge —Barzun Arbitrators have disagreed or are tied. In sports and games both umpire and referee are technical terms applied to the official or officials charged with the regulation and supervision of a contest (as by enforcement of rules of a game, making decisions on plays, and determining penalties for faults). In most sports either one term or the other is used; thus, these officials in baseball, cricket, and tennis are designated umpires, while in boxing, basketball, football, and ice hockey they are designated referees. In nontechnical use referee usually is applied to one to whom disputants have recourse when agreement seems impossible, umpire to one who enters in and arbitrarily ends the struggle or dispute (clear-sighted, unprejudiced, sagacious . . . he was the universal referee —Disraeli) just death, kind umpire of men's miseries —Shak.
judgment vb
judges who form such a court <judicial decision> <judicial duty> <judicial proceeding> I am told at times by friends that a judicial opinion has no business to be literature—Cardozo> The term is also used in distinction from executive, legislative when applied to that one of the powers, departments, or functions of the government which is associated with a court (as the United States Supreme Court), which gives definitive decisions on questions of law or interprets the constitution or basic law <judicial, legislative, and judicial branches of the government> <government analyzes into three main functions . . . legislative, executive, and judicial activities > <judiciary> In extended use judicial is applied especially to a type of mind, mental activity, or manner suggestive of that of a judge (as in detachment or fair-mindedness) or appropriate to a judge or court of justice (as in orderliness and seriousness of procedure) <judicial mind . . . the quality of age or of novelty would carry no necessary implication of value—Grandgent> The review made an evident effort to be judicial . . . and so exhibiting both the good and bad points of the novel it alternated favorable and unfavorable judgments—McCloskey> <judiciary> is occasionally used in place of judicial, especially when it suggests reference to the courts in general and to the administration of justice as a whole <the appointment of more women to higher judiciary positions > <Current Big> In current usage, however, judiciary occurs predominantly as a substantive, with judicial its corresponding adjective. The two words <judicial and juristic> imply a connection with the law, especially as it is administered in the courts, rather than with the judges or those who settle questions of law. Often these terms come close to legal in meaning <ordered . . . to grant judicial recognition to the Assemblies of God churches in Italy—Time> but in learned use they are more restricted in significance. Both terms, but especially <judicial>, imply a reference to the law as it appears to learned lawyers and judges—that is, as a highly complex and involved body of principles, statutes, decisions, and precedents requiring vast knowledge, skill in interpretation, and a keen logical mind in those who put it to use; therefore, the term often means characteristic of, determinable by, or useful to a person with such knowledge and skill <Eden is clearly working for the <judicial> separation of Formosa and the Pescadores from the mainland—Healey> <high time that we act on the <judicial> principle that aggressive war-making is illegal and criminal—R. H. Jackson> <jurisprudence> implies rather a reference to the science of law <set forth with all the circumstance of philosophical and <jurisprudence> scholarship—Veblen> <laws and <jurisprudence> compilations of the Norman period—Stenton> <Justice> Holmes had struck in 1905 in his dissent in Lochner v. N.Y. the high pitch of American <jurisprudence> thought—New Republic> <judiciary> *judicial, juridical, juristic <judicial> *wise, sage, sapient, prudent, sensible, sane Ana *rational, reasonable: just, *fair, equitable, dispassionate, objective: sagacious, perspicacious, astute, *shrewd, discreet, prudent (see under PRUDENCE) Ant *injudicious, asinine —Con *foolish, silly, absurd, preposterous: *stupid, slow, dull, dumb, crass, dense: rash, reckless, foolhardy (see ADVENTUROUS) jumble n *confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, clutter, snarl, muddle jump vb <jump> Jump, leap, spring, bound, vault are comparable as verbs meaning to move suddenly through space by or as if by muscular action and as nouns designating an instance of such movement through space. All of these terms apply primarily to the movements of men or lower animals, but they also may be used of similar movements of inanimate things. Jump, the most general term, basically implies a projection of the body that results in reaching a spot which is to some extent distant, whether below, above, or on the same plane <she jumped from a second-story window> <jump over a fence> <jump from the ground to the top of a low wall> <a jump across a ditch> Since jump usually implies a rise and descent in a curve and a landing away from the point of origin, it is often applicable to things as well that follow a similar curve or seem to have a similar objective <the fire> then jumped Essex Street and burned the house of Samuel Prince—J. D. Phillips> Jump may be extended to various sudden or sharp movements whether physical or not <his heart jumped with fright> <prices jumped when war was declared> <the children jumped with joy> <leap usually implies greater muscular effort than jump, though it otherwise often agrees with it in implications; it may or may not suggest suddenness, swiftness, a forward or a backward motion, or an upward or a downward motion, but it usually includes one or more of these connotations in its meaning <the chamois leaps from crag to crag> <a leap from a window> <leapt over a wall> In extended use <leap> goes further than <jump> in suggesting suddenness or intensity (as of change, response, surprise, or exaltation of thoughts) <my heart would have leaped at sight of him—Kenneth Roberts> *ashes am I of all that once I seemed. In me all's sunk that leapt, and all that dreamed is wakeful for alarm—Millay> <spring> implies a jumping or leaping, but both as verb and as noun it additionally suggests ideas not involved in <jump> and only occasionally involved in <leap>, such as resiliency, elasticity, grace of movement, and emergence by issuing or flowing. The emphasis is often upon the action itself rather than upon the fact of movement to or over <spring from the bed> <the <spring> of a cat on a bird> <spring> to my feet, for anger had overtaken me—Edith Morris> <spring> across the stream, inviting those who shared his views to follow him—Amer. Guide Series: Vt.> <bound> comes very close to <spring> in its emphasis upon the action itself, but it carries an implication of vigor and strength not apparent in <spring>, so that it often connotes a plunging or a lunging forward <the bounded forward in order to catch the ball> <with a bound, he was at her side> <there were great kangaroos that . . . would descend the hillslopes in large, slow, gracious <bounces>—Ellis> Although <vault> is often used specifically in respect to leaping as a physical exercise with the aid of a long pole as a fulcrum, it may also apply to a leap or a leaping upward with the aid of a support or a leap over an object often with a hand laid on the object <unperturbed by the tumble he vaulted back into the saddle> <an acrobat . . . was vaulting over chair backs> <an acrobat . . . was vaulting over chair backs> <Deland> *put his hand on the counter and vaulted over, landing heavily on the other side—J. W. Johnson> jump n <jump> leap, spring, bound, vault (see under <jump> vb) jumpy adj <jumpy> jittery, nervous, restless, uneasy, fidgety, *impatient, unquiet, restive Ant <steady> Conjunction, confluence, concourse are comparable when meaning the act, state, or place of meeting or uniting. <Junction>, the most general of these words, applies to the meeting or uniting usually of material things (as roads, rivers, lines, or railroads) <at all the street <junctures> along the <juncture> <junction> is one of these words which is associated with a court (as the United States Supreme Court), which gives definitive decisions on questions of law or interprets the constitution or basic law <junctures and <junction> branches of the government> <government analyzes into three main functions . . . legislative, executive, and judicial activities > <judiciary> judicial, juridical, juristic
juncture of interest between Brady and the so-called Standard Oil group—*H. P. Willis* and only occasionally of persons or groups of persons <(another small force of Frenchmen, reinforced by Ethiopian natives, moved westward, seeking a juncture with [Major] Marchand—Lengyel) <(there he proposed to effect his *junctio*on with the man who should make all the difference to this new civil war—Bello) *Confluence* suggests a flowing movement that brings things together. It is applicable to two or more things or persons viewed as things which flow or seem to flow toward a point where they merge and mingle <(the *confluence* of cowboys, cattle traders, and railroad men gave Dodge City a lively homicidal character—*Life*) It specifically applies to the place at which streams unite, often to form a larger stream or body of water <(the Ohio river is formed by the *confluence* of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers) <(this river, which is formed by the *confluence* of the historic Tigris and Euphrates rivers—Boschen) *Concourse* places the emphasis on a running or flocking together of great numbers of persons or things <(the . . . frame of the universe was not the product of chance, or fortuitous *concourse* of particles of matter—*Hale*) It is commonly used of a place, sometimes out of doors but sometimes in such a great building as a railroad terminal, in which there is an endless flow of persons or things passing through <(just off the waiting room is the passenger *concourse*, a 24 x 1200-foot "bon voyage deck" where passengers of the *Lurline* arrive and depart and their friends greet them or wave them on their way—*Ships and the Sea*)

**juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, pinch**

would constitute an exigency or emergency <(having thus devised a plan for use in a *contingency*, Calhoun sought in various ways to prevent the *contingency* from coming—*U. B. Phillips*) <(every citizen must have a stake in his country adequate to justify in his eyes the sacrifices that any *contingency* may entail—*W. O. Douglas*) <(to be dug out and then in the winter is a *contingency* the mail driver reckons as part of his daily life—*Jefferies*) *Pinch* suggests pressure and the need for action but without the same intensity as *emergency* or *exigency*; it is particularly appropriate for use of a juncture in personal affairs <(I could always in a pinch pawn my microscope for three pounds—*Maugham*) *(ready in a pinch to ride roughshod over opposition—*Power*) <(this—the great *pinch* of his life—*Hawthorne*) *Strait,* often in its plural *straits,* applies to a situation from which the person involved finds it difficult to escape, so hampered or fettered is he by some given or implied set of circumstances <(he was in great *straits* for lack of money) <(this disagreeable companion had, of his own free will, assisted him in the *strait* of the day—*Dickens*) *(he was at a loss what to invent to detain him . . . He rendered homage to the genius of woman in these *straits.* "My Aunt," he thought, "would have the lie ready"—*Meredith*) *(the army's truly desperate *straits*—*Mason*) *Crisis* applies to a juncture or pass whose outcome will make a decisive difference, for good or ill, in a life or a history or a disease. The term usually connotes suspense, but need not imply either evil in the situation or a particular outcome <(the pneumonia patient has passed the *crisis*) *(Tiberius gave one million pounds out of his own pocket to relieve the agrarian *crisis* of *A.D.* 33—*Buchan*) *(Father finally . . . brought the matter to a *crisis*. He said, after all, the boy had a right to choose—*Mary Austin*) *(her adolescence had passed without the trace of a religious *crisis*—*Huxley*)

**Ana** *(state, posture, situation, condition, status: *predicament, plight, quandary)*

**Junk** *vb* *scrap, *discard, cast, shed, molt, slough*

**Judicial** *(juristic, *judicial, judiciary)*

**Jurisdiction** *(power, authority, control, command, sway, dominion)*

**Ana** *(limits, bounds, confines) *(see singular nouns at LIMIT): *range, scope, compass, reach: circuit, periphery (see CIRCUMFERENCE): province, office, *function, duty: domain, territory, province, *field, sphere, bailiwick*

**Jurist** *(juridical, *judicial, judiciary)*

**Just** *(adj)* *1* *(upright, honorable, conscientious, scrupulous, honest)*

**Ana** *(strict, *rigid: virtuous, righteous, *moral, ethical, noble: *reliable, dependable, tried, trustworthy)*

**Con** *(crooked, devisive, oblique: corrupt, perverted, debauched, depraved (see under DEBASE): *base, low, vile: ignoble, *mean)*

2 *equitable, *fair, impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, uncolored, objective

**Ana** *(detached, disinterested, aloof (see INDIFFERENT): *due, rightful, condign: *rational, reasonable)*

**Ant** *(injust)*

**Justice** *(equity are comparable primarily in their legal uses and when they denote the act, practice, or obligation of giving or rendering to a person or thing what is his or its due (as in conformity with right, truth, or the dictates of reason). *Justice* is by far the wider-ranging term, for it may apply to an abstraction which represents an ideal *(he flamed out against injustice because he was a lover of *justice*—*Perry*) or to a quality of mind which exhibits adherence to this ideal *(nothing escaped the kind eyes, the far-seeing love, that punished and praised with that calm *justice* which children so keenly appreciate—*Deland)*

---

*Ana* analogous words  *Ant* antonyms  *Con* contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
or to a quality in a thing which never departs from the truth in the slightest degree (he painted a psychological portrait of himself which for its serenely impartial justice, its subtle gradations . . . has all the qualities of the finest Velázquez—Ellis) or to the treatment accorded one who has transgressed a law, whether a divine law, a natural law, or the law of a state, or who seeks relief when wronged or protection when his rights are threatened (at the present time . . . there is more danger that criminals will escape justice than that they will be subjected to tyranny—Justice Holmes) or to the system of courts of law whereby the rights of an individual or his innocence or guilt are determined in accordance with the laws of the state (in the modern state . . . Justice and administration are directly connected with whatever governs—Belloc) Equity differs from justice chiefly in being more restricted in its denotation, for it usually implies a justice that transcends the strict letter of the law and is in keeping with what is reasonable rather than with what is merely legal. It is in this sense that a court of equity is, theoretically at least, distinguished from a court of law. To the former go for adjudication and settlement the unusual cases where abstract justice might not be dealt out according to the limitations of the written law while to the latter go the vast majority of cases where the determination of facts is of first importance and where the law, once the facts are established, provides the treatment to be accorded the person or parties involved (in informal terms, a law case is one where the courts have only to decide who is right; an equity case is one where the courts have to decide not only who is right, but go on to say what must be done—Science) But equity in nonlegal use implies a justice based upon a strictly impartial meting out of what is due (as rewards and punishments or praise and blame) (that noble word liberal, which in America has become dissociated from its essential humanism and sense of equity—Ustinov) (the union claimed that the lower wages paid to aliens were not in keeping with any principle of equity—Smith College: The President's Report 1952-1953) 

justify 1 vindicate, defend, *maintain, assert
Ana *prove, demonstrate: *support, uphold, back
Con *disprove, refute, confute
2 account, rationalize, *explain
Ana *excuse, condone: *exculpate, exonerate, absolve,
acquit, vindicate: extenuate, gloze, gloss, whitewash,
*palliate
Con incriminate, indict, arraign, *accuse: condemn, denounce, blame (see CRITICIZE)
3 Justify, warrant are comparable when meaning to be the thing (as evidence, a circumstance, a situation, or a state of affairs) that constitutes sufficient grounds for doing, saying, using, or believing something. Justify may be preferred when the stress is on providing grounds that satisfy conscience as well as reason, and usually refers to an action that, unjustified, would be looked upon with disapproval (no consideration on earth justifies a parent in telling lies to his child—Russell) I remember a very tenderhearted judge being of opinion that closing a hatch to stop a fire and the destruction of a cargo was justified even if it was known that doing so would stifle a man below—Justice Holmes) (Locke justified the right of revolution—W. S. Myers) (Batista justified his seizure of power on the grounds of an alleged conspiracy by the government to control the elections—Americana Annual) Warrant is especially appropriate (see also ASSERT 1) when the emphasis is on something that requires an explanation or reason rather than an excuse and suggests support by authority, precedent, experience, or logic (the deposits contain too high a percentage of sulfur to warrant development—Wythe) (the history and appearance clearly warrant such assumption—Armstrong) (a shorter course is designed for students whose graduate study and experience warrant it—Smith College: The President's Report 1952-1953)
Ana allow, permit (see LET): sanction (see APPROVE):
authorize
jut *bulge, stick out, protuberate, protrude, project, overhang, beetle
Ana *extend, lengthen, elongate: swell, distend, dilate,
expant
juvenile *youthful, puerile, bovish, virgin, virginal, maiden
Ana *immature, unmatured: callow, green, crude (see RUDE)
Ant adult: senile —Con *mature, matured, grown-up
juxtaposed *adjacent, adjoining, contiguous, abutting, tangent, conterminous
Ana *close, near, nigh

K

keen adj 1 *sharp, acute
Ana piercing, penetrating, probing (see ENTER): *pungent, poignant, piquant: cutting, biting, *incisive, trenchant
Ant blunt —Con *dull, obtuse
2 *eager, avid, agog, athirst, anxious
Ana ardent, fervent, fervid, fervent (see IMPASSIONED): *intense, vehement, fierce: fired (see LIGHT vb)
Con atypical, impassive, stolid, phlegmatic: listless, *languid: unconcerned, incurious, *indifferent, uninterested, disinterested
keen vb wait, weep, *cry, whimper, blubber
Ana lament, bewail, bemoan (see DEPLORE): mourn, sortow, *grieve
keep vb 1 Keep, observe, celebrate, solemnize, commemorate are comparable when they mean to pay proper attention or honor to something prescribed, obligatory, or demanded (as by one's nationality, religion, or rank), but they vary widely in their range of reference or applica-
tion. Keep and observe are closely synonymous terms, especially when they imply heed of what is prescribed or obligatory, but they differ fundamentally in their connotations. Keep implies opposition to break, and emphasizes the idea of not neglecting or violating; thus, one keeps, rather than observes, a promise (keep the peace) (keep the commandments) Observe carries such positive implications as punctiliousness in performance of required acts and rites and a spirit of respect or reverence for what one holds or honors; when these more appropriate ideas are definitely to be suggested observe is the more appropriate term, even though keep would otherwise be possible; thus, few persons observe, rather than keep, the Sabbath in the manner of the early Puritans (observed Passover with the utmost strictness) (he observes the letter of the law) Celebrate and solemnize are also close synonyms because they may take as their objects not only a day, a season, or an occasion which for religious, political, or

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
other significant reasons is observed with pomp and ceremony but also a ceremony or rite, usually a religious ceremony or rite, that is marked with unusual dignity and splendor. Celebrate, however, except in certain idiomatic phrases (as celebrate the Eucharist, celebrate a marriage, celebrate Mass) in which the gravity and forms of religion are implicit, suggests demonstrations of joy or festivity (as by singing, shouting, speechmaking, and feasting) (celebrate Independence Day) (celebrate their golden wedding) (the family decided to celebrate the occasion by a large dinner party) Solemnize as applied to occasions of joy and festivity stresses their grave, ceremonious, or solemn aspects and usually suggests greater formality in observance and greater dignity and splendor of ceremony than does celebrate (Harvard each June solemnize the award of degrees to students . . . of the University—Official Register of Harvard Univ.) (solemnize this sorrowing natal day to prove our loyal truth—Burns) The term is often specifically used of the celebrating of marriage especially with the fullest applicable religious ceremonial; thus, in the Roman Catholic Church a marriage is solemnized only when administration of the sacrament of matrimony is followed by a nuptial Mass and a special blessing (Catholics may marry but their marriages may not be solemnized during Lent) Commemorate implies remembrance and suggests observances that tend to call to mind what the occasion (as the day, the season, or the ceremony) stands for; thus, one celebrates Christmas by religious ceremonies that commemorate the birth of Christ; the people of the United States commemorate the birth of their independence on the 4th of July; the French people commemorate the fall of the Bastille on the 14th of July. Ana regard, respect (see under REGARD Ana overlook, omit, slight: violate, transgress, contravene, further implications this until I ask for it) When, the birth of Christ; the people of the United

| keep | 479 | kill |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ana analogous words</th>
<th>Ant antonyms</th>
<th>Con contrasted words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>keep</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>kill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

promised is to fulfill what has been promised. Reserve implies either a keeping in store for other or for future use (the runner reserved some of his energy for the final sprint) (reserve some of the milk for breakfast) or a withholding from present or from others' use or enjoyment (the force of will which had enabled her to reserve the fund intact—Bennett) (reserved his judgment) Hold and hold back are often used in place of withhold or keep back and sometimes in place of detain and reserve when restraint in letting go, whether self-imposed or imposed by others, is implied (hold back a portion of each week's wages for group insurance) (held back the truth in giving his testimony) Ana *save, preserve, conserve: hold, *have, enjoy, possess, own: control, direct, manage, *conduct Ant relinquish —Con *discard, cast, junk: refuse, reject, repudiate, spurn (see DECLINE vb): surrender, abandon, resign, yield (see RELINQUISH) keep n *living, livelihood, subsistence, sustenance, maintenance, support, bread keep back, keep out *keep, retain, detain, withhold, reserve, hold, hold back keepsake *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, souvenir ken n *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, purview Ana *field, sphere, province, domain: view, sight (see look n) kibitzer onlooker, looker-on, bystander, *spectator, observer, beholder, witness, eyewitness kick vb *object, protest, remonstrate, expostulate Ana oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight: *criticize, denounce, condemn: objure, *execute, curse, damn, anathematize kid vb chaff, *banter, rag, rib, josh, jolly Ana tease, plague, pester, harry, *worry kidnap *abduct kidney kind, sort, *type, nature, description, character, stripe, ilk kill vb Kill, slay, murder, assassinate, dispatch, execute are comparable when meaning to deprive of life or to put to death. Kill is so general that it merely states the fact and does not, except in special phrases (as "Thou shalt not kill"), suggest human agency or the means of death or the conditions attending the putting to death. Also, the object of the action may be not only a person or other living thing but also an inanimate or immaterial thing with qualities suggestive of life (kill snails in the garden) (a boy killed by a fall) (vegetation killed by frost) (the president killed the project when he vetoed the bill making an appropriation for it) (kill a friend's love by indifference) (he believed at that time that the League of Nations was going to kill war, that the Labour Party were going to kill industrial inequity—Rose Macaulay) Slay implies killing by force or in wantonness; it is rare in spoken English, but it often occurs in written English where it may convey a dramatic quality whether in poetic or elevated writing or in journalnale (though he slay me, yet will I trust in him—Job 13:15) (the slain man has not yet been identified) In its extended uses slay usually suggests wanton or deliberate destruction or annihilation (to slay the reverence living in the minds of men—Shelley) (never had she greatly loved before; never would she greatly love again; and the great love she now had she was slaying—Rose Macaulay) Murder definitely implies a motive and, often, premeditation and imputes to the act a criminal character; it is the exact word to use in reference to one person killing another either in passion or in cold blood (Macbeth murdered Duncan) (Thomas à
Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in his own cathedral. It is sometimes used in place of kill as more expressive or in place of slay as more brutally direct and condemnatory, both in literal and extended use. (Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more—Shak.) The language of strategy and politics is designed . . . to make it appear as though wars were not fought by individuals drilled to murder one another in cold blood—Huxley. Assassinate implies murder especially of a person in governmental or political power by stealth or treachery and often by an agent or hireling of an opposition. It usually suggests an attempt to get rid of a person who is believed to be an obstacle to the safety of a tyrant, the welfare of a people, the liberty of a nation, or the success of a design (Marat was assassinated by Charlotte Corday). Dispatch also suggests an attempt to get rid of a person by killing him, but it is far more colorless than assassinate (and the company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords—Ezek 23:47). Because it nearly always implies taking direct means of killing (as by shooting or stabbing) and so sometimes connotes expedition or speed in killing or in ending suffering, it is applicable, as most of the other terms are not, to killing (as of a sick or injured animal) for humane reasons (the policeman dispatched the rabid dog with a single shot). Often dispatch is merely a euphemism for another of the terms of this group when quick killing or a sudden end is implied (reached up, caught Wright by the coat, . . . and at one stab dispatched him—Amer. Guide Series: La.). Execute is the term for putting to death one who has been condemned to such a fate by a legal or military process, or sometimes by summary action of a group (execute a convicted assassin).

**kind n** type, sort, stripe, kidney, ilk, description, nature, character

**kind adj** Kind, kindly, benign, benignant mean having or exhibiting a nature that is gentle, considerate, and inclined to benevolent or beneficent actions and are comparable especially as applied to persons and to their acts and utterances. Kind and kindly both imply possession of qualities (as interest in others' welfare, sympathy, andhumaneness) appropriate to man as a rational, sensitive, and social being. The two words are often used interchangeably in speech but may be used distinctively, kind then implying reference to a disposition to be sympathetic and helpful, and kindly to the expression of a benevolent, sympathetic, or helpful nature, mood, or impulse; thus, he has a kind, rather than kindly, heart; he takes a kindly, rather than kind, interest in ambitious boys (be kind to animals) (the kindly ministrations of a nurse) (kindly words of advice) (the kindest man, the best-conditioned and unwearyed spirit in doing courtesies—Shak.) (ring in the valiant man and free, the larger heart, the kindlier hand!—Tennyson) Benign (see also favorable) and benignant stress mildness, serenity, and mercifulness more than do kind and kindly; they also often imply graciousness and therefore are more frequently applied to superiors than to equals, when they are used to describe persons or their acts, utterances, or politeness. (A benign master) The transformation of a benign personality into a belligerent one—Mumford. (A benignant influence) Strange peace and rest fell on me from the presence of a benignant Spirit standing near—Sill.

**Anna** benevolent, *charitable, humane, altruistic, philanthropic, eleemosynary, humanitarian: sympathetic, warm, warmhearted, responsive, *tender, compassionate: element, lenient, indulgent, merciful, *forbearing, tolerant;

*amiable, good-natured, complaisant, obliging
Ant unkind — Con cruel, inhuman, *fierce, savage, fell: harsh, *rough: *grim, implacable, unrelenting, merciless

kindle ignite, fire, *light

Ana *blaze, flame, flare, glow: *provoke, excite, stimu-
late: arouse, rouse, *stir: *incite, foment, instigate

Ant smother, stifle

kindly benign, benignant, *kind

Ana *gracious, cordial, genial, affable, sociable: *amiable,
good-natured, complaisant, obliging: friendly, neighborly
(see amicable): considerate, *thoughtful, attentive

Ant unkindly: acrid (of temper, attitudes, comments)—
Con malevolent, malignant, *malicious, spiteful

kindred *related, cognate, allied, affiliated

Ant alien

kingly, regal, royal, queenly, imperial, princely are comparable when meaning of, relating to, or befriending one who occupies a throne. Kingly, regal, and royal are often interchanged, especially when used in reference to a monarch who is called king; thus, kingly, regal, or royal power are equally appropriate and idiomatic. However, usage shows a degree of preference for kingly when the reference is to the personal or ideal character of a king or to his feelings, disposition, aims, or actions (kingly courtesy) (kingly condescension) (leave kingly backs to cope with kingly cares—Cowper) or for regal when the reference is to the king's office or the state or pomp which accompanies the exercise of his powers (regal ceremonies) (regal splendor) (ascend your throne majestically . . . sit regal and erect—Auden) and for royal when the reference is to persons or things associated with the king either as a person or as a monarch, but not necessarily involving magnificence or display (the royal family) (the royal residences) (a royal society is one under the patronage of a king or members of his family)

In extended use kingly carries the strongest implication of dignity and nobility (kingly pride) (i am far better born than is the king, more like a king, more kindly in my thoughts—Shak.) while regal suggests magnificence or majestic character (a regal feast) (her rather regal conception of the behavior to be expected of a whore-house madam may have a comic value—Gibbs) ("Just tell me what you would like to eat; you can have anything you want.") . . . it had a regal ring—Henry Miller) and royal, fitness or suitability for a king especially in superlative excellence (a royal welcome) (had a royal time) (was treated with the royal acclamation of a visiting statesman—White) Queenly is used in place of kingly when the reference is directly to a person who is a female sovereign in her own right or is the consort of a king (queenly courtesy) (queenly prerogatives) But when the reference is to the office, the family of the queen, or anything to which regal and royal are normally applied, the latter adjectives are used without reference to the sex of the sovereign. Imperial suggests reference to a monarch who is called emperor or empress (His Imperial Majesty) (an imperial court) (the imperial power) In extended use imperial implies fitness or suitability for an emperor or empress and typically suggests a more awe-inspiring quality than kingly and more pomp and grandeur than regal or royal (i have seen new york grow from the little old town of the nineties to the imperial city that stands there now—White) (she was imperial rather than rude—Wylie) Princely implies reference to one who is called a prince and especially to one who is so called as the monarch of a principality, as the heir to a royal throne, or as a male member of the immediate royal family (the representative of the princely power—Sarah Austin) (among the princely houses of Western Europe—Free-
knowledge

knack

**knack** bent, turn, *gift, faculty, aptitude, genius, talent**

3. **knack** *ability, capacity, capability: aptness, readiness, quickness (see corresponding adjectives at **quickness**): facility, dexterity, ease, *readiness**

**Ant** ineptitude

**knave** *villain, scoundrel, blackguard, rascal, rogue, scamp, raps-collion, miscreant**

knit

**knit** *weave, crochet, braid, plait, tat**

knock

**knock** *tap, rap, thump, thud**

**knock** *strike, hit, smite: *beat, pound, pummel**

knotty

**knotty** intricate, involved, complicated, *complex**

knowing

**knowing** alert, bright, smart, *intelligent, clever, quick-witted, brilliant**

**Ana** *shrewd, astute, perspicacious, sagacious: *watchful, vigilant, alert: discerning, observing or observant, perceiving or perceptive (see corresponding verbs at **see**)**

**Con** obtuse, *dull, blunt: dense, crass, *stupid, slow**

**knowledge** science, learning, erudition, scholarship, information, lore are comparable when they mean what is known or can be known, usually by an individual but sometimes by human beings in general. **Knowledge** applies not only to a body of facts gathered by study, investigation, observation, or experience but also to a body of ideas acquired by inference from such facts or accepted on good grounds as truths **his knowledge is both extensive and accurate** (the advantage of gaining a knowledge of French literature) **strength and bustle build up a firm**. But judgment and knowledge are what keep it established —Hardy** the inventor of the radio . . . had the advantage of accumulated knowledge—Krutchy** Science (see also art 3) is occasionally employed as a close synonym of knowledge but ordinarily it applies only to a body of systematized knowledge dealing with facts gathered over a long period and by numerous persons as a result of observation and experiment and with the general truths or laws derived by inference from such facts. The term usually connotes more exactness and more rigorous testing of conclusions than knowledge does and therefore is often used to denote knowledge whose certainty cannot be questioned (the art of feeding preceded the science of nutrition by many centuries—Hadley** the defense of nations had become a science and a calling—Macaulay** (perhaps all the science that is not at bottom physical science is only pretentious nescience—Shaw** Learning specifically applies to knowledge gained by long and close study not only in the schools or universities but by individual research and investigation; it may be used of those who are engaged in the study of science, but it is more often employed in reference to those who devote themselves to the study of the humanities (as languages, literature, history, and philosophy) **he is a man . . . of deep learning—Burney** a man of good education and learning, of an excellent understanding, and an exact taste—Swifty** learning commonly connotes organized lore outside of any scientific area. It is an end in itself, it has been so honored by the world for centuries—H. M. Jonesy** Erudition carries a stronger implication of the possession of profound, recondite, or bookish knowledge than does learning (all the encyclopedic erudition of the middle ages—Lowes) but often the terms are employed as if they were equivalent in meaning (I arrived at Oxford with a stock of erudition, that might have puzzled a doctor—Gibbon** (it does not seem to me fitting . . . that one layman, with no special erudition in that subject, should publicly express his views—T. S. Elioty** Scholarship implies the possession of the learning characteristic of the trained scholar; the term usually suggests mastery in detail of a field of study or investigation, the exhibition of such qualities as accuracy and skill in carrying on research intended to extend knowledge in that field, and the display of powers of critical analysis in the interpretation of the material that is gathered (never fulfilled the promise of scholarship given by his great and precocious intellectual power and his even greater erudition—Economisty** what scholarship represents is a change in the temper of the human mind, in the focus of its attention and in the quality of the things it cherishes—Fraenkel** Information usually denotes a kind or items of knowledge gathered from various sources (as observation, other persons, or books) and accepted as truth; the term carries no specific implication regarding the extent, character, or soundness of that knowledge; often it suggests no more than a collection of data or facts either discrete or integrated into a body of knowledge seeking information about her ancestors** his sources of information are not always reliable** the adult, with trained powers, has an immense advantage over the child in the acquisition of information —Elioty** a full, rich, human book, packed with information lightly dispensed and fortified with learning easily worn—Tracyy** Lore is occasionally used in place of learning, but ordinarily it applies to a body of special or out-of-the-way knowledge concerning a particular subject possessed by an individual or by a group and is primarily traditional and anecdotal rather than scientific in character **sacred lore** folk, or popular, etymology does not usually create words, but it provides lore about words which is as pleasant as it is unreliable—Lairdy** a lore composed of beliefs, customs, crafts, anecdotes . . . bearing in its content and terminology the unmistakable stamp of the backwoods—Amer. Guide Series: Ind.**

**Ana** analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
label n mark, brand, stamp, tag, ticket (see under MARK vb)
labeled vb *mark, brand, stamp, tag, ticket
labor n *work, toil, travail, drudgery, grind
laborer n *work, toil, travel, drudgery, grind
lack, lack, lack vb Lack, want, need, require are comparable when denoting the fact or state of being without something, especially something essential or greatly to be desired. Lack may imply either an absence or a shortage in the supply or amount of that something (the house lacks a back doorway) (the army lacked tanks and airplanes as well as rifles) (they are not lacking in food or comforts) (good counselors lack no clients—Shak.) (what he lacks in knowledge he can make up for by talking fast—Chase) Want frequently adds to lack the implication of urgent necessity and may be difficult to distinguish from its sense connoting longing (see under DESIRE vb) (the oldest . . . showing incipient moustaches and long hairs on the face that wanted a razor—Sacheverell Sitwell) (everything was dingy and wanted paint—Crofts) For this reason need may be preferred when a clear connotation of urgent necessity is desirable (he cannot get the rest he needs) Need usually throws the emphasis on urgent necessity rather than on absence or shortage, though both implications are often present (that family needs food and clothing) (the country needs the services and support of every citizen) (the letter needs no reply, but it would be courteous to acknowledge it) (that woman needs a lesson, Gideon. She's a public nuisance—Rose Macaulay) (needs vicarious compensations and manages to find them in the gossip columns—Huxley) (implements sorely needed by the British in the construction of vessels—Brock) Require (see also DEMAND) is often interchangeable with need but it may heighten the implication of urgent necessity (great acts require great means of enterprise—Milton) (the Doctor . . . required a few days of complete rest—Dickens) Con *have, hold, possess, own, enjoy
lack n Lack, want, dearth, absence, defect, privation are comparable when denoting the fact or state of being without something. Lack is somewhat ambiguous in scope since it may imply either a total or a partial failure of something that in the circumstances might be expected to be present and often requires qualification to make its intent unequivocal (with a complete lack of bloodshed, the republic was proclaimed—William Tate) (the comparative lack of simian fossils—R. W. Murray) (there is a slackening, a lack of faith in the pioneer dream that everyone may be rich, free, and powerful—Lord) Want (see also POVERTY) may imply either a partial or a complete lack but its range of application is far narrower than that of lack since it specifically applies to deficiencies of what is essential or at least needed or desirable; thus, one may exhibit either a want or a lack of tact; there may be a complete lack, rather than want, of pain immediately after some injuries (showed a certain want of courtesy) (war production occasionally suffered from want of hands to tend the machines or harvest the crops—Handlin) (an utter and radical want of the adapting or constructive power which the drama so imperatively demands—Poe)
Dearth implies an often distressingly inadequate supply rather than a complete lack (her vanity, dearth of brains, and excessive sentimentality were compensated by her kindness—Simmons) (there were six seasons of dearth approaching famine—Van Valkenburg & Huntington) (there is no dearth of simple violence in San Antonio—Green Peyton) Absence is perhaps the most unequivocal of these terms; when not qualified it denotes the complete lack of something (the prolonged absence of rain) or that something or occasionally someone is not present (in the absence of his father the boy managed the farm) (the general absence of undergrowth was understood . . . to have resulted from repeated Indian-set fires—R. H. Brown) (the confusion resulting from the absence of a critical discriminating attitude in the discussion of religion—Cohen) Defect (see also BLEMISH) implies the absence or lack of something required for completeness (as in form) or effectiveness (as in function) (be mine the privilege to supplement defect, give dumbness voice—Browning) (defect in a work [of art] is always traceable ultimately to an excess on one side or the other, injuring the integration of matter and form—Dewey) (there are certain obvious and superficial defects in this poem . . . But merit easily outweighs defect—Day Lewis) Privation in the sense pertinent here (see also POVERTY) is used primarily in certain philosophical definitions of negative qualities or states as absences of the corresponding positive (cold is the privation of heat) (St. Thomas regards evil as privation. In so far as a thing acts according to its nature, which is good, it cannot cause evil—Thilly) (dialectical terms . . . are terms standing for concepts, which are defined by their negatives or their privations—R. M. Weaver) (negative facts or states of affairs . . . seem clearly to be absences, lacks, or privations, and as such devoid of any properties which could possibly render them apprehensible in experience—Richard Taylor) Ana *need, necessity, exigency: deficiency (see corresponding adjective DEFICIENT): exhaustion, impoverishment, draining, depletion (see corresponding verbs at DEPLETE) Con abundance, amleness, copiousness, plentifulness, plenteousness or plenty (see corresponding adjectives at PLENTIFUL): excess, superfluity, surplus
lacoenic succinct, terse, *concise, summary, pithy, compendious Ana curt, brusque (see BLUFF): brief, short Ant verbose —Con *wordy, prolix, diffuse: loquacious, *talkative, voluble, glib, garrulous
lacuna gap, hiatus, *break, interruption, interval, interim
lacustrine *aquatic, fluvial, fluviatile, marine, oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal
lade vb load, *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight, tax, charge, saddle

Ant unlade

lading freight, cargo, *load, burden

laddle vb scoop, spoon, dish, *dip, bail

lady woman, *female

ladylike feminine, womanly, womanlike, *female, womanish, effeminate

Ana dainty, fastidious, finicky, particular, *nice: fashionable, modish, smart, chic, *stylish: decorous, proper, seemly

lag loiter, dawdle, *delay, procrastinate

Ana slow, slacken, retard, *delay: tarry, linger, wait, *stay

Con hurry, hasten, *speed, quicken, accelerate

laggard adj dilatory, *slow, leisurely, deliberate

Ana laddling, loitering, delaying, procrastinating (see delay): lethargic, sluggish, comatose: phlegmatic, apathetic, *impassive

Ant prompt, quick —Con alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: fast, swift, rapid, fleet, speedy, expeditious

lament beaming, luminous, *bright, brilliant, radiant, lus- trosous, effulgent, refugent, lucent, incandescent

Ana gleaming, glistening (see flash vb)

lament vb *deplore, bewail, bemoan

Ana weep, keen, wail, *cry: *grieve, mourn, sorrow

Ant exult: rejoice

lampoon n *libel, skit, squib, pasquinade

land vb *alight, light, perch, roost

Ana arrive, *come: *reach, gain, achieve, attain: *appear, emerge

Con *go, leave, retire

landing field, landing strip *airport, airdrome, airfield, airstrip, flying field

language 1 Language, dialect, tongue, speech, idiom are comparable when they denote a body or system of words and phrases used by a large community (as of a region) or by a people, a nation, or a group of nations. Language may be used as a general term for a body of communicative symbols whether it is made up of words, or of sounds, gestures, and facial expressions, or of visual signals (as a code of lights, smoke, or flags), or of electrical impulses in a computer. However, in its ordinary and specific sense the term refers to a body of words that by long use by the population of a widespread territory has become the means whereby the ideas or feelings of the individual members of that population are communicated or expressed. The term suggests some degree of stability in behavior (as in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammaticality); it usually connotes the existence of a standard determined by the usage of educated writers and speakers. English and French are languages, that is to say they are systems of habits of speech, exactly like Eskimo or Hottentot or any other language—R. A. Hall

dead languages such as classical Latin and ancient Greek

But language is also applied to a body of words and phrases that is peculiar to an art, a science, a profession, or a class and that, however well understood by others of the community, is not generally adopted by them. In economic language the “marginal saver” determines the price—Hobson

(it took the three of us, representing economics, sociology, and political science, about six weeks to learn each other’s language—Kerrwin)

dialect (see also dialect 1) may denote a form of language which is clearly distinguishable from other forms by marked differences and an identity of its own. More often it refers to a variant of a recognized language, restricted to a limited area and not entirely unintelligible to speakers of the language of which it is a phase (Venetian and Sicilian are equally dialects of Italian, although as far as mutual intelligibility is concerned these two might as well be called independent languages—Sapir)

(there is no poet in any tongue—not even in Latin or Greek—whom stands so firmly as a model for all poets—T. S. Eliot)

(totally the Bible into an Indian tongue—Cocket)

(he is a New England poet . . . true to its landscape, its climate, its history, its morality, its tongue—Mark Van Doren)

Speech, with rare exceptions, means spoken language, or (as in modern technical use) language as it is spoken (people of a strange speech—Ezek 3:6) (there are at least two sounds in the Anglo-Saxon which are unknown in our present speech—Whitney)

Idiom suggests reference to a country or sometimes to a province or section of a country with its own peculiar and distinctive tongue (part of the difficulty lies in the English idiom which is unfamiliar to the American reader—Stead)

(on the spot I read . . . the classics of the Tuscan idiom—Gibbon)

Idiom also may apply to private or peculiar language (as of a particular writer, class, literary school, or group) (the eminently personal idiom of Swinburne—T. S. Eliot)

(the medieval poetic idiom came after a while to seem a jargon—Lowes)

(I have read very little Runyon, whose idiom I always suspected—wrongfully, I’m sure—of being more or less synthetic—Gibbs)

Ana *dialect, vernacular, patois, lingo, jargon, cant, argot, slang

2 Language, vocabulary, phraseology, phrasing, diction, style are comparable rather than synonymous terms when they mean oral or written expression or a quality of such expression that is dependent on the variety, or arrangement, or expressiveness of words. Language applies primarily to verbal expression with reference to the words employed. It may call attention to excellence or ineptness in the use of words, to their dignity or their vulgarity, to their fitness or lack of fitness, to their sonority or their stridency, or to any of the qualities which speech or writing may derive from the choice and arrangement of words (he avoided harsh language in dealing with his children)

(language, grave and majestic, but of vague and uncertain import—Macaulay)

(when I read Shakespeare I am struck with wonder that such trivial people should muse and thunder in such lovely language—D. H. Lawrence)

Vocabulary calls attention chiefly to the extent or variety of the writer’s or speaker’s stock of words or to the source from which such a stock is derived (the constant play and contrast in English poetry between the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon vocabularies—Bottrall)

(German, famous for its polysyllabic vocabulary—G. A. Miller)

(even the vocabulary of renunciation, and its conventional gestures, were unfamiliar to him—Wharton)

Phraseology or phrasing is sometimes used in place of vocabulary when the reader’s attention is called especially to its idiomatic or peculiar character (coccidentencies of phraseology)

(awkward phrasing)

(exquisite phrasing in which we feel that every word is in its place—Edmund Wilson but phraseology in particular stresses the grouping of words as much as their choice (he can say in the phraseology of the sentimentalist that he “loves nature”) (the phraseology, rather than the vocabulary, of Donne offers difficulty to the inexperienced reader) (the gaudiness and inane phraseology of many modern writers—Wordsworth) (this cryptic and involved
phraseology, obscure to the uninitiated, permeates all communist publications—Report of Special Committee on Communist Tactics. Diction calls attention to the choice and arrangement of words with reference to their expression of ideas or emotions. The term is used commonly of considered language (as of poetry, literary prose, or oratory) and it usually, therefore, implies selection or arrangement with reference to such ends as impressiveness, elegance, and beauty of sound. He was in a high fever while he was writing, and the blood-and-thunder magazine diction he adopted did not calm him—Kipling. His choice of forceful picturesque diction in speech and writing—Laweson Brown. A poet cannot help being of his age, the diction and the idiom see to that—Gogarty. Style denotes a mode or manner of expressing one's thoughts or emotions or imaginative conceptions in words, as distinct from or as distinguishable from the thoughts or emotions or conceptions expressed. It is sometimes thought of as a structure and diction peculiar to an age or a literary type and found in each representative work of that time and type (the Renaissance epic style is based upon that of Vergil) (a poem written in the style of the ode) but perhaps more often it is thought of as a manner of expression which in structure and diction involves artistry but is individual and characteristic of its author. Style . . . is a peculiar recasting and heightening, under a certain condition of spiritual excitement, of what a man has to say, in such a manner as to add dignity and distinction to it—Arnold. What he believed in was style: that is to say, a certain absolute and unique manner of expressing a thing, in all its intensity and color—Pater. This is Style. As technically manifested in literature it is the power to touch with ease, grace, precision, any note in the gamut of human thought or emotion—Quiller-Couch.

languid, languishing, languorous, lackadaisical, listless, spiritless, enervated are comparable when they mean lacking in vim or energy or, when applied to things, the appearance of it. Languid usually implies an unwillingness or an inability to exert oneself owing to fatigue, exhaustion, or physical weakness (struck by something languid and inelastic in her attitude, and wondered if the deadly monotony of their lives had laid its weight on her also—Wharton; walked from the room with languid deliberate steps; . . . she moved as though she were intolerably weary—Wylie). Languishing may suggest delicate indolence, often accompanying boredom or futilely wasteful pensiveness and often connotes an affected rather than a real state (a languishing gaze) (with their languishing, sorrowful melodies . . . with their high-flown sentimentalism, these ballads reflected . . . stalne romanticism—Mooney). Languorous carries a suggestion of languidness and delicacy acquired through soft living, through shrinking from exertion, or through sentimentalism or overindulgence in tender or amorous emotions (sought out rich words with which to re-create the languorous, stilling beauty of the Old South—Springfield Republican). A poignant perfume, soft and languorous, all-enveloping and heart-stirring—Kenneth Roberts. Her shaded lids . . . were languorous from my kisses, and gave . . . an inebriating love-bemused and longing-solemn look—Edmund Wilson. Lackadaisical implies a carefree or indifferent attitude that either forbids exertion or makes for futile, piddling, or halfhearted and indolent efforts (at the terse tempo of mechanized war, lackadaisical men, lacking in self-confidence and slow to obey are lost—G. S. Patton). A lackadaisical river town that tolerated a generous amount of vice—T. D. Clark. Listless need not imply physical weakness, but it almost invariably implies either a lack of interest in what is going on around one or in what one is doing, or a languid appearance that may be the result either of boredom or ennui or of fatigue or disease (the child has grown thin, white, and listless within the past two months; suddenly relaxed into a listless attitude of sullen tractability—S. S. Van Dine). They were effete, weary, burnt-out revolutionists, whose listless voices slid sleepily over their melodies—Mooney. Spiritless implies the loss or the absence of the animation or fire that gives life or dash to a person or to his words and acts (a spiritless performance of a play) (dominated the starving, spiritless wretches under him with savage enjoyment—Mason). No courage can repel the dire assault; distracted, spiritless, benumbed, and blind, whole legions sink—Wordsworth. Enervated implies a destruction of qualities or powers essential to the vigorous exercise of the will and the intellect. Often it suggests the influence of luxury or of sloth but it may imply the operation of other causes, even of those that in themselves are not evil but may have deleterious effects (the enervated and sickly habits of the literary class—Emerson). Society in Rome, enervated as it was by vicious pleasure, craved continually for new excitements—Froude) (that enervated, run-down condition that is commonly known as Southern gentility—Basso).

Ana *lathargic, sluggish, comatose, torpid: phlegmatic, apathetic, *impassive: inert, *inactive, supine
Ant vivacious: chipper
languishing *languid, languorous, lackadaisical, listless, spiritless, enervated
Ana weakened, enfeebled, debilitated (see weaken): indolent, faineant (see Lazy): inert, *inactive, supine: *sentimental, romantic: pining, longing, yearning (see Long vb)
Ant thriving, flourishing; unaffected—Con robust, *healthy, sound, hale: *vigorous, energetic, lusty: *natural, artless, unsophisticated, naive
languor *lathargy, lassitude, stupor, torpor, torpidity
Ana exhaustion, fatigue, weariness (see corresponding verbs at tire): ennui, doldrums, *tedium: depression, blues, dumps (see sadness)
Ant alacrity—Con *celerity, *leregerity: quickness, promptness, readiness (see corresponding adjectives at Quick): zest, gusto (see taste)
languorous languishing, *languid, lackadaisical, listless, spiritless, enervated
Ant vigorous: strenuous (of times, seasons)
lank, lanky gaunt, rawboned, *lean, spare, angular, scrappy, skinny
Ana *thin, slim, slender, slight: attenuated, extenuated (see Thin vb)
Ant burly—Con husky, brawny, *muscular, sinewy: plump, portly, round, chubby, *fleshy, stout
lapse n 1 slip, *error, mistake, blunder, faux pas, blun, howler, boner
Ana *offense, sin, vice, crime: *fault, failing, frailty, foible: transgression, *breach, violation, trespass
2 relapse, backsliding (see under Lapse vb)
Ana *deterioration, decline, declension, decadence, degeneration, devolution: retrograding or retrogradation, receding or recession (see corresponding verbs at recede): retrogressiveness or retrogression, regressiveness or regression (see corresponding adjectives at backward)
Con advance, progress (see under Advance vb): *development, evolution
lapse vb Lapse, relapse, backslide and their corresponding nouns, lapse, relapse, backsliding, are comparable when they mean to fall back into a state or condition from which one has raised oneself or has been raised, or the act or state of one who has so fallen back. As distinguished from decline, degenerate, and deteriorate, these verbs do not necessarily imply the reversion of a process or development or the gradual losing and the inevitable loss of a valuable quality (as strength, power, or influence) but they do distinctively imply a failure to continue without break a course of improvement and a return, often quickly effected but not always irremovable, to an earlier bad or lower state or condition. Both lapse and relapse basically imply a sliding or slipping but they are increasingly divergent in their applications and connotations. Lapse usually presupposes reformation in manners, morals, or habits, or the acceptance of a high standard (as of rectitude, accuracy, or accomplishment). It need not imply culpability or weakness, for it often suggests no more than a sudden failure of the memory or the influence of habit or tradition or the pressure of an overwhelming emotion (it is easy for the person who has acquired good manners by effort to lapse into old ways when he is not on guard) (only when she was strongly moved did she lapse into the dialect she spoke in her youth) (the moment his attention is relaxed ... he will lapse into bad Shakespearean verse—T. S. Eliot) (whatever rhetorical or technical lapses they may contain, the conception is throughout that of a great musician—Edward Sackville-West). When culpability is strongly implied, the word still, in comparison to the other terms in the group, often connotes extenuating circumstances; it is therefore the fitting choice when the context indicates such circumstances (he constantly fought his tendency to lapse into easygoing ways) (the natives lapsed back into accustomed vices—Billington) (in estimating a man's place in the scale of perfection ... the moral judgment, not withholding condemnation of a particular lapse, may not condemn the man wholly for it—Alexander) Relapse presupposes definite improvement or an advance (as toward health or toward a higher physical, moral, or intellectual state) and it implies a complete and often dangerous reversal of direction; thus, one whose improvement in a serious illness has been marked may be said to relapse, or suffer a relapse, when his condition becomes definitely worse; a reformed thief is said to relapse when he returns to his old life (the Arabs were once the continuators of the Greek tradition; they produced men of science. They have relapsed ... into pre-scientific fatalism, with its attendant incuriosity and apathy—Huxley) (man's eternal tendency to relapse into apathy and atavism—Stewart) (his firmness of mind soon relapsed into a cankering intolerance—Cranston) (the corruptions and vices which accompany the horribly swift relapse of a culture into barbarism—Edmund Fuller) Backslide and backsliding also imply a reversal in direction of one who has been going forward, but unlike relapse, which is in many ways their close synonym, they are restricted in their reference largely to moral and religious lapses. They therefore often suggest unfaithfulness to one's duty or allegiance or to principles once professed (did not I ... backslide into intemperance and folly—Marryat) (this is not to say that backslidings fail to occur; on the contrary backslidings normally follow any strenuous moral experience—G. W. Allport) Ana revert, *return: slip, *slide: deteriorate, degenerate, decline (see corresponding nouns at DETERIORATION): *descend: *rede, retrograde Con progress, *advance: develop, *mature larcener, larcenist thief, robber, burglar (see under

larceny *theft, robbery, burglary large, big, great mean above the average of its kind in magnitude, especially physical magnitude. Large may be preferred when the dimensions, or extent, or capacity, or quantity, or amount is being considered <a large lot> <a large hall> <a large basket> <a large meal> <a large allowance> <a large crevasses and huge tunnels in many of them [icebergs] bore witness to a long voyage—Schuyt) Big, on the other hand, is especially appropriate when the emphasis is on bulk, or mass, or weight, or volume <a big book> <a big pile> <the box is too big to carry> <a big voice> <a big already—so enormous in fact—that we named him Monster, and he padded about like a furry whale—Atlantic) As applied to material objects, great has been practically displaced by large or big. Where great is used to denote physical magnitude, it now regularly connotes some impression (as of wonder, surprise, amusement, or annoyance) associated with the size (the great head that seemed so weighted down with thought and study—The Nation) (the great size of these figures—the largest man is 167 feet long ... prevented their character from being recognized—Amer. Guide Series: Calif) (his eyes were great and hollow, as a famished man forlorn—Morris) Great alone, in standard English, expresses degree <he was listened to with respect and, when aroused, with nearly as great fear—W. C. Ford) <great kindness> <great heat> In extended use, great suggests eminence, distinction, or supremacy <if we win men's hearts throughout the world, it will not be because we are a big country but because we are a great country. Bigness is imposing. But greatness is enduring—A. E. Stevenson) while large suggests breadth, comprehensiveness, or generosity (in intellect and humanity he is the largest type I have come across. Other greater men in my time were great in some one thing, not large in their very texture—Ricketts) and big carries over the implication of mass or bulk but often suggests impressiveness or importance rather than solidity or great worth (so-called big names, which are still big and still have great readership value, command high prices—Baldwin) (he didn't expect to work here all his life ... pretty soon he'd have a new job and would be a big man—Granite) Ana vast, immense, enormous, *huge, mammoth, colossal, gigantic: tremendous, prodigious, monumental, stupendous, *monstrous: inordinate, *excessive, exorbitant, extreme, immoderate, extravagant Ant small —Con little, diminutive, tiny, wee, minute (see SMALL): slight, slender, slim, *thin largely, greatly, mostly, chiefly, mainly, principally, generally are often interchanged, but they are capable of being used with explicitness even though they basically agree in meaning. Largely stresses quantity or extent; it usually connotes copiousness or abundance and often suggests an amount exceeding that of other ingredients, components, or constituents <water enters largely into the composition of the bodies both of plants and animals—Geikie> <good country sausage is largely pork> Greatly carries a heightened suggestion of greatness in degree that differentiates it from largely <he is greatly admired> <careless and lazy is he, greatly inferior to me—Kipling> (the sprouting of seed is greatly helped by sun and rain) Mostly usually stresses numbers <the audience was made up mostly of children> (twenty-seven millions mostly fools—Carlyle) Chiefly emphasizes the importance of one thing among other things; it may connote an outstanding or preeminent position or it may connote merely relative importance <the basket contained many fruits, but chiefly apples> (the battle was won chiefly by the aid of

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
the air force  Mainly is often used interchangeably with chiefly, but not where preeminence is implied; rather it connotes greatest importance among a number of things, but not exclusive value  be sure to take along with you all that you will need, but mainly informal clothes  the cause depends mainly on the validity of this act—John Marshall  the Pickwickian Christmas did very little to stimulate consumption; it was mainly a gratuitous festivity—Huxley  Principally carries an idea of primary importance rather than outstanding or relative importance; the difference is not great between it and chiefly or mainly except when the idea of being first or primary is emphasized  they wholly mistake the nature of criticism, who think its business is principally to find fault—Dryden  his support comes principally from the income of invested money  the cash crops are principally wheat and rye  Generally stresses reference to the majority of persons, instances, or cases involved  the people, not universally, but generally, were animated by a true spirit of sacrifice—Froude  the news was generally received with joy  the land breezes here are generally hot and dry

largess boon, *gift, present, gratuity, favor

Ana benefaction, *donation, contribution; grant, subvention (see APPROPRIATION)

lascivious lewd, *licentious, libertine, lustful, libidinous, lecherous, wanton

Ana  immoral, unmoral, amoral: sensual, *carnal, fleshy, animal: obscene, gross, coarse

Con  chaste, pure, modest, decent: virtuous, *moral

lassitude languor, *lethargy, stupor, torpor, torpidity

Ana exhaustion, weariness, fatigue (see corresponding verbs at TIRE): ennu, doldrums, *tedium: dumps, blues, depression (see SADNESS): impotence, powerlessness (see corresponding adjectives at POWERLESS)

Ant vigor —Con energy, strength, might, force, *power

last vb endure, *continue, abide, persist

Ana survive, outlast, *outlive: remain, *stay

Ant fleet

last adj Last, latest, final, terminal, concluding, eventual, ultimate are comparable when they mean following all the others in time or order or in importance. What is last comes at the end of a series, especially of things of the same kind or class; the term usually implies that no more will follow or have followed  the last page of a book  their last child is now ten years of age  fairest of stars, last in the train of night—Milton  but it may imply only that the thing so qualified is or was the most recent or is the closest or nearest with respect to the present or a given time or period  his last book is his best so far  their last visit to us was in December  In this latter sense latest may be preferred as less ambiguous; thus,  his latest book  is clearer than  his last book  since the latter wording might suggest the author’s ensuing death  the latest number of a current magazine  the latest news is that all is well  vetoed the latest version of Norris’s . . . bill—Lepawsky  What is final definitely closes a series or process not only because it is the last in order of individuals or details  the final day of school  the final float in the procession  the final event on a program  but because it is decisive or conclusive  the final answer to this question is still to be found  a final decree of divorce  a judgement that is final, that settles a matter—Dewey  a genuinely popular ballad can have no fixed and final form, no sole authentic version—Child  What is terminal comes at the end of something and marks the limit of its extension, its growth, or its completion as a series or process  the terminal point of a railroad  the Tamiami Trail, a name compounded of the syllables from the names of its terminal cities, Tampa and Miami—Amer. Guide Series: Fla.

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

little newboys crying their wares in correct Bosonense, down to broad a’s and softened terminal t’s—Price  What is concluding brings something (as a speech, a book, a program, a celebration) to an end or marks its finish  the concluding address was delivered by the chairman  provoked comparison by making their concluding paragraphs almost identical—R. G. Davis  What is eventual is bound to follow as the final effect of causes already in operation or of causes that will be operative if a given or understood contingency occurs  the silent decay and eventual overthrow of her natural defenses—Gladstone  it is his object to point out the necessity . . . for a deliberate and purposive art of eugenics, if we would prevent the eventual shipwreck of civilization—Ellis  What is ultimate (see also ULTIMATE 2) is the last, final, or terminal element in a series or process  this ultimate book of my autobiography—Osbert Sitwell  the ultimate stage in a process of descent—Ellis or is the final outcome or end to which a person or thing is moving or working  the ultimate effect of a drug  when I think of the earth’s refrigeration, and the ultimate collapse of our solar system—L. P. Smith  or is the most remote in time, either past or future, or most important in a scale of values  the ultimate effect of a war  (that word comes into English from French, but its ultimate source is Sanskrit)  its utopianism interferes with an interest in proximate, rather than ultimate, goals—Niebuhr  Ant first

lasting, permanent, perdurable, durable, stable, perpetual mean enduring for so long as to seem fixed or established. Lasting may imply long continuance with no end in sight; in this sense, it may be close in connotation to everlasting  who . . . sings his soul and body to their lasting rest—Shak. More typically, however, it does not imply endlessness, but rather a surprising capacity to continue indefinitely  the anger of slow, mild, loving people has a lasting quality that mere bad-tempered folk cannot understand—Deland  an excellent mind, shrewd wit, and an amazing capacity for developing lasting friendships—Douglas  Permanent applies chiefly to things which are not temporary, tentative, transitory, or fluctuating but which continue or are likely or expected to continue indefinitely or as long as relevant; thus, a permanent position may be expected to continue on the one hand until death or retirement removes the employee holding it or, on the other, until fundamental changes in or termination of the business of the employer renders it superfluous; permanent damage to an object is damage that will remain as long as the object persists  settled down and made a permanent home for his family  the stimulation of violent emotions may leave permanent traces on the mind—Inge  much of the current literature on this subject, both ephemeral and of permanent value, comes out of Russia—Sokolsky  Perdurable carries a stronger implication than does lasting in its typical use of endlessness of existence; but it suggests endless or apparently endless existence especially from the point of view of human remembrance or of historical record  makes him one of the few perdurable figures of our Civil War and secures him a sainthood that slander has not been able to violate—Cargil  our literature is going to be our most perdurable claim on man’s remembrance—Quiller-Couch  Durable implies power of resistance to destructive agencies; it usually suggests a capacity for lasting that exceeds that of other things of the same kind or sort  a durable pavement  a durable color  more durable than brass—Junius  (many writers have longed for durable renown—L. P. Smith  Stable applies to what is so firmly or solidly established that it cannot be moved or changed; the term therefore is applicable to things that
are lasting or durable because they are deeply rooted, or finely balanced, or infixed and not subject or likely to be subject to fluctuations (a stable foundation) (a stable form of government) (stable institutions) (the stable earth and the changing day—George Eliot) (men as steady as . . . wheels upon their axles, sane men, obedient men, stable in contentment—Huxley) (a relatively stable society . . . where the individual remains, both physically and socially, in the place in which he was born—Cheek)

**Perpetual** (see also **CONTINUAL**) is in many respects closer to **permanent** than to the remaining terms but it differs from it signally in the absence of any notion of relevance and may approach everlastings in its suggestion of an endless course or a going on without a prospect of something intervening to bring about an end; thus, the furnace has a **permanent** not a **perpetual** place in the cellar since the cellar itself will ultimately crumble away; **perpetual**, rather than **permanent**, motion is considered impossible because of the inevitable interference of friction (a dark, a colorless, a tasteless, a perfumeless, as well as a shapeless world: the leaden landscape of a **perpetual** winter—Mumford) (the song of the minstrel moved through a **perpetual** Maytime—J. R. Green) (a **perpetual** embargo was the annihilation, and not the regulation of commerce—John Marshall)

**Ana** enduring, abiding, persisting or persistent, continuing (see corresponding verbs at **CONTINUE**): **everlasting**, endless, unceasing: **continual**, continuous, incessant, unremitting, perennial: eternal, sempiternal (see **INFINITE**)

**Ant** fleeting—**Con** fugitive, passing, evanescent, transitory, **transient**, short-lived

**late** 1 *tardy, behindhand, overdue**

**Ana** delayed, retarded, detained (see **DELAY**)

**Ant** early: punctual, prompt—**Con** timely, *seasonable*, opportune, well-timed

2 departed, deceased, defunct, *dead*, lifeless, inanimate

3 *modern, recent**

**latent**, dormant, quiescent, potential, **abeyant** are comparable when meaning not now manifest or not evincing signs of existence or activity. **Latent** implies concealment and is applied to what is present without showing itself (**latent energy**) (a **latent** infection) (his sinister qualities, formerly **latent**, quickened into life—Hardy) (it remained possible that by further development, **latent** contradictions might have been revealed—Russell) **Dormant** usually suggests sleeping and is applied to something which has once been active but now is inactive though not incapable of future activity (a **dormant** plant) (a **dormant** volcano) (which power can never be exercised by the people themselves, but must be placed in the hands of agents, or lie **dormant**—John Marshall) (she pursued him with attention, and when his passion was **dormant** sought to excite it—Maugham) **Quiescent** emphasizes the fact of inactivity without necessary implications either of causes or of past or future. It suggests the increase of their wealth as they sank into **quiescent** Tories—Meredith) Sometimes it connotes immobility (if only we could persuade ourselves to remain **quiescent** when we are happy!—Jefferies)

**Potential** applies to something which at a time in question does not possess such being, nature, or effect as is expressed but which is likely to have or capable of having such being, nature, or effect at some future time (**potential** energy) (disaffected citizens who are a **potential** danger to the nation) (this eye for a **potential** and achievable best—Mumford) (it [an infant] must from the very first be viewed seriously, as a **potential** adult—Russell) **Abeyant** (more often, predicatively, in **abeyance**) implies a suspension of activity or active existence (in Mr. Brooke the hereditary strain of Puritan energy was clearly in **abeyance**—George Eliot)

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
sailing in ... and orders me out—Faith McNulty) Farcical is often used interchangeably with comical but it is especially appropriate when what creates amusement is, like dramatic farce, dependent upon extravagance, nonsenseness, practical jokes, or burlesque for the effect it produces (boys are like monkeys ... the gravest actors of farcical nonsense that the world possesses—Meredith) (almost farcical to suppose that Henry, as a Norman prince, could not talk his own language to his Norman bride—Emerson) Droll and funny usually imply oddity or strangeness to what makes a thing laughable, but droll ordinarily carries a stronger implication of unfamiliarity, quaintness, absurdity, or intentional humorlessness (Thackeray's names, though often ludicrous, are always happy, and often inimitably droll—Athenaeum) (the habit of trying to marshal all the facts, weigh them, and think things through ... is sometimes regarded as droll—Bunche) and funny of queerness or curiosity (the night mail set me down at Marwar Junction, where a funny little happy-go-lucky native-managed railway runs to Jodhpore—Kipling) (children thought he was a very funny old Chinaman, as children always think anything old and strange is funny—Steinbeck) Funny is, however, the ordinary informal term interchangeable with any other word of the group (a funny story) (he could rarely risk being funny and lightening his deadly seriousness with comedy—Anthony West)


lavish *profuse, prodigal, luxuriant, lush, exuberant Ana *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, generous, munificent, handsome: sumptuous, opulent, *luxurious: *excessive, inordinate, extravagant Ant sparing—Con *meager, scanty, scant: economical, frugal, thrifty (see sparing): provident, prudent, discreet (see under Prudence): *stingy, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly

lavish 488 lawful

lawful

formity in procedure, or conformity to a standard of practice) (the rules of a game) (the rules of a school) (the rules of good writing) Sometimes rule does not imply ordering and prohibiting but suggests a positive way of thinking or acting in order to get desired or concrete results (the rule of three) (like many old-time craftsmen he worked strictly by rule of thumb) Regulation often equals rule, but distinctively it connotes prescription by authority for the control or management of an organization or system (military regulations) (regulations respecting interstate commerce) (factory regulations) (we, the artists, are individualists ... what right have you to circumscribe us with petty rules and regulations?—Harford) (this regulation establishes ceiling prices for producers (brewers) of domestic malt beverages—DiSalvo) Precept, like law, usually implies generality and lack of detail in the statement and an authoritative origin; like rule, however, it implies closer reference to individual conduct than to government (he really was the one child to whom the "spare-the-rod" precept did not apply—Deland) Often precept is applied to what is enjoined by teaching; it commonly suggests counsel or advice, and is opposed in its abstract use to practice or example (by precept and by practice he proclaimed the lofty solitude of the individual soul—Ellis) (observe the sixth commandment, not as a precept of divine law but as a counsel of profitable prudence—Sullivan) Statute, ordinance, and canon all come under the general class of law. A statute is a written law, formally enacted by a legislative body. An ordinance is a local law, especially one enacted by a municipal government. A canon, basically, is a law of a church binding upon all of its members. In extended use canon is applied to such laws of ethics, of society, of criticism, and of the practice of the arts, as have the sanction of accepted authority and are enforced by one's moral, social, or artistic conscience (are we witnessing a violent reaction against accepted canons of decency in life?—Grandgent) Ana mandate, dictate, *command 2 *principle, axiom, fundamental, theorem Ana necessity, exigency (see Need n) Ant chance 3 *hypothesis, theory 4 statute, act, *bill

lawful, legal, legitimate, licit mean permitted, sanctioned, or recognized by law or the law. Lawful differs from the others in implying a reference to various sorts of law (as divine law, natural law, or the law of the land, or as civil law, common law, or canon law). Consequently, the term often comes close in meaning to allowable or permissible (all things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient—I Cor 6:12) (tell me, which knave is lawful game, which not? Must great offenders, once escaped the Crown, like royal harts, be never more run down?—Pope) or sometimes to rightful or proper (the lawful heir) (a lawful prize) (the lawful sovereign) (that man was not Hannah's lawful husband—Ingamells) (William desired to reign not as a conqueror but as a lawful king—J. R. Green)

Legal implies a reference to the law as it appears on the statute books or is administered in the courts; thus, the lawful heir is also the legal heir; the lawful owner of a piece of property is one whose legal right to it is certain; the legal heir is entitled only to legal interest on his loans. Legal is used more often in the sense of sanctioned by law, or in conformity with the law, or not contrary to the law, than in the sense of allowable by the terms of the law (a legal marriage) (the legal period for the payment of a debt) (the capture of the neutral ship carrying contraband was held to be legal) (she became the virtual head of our family, supplanting ... my Uncle Tiberius (the legal

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
A lawyer, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate, attorney, are applied chiefly to a lawyer who has been sup- planted by solicitor, with, however, emphasis on the trans-
lean vb *slant, slope, incline

Anu adj. *chief, principal, main, foremost, capital

Ana governing, ruling (see govern); conducting, directing, managing, controlling (see conduct vb); prominent, outstanding (see noticeable); eminent (see famous); preeminent, *supreme, superlative

Ant subordinate

lean vb *slant, slope, incline

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

lean adj *lean, spare, lank, lanky, gaunt, rawboned, angular, scrawny, skinny mean thin because of absence of superfluous flesh. Lean stresses the lack of fat and therefore of figure that one often finds in army men—<a quote by Wolfe>

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

Wolfe

Several other adjectives are shown in a concordance with links to their definitions. This text snippet appears to be from a concordance or dictionary. The author seems to be discussing the meanings of words related to thinness and shape, particularly in the context of physical appearance and characteristics. Words such as lean, spare, lank, lanky, gaunt, rawboned, angular, scrawny, and skinny are being compared and contrasted. The text mentions specific sources, indicating that the definitions or usage notes might be derived from them. The snippet ends with a colon, suggesting that more information could follow. The asterisk (*) marking seems to denote specific points of interest or emphasis within the text.
learned: He reads Greek and Latin easily. He can recite poetry in seven languages—Book-of-the-Month Club News. Scholarly also implies learning, but it is applied particularly to persons or to the utterances, ideas, and writings of persons who have attained mastery in a field of study or investigation, who have to a greater or lesser extent advanced knowledge in that field, and who have exhibited consistently high standards in the appraisal of their own and others' discoveries. (never academic—still less pedantic—but always scholarly; with the effect of profound learning ever so lightly worn—Storr) Often, more narrowly, the term implies great care for accuracy or exactness (a scholarly study of the causes of the war). (scholarly pursuits) (this biography ... is scholarly to the point of being unreadable, with footnotes covering half the space—New Yorker) Erudite, though often employed as an equivalent of learned or scholarly, usually implies a love of learning for its own sake, a taste for what is out-of-the-way or remote from the interests of the average well-read man, and often an inordinately wide range of knowledge (the point of view of a profound and erudite student, with a deep belief in the efficacy of useless knowledge—Benson) (that excellent critic, the late Mr. Walkley, was often spoken of as erudite, because his charming quotations gave so many readers a feeling of having to do with a man who had all literature at his command—Montague)

Ana cultivated, cultured (see corresponding nouns at culture): *pedantic, academic, scholastic, bookish: *recondite, abstruse, esoteric

Con illiterate, unlettered, uneducated, unlearned, un-tutored, *ignorant

learning erudition, scholarship, *knowledge, science, information, lore

Ana *culture, cultivation, breeding, refinement: enlightenment (see corresponding verb at illuminate)

lease vb let, charter, *hire, rent

leave vb 1 *will, bequeath, devise, legate

Ana *commit, entrust, confide, consign: assign, *allot, apportion

2 *relinquish, resign, surrender, abandon, yield, cede, waive

Ana forsake, *abandon, desert: *forsake, forbear, sacrifice, abnegate, eschew: *neglect, ignore, forget, omit: *grant, concede, vouchsafe: relegate, *commit, confide, entrust

3 depart, quit, *go, withdraw, retire

Ana *escape, flee, fly, abscond, desert: *forbear, forsake, shun, shirk, renounce, renounce: *neglect, ignore, forget, omit: *grant, concede, vouchsafe: relegate, *commit, confide, entrust

Con *come, arrive: *appear, emerge, loom

4 *let, allow, permit, suffer, encourage

leave n *permission, sufferance

Ana consenting or consent, assenting or assent (see as-sent vb): sanctioning or sanction, endorsement, approval (see corresponding verbs at approve): authorization (see corresponding verb at authorize)

Con refusing or refusal, rejecting or rejection (see corresponding verbs at decline): forbidding or forbiddance, prohibition, interdiction (see corresponding verbs at forbid)

leaven *infuse, imbue, inoculate, ingrained, suffuse


leavings remains, *remainder, residue, residuum, rest, balance, remnant

Ana fragments, pieces, portions (see singular nouns at part): discarings or discards, scrappings or scraps, junks or junk (see discard vb)

lecherous licentious, lascivious, lustful, lewd, wanton, *licentious, libertine

Ana *dissolute, *abandoned, reprobate, profligate: degenerate, corrupt (see vicious)

lecture address, *speech, oration, harangue, talk, sermon, homily

leech *parasite, sponge, sponger, sycophant, toady, lickspittle, bootlicker, hang-on, favorite

lees n *deposit, precipitate, sediment, dregs, grounds

Ana *refuse, waste

leeway *room, berth, play, elbowroom, margin, clearance

legal legitimate, licit, *lawful

Ant illegal

legal tender *money, cash, currency, specie, coin, coinage

legate n *ambassador, nuncio, internuncio, charged d'affaires, minister, envoy

legate vb *will, bequeath, devise, leave

legend 1 *myth, saga

2 *inscription, caption

legendary mythical, apocryphal, fabulous, *fictitious

legation *celerity, alacrity

Ana nimbleness, agility, briskness, spryness (see corresponding adjectives at agile): swiftness, fleetness, rapidity (see corresponding adjectives at fast): dexterity, ease, readiness, facility: dispatch, expedition, speed (see haste)

Ant deliberateness: sluggishness

legation host, army, *multitude

legitimate legal, *lawful, licit

Ana justified or justifiable, warranted or warrantable (see corresponding verbs at justify): *valid, sound, cogent: recognized, acknowledged (see acknowledge): customary, *usual: *regular, normal, typical, natural

Ant illegitimate: arbitrary (powers, means)

leisure relaxation, *rest, repose, ease, comfort

Ant toil —Con *work, labor, travail, grind, drudgery

leisurely deliberate, *slow, dilatory, laggard

Ana relaxed, slack, lax (see loose): slackened, retarded, delayed (see delay): easy, *comfortable, restful

Ant hurried: abrupt —Con hasty, speedy, quick, *fast, rapid: *precipitate, headlong, impetuous

leitmotiv motive, motif, theme, *subject, matter, subject matter, argument, topic, text

lengthen *extend, elongate, prolong, protract

Ana *increase, augment: *expand, amplify, distend

Ant shorten —Con abridge, abbreviate, curtail (see shorten)

leniency clemency, mercifulness, forbearance, tolerance, indulgence (see under forbearing)

Ana lenity, clemency, *mercy, charity, grace: kindness, benignity, benignancy, kindness (see corresponding adjectives at kind): compassionateness, tendernessness (see corresponding adjectives at tender)

lenient 1 *soft, gentle, smooth, mild, bland, balmy

Ana assuaging, alleviating, relieving (see relieve): grateful, agreeable, welcome, gratifying, pleasing, *pleasant

Ant caustic —Con harsh, *rough

2 indulgent, merciful, clement, *forbearing, tolerant

Ana forgiving, excusing, condoning, pardoning (see excuse vb): kindly, benign, benignant (see kind): compassionate, *tender: indulging, pampering, humoring, spoiling, mollifying (see indulge): lax (see negligent)

Ant stern: exacting —Con rigid, rigorous, stringent: *severe, austere

leniently forbearingly, tolerantly, clemently, mercifully, indulgently (see under forbearing)

leniency clemency, mercy, charity, grace

Ana leniency, indulgence, clemency, mercifulness, forbearance, tolerance (see under forbearing): benignity,
beneignity, kindness, (see corresponding adjectives at kind): compassionateness or compassion, tenderness (see corresponding adjectives at tender): benevolence, humaneness, charitableness (see corresponding adjectives at charitable): laxity (see corresponding adjective at negligent)

**Ant** severity — **Con** strictness, rigorousness, rigidity, stringency (see corresponding adjectives at rigid): sternness, austerity (see corresponding adjectives at severe)

**lesion** wound, trauma, traumatism, bruise, contusion

**Ana** *injury, hurt, damage

less adj. Less, lesser, smaller, fewer are comparable terms that approach each other in meaning but are not synonyms and are rarely interchangeable. Less means not as much, especially in degree, value, or amount, and its opposite is usually more. It applies chiefly to collective nouns or nouns denoting mass or abstruse whole (the moon yields less light than the sun) <John has less money than James> <please make less noise> <humility has less appeal to men of today than other virtues> Lesser means not as great, as important, or as significant as that with which the thing so qualified is compared and implies opposition to greater or major <God made ... the lesser light to rule the night—Gen 1:16> <humility is not, in Christian ethics, regarded as a lesser virtue> <lesser breaches of the law—Locke>

In vernacular names lesser implies that the kind of plant or animal so designated is distinguished from a very similar one carrying the same name chiefly by its comparative smallness of size <the lesser celandine> <the lesser snipe>

**smaller** means not as large as that with which the thing so qualified is compared (as in size, dimensions, or quantity) <the smaller of two rooms> <give her the smaller table for it will take up less room> **fewer** means not as many and implies a difference in number of individuals or units; the term therefore modifies a plural noun <he has fewer pupils than he had last year> <give her fewer lumps of sugar> <no fewer than fifty were present>

**Ant** more

lessen *decrease, diminish, reduce, abate, dwindle

**Ana** *shorten, curtail, retrench, abridge, abbreviate: shorten, curtail, retrench, abridge, abbreviate: lighten, mitigate, alleviate (see RELIEVE):

*thin, dilute, attenuate

lesser smaller, *less, fewer

**Ant** major

let 1 lease, rent, *hire, charter

2 Let, allow, permit, suffer, leave denote to refrain from preventing, or to fail to prevent, or to indicate an intention not to prevent. Let, allow, and permit, though frequently used with little distinction of meaning, are capable of discrimination. Let is the most informal <her mother wouldn't let her go> <she didn't go because her mother wouldn't let her> Sometimes let implies failure to prevent through awkwardness, inadvertence, negligence, or inaction <the third baseman let the ball get through him> (this dismal sketch of the future of countries that let themselves become dependent on the labor of other countries — Shaw> <he is usually very particular not to let his beasts stray —F. D. Smith & Barbara Wilcox> and sometimes it implies failure to prevent through lack of power or inclination <he'll have to be a good deal tougher than his dad, who lets himself be pushed around—Mead> Allow and permit imply power or authority to prohibit or prevent. But allow may imply little more than acquiescence or lack of prohibition, whereas permit implies express signification of willingness <the freedom of conscience allowed dissenters, the tolerance extended to all creeds—Billington> (a business or profession which allows you to get away when you want to—Joseph) <I blush for the weakness that allows me to cherish such a passion—Gilbert> <he permitted none but Quaker preachers to smoke or drink in his home—Starr> <we do not give gifts, throw parties or pay bonuses at Christmas time. We do permit our employees to gather in the lobby and sing carols on Christmas Eve—Wall Street Jour.> Suffer (somewhat bookish in this sense) is often a mere synonym for allow in the narrowest implication of that word <suffer little children to come unto me—Lk 18:16> <suffer me to take your hand. Death comes in a day or two—Millay> but it may imply indifference or reluctance <the eagle suffers little birds to sing—Shak.> <she suffered herself to be led to the tiny enclosure where ... other generations had been buried—S. E. White> <perhaps the whole business ... of the death penalty will seem ... an anachronism too discordant to be suffered, mocking with grim reproach—Cardozo> Leave (see also 1) as used with the implication of letting, allowing, or permitting is not clearly distinct from the use discriminated at relinquish, but it tends to stress strongly the implication of noninterference; often it also suggests the departure of the person who might interfere <leave the choice of games to be settled by the guests> <the defendant's attorney left him free to tell his story as he wished> <we must leave the children to settle their affairs for themselves—Rose Macaulay>

**Ana** sanction, endorse, *approve, accredit, certify: authorize, license, commission

Con *forbid, prohibit, interdict, enjoin, ban, inhibit: hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar: thwart, *frustrate, foil, circumvent

**lethal** deadly, fatal, mortal

**Ana** destroying or destructive (see corresponding verb at destroy): killing, slaying (see KILL): *pernicious, bane, ful, noxious: *poisonous, virulent, venomous, toxic

Con salutary, wholesome, hygienic, *healthful: renewing, restoring or restorative (see corresponding verbs at renew)

**lethargic**, sluggish, torpid, comatose are comparable when they mean being by constitution or condition physically and often mentally inert or inactive. Lethargic usually implies either a constitutional or a temporary or pathological state of sleepiness or drowsiness that makes for slowness in reactions, responses, or movements, or for temperamental apathy <bullfrogs, in a recent shipment, were quite lethargic ... and reacted only when they were strongly stimulated—Giese> <one is the lethargic atmosphere of an apathetic people, hopeless and helpless to direct their own destinies—Atlantic> <not all the industries of a Hercules will suffice to awaken the lethargic brain—Mencken> (but it was no lethargic calm; my brain was more active than ever—Hudson>

Lethargic applies not only to persons but to whatever by its nature moves, acts, or functions; the term implies conditions which create stagnation, inertia, indolence, or inability to proceed at a normal or usual pace <sluggish attention> (a sluggish pond) (a sluggish circulation) (a sluggish market for securities) <I want no sluggish languor, no bovine complacency. A pheno- barbital philosophy does not appeal to me—Warren Weaver>

England has become unenterprising and sluggish because England has been so prosperous and comfortable—H. G. Wells>

**Torpid** suggests the loss of power of feeling and of exertion; basically it implies the numb or benumbed state of a hibernating animal, but in its more common extended sense it implies a lack of the energy, vigor, and responsiveness that one associates with healthy, vital, active beings <memory was not so utterly torpid in Silas that it could not be wakened by these words—George Eliot> <still Richard was torpid; could not think or move—Woolf> <Oxford was torpid also, drooping along in its eighteenth-century grooves—
lethargy, languor, lassitude, stupor, torpor, torpidity are analogous words to discriminating powers of the mind, and . . . reduce it to a torpidity, however, probably more often applies to a torpidity which the last solitary tourist, flying with the yellow leaves . . . had left them to enjoy till the returning spring—Peacock

A sluggishness, comatoseness (see corresponding adjectives at lethargic): indolence, slothfulness or sloth, laziness (see corresponding adjectives at lazy): inertia or inertia, inactivity, idleness, passiveness, supineness (see corresponding adjectives at inactive): apathy, phlegm, impassivity (see under impassive)

Ant vigor—Con quickness, readiness, promptness, aptness (see corresponding adjectives at quick): alertness, quick-wittedness (see corresponding adjectives at intelligent)

lethargy, languor, lassitude, stupor, torpor, torpidity are comparable when meaning physical and mental inactivity. Lethargy implies a state marked by an aversion to activity which may be constitutional but is typically induced by disease, extreme fatigue or exhaustion, overeating or overdrinking, or constant frustration and which exhibits itself in drowsiness or apathy (what means this heaviness that hangs upon me? This lethargy that creeps through all my senses? Nature, oppressed and harassed out with care, sinks down to rest—Addison) (the state of apathy and lethargy, which they had been thrust by their stunning defeat—Political Science Quarterly). Langor (compare languid) has nearly lost its basic application to a condition of weakness, faintness, or delicacy of constitution induced by illness and serving as a bar to exertion or effort (I nearly sank to the ground through languor and extreme weakness—M. W. Shelley) and has come to imply an inertia such as results from soft living, from an enerating climate, or from amorous emotion (intervals of repose, which though agreeable for a moment, yet if prolonged beget a languor and lethargy that destroy all enjoyment—Hume) (she is characterized essentially by languor. Her most familiar posture is on a bed or divan—Fowle) (instead of the languor of the tropics, they seem to have acquired . . . a good deal of our energy and enthusiasm—Eleanor Roosevelt)

Lassitude implies such a listless seedy mental or physical condition as may result from strain, overwork, poor health, or intense worry; it usually connotes an inertia of mind or body which one has not the strength to fight (the results of overstrained energies are feebleness and lassitude—Borrow) (she sat for twenty minutes or more ere she could summon resolution to go down to the door, her courage being lowered to zero by her physical lassitude—Hardy) (an overpowering lassitude, an extreme desire simply to sit and dream—Moorehead). Stupor implies a state of heaviness when the mind is deadened (as by extreme drowsiness, intoxication, narcotic poisoning, or the coma of illness); the term may imply any state from a dreamy trancelike condition to almost complete unconsciousness (there is . . . something almost narcotic in such medieval poetry; one is lulled into a pleasing stupor—Lowes) (was in a stupor of mental weariness—Anderson) (had collapsed for the moment in a stupor of pain—Steen). Torpor and torpidity basically suggest the condition of a hibernating animal which has lost all power of exertion or of feeling (a poorwill found during the winter . . . which was in a state of profound torpidity—F. C. Lincoln). Both terms, especially when employed in reference to persons, usually imply extreme sluggishness and inertia (as in some forms of insanity); torpidity, however, probably more often applies to a physical condition and torpor to a mental state (blunt the discriminating powers of the mind, and . . . reduce it to a state of almost savage torpor—Wordsworth) (a deathlike torpor has succeeded to her former intellectual activity—Prescott) (in a world of torpidities any rapid moving thing is hailed—Birrell) (the torpidity which the last solitary tourist, flying with the yellow leaves . . . had left them to enjoy till the returning spring—Peacock)

Ana sluggishness, comatoseness (see corresponding adjectives at lethargic): indolence, slothfulness or sloth, laziness (see corresponding adjectives at lazy): inertia or inertia, inactivity, idleness, passiveness, supineness (see corresponding adjectives at inactive): apathy, phlegm, impassivity (see under impassive)

Ant vigor—Con quickness, readiness, promptness, aptness (see corresponding adjectives at quick): alertness, quick-wittedness (see corresponding adjectives at intelligent)
or by a diplomatic, military, or naval officer in its service. 

**Report** (see also **Account 2**) applies particularly to a communication sent by an official (as a diplomat) to his own government. The term is also applicable to an official communication giving a detailed statement of facts, proceedings, or recommendations (the committee on foreign affairs is ready to make a report to Congress) (the school sends a monthly report of each student's work to his parents) **Memorandum** is used chiefly in business for an informal communication sent to an executive or employee, conveying instructions or directions.

**levee** *wharf, dock, pier, quay, slip, berth, jetty

**level** vb point, train, *direct, aim, lay

**level** adj. Level, flat, plane, plain, even, smooth, flush are comparable chiefly as applied to surfaces and as meaning having a surface comparable to that of a perfectly calm body of water with no part higher than another. Something is level whose surface, from every point of view, lies on a line corresponding to or parallel with that of the horizon (the top of the table is not perfectly level) (the prairies are vast stretches of nearly level land) (a plot of ground made level by grading) But level is also applicable to an adjacent surface lying in exactly the same plane (in the spring, the river's surface is often level with its banks) (buildings whose roofs are level with one another) In extended use level implies an equality of parts, or of one thing with another, so that there are no manifest fluctuations or irregularities; thus, to speak in a level voice is to speak without the variations in pitch or voice volume that indicate imperfect self-control; to keep a level head is to keep free from distracting excitement. Something is flat (see also **insipid**) which is marked by absence of noticeable curvatures, prominences, or depressions, whether it lies in a horizontal plane or not (there is no flat ground hereabouts) (the flat face of a cliff) (the sides of a pyramid are all flat) But flat may apply to something that lies directly upon or against a flat surface (flat feet) (lay the map flat on the table) (the chairs have their backs flat against the wall) (lie flat on the ground) In extended use flat applies sometimes to what is so lacking in variation or variety as to be monotonous (a flat speech delivered by the new president) (a flat entertainment) or to what gives no ground for doubt or for difference in description because direct, pure, complete, or unqualified (a flat question) (a belief that is flat heresy) (a flat failure) or to what is fixed or absolutely exact (ask a flat price) (he ran the race in a flat ten seconds) Something is plane or plain which is flat and usually level. Plane is more usual in technical and mathematical use and more often applies to angles, curves, or figures (as triangles, rectangles, and pentagons) all points of which lie in the same real or imaginary surface so that if any two points be taken within the boundary lines of the angle, curve, or figure, the straight line joining them lies wholly within that surface; thus, **plane geometry**, which deals with plane angles, curves, and figures, is distinguished from **solid geometry** (the plane sides of a crystal) **Plain** is much less frequent in adjective use and applies chiefly to the ground (I recovered some strength, so as to be able to walk a little on plain ground—John Wesley) Something is even (see also **steady**) which exhibits a uniformity of all the points either of a plane surface or of a line so that the surface's flatness or levelness or the line's straightness is observable (he trimmed the top of the hedge to make it even) (the hem of your skirt is not even) (the frigate was on an even keel—Marryat) Something is smooth that exhibits perfect evenness of surface, as though polished, rolled, or planed free from the slightest traces of roughness or unevenness (the smooth surface of a rubbed and polished table) (a smooth lawn) (the tall bamboo and the long moss threw farther shadows . . . over the smooth bayou—Stark Young) A surface or a line is flush that is in the same horizontal or vertical plane or forms a continuous surface or line with another surface or line (the front of the house is flush with the front boundary line) (the river's surface is now flush with that of its banks) (a flush panel) (in the ordinary printed page, all lines are flush except those in titles or headings or those that are indented for paragraphing)

**Ana** parallel, uniform, *like, alike, akin, identical, similar: *same, equivalent, equal

**Con** undulating, fluctuating, swaying (see **swing vb**): varying, changing (see **change vb**)

**levitate** *rise, arise, ascend, mount, soar, tower, rocket, surge

**Ant** gravitate, sink

**levity** *lightness, light-mindedness, frivolity, flippancy, volatility, lightness

**Ana** foolishness or folly, silliness, absurdity (see corresponding adjectives at **foolish**); gaiety, liveliness, sprightliness, vivaciously or vivacity (see corresponding adjectives at **lively**)

**Ant** gravity — **Con** seriousness, soberness or sobriety, earnestness, solemnity, somberness (see corresponding adjectives at **serious**); severity, sternness, austerity, asceticism (see corresponding adjectives at **severe**)

**lewd** lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous, wanton, *licentious, libertine

**Ana** *immoral, unclean, amoral: gross, * coarse, obscene: indecent, indecency (see **indecorous**)

**Ant** chaste — **Con** decent, pure, modest (see **chaste**): moral, virtuous: continent, temperate (see **sober**)

**liability** *debt, indebtedness, obligation, debit, arrear

**Ant** asset (or **plural assets**)

**liable** 1 amenable, answerable, * responsible, accountable

**Ana** obliged, constrained, compelled (see **force vb**): bound, tied (see **tie vb**)

**Con** exempt, immune (see corresponding nouns at **exempt**: *free, independent

2 **Liable**, open, exposed, subject, prone, susceptible, sensitive are used with reference to persons or things and mean being by nature or situation in a position where something stated or implied may happen. **Liable** (see also **Apt 2**; **Responsible**) is used particularly when the thing one incurs or may incur is the result of his obligation to authority, of his state in life, or of submission to forces beyond his control (one of the most horrible diseases to which mankind is liable—Eliot) (literature is liable to obsolescence, not only because language changes and gradually becomes less intelligible, but because the ideas, the interests, the conception of life it expresses, the very form of the thought, the experiences which arouse emotion, all become obsolete—Aldington) (liable to be burned at the stake for . . . heresy—Repple) **Open** suggests lack of barriers or ease of access (standing thus alone . . . open to all the criticism which descends on the lone form of the thought, the experiences which arouse emotion, all become obsolete—Aldington) (liable to be burned at the stake for . . . heresy—Repple) **Subject and prone** (see also **Prone 2**) both suggest greater likelihood

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
of incurring or suffering than liable and even less resistance than exposed; they may both connote the position of being under the sway or control of a superior power, but otherwise they differ in implications. Subject implies openness to something which must be suffered, borne, or undergone for a reason (as a state in life or a social, economic, or political status or a quality of temperament or nature) (the French people would have stood permanently weak, open to invasion and subject to continual interference—Belloc) (both were subject to constant criticism from men and bodies of men whose minds were as acute and whose learning was as great as their own—Henry Adams) (Paul was rather a delicate boy, subject to bronchiitis—D. H. Lawrence) (the cycles to which all civilizations are subject—Ellis) (the constitution was strictly an unknown one, and was awesomely subject to revision in the light of new developments—Buchan) Prone, on the other hand, usually implies that the person, or less often the thing, concerned is more or less governed by a propensity or predisposition to something which makes him or it almost certain to incur or to do that thing when conditions are favorable (you may well warn me against such an evil. Human nature is so prone to fall into it!—Austen) (I think that girls are less prone than boys to punish oddity by serious physical cruelty—Russell) (in those industries that are most prone to periods of depression and unemployment—Hobson) (our painters are prone to acquiesce in the colors of nature as they find them, rather than to use colors expressive of the mood evoked in themselves—Binyon) Susceptible carries a stronger implication than the preceding terms, with the exception of prone, of something in the person's or thing's nature, character, constitution, or temperament that makes him or it unresistant or liable to a thing and especially to a deleterious influence (wheat tends to be very susceptible to smut—Furnas) (a mind enormously more susceptible to tragic impressions than your own—Montague) (a natural-born actor, who was, in childhood, susceptible not only to somnambulism but to mesmeric control—Brooks) When used attributively the word often implies a readiness to fall in love (a very susceptible young man) Sometimes, however, susceptible stresses openness by reason of one's nature, character, or constitution, rather than liability, and when followed by of is equivalent to admitting or allowing (a theory susceptible of proof) (today's pedagogical theory asserts that memory cannot be cultivated: it is inborn, full-grown at the start, and not susceptible of increase—Grandgent) Sensitive differs from susceptible chiefly in implying a physical or emotional condition that predisposes one to certain impressions or certain reactions (she was too sensitive to abuse and calumny—Macaulay) (she discovered that with the clarification of her complexion and the birth of pink cheeks her skin had grown more sensitive to the sun's rays—Hardy) (she was extremely sensitive to neglect, to disagreeable impressions, to want of intelligence in her surroundings—Henry Adams) (the eye is much more sensitive to light than the hand or the balance to weight—Darrow)

**Ana** analogous words  
**Ant** antonyms  
**Con** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
openhanded generosity and miserly penny-pinching—Newsweek> Munificent stresses splendid or princely liberality (a munificent endowment) <Caesar had been most munificent to his soldiers. He had doubled their ordinary pay. He had shared the spoils of his conquests with them—Froude> Handsome (for application to a person see beautiful) is often a close synonym of liberal and may carry a suggestion of astonishing largeness when applied to a gift, an offer, or a salary <in the case of the king and other public dignitaries we have arranged that they shall have handsome incomes—Shaw> {assuredly the archbishop . . . leaves something handsome for the servants—Borrow> or it may be a close synonym of generous especially when applied to an act or deed that evokes admiration for its unexpected magnanimity or graciousness {I should like to think of your house as your home, Tony} . . . This was handsome, if it was meant, and there seemed no reason why it shouldn't be—Archibald Marshall> Anna lavish, prodigal, *profuse, exuberant: benevolent, philanthropic, eleemosynary, *charitable Ant close {sense 5} —Con {stingy, niggardly, close-fisted, tight, tightfisted, penurious, miserly, parsimonious: *meager, scanty

2 Liberal, progressive, advanced, radical are comparable when used of a person or thing {as an idea, a writing, or an organization} to denote being freed from or opposed to what is orthodox, established, or conservative. Liberal implies emancipation from what binds the mind or will and connotes either indifference to tradition, convention, dogmas, or laws or the rejection of one or more of these. It therefore may suggest tolerance and broad-mindedness on the one hand, or unorthodoxy, laxness, or even lawlessness, on the other {a liberal Christian} {a liberal Republican} {some people who themselves hold liberal views are willing that their children shall first acquire conventional morals—Russell> Progressive is commonly a relative term, because it usually implies a comparison with what is reactionary or backward and a willingness to forsake old and seek out fresh methods and beliefs in the search for betterment {one progressive publisher is now experimenting with plastic bindings—Third Degree} {progressive economic and social legislation designed to benefit the masses—A. C. Gordon} {mentally so progressive that they were agitating for schools and the vote—Heiser> The term seldom suggests the espousal of extreme policies {a progressive businessman} {progressive ideas in education} Advanced is usually applied to men or to ideas and discoveries that are, or are believed to be, ahead of their time. It can favorably suggest liberalism or progressiveness and distinctively connote mental hardiness and experimental impracticality <the economic interests of the advanced and backward peoples—Hobson> {as interdependent and technically highly advanced world—Wirth> {endeavoring . . . with the aid of the most advanced scientific discoveries, not only to injure but also to destroy fellow beings—Gilroy> Radical often is employed in place of advanced, but discriminatively it may imply a willingness to root out and destroy the institutions which conserve or propagate the ideas or policies condemned; it is often therefore virtually interchangeably with revolutionary {radical ideas let loose by the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the revolutionary movements of 1848, have slowly but profoundly affected men's desires and their demands upon governments—Frankfurter> All of these words are capable of being used disparagingly especially as applied to politically active individuals or their works, often with little thought of their meaning content in more general applications. Ana tolerant, *forbearing, indulgent, lenient Ant authoritarian —Con strict, stringent, *rigid, rigorous: dogmatic, doctrinaire, *dictatorial, oracular liberate release, *free, emancipate, manumit, deliver, discharge, enfranchise Ana disengage, *detach: *extricate, disentangle, untangle, disencumber, disemarrass: *rescue, redeem, ransom, deliver Con *imprison, incarcerate, immure, intern: confine, circumscribe, restrict, *limit: *tie, bind: ensnare, snare, entrap, trap {see catch> libertine *licentious, lewd, wanton, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous Ana debauched, corrupted or corrupt {see under DEBASE>} {abandoned, dissolve, profligate, reprobate: *immoral, amoral, amoral Ant straitlaced —Con *moral, virtuous, ethical: continent, *sober, temperate: *chaste, decent liberty *freedom, license Ana independence, autonomy {see under FREE adj} {exemption, immunity: liberation, emancipation, enfranchisement, delivery {see corresponding verbs at FREE} {scope, range, compass, sweep Ant restraint —Con constraint, compulsion, duress, coercion {see FORCE} {confinement, restriction, limitation, circumscription {see corresponding verbs at LIMIT} libidinous lecherous, lustful, lascivious, lewd, wanton, libertine, *licentious Ana sensual, animal, *carnal: *immoral: gross, obscene, *coarse: dissolve, *abandoned, profligate, reprobate library *museum, archives, treasury, gallery license n liberty, *freedom Ana *exemption, immunity: looseness, laxity, slackness, relaxedness or relaxation {see corresponding adjectives at LOOSE} {privilege, prerogative {see RIGHT} Ant decorum —Con *obligation, duty: decency, propriety {see DECORUM} {restraint, constraint, compulsion {see FORCE} {continence, *temperance, sobriety license vb *authorize, commission, accredit Ana permit, *let, allow, suffer: *approve, endorse, sanction, certify: empower, *enable Ant ban —Con *interdict, inhibit, enjoin, prohibit, *forbid: *restrain, curb, check licentious, libertine, lewd, wanton, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous all suggest unchaste habits, especially in being given to or indicative of immorality in sex relations. Licentious basically implies disregard of the restraints imposed by law or custom for the enforcement of chastity; the term stresses looseness of life and of habits rather than the impiety of one's desires {licentious living} {licentious morals} {the precept that enjoins him abstinence forbids him none but the licentious joy, whose want, though faint, tempts only to destroy—Cooper} {an irreligious and licentious age had abetted depravity—Glasgow> Libertine suggests a more open and a more habitual disregard of moral laws, especially those pertaining to the sex relations of men and women {the frank libertinism of their old stage—Gibbon> he castigated the libertine lives of many of his generation {by merely living together a couple is practicing libertinism love—and the mere repetition doesn't, in some mysterious way, make it legal—Stone> Lewd often carries strong connotations of grossness,ileness, and vulgarity which color its other implications of sensuality, dissoluteness, and unconcern for chastity. As a result it is applied less often than the preceding terms to persons, or to the manners, thoughts, and acts of persons, who retain in their im-A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
morality evidence of breeding, refinement, or gentility
seen in the company of lewd women
lewd songs
lewd actions in public
where dowdy women whispered lewd invitations from behind wooden shutters—Baum
the whiskey had filled his body with a rosy sense of complete well-being, and vague lewd sensual images stroked his mind—Mailer
Wanton (see also supererogatory) implies moral irresponsibility or a disposition or way of life marked by indifference to moral restraints; it often suggests freedom from restraint comparable to that of animals, thereby connoting lassitude, incapacity for faithfulness or seriousness, or a generally unmoral attitude
wanton little creatures without character or depth of feeling—Nordhoff & Hall
all this was done with a gay, and, as I said, a wanton disregard of the ill effects—Sir Winston Churchill
so wanton, light and false, my love, are you, I am most faithless when I most am true—Millay
Lustful implies the influence or the frequent incitement of desires, especially of strong and often unlawful sexual desires
she took the greatest care of his health and comfort, and was faithful to him, not being naturally lustful except of power—Graves
Lascivious, like lewd, definitely suggests sensuality, but it carries a cleaner implication of an inclination to lustfulness or of a capacity for inciting lust
lewd desires
lewd thoughts
lewd glances
lewd dress
tales that... are Rabelaisian
boasted of his pornographic life marked by indifference to moral restraints; it often implies freedom from restraint comparable to that of animals, thereby connoting lassitude, incapacity for faithfulness or seriousness, or a generally unmoral attitude
implies habitual indulgence of one's lust, the term often suggests sensuality, but it carries a clearer implication of lasciviousness
implies moral irresponsibility or a disposition or way of life marked by indifference to moral restraints; it often suggests freedom from restraint comparable to that of animals, thereby connoting lassitude, incapacity for faithfulness or seriousness, or a generally unmoral attitude
implies a playing fast and loose, not only in statements but in dealings; it often specifically implies prevarication, equivocation, or the making of promises one does not intend to keep
and be these juggling fiends no more believed that palter with us in a double sense—Shak.
caroline, don't go back—don't palter with us—abide by your own words—Edgeworth
Fib (see also lie n) may be used as a euphemism for lie; but it more often implies the telling of an untruth that is trivial either in matter or in significance
she was given to fibbing about her admirers
the child fibs when he thinks he can gain something by it
she didn't like Janet. She fibbed, she said, and was a telltale—Glasgow
Ana *deceive, delude, mislead, beguile
lie n
lie, falsehood, untruth, fib, misrepresentation, story are comparable when they mean a statement or declaration that does not conform to the truth. Lie is usually felt to be a term of extreme opprobrium because it implies a flat and unquestioned contradiction of the truth and deliberate intent to deceive or mislead you told a lie; an odious, damned lie—Shak.
his decent reticence is branded as hypocrisy, his circumlocutions are roundly called lies—Maugham
Falsehood may be both less censorious than lie and wider in its range of application. The term need not imply sinfulness or criminality, for it applies not only to lies (told two flat falsehoods about what had happened in secret session—Davis) but to such fictions as literary fictions, polite fictions, and legal fictions and then contrasts most directly with fact (a man's entire life may be a falsehood, while with his lips he may not once directly falsify—F. N. Scott & J. V. Denney)
Like lie, the term implies known nonconformity to the truth, but unlike lie, it does not invariably suggest a desire to pass off as true something known to be untrue
Falsehoods which we spur nowadays were the truths of long ago—Whittier
Untruth is often euphemistic for lie or falsehood and may carry similar derogatory implications (his report was riddled with inaccuracies and untruths) or it may be selected because of mitigating circumstances (told you untruths yesterday morning merely to cheer you up—Bennett)
Sometimes, however, untruth may apply to an untrue statement made as a result of ignorance or a misconception of the truth (so far as he knew he had never told an untruth) the traditions and the untruths our cultural fathers have sometimes told us—La Barre
Fib is an informal or childish term for a trivial falsehood; it is often applied to one told to save one's own or another's face (not that I couldn't tell a downright fib if I had to... but a lie is to me just as silly a performance when it is about marriage or work as about the law of gravitation—Mary Austin)
the trade in drama seems to be prosecuted in a world of perfunctory fibs which no one believes—Montague
Disrepresentation applies to a misleading and usually an intentionally or deliberately misleading statement which gives an impression that is contrary to the truth; the term implies glossing over defects or weaknesses (as in something offered for sale) or placing the emphasis upon details that highlight a character, an occurrence, or a train of events rather than on those that in reality marked it (Our guides deceived us with misrepresentations—Addison)
his duty to further the in-
terest of his client does not require him to employ any sort of trickery, chicane, deceit, or misrepresentation—Drinker> Story (see also ACCOUNT 2) in the sense relevant to this discussion is an informal term used chiefly by or with reference to children in place of any of the preceding terms, especially falsehood, untruth, and fib > boys who tell stories are likely to be caught
An> prevarication, equivocation, fibbing or fib (see corresponding verbs at LIE): mendaciousness or mendacity, untruthfulness, dishonesty, deceitfulness (see corresponding adjectives at DISHONEST)
Anti true — Con> veracity, verity, verisimilitude (see TRUTH)
life > biography, memoir, autobiography, confessions
lifeless > inanimate, * dead, defunct, deceased, departed, late
lift vb 1 Lift, raise, rear, elevate, hoist, heave, boost are comparable when meaning to move from a lower to a higher place or position. Lift often carries an implication of effort exerted to overcome the resistance of weight > lift a large stone > lift a pail of water from the ground > lift a child to one's shoulders but it may be extended to whatever rises high by natural or artificial means or processes > high lifted up were many lofty towers — Spencer > a high conical peak > lifted some four thousand feet into the sky — Kyne > to something immaterial that rises or is made to rise (as in spirit, in feeling, or in aspiration) > the news lifted a weight from his mind > he was lifted by his simple love of all creatures ... far above right and wrong — Webb> Raise may suggest less effort than lift, but it carries a stronger implication of bringing something to the vertical or to a high position for which it is fitted by nature or intended function; thus, one raises a pole by setting it on end, but one lifts it by picking it up; a flag is raised to the top of its staff, but it is lifted when held high enough to be seen > those arts which were destined to raise our Gothic cathedrals — Coulton> In extended use raise may imply a lifting to a higher level (as of worth, efficiency, or accomplishment) > the most whole-hearted attempt ever made to raise the individual to his highest power — Day Lewis> Rear is often used in place of raise > (the mast we rear — Pope) > (the maypole was reared — Irving) but, unlike raise, it can be used intrinsically with the meaning to raise itself or, in the case of a horse, to raise its forelegs > (the ... storm clouds reared on high — Millay) > (horses, rearing and prancing — Anderson) > Elevate may be used in place of lift or raise in certain collocations where it does not seem unduly formal or pretentious > (an eagle rising with wings elevated — Fox-Davie) > (meldole field pieces ... were elevated for range in even more slow and primitive ways — Wintringham) but, in general, the word suggests exaltation, uplifting, or enhancing > elevate a priest to a bishopric > elevate one's standards of literary taste > his renown sobered still higher. He had elevated the white man's name in Africa again — James Cameron> Hoist implies raising something heavy aloft, often by such mechanical means as a tackle > hoist a cargo into a ship > hoist a sail > Mrs. Malins was helped down the front steps by her son and Mr. Browne and, after many maneuvers, hoisted into the cab — Joyce> (it takes five power winches to hoist this mammoth expanse of canvas — Monsanto Mag.)> Heave implies a lifting upward or onward with strain or effort usually by impulse from without > a boat heaved high by a wave > a nature's way of creating a mountain peak — first the heaving up of some blunt monstrous bulk of
rumpled rock — Montague> Boost implies lifting by or as if by means of a push or other help from below, usually without the suggestion of strain or effort found in hoist and heave > boost prices > (friendly critics boosted the sales of his books) > (no matter how depressed he might be, a few cocktails always boosted his spirits) > David tenderly boosted Elimelech up the steps and through the door — Douglas> Ant rise, arise, ascend, levitate, mount, soar, tower, rocket, surge: > exalt, magnify, aggrandize: heighten, enhance, intensify
Ant lower — Con reduce, lessen, diminish, * decrease: * abase, debase, degrade, demean, humble, humiliate: * depress, weigh, oppress
light vb 1 Light, kindle, ignite, fire > basically mean to set something burning or on fire. Light (see also ILLUMINATE), when it takes as its subject the agent or agency, usually implies such an end of the action as illumination > she lighted the lamps or heating > he will light a fire in the fireplace or smoking > he lit his cigar > Kindle often connotes difficulty or slowness in setting combustible materials (as wood, straw, or paper) afire; it is therefore the appropriate word when what is to burn requires special preparation or does not at once burst into flame > using kerosene to kindle the damp wood > a carelessly thrown match kindled one of the worst forest fires in the state's history > bonfires were kindled on the top of every hill> Ignite is not only much more common in technical than in popular use but usually shows a difference in meaning. In technical use ignite sometimes implies heating of a substance until it glows or becomes incandescent > when the electric current is turned on, it ignites the tungsten filaments in the bulb but it more often implies the placing of a small flame or spark (as an electric spark) in direct or indirect contact with a flammable substance (as gasoline, fuel oil, or gunpowder) so as to produce its combustion > ignite the mixture in the cylinder of an internal-combustion engine > In more general use, ignite varies little from kindle except in being more frequently employed in reference to explosives or highly flammable substances. Fire suggests blazing and rapid combustion of what is set on fire; it is typically used in respect to something that lights easily and burns fiercely > a lighted match was sufficient to fire the haystack > the turnkey fired the little pile, which blazed high and hot — Dickens>
All of these words have extended use. Light in such use is purely a figure of speech > a quick animation lit her face — C. F. Cushman> while kindle implies an exciting, arousing, or stimulating > real intellectual interest ... can be kindled ... by a master who really loves and believes in his subject — Inge> > armies cannot be raised by nations or parties unless the rage of the people is first kindled by lies and name-calling — Kenneth Roberts> and ignite implies a stirring up into activity > that genius for igniting others essential to all great teachers — J. M. Brown> > the idea of the rising, of Irish freedom, of freedom everywhere ignites him and begins to consume him — S. R. L.> Fire implies an inspiring with strong passion, ardent desire, or intense zeal and is usually chosen when the agent or agency enables or induces energetic activity > the nations of Europe were fired with boundless expectation — Johnson> > the subject ... had fired her imagination — Jan Struther>
2 lighten, * illuminate, illumine, enlighten, illustrate
light adj > easy, simple, facile, effortless, smooth>
Ana slight (see THIN): trivial, trifling, * petty, puny
Ant heavy: arduous; burdensome — Con difficult, * hard: * onerous, oppressive, exacting: rigorous, stringent
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
lightness, light-mindedness, levity, frivolity, flippancy, light-mindedness
cheerful, happy, *glad, joyful, joyous
lighthearted
vb lighten
*alight, land, perch, roost
vb lighten
Ana buoyancy, resiliency, elasticity, effervescence, expansiveness (see corresponding adjectives at ELASTIC): gaiety, liveliness, vivaciousness or vivacity (see corresponding adjectives at LIVELY): lightheartedness, cheerfulness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD)
Ant seriousness —Con graveness or gravity, earnestness, sobriety, sedateness, staidness, somberness (see corresponding adjectives at SERIOUS)
like vb Like, love, enjoy, relish, fancy, dote are comparable when meaning to be so attracted to a person or thing as to regard him or it with favor. Like (opposed to dislike), the most general and, especially when unqualified, the most colorless of these words, means merely to regard with favor or without the slightest aversion. Therefore, it is chiefly used in reference to persons or things that are pleasing but evoke no great warmth of feeling or urgency of desire (Sumner whom I admire and dislike; and Shaw of Dunfermline whom I like but do not admire—Laski) Arn, having been poor, liked money and knew the value of it—Osbet Sitwell) Hawthorne liked to sit in barrooms; Thoreau would have enjoyed doing so, but not at crowded inns, as farmers, and fishers on the river—Canby Love (opposed to hate) implies not only longing liking but ardent attachment and is therefore used with reference to persons or things that arouse the deeper or higher emotions; thus, one likes his neighbors but loves his family; one likes the open country but loves his native land (I like a church; I like a cow; I love a prophet of the soul—Emerson) this peculiar, brooding woman, who loved best in life the sorrow and high seriousness of things—Ballett Love also is often used with reference to trivial objects as an informal intensive of I love ice cream (old Sarah Battle loved a good game of whist—Lamb) Enjoy implies a liking or loving that awakens deep satisfaction and keen delight which may be sensuous or intellectual or often a mingling of the two (we had written our first stories together . . . and together enjoyed the first sweets of success—Rose Macaulay) no one but Molny and the Bishop had ever seemed to enjoy the beautiful site of that building,—perhaps no one ever would. But these two had spent many an hour admiring it—Cather (it is this specific quality, the power of enjoying things without being reduced to the need of possessing them, which differentiates the aesthetic instinct from other instincts—Ellis) Relish implies a liking, or sometimes an enjoyment, that arises because the thing relished meets one's approval, satisfies one's taste, or gives one peculiar gratification (his fine taste taught him to relish the beauties of Virgil and Cicero—Halle) a few hundred (not more) choice-loving connoisseurs relish him as the most perfect opportunist in prose—Morley) Fancy (see also think 1) implies a liking for something that corresponds to one's imaginative conception or sometimes one's ideal of what it should be (I never yet behold that special face which I couldn't fancy more than any other—Shak) he should have yachts, horses, whatever he fancied—Meredith) or for something that appeals to one's taste or one's eye especially at the moment (while she was ill, she fancied only the most delicate of foods) Dote, with on or upon, implies an infatuation or a foolish excessive liking or fondness (you dote on her that cares not for your love—Shak) he doted on his daughter Mary; she could do no wrong—Havighurst) Like love it may be used as an informal intensive of like (two peoples, both of whom love palaver and dote on uproar—Monroe) he dotes on bland horrors in food—Liebling)
Ana prefer, *choose, select, elect: admire, esteem, repect, regard (see under regard n); *approve, endorse:

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

appreciate, comprehend, *understand

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

like adj. Like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, uniform, identical are comparable though seldom strictly synonymous terms which describe the relation between things or persons that closely resemble each other. Like is a general word indicating resemblance or similarity ranging from virtual identity in all characteristics to a chance resemblance in only one (the children were very like) (their finest intuitions may... prove convincing only to himself, or to a limited circle of like minds—*Times Lit. Sup.) Like is similar to like but is less likely to be used for the chance, farfetched resemblance and is generally limited to use in a predicate or postposed situation after a compounded substantive modified (their resemblance as brother and sister... they looked utterly alike—Sinclair Lewis) (they were strikingly alike in gifts and tastes—Starr) Similar often stresses the likenesses between different things, implying that differences may be overlooked or ignored for a time (Virginia creeper or the deceptively similar poison ivy—*Amer. Guide Series: Md.) (regard the attraction which illusion has for us as similar to that which a flame at night has for a moth—Cohen) (this is not to say that the quarterlies are all alike. But they are as similar as the generation of young writers who contribute to them—*R. B. West) Analogous calls attention to the presence of some likeness which makes it feasible or permissible to draw from it an analogy, a sustained or appropriate comparison (the two new states would have a position analogous to that of British Dominions—Manchester Guardian) (quite analogous to the emotionalizing of Christian art is the example afforded by the evolution of the Latin hymn—H. O. Taylor) Comparable implies a likeness on one point or a limited number of points which permits a limited or casual comparison or matching together (the Syrians... with Arabian coffee, served thick and strong in tiny cups, as a national drink comparable to the Englishman's tea—Amer. Guide Series: R.I.) The word is especially likely to be used in connection with considerations of merit, standing, rank, or power (neither in military nor industrial terms is China comparable to the other three great powers—Dean) Akin, limited to use in postpositive situations, indicates an essential likeness, often of the sort of likeness found in kinship or suggestive of common descent from an original ancestor, prototype, or ancestral stock (the Mongols of Outer Mongolia... are akin to those of the neighboring Buryat-Mongol A.S.S.R.—Foreign Affairs) (real nursery tales, akin to Brer Rabbit—Times Lit. Sup.) (science... is akin to democracy in its faith in human intelligence and cooperative effort—Muller) Parallel stresses the fact of similarities over a course of development throughout a history or account or the fact of resemblances or likenesses permitting a setting or bracketing together as though side by side (the almost parallel growth of the Twin Cities—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) (parallel to the classic and academic Italian school was one with a more distinctive native feeling—Manship) (parallel to the powers of the king were the powers of the father in the individual household—Linton) Uniform suggests a likeness and similarity throughout and a lack of noticeable variation wherever things in question occur or operate (one of the most fundamental social interests is that law shall be uniform and impartial—Cardozo) (schools... no longer expect all children to learn to read at a uniform rate—Education Digest) Identical indicates either the fact of being the same person or thing or, in connection with things copied, reproduced, or repeated, an exact correspondence without detectable or significant difference (George Eliot and Mary Ann Evans were identical) (the interests of workers and their employers were not altogether identical—Cohen) (his home life and his life as a man of letters are never identical—Canby)

Ana equivalent, equal, *same, selfsame, identical: cognate, allied, *related

Ant unlike—*Con *different, diverse, divergent, disparate, various: dissimilar, distinct (see corresponding nouns at DISSIMILARITY): discrepant, discordant, *inconsonant, inconsistent

likely 1 *probable, possible

Ana credible, believable, colorable, *plausible: reasonable, *rational

Ant unlikely—*Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic: *certain, inevitable, necessary

2 *apt, liable

likeness, similarity, resemblance, similitude, analogy, affinity are comparable when they denote agreement or correspondence or an instance of agreement or correspondence in details (as of appearance, structure, or qualities) brought out by a comparison of two or more things. Likeness commonly implies closer correspondence than similarity, which often applies to things which are merely somewhat alike (thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above—Deut 5:8) (yes, I should have known you anywhere from your likeness to your father—Archibald Marshall) (Zaza is an old woman, while you, princess, still have youth and beauty. Nevertheless, the likeness is positively amazing—Robert Standish) (certain insects escape danger by their similarity to plants—Lubbock) (great works of art have a decided similarity to great human beings— they are both three-dimensional—Hartford) Resemblance suggests especially similarity in appearance or in superficial or external qualities (it would be as difficult to discover any resemblance between the two situations as between the appearance of the persons concerned—Wharton) Similitude, which is somewhat infrequent and bookish, is occasionally preferred to likeness or similarity when an abstract term is desired (the law which reconciles similitude and dissimilitude, the harmony of contrast—Reed) (all medieval variances of thought show common similitudes—H. O. Taylor) Analogy distinctively implies comparison of things which are unlike, not only specifically or generally, but often even in substance or essence, and it more often draws attention to likeness or parallelism in relations rather than in appearances or qualities. Philosophically, it suggests such assumptions as that similar causes will produce similar effects or that what is true in one order of existence must be true in another (three principal types [of ants] offering a curious analogy to... the hunting, pastoral, and agricultural stages in the history of human development—Lubbock) (such senile efforts to penetrate... the mystery of religion... have a real analogy to that final effort of the emotionally starved to grasp at love which has been called "old maid’s insanity"—Ellis) Affinity adds to resemblance the implications of such a relationship as natural kinship, temperamental sympathy, similar experience, or historical influence, which is responsible for the likeness (in Keats, there are... phrases and paradoxes that have surprising affinities with Taoist thought—Binyon) (his face... had a curious affinity to the faces of old sailors or fishermen who have lived a simple, practical life in the light of an overmastering tradition—Galsworth) Ana equivalence, equality, sameness, identicalness or identity (see corresponding adjectives at SAME): agree-
likewise

Analogous words: Analogousness, comparability, uniformity, parallelism (see corresponding adjectives at LIKE)

**Ant** unlikeliness—**Con** *dissimilarity, difference, divergence, discrepancy, distinction

likewise *also, besides, moreover, furthermore

**limb** bough, branch, *shoot

**limb** adj *supple, lithe, lissome, lissom

**Ana** plant, pliable, *plastic: flexible, *elastic, resilient, springy

**Con** *stiff, inflexible, rigid, tense, stark, wooden

**limit** n Limit, bound, confine, end, term are comparable when they mean an actual or imaginary line beyond which a thing does not or cannot extend. Limit is the most inclusive of these terms because it carries no necessary implication of number, that always being suggested by the context; thus, a thing (as a man's strength, the extent of his authority, or the reach of his arm) may be said to have a limit, implying one only; some other thing (as a race course, a lifetime, or a period of time) may be said to have its limits, but since linear extent and duration are specifically implied, these limits are by implication two in number. The limits of a room are usually its four walls; nightingales will not pass their limits; they seem to have a marked-out range as strictly defined as the lines of a geological map—Jeffreys. Also, limit may be applied to a line which is fixed by nature or inner necessity, established by authority, or determined by agreement (within the limits of human reason). The limit of the fisherman's catch is determined by the state game laws. Lives within the limits of his income. Determine the limits for the treatment of a topic. The limits of Santanyana as a poet . . . are the restraints of an academic habit—Edman. Bound and confine, on the other hand, are applicable to only one of the limits that comprise the real or imaginary boundaries of a thing. Both terms are used chiefly in the plural, even when the boundary line is continuous and forms a circle or only one side; the same is true of a bounding surface that forms a sphere (within the bounds of the earth; thirty bonfires could be counted within the whole bounds of the district—Hardy). The western confines of China. Within the confines of our subject. The furthest confines of the family property—Menen. The distinctions between these two words are not always apparent; however, bounds usually indicates a point of view from within and suggests restriction, and confines indicates a point of view either from within or without and suggests enclosure (the book passes beyond the bounds of decency; how they behaved in their spare time, nobody cared, and few knew . . . . They had no bounds to respect—Frodé). Strain the confines of formal monogamous marriage—La Barre. End (see also END 2; INTENTION) applies usually to one of the two uttermost limits or extremes of a thing; this use is chiefly found in idiomatic phrases (travel to the ends of the earth) but it occurs also in reference to either extreme in an ascending or descending scale, or in a series that progresses from one extreme to its diametrical opposite (at one end of the social scale there is the outcast or the pariah; at the other end, the elite) (admired from one end of Europe to the other—Andrews). Term applies usually to a limit in duration (neither history nor archaeology has yet put a term to Roman civilization in London—William Page). Limitation, restriction, circumscription, confinement (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT): *border, margin, verge, edge, rim, brim, brink

**limit** vb Limit, restrict, confine mean to set or prescribe the bounds for a person or thing. Limit usually implies the predetermination of a point (as in time, in space, in quantity, in capacity, or in production) beyond which the person or thing concerned cannot go or is not permitted to go without suffering a penalty or incurring undesirable consequences (limit the speed of automobiles to 45 miles an hour outside of towns and cities). Limit the time allowed for the erection of a building to one year from the date of the signing of the contract. Limit the acreage planted with potatoes. Limit a day's work to five hours. The great point . . . on these sacred occasions was for each man to strictly limit himself to half-a-pint of liquor—Hardy. The Constitution limits his functions in the law-making process to the recommending . . . and the vetting of laws—Current History. But limit may also be used with reference to a bound or bounds not predetermined but inherent in a situation or in the nature or constitution of a thing (the soil limited their crops). A lonely young girl limited . . . by the absence of companionship—Handlin or brought about as desirable by conscious effort or by full choice (medical science knows how to limit these evils—Eliot). Limited his aspirations to the search for the attainable—Restrict, in contrast to limit, suggests a boundary that encircles and encloses rather than a point that ends; the term therefore often applies to something which can be thought of in the terms of the space, territory, or field that it covers. The word often also connotes a narrowing or tightening (restrict the powers of a court). Restrict the freedom of the press; restricted his diet on orders from his physician; the bureau was dismembered, its staff dispersed, and its appropriations for research restricted almost to the vanishing point—Heiser. Combinations have arisen which restrict the very freedom that Bentham sought to attain—Justice Holmes. Circumscribe differs from restrict in that its implication of an encircling or enclosing boundary is always clear; consequently, it is often preferred to restrict when the idea of being kept within too small an extent or range is to be stressed (people . . . think that the emotional range, and the realistic truth, of drama is limited and circumscribed by verse—T. S. Eliot) or when there is the intent to suggest a distinct, complete, but limited whole and its apartness from all that surrounds it (to undertake here to inquire into the degree of its necessity, would be to pass the line which circumscribes the judicial department—John Marshall). The world to which they belonged and for which they worked was strictly circumscribed and complete within itself—Binyon. Confine may imply limitation, restriction, or circumscription, but it usually emphasizes the bounds which must not or cannot be passed; consequently, it often suggests severe restraint or restraints and carries connotations such as those of cramping, fettering, hampering, or bottling up that are not often present in the other words (now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confined, bound in to saucy doubts and fears—Shak.). The distinction between a government with limited and unlimited powers is abolished, if those limits do not confine the persons on whom they are imposed—John Marshall. It is not desirable to confine knowledge to whatever can be put into a useful shape for examinations, drawing rooms, or the still more pretentious modes of publicity—T. S. Eliot. We are confined to our senses for perceiving the world—Darrow.

**Ana** define, *prescribe, assign: restrain, curb, check

**Ant** widen—*Con* *expand, swell, distend: enlarge,* increase; *extend, lengthen, prolong, protract

**limp** vb *represent, depict, portrait, delineate, picture

**limp** floppy, flaccid, flabby, flimsy, sleeky mean deficient in firmness of texture, substance, or structure and therefore unable to keep a shape or in shape. Limp applies to
something that lacks or has lost the stiffness or firmness necessary to keep it from drooping or losing its original sturdiness or freshness (collars limp with perspiration) (a limp body that seemed to have been poured into its clothes as if it were sand—Sitwell) (this body was danging in a most uncomfortable position, all loose and limp, and shapeless—Dickens) (squash-flowers hanging limp as widow’s weeds on the stringy stems—Britain) Floppy applies to something that sags or hangs limply (a dog with floppy ears) (foreigners—fortunately scarce—wear floppy ties, long hair and beards—Kinos) (an old lady in a . . . floppy garden hat—Greene) Flaccid implies a loss or lack of elasticity or resilience and therefore an incapacity to return to an original shape or condition or to keep a desired shape; the term applies primarily to flesh and other living tissues (flaccid muscles) (a flaccid stem) (now, in swift collapse, he was as flaccid as a sick hound and as disgusting as an aged drunkard—Bennett) In extended use the term implies lack of force or energy or substance (the style is . . . worthless, slipshod, flaccid—Wilde) (our flaccid culture—T. S. Eliot) (when a writer thinks clearly his prose itself is sharp and fresh, and when his thought becomes flaccid his words too become limp, mechanical and fogged—Krim) Flabby applies to something that is so soft that it yields readily to the touch or is easily shaken (her breasts had grown flabby and pendulous with many children—Buck) In extended use the term implies the loss or lack of what keeps a thing up or in good sound condition; it often carries suggestions of spinelessness, spiritlessness, or lethargy (the flabby government which was . . . incapable of defending its own interests—Owen Latimore) (very few . . . are worth converting. Their minds are intrinsically flabby and parasitical—Mencken) Flimsy applies to something that by its looseness of structure or insubstantiality of texture cannot hold up under use or strain (a wooden seat put together with nails—a flimsy contrivance, which defies all rules of gravity and adhesion—Jefferies) In extended use the term applies to whatever is so frail or slight as to be without value or endurance (a flimsy excuse) (the story is fashioned of such flimsy stuff that it almost tears apart in the telling—Krou) Sleazy applies especially to flimsy textiles, but it often suggests, as flimsy need not, fraud or carelessness in its manufacture (a sleazy dress) (thin sleazy woolens) In extended use the term may stress lack or inferiority of standards (a sleazy little gold digger—New Republic) (the sleazier forms of competition—Fortune) or inferiority of the resultant product (sleazy new apartment blocks, their broken, rubble-salvaged back unfurnished—Flora Lewis) but often its suggestion is one of cheap shabby inferiority (a sleazy piece of the old, tedious reality—Mary McCarthy) (a stammered, sleazy chronicle, told by fits and starts—Time) Ana (loose, slack, relaxed, lax: limber, *supple Con (stiff, rigid, inflexible, stark, wooden, tense: *firm, hard, solid: brittle, crisp (see fragile) limpid (clear, transparent, translucent, lucid, pellucid, diaphanous Ana (pure, sheer: lucid, perspicuous, *clear Ant turbid —Con muddy, roily (see turbid): *obscure, vague, dark: murky, dusky (see dark) line n Line, row, rank, file, echelon, tier are comparable when meaning a series of things arranged in continuous or uniform order. Line means little more than this, except when it is attached to a specific application that increases its implications; thus, a line of type may equal a line of poetry, but there is a wealth of implication in the second that is absent from the first (a line of trees) (soldiers fall in line) (the crowd formed a line in front of the ticket office) (there were three lines of enlisted men awaiting examination by physicians) (a line of trading posts from the Mississippi . . . across the Rocky Mountains—Irving) Row may suggest one line or one of several parallel lines; it is applicable to lines composed of persons or of things whether they range horizontally or vertically or abreast or away from one (a row of trees lines the south side of the street) (rows of seats in a theater) (the shrubs are arranged in rows) Rank and file are found chiefly in military use, rank denoting a row of men side by side, file a row of men one behind another (march in single file) (the front rank was ordered to take one pace forward) The conjoined use of these terms in rank and file is an idiomatic extension meaning the masses of men as distinguished from their leaders or rulers. Echelon usually implies a regular arrangement or formation in which each unit (as one of a series of parallel ranks of troops or one of a fleet of vessels headed in the same direction) is a little to the left or to the right of the unit immediately behind. Tier applies to one of a set of rows arranged one above another; it occasionally refers to persons but usually deals with parts of a structure or framework which are repeated (the seats rise in tiers in the great Opera House) (three tiers of arches rose on each side of the cathedral’s nave) (their mountain-like San Philip [a Spanish warship] . . . with her yawning tiers of guns—Tennyson) Ana *succession, progression, series, sequence, chain line vb Line, line up, align, range, array mean to arrange in a line or in lines. Line, or more often line up, implies setting in single file or in parallel rows (line up prisoners for identification) (line up troops for inspection) (four or five men were lined up at the bar—Basso) Align stresses the bringing of points or parts that should be in a straight line into correct adjustment or into correspondence (align the lenses of a telescope) (align the front and rear wheels of an automobile) (align type in printing) (the tents were aligned in two rows—Mailer) Range stresses orderly or correct disposition, sometimes merely in straight or parallel lines, but more often with the added implication of separation into groups or classes according to some plan or design (oaken benches ranged in seemly rows—Wordsworth) Array implies actual formation in order, especially battle order, and therefore suggests full equipment and readiness for action (there is a great Field-Marshal, my friend, who arrays our battalions; let us to Providence trust, and abide and work in our stations—Clough) (scarce had time to array his men at the townward wall before arrows, stones, and heavy javelins . . . began to fall upon them—A. C. Whitehead) These words also are comparable in extended use. Line up stresses organization for unity or singleness of effort (line up the opponents of a measure to achieve its defeat) (line up public opinion in favor of a proposal) (lined up on the side of those who oppose even attempting to set up peaceful coexistence with Russia is the FBI for the week) Align is commonly used reflexively in this connection and implies falling into line or into a lineup (at the beginning of World War I France, England, and Belgium aligned themselves with Serbia) (so long as the symptoms failed to align themselves with any known disorder, they were supposed to be amenable to neighborly advice—Mary Austin) Range implies putting or falling precisely into a group (as a class, party, rank, or category); it may suggest alignment but more often connotes partisanship or alliance or, when used of things, susceptibility of classification (tis better to be lowly born, and range with humble lives in content—Shak) (they differed violently and ranged themselves into distinct schools of thought—Dinsmore) Array in its extended use retains its implication of
lineage 503 liquid

orderly formation; it sometimes also suggests arrangement in logical or chronological order, or as parts of a design. These doubts will be arrayed before their minds—Farrar. More often, however, it stresses the impressive or imposing character of an opposition (several of the best legal minds were arrayed against the prosecution) so much prejudice of one kind or another was arrayed against it that it was not till nearly two hundred years after its discovery that saltpeter became the god of war—Encore.

Ana: marshal, arrange, *order

Con: derange, disarrange, *disorder, disturb: disperse, dissipate, *scatter

lineage *ancestry, pedigree

lineal, linear share the basic meaning of or relating to a line or lines, but they are clearly distinguished in their specific senses. Lineal is more often applied to a direct line of succession from or to a common ancestor either physical or spiritual, and is often distinguished from collateral: thus, the lineal descendants of a man would include all his sons and daughters, all his grandsons and granddaughters, all his great-grandsons and great-granddaughters, etc. George Washington had no lineal kinsmen to inherit his property, for he had no children. These men, the lineal descendants of the mystics, found the source of certainty in inner experience, in feeling and instinct—Thilly. Linear tends to lay the stress on a relation to a line other than a line of succession, either in fact or in likeness; often it suggests a relation to something having or felt as having one dimension only, usually length, especially in contrast to what has two or more dimensions (linear measures such as the inch, foot, yard, and rod are used in measuring lengths (as of cloth, rope, poles, wire, and edges or bounds). From the linear dimensions of a room we can compute the square feet of floor to be covered. A conductor of electricity (as a wire) which is very small or negligible in two of its dimensions, is called a linear conductor: atoms which are so small that it takes one hundred millions of them lying side by side to extend one linear inch—Darrow. The longest linear structural features on the earth's surface are the east-west fracture zones of the northeast Pacific Ocean—Malahoff, Strange & Wollardy.

line up *line, line, range, array

linger tarry, wait, *stay, remain, abide

Ana: *delay, procrastinate, loiter, dawdle, lag

Con: hurry, hasten, precipitate, quicken, accelerate, *speed

lingo *dialect, vernacular, patois, jargon, cant, argot, slang

link vb connect, relate, associate, *join, conjoin, combine, unite

Ana: concatenate, articulate, *integrate: tie, bind

Ant: sunder—Con: *separate, part, sever, divorce

liquefy, melt, deliquesce, fuse, thaw are comparable when they mean to convert or to become converted to a liquid state. Liquify, the general term, is applicable not only to solids but also to gases (liquefy oxygen and nitrogen). Liquefy a solid mass of ice; jellies liquefy if exposed to the air in a warm room. Melt basically implies slow liquefaction, usually through heat; the term commonly suggests a softening, a loss of shape, and a running consistency: butter melts in a warm room. Melt wax in a candle flame. In its frequent extended use melt is applied to masses that are gradually dispersed or grow thinner or more tenuous and finally disappear mountains beyond mountains melting away into remote sky—Binyon or to persons or their emotions or reactions that grow softer, gentler, or more tender (one whose subdued eyes, albeit unused to the melting mood, drop tears as fast as the Arabian trees their medicinal gum—Shak.) Romeo and Juliet the profounder dramatist shows his lovers melting into unconsciousness of their isolated selves—T. S. Eliot. I cannot look up to your face. You melt my strength—Lowell or to tones, colors, and sounds that have a liquid quality and merge imperceptibly with others (snow-light cadences melting to silence—Keats). Substance and shadow melted into each other and into the vastness of space—Glaspell. Deliquesce implies a disappearing by or as if by melting away and applies especially to gradual liquefying through exposure to the air and the absorption of moisture from it (hygroscopic salts that deliquesce in moist air) or to plant structures (as mushrooms) that liquefy in their decay a great display of specimens [of fungi] that presently dried up or deliquesced and stank—H. G. Wells. In its extended use deliquesce stresses loss of coherence rather than disappearance. Flaubert's instincts were less epical than lyrical, and drama itself was deliquescing into indeterminate forms—Levin. Their lives tended to deliquesce into a murmuring indefiniteness of language—Matthiessen. Fuse (see also mix) may sometimes replace liquefy or melt (thunderstorm had fused the electric mains—Finlay) but more often it stresses union (as of two or more metals into an alloy) by or as if by the action of intense heat foundries which fuse zinc and copper into hard, bright brass—Newspweek. In its extended use, too, fuse stresses union a ship, itself a little community in which people of various backgrounds are temporarily fused—Felix Morley. The strata fused together by heat—Livingstone. Thaw may specifically replace melt in reference to something (as ice or snow) that is frozen or in extended use to something (as a cold heart, a cold disposition, or extreme reserve) equally stiff or rigid (the midday sun has thawed the ice on the roads) a lady . . . whose very looks would thaw a man more frozen than the Alps—Shirley. A native reserve being thawed by this genial consciousness—Hawthorne.

liquid adj Liquid, fluid are comparable both as adjectives meaning composed of particles that move easily and flowingly and change their relative position without any perceptible break in their continuity and as nouns denoting a substance composed of such particles. Both terms imply an opposition to solid, but liquid is the more restricted in its application, for the term implies the flow characteristic of water and refers only to substances which, like water, have a definite volume but no independent form except such as is temporarily given by their container: such potable liquids as water, milk, and wines blood does not remain liquid long after removal from the blood vessels. Fluid, on the other hand, implies flow of any sort and is applicable not only to all liquids but also to gases, which, unlike liquids, have neither independent volume nor shape air whether in the gaseous or liquid state is a fluid fluid blood. Fluid is especially appropriate for referring to a substance that is highly viscous: molasses is a fluid substance or to one liquefied (as by melting, dissolving, or saturating with water) fluid rock fluid wax mud is fluid earth. In extended use fluid is opposed to rigid, fixed, unchangeable open societies of which the boundaries are fluid or indefinite, such as humanity or even the League of Nations—Alexander emotion, formless, chaotic, fluid in itself—Lowes. In London all values and all meanings were fluid—Rose Macaulay. Liquid, on the other hand, often implies an opposition to harshness liquid tones: thy liquid notes that close the eye of day—Milton but it sometimes implies transparency or extreme softness or both his liquid glance—Wharton: with what liquid tenderness she turned and looked back—

Ana: analogous words

Ant: antonyms

Con: contrasted words

See also explanatory notes faking page 1
Bennett> In financial circles, where both terms are used, fluid may distinctively apply to money or funds that are not permanently invested or that are constantly in circulation (the fluid gold of international trade) but more often the terms are used interchangeably to imply the quality or condition of assets that are in the form of money or are easily convertible into money and are therefore readily available for another use. Ant solid: vaporous

liquid n fluid (see under LIQUID adj) Ant solid: vapor

lissome lissomes, lithe, *supple, limber Ana & Con see those at LITHE

list n List, table, catalog, schedule, register, roll, roster, inventory denote a series of names or of items written down or printed as a memorandum, a record, or a source of information, but, because of wide differences in their range of application, they are not freely interchangeable. List is the most comprehensive and the most widely applicable of these terms since it may or may not apply methodical arrangement (as in alphabetical or chronological order) and it may itemize units of various kinds (as persons or objects or facts or words or figures) (a grocery list) (a list of invited guests) (price list) (an engagement list) Table is also widely applicable, but it distinctively implies arrangement in an order that will assist the person who makes use of it in quickly finding the information he desires; consequently, it usually suggests presentation of items in columns, often, when the items are related or associated with each other, in parallel columns; thus, a table of weights may give in the first column an alphabetical list of the weights of all countries and add in the following columns, directly on a line with each of these names, the place in which it is used, its equivalent in American or British weights, and its equivalent in metric weight (a table of contents of a book) (a table of logarithms) (annuity tables) (a timetable of trains) Catalog basically applies to a complete list or enumeration of all instances of a kind (a catalog of the Lepidoptera of Michigan) (a catalog of the popes) The term is used more often of an informative itemized descriptive list (as of the books in a library, the works of art in a museum, the courses given in a university or college, or the articles for sale by a company). Because business, educational, and art catalogs often contain much other information of value, the term often loses its essential meaning of list, although these catalogs have usually for their main object the presentation of complete lists. Schedule (see also PROGRAM) applies especially to an itemized statement of particulars, whether it is appended to a document (as a bill or statute) to provide supplementary details (Schedule D of the tariff bill) or is separate (a schedule of a bankrupt's debts) (a schedule of assets and liabilities) Register is applicable primarily to the official book, parchments, or papers in which are entered the names or titles of persons or items of a specific character, together with pertinent details, for the sake of maintaining a record (a register of births) (a register of marriages) (a register of seamen) Since, however, these entries constitute not only a record but also a list or catalog, the term often more strongly suggests an official listing or enumeration than a series of entries (this name is not in the register of voters) Roll is applicable to a list and especially an official list of the names of those who belong to a certain group or force; thus, a muster roll includes the names of all the officers and men of a military body or of a ship's company present or accounted for on the day of muster; a class roll is a list of all students belonging to a class. Roster, which is chiefly a military term, applies basically to a table containing a roll of officers and men or sometimes of units and specifying such matters as the order of their rotation in duties or their special assignments. Inventory is a catalog of the goods and chattels and sometimes the real estate held by a person or a corporation at a particular time (as at the person's death or at the stocktaking of the corporation) (the merchant makes an inventory of his stock annually on January 15th) In extended use the term often refers to a list similar in its details to those of a true inventory (nothing short of an authentic passion for concrete detail ... can give the saving gusto and animation which carry off safely the long inventories of utensils and articles of food and attire in Scott and Defoe—Montague)

list vb record, register, enroll, catalog listless spiritless, * languid, languishing, languorous, lackadaisical, enervated.


littoral *shore, coast, beach, strand, bank, foreshore liturgy ritual, rite, ceremony, ceremonial, *form, formality

live vb 1 exist, be, subsist Ana endure, abide, persist, *continue 2 reside, dwell, sojourn, lodge, stay, put up, stop live adj *active, operative, dynamic Ana *vigoros, energetic, lusty, strenuous: *powerful, potent, forcible, forceful: *effective, efficacious, effectual, efficient Ant inactive, inert: dormant (as a volcano): defunct (as an institution, journal)

livelihood *living, subsistence, sustenance, maintenance, support, keep, bread Ana *trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession: *wage or wages, salary, pay, stipend, fee, emolument

lively adj Lively, animated, vivacious, sprightly, gay denote in common keenly alive. Lively suggests especially briskness, alertness, or energy (spent an hour in lively talk about their respective travels in England and France) (she ... was a lively conversationalist, advanced, original —Gore) (the horses ... were lively, and sprang about the street—Thackeray) Animated applies especially to what is also spirited or bright (was not nearly so animated as he had been in his pre-khaki days; there was a quiet exultation in his manner rather than a lively excitement—H. G. Wells) (the animated excitement and hubbub that gives the ... institution its friendly vitality—Saarinen) Vivacious and sprightly suggest greater lightness of spirits or quickness of wit; they apply especially to manner or language (remember her as very pretty and vivacious ... I never met a girl with as much zip—Ring Lardner) (in contrast to the dour, lethargic, and solitary orang, the chimpanzee is highly active, vivacious ... and uninhibitedly vocal—La Barre) (he was sprightly, vigorous, fiery in his belief in success—Crane) (readers prefer sprightly trash to dull excellence—Canby) Gay implies utter carefreenss and exuberant or overflowing spirits (wild with joyful

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


livid ashen, ashy, *pale, pallid, wan

* ASA living, alive, animate, animated, vital mean

living adj Living, alive, animate, animated, vital mean endowed with or manifesting life. In their primary senses where life means that character or quality which is peculiar to things that are capable of growth, reproduction, and, often, motion and which is lost by death, they come very close to each other. Living and alive are opposed to dead and, therefore, are applied to organic bodies which have life as distinguished from those from which life has departed; they are distinguishable chiefly by the fact that alive follows the noun it modifies either directly or as a prepositional adjective (among living men) (among men still alive) (all living things) (of all it ever was my lot to read, of critics now alive, or long since dead—Cowper) (our appreciations of living or dead writers—T. S. Eliot) Animate is opposed to inanimate and is applied to living organic bodies as contrasted with dead organic bodies or, more often, with inorganic bodies having no capacity for life (those who ignore the natural world around, animate and inanimate—Spencer) Animated (see also lively; compare animate under quicken vb) is opposed to lifeless or inert, and may apply to something which, once devoid of life, becomes alive (viruses that may behave as animate bodies or as lifeless crystals) or may be used to perfect a comparison of something by its nature lifeless with something living (a large Australian phasmid popularly known as the animated stick) (the moral relativism engendered by the notion that man is nothing more than an animated machine—Nagel) Vital is applied chiefly to qualities (as power, force, energy, or motion) which result naturally from or are associated with life in distinction from qualities which result from purely physical or chemical causes (vital functions) (it derived its growth and movement from its internal vital force, not from external sources of energy—S. F. Mason)

When these words are applied to things which have not life in the sense defined, they form other groupings. All, however, stress qualities suggestive of life. Living usually suggests continued or continuous existence with no diminution of activity or efficacy (a living principle) (a living force) (ballet as an art form was living and not dead—Coleman) Alive and vital are very close in their emphasis on abundance of vigor, on capacity for development, or on powers of endurance; both are applicable to persons as well as to things (we are not sufficiently alive to feel the tang of sense nor yet to be moved by thought—Dewey) (Queen Victoria remains . . . one of the most absorbing figures of her time. Obviously she is still enough to be condemned—Times Lit. Sup.) (the veterans insist that college be made alive, dynamic, vital—Fine) Alive and animated often imply the presence of living things in great numbers (the stream is alive with trout) (as animated as water under a microscope—Hardy) Animated also may stress endowment with qualities suggestive of life, especially motion (animated pictures) (an animated doll) (the animated signs that blink, bubble, and bedazzle visitors to Times Square—Fixx)

Ant dull —Con lethargic, sluggish, torpid: * languid, lackadaisical, listless, languorous: stolid, apathetic, phlegmatic, *impassive: tedious, *irksome, boring

vital adj Vital is opposed to lifeless —Con lifeless —Con lifeless —Con dead, defunct, deceased, departed, inanimate

living n Living, livelihood, subsistence, sustenance, maintenance, support, keep, bread, bread and butter are comparable when they denote the means, especially the amount of money or goods, required to keep one supplied with the necessities of life (as food, housing, and clothing) and sometimes also the nonessentials that with the necessities supply the needs of a full life. Living is perhaps the most general term since it may denote either the necessities and provisions with which one supports life or the income with which these may be obtained (had undertaken to work as a manager in return for a living and a share of the crops—Glasgow) (many of his other customers had gone . . . so that his own poor living was cut in impossible half—Malamud) (an industrial community, in which livings are insecure, incomes are inadequate—W. H. Hamilton) Typically it is used in a few simple idioms; thus, a man usually earns or makes or gets a or his living; he does something (as writing, spinning, or farming) for or a or his living; someone or something owes or provides him a living (I am quite pleased to make my living by what I write, but the attempt to write for my living would be hopeless, for I can write nothing that is not in itself a pleasure to me to write—Ellis) (men who start out with the notion that the world owes them a living—Sumner) Livelihood may be indistinguishable in meaning from living (the population derives its livelihood from farming—Americana Annual) (the livelihood of the people of Malaya has always been uncertain because of the narrow base of their economy—Langdon) (the profession is of necessity a means of livelihood or of financial reward—Maclever) but unlike the latter it may apply specifically to the means (as a trade, profession, or craft) by which one earns a living (education is a preparation for life, not merely for a livelihood, for living not for a living—Sampson) (it is their profession and livelihood to get their living by practices for which they deserve to forfeit their lives—South) (had a low opinion of politics as a livelihood—White) Subsistence may be a close synonym of living (Harbor Springs relies for its subsistence chiefly on the summer vacationist trade—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (between disappointment and expectation, is soon disgusted, and returns to pursue his more legitimate means of subsistence—Burroughs) but often it more specifically denotes means sufficient merely to maintain life and implies an amount of money or supply of goods that provides a person or his family with no more than basic necessities (as of housing, food, and clothing) (the question whether people on relief shall be provided only with subsistence) (only in the meanest and most limited sense is subsistence a standard of living—Harper's) Sustenance is often used in place of living when the emphasis is upon the food that is necessary not only to one's existence but to one's well-being (she was able to wring only a bare sustenance from his farm) (that thin layer of topsoil that . . . provides the sustenance for our growing population—K. D. White) But it is also often used to imply all the necessaries of life (it was the fur trade . . . which gave early subsistence) and vitality to the great Canadian provinces—Irving) Maintenance usually denotes either a complex of necessities such as food, lodging, and laundry, and sometimes clothing or the amount needed to supply such a complex (advertised . . . for a general resident doctor at $300 a
month and maintenance—Greer Williams> (enough to give him books, and a moderate maintenance—Cibber> (at least half of them are living parasitically on the other half instead of producing maintenance for themselves—Shaw> Support applies not only to the amount of money that provides maintenance but to the person who provides the means by which others are maintained (he is the sole support of his family) (they look for their support to him) (each son was expected to contribute to his own support—C. L. Thompson> Keep is a less dignified synonym of maintenance and is applicable not only to men but to animals (the horse is scarcely worth his keep) (hired men could no longer be had for ten or fifteen dollars a month and keep—White> Bread and bread and butter are synonyms—doches for living or sustenance, partly as a result of the use of the former in the Lord's Prayer "Give us this day our daily bread" (he is a fine poet, but he makes his bread and butter selling insurance)

load n Load, burden, freight, cargo, lading are comparable

are protected against shrinkage and leak-

from the houses, shacks, small mills and

refuse heaps along its banks—Amer. Guide Series: N.Y>

<bear ye one another's burdens—Gal 6:2> (his chief burden was a racking doubt of his own legitimacy—Wyndham Lewis> (a woeful burden of debts that plagued her—R. P. Randall> Freight applies to goods or merchandise in transit, especially long-distance transit (as by ship, railway train, or motor truck) (the wrecked truck spilled its freight over the road) Cargo applies specifically to freight carried by a ship or aircraft (a tramp ship carrying a cargo of grain) (the increasing use of airplanes for the shipping of valuable or perishable cargoes) Lading is chiefly a poetic or commercial synonym for freight or cargo (ladings are protected against shrinkage and leakage—Dun's Review)

load vb 1 *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight, lade, tax, charge, saddle

Ana bear, convey, *carry, transport

Ant unload

2 *adulterate, weight, sophisticate, doctor

load vb *idle, lounge, loll, laze

Ana rest, repose, relax (see corresponding nouns at REST): *saunter, stroll, amble

Con work, labor, toil, travail (see corresponding nouns at WORK)

loath vb *disinclined, indisposed, averse, hesitant, reluctant

Ana *adverse, averse: *antipathetic, unsympathetic, adverse

Ant anxious —Con *eager, keen, avid: desiring or desirous, wishing, wanting (see corresponding verbs at DESIRE)

loathe abominate, detest, abhor, *hate

Ana *despise, contempt, scorn, disdain: refuse, reject, spurn, repudiate, *decline: *recoil, shrink, flinch, blench, quail

Ant dote on —Con *like, love, relish, fancy, enjoy;

*desire, crave, wish, want, covet

loathing abhorrence, detestation, abomination, hate, hatred (see under HATE vb)

Ana aversion, *antipathy: repugnance, repellency, distaste (see corresponding adjectives at REPUGNANT)

Ant tolerance

loathsome *offensive, repulsive, repugnant, revolt ing

Ana abominable, abhorrent, detestable, odious, *hateful: repellent, *repugnant, distasteful, obnoxious, invidious

Ant engaging, inviting —Con attractive, alluring, charming, enchanting, fascinating, bewitching (see under ATTRACT)

local adj *insular, provincial, parochial, small-town

Ana narrow, narrow-minded (see ILLIBERAL): circumscribed, limited, restricted, confined (see LIMIT vb)

Ant cosmopolitan

locality, district, vicinity, neighborhood denote a more or less definitely circumscribed place or region, especially from the point of view of those who live in it. Locality applies to a region of undefined boundaries, but it usually suggests an area round a center (as the place where the saver or other lives) or no longer resides in this locality or round a place remarkable for some event or landmark (the deliverer is to be sought in the locality nearest to the chief scene of the invasion—Stanley> District usually applies to a locality that has clearly defined boundaries determined (as by the nation, state, or town) for such purposes as for administrative and electoral use (representative of the Fifth Congressional District) (federal judicial districts) (police district) (postal district) In a less specific but in this instance more pertinent sense district is often applied to a locality with reference to some of its most obvious or clearly defined characteristics rather than to the exact area it covers (the agricultural districts of the United States) (the Lake District of England) (the mining district of Pennsylvania) (the theater district of a city) Vicinity never loses its basic implication of nearness but, since it suggests a distinct point of view, it applies only to the locality that is very near from that point of view (there are no ponds in this vicinity> Neighborhood usually carries an implied reference to one's neighbors and it may be preferred to vicinity, which it closely resembles in denotation, when the emphasis is on the inhabitants rather than on the locality referred to (there is no one of that name in this neighborhood> (lived in a good neighborhood> (she is on good terms with the entire neighborhood> However, it is frequently interchangeable with vicinity when the emphasis is on proximity; thus, a man might live in the neighborhood or the vicinity of a school (the country must be on guard against the establishment of hostile bases in its neighborhood)

Ana region, *area, zone, belt, tract: section, sector (see PART): territory, *field, bailiwick, province, sphere, domain

location *place, position, situation, site, spot, station

locution *phrase, idiom, expression

lodge vb 1 house, board, *harbor, shelter, entertain

Ana receive, take, accept, admit: accommodate, *contain, hold

2 *reside, live, dwell, sojourn, stay, put up, stop

lofty *high, tall

Ana elevated, raised, lifted (see LIFT): exalted, magnified, aggrandized (see EXALT): imposing, stately, august, majestic (see GRAND): sublime, glorious, superb (see SPLENDID)

Con lowly, *humble, modest
**logical**

**analytical, subtle** are comparable when they are applied to persons, their minds, their mental habits, or products of their reasoning and mean having or showing skill in thinking or reasoning. They are often used interchangeably or without clear distinction, but it is possible to employ them distinctively and with precision. **Logical** may imply the power to think according to the rules of logic and therefore in an orderly fashion; more often, however, it suggests the power to impress others that clearness of thought, soundness of reasoning, and freedom from bias underlie one's arguments, one's decisions, or one's policies (he had . . . the logical as opposed to the intuitive temper. He distrusted emotion for which he could not find a rational basis—Montague). <Keats . . . was a perfectly logical, straightforward, and unprejudiced thinker. His emotions might run away with him; his ideas, never—Lowell> **Analytical** stresses the power to simplify either what is complex or complicated (as by separating it into its constituent parts) or what is chaotic or confused (as by reorganization that shows the relation of the details to each other and the whole). In derogatory use it may imply a tendency to multiply subdivisions but in favorable or neutral use it connotes a power to systematize, clarify, and interpret, as distinguished from the power to create or invent (if a man is being purely analytical . . . the thing is then something to be classified, related to other things by cause and effect, or broken down into elements—Pepper). <his mind was analytical rather than constructive—Scudder> **Subtle** stresses the power to penetrate below the surface and to perceive fine distinctions and delicate, almost imperceptible, relations (John Donne . . . one of the most subtle . . . intellects that ever, before or since, expressed itself through the medium of verse—Lowes). When applied to arguments its use may imply a criticism, such as being hard to follow because of being overreferred (it is a subtle and urbane, but none the less complacent, beggning of all the serious questions in the case—Cohen) <a subtle and intricate book which does not readily yield its full implications—Canad. Forum> Usually, however, it connotes extraordinary skill in reasoning or in analysis (that is a point of view which . . . would hardly have escaped the subtle intellect of the Greeks—Dickinson) <the actual facts have required for . . . their interpretation the most subtle speculations of modern science—Justice Holmes> <for subtle, acute analysis they cannot be matched in any earlier period—Muller>

**Ana**

**cogent, *valid, sound, telling, convincing, compelling: *clear, lucid, perspicuous: *rational, reasonable:**

**Ant**

**illogical **

**Con**

**intuitive, *instinctive: *irrational, unreasonable:**

**logistic, logistical**

**strategic, tactical (see under STRATEGY) irony, sarcasm, sense of humor, wit, point of view, keenness:**

**logistics**

**strategy, tactics**

**loiter**

**dawdle, lag, procrastinate, *delay**

**lolly**

**loll, *idle, loaf, lounge, laze**

**lone**

**1 lonely, lonesome, *alone, forlorn, lorn, solitary, desolate**

**2 single, sole, unique, solitary, separate, particular**

**lonely**

**lonesome, lone, *alone, solitary, forlorn, lorn, desolate**

**long**

**vb Long, yearn, hanker, pine, hunger, thirst mean to have a strong and urgent desire for something. One longs when one wishes for something, and especially something remote or not readily attainable, with one's whole heart or with great earnestness (socialists who long to see the world a better place—Woodrow Wyatt) <ever have I longed to slake my thirst for the world's praises—Keats> <wretched sensitive beings like ourselves longing to escape—Powsys> <in the midst of the finesse, and the artistry . . . one longs at times, not for less refinement but for more virility—Lowes> One yearns when one regards or desires something with eager, restless, often tender or passionate longing (but Enoch yearned to see her face again—Tennyson) <she gazed into his faded blue eyes as if yearning to be understood—Conrad> <dreamers who yearned for things that are not, for things to come or things that have been—Norman Douglas> One hankers when one is possessed with or made uneasy by a desire because of the urgency of a physical appetite <hanker for fresh fruit in the winntertime> or because of such a passion as greed, lust, ambition, or covetousness <she . . . still hankered, with a natural hankering, after her money—Trollope> <hankering from the start after the office of tribute—Buchan> or for something beyond one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment <to wean your minds from hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch> <too long a siege of the familiar . . . sets us hankering after the strange—Lowes> But often hanker is weakened to the point that it means little if any more than want although collectors still hanker after the period pieces, the trend is for simplicity —Tomkinson> <one hankers after one's own order of comfort in advancing age—de la Mare> One pines when one languishes or grows weak through longing for something or gives oneself up to fruitless longing for it <we look before and after, and pine for what is not—Shelley> <Harry Temple was wise enough to give up pining after what he could not get—Besant & Rice> Basically one hungers for food to satisfy an urgent craving for nourishment or for a particular kind of food essential to satisfy appetite, and similarly one thirsts for drink to satisfy an urgent need for liquid or for a particular kind of drink essential to satisfy appetite <hunger for fresh vegetables> <thirst for cool fresh water> In their extended senses one hungers or thirsts when one longs for something with the full force of one's being <blessed are they which do stand the full force of one's being—Luke> or for something beyond one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment <Mt 5:6> <she hungered for a new environment in which to expand her new powers—Ellis> <East Florida was a pawn in world conflict, a strategic baits for which many nations hungered—Hymon> <a savage, unprincipled brute who naturally thirsted to overturn a society—Plumb> **Ana**

**crave, *desire, wish, want, covet:**

**Ant**

**aspir, *aim, thirst, hanker, pine, hunger, thirst mean to have a strong and urgent desire for something. One longs when one wishes for something, and especially something remote or not readily attainable, with one's whole heart or with great earnestness (socialists who long to see the world a better place—Woodrow Wyatt) <ever have I longed to slake my thirst for the world's praises—Keats> <wretched sensitive beings like ourselves longing to escape—Powsys> <in the midst of the finesse, and the artistry . . . one longs at times, not for less refinement but for more virility—Lowes> One yearns when one regards or desires something with eager, restless, often tender or passionate longing (but Enoch yearned to see her face again—Tennyson) <she gazed into his faded blue eyes as if yearning to be understood—Conrad> <dreamers who yearned for things that are not, for things to come or things that have been—Norman Douglas> One hankers when one is possessed with or made uneasy by a desire because of the urgency of a physical appetite <hanker for fresh fruit in the winntertime> or because of such a passion as greed, lust, ambition, or covetousness <she . . . still hankered, with a natural hankering, after her money—Trollope> <hankering from the start after the office of tribute—Buchan> or for something beyond one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment <to wean your minds from hankering after false Germanic standards—Quiller-Couch> <too long a siege of the familiar . . . sets us hankering after the strange—Lowes> But often hanker is weakened to the point that it means little if any more than want although collectors still hanker after the period pieces, the trend is for simplicity —Tomkinson> <one hankers after one's own order of comfort in advancing age—de la Mare> One pines when one languishes or grows weak through longing for something or gives oneself up to fruitless longing for it <we look before and after, and pine for what is not—Shelley> <Harry Temple was wise enough to give up pining after what he could not get—Besant & Rice> Basically one hungers for food to satisfy an urgent craving for nourishment or for a particular kind of food essential to satisfy appetite, and similarly one thirsts for drink to satisfy an urgent need for liquid or for a particular kind of drink essential to satisfy appetite <hunger for fresh vegetables> <thirst for cool fresh water> In their extended senses one hungers or thirsts when one longs for something with the full force of one's being <blessed are they which do stand the full force of one's being—Luke> or for something beyond one's reach or one's powers even if only for the moment <Mt 5:6> <she hungered for a new environment in which to expand her new powers—Ellis> <East Florida was a pawn in world conflict, a strategic baits for which many nations hungered—Hymon> <a savage, unprincipled brute who naturally thirsted to overturn a society—Plumb> **Ana**

**crave, *desire, wish, want, covet:**

**longanimity**

**patience, long-suffering, forbearance, resignation**

**Ana**

**fortitude, sand, grit, pluck, backbone:**

**Ant**

**tenderness, weakness, mawkishness, insensitivity, insensitivity, insensitivity, insensitivity, insensitivity:**

**long-suffering**

**patience, resignation, forbearance**

**Ana**

**submissiveness, subdueness (see corresponding adjectives at TAME) meekness, humbleness or humility, lowliness (see corresponding adjectives at HUMBLE)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
beauteous, pulchritudinous, good-looking

_An_ alluring, enchanting, charming, attractive (see under ATTRACT): *delightful, delectable: exquisite, delicate, dainty, rare (see CHOICE)

_Ant_ unlively: plain

_loving, affectionate, devoted, fond, doting_ are comparable when they mean feeling or showing love or strong liking.

_Loving_ stresses the inward emotion and usually implies sincerity and depth of feeling (a _loving_ father) _loving friends_ (looking at it with eyes at once critical and loving, as if recalling the glow with which he had created it—Galsworthy) _so we'll go no more a roving so late into the night, though the heart be still as loving, and the moon be still as bright—Byron_. _Affectionate_ often stresses demonstrativeness (she is a very _affectionate_ child) _he had an affectionate_ heart. _He must love somebody—Austen_ or implies the need for or fact of outward expression of inward feeling (his _affectionate_ care for his people was winning him love—Buchan). _Devoted_ emphasizes attentiveness, sometimes implying little more than assiduousness, sometimes connoting self-dedication or active loyalty to the person or thing one loves or likes (devoted lover) _devoted disciple_ (I did everything for him that the most _devoted_ mother could do—Shaw) _Fond_ implies affectionate attachment and often connotes foolish tenderness (a _fond_ husband is a very amiable character. A _fond_ one I think is not so—John Wesley) _her_ preoccupation with petty things of no importance whatever was worthy of the finest traditions of _fond_ motherhood—Bennett) _When fond_ (of) and _devoted_ (to) imply a strong predilection or addiction, they are not often clearly distinguished. However, one is _fond_ of the theater who welcomes every opportunity to see a play; one is _devoted_ to the theater who spends much of his time in seeing plays or in efforts to further the development of the drama. One may be _fond_ of the country and yet not go there often, but if one is _devoted_ to it, one prefers to spend most of one's time there. _Doting_ implies excessive fondness that leads to overindulgence in parents or fatuousness in lovers (doting mothers end by ruining their children—Hallam Tennyson)


_Ant_ unloving — _Con_ indifferent, unconcerned, aloof, detached: *cold, chilly, frigid: *faithless, false

_low* base, vile

_An_ abject, ignoble, *mean, sordid: *coarse, vulgar, gross, obscene, ribald: *crooked, devious, oblique

_Con_ decent, seemly, proper, *decorous: noble, *moral, ethical: _fine, high,

_lower vb_ slower, *frown, scowl, gloom

_An_ glare, stare, peer (see GAZE)

_lowly* meek, *humble, modest

_An_ submissive, subdued, *tame: retiring, withdrawing (see GO): reverential, deferential, obeisant (see corresponding nouns at HONOR)

_Ant_ pompous — _Con_ pretentious, ostentatious, _showy: _arrogant, lordly, overbearing, haughty, _proud

_loyal* faithful, true, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute

_Ant_ disloyal — _Con_ false, *faithless, perfidious, traitorous, treacherous: disaffected, alienated, estranged (see ESTRANGE): rebellious, mutinous, seditious, *insubordinate, factious, contumacious

_loyalty* fidelity, allegiance, fealty, devotion, piety

_An_ trueness or truth, faithfulness, constancy, staunchness, steadfastness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHFUL): *attachment, affection, love

_Ant_ disloyalty — _Con_ faithlessness, falseness or falsity, perfidiousness or perfidy, treacherousness or treachery, traitorousness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)

_lubricate* grease, *oil, anoint, cream

_lucent* bright, brilliant, radiant, luminous, lustrous, effulgent, refugent, blazing, lambent, incandescent

_An_ glowing, blazing, flaming (see BLAZE vb): *splendid, resplendent, glorious

_lucid* 1 pellucid, *clear, transparent, translucent, diaphanous, limpid

_An_ luminous, *bright, brilliant, lucent

_Con_ murky, gloomy, dusky, *dark: *turbid, muddy

_2* clear, perspicuous

_An_ distinct, plain, manifest, _evident

_Ant_ obscure, vague, dark — _Con_ enigmatic, cryptic, ambiguous, equivocal (see obscure)

_lucky* fortune, hap, accident, hazard, *chance

_An_ break, chance, occasion, _opportunity: _lot, portion, destiny, _fate

_luckless* unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, calamitous, hapless

_An_ unhappy, infelicitous (see UNFIT): * miserable, wretched

_lucky, fortunate, happy, providential_ all mean meeting with or producing a favorable outcome or an unforeseen or unpredictable success. Lucky implies that the person or persons involved have been favored by chance and that the success has not been the result of merit or merits (a _lucky_ gambler) (said he was a _lucky_ fellow not to be sent to school—Meredith) (it was a _lucky_ day for him when he met the girl who later became his wife) _Fortunate_, although it is often indistinguishable from _lucky_ in its implications, is more formal and more likely to suggest an unanticipated absence of all handicaps and mischances or presence of such favorable circumstances as might argue the intervention of a higher power (compare _fortune_ under CHANCE n 1) that watches over one (in friendships I had been most _fortunate_—Shelley) (we are aware, too, that the critical discrimination which comes so hardly to us has in more _fortunate_ men flashed in the very heat of creation—T. S. Eliot) (it took a very _fortunate_ conjunction of events to bring about the rapid spread and seemingly complete victory of democracy—Dewey) _Happy_ differs from the preceding words chiefly in its combining the meaning of _lucky_ or _fortunate_ with that of its more common sense of being blessed or made glad (see GLAD); thus, a happy outcome is not only one that is fortunate but one that makes the person affected feel happy; a happy accident is an accidental event or circumstance that brings to light something that proves a treasure (giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions—Book of Common Prayer) (Homo sapiens is among the safest of all animals, because he is omnivorous. His heredity is a mixture of _fortune_ and _fate_:—La Barre) _Providential_ often carries an implication of good fortune resulting from the help or interference of Providence (a _providential_ escape) (I thought to myself, this can't be chance. Indeed it seemed _providential_—de la Mare) _Often_, however, the word carries no trace of this implication and means little more than lucky or fortunate (it was _providential_; the sisters had made no remark that the Critchlows might not hear—Bennett) (it was certainly most _providential_ that I looked up at that instant, as the monster would probably, in less than a minute, have seized and dragged me into the river—Bartram)

_An_ *favorable, benign, auspicious, propitious: advantageous, *beneficial, profitable: happy, felicitous, meet (see fit)

_Ant_ unlucky — _Con_ *sinister, baleful, malefic, malef-
lure vb Lure, entice, inveigle, decoy, tempt, seduce are comparable when they mean to draw one from a situation or a course (as of action or behavior) typically felt as right, desirable, or usual or into one felt as wrong, undesirable, or unusual. Lure implies the action of a strong or irresistible influence which may be baneful <sensationalism that had lured new readers to the yellow journals during the circulation wars of the 1890's—H. L. Mencken> perfectly innocuous or even desirable <stretches of woodland dotted with lakes where hunting and fishing lure sportsmen from many distant points—American Guide Series: Me.> The essential thing is to lure into classroom instruction the finest type of trained men and women—Fuess> Entice adds to lure a strong suggestion of artfulness and adroitness <with her . . . high-mindedness she enticed him into a sphere of spirituality that was not his native realm—Stahl> <she appeared to be playing with the bird, possibly amusing herself by trying to entice it on to her hand—Hudson> Inveigle implies the use of wiles and often of deceit and flattery <with patience and diplomacy, she can eventually inveigle him into marrying to a wildfowl or the likeness of one which is used to lure other wildfowl into shooting range or into a net. In extended use it is applied to a person or sometimes to a thing that leads one to go somewhere or to do something that exposes one to the danger of being entrapped (as in the commission of crime, in compromising or unpleasant circumstances, or into being used to further another person's ends) <pretty young girls were the unconscious decoys by means of which she assembled numbers of men at her receptions> <the troops were led into ambush by a decoy> <are said to have lured ships onto the dangerous Briggantine shoals in order to plunder them. The decoy was a lantern hanging from a pole lashed to a jack-ass—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.> <wealthy department stores had the idea of using their book sections as decoys to draw the public into their doors by offering the latest big-selling books at heavily cut prices—Times Lit. Sup.> Snare basically applies to a line with a running noose for catching a bird or animal. In extended use it is applicable to a danger one may run into accidentally or unexpectedly or through lack of caution or wariness and from which, once involved, one cannot easily extricate oneself <the path to bliss abounds with many a snare—Cowper> <thou know'st the snares on ev'ry hand, guide thou their steps alway—Burns> <the wish for perfect security is one of those snares we are always falling into—Russell> led years before into the snare of matrimony with him, in consequence of which she was encumbered with the bringing up of six children—Stowe> <she meant to weave me a snare . . . to entangle me when we met—Tennyson> <gin's but a snare of Old Nick the deluder—Barham> Trap basically applies to a device that shuts with a spring for capturing animals. In extended use it is, like snare, applied to what is a danger to the unwary or incautious. The two words are often used interchangeably as though they were indistinguishable in meaning; however, trap is preferred to snare when disastrous effects, or deliberate setting for the purposes of capture, or trickery beyond detection are implied <the army feared a trap but rather than retreat, they advanced into it> <a trap for speeders> <knowing the examiner's methods, he was certain that there would be a trap set for him but he could discover none> <they accused the Western Powers of setting a trap for Italy so that she would be irrevocably tied to them—Collier's Yr. Bk.> <with traps and obstacles and hazards confronting us on every hand, only blindness or indifference will fail to turn . . . for guidance or for warning, to the study of examples—Cardozo>
lurid

Distinctively, it may apply to the coaxing of something from someone by such means (although he used the most subtle means to inveigle the author into the office to read the press notices, he never succeeded—Bok) (over gin and water we inveigled him from a pack of well-worn cards—Beaglhole) Decoy may mean to entrap or lead (as into danger) by artifice and especially by false appearances (the islanders had been living in relative opulence from the wreckage of ships which they had skillfully decoyed to destruction on the reefs—Barbour) (the female bird . . . practiced the same arts upon us to decoy us away—Burroughs) Temp historically meant and still may mean to entice into evil through hope of pleasure or gain (with weak . . . nations tempt others to prey upon them—Richardson) In more general use it may carry a suggestion of exerting such an attraction as inclines one to act against one's better judgment or higher principles (the receipt of remuneration from patents or copyrights tempts the owners thereof to retard or inhibit research or to restrict the benefits derivable therefrom—W. T. & Barbara Fitts) but more often implies an attracting or inducing that is morally perfectly neutral (the decision to tempt women away from their gray flannel suits . . . with a kaleidoscope of color—American Annual) (had a personality that could tempt a female ichthyologist's interests away from fish—Current Bio).

Seduce usually means to lead astray (as from the course of rectitude, propriety, or duty) by overcoming scruples (the hideous beast whose craft had seduced me into murder—Poe) and even in its most favorable senses in which it implies a moving or turning into a new course it commonly suggests some degree of deluding or misleading as the method employed (words when used with the gift of magic can seduce a reader into belief that has no roots in reality—Feld) (knew how to seduce the interest of his pupils; he did not drive, he led—Anspacher)

Ana ensnare, snare, entrap, trap, capture, *catch, bag; bewitch, fascinate, allure, captivate, *attract: blandish, wheedle, cajole (see COAX)

Ant revolt, repel

lurid *ghastly, grisly, gruesome, macabre, grim

Ana livid, *pale, pallid, wan, ashy, ashen: *sinister, malign, baleful, malefic, maleficient

lurk vb Lurk, skulk, slink, sneak do not share a common denotation, but they are comparable because the major implication of each word is furtive action intended to escape the attention of others. To lurk is to lie in wait (as in an ambush); the term sometimes implies only a place of concealment (his faithful Tom . . . with his little bridle and leading rein—Burke) or because well polished (buffed the leather to a high gloss) or specially finished (the glossy varnish of a newly varnished room accomplishments upon them—Bell) or because of its fresh surface—Dickens) (the luster of minerals can be divided into two types, metallic and nonmetallic—Hurlbut) In literary and extended use luster is often used to imply radiance or brilliance (see BRIGHT) (the sun was shining with uncommon lustre—Dickens) Sheen applies to a lustrous surface (as of a textile) or a surface luster (as of a mineral cleavage surface or a dark feather) that may be dull or bright and may be a simple shining or marked by richly iridescent or metallic tones (repeated scrubbings have given the wood a silvery sheen—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (the flashing sheen on the bird's plume—Sitwell) (the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea—Byron) (the sheen of his poplin and velvet—Cather) In extended use sheen may stress richness and brilliance (an amazing sheen over the orchestral sound, a definition of textures and effects not to be heard even in the concert hall—Robert Lawrence) or it may stress a superficiality suggestive of a surface luster (daughters with a sheen of drawing-room accomplishments upon them—Bell) Gloss stresses superficiality more than luster or sheen and is appropriately applied to something that shines because coated with a shining substance (the gloss of a newly varnished floor) or because well polished (buffed the leather to a high gloss) or specially finished (the gloss on this chintz will wash off) In extended use, gloss often implies superficial attractiveness or plausibility (Mr. France plans to put the same gloss . . . on the place as he does on the fancy Collins Avenue hotels—Friedlander) (writes with his usual agreeable gloss, but it may be that the ingredients are wearing just a bit thin—New Yorker) Glaze applies particularly to a glasslike coating which provides a smooth impervious lustrous surface on ceramic wares, but it is also applicable to such comparable coatings as one made on cooked meats by pouring over them broth thickened by boiling or by

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

- **vigorous, energetic, strenuous, nervous**
- **lustful**
- **luminous, radiant, brilliant, bright, effulgent, lustrous**
- **voluptuous, sybaritic, epicurean, sensuous, luxurious**
- **luxuriant**
- **lush, exuberant, profuse, lavish, prodigal**

### Mechanism

- **intrigue, conspiracy, plot, cabal**
- **maceration**
- **machination**
- **machinery, mechanism, apparatus, engine, motor**

### Macabre

- **gruesome, ghastly, grisly, grim, lurid**
- **horrifying, daunting, appalling, dismaying**
- **macerate**
- **maceration**
- **machination**
- **machine, mechanism, machinery, apparatus, engine, motor**

### Macabre

Specifically to any of the six *simple machines* (the lever, the wheel and axle, the pulley, the inclined plane, the wedge, and the screw) that together contain the elements of which all other machines are composed. Again, it may apply to a machine in the basic sense together with its power-generating unit and sometimes with supplementary equipment (as for moving the whole complex) or it may apply specifically to a conveyance and especially an automobile the term “machine” as used in the patent statute includes every mechanical device or combination of mechanical powers and devices to perform some function and produce a certain effect or result—Toulmin

These terms and the most varied in its applications. Basically it denotes an assemblage of parts that transmit forces, motion, and energy from one to another in a predetermined manner and to a desired end (as sewing a seam, hoisting a load, printing a book, or maintaining an electric current) **drilling machine**,  **machines that convert rags to paper** **washing machine** **conveyance and especially an automobile** **term “machine”** **used in the patent statute includes every mechanical device or combination of mechanical powers and devices to perform some function and produce a certain effect or result—Toulmin** **only an organism has its own internal purposes which belong to it intrinsically and a machine, so far as we know, is merely an extension of the specific purpose of organisms, men—La Barre** **gears are modified simple machines** such as the lever, pulley, wheel-and-axle, and inclined plane. They all serve to multiply force, speed, direction of motion and serve as connecting devices between driving units and driven mecha-

### Antonyms

- **ascetic**
- **austere, stern, severe, self-denying, self-abnegating**

### Contrasted Words

- **luxurious, sumptuous, opulent** 2 Luxurious, sumptuous, opulent are comparable when they are applied to things and mean ostentatiously or obviously rich and magnificent. Sometimes luxurious (also sensuous) is exceedingly choice and costly (luxurious sable coat) (the luxurious appointments of their drawing room) **a luxurious cargo of wine, olive oil, and candied tropic fruits—Wylie** Something sumptuous is extravagantly rich, splendid, gorgeous, or luxurious; the word usually suggests a grandeur or magnitude that almost overwhims the senses (the sumptuous life of the Court provided material for some painters—Binyon) **Venice, soon to be known as the most beautiful and sumptuous city of Europe—Ellis** (a velvet gown, sumptuous and wine-purple, with a white ruff that stood up . . . high and stiff—Edmund Wilson) **for the most sumptuous masques in England, Italian managers, engineers and artists were brought over—T. S. Eliot** Something opulent (see also rich) flouts or seems to flout its luxuriousness, or luxuriance, and, in some cases costliness **offered the bribe not only of her person but of an opulent and glittering eastern throne—Buchan** **the diction of poetry became, with notable exceptions, opulent, sumptuous, lavish, rather than pointed, terse, concrete—Lowes**

### Morals

- **ancient, pretendous, showy: magnificent, stately, imposing, majestic, grand: costly, expensive, valuable, precious**
- **frugal, thrifty, economical, sparing: meager, scant, scanty, skimpy, scrumpy, spare,exiguous**
- **luxury, amenity**

### Sentiments

- **pleasure, joy, delight: agreeableness, gratification, gratefulness**
- **hardship, delusion, deceitful**
- **truth-telling, honest, just, upright, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable: candid, frank, open, plain:**

### Attributes

- **glamor, ruse, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, feint, wile**
- **mechanical, machinery, apparatus, engine, motor**

### M

**Machines**
nisms—Heitner» man uses machines to transform energy, transfer energy, multiply force, multiply speed, or change the direction of a force—C. E. Dull, H. C. Metcalfe, & J. E. Williams» and machine is the only term of this group that is freely used collectively of machines as a class or abstractly of the technology and technological society associated with their use when I use the word machines hereafter I shall refer to specific objects like the printing press or the power loom. When I use the term "the machine" I shall employ it as a shorthand reference to the entire technological complex—Mumford» the domination of our cultural and collective life by the machine—Glcksberg» the liberty of choice allowed to the craftsman who worked by hand has almost vanished with the general use of the machine—Dewey» Mechanism may come close to the basic sense of machine when it denotes an assemblage of working parts functioning together to produce an effect, but more often than not it applies to relatively simple straightforward mechanical linkages such as make up a complex machine; thus, a sewing machine is made up of several mechanisms (as one to advance the thread, another to convey the cloth, another to determine the length of the stitch, and still another to wind the bobbins) the real mechanic understands the construction of his machine; he knows the names and uses of the parts and the principles underlying the operation of the mechanisms—Burghardt & Axlrod» the economic machine that provides for our everyday needs is so intricate that it is hard to see the purpose of particular cogs in its mechanism—W. T. C. King» Sometimes, however, mechanism suggests not merely the physical parts but the various steps that lead to the final result of the process (the propeller is the source of an intense sound but the exact mechanism by which this sound is produced is not clearly understood—Armstrong» Machinery (see also EQUIPMENT) may apply to machines collectively the mill sold its old machinery and bought more efficient machines» machinery for making shoes» the term machinery is very much more comprehensive in scope than the word machine. . . . Unquestionably, the term is broad enough to include a number of machines and their connecting appurtenances which are operated as a unit for a given purpose—U. S. Treasury Decisions» but it may also replace mechanism to denote an assemblage of working parts performing a function (a strange, quiet boy, interested much less in booklearning than in the assemblage; thus, chimpanzees have been reported to fiddle with the adjustment machinery put in the backs of most bow ties—New Yorker» Apparatus (see also EQUIPMENT) basically denotes an assemblage of parts for attaining some end or doing some thing, but in itself it implies nothing about the complexity or simplicity, the efficiency or inefficiency, or the precision or crudity of the assemblage; thus, chimpanzees have been reported to put sticks together into a crude apparatus for reaching fruit that is beyond the reach of their hand modern heating and refrigerating apparatuses raise the temperature during the winter and lower it during the summer—Carrel» (the apparatus which took the photographs and reproduced them. . . are more sensitive and truthful than the human eye—Day Lewis» Engine and motor in their basic relevant sense both denote a machine for converting energy (as heat, chemical, or nuclear energy) into mechanical force or motion, but in many situations they are not at all interchangeable, choice between them being firmly fixed by idiom. Engine is the more general term in this relation and is applicable to such machines whether large or small, simple or complex (an internal-combustion engine or it may apply both to a power-generating unit and a working unit that depends upon this (these engines were built to pump out mines—Kettering & Orth» and sometimes specifically designates certain automotive units (as a locomotive or fire engine (sent engines, hose carts, and ladder trucks to the fire (a long freight train drawn by two engines» From an earlier general use engine is still specifically applied to a few kinds of machines (rose engine) and it is the idiomatically appropriate term to designate the power plant of an aircraft (with either turbojet or rocket engines these research aircraft planes would have sufficient power to permit the maximum speed aerodynamically possible—Bonney» Motor is applicable to a small or light engine (an outboard motor» a spit worked by a small clockwork motor» or to a gasoline or other internal-combustion engine; thus, one may speak of the motor or engine of an automobile; diesel engines or motors power many modern locomotives (the finest machine in the world is useless without a motor to drive it—Furnas» Motor is the specific term for a rotating machine that transforms electrical energy into mechanical energy household appliances run by electric motors» a motor is a machine for transforming electrical energy into mechanical energy or power—Cloud» Like machine, motor also applies specifically to an automotive vehicle (as an automobile or truck) we want a truck battalion of at least four companies. . . . The vehicles for this unit would be obtained by drawing on excess motors in various division units—Combat Forces Jour.» the taxpayer did not then provide Ministers with carriages and coachmen as he now provides them with motors and chauffeurs—Collis» Ana contrivance, *device, contraption, gadget: *implement, tool, instrument, utensil, appliance machinery 1 equipment, apparatus, paraphernalia, outfit, tackle, gear, matériel Ana *mean, instrument, instrumentality, agency, medium, vehicle, organ, channel, agent: *machine, mechanism, apparatus, engine, motor: *device, contrivance, contraption, gadget: *implement, tool, instrument, utensil, appliance machinery 2 *machine, mechanism, apparatus, engine, motor macrocosm cosmos, universe, world, *earth mad 1 *insane, crazy, crazed, demented, deranged, lunatic, maniac, non compos mentis Ana frenzied, hysterical, delirious (see corresponding nouns at MANIA): *irrational, unreasonable 2 *angry, irate, wrathful, wroth, indignant, acrimonious Ana maddened, incensed, infuriated, enraged (see ANGER vb): offended, outraged, affronted (see OFFEND) madden *anger, incense, enrage, infuriate Ana vex, *annoy, irk: exasperate, provoke, rile, aggravate, *irritate Con pacify, placate, mollify, appease, propitiate, conciliate: assuage, alloy, mitigate, *relieve maelstrom *eddy, whirlpool, vortex magazine 1 *armory, arsenal 2 *journal, periodical, review, organ, newspaper magic n Magic, sorcery, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, alchemy, thaumaturgy are comparable rather than synonymous in their basic senses. In extended use they are sometimes employed indifferently without regard to the implications of their primary senses and with little distinction from the most inclusive term, magic, but all are capable of being used discriminately and with quite distinctive implications. Magic primarily denotes one of the arts or the body of arts whose practitioners claim supernatural
or occult powers (as in calling spirits to their assistance, in performing miracles, in divining the future, and in fixing the destinies of men). In extended use the word denotes a power or influence that produces effects akin to or suggestive of those of magic. Usually it stresses the power to call forth an image, an emotion, or a response from or as if from a void (his magic was not far to seek—he was so human! . . . where'er he met a stranger, there he left a friend—J. R. Lowell) (the faint significance of words . . . for a common dullard, or their evocative magic for a Keats—Montague) Less often it is applied to an art or an artist transcending the natural or explainable (but Shakespeare's magic could not copied be; within that circle none durst walk but he—Dryden) Sorcery is the form of magic practiced by those who use incantations and charms and cast spells in order to work their usually harmful ends. In extended use it is especially appropriate to suggest an attempt to overpower or enthrall by glamour or artful enchantment (to fence my ear against thy sorceries—Milton) (the old evocative themes recur . . . and they are still touched with that verbal and metrical sorcery whose secret his younger contemporaries seem to have lost—New Yorker) Witchcraft, witchery, and wizardry in their primary senses suggest powers derived from evil spirits or the use of human beings as the instruments for the accomplishment of Satanic ends, the only difference being that the first two are chiefly applied to the work of women, and the last to that of men. In extended use, however, they often vary in implications. Witchcraft is sometimes indistinguishable from sorcery, but it more often suggests guile rather than enchantment and wiles rather than spells (there is something more than witchcraft in them [women], that masters even the wisest of us all—Rowe) Witchery, on the other hand, occasionally implies either sorcery or guile (thus has a bit of witchery crept into certain methods of plague control in the past—Hubbs) but usually stresses a winning grace or an alluring loveliness (the soft blue sky did never melt into his heart; he never felt the witchery of the soft blue sky!—Wordsworth) (the witchery of legend and romance—Riker) Wizardry suggests a more virile and compelling power to enchant and usually connotes exceptional skill, talent, or creative power in the person who exerts such an influence (that white-winged legion through whom we had plowed our way were not, could never be, to me just gulls . . . ; there was the wizardry of my past wonder, the enchantment of romance—Galsworthy) (his playing had a grandeur that one often misses in the work of younger and more meticuluous artists, and there were moments when his wizardry held me spellbound—Sargeant) Alchemy is properly classed with magic only because its practitioners claimed mastery of secret forces in nature and the power to work such miracles as the changing of base into precious metals. In discriminative extended use, therefore, it implies transmutation or sometimes transfiguration (gilding pale streams with heavenly alchemy—Shak.) (by happy alchemy of mind they turn to pleasure all they find—Green) (the vast majority of those who write verse are unendowed with the assimilating alchemy of genius—Lowes) Thaumaturgy basically is applied to performing of miracles and wonders or to the art of wonder-workers (as conjurers or those who profess the power to work miracles) (a world of miracles wherein all fabled or authentic thaumaturgy and feats of magic were outdone—Carlyle) In extended use it is applied to what mystifies and dazzles or is designed to mislead or confuse.

**ana** analogous words

**ant** antonyms

**con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
main adj principal, leading, *chief, foremost, capital

Aura cardinal, vital, *essential, fundamental: prime, *primary, primal

Con *subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, collateral

mainly *largely, greatly, mostly, chiefly, principally, generally

maintain, assert, defend, vindicate, justify are comparable when they mean to uphold as true, right, just, valid, or worthy of notice or acceptance in the face of opposition or indifference. Maintain implies a firmness of conviction. When this implication is the only one, maintain usually means to argue in the spirit of one who does not admit any weakness in his contention *(the artisan, for example, ranks no doubt lower than the professional man; but no one maintains that he is a different kind of being—Dickinson) *(there is . . . a Philosophic Doctrine— . . . I know that many serious people believe it—which maintains that all men, in spite of appearances and pretensions . . . live alike for pleasure—L. P. Smith) Often, however, the term additionally implies persistency or insistency in upholding in defiance of all opposition *(before this court ought to intervene the case should be of sufficient magnitude clearly and fully proved, and the principle to be applied should be one which the court is prepared deliberately to maintain against all considerations on the other side—Justice Holmes) Assert (see also ASSERT 1) so strongly implies a determination to make others accept or recognize what one puts forward as the truth, or as a claim, or as a right, that it often suggests aggressiveness or obtrusiveness *(the provision of the constitution never has been understood to embrace other contracts, than those which . . . confer rights which may be asserted in a court of justice—John Marshall) But assert does not always imply the use of argument to force conviction or recognition *(anyone . . . can feel the sustained dignity of the sculptor's work, which is asserted with all the emphasis he could put into it—Henry Adams) *(on the whole New Zealand was lavish with money and attention, and used force only to assert her sovereignty—Heiser) Defend implies a maintaining in the face of attack with the intention of demonstrating the truth, rightness, or propriety of what is questioned; thus, one defends a thesis who, as a candidate for a degree, submits himself to examiners who assail the weak or dubious points of his argument *(the independence of the Supreme Court of the United States should be defended at all costs—Lippmann) Defend, in this sense, does not imply, as it so often implies in its more common sense (see DEFEND 1), that the defender is in a weak or dubious position; however it seldom suggests as much aggressiveness as does assert and often connotes the aim of an apologist *(I have not adopted my faith in order to defend my views of conduct—T. S. Eliot) Vindicate (see also EXCULPATE) implies an attempt, usually a successful attempt, at defense or assertion. It presupposes that whatever is being defended or asserted has been or is capable of being challenged, questioned, denied, or contended. When the emphasis is on defense, then argument or something which has the force of argument is usually implied, and an aim not only to make one's point but to confute and confound one's opponents is often connoted *(writers who vindicated our hereditary House of Lords against a certain Parliament Act—Quiller-Couch) *(the view of the informed and disinterested men turned out to be almost completely wrong, while the relatively uninformed . . . were vindicated on all counts—Roveree) When the emphasis is upon assertion, vindicate usually implies an effort to resist triumphantly the force of encroachment or interference or to overwhelm those who deny or doubt, not so much by argument as by appropriate action *(arise, and vindicate Thy Glory; free thy people from their yoke!—Milton) *(what was it that stood in his way? His unfortunate timidity! He wished to vindicate himself in some way, to assert his manhood—Joyce) Justify (see also EXPLAIN 2, JUSTIFY 3) implies that the thing concerned can no longer be opposed or ignored because it has been conclusively shown to be true, valid, or proper by irrefutable arguments or on inescapable grounds, such as its consequences or its successful operation *(if the Germans are to justify the high claims they make for lessening as a critic, they must rest them on other grounds than his intellectual originality—Babbitt) *(fate persists in justifying the harsh generalizations of Puritan morals—Bennett) *(it isn't by the materials you use that your claim to originality will stand justified or condemned; it is solely by the thing you do with them—Lowes) Assert, aver, protest, avow, declare, profess, avouch (see ASSERT): *contend, fight, battle, ward; persist, persevere

Con oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight: *deny, gainsay, contradict, traverse

maintenance sustenance, support, *living, livelihood, subsistence, keep, bread

majestic stately, august, noble, magnificent, imposing, *grand, grandiose

majority, plurality are arbitrarily defined in the United States, especially by statute, when they refer to an excess of votes as determining an election. Both imply an excess of votes over the next highest candidate. The distinction between the two words applies when there are three or more candidates; then the person who is elected by a majority has more votes than the other candidates combined, that is, his vote is in excess of half of the total number of votes cast, and his majority is the number of votes cast for him in excess of one half of the total number of votes. A person is elected by a plurality when he has more votes than any other candidate, whether he has a majority of the total or not. Thus, if a total of 290,000 votes are cast in an election contested by three candidates, with candidate A polling 200,000 votes, candidate B polling 75,000, and candidate C polling 15,000, candidate A wins the election by a majority of 55,000, and by a plurality of 125,000 over candidate B, and by a plurality of 185,000 over candidate C. Sometimes, where the successful candidate has a vote that exceeds the total of votes cast for all opposing candidates, the term plurality is applied to this excess; thus, in the example given, while candidate A's majority is 55,000, his plurality over candidates B and C together is 110,000.

make vb Make, form, shape, fashion, fabricate, manufacture, forge can all mean to cause something to come into being or existence. This is the underlying meaning of make, the most general and the most widely applicable of these terms. Make may imply the operation either of an intelligent agent or of a blind agency, and either material or immaterial existence *(make a chair) *(make a poem) *(make a choice) *(this factory makes bicycles) *(she is unable to make friends) *(God made the world) *(the spider makes webs) *(the liver makes bile) Form adds to the implication that the thing brought into being has a definite outline, design, or structure *(a sculptor who forms hands with exquisite delicacy) *(we are ready to form a plan) *(form a federation of states) *(character

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

is partly formed by training) Shape, though often interchangeable with form, is much more restricted in its application because it characteristically connotes an external agent that physically or figuratively impresses a particular form upon something (as by molding, beating, carving, or cutting) (the blacksmith shapes a horseshoe on his anvil) (shape a hat on a block) (events that shaped his career) (every life is a work of art shaped by the man who lives it—Dickinson) Fashion means to form, but it implies an intelligent and sometimes a purposeful agency and more or less inventive power or ingenuity (he fashioned a lamp out of an old churn) (legislative committees often fashion strange bills out of miscellaneous suggestions) (intelligent creatures, fashioned by the hand and in the image of an all-wise God—Hambly) Fabricate stresses a making that unites many parts or materials into a whole (Dr. Hitchings and his associates alone have fabricated more than 500 compounds resembling one or another of the simpler chemicals out of which D. N. A. (an enormous complex substance) is fashioned in the cell—Engel) and it usually connotes either a making according to a predetermined pattern (fabricate doors, windows, and other parts of a house) or skillfulness in construction (fabricate a good plot for a novel) (fabricated a creed fitted to meet the sordid misery of real human life—Woolf) Very commonly fabricate implies an imaginative making or inventing of something false (the particulars of that fashion strange bills out of miscellaneous suggestions) (events that shaped his career) (every life is a work of art shaped by the man who lives it—Dickinson) Fashion means to form, but it implies an intelligent and sometimes a purposeful agency and more or less inventive power or ingenuity (he fashioned a lamp out of an old churn) (legislative committees often fashion strange bills out of miscellaneous suggestions) (intelligent creatures, fashioned by the hand and in the image of an all-wise God—Hambly) Fabricate stresses a making that unites many parts or materials into a whole (Dr. Hitchings and his associates alone have fabricated more than 500 compounds resembling one or another of the simpler chemicals out of which D. N. A. (an enormously complex substance) is fashioned in the cell—Engel) and it usually connotes either a making according to a predetermined pattern (fabricate doors, windows, and other parts of a house) or skillfulness in construction (fabricate a good plot for a novel) (fabricated a creed fitted to meet the sordid misery of real human life—Woolf) Very commonly fabricate implies an imaginative making or inventing of something false (the particulars of that fashion strange bills out of miscellaneous suggestions) (events that shaped his career) (every life is a work of art shaped by the man who lives it—Dickinson) Fashion means to form, but it implies an intelligent and sometimes a purposeful agency and more or less inventive power or ingenuity (he fashioned a lamp out of an old churn) (legislative committees often fashion strange bills out of miscellaneous suggestions) (intelligent creatures, fashioned by the hand and in the image of an all-wise God—Hambly) Fabricate stresses a making that unites many parts or materials into a whole (Dr. Hitchings and his associates alone have fabricated more than 500 compounds resembling one or another of the simpler chemicals out of which D. N. A. (an enormously complex substance) is fashioned in the cell—Engel) and it usually connotes either a making according to a predetermined pattern (fabricate doors, windows, and other parts of a house) or skillfulness in construction (fabricate a good plot for a novel) (fabricated a creed fitted to meet the sordid misery of real human life—Woolf) Very commonly fabricate implies an imaginative making or inventing of something false (the particulars of that
style, dignity rather than sparkle, graciosity rather than grace—Joseph \(\text{Lincoln}\) \(\langle\text{although this is largely a masculine disease, about 5 percent of the patients are women—Fishbein}\rangle\) Manly (often opposed to boyish or, from another point of view, to womanly) is used to qualify whatever evidences the qualities of a fully developed man \(\text{manly virtues}\) It often specifically suggests the finer qualities of a man (as courage, frankness, and independence) or the physical characters and skills which come with maturity; it is applicable not only to men but to boys \(\langle\text{his big manly voice, turning again toward childish treble—Shak}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{what more manly exercise than hunting?—Walton}\rangle\) It was amusing to watch the manly coolness with which the announcement was taken—Meredith \(\text{malevolence}\) (often opposed to womanlike) is more apt to suggest characteristically masculine qualities or, especially, foibles \(\text{manlike} \) (often from long association with men she had learnt a manlike reticence—H. S. Scott) Often manlike suggests reference to man in the more general sense of the word and therefore means little more than human or like human beings \(\langle\text{there were a dozen or more of the hairy manlike creatures upon the ground—Blue Book}\rangle\) Manish (often contrasted with womanish or effeminate) applies chiefly to women or their dress, gait, and manners, when they suggest masculinity rather than femininity \(\langle\text{a woman impudent and manish grown—Shak}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{a manish costume}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{those who dislike . . . manish headgear, might try his simple but feminine small hats—Lois Long}\rangle\) Manful differs from manly and manful in being applied only to mature men \(\langle\text{virile controversialists—Inge}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{a virile style}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{ye chiefly, virile both to think and feel, deep-chested Chapman and firm-footed Ben—J. R. Lowell}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{the virile story of a little man, his big wife, and his bigger bull—Atlantic}\rangle\)

\(\text{Ant}\) female — \(\text{Con feminine, womanly, womanlike, womanish, ladylike (see female)}\)

\(\text{malevolent}\) \(\langle\text{malevolence}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malefactor}\rangle\)

\(\text{Ant}\) female — \(\text{Con feminine, womanly, womanlike, womanish, ladylike (see female)}\)

\(\text{malevolent}\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{malevolent}\rangle\) 

\(\text{Ant}\) female — \(\text{Con feminine, womanly, womanlike, womanish, ladylike (see female)}\)
malignant, malevolent, malignant, malign, spiteful are comparable when they mean disposed to do or to inflict evil or resulting from a disposition to do or to inflict evil. A person or thing is malicious that is motivated or dictated by hatred or spite and, usually, by a desire to inflict injury and suffering or to see another in disgrace or an object of ridicule or contempt (episodes . . . when they create a scandal, they are hushed as much as possible, so as not to offend chaste ears and rejoice malicious ones—Guérard) (criticism based on guesswork and even on malicious falsification of fact—Roosevelt) (took a malicious pleasure in emphasizing this point and in watching me wince—Kipling) A person or thing is malevolent that evidences ill will or an intent to do evil, or a sinister influence (Captain Tilney must have heard some malevolent misrepresentation of her—Austen) (there is no free breath to be drawn within the sphere of so malevolent an influence—Hawthorne) (the medicine man . . . can be malevolent as well as benevolent. If he desires the death of enemies he calls his spirits and bids them to harm the object of his hatred—Corlett) A person or thing is malignant that is actu- ated or characterized by virulent ill will or extreme malevolence (tested in the crucible of a malignant marriage—Hewes) (a great temptation to . . . insist that the lack of relation between what happens and what is supposed to happen is due to some spell or enchantment laid by a malignant magician—Muggeridge) (his cold, malignant rage—L. P. Smith) A person or thing is malign (see also SINNER) that harbors violent enmity or ill will or threatens extreme evil or danger; the term, in contrast with malignant, carries a stronger implication of potentiality and therefore need not suggest certainty of effect (a soul that spurns the crowd's malign control—Gifford) (by fiends of aspect more malign—Wordsworth) Spiteful implies a deep-seated malicious or malevolence provoked especially by a desire to get even with others for real or fancied offenses; it suggests meanness or venomousness of temper and refers more often to utterances than to acts (spiteful gossip) (she has a spiteful tongue) (a spiteful saying gratifies so many little passions—Addison) (‘Well, said Mr. Potter, who was not spiteful to his children, and preferred his wife unfurled, ‘We'll let you off this time’—Rose Macaulay) Ana ▶ poisonous, venomous, virulent, toxic: *pernicious, noxious, baneful, deleterious, detrimental: *envious, jealous: wanton, gratuitous, un-called-for, *supererogatory malign adj 1 malignant, *malevolent, *malign, spiteful Ana inimical, hostile, rancorous, antipathetic, antagonistic, *toxic (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY): venous, virulent, *poisonous, toxic Benignant ▶ benign, kindly, *kind 2 *sinister, baleful, malefic, *maleficient Ana threatening, menacing (see THREATEN): baneful, noxious, *pernicious, deleterious: disastrous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, calamitous (see corresponding nouns at DISASTER) Ant benign ▶ *favorable, auspicious, propitious: fortunate, *lucky, providential, happy malign vb Malign, traduce, aspere, vilify, calumniate, defame, slander, libel mean to speak evil of for the purpose of injuring and without regard for the truth. Malign and traduce usually imply persecution; they commonly suggest such a blinding passion as hatred, violent prejudice, or bigotry as the motive. Malign, however, although it carries the implication that the person, group, or race affected is the victim of lies, does not necessarily impute deliberate lying to the speaker or writer (the most malign race in history) (gossips had maligned the lady—Meredith) (whether Richard III has been maligned by his earlier biographers or not is still an open question) (other British historians have malign Ward in order to build up the fame of ‘Chinese’ Gordon—Richard Watts) Traduce carries these implications also, but it stresses the resulting ignominy more than malign (if I am traduced by ignorant tongues . . . ‘tis but the fate of place and the rough brake that virtue must go through—Shak.) (political bias or society scandalmongers fastened on them and traduced them and made them notorious—Gore) (a bank-owned newspaper which . . . traduced the members of its adversary faction in the town—White) Aspere and vilify both imply efforts to destroy a person’s good name or reputation. Asperse suggests an intent to detract from one’s reputation or to lower one in popular esteem by direct accusations or, more often, by such subtler methods as innuendo or spreading false reports (there were foul tongues to asperse a Douglas—Scott) (found their characters assailed and their motives aspersed—Parrington) (he neither aspersed men’s idealisms nor sniffed at their aspirations—Kronenberger) Vilify implies open methods and an intent to blacken one’s good name and to make it vile and shameful; it usually suggests direct accusation coupled with violent abuse and scurrilous name-calling (with a malignant insanity, we oppose the measures, and ungratefully vilify the persons, of those whose sole object is our own peace and prosperity—Burke) (the soldier of today . . . should not be blamed for falling back. He should be shot or hanged afterward . . . but he should not be vilified in newspapers—Kipling) Calumniate impales malice to the speaker or writer and falsity to his aspersions or accusations (calumniating and ridiculing the Church which he had deserted—Macauley) and often implies that the false and malicious statements have seriously damaged the good name of the victim (the verdict of history is that Benedict Arnold was not calumniated, but was justly charged with treason) Defame, slander, and libel are found both in general and in legal use, but their strict legal definitions are more or less affecting their literary meanings. All imply calumniation, but they differ from calumniate mainly in their emphasis on the positive damaging effect of the lies. Defame, both in legal and in literary use, suggests an actual injury to one’s good name or a definite loss of reputation or reputation (defaming that defacing, till she left not even Lancelot brave nor Galahad dear—Tennyson) (Captain Basil Hall . . . was publicly accused . . . of being an agent of the British government on a special mission to blacken and defame this country—Brooks) To slander, in legal use, is to defame orally; in general use it covers both written and printed as well as oral calumni- ation. It also, more strongly than defame or calumniate, connotes positive suffering on the part of the victim (slandered to death by villains, that dare as well answer a man indeed as I dare take a serpent by the tongue—Shak.) (he was to be imprisoned again, his friends were to betray him, his name was to be slandered—Woodham-Smith) Libel (compare LABEL n) is chiefly a legal term; in general use its implications are much the same. It implies the printing or writing of something that defames a person.
malodorous, stinking, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, rancid, plastic, pliable, pliant, ductile, adaptable

malignity, malign, malevolent, malicious, spiteful

malignancy, malign, ill will, malevolence, spite, despite, spleen, grudge

maligning *dodge, parry, sidestep, duck, shirk, fence

malleable *plastic, pliable, pliant, ductile, adaptable

malodorous, stinking, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, rancid, fastidious, musty mean having an unpleasant smell. Malodorous is the general term which is referable to any smell of this character, from one that is noticeably unpleasant to one that is distinctly offensive "malodorous flowers". The flavor . . . like that of many malodorous cheeses, is delicate—Rowlings Stinking, the familiar term, and fetid, the literary or technical term, describe an odor or a thing that emits an odor which is peculiarly offensive; the former more obviously suggests disgusting foulness than the latter. A stinking dungeon, a stinking outhouse, the cave . . . was indescribably foul and stinking—Barbour. Exploded stinking flashlight powder in enclosed rooms—Mott.

petrify—also stinking weed, he detected at once a fetid odor, not very strong but highly disagreeable—Cather. Noisome is applicable chiefly to what emits a poisonsly or unwholesomely offensive odor. Four sewers emptied into these twenty-five acres of swamp and morass—stagnant, noisome, and crawling with huge snakes—Heiser. Putrid is applicable primarily to organic matter in such a state of decomposition that it is loathsome and malodorous—a bloated, putrid, noisome carcass—Burke. The whole was putrid with fish corpses—Semon. Rank (see also RANK 1: FLAGRANT) applies to an odor or to a thing which emits an odor that is exceedingly strong and unpleasing yet not necessarily loathsome (the rank smell of a sunflower). O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven—Shak. Wreathed in smoke from a rank cigar—Ralph Watson.

Rancid usually suggests an offensive taste as well as an offensive smell that is indicative of a loss of freshness; it is used especially of fatty substances (as oil or butter) that have undergone a chemical change or decomposition (rancid bacon). Fusty and musty both suggest lack of ventilation and sunlight, but of the two words, musty carries the stronger implication of age and prolonged uncleanness or an accumulation of dust and dirt, and musty, the stronger implication of moldiness or of the effects of darkness or dampness (the ill-ventilated schoolroom full of boys smelled . . . musty—Ellis). (the department had moved from its musty old headquarters . . . to a shiny new home—Time). The musty odor of a damp cellar (there was an acrid, musty smell; the raw air was close with breathing—Rose Macaulay).

Ant odorous—Con fragrant, aromatic, redolent (see ODOROUS)

maltreat mistreat, ill-treat, misuse, abuse, outrage

mammal *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, giant, gigantic, gigantic, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdingnagian

maneuver *trick, ruse, gambit, ploy, artifice, wile, feint

manful virile, mannish, manlike, manly, masculine, male

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

*Ana* sturdy, stout, tenacious, stalwart, tough, *strong: resolute, steadfast, staunch (see FAITHFUL): intrepid, bold, *brave

**maniac**

*Ana* injure, damage, mar, impair: *deface, disfigure: deform, contort, distort

**mania**

*Ana* insanity, lunacy, psychosis, dementia

**Ant** lucidity

2 Mania, delirium, frenzy, hysteria are comparable when they mean a state of mind in which there is loss of control over emotional, nervous, or mental processes. Mania (see also INSANITY) definitely implies madness or insanity; the term may designate a type of madness in which the patient manifests extreme excitability or, more precisely, the phase of manic-depressive insanity in which the patient loses control over his powers of thought, of speech, and of movement through violent excitement or excessive emotion (see George III suffered a third attack of mania—William Hunt) Delirium implies extreme mental disturbance that may be associated with or induced by toxic factors (as of disease or drugs) or occur episodically in a prolonged mental disorder and that is characterized by raving, hallucinations, delusions, and extreme restlessness (a raging fever accompanied with delirium—Dickens) (by pain reduced to a state approaching delirium) But delirium also, in nontechnical use, applies to a state of intense emotional excitement that manifests itself in an individual or in a group and robs him or them of self-control (in a delirium of joy) (the delirium of popular enthusiasm—Lecky) Frenzy (see also INSPIRATION) suggests wilder or more violent agitation or disorder than delirium but no less emotional excitement; it is applicable both to a state bordering on a mania (an act done in the . . . frenzy of despair—Freeman) and to one in which for the time being all self-control is lost (his hands released her . . . and went up to his white hair, which they tore in a frenzy—Dickens) (her intensity, which would leave no emotion on a normal plane, irritated the youth into a frenzy—D. H. Lawrence) Hysteria applies strictly to a psychoneurosis simulating organic disease and manifesting such symptoms as disturbance of sensation, motion, and visceral functions expressed typically in functional paralysis, nausea, and emotional excitability (a structurally normal arm paralyzed by hysteria) In ordinary non-technical language hysteria implies extreme emotional instability that may show itself in swift transitions of mood or from laughing to crying (she laughed and cried together . . . in a hysteria which she could not control—Bennett) (they were gradually worked up to complaisance and then to enthusiasm and then to hysteria and then to acute mania—Mencken)

**Ant** suggest —Con adumbrate, shadow (see SUGGEST)

**manikin**

*Ana* flourish, brandish, shake, *swing, wave, thrash

**Ant** giant

**manipulate**

*Ana* manlike, manful, virile, manly, masculine, *male

**Ant** womanlike, feminine, womanish, ladylike, effeminate, womanly, *female

**manly**

*Ana* mature, matured, grown-up, adult: sturdy, *strong, stout, stalwart

**Ant** unmanly, womanly —Con effeminate, womanish, ladylike (see FEMALE): boyish, puerile, juvenile, *youthful

**manner**

*Con* method, mode, way, fashion, system

**manuscript**

*Ana* custom, usage, use, wont, practice, *habit, habitude

**mannerism**

*Ant* pose, air, affectation

**mannish**

*Ana* eccentricity, idiosyncrasy: peculiarity, singularity, oddness, querness (see corresponding adjectives at STRANGE)

**manufacture**

*Ana* produce, turn out, yield (see BEAR)

**many**

*Ant* emancipate, enfranchise, deliver, discharge, *free, release, liberate

**Ant** enslave

many, several, sundry, various, divers, numerous, multiform mean consisting of a large number or comprising a large group. Many implies a likeness between the individuals or units in class, category, kind, or sort; except that it vaguely implies more than a few, the term gives no explicit suggestion as to how large the number is (of the eleven poets who accepted (representing, in many cases, a second choice on the part of the committee . . . ) —Mary McCarthy) (many inventions which we now see to be precursors of the second industrial revolution—Wiener) Several (see also DISTINCT 1) is almost as vague as many in its implication of number. In law the term is construed as meaning more than one; thus, the several counts of an indictment may be two or more counts. In more general use it is usually construed as meaning at least three (the journey will take several days) (they saw several strangers on the road) (there are several reasons why you should not go) Sometimes the term means both more than a few and different each from the other; in such use, several is often preceded by a possessive adjective (a review of our denominational theologians . . .). There have been many of them; they have served their several causes well—Sperry (her several thoughts . . . as signaled by the changes on her face—Hardy) (chosen every second year by the people of the several States—U. S. Constitution) Sundry also implies an indefinite number, but it carries regularly a stronger implication of the difference of each from the others than does several; thus, there are several, rather than sundry, eggs left; there are sundry, more explicit than several, aspects of the problem that have not been considered (she differed in sundry important features—Quiller-Couch) (all their sundry emotions of a moment ago were one now in a sense of submissive, unquestioning reverence—Tasaki)

**manipulate**

*Ana* various (see also DIFFERENT) is often used to mean an indefinite number, with a more or less attenuated implication of difference in identity of each from each (various persons spoke to me about it) (the various social layers of the American population—Packard) Divers (compare diverse under DIFFERENT) also has come to imply a vague number, often meaning little more than many or several, but often retaining some of its originally strong impli-
cation of difference among the individuals *(he told his story to divers persons)* *(divers styles of musical expression—Virgil Thomson)* Numerous may qualify plural nouns or singular nouns that designate a collection or assembly of units or individuals. In each case the term implies the existence of a noticeably large number of units or individuals; sometimes, in fact, it connotes a crowding or thronging *(every president has numerous letters from numerous persons)* *(I have contracted a numerous acquaintance among the best sort of people—Steele)* *(the commoners who had been summoned . . . formed a numerous assembly—Macauley)* Multifarious adds to the implications of many that of great diversity and often incongruity in the units, individuals, or elements involved *(in many of the multifarious activities he undertook—Ellis)* *(the multifarious Italian dialects—Heiser)* *(the large desk on which multifarious files and papers were ranged—Bennett)* *(the multifarious sufferings of the refugees)*

**Ant**

few

*versatile, all-around*

**map** n & vb *chart, graph

*plan, plot, scheme, design: *sketch, outline, diagram

*injure, damage, hurt, harm, impair, spoil

*deface, disfigure: *deform, contort, distort, warp:

ruin, wreck

*embellish, decorate, *adorn, beautify, ornament:

*mend, repair, patch: amend, revise, reform, *correct, rectify, emend

**marble** vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, speckle, spangle, bespangle

**marbled** spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

**margin** 1 border, verge, edge, rim, brim, brink

**mar** bound, end, term, confine, *limit: penumbra (see SHADE)

2 *room, berth, play, elbowroom, leeway, clearance

**marine** adj 1 oceanic, thalassic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal, *aquatic, lacustrine, fluviu, fluviatile

2 Marine, maritime, nautical, naval are not closely synonymous terms but they are so interrelated that they are sometimes a cause of confusion. Marine and maritime both imply a connection with the sea. Marine is the appropriate term when what is qualified is produced by or is found in the sea or in a body of salt water (for this sense see AQUATIC) or is intended for use at sea *(marine barometer)* *(marine chronometer)* or deals with the sea or with vessels that ply the sea or other large bodies of water *(marine painting)* *(marine engineers)* Marine is sometimes used also when there is an actual or implied reference to seamen *(at that time the Marine Board examinations took place at the St. Katherine's Dock House on Tower Hill—Conrad)* *(the marine hospital system long maintained by the United States for the care of sick and disabled merchant seamen)* and the term commonly applies to soldiers who serve at sea *(the Marine Corps)* Maritime is the appropriate term when the reference is to countries, climates, or peoples on the borders of a sea *(the Maritime Provinces of Canada are on its eastern coast)* *(maritime races)* or to the navigation of or commerce on the seas *(maritime pursuits such as fishing or whaling)* *(maritime laws)* *(maritime perils)* *(in the whole of British genius . . . I have estimated the maritime ancestry as 1.9, less than any other class—Ellis)* But maritime and marine are sometimes used interchangeably, especially in reference to law and insurance. Nautical and naval, on the other hand, imply a connection with ships and shipping, and therefore only indirectly with the sea. Nautical, however, is the usual term in applications where a relationship to sailors or seamen or the sailing of ships or boats is distinctly implied *(nautical pursuits such as yachting)* *(nautical skill)* *(a man of nautical interests is never satisfied until he owns some sort of boat)* *(nautical clothes)* *(no one rows, very few sail . . . ; Bright-ton . . . is the least nautical of seaside places—Jefferies)* Nautical is usually the preferred term when reference to the art or profession of navigation is implied *(nautical charts)* *(nautical tables)* *(nautical astronomy)* *(a nautical mile)* Naval usually implies reference to a navy as distinguished from a merchant marine and as composed not only of ships, but of men, supplies, and armaments; at times, only from the context can a reader be sure whether ship or naval force is referred to *(naval stores)* *(a naval architect)* *(a naval engagement)* *(he belongs to the naval reserve)*

**mariner**, sailor, seaman, tar, gob, bluejacket all denote a person engaged in sailing or handling a ship. In non-technical use mariner generally refers to those directly involved in the navigation and operation of the ship but in legal use it is applicable to a person employed aboard a ship in any capacity and then includes not only the navigators and operators but such persons as those concerned with the ship's business and housekeeping; thus, a ship's master, officers, engineers, and stewards are all in this sense mariners. Mariner is not so common as the other terms, but it is very common in literary use *(ye mariners of England that guard our native seas—Campbell)* Sailor still so strongly retains its original implication of concern with the management of boats or ships that are propelled by sails that it is the appropriate term whenever this idea is specifically suggested. However the term is also applicable to a person engaged in the actual navigation or operation of a vessel regardless of the power which drives it. In ordinary use it applies especially to one more technically called a seaman, one of the working force sometimes including or sometimes excluding officers employed on a ship. The term seaman alone is not ordinarily applied to apprentices, for it suggests skill and craft in operation and guidance of a vessel. Tar is a familiar, often poetic, designation of a sailor; gob designates informally a sailor belonging to the navy and is not applied to an officer, whether commissioned or noncommissioned. Bluejacket is commonly applied to an enlisted man in the British or American navy; the term originally referred to the distinguishing uniform of such a seaman; it is often employed in distinguishing a sailor in the navy from a marine or a sailor in the merchant marine.

**marital** *matrimonial, conjugal, connubial, nuptial, hy- menal

**maritime** *marine, nautical, naval

**mark** n 1 *sign, symptom, note, token, badge

2 *character, symbol, sign

*device, contrivance

3 brand, stamp, label, tag, ticket (see under mark vb)

**mark** vb 1 Make, brand, stamp, label, tag, ticket are comparable both as verbs meaning to affix, attach, or impress something which serves for identification and as nouns meaning the thing affixed, attached, or impressed for such a purpose. Mark, the comprehensive term of this group, in itself as distinct from context implies nothing about the way of affixing, attaching, or impressing and therefore may take the place of any of the remaining terms to suggest a means by which something may be identified, or
such matters as its ownership, origin, and quality may be established {all her linen was marked by embroidered initials} {English gold and silver articles are marked, to attest their purity, with the official mark of the Goldsmiths' Company} {the marks of old age are appearing in his face} {bringing with him the marks of his rank and privilege, the silver and china, the linen and damask, the portraits in peeling gold frames—Warren} Brand basically implies a burning or searing with a hot iron to make a permanent mark that serves to identify (as in respect to status, ownership, quality, or make) {cattle on the open range were branded to show their owner} But brand has been extended to other methods of marking and then commonly stresses the indelibility of the mark and this implication affects its various extended uses much as does the more basic one (see brand n under STIGMA) {history has once again branded this lesson on the minds of those who choose to see—Beackmore} In particular the noun often implies a being the identified product of a specified maker {accustomed to ask for goods by brand} {a store that carries only well-known brands} Stamp (see also IMPRESSION) basically implies an impressing of a mark of identification, authentication, or authorization upon some softer material by means of a machine or instrument that hammers it in; it may imply also any comparable method of affixing a mark, usually with some suggestion of permanence or indelibility {every coin is stamped with a particular design that certifies it as belonging to a certain country and as having such and such a value} {the meat was dark red with uneven white edges of fat. Blue inspection stamps were on the white fat—Wirt Williams} {stamp a bill “Paid”} {stamp a letter with the date of arrival at the post office} {put a ten-cent postage stamp on that letter} {this passport now bears all the necessary stamps} {this paternity was stamped so indelibly on his outer shell—Costain} {a poet who has left her stamp on her generation—S. H. Hay} Label implies the affixing of a piece of material (as paper, metal, or cloth) upon something to show its name, description, origin, or the person and address to which it is being sent {label all the minerals in the collection} {she affixed a small paper label to each jar of preserves} {the contents of every bottle should be carefully labeled} In its extended use label usually applies to the applying of an epithet, often rather arbitrarily, to something or someone {when I was at Harvard all the types of narrative were labeled and classified like butterflies in a case—Marquand} {hanging the subservive label on their own liberal clergy—Winnett} Tag is applied to a label loosely attached (as to a package or a piece of baggage) giving direction or information; it often implies less permanent attachment than label {a tag pinned to his lapel, bearing his name and destination—Current Biog.} {tag a parcel for shipment} {price tags} {write out tags for all the pieces of baggage} Ticket in the relevant sense is more common as noun than verb and basically denotes a slip (as of paper, cardboard, or metal) usually conveying information or evidencing a right. Often the word is interchangeable with label or tag without loss of meaning {many retailers who attach their own store tags to the merchandise look at the manufactur- ers' tags and labels as auxiliary tickets supplementing their own—Women's Wear Daily} Ana imprint, impress, print (see corresponding nouns at IMPRESSION); recognize, identify (see corresponding nouns at RECOGNITION) 2 *characterize, distinguish, qualify Ana *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak, prove, argue; intimate, hint, *suggest marriage, matrimony, wedlock, wedding, nuptial, espousal are comparable though not always synonymous because they all refer directly or indirectly to acts by which a man and woman become husband and wife or to the state of being husband and wife. Marriage is the common term; it may apply to the rite or ceremony {many were present at their marriage} {a civil marriage} but it more often applies to the legal or spiritual relation which is entered upon {joined in marriage} {annul a marriage} or to the state of being married {theirs was a long and happy mar- riage} or to the institution as an abstraction {nor does he dishonor marriage that praises virginity—Donne} In extended use the term is applicable to any similarly close and intimate union {let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments—Shak.} {the same sort of poetic effect as the Romantics obtained by the marriage of fertile words—Day Lewis} Matrimony is in most contexts interchangeable with marriage, but it is the more appropriate term in religious and sometimes in legal use; in many Christian churches it designates one of the seven sacraments {matrimony is the sacrament which unites in holy wedlock a man and a woman, between whom there is no impediment that would render marriage null and void—Currier} The term therefore may be chosen in place of marriage when a religious ceremony or sanction is implied {joined in bonds of holy matrimony} In general the term is more often applied to the relationship which exists between husband and wife than to the ceremony or the state of marriage {so prays the Church, to consecrate a vow “The which would endless matrimony make”—Wordsworth} Wedlock, chiefly legal or archaic, applies especially to marriage as a legally or ecclesiastically sanctioned relationship or state; thus, children born out of wedlock are children of parents who are not legally married {grave authors say, and witty poets sing, that honest wedlock is a glorious thing—Pope} Wedding is the common term for the ceremony that marks a marriage and the festivities that accompany it {a thousand invitations to the wedding were sent out} Nuptial, usually as the plural nuptials, is a more rhetorical term than wedding; it also carries a stronger implication of an elaborate ceremony {I don’t object to married priests, but I do strongly object to their nuptials. . . .} When a priest . . . indulges in an immense artistic wedding, I feel there is something undignified and almost unpleasant about it—Mackenzie Espousal, often as the plural es- pousals, differs little from nuptial except in its extended application. In the latter use it implies a spiritual union, especially one that is dependent upon a vow or pledge {let every act of worship be like our espousals, Lord, to thee—John Wesley} marshal vb *order, arrange, organize, systematize, methodize Ana array, range, align, *line, line up Con derange, disarrange, *disorder, disorganize, unsettle, disturb; *scatter, disperse, dissipate martial, warlike, military carry as their basic meaning belonging to, suitable to, or characteristic of war. Martial distinctively implies reference to war in general and to its essential and fundamental characteristics; it often specifically suggests the pomp and circumstance of war {standing in martial array} {the army set out to the mar- tial strains of a fife and drum corps—Amer. Guide Series: Calif.} Warlike, as a rule, implies reference to war as a reality, its actual causes, its actual methods, its actual effects; it therefore applies more often to feelings, acts, or activities that lead to or accompany real war than to those which suggest its thrilling or stirring qualities; thus, a warlike temper suggests bellicosity or readiness to fight to the bitter end, whereas a martial temperament

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
marvel 524 massive

suggests qualities (as dauntlessness, spiritedness, and eagerness) that bespeak one likely to behave well and valiantly in war (a warlike race) (tales of warlike deeds—Wordsworth) (everything that might be of value to a warlike power—the muskets, the cutlass—was thrown overboard—Forster) (the Huns, whose warlike fury had swept the earth like a living flame—Stoker) Military is the broadest of these terms since it may imply reference to war, to arms, or to armed forces or might (a military expedition) (the military needs of the nation) (a distinguished military career) (of military bearing, six feet in height, erect and compact, with black hair and commanding appearance—Colegrove) Sometimes military in reference to armed forces is specifically opposed to civil or civilian (a military governor) (it is beyond the scope of any military representative to effect a solution by political means—Cilley) (Spencer also could see only two main types of states, the military, fashioned primarily for war and extremely authoritarian, and the industrial state, set up chiefly for productive industry and implying democratic politics, extensive civil liberties and extreme limitations of state activities—H. E. Barnes) (it may be restricted to land, or land and air, forces and is then opposed to naval (among military and naval attaches, military rank takes precedence of "courtesy to the stranger"—Squire)

Ana *belligerent, bellicose, pugnacious, combative: *aggressive, militant; *spirited, high-spirited, motley some marvellous n wonder, prodigy, miracle, phenomenon

Anon astonishment, amazement, surprise (see corresponding verbs at surprise): perplexity, mystification, puzzle (see corresponding verbs at puzzle)

masculine *male, virile, manful, manlike, manly

Ano *vigor, energetic, lusty, strenuous: robust, *healthy, sound

Ant feminine —Con womanly, ladylike, womanlike, womanish, *female

mash vb *crush, smash, bruise, squash, macerate

Ana pound, *beat

mask n portrait, photograph, *image, effigy, statue, icon

mask vb disguise, cloak, dissemble, camouflage

Ana conceal, *hide, secretive, screen: protect, shield, *defend, guard, safeguard

Con discover, divulge, disclose, *reveal: expose, exhibit, display, flaunt, *show

mass n 1 *bulk, volume

Ana *aggregate, aggregation, conglomerate, conglomeration: *sum, amount, total, aggregate, whole

2 heap, pile, stack, shock, cock, bank (see under heap vb)

Ana accumulation, hoarding or hoard, amassment (see corresponding verbs at accumulate)

mass vb *heap, pile, stack, shock, cock, bank

Ana *gather, collect, assemble, congregate: *accumulate, amass, hoard: merge, blend, fuse, coalesce (see mix): consolidate, *compact, unify, concentrate

massacre n Massacre, slaughter, butchery, carnage, pogrom

are comparable when they mean a great and often wanton killing of human beings. Massacre implies promiscuous and wholesale slaying, especially of those who are not prepared to defend themselves and can make little or no resistance (the tyrannous and bloody deed is done, the most arch act of piteous massacre that ever yet this land was guilty of—Shak) (the vengeful murder of the mothers, bloodthirsty ringleader, and the massacre of most of the surviving crew by natives—Dulles) Slaughter, basically a butcher's term for the killing of animals used as food, suggests extensive and ruthless killing, whether the scene of that killing be a battle or a massacre (the chief...cut his way through the enemy with great slaughter—Irving) (determined not to repeat the slaughter of the First World War, during which hundreds of thousands of soldiers were sacrificed in fruitless frontal attacks—Bethe) (it was no longer a battle but a slaughter...from nine o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock in the evening, when it began to get dark, the killing went on—Graves) Butchery adds to slaughter the implication of exceeding cruelty or of cold-blooded indifference to the sufferings of the victims (boasting of his fights, his cruelties and his butcheries—Kingsley) (thus was the butchery waged while the sun clomb Heaven's eastern steep—Shelley) Carnage is often not easily distinguishable from slaughter, except that it sometimes carries additional connotations similar to those of massacre (a slight resistance was followed by a dreadful carnage—Gibbon) (war and all its deeds of carnage—Whitman) Pogrom applies especially to an organized massacre of helpless people carried on usually with the connivance of officials. It is often applied specifically to such a massacre of Jews, especially in one of the European countries (the pogrom at Gomel and Kishinev in Russia in 1903) (the carried out a full-scale pogrom against the Jews, slaughtering hundreds of thousands—New Republic) (the Hindus interpret every manifestation of individual violence...as the launching of a pogrom against them—Edmond Taylor)

Ana assassination, murdering or murder, slaying, killing (see corresponding verbs at kill)

massive, massy, bulky, monumental, substantial are comparable when they mean impressively large or heavy. Massive distinctively stresses solidity and strength of construction and may imply an imposing appearance (its ceilings...heavy with massive beams—Dickens) (the mainland of Asia, and especially that part of it occupied by the massive bulk of China—Owen Lattimore) (a man whose massive shoulders and determined cast of features ought to have convinced him that such an enterprise was nothing short of desperate—Shaw) Massy, chiefly a literary word, carries a stronger implication of ponderousness than massive, but an equal implication of solidity and strength (your swords are now too massy for your strengths and will not be uplifted—Shak) (hast thou a goblet for dark sparkling wine? That goblet right heavy, and massy, and gold?—Keats) (it was a castle, steadfast among storms, its side a massy wall—Sinclair Lewis) Bulky stresses size rather than weight, and the excessive amount of space occupied rather than solidity or strength of construction (a bulky parcel) (a bulky report) (its front door and steps were wide, presumably in order to permit the passage of bulky objects—Chidsey) (the museum finds it impossible to accept for display a great number of interesting but bulky items such as aircraft, guns or tanks—Report on Nat'l Development (Ottawa)) Monumental implies greatness of size, but it distinctively suggests an imposing massiveness (me, Godess, bring to arch'd walks of twilight groves, and shadows brown...of pine, or monumental oak—Milton) (the monumental fourpost bed has been taken down—Daily Telegraph) (a tall red-haired woman of monumental build—Wharton) Substantial stresses solidity and strength of construction but it carries a weak implication of size or outwardly imposing appearance and a strong implication of established quality, worth, and stability (the most substantial buildings in England today are the Old Norman cathedrals) (the British Empire crowded in their drab, substantial, gray and brown clothes—Dorothy Canfield) (substantial homes, and substantial relatives of some sort or other, on whom we could fall back—Galsworthy)

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

526
materi

Applies to what not only has physical existence but also is tangible or can be described as a body; thus, energy in itself has no corporeal existence though it is a physical power found usually in corporeal things (in a monistic . . . sense "the mind" may be regarded as a living, growing "structure" even though it lacks corporeal tangibility—Science) (the spiritual life commences where the corporeal existence terminates—Frazer) Phenomenal implies a relation to what is known or knowable through the senses and experience, as distinguished from what is knowable only through thought or intuition because beyond perception by the senses; the term is chiefly used in philosophy and science when there is an intent to mark the line between what is actually perceived and what has been ascertained by the reason, has been accepted by faith, or is theoretical or hypothetical (phenomenal reality is often specifically called \textit{actuality}) (phenomenal nature is reduced to an array of events in the four-dimensional continuum—Jeans) (her introspective bent has yielded more and more, in her recent writing, to a determination to capture the \textit{phenomenal} world—Redman) Sensible which basically applies to what is known or knowable through sense experience and therefore, comprises the specific terms \textit{visible}, \textit{audible}, \textit{tangible}, \textit{palpable} is sometimes opposed to \textit{intelligible}, \textit{conceptual}, or \textit{notional} (there is no \textit{sensible} movement of the earth) (is this a dagger which I see before me, the handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee . . . are thou not . . . sensible to feeling as to sight? or art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation—Shak.) (the man of science may carry us off into a world of symbols, but his symbols stand for features of the external world and he is bent on verifying them by \textit{sensible} experience—Alexander) Objective (see also \textit{fair}) implies the same kind of existence as \textit{phenomenal} and \textit{sensible}, but it stresses the apartness of the thing known through the senses from the person who perceives it through his senses; the term, therefore, implies not only material existence but an existence which is or is felt as uncolored by the prejudices and preconceptions of the perceiver (the ancient Hebrew . . . saw the rainbow as an \textit{objective} structure set in the heavens for all men to behold—Jeans) (acosmism, the theory which denies the \textit{objective} existence of the world or universe—Ingé) \textit{Ana} *carnal, fleshly, sensual, animal: actual, true, *real: tangible, *perceptible, appreciable, palpable \textit{Ant} immaterial 2 *relevant, germane, pertinent, apposite, applicable, apropos \textit{Ana} important, significant, consequential, momentous (see corresponding nouns at \textit{importance}) (vital, cardinal, \textit{essential}, fundamental \textit{Ant} immaterial \textit{Material} \textit{n} *matter, substance, stuff \textit{Ana} *element, constituent, ingredient, component \textit{Materialize} externalize, objectify, incarnate, embody, actualize, *realize, hypostatize, reify \textit{Matériel} 1 *equipment, apparatus, machinery, paraphernalia, outfit, tackle, gear 2 *armament, munitions, arms, ordnance, artillery, ammunition \textit{Matrimonial, marital, conjugal, connubial, nuptial, hymeneal} mean of, relating to, or characteristic of marriage. Matrimonial is the most general term applicable to whatever has to do both with matrimony and with marriage in most of its senses (see \textit{MARRIAGE}) (\textit{matrimonial} \textit{vows}) (the \textit{matrimonial} state) (with close fidelity and love unfigned, to keep the \textit{matrimonial} bond unstained—Cowper) (\textit{matrimonial} bliss) \textit{Matrimonial} which sometimes implies specific reference to the husband and his part in marriage (\textit{marital rights}) (\textit{marital authority}) is often used interchangeably with \textit{matrimonial} (\textit{matrimonial} vows) (the \textit{marital} relationship) Conjugal and connubial are frequently used interchangeably. More discriminatively, \textit{conjugal} refers to persons who are married (they flaunt their \textit{conjugal} felicity in one's face—Wilde) (1 count it my good fortune that never once in . . . my childhood was I the witness of any \textit{conjugal} jar—Ellis) and \textit{connubial} to the marriage state (of my friends who have been least successful in \textit{connubial} contracts—Johnson) (enter the \textit{connubial} state) \textit{Nuptial} has primary reference to the marriage rites or ceremony (the \textit{nuptial} torch—Milton) (the \textit{nuptial} ceremony was then performed by the Superintendent—Motley) \textit{Hymeneal} is a poetical or literary word, suggestive of the splendors of marriage rites and festivities (\textit{hymeneal} songs) (chorus \textit{hymeneal}, or triumphant chaunt matched with thine would be all but an empty vaunt—Shelley) (one fully expects that . . . the characters will join hands at the conclusion and dance off the stage to \textit{hymeneal} music—Booth) \textit{Matrimony} *marriage, wedlock, wedding, nuptial, espousal \textit{Matter} \textit{n} 1 Matter, substance, material, stuff are comparable when they mean what goes into the makeup or forms the being of a thing whether physical or not. In the relevant sense \textit{matter} basically denotes that of which all physical objects are made, but to the physical scientist this may imply the component of the observable universe that includes among its properties extension, inertia, and gravitation and is held to consist ultimately of relatively few kinds of elementary particles, to be convertible into energy, and together with energy to form the basis of \textit{objective} phenomena (but what is more common than \textit{matter}? We and the universe about us are \textit{matter}. We know nothing of force or energy, nor of any physical phenomenon, except through the agency of \textit{matter}—Foley) (\textit{matter} is a form of energy and . . . presumably in nature processes go on in which \textit{matter} is destroyed and transformed into more familiar forms of energy such as heat, radiation, and mechanical motion—E. O. Lawrence) while to the philosopher it tends to imply an unordered material substratum distinguishable on the one hand from immaterial qualities (as spirit or energy) and on the other from form or formed bodies (Aristotle defined the \textit{word} \textit{matter} figuratively and successfully when he said that \textit{matter} is to substance what the bronze is to the statue—Richard Robinson) (it may be worth noting here the fundamentally opposed characters of Aristotle's \textit{matter} and that of the new science. Aristotle's \textit{matter} is the source of being, but not of intelligibility. To analyze an entity into its material components is to lose its essence. Modern science's \textit{matter}, on the other hand, is the most intelligible of natural principles—W. D. Oliver) In more general use \textit{matter} often specifically applies to a particular portion or kind of physical matter (strain the solid \textit{matter} from the broth) (living \textit{matter}) \textit{Substance} usually implies a particular kind of matter (\textit{hard} \textit{substances}) and often one of known chemical or physical nature (\textit{gaseous} \textit{substances}) (an \textit{object} may be either a homogeneous mass of a single \textit{substance}, such as water, or a combination or mixture of different \textit{substances}, as, for instance a cup of tea—Jeoff) or it may distinctively suggest the particular matter or kind of matter that enters into the composition of something or gives it its characteristic properties (the \textit{substance} of this vase is porcelain) (are we not all of the same \textit{substance}—men, planets and earth, born from the heart of darkness, returning to darkness, the consoling mother—Sitwell) \textit{Material} applies basically to \textit{matter} or \textit{substance} as a constituent of phys-
mature

adj  Mature, matured, ripe, mellow, adult, grown-

matured—

mature stresses fullness of growth and readiness for
normal functioning (in warm climates human beings
mature more rapidly than in cold climates) (in his ma-
turing days, young Warren was a cheerful and attractive
person—Bryant) (he was matured by six years' prac-
tical experience in a New York militia regiment—
Robert Lowell) while develop stresses the unfolding of all
that is latent and the attainment of the perfection that is
appropriate to the species or is possible to the individual
(kitten's hunting instinct was not yet developed—
Russell) and ripen emphasizes the approach to or the
attainment of the peak of perfection (the fruits are now
sufficiently ripened) (there is nothing here of slow bud-
ing, of fruits ripening in stillness—Carlos Baker) (at
twenty-three she was still young enough to ripen to a
maturer beauty—Glasgow) Age may equal mature when it
is applied to the young (hard work ages a boy) but more
and in other contexts, routinely, it implies approach to
the period of decline or decay (the leaders of the move-
ment are aging rapidly) (as the individual matures and then
ages, he constantly has to unlearn patterns of re-
response which have ceased to be effective—Linton)

In their extended applications to things with latent
capacity for improvement all these terms imply a per-
foming with time. Mature suggests that something not
fully formed undergoes completing changes (mature a
plan) (an art that toiling ages have but just matured—
Cowper) (his ideas about the novel continued to develop
and mature—Cousins) while develop especially applies
to the unfolding into full being or effectiveness of some-
thing that is potential, latent, or nebulous (the environ-

Matured—

mature stresses fullness of growth and readiness for
normal functioning (in warm climates human beings
mature more rapidly than in cold climates) (in his ma-
turing days, young Warren was a cheerful and attractive
person—Bryant) (he was matured by six years' prac-
tical experience in a New York militia regiment—
Robert Lowell) while develop stresses the unfolding of all
that is latent and the attainment of the perfection that is
appropriate to the species or is possible to the individual
(kitten's hunting instinct was not yet developed—
Russell) and ripen emphasizes the approach to or the
attainment of the peak of perfection (the fruits are now
sufficiently ripened) (there is nothing here of slow bud-
ing, of fruits ripening in stillness—Carlos Baker) (at
twenty-three she was still young enough to ripen to a
maturer beauty—Glasgow) Age may equal mature when it
is applied to the young (hard work ages a boy) but more
and in other contexts, routinely, it implies approach to
the period of decline or decay (the leaders of the move-
ment are aging rapidly) (as the individual matures and then
ages, he constantly has to unlearn patterns of re-
response which have ceased to be effective—Linton)

In their extended applications to things with latent
capacity for improvement all these terms imply a per-
foming with time. Mature suggests that something not
fully formed undergoes completing changes (mature a
plan) (an art that toiling ages have but just matured—
Cowper) (his ideas about the novel continued to develop
and mature—Cousins) while develop especially applies
to the unfolding into full being or effectiveness of some-
thing that is potential, latent, or nebulous (the environ-
ment fitted to develop . . . a genius at once so subtle and so humane as that of Socrates—Dickinson (the sense of fact is something very slow to develop—T. S. Eliot)

Both ripen and age imply a becoming fit for some use, action, or purpose over a period of time. Distinctively, ripen tends to suggest the addition of desirable qualities (<time had ripened his life and mellowed its fruits—Brooks> (the civil law, which was in force in most of the countries of continental Europe and their colonies, was the accepted product of the ripened experience of many centuries of Roman jurisprudence—Encyc. Americana) while age may suggest the elimination of unwanted qualities (<water for tropical fish should be aged by standing long enough for toxic substances to escape> (aging tends toward the restoration of real equilibrium in the metal, and away from any unstable condition induced by a prior operation—Rusinoff) but often the two are used without distinction (<beef, mutton, venison, and game birds become more tender and palatable by the process of ripening, hanging, aging, or maturing—Ashbrook>)

Ana *harden, season, acclimatize, acclimate: *habituate, accustom, inure, addict

matured *mature, ripe, mellow, adult, grown-up

Ana *completed, finished (see close vb): *deliberate, consider, advised, designed, studied, premeditated

Ant unmade: premature—Con crude, green, callow, uncouth, *rude, rough, raw: *youthful, juvenile, puercile, boyish, childish, *childlike

mawlind mawish, *sentimental, romantic, soppy, mushy, slushi

Ana *confused, muddled, fuzzled, addled, befuddled (see confuse): embarrassed, rattled, fazed, discomfited, disconcerted (see embarrass)

mawkshish mauldin, *sentimental, romantic, soppy, mushy, slushi

Ana *flat, vapid, jeune, *insipid, banal, inane

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

may *can

meager, scanty, scant, skimpy, scrumpy, exiguous, spare, sparse are comparable when they mean so small (as in amount, number, or size) as to fall short of what is normal, necessary, or desirable. Meager stresses thinness: as applied to persons or animals, it suggests emaciation (<meager were his looks, sharp misery had worn him to the bones—Shak>) but as applied to things in general, it implies the absence of elements, qualities, or numbers necessary to a thing’s richness, substance, or potency (<a meager diet> (an outline in itself is meager, truly, but it does not necessarily suggest a meager thing—James) (his austere and meager life bred too little sensuousness of nature and too few intellectual passions—Parrington) (<meager appropriations which necessitated the most rigorous economies—Pahlow>) Scanty emphasizes insufficiency in amount, quantity, or extent (<a scanty supply of food for the winter> (the book . . . is not, like some biographical essays with scanty material, stuffed out with appreciation and conjecture—T. S. Eliot) (<such a scanty portion of light was admitted . . . that it was difficult, on first coming in, to see anything—Dickens>) Scant may differ from scanty in suggesting a falling or a cutting short (as in amount or quantity) of what is desired or desirable rather than in what is necessary or essential (<the work of those hours was miserably scant—Hardy> (they were held in scant esteem—Grandgent) Scanty and the less common scrimpy as applied to things may be quite interchangeable with meager (<sufficiently recovered from her cold to climb out of bed and into a skimpy, strapless blue gown—Capote>)

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

appraisal of the new Russian leader, based on such skimpy evidence as is now available—Uhl) (<four acres is scrimpy measure for a royal garden, even for a king of the heroic ages, whose daughter did the family washing—Notes & Queries>) but often they are more strongly colored by the related verbs, skim and scrump, and then usually suggest niggardliness or penury as the cause of the deficiency (<prevents skimpy construction that often leads to airfield shutdowns and aircraft accidents—Livingston>) (<European art books commonly come out with hundreds of huge, magnificent color plates. American art books, especially those produced by commercial publishers, are often skimpy, starved and inadequate by comparison—Frankenstein>) (<more of their breeding than they were of the scrimpy, almost stingy respectability of the menage—White>) Exiguous stresses a smallness in size, amount, extent, or capacity that is more or less inherent in the thing under consideration and makes it compare unfavorably with other things of its kind (<trains too exiguous to hold more than half an idea at a time—Amer. Speech>) (<building ships to supplement his exigous navy—Buchan>) (<a much larger dominion than the exiguous Dalriada—Times Lit. Sup.>) Sparse (see also lean, superfluous) implies merely a falling short of what is easily or fully sufficient; unlike scanty and meager, it seldom suggests resulting loss or hardship (<a spare diet> (a javascript alert, and jaunty figure—Wolfe) (the journals . . . are by no means spare and laconic—Dulles)) Sparse stresses a lack of normal or desirable thickness or density; the term need not suggest insufficiency or inadequacy in numbers or in quantity, but it always connotes a thin scattering of the units (<the sparse population of the mountainous district> (facing the facts of her defeat and her poverty and by encouraging sparse, stringent living—Anthony West)) (<a sparse congregation of old women scattered over the church—Bruce Marshall>)

Ana *thin, slender, slim, slight, tenuous, rare: thinned, attenuated, extenuated, diluted (see thin vb): jeune, flat, *insipid, inane: penurious, *stingy, parsimonious

Ant ample: copious

mean adj Mean, ignoble, abject, sordid can all be applied to persons, their behavior, or the conditions in which they live with the meaning so low as to be out of keeping with human dignity or generally acceptable standards of human life or character. Mean usually suggests such repellent antisocial characteristics as malevolence or cupidity. It almost invariably connotes small-mindedness (<those who are tempted by the flesh have usually nothing to fear from avarice or the meaner vices—Mackenzie>) (<her father is a decidedly vulgar person, mean in his ideals and obtuse in his manners—Erskine>) Often mean implies conduct or an attitude that is detestable and unworthy of a human being (<Delane . . . flung him off like a thing too mean for human handling—Wharton>) (<now and then in his pages war flashes out in romantic or heroic episodes, but for the most part it is mean and degrading, a thing to be hated—Parrington>) Ignoble, like its opposite noble, usually implies qualities of mind or soul. It frequently comes close to mean except that it seldom connotes small-mindedness. Its distinguishing implication is loss or lack of some essential high quality (as spiritual elevation, moral dignity, or intellectual excellence) (to see how those he has converted distort and debase and make ignoble parodies of his teaching—Huxley) (<these are . . . as low and ignoble, as gutter-fallen and dispiriting, as can only be found in the gloomier literature of imperial Russia—J. M. Brown>) Abject, in its most inclusive sense, means little more than extremely low in station or in degree (<had not that fear of beautiful and rich things which renders
mean

adj People incapable of associating costliness with comfort—Shaw> Sometimes it is merely an intensive applied to something that is itself low in the scale (the wars and their changing fortunes, which made abstract ruin and undreamt-of power occurrences of every day—L. G. DeRusseau) In discriminative use, however, abstract carries the implication of being cast down and so variously implies abasement, debasement, or contemptible servility (disgrace not your own king, that he should be so abstract, base, and poor, to choose for wealth and not for perfect love—Shak) resolved to be a man who . . . would live no longer in subjection to the past with abstract mind—Wordsworth> (the stagnation and the squalor that are the abstract human realities left by the ebb of power and splendor—Edmund Wilson> Sordid emphasizes the degrading baseness associated with physical or mental corruption (the counterrevolution . . . ranks among the most sordid periods in Chinese history. Compromise, blackmail and treachery mark the pages devoted to this episode—Lasker> (books filled with sordid, filthy statements based on sexual deviations—U.S. House of Representatives Report> Ana base, low, vile: contemptible, desppicable, sorry, scurrvy, cheap, beggarly, shabby, pitiable.

vb 1 intend, design, propose, purpose Ana wish, want, desire: aim, aspire, pant

2 Mean, denote, signify, import are comparable when they mean to convey to the mind a definite idea or interpretation. Not only words or phrases can be said to mean, denote, signify, or import something, but also whatever admits of interpretation or of being intellectually appraised (as a poem or an essay or an act of Congress, or the behavior of one person to another, or a set of circumstances). These words are commonly employed without distinction, but precision in their use is often possible and desirable. In their general application mean is the most common; it is often more expressive or poignant than the others when used to connote not only interpretation but also evaluation or appraisal (he can have no idea of what it means to be the daughter of Mr. de Barral—Conrad> (national prosperity . . . has two surfaces: ability to sell; employment means production—Benedict Denote, in its widest application, is distinguished from the others by its taking for its subject things that serve as outward marks or visible indications; signify, by its taking for its subject things of a symbolic or representative character (his somber expression denoted a worried mind) (slumped into a chair near the doorway, his posture denoting complete exhaustion—Douglas> (the scales in the hands of the figure of Justice signify impartiality> (The Eucharistic rite signifies one thing to Protestants and another to Catholics> (the “&c.” signify that portion of King Henry’s title . . . which, for the sake of brevity, was not written in full—Maitland) Signify often suggests distinctiveness or importance (events which signify little at the time of occurrence often attain significance when the history of that period is written) (I did not understand that I was living in a debtor land, nor what that signified—White> Import frequently conveys an implication of carrying into the mind (new ideas import little to those not intellectually fitted to receive them) but it frequently conveys closer to signify (what this is signified I could not divine—Wordsworth) (it imports little whether the sensible citizen is a Democrat or a Republican, an Episcopalian or a Presbyterian; it imports a good deal whether he is nationalistic or internationalist—Gerould>

In their special use in reference to the interpretation of the content of a term, these words are not always distinguishable. Mean, however, is capable of implying reference to the term’s full content, that is, to the idea or relation between ideas which it conveys to the mind and the suggestions which it evokes (only a philosophically minded person can grasp what beauty and truth mean in Keats’s lines “Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.”>) Signify can, as mean usually does not, suggest symbolic relationship between the term and the idea it conveys (the phrase “bread and butter” signifies the material needs of life> Denote (see also denote 2) can imply a logical definition in which the idea named or expressed by a term is clearly marked out and its application or range of application accurately determined ("decoration" denotes one of three ideas, the act of adorning, or a thing used in adorning, or the results achieved by one who adorns) Import, used with less frequency in relation to terms, is precise in its implications. A term imports not what it denotes, or bears as a definition, but any or all of the implications involved in its interpretation (does it [the word "necessary"] always import an absolute physical necessity . . . ?—John Marshall>

Ana *carry, convey, bear, transmit: denote, connote: define, assign, prescribe: suggest, imply, intimate, hint

n 1 average, median, norm, par

2 Mean, instrument, instrumentality, agent, agency, medium, organ, vehicle, channel denote a person or thing through or by which work is performed or an end is effected. Mean, usually in the form means, which may be the singular or plural in construction, is the mode of general of these words; it may be applied not only to persons and to such concrete things as implements, tools, and machines, but also to their actions or operations; it may also be applied to methods, policies, devices, and strategies (the habit of regarding the laboring class as a mere means to the maintenance of the rest—Dickinson> (the manufacturer who doesn’t look into every possible way and mean to show . . . where he may practically and economically find new business—Harry Martin) (the justification of barbarous means by holy ends—Muller> (the principal means of transportation was . . . Afghan camels—Hoover> Instrument is applied especially to persons who merely carry out another’s will or intention, often as tools, sometimes as dupes (he . . . turned on me . . . suspecting perhaps that I only wished to make an instrument of him—Hudson) (if they [judges] were to be used as the instruments, and the knowing instruments, for violating what they swear to support—John Marshall>

When applied to concrete things, instrument often derives connotations from its musical sense (as susceptibility to manipulation and responsiveness to touch or use) (he knew his brain was now a very uncertain instrument, sometimes quite good, sometimes a weary fount of half-formed ideas—H. G. Wells> Instrumentality is interchangeable with means but not with instrument because its chief implication is effective action by, or effective use of, the instrument (through the instrumentality of the police he was able to locate his relatives) without the instrumentality of a free press liberty could not be preserved> Agent is applied chiefly to persons and only by extension to things; the term usually names the one who does the work as distinguished from the one who wills, plans, or orders (I often think, when you scan an unconscious agent in the hands of Providence when you recalled me from Tucson—Cather> ultimately these tattooed devils . . . were turned into effective agents for the maintenance of law and order—Heiser>

When applied to a thing, agent names what effects a desired result or serves as a cause producing a definite effect

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
<the cooling agent in making ice cream is a mixture of ice and rock salt> Agency, like instrumentality, is not usually interchangeable with its related noun (agent) for it names the activity or operation of the agent or of something used to produce an effect. It is distinguished from instrumentality by its implication of causative, as opposed to effective, activity (some communicable diseases are transmitted only through the agency of vermin or insects) <presumptuous thoughts that would assign mechanic laws to agency divine—Wordsworth> Medium is more often applied to things than to persons; it designates especially a substance or material through which something, usually something intangible, is conveyed from one person or thing to another or given objective form (air is the medium through which sound and light waves are transmitted) (language is the medium through which a person communicates his thoughts and feelings) (the sculptor's medium may be bronze, marble, or wood) An organ is a part or representative that performs a particular function (the political cartoon is one of the greatest organs of propaganda—Harmsworth) or accomplishes a particular end (the cabinet's function as a general organ of government without special regard to the king's wishes—Times Lit. Sup.) or presents a particular point of view (see under journal) A vehicle is a medium that serves to carry and especially to carry effectively something which is to be revealed through it (the play was an excellent vehicle for the genius of Booth) (we must find a new form of verse which shall be as satisfactory a vehicle for us as blank verse was for the Elizabethans—T. S. Eliot) A channel is a medium that provides either an outlet or a fixed course through which something may flow from one to another (the accident which directed my curiosity originally into this channel—Lamb) - submitting material to the Defense Department without going through the prescribed Army channels—N. Y. Times> Ana *method, mode, manner, way, fashion, system: machinery, apparatus, *equipment, paraphernalia 3 in plural form means resources, assets, effects, *possessions, belongings Ana *money, cash, currency: riches, wealthiness, affluence, opulence (see corresponding adjectives at rich) mean adj average, median, par (see under average n) Ant extreme meander stray, roam, ramble, *wander, rove, range, prow, gad, gavillant, trapse meaning, sense, acceptance, signification, significance, import are comparable when they denote the idea which something (as a word, a passage, a facial expression, an action, or a situation) conveys to the mind or is intended to convey to the mind. Meaning, the general term, may be used interchangeably with any of the remaining terms; it may be used of whatever can convey information when properly interpreted and therefore is not only applicable to language and expressions or gestures but to such more cryptic things as symbols and works of art (a dictionary gives the meanings of words) (if human and the words formed from it can have an exact meaning ... that meaning must refer to those qualities, characteristics, and powers which distinguish the human being—Krutch) (understand a plain man in his plain meaning—Shak.) (the sentence has meaning to Sam even if it will not have meaning to you. A great many ruminations, discoveries, and memories contribute their connotation—Mailer) Sense (see also sense 2) denotes either the meaning or, more often, one of the specific or particular meanings, of a word or phrase, or sometimes of an allegory (some words have many senses) (the literal and figurative senses of Pilgrim's Progress) (in the sense usually implied by the word, Minneapolis has no slums, even though it admits to neighborhoods where substandard housing conditions prevail—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) More abstractly, it refers to intelligibility in general (speaks things ... that carry but half sense—Shak.) (in the first authentic edition ... the words, I believe, ran "and a table of green fields," which has no sense—Newman) (if his work rarely has startling originality ... it always has sense and penetration of judgment—Schlesinger b. 1917) Acceptance (see also acceptance) differs from sense as denoting a meaning of a term chiefly in its stress upon the actual use of that sense or upon its acceptance by a large number of writers and speakers (it is necessary first to consider the different acceptations of the word knowledge—Locke) (philosophy) in its common ... acceptance ... signifies the search after wisdom—Fielding) (where German has separate words for each subsidiary meaning, French is content with a general term, leaving it to the context to specify which particular acceptance is relevant—Ullmann) Signification and significance (see signify under mean vb 2; significance under importance) are often used interchangeably in spite of the fact that they can be carefully differentiated in their meanings. Signification applies specifically to the established meaning of a term, a symbol, or a character, or to an established sense of a word; it usually implies that when a particular term or symbol or character is used only such an established idea is evoked in the mind of informed persons (the significations of the characters which serve as Roman numerals) (I find it very ... interesting to know the signification of names, and had written to ask him whether Jerusalem meant "the vision of peace" or "the foundation of peace"—Arnold) (the counsel for the appellee would ... restrict a general term, applicable to many objects, to one of its significations. Commerce, undoubtedly, is traffic, but it is something more: it is intercourse—John Marshall) Significance, on the other hand, applies specifically to the covert as distinguished from the established or the ostensible meaning of something; it may from its other sense (see importance) carry a connotation of weight or moment (his language is so grandiose that one wonders if his speeches have any significance) (no one knows for a certainty the significance of some early Christian symbols) (for the mathematically illiterate, like myself, these things are ... mere scribblings, without significance—Huxley) (explaining all the minute happenings of the ranch ... as though each of them had a special joyous significance—Mary Austin) Import (see also importance), like significance, may imply momentousness, but in contrast with that term, and like signification, it denotes the idea or the impression conveyed or to be conveyed to the mind by the medium of words (spoke words in her ear that had an awful import to her—Meredith) (Kim gathered the import of the next few sentences—Kipling) Ana suggestion, implication, intimation, hinting or hint (see corresponding verbs at suggest): denotation, connotation (see under denote) meaningful significant, pregnant, sententious, *expressive, eloquent Ana important, consequent, momentous, weighty (see corresponding nouns at importance) Ant meaningless measly paltry, trifling, trivial, puny, *petty, picayunish, picayune Ana *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurvy, cheap, beggarly, shabby: *stingy, parsimonious, penurious, miserly mechanic workman, workingman, artisan, *worker, opera- asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
mechanical automatic, instinctive, impulsive, *spontaneous

Analogous words: remedy, cure, medicament, medication, specific drug, pharmaceutical, biologic, simple

average, mean, par (see under AVERAGE

n) average, mean, norm, par

median

medicament, medication

meddle, interfere, intermeddle, tamper are comparable when they mean to busy or concern oneself with someone or something officiously, impertinently, or indiscriminately. One meddles with or in something that is not one's concern or is distinctly the affair or the responsibility of another or of others; the term usually suggests the interposition of oneself without right or without permission or authorization. It would be better if government meddled no farther with trade than to protect it—Franklin. His enemies accused him . . . of . . . meddling in matters which did not belong to him—Newman. It is inexpedient to meddle with questions of state in a land where men are highly paid to work them out for you—Kipling. One interferes (see also INTERPOSE 2) with someone or something or in something when one meddles, whether intentionally or not, in such a way as to hinder, frustrate, molest, check, or defeat a physicist is not interfering with nature, any more than an architect is interfering with nature when he directs the building of a house—Darrow. The Puritans made life in many ways a great deal less pleasant for the poor by interfering with their leisure—Lewis & Maude. One intermeddles with or in something when one meddles impertinently and officiously and in such a way as to interfere (The board of control had no right whatsoever to intermeddle in the business—Burke. A petition to parliament sets forth how all kinds of unlearned men intermeddled with the practice of physic—Coit. One tampers with someone or something when one seeks to make unwarranted alterations, to perform meddlesome experiments, or to exert an improper influence; the term need not suggest corruption or clandestine operation (provided, the farmer said, nobody had been tampering with any of his witnesses—Meredith. Money and sex are forces too unruly for our reason; they can only be controlled by taboos with which we tamper at our peril—L. P. Smith). The goal of the search was fixed; it was sacrilegious and dangerous to tamper with the dogmas—Thilly. Ana intrude, obtrude, interlope, butt in: *interpose, intervene: discommode, incommodate, trouble, *inconvenience

meddlesome *impertinent, intrusive, obtrusive, officious

Analogous words: meddling, meddling, intermeddling, tampering (see MEDDLE): prying, snoopy, nosy, inquisitive, *curious

median n average, mean, norm, par

mediate intercede, intervene, *interpose, interfere

Analogous words: arbitrate, *judge, adjudicate, adjudicate: conciliate, propitiate (see PACIFY): reconcile, accommodate, *adapt

medicament, medication medicine, *remedy, cure, specific, physic

medicinal n *drug, pharmaceutical, biologic, simple

medicine *remedy, cure, medicament, medication, specific, physic

medioacre *medium, middling, second-rate, moderate, average, fair, indifferent

Analogous words: poor, wrong, *bad: *common, ordinary, vulgar

meditate ponder, muse, ruminate


meditative contemplative, speculative, *thoughtful, reflective, pensive

Analogous words: pondering, musing, ruminating (see PONDER)

medium n *mean, instrument, instrumentality, agent, agency, organ, vehicle, channel

medium adj Medium, middling, mediocre, second-rate, moderate, average, fair, indifferent mean midway, between the extremes of a scale or measurement or evaluation. Medium usually presupposes reference to some scale of measurement or comparison, whether by literal use of an instrument, or through mental power of measuring or gauging attained by experience (a boy of medium height) (a book of medium size) (a medium grade of motor oil) (a medium gray) (the reports . . . received from about 70 publishers, large, medium and small, of hard-cover books—Publishers' Weekly) (cheddar . . . is mild, medium, or sharp, depending on the amount of acidity in the milk—Standen). Middling is seldom used when accurate measurement or gradation is implied; it is employed chiefly in estimations (as of quality, rank, or value) to describe what is as far removed from the worst or lowest as it is from the best or highest. It may appropriately describe something that fails to measure up to the best or the first rate yet does not merit disapproval or rejection (I discovered that I had been poised for an enormous sale, a failure—a middling success was cruel to take—Mailer) (both of the writers lauded highly . . . contemporaries who were certainly no better than middling performers in their several arts—Montague) (not all merchants were merchant princes. The great majority were middling people, mildly prosperous—Plumb). In commercial use middling sometimes specifically designates the second of three grades (carded yarn spun from 1-in. middling cotton—Sheldon & Blake). Mediocre tends to be more depreciative than middling; thus, one who describes a moving picture as middling implies that it was good, but far from excellent, but one who describes it as mediocre gives ground for the inference that it was distinctly less than what one might call good. Often the word is modified by an adverb of degree (it is a very mediocre poem) (he has only mediocre ability) (my performance is mediocre to the last degree—Austen) (a best seller is the gilded tomb of a mediocre talent—L. P. Smith). Second-rate implies a ranking midway between extremes regarded as first-rate and as third-rate (he is possessed of a good heart, and a second- or third-rate brain—Erskine) (fears that a strong continental coalition would soon surpass Britain . . . and the United Kingdom would gradually sink from the status of a second-rate to a third-rate power—Patrick McMahon). Frequently second-rate loses all suggestion of a position on a scale of rating and then connotes inferiority and is used interchangeably with mediocre (a second-rate singer) (a second-rate performance) (even an occasional notable critic like Edmund Wilson has dismissed him as second-rate—Cordell) (a gang of second-rate imitators who enjoyed moving in the reflected glory of the man who could outrun, outdrink, outright, outlove, and outcuss any other man in the County—Lockridge). Moderate (see also MODERATE 1) stresses limitations in quality, intensity, or degree; it implies distance from the extreme or from either of the extremes possible to a thing of its kind (moderate wealth) (a man of moderate ability) (a moderate wind) (attain moderate success) (an infusion of moderate strength) (I was a moderate scholar and a competent athlete—Benson). Average (see also under AVERAGE n) implies a theoretical level at which all things of a given kind, class, or category would find themselves or would seek, if their inequalities

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

n guerdon, prize, award, reward, *premium, bounty, bonus

meek

modest, *humble, lowly

meet

vb 1 Meet, face, encounter, confront can all mean to come across or to run into someone or something face-to-face or as if face-to-face. Meet fundamentally implies the action of two or more persons or things which from different directions come across each other by design or by accident; often it implies nothing more than the narrow strip of Syrian seaboard which they occupied when we first met them in history—Clodd <where the Mohawk meets the Hudson river> <the little girl ran to meet her father as he came up the hill> Beyond this, the word may suggest such actions or intentions as finding, experiencing, or dealing with successfully <I never met with such kindness before> <it is perhaps only in England that such ideas can be expressed without meeting anger or ridicule—Sykes> <Hobart . . . could talk; he could assert; produce opinions and information, but he couldn't meet or answer arguments—Rose Macaulay> Face may imply nothing more than a standing or a meeting face-to-face (as of persons or things that merely present their faces or their fronts to each other) <they faced each other across the table> <a very capacious couch faced a generous fireplace—Sidney Lovett> but it more often emphasizes the act or intention of one who with courage or resolution or confidence, or with effrontery, and with desperation, looks upon or meets another person or thing <the government faces a strong storm of protest over its decision—Current History> <the artist must face life and defy it—Bambrick>

melancholic

adj Melancholic, melancholy, atrophial, hypochondriac are comparable when they mean gloomy or depressed, especially as a manifestation of one’s temperament or state of health. Melancholic and melancholy are often used interchangeably without additional implications or suggestions <the drawings Thuber has produced . . . calling into being an ireradicable population of fierce-looking women, furive men, and gently melancholic dogs—Newsweek> <the Cape Colored, a gentle and melancholy people—N. Y. Times> although each can be used discriminately to suggest the differences inherent in their related nouns (see melancholía and melancholy under sadness). In such use melancholic describes a person who is afflicted with or inclined to melancholia <those recurring moods of melancholic suspicion which had so tortured me . . . remained absent and she seemed on the road to recovery—Ellis> Melancholy, on the other hand, describes a person, or the mood, disposition, acts, or utterances of a person, who is excessively sad or detached in spirit and, usually, averse to what is cheerful or gay <"They say you are a melancholy fellow."

"I am so; I do love it better than laughing"—Shak. <a changed smile flickered like sunlight over the melancholy countenance—Wylie> <there is no merriment . . . comparable to that of melancholy people escaping from the dark region in which it is their custom to keep themselves imprisoned—Hawthorne> Atrribial preserves the implication of an
unhealthy physical condition more strongly than the preceding words; often in modern use it suggests the morose or choleric disposition of the dyspeptic or the predilection for gloom of those who have been subjected to severe strain (neither were those plump rosy-gilled Englishmen that came hither, but a hard-faced, atrabilious, earnest-eyed race—J. R. Lowell) (that the American genius was foredoomed to fail was the atrabilious Ames's firm conviction—Brooks) Hypochondriac comes close to atrabilious in its suggestion of constitutional gloominess but it implies also an unwonted anxiety about one's state of health (she was rather hypochondriac and was gloating over the tale of her symptoms—Edmund Wilson) (the culture just had gone hypochondriac, and all members of the society, whatever their congenital individual dispositions, had fear and pessimism pounded into them from childhood on—Kroese)

**melancholy**

*adjective*

1. melancholic, atrabilious, hypochondriac

- morose, gloomy, glum, *sullen, dour, saturnine*: Ana
- morose, morose, morose: Ant
- morose, morose, morose: Con

- melancholy, dolorous, doleful, lugubrious, rueful, plain-tive—are comparable when they mean expressing or suggesting sorrow or mourning. All of these words have, to a greater or less extent, weakened from their original meaning and are often used with a half-humorous connotation.

- Melancholy may stress a quality that inspires pensiveness or sad reflection or awakens mournful thoughts or recollections which are not only not necessarily painful or disagreeable, but often agreeable, especially to the poetic or thoughtful mind (sweet bird, that shunn'st the noise of death) (I have in the present moment only a melancholy pleasure of an easy conscience—Warren)

The term more frequently applies to something which expresses or excites dejection or depression (his melancholy old house on the hill—Deland) (that melancholy problem of a money-earning occupation which lay so heavily on my thoughts—Ellis)

Dolorous describes what is lamentable in its gloom or dismalness or is exaggeratedly dismal (that dolorous aspect of human nature which in comedy is best portrayed by Molière—T. S. Eliot) (a rapid succession of warnings, as dolorous and pessimistic as the little booklets of possible mishaps that accompany the sale of English cars—Gallant) Doleful and lugubrious are also frequently applied to what is exaggeratedly dismal or dreary, but doleful connotes a weight of woe (a doleful and lackadaisical air) (the mourners, who are singing a very doleful dirge—Goodenough) and lugubrious, an undue, and often an affected, heaviness or solemnity (dark funereal barges like my own had flitted by, and the gondoliers had warned each other at every turning with hoarse, lugubrious cries—Howells) (a lugubrious obituary quality in the treatment given by the American press to Sir Winston's resignation—Reporter) (a lugubrious place which filled me with dread—Henry Miller)

Rueful implies sorrow and regret but it often suggests a quizzical attitude (the woebegone heroes . . . eyed each other with rueful countenances—Irving) (the fleeting glory of Napoleon, the rueful memory of Josephine and her somehow less enviable successor—Cassidy) Plain-tive applies chiefly to tones, sounds, utterances, or rhythms that suggest complaint or mourning or that excite pity or compassion (the plaintive cries of a child) (he sighed, his voice became plaintive—Huxley) (the clarinet sings, in its eerie plaintive tone—S. R. Watson)

- Ana pathetic, poignant, *moving, touching*: hopeless, forlorn, despairing (see despondent): pensive, reflective, *thoughtful: discomposing, disquieting, perturbing, disturbing (see discompose)

- Con happy, *glad, cheerful, joyous, joyful, lighthearted*: *lively, vivacious, gay

- melee fracas, row, *brawl, broil, rumpus, scrap

- Ana altercation, *quarrel, wrangle, squabble*: *confusion, disorder

- mellow ripe, matured, *mature, adult, grown-up

- Ana *tender, warm, sympathetic, responsive, warm-hearted

- Ant unmellow: green—Con raw, crude, callow, uncouth—rude, rough

- melodramatic histrionic, theatrical, dramaturgic, *dramatic

- Ana *showy, pretentious, ostentatious*: *sentimental, romantic, maudlin, mawkish

**melody, air, tune** all denote a clearly distinguishable succession of rhythmically ordered tones. Melody stresses the sweetness or beauty of sound produced by such an arrangement of tones (sweetest melodies are those that are by distance made more sweet—Wordsworth) It also commonly suggests expressiveness or moving power and a carefully wrought pattern (nerve-dissolving melody—Tennyson) (tis a rich sobbing melody, withReliefs and majesty—Keats) Technically, as applied to complex musical structure, melody implies a contrast to harmony; it designates that kind of musical beauty produced by a continuous series of tones in one or more of the voice parts, in distinction from that produced by simultaneously sounded tones in all the voice parts. Air is applied technically to the dominating melody, usually carried by the upper voices (as in a chorale or part-song) (and whistle all the airs from . . . Pinax—Gilbert)

In more general use air is often applied to an easily remembered succession of tones which identifies a simple musical composition (as a song, a ballad, or a Waltz) and which is more commonly and more precisely called tune; thus, one may refer to the air, or the tune, of a song (thum the air of the Marseilaise) (left her fancwork and played for them some old Scotch airs—Black) (he . . . can invent a good tune which immediately captivates one—Dyeneley Hussey)

Tune is also applied to the musical setting of a text (as a ballad, psalm, or lyric) (a hymn tune) and to a simple composition whetherpassion or harmonized (a dance tune) (many hundred texts and tunes of English-Canadian folk songs—Report on Nat'l Development (Ottawa))

**melt** liquefy, deliquesce, fuse, thaw

**member** part, portion, piece, detail, division, section, segment, sector, fraction, prog, piece, detail, section

- Ana *element, component, constituent*: branch, limb

- shoot, bough

- memento *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, token, keepsake, souvenir

- Ana token, earnest, *pledge*: gift, present, favor

- memoir *biography, life, autobiography, confessions

- memorable *noteworthy, notable

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
mendicous

mending—Library Jour. In extended use, too, repair may be quite like mend. The plain fact is that peace—or what passed for peace before it was broken—cannot be mended, cannot be repaired, cannot be restored—MacLeish—but often it more specifically implies a making good or making up for something reminds himself that he had not wept for the death of his mother a year or so earlier, and proceeds to repair the omission—Times Lit. Sup. Although his range of reading was wide, he could not in some respects repair the lack of early education—Colliot.

Patch basically implies a mending by covering, filling in, or reinforcing such a defect as a hole, rent, or weak spot, typically with the same or a similar material. Patch overalls worn thin at the knee, patch holes in the road with asphalt. Patch an inner tube. Sometimes, often with up, it implies careless, hurried, clumsy, or temporary mending ($4,800,000 appropriated to start a new prison in New Jersey has been since diverted to patch up the 118-year-old penal slum at Trenton—O'Leary) and in much of its extended use this is the aspect stressed he hastily tries to patch up his marriage and purify his politics—Beverley. Relations between the two men had to be patched up repeatedly—Isselb Ross. Sometimes, often with together, patch implies a making from bits and pieces or odds and ends, patch a quilt, patch a car together from pieces out of the junkyard. His life must be patched together from scattered references in the contemporary colonial records—J. T. Adams.

Analyze.* improve, better, ameliorate, help: emend, remedy, redress.* correct, rectify, reform:* renew, restore, reenumerate, refurbish: fix,* adjust, regulate mendacious: dishonest, lying, untruthful, deceitful.

Mendacious: false, wrong: prevacitating, equivocating, paltering, differs Santayana.

Mendacious: false, wrong: prevacitating, equivocating, paltering, differs Santayana.

Mendacious: false, wrong: prevacitating, equivocating, paltering, differs Santayana.

Mendacious: false, wrong: prevacitating, equivocating, paltering, differs Santayana.
merciful clement, *forbearing, tolerant, lenient, indulgent

mercious *inconstant, fickle, capricious, unstable

merciful —Con clement, *forbearing, tolerant, lenient, indulgent

mercurial *volatile, effervescent, buoyant, expansive, *elastic, resilient: *changeable, changeful, variable, protean, mutable: mobile: *movable: *clever, adroit, cunning, ingenious

Ant satellite

mercy, charity, grace, clemency, lenity are comparable when meaning the disposition to show compassion or kindness in one's treatment of others, especially of those who offend one and who are in one's power to punish or rebuke. Mercy implies compassion so great as to enable one to forbear, even when justice demands punishment, or to give help or comfort even to the lowest or most undeserving <earthly power doth then show likest God's when mercy seasons justice—Shak.> <souls who God's forbearance try, and those that seek his help, and for his mercy sigh—Wordsworth> Charity stresses benevolence and goodwill, especially as it reveals itself not only in giving generously (for this sense see charity 2) but in the understanding and kindly concern with others' welfare. Justice (with malice toward none, with charity for all—Lincoln) lacks another faculty: the faculty which theologians still call charity. Nowhere, in the whole of the volume, does any character act out of genuine kindness—Time>

(1) is far commoner at the University to meet men of great attainments combined with sincere humility and charity—Benson>

Grace implies a benign attitude toward those who are dependent on one and a disposition to grant favors or to make concessions to them <each in his place, by right, not grace, shall rule his heritage—Kipling> <(that quiet but unabashed hospitality which is a common grace in Mexican households—Cather> <though the wages of sin are exacted with biblical sternness, a tender grace is present in a hundred minute particulars—Gaither> Clemency (see also clement under forbearance) implies a mild or merciful disposition in one whose duty or function it is to administer justice or to punish offenses <clemency . . . is the standing policy of constitutional governments, as severity is of despotism—Hallam> <(off went poor Tom . . . to rejoice in the clemency that spared his appearance at Sessions—Meredith> Lenity differs from clemency only in its greater emphasis on lack of severity. It often suggests undue gentleness or softness or even at times undue leniency <what makes robbers bold but too much lenity?—Shak.> <(if it produces a proper lenity to our citizens in captivity, it will have the effect we meant—Jefferson> <errors which, had he been regarded with a less affectation lenity, would have stood against his official account—S. H. Adams> Con vengeance, revenge, retribution, reprisal, *retaliation: punishment, chastening, chastisement, disciplining or discipline, correction, castigation (see corresponding verbs at PUNISH)

mere, bare are often employed with little or no distinction in the sense of being such as the term qualified states but nothing more. But mere is commonly used to emphasize the limitations of a thing, as if it were declared to be "simply what it is and nothing more" <it began to rain—not a mere hill-shower, but a good, tepid, monsoonish downpour—Kipling> <is mere living . . . without reference to any intrinsic values, a thing of any worth?—Inge> <(the saying that we are members one of another is not a mere pious formula . . . without any meaning: it is a literal truth—Shaw> Bare is stronger and frequently
meretricious

suggests that the thing just escapes falling short of what it actually is (elected by a bare majority) (the short-lived Ukrainian Republic which lasted a bare four years before succumbing—Current History) (some must know higher mathematics, but the bare elements suffice for those to whom mathematics is distasteful—Russell)

meretricious *gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy


Ana consolidate, concentrate, *compact, unify: *unite, combine, conjoin: *integrate, concatenate, articulate merger *consolidation, amalgamation

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

merit n *due, desert

Ana meed, reward, guerdon (see PREMIUM): *worth, value: gaining or gaining, winning or winnings (see GET) 2 *excellence, virtue, perfection

Ant: faults: defect

merit vb *deserve, earn, rate

Ana reward, award (see corresponding nouns at PREMIUM): *worth, value: gaining or gains, winning or winnings (see GET) 2 *excellence, virtue, perfection

method, mode, manner, way, fashion, system are comparable when they denote the means taken or the plan or procedure followed in doing a kind of work or in achieving an end. Method may denote either an abstraction or a concrete procedure, but in both cases it implies orderly, logical, and effective arrangements (as of one’s ideas for an exposition or an argument, or of the steps to be followed in teaching, in investigation, in the treatment of a disease, or in any kind or piece of work); often, also, the term connotes regularity or formality in procedure (his teaching is too informal to be said to have method) (the inductive method of reasoning) (the crude methods of trial and error—Sazzallo) (the method of unfolding the course of a plot must in some ways be different in a play meant for acting and in a book meant for reading—Montague) (always submitted the vowels in accordance with the Arabian method of orthography—Krutch) (surely not to leave to figural chance the things that method and system and science should order and adjust—Cardozo) Mode (see also fashion 2; state) is sometimes used interchangeably with method, but it seldom stresses orderly or logical arrangement; rather, it denotes an order or course pursued as the result of custom, tradition, or personal preference (the reasons given . . . do not seem very plausible to our modes of thought—Binyon) (a man to whom music was a necessary mode of expression—Read) (a study of fictional villains and the mode their villainy assumes—Austin Warren) Manner is often used in place of mode where the reference is to a personal or peculiar course or procedure, or to a method, whether pursued by a number of persons or not, that seems to be individual or distinctive (mark the manner of his teaching—Shak.) (the mathematician . . . is not capable of giving a reason in the same manner as the dialectician—Jowett) (it is not consistent with his manner of writing Latin—Sellery) Way (see also way 1), the most general of these terms, may be used in place of any of the rest and is found in many familiar idiomatic expressions where theoretically method, mode, or manner might be more explicit (religion implies not only a way of worship but a way of life) (it was the white man’s way to assert himself in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather)

mesa *mountain, mount, peak, alp, volcano

message missive, note, *letter, epistle, dispatch, report, memorandum

metamorphose *transform, transmute, convert, transmogrify, transfigure

Ana *change, vary, alter, modify: develop, *mature, age, ripen

metamorphosis transformation, transmutation, conversion, transfiguration, transmogrification (see under transform)

metaphor simile, *analogy

metaphrase *translation, version, paraphrase

meter *rhythm, cadence

method, mode, manner, way, fashion, system are comparable when they denote the means taken or the plan or procedure followed in doing a kind of work or in achieving an end. Method may denote either an abstraction or a concrete procedure, but in both cases it implies orderly, logical, and effective arrangements (as of one’s ideas for an exposition or an argument, or of the steps to be followed in teaching, in investigation, in the treatment of a disease, or in any kind or piece of work); often, also, the term connotes regularity or formality in procedure (his teaching is too informal to be said to have method) (the inductive method of reasoning) (the crude methods of trial and error—Sazzallo) (the method of unfolding the course of a plot must in some ways be different in a play meant for acting and in a book meant for reading—Montague) (always submitted the vowels in accordance with the Arabian method of orthography—Krutch) (surely not to leave to figural chance the things that method and system and science should order and adjust—Cardozo) Mode (see also fashion 2; state) is sometimes used interchangeably with method, but it seldom stresses orderly or logical arrangement; rather, it denotes an order or course pursued as the result of custom, tradition, or personal preference (the reasons given . . . do not seem very plausible to our modes of thought—Binyon) (a man to whom music was a necessary mode of expression—Read) (a study of fictional villains and the mode their villainy assumes—Austin Warren) Manner is often used in place of mode where the reference is to a personal or peculiar course or procedure, or to a method, whether pursued by a number of persons or not, that seems to be individual or distinctive (mark the manner of his teaching—Shak.) (the mathematician . . . is not capable of giving a reason in the same manner as the dialectician—Jowett) (it is not consistent with his manner of writing Latin—Sellery) Way (see also way 1), the most general of these terms, may be used in place of any of the rest and is found in many familiar idiomatic expressions where theoretically method, mode, or manner might be more explicit (religion implies not only a way of worship but a way of life) (it was the white man’s way to assert himself in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather) (the century has brought . . . do not seem . . . take it to mean one’s way in any landscape, to change it, make it over a little . . . it was the Indian’s way to pass through a country . . . and leave no trace—Cather)
or peculiar to a group or type (swim dog fashion) (a group of boys sprawl, teen-age fashion, on couches and chairs—The Lamp) System suggests a fully developed and often carefully formulated method (the mind can scarcely conceive a system for regulating commerce between nations which shall exclude all laws concerning navigation—John Marshall) (the system of classification used by botanists) (his manners, his speech and habits of thought all seemed so prescribed, so intricately connected to one another that they suggested a system of conduct—Cheever) As an abstraction, however, meaning orderness or plan in arrangement or procedure, system is often preferred to method (housekeeping without system) (he follows no system in his reading)

Ana *process, procedure, proceeding: classification (see corresponding verb at ASSORT): disposition, *disposal

methodical *orderly, systematic, regular

Ana methodized, systematized, organized (see ORDER vb): *careful, meticulous, scrupulous: *logical, analytical

Ant unmethedical: desultory—Con *random, haphazard, casual, hit-or-miss: *irregular, unnatural: confused, disorderly, chaotic, jumbled (see corresponding nouns at CONFUSION)

methodize *systematize, organize, *order, arrange, marshal

Ana regulate, *adjust: *set, settle, fix, establish

meticulous *careful, scrupulous, punctilious, punctual

Ana fastidious, finicky, particular, fussy, pernickety, *nice: accurate, exact, precise, *correct

mettle *courage, spirit, resolution, tenacity

Ana *fortitude, backbone, sand, grit, pluck, guts: nerve; hardihood, *temerity, audacity: gallantry, valor, *heroism

mettlesome *spirited, high-spirited, spunky, fiery, mettlesome

miasmic, miasmatic, miasmal *poisonous, toxic, venomous, virulent, pestilent, pestential, mephitic

Ant contagious, *infectious, catching: noxious, *pernicious, baneful, deleterious

microbe *germ, bacterium, bacillus, virus

microscopic *minute, small, little, diminutive, miniaiture, petite, wee, tiny, teenty, weeny

middle n *center, midst, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart

middling *medium, mediocre, second-rate, moderate, average, fair, indifferent

midget n manakin, pygmy, *dwarf, homunculus, runt

midst middle, *center, core, hub, focus, nucleus, heart

mien demeanor, deportment, *bearing, port, presence

Ana air, *pose, affectation, mannerism: aspect, *appearance, semblance, look

might n strength, energy, *power, force, puissance

Ana vigorousness or vigor, strenuousness, energeticness, lustiness (see corresponding adjectives at VIGOROUS): potency, powerfulness, forcibleness, forcefulness (see corresponding adjectives at POWERFUL)

mild gentle, smooth, lenient, bland, *soft, balmy


Ant harsh: fierce

milieu environment, setting, *background, mise-en-scène, backdrop

militant *aggressive, assertive, self-assertive, pushing, pushy

Ana bellicose, pugnacious, combative, contentious, *belligerent: combating, opposing, antagonizing or antagonistic (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): fighting, warring, contending, battling (see CONTEND)

Con *pacific, pacifist, pacificist, peaceful, peaceable: acquiescent, resigned, *compliant

military *martial, warlike

mime *actor, player, performer, murmmer, mimmy, thespian, impersonator, trouper

mimic n *actor, player, performer, murmmer, mimmy, thespian, impersonator, trouper

mimic vb *copy, imitate, ape, mock

Ana play, impersonate, *act: counterfeit, feign, simulate, sham, pretend, *assume

mind n 1 *memory, remembrance, recollection, reminiscence, souvenir

2 Mind, intellect, soul, psyche, brain, intelligence, wit are comparable when they mean the sum total of powers, often felt as a distinct entity, by means of which each individual knows and understands both his inner life and the external world and establishes effective relations between them and which are commonly felt as the distinctive possession of human beings. Mind indicates the complex of man’s faculties involved in perceiving, remembering, considering, evaluating, and deciding; it contrasts variously with body, heart, soul, and spirit (the mind must have its share in deciding these important matters, not merely the emotions and desires—Rose Macaulay) Mind may indicate the peculiar complex of a particular individual as differing from all others (the mind of a dreamer joined to the temperament of a soldier—Buchan) Intellect, sometimes interchangeable with mind, may focus attention on the powers of knowing and thinking by which one may comprehend, consider, and conclude and especially the more coldly analytic powers, independent of and discrete from willing and feeling (the emotionalist keeps himself or herself in luxurious feeling and pathetic imagination, which makes no severe call upon either the will or the intellect—Inge) (now the significance of Sir Thomas Browne lies in the fact that he was at once by intellect a force in the forward movement and by temperament a reactionary—More) Soul (see also SOUL 2), used with considerable variation in meaning and suggestion, may indicate that principle which vitalizes, directs, selects, or inspires in matters emotional and volitional as well as mental (my inner existence, that consciousness which is called the soul—Jeffries) (the soul is an intelligent, sensitive, and vital principle, a trinity which forms and moves the body predisposed to such action, as well as feels, thinks, and wills—Thilly) Psyche may refer to the totality of self composed of all attributes, powers, and activities not purely bodily or somatic but definitely including the unconscious or subconscious (by the psyche I understand the totality of all the psychic processes, both conscious as well as unconscious; whereas by soul, I understand a definitely demarcated function-complex that is best characterized as a “personality”—Baynes) Brain, often as the plural brains, may more forcefully than intellect focus attention on powers of individual comprehension or independent thought (it requires brains and education to follow the argument—Inge) (I have ever even felt inclined to write anything, until my emotions had been unduly excited, my brain immoderately stirred, my senses unusually quickened, or my spirit extravagantly roused?—Galsworthy) Intelligence is likely to imply specific ability to cope with problems and situations and may apply to exhibition of the play of powers of the intellect or comparable ones (it had turned capable men into mere machines doing their work without intelligence—Shaw) (wild animals are not automata—they have intelligence if they lack intellect—Clarke) Wit, often as the plural wits, may refer to a mind marked by inborn capacity, strong common sense, bright perception, or ready intelligence (the un-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
tutored natural wit of savages—Shaw} <everyone had to be a jack-of-all-trades, everyone had to live by his wits—Brooks>  

**Ana** *power, function, faculty:* *reason, understanding, intuition: wisdom, judgment, *sense, gumption*  

**mind vb 1** *remember, recollect, recall, remind, reminisce, bethink*  

2 *obey, comply*  

*Ana* defer, *yield, submit, bow: accede, *assert, consent, agree, acquiesce*  

3 *tend, attend, watch*  

*Con* *neglect, ignore, disregard, forget, slight*  

**mingle** *mix, commingle, blend, merge, coalesce, amalgamate, fuse*  

*Ana* *join, combine, unite, conjoin, connect: consolidate, *compact, unify, concentrate*  

**minimize adj** *minute, diminutive, *small, little, diminutive, miniature, wee, tiny,* *supernatural, supranatural, preternatural, wonder, marvel, prodigy, phenomenon*  

**minority**  

**minute** *instant, moment, second, flash, jiffy, twinkling, split second*  

**minute adj 1** *small, little, diminutive, minute, wee, tiny, teeny, weeny*  

**minimize** *deprecate, *decry, belittle, disparage, derogate, detract*  

*Ant* magnify — *Con* aggrandize, *exalt: extol, eulogize, acclaim, laud, *praise*  

*minister* *envoy, *ambassador, legate, nuncio, internuncio,* *1 *small, little, diminutive, miniature, wee, tiny,* *supernatural, supranatural, preternatural, wonder, marvel, prodigy, phenomenon*  

**minority** *infancy, nonage*  

*Ant* majority  

**minstrel** bard, troubadour, *poet, versifier, rhymer, rhyme-stopper*  

**minute n 1** *instant, moment, second, flash, jiffy, twinkling, split second*  

**minute adj 1** *small, little, diminutive, minute, wee, tiny, teeny, weeny*  

2 *circumstantial, particular, particularized, detailed, itemized*  

*Ana* meticulous, scrupulous, *careful, punctilious: careful, punctilious*  

*Con* general, *universal:* *abstract, ideal: comprehending or comprehensive, including or inclusive, embracing or embracive (see corresponding verbs at INCLUDE)*  

**miracle** *wonder, marvel, prodigy, phenomenon*  

**miraculous** *supernatural, supranatural, preternatural, superhuman*  

**mirage** hallucination, *delusion, illusion*  

**mirror n** *model, example, pattern, exemplar, ideal, standard, beau ideal*  

**mirth, glee, jollity, hilarity** are comparable when they mean the mood or temper of a person or a group of persons manifesting joy or high spirits especially in laughter, play, or merrymaking. **Mirth** often implies lightness of heart and a love of gaity; it may, however, imply great amusement or cause for laughter. **Darcy was not of a disposition in which happiness overflows in mirth—Austen** <some of them literally throwing themselves down on the ground in convulsions of unholy mirth—Kipling> <they seem to quiver on the edge of mirth, as if some deep continual laughter was repressed—HALLAM Tennyson>  

Glee is often employed in reference to an individual who by reason of special circumstances is filled with joy, delight, or happiness, and shows his exultancy by laughter, smiles, and cries of joy. <full well they laughed, with counterfeited glee, at all his jokes, for many a joke had he—Goldsmith>  

The best constitutions will not prevent ambitious politicians from succumbing with glee and gusto to the temptations of power—Huxley> But glee may express the exultation of one who takes more or less malicious delight in another's misfortunes or predicaments <in great glee over his friend's embarrassment> <with malicious glee they quoted a previous boast of the President's—F. L. Allen>  

<it betrayed the glee felt by the mean-spirited when they see people who do not deserve humiliation forced to suffer—it—West> **Jollity**, on the other hand, usually implies mirth in a group, especially a merrymaking group. Distinctively, however, it connotes exuberance and lack of constraint and may imply revelry of any kind <midnight shout and revelry, tipsy dance and merriment—Milton> <contributed more than his share of the jollity by turning out puns by the hamperful—Balliett>  

**Hilarity** fundamentally implies the exhilaration of spirits (as by wine, pleasurable excitement, or great amusement) <wine gives not light, gay, ideal hilarity, but tumultuous, noisy, clamorous merriment—Johnson> <through all the works of Chaucer, there reigns a cheerfulness, a manly hilarity—Coleridge> but it often carries implications of boisterousness or exuberance <he entered wholeheartedly into the hilarity of the boys, till he too was talking only nonsense—Rövvaag> <the hilarity of a New Year's Eve celebration>  

*Ana* *cheerfulness or cheer, lightheartedness, joyfulness, gladness, happiness (see corresponding adjectives at GLAD): joy, *pleasure, delight: merriment, bliteness, jocundity, joviality (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY)*  

**miscanthropic** pessimistic, misogynic, *cynical*  

**miscellaneous**  

**miscarry** *failure, neglect, default, dereliction*  

*Ana* abuse, maltreatment, misuse <see corresponding verbs at ABUSE>  

2 *abortion*  

**miscellaneous, assorted, heterogeneous, motley, promiscuous** are comparable when they mean marked by diversity or variety and are applied to the things that make up a group, a collection, or a mass, or to a group, collection, or mass. **Miscellaneous** usually implies a mixture of many kinds, showing few signs of selection, and often suggesting dependence on chance <there is always a miscellaneous assemblage at the meetings of the association> <Joyce's wide and miscellaneous acquaintance—Colom> <the contents of the chests were of the most miscellaneous description:—sewing utensils, marling spikes, strips of calico, bits of rope—Melville> <what appears at first to be a miscellaneous lot of books often reveals, on closer inspection, an interesting pattern of interrelationships—Redman>  

**Assorted** <see also ASSORT> and the related noun **assortment** also imply a mixture but not a haphazard one; they carry the implications of a selection including various kinds or involving consideration of various tastes or needs <a box of assorted candies> <there were passable performances of potpourri from assorted operas—Copland> <none of these authors has published books of assorted essays—K. B. West> <a case containing an assortment of tools>  

**Heterogeneous** is applicable chiefly to masses or groups in which the individuals or the elements are in proximity or close relationship to each other by chance; it suggests not only variety or diversity in the individuals or the elements but also absence of uniformity or unity and little evidence of fusion <the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation—Russell>  

(the family is heterogeneous enough to make quite good party in itself—Rose Macaulay> <the heterogeneous structure of granite> <a photograph lacks organization and unity . . . . It is haphazard, heterogeneous, aimless, and amorphous—just as is nature—S. S. Van Dine>  

**Motley** adds to heterogeneous the suggestion of discordance in the individuals or elements or their striking contrast to each other; perhaps from the notion of discordance it is more deprecative than the foregoing terms and is more likely
to qualify groups made up of elements felt as inferior or undesirable (one would enquire from whence this motley style did first our Roman purity defeile—Dryden) (motley support drawn from Tammany Hall Irish, Wall Street bankers, and odds and ends of all factions—Parrington) (that motley aggregation of impudent and flattering camp followers—Walker) Promiscuous may suggest haphazardness or the appearance of it, but it usually implies selection that is completely devoid of discrimination and that results in disorderly confusion; thus, a miscellaneous acquaintance may imply a catholicity of taste, but a promiscuous acquaintance implies an absence of taste and good judgment; from a description of a club's membership as heterogeneous one might infer its interesting diversity but from a description of it as promiscuous one can infer only a diversity that is distasteful and senseless from the point of view of the speaker or writer (a classless, promiscuous world where True Story and London's New Statesman and Nation share the same rickety table—Time) For this reason, promiscuous as applied specifically to people or their acts, emotions, and relations stresses not only lack of discrimination, but lack of restriction within bounds set (as by prudence, good sense, or sound morals); thus, promiscuous charity implies licentious disregard of normal standards of conduct (safety involves some order and discrimination, rather than a promiscuous acceptance of all our impulses as good—Cohen) (the dangers to civil freedom of a promiscuous and unprincipled attack on radicalism—Schlesinger b. 1917)

Ana various, diverse, divergent, disparate, different; multifarious, divers, sundry, many

Con similar, alike, like, identical, uniform

mischance *misfortune, adversity, mishap

Ana *accident, casualty, mishap: *disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm

mischief *injury, hurt, damage, harm

Ana perniciousness, detrimental or detriment, deleteriousness, noxiousness, banefulness or bane (see corresponding adjectives at PERNICIOUS): *evil, ill: impairment, marring, spoiling (see corresponding verbs at INJURE)

miscievous rougish, waggish, impish, *playful, frolicsome, sportive

Ana annoying, bothering or bothersome, vexing or vexatious, irking or irksome (see corresponding verbs at ANNOY): naughty, *bad, evil, ill, wicked: tricky, foxy, insidious, artful, *sly

miscreant *villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, scamp, rapscallion

Ana *criminal, malefactor, culprit, delinquent

mise-en-scène *background, setting, environment, milieu

backdrop

miserable, wretched both describe something (as a person's state of health or of mind, a state of affairs, a human being with reference to his condition or character, or a thing compared with others of its kind) that is deplorably or contemptibly bad or mean. A person is miserable if in misery or in a state either of extreme or acute distress of body or mind (Plato) would forbid any novelist to represent a good man as ever miserable—Ellis (Gideon has been absolutely miserable, and gone about like a man half stunned, ever since it happened—Rose Macaulay) or of pitiable poverty or degradation (a miserable creature of a crazed aspect...shattered and made drunk by horror—Dickens) A thing is miserable when it is exceedingly mean or paltry, and provocative only of misery in the person affected or of strong distress or dislike in the observer (miserable cold) (miserable dinner) (the squoral of mean and miserable streets—Binyon) A person is wretched who is extremely unhappy or abjectly despondent (as from want, grief, oppression, affliction, or anxiety); a thing that relates closely to the happiness of a person is wretched if it produces such dejection or mental suffering (O cruel death! To those you are more kind than to the wretched mortals be left behind—Walker) (it was her unhappy lot to be made more wretched by the only affection which she could not suspect—Conrad) (she's "poor Ellen" certainly, because she had the bad luck to make a wretched marriage—Wharton) A thing, in general, is wretched if it is extremely or deplorably bad (a wretched French cabaret, smelling viley—Meredith) (wretched crops) (it was the wretched truth, and not something I had conjured out of imagination—Deasy)

Ana forlorn, hopeless, despairing, *despondent: pitiable, piteous, pitiful; dolorous, dolorous, *melancholy

Ant comfortable

miserly penurious, parsimonious, niggardly, tight, tight-fisted, *stingy, close, closefisted, cheesepearing, penny-pinching

Ana avaricious, greedy, *covetous, grasping: *mean, sordid, abject, ignoble

Con bountiful, bounteously, openhanded, munificent, *liberal, generous: benevolent, *charitable, altruistic

miser *distress, suffering, agony, dolor, passion

Ana adversity, misfortune: affliction, visitation, *trial, tribulation: melancholy, dejection, *sadness, depression

Ant felicity, blessedness—Con *happiness, beatitude, bliss: comfort, ease, repose (see REST)

misfortune, mischance, adversity, mishap are comparable when they denote bad luck or adverse fortune or an instance of this. Misfortune is both the most common and the most general term; it is applicable equally to the incident or conjunction of events that is the cause of an unhappy change of fortune (by misfortune he lost his job) or the ensuing state of distress (a crook and stupid person who had fallen through luck into losing prosperity. His every good fortune spurred others with misfortune—Malamud) and it may denote a particular unfortunate incident (they could by cooperation brave misfortunes and supplement each other's efforts in bettering the lot of the common man—Middle East Jour.)

Mischance rarely applies to a state of distress but is otherwise very close to misfortune from which it differs chiefly in greater objectivity. While sometimes used to imply grave affliction or even death it is especially appropriate when the situation involves no more than slight inconvenience or minor annoyance (I threw a stone and hit a duck in the yard by mischance—Yeats) (they proceeded on their journey without any mischance—Austen)

Adversity, on the other hand, denotes the state or the instance but not the cause; it is distinctly the strongest of these words and in its typical use implies a state of grave and persistent misfortune (a wretched soul, bruised with adversity—Shak.) (what fairy palaces we may build of beautiful thought—proof against all adversity—Ruskin)

In application to the instance adversity is normally used in the plural (the many misfortunes and adversities Bolivia has suffered have brought this national spirit to a high pitch—Americas) Mishap, (see also ACCIDENT) like mischance, commonly implies triviality (directed the concert without any of the mishaps expected of a two-year-old's performance—Current Biol.)

Ana *disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm: *accident, casualty: *trial, tribulation, cross, affliction, visi-

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

misanthropic, pessimistic, *cynical

delude, beguile, *deceive, betray, double-cross

mislead

misplace

misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory all mean having an appearance or character that leads one astray or into error. Misleading is the general term applicable to something which, intentionally or otherwise, leads one away from the right course or direction in thought or action and, therefore, into confusion or error (the bare statement that "art is useless" is so vague as to be really meaningless, if not inaccurate and misleading—Ellis) *(it is not necessary to prove an injury to a competitor to stop misleading advertising; it may be stopped merely because it is unfair and deceptive—Fisk & Snapp)* Deceptive applies chiefly to things that by their aspect or appearance give a false impression; the term need not imply the intention to deceive *(deceptive solemnity)* *(a deceptive air of innocence)* *(while the communication was deceptive and so intended, it was not technically mendacious—S.H. Adams)* Delusive and delusory, though otherwise similar to deceptive, carry a strong implication of befuddling or cheating as well as misleading *(delusive hopes)* *(delusory promises)* *(it is important for this Court to avoid extracting from the very general language of the Fourteenth Amendment a system of delusive exactness—Justice Holmes)* *(arguments for universal selfishness seemed to fall short of complete proof and some of them appeared quite delusive and logically fallacious—Garvin)* Dangerously delusory habits of relying on industrial potential per se as a bulwark in war—C. B. Marshall)* Ana fallacious, casuistical, sophistical (see under FALLACIES): *false, wrong: confounding, bewildering, dis-tracting, perplexing, puzzling (see PUZZLE vb)* misogynistic misanthropic, pessimistic, *cynical* Con benevolent, *charitable, altruistic* misplace, mislay both mean to put in the wrong place and both in their basic use imply that the thing in question is as unavailable as if lost though firmly believed to be still in one's possession. Misplace basically implies a putting of a thing in another than its proper or customary location *(misplace a book)* *(invoices continually being forgot or misplaced—Terry Southern)* but it more often suggests a setting or fixing of something where it should not be *(my confidence in him was misplaced)* *(she is suffering from misplaced affections)* *(the globe and scepter in such hands misplaced—Cowper)* Mislay usually implies a misplacing in the basic sense but stresses a forgetfulness of the place in which the thing has been put; it therefore often means to lose through misplacing *(mislaid her glasses in the excitement over the fire)* *(mislaid an umbrella)* In its extended use it differs little from lose *(almost inevitably some of the literary qualities of Darkness at Noon have been mislaid in the process of bringing it to the stage—J.M. Brown)* Ana displacex (see REPLACE): derangement, disarray, *dis-order

mistranslation

Ant happiness: prosperity —Con felicity, bliss, blessedness, beatitude (see HAPPINESS): comfort, ease (see REST): *victory, triumph

mistranslation foreboding, presentiment, *apprehension

Ana mistrust, distrust (see under DISTRUST vb): suspicion, doubt, skepticism, *uncertainty: *fear, alarm, dread, fright

mishap 1 *misfortune, mischance, adversity 2 *accident, casualty

Ana *misfortune, mischance: *disaster, calamity: *chance, fortune, hap, hazard

mislay *misplace

mislead delude, beguile, *deceive, betray, double-cross

Ana entice, inveigle, *lure, tempt, seduce: *dupe, gull, hoodwink, hoax, bamboozle

misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory all mean having an appearance or character that leads one astray or into error. Misleading is the general term applicable to something which, intentionally or otherwise, leads one away from the right course or direction in thought or action and, therefore, into confusion or error (the bare statement that "art is useless" is so vague as to be really meaningless, if not inaccurate and misleading—Ellis) *(it is not necessary to prove an injury to a competitor to stop misleading advertising; it may be stopped merely because it is unfair and deceptive—Fisk & Snapp)* Deceptive applies chiefly to things that by their aspect or appearance give a false impression; the term need not imply the intention to deceive *(deceptive solemnity)* *(a deceptive air of innocence)* *(while the communication was deceptive and so intended, it was not technically mendacious—S.H. Adams)* Delusive and delusory, though otherwise similar to deceptive, carry a strong implication of befuddling or cheating as well as misleading *(delusive hopes)* *(delusory promises)* *(it is important for this Court to avoid extracting from the very general language of the Fourteenth Amendment a system of delusive exactness—Justice Holmes)* *(arguments for universal selfishness seemed to fall short of complete proof and some of them appeared quite delusive and logically fallacious—Garvin)* Dangerously delusory habits of relying on industrial potential per se as a bulwark in war—C. B. Marshall)* Ana fallacious, casuistical, sophistical (see under FALLACIES): *false, wrong: confounding, bewildering, dis-tracting, perplexing, puzzling (see PUZZLE vb)* misogynistic misanthropic, pessimistic, *cynical* Con benevolent, *charitable, altruistic* misplace, mislay both mean to put in the wrong place and both in their basic use imply that the thing in question is as unavailable as if lost though firmly believed to be still in one's possession. Misplace basically implies a putting of a thing in another than its proper or customary location *(misplace a book)* *(invoices continually being forgot or misplaced—Terry Southern)* but it more often suggests a setting or fixing of something where it should not be *(my confidence in him was misplaced)* *(she is suffering from misplaced affections)* *(the globe and scepter in such hands misplaced—Cowper)* Mislay usually implies a misplacing in the basic sense but stresses a forgetfulness of the place in which the thing has been put; it therefore often means to lose through misplacing *(mislaid her glasses in the excitement over the fire)* *(mislaid an umbrella)* In its extended use it differs little from lose *(almost inevitably some of the literary qualities of Darkness at Noon have been mislaid in the process of bringing it to the stage—J.M. Brown)* Ana displacex (see REPLACE): derangement, disarray, *dis-order

mistranslation, falsify, belie, garble mean to present or represent something in a manner that is contrary to the truth. Mistranslation usually implies an intent to represent or portray falsely, and therefore may take as its subject not only a person or his utterance but also such things as an organization, a political platform, or a cartoon; it often carries a suggestion of deliberate lying, but it may suggest bias or prejudice or a desire to do injustice *(mistranslation a candidate's statement)* *(mistranslation the value of an article)* *(the account misrepresents not only his actions but his motives)* Falsify implies a perversion of the truth, either by deliberately altering the facts in whole or in part *(falsify bookkeeping records)* *(falsified her account of the accident)* or by giving something an appearance that does not accord with the truth or reality *(falsify the meaning of a document by an incorrect translation)* *(good breeding has made the tongue falsify the heart—Steele)* *(a low-priced sunglass lens said to be completely effective without falsifying the colors seen through it—Newsweek)* Belie implies an impression given that contradicts or is at variance with the truth or the facts; it usually takes as its subject an appearance, a manner, or form of speech and lacks the implication of intent that is usually present in the preceding words *(his confident words were belied by his anxious look)* *(a brusque manner that belies a real kindness of heart)* *(you are an Englishman . . . unless your physiognomy belies you—Kingsley)* Garble implies a mutilation or distortion of statements, testimony, evidence, or messages that need not be deliberate but that creates a wrong impression of the original and frequently gravely alters its tone or implications *(the newspapers have sadly garbled the account of his speech)* *(by the time the story had passed from mouth to mouth until it reached him again, it was so garbled that its original form was barely recognizable)* *(the manufacture and dissemination of propaganda literature, for the purpose of rousing the passions of the people by garbled statements—Inge)* Ana *disguise, dissemble, cloak, mask, camouflage: simulate, counterfeit, feign (see ASSUME): *lie, prevaricate, equivocate, palter

misrepresentation *lie, falsehood, untruth, fib, story Ana dishonesty, deceitfulness, mendaciousness or mendacity (see corresponding adjectives at DISHONEST): sophistry, doctoring, loading, weighting, adulteration (see corresponding verbs at ADULTERATE): sophistry, casuistry (see FALLACY)* misrepresent *lie, prevaricate, equivocate, palter

mistake vb Mistake, confuse, confound are comparable when they mean to mix up things, typically by taking one thing for another. One mistakes one thing for another when by an error of perception or of thought or as a result of a predisposition or a bias one fails to recognize the thing or to comprehend its real nature and identifies it with something not itself or with something of another nature *(pointed out that Johnson's "s and o's have been mistaken one for the other—Sherbo)* *(the tendency of the rest of us to gush for vigor and substitute mistaken ideas for the colors seen through it—Newsweek)* *(far too intellectually keen to confuse moral problems with purely aesthetic problems—Ellis)* One confounds things, or one thing with another, when one mixes them up so
hopelessly that one cannot detect their differences or distinctions. Confound usually carries a stronger connotation of mental bewilderment or of a muddled mind than the preceding words and is accordingly often preferred when the differences are more or less obvious to a clear-headed or intelligent person. <p>Courage must not be confounded with brutality. Brutality is pleasure in forcing one's will upon other people; courage is indifference to personal misfortunes.—Russell</p> <p>The temptation to confound accumulated knowledge and experience with intrinsic progress is almost irresistible—Inge</p> <p>**Note:** A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.</p>
moan 543 model

pound of both—Scott> (rare compound of oddity, frolic, and fun—Goldsmith) In its technical senses compound is definitely restricted in application. In chemistry a compound is a distinct substance formed by a union of two or more elements or radicals in definite proportions by weight (water is a compound of oxygen and hydrogen) As applied to words, a compound is a word or group of word elements which is formed of recognizable parts but has a distinct sense often not inferable from the meanings of its component parts. A compound may be written solid (as blackboard), hyphenated (as long-distance), or open (as all right). Composite is often interchangeable with compound in its general sense, but there is a tendency to prefer composite when the constituent parts are artificially or fortuitously combined (the American people is a composite of many races) (the opinions of America are formed from the composite of the voices of America, official and unofficial, true and false—A. E. Stevenson) An amalgam is basically an alloy made by adding mercury to a metal; the term is particularly applicable to such alloys that are intended for use in dental restoration, usually contain several metals in addition to mercury, and set into a firm mass after a relatively brief period of time. In its extended use amalgam may draw on the notion of complexity of mixture (one’s judgment is inevitably an amalgam of impressions of the work and impressions of the man—T. S. Eliot) or it may stress the hardening into final form (a mixture of affection and contempt, which later days hardened into an amalgam of generosity and sadism—Wecker)

Ana joining, combining, uniting (see JOIN)

moan n groan, sigh, sob (see under SIGH)

Ana crying or cry, wailing or wail (see CRY): lamenting or lament, bemoaning, bewailing (see DEPLORE)

mob n *crowd, throng, press, crush, rout, horde

Ana *multitude, army, host, legion

mobile movable, motive

Ana fluid, *liquid: *changeable, changeful, protean, capricious

Ant immobile

mock vb 1 taunt, deride, *ridicule, twit, rally

Ana flout, * scoff, jeer, gird, gibes, caricature, parody, travesty, burlesque (see under CARICATURE)

2 *copy, imitate, mimic, ape

Ana counterfeit, feign, affect, simulate, *assume

mode n 1 *state, condition, situation, posture, status

2 *method, manner, way, fashion, system

Ana trend, drift, *tendency, tenor: procedure, *process

mode n *fashion, style, vogue,fad, rage, craze, dernier cri, cry

model n Model, example, pattern, exemplar, ideal, standard

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

〈the Saint whose name is given to a child serves as . . . an ideal model to be imitated—Nurnberg & Rosenblum〉 Example applies chiefly to a person (or his acts or conduct) that is or may be imitated by others; the term usually implies that the person, or the act, or the conduct, for some good reason is one that is likely to be imitated, whether good or bad, right or wrong (a father should set a good example to his children) (she always followed the example of her mother in her social behavior) (one of the immortal examples of a true man in a world of bounders, cowards, and squeaking specters—Sullivan) Sometimes, however, example applies to what is not intended to be imitated, but rather to serve as a warning (let it profit thee to have heard, by terrible example, the reward of disobedience—Milton) Example is also used in a highly abstract sense in antithesis to precept, then implying the setting of an example, usually but not necessarily a good example (the mistake of thinking that all can be done by precept, when . . . example is no less potent a force—Benson) Pattern applies either to the divine archetype of a thing or to a carefully worked out design or plan (as an architect’s drawing) to be followed in fashioning a thing (according to an heavenly pattern . . . which He had fashioned in his wise foresight, He man did make—Spenser) (almost all the common things we use now . . . are made by machinery, and are copies of an original pattern—Jevons) In a more general sense (see also FIGURE 3) pattern applies to what merits or seems to merit imitation; it often differs from model in suggesting a more clearly worked out design, or a fuller presentation of details, or in connoting fixity or compelling power (a housewife in bed, at table a slattern; for all an example, for no one a pattern—Swift) (the ancient pattern of life had been woven continuously for so many centuries that even illiterate farmers knew how to be courtly and dignified—Blofeld) Exemplar often comes closer to pattern than to example because it usually applies to something set before one as worthy of imitation and, therefore, inherently good (Christ is . . . exemplar that all preachers ought to follow—Latimer) (dear . . . as an exemplar of goodness, probity, and pure life—Thackeray) Sometimes, however, exemplar is specifically applied to a person or thing that exhibits a quality, or sums up all the characteristics that distinguish a type, whether that quality or type be in itself good or bad (Sisyphus, the legendary exemplar of cunning—Thirlwall) (Stendhal’s Julian Sorel . . . this exemplar of ruthless individualism—Huyshey) Ideal may specifically imply existence not in the actual world but in the mind and therefore may suggest a remoteness from reality and especially perfection exceeding what is possible in reality (traditions grew up around his name, to be interpreted according to the hearers’ own ideals of personality and education—D. E. Smith) But ideal also may apply to a real person or thing that is held before one as embodying or representing the perfection one hopes to realize or attain (the boy found his ideal in his father) (the Saint whose name is given to a child serves as . . . an ideal model to be imitated—Norhurnberg & Rosenblum) concertedly ideal is almost indistinguishable from standard when it applies not to a person or object that serves as a pattern or exemplar, but to something (as a rule, a practice, an aim, or an established level of excellence) by which one seeks to maintain a high quality in a product or of performance (the ideal of general cultivation has been one of the standards in education—Eliot) (accuracy is still a noble and inspiring ideal. It is the morality of the intellect: it prescribes what it ought to strive for—Ballard) (each generation . . . has its own ideals and its own standards of judgment—Crothers) But standard (see also STANDARD 2) is inter-
changeable with ideal only when it applies to what is the test of perfection or of human perfection (the very art . . . incommensurable with any standard except that of pure beauty—I refer of course to the art of music—Dickinson) (with the spread of impressionism literature has lost standards and discipline, and at the same time virility and seriousness—Babbit) Beau ideal applies to one and especially a person felt to be a fit model or ideal because of high excellence (the beau ideal of all that was romantic, exquisite, and passionate—Harrison Smith) Mirror applies to something so exemplary of its kind that it may serve as a model (no modern building could act as a better mirror of functional needs . . . than this seventeenth-century Spanish mission—Liturgical Arts

**moderate**

**adj** 1 Moderate, temperate When contrasted moderate often connotes absence or avoidance of excess and is opposed to excessive and immoderate, while temperate connotes deliberate restraint or restriction and is opposed to intemperate and inordinate; thus, "a moderate drinker" suggests free but far from excessive indulgence in intoxicants, and "a temperate drinker" suggests restrained and cautious indulgence: "moderate enthusiasm" suggests lukewarmness, "temperate enthusiasm" suggests keeping a hold over one's exhibition of feeling; one's anger may be far from moderate, yet one's reply may be temperate. Especially in technical language moderate and temperate often denote falling or staying within a range midway between extremes or designate a point (as in a scale) characterized neither by excess nor by deficiency of something understood. When so used they are not usually interchangeable, for custom or terminology has determined the selection moderate temperature, moderate breeze, moderate climate, moderate zone. In this sense both moderate and temperate have two antonyms, one on the side of deficiency and the other on the side of excess. These antonyms are usually specific and vary according to the application, for example: light and strong (of breezes); arctic and torrid (of climate); abstemious and glutonous (of eating); mild and violent (of something having force and intensity).

**Ana** ordinary, *common, familiar: gentle, mild, bland, *soft: *sparing, economical

**Ant** immoderate —Con *excessive, extreme, inordinate

2 *medium, middling, mediocre, second-rate, average, fair, indifferent

**Ana** decent, *decorous, proper: *steady, even, equable, constant

**moderate**

**vb** Moderate, qualify, temper are comparable when they mean to modify something so as to avoid an extreme or to keep within due bounds. Moderate stresses reduction of what is excessive, but it does not necessarily imply finding the happy mean (the sun at midday moderates the cold) you must moderate your demands if you wish to be listened to) "Moderate your language, old man," I said: "remember that you are addressing a superior"—Hudson (moderating his big voice to the dimensions of the room—Clifton Daniel) Qualify emphasizes restriction or more precise definition that brings a thing closer to the truth or facts or that makes it less general, inclusive, or sweeping or that gives it a clearly defined quality or character of its own (it is time to qualify the over simple account I have given of the artist's process of creation—Alexander) (almost every important point must be qualified with adverbs and adjectives expressing uncertainty, approximation, tentativeness—Urey) Temper strongly implies accommodation to the needs or requirements of someone or something; it need not suggest moderation or qualification, but it usually implies the addition of a countervailing or mitigating thing (God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb—Old Proverb) (denunciation must be firm, tempered with sadness over the falling from grace—MacInnes) (temper justice with mercy

**Ana** abate, reduce, lessen, diminish, *decrease: mitigate, alleviate, lighten, *relieve: slow, slacken (see DELAY)

**Con** *intensify, aggravate, heighten, enhance: augment, *increase

**modern**

**adj** 1 Modern, recent, late, though not close synonyms, are subject to confusion when they are used to date things or events which have taken place, come into existence, or developed in times close to the present. Modern (see also NEW) is the term of widest range of meaning; it may date anything that is not medieval or ancient (the ancient languages have now been superseded by the modern languages in popular favor in high schools and colleges) (the date of the discovery of America, 1492, is often used arbitrarily as the beginning of modern history) (the weed-caught wrecks of ancient galleys, medieval shipwreck and modern dreadnaughts—Beebe) or anything that marks the end of a period nearer in time than another (modern surgical techniques, the modern novel) the ornate mansions of a bygone era mingle with more modern concepts of architecture—N. Y. Times) or less clearly to anything that is new, fresh, or up-to-date (she is very modern in her clothes and in her manners) we all have to remember that what is modern today and up-to-date, what is efficient and practical, becomes obsolete and outworn tomorrow—Roosevelt In all these uses a change or contrast in character or quality is to some extent implied by the term modern. Recent is usually without such implication and may simply indicate a date that approximates that of the immediate past, though the time to which this term, too, refers depends upon the thing that is qualified; thus, "recent geological ages" designates those ages immediately preceding the present geological age, although, since each age may represent millions of years, recent is obviously used relatively; "Shakespeare is a more recent author than Chaucer" implies only a comparative status, for Shakespeare was born in the sixteenth century and Chaucer in the fourteenth; "we have all the recent books" implies an absolute relation to a time that may be described as the immediate past (recent news) a recent purchase) a recent issue of a magazine

**Late** (see also Tardy, Dead) implies a series or succession of which the person or thing so described is the most recent in time the late war (the servant's late master testified as to his honesty) (moose which of late years have been showing up around Stewartstown—Holbrook) Sometimes the word carries an implication that is less definite and equivalent to "not long ago holding the position of or serving as" (the firm's new director of research was the late professor of applied chemistry at the University)

2 modernistic, *new, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, original, fresh

**Ana** contemporary, contemporaneous, coincident, concomitant, concurrent: *prevailing, current, prevalent

**Ant** antique: ancient

**modernistic** *new, new-fashioned, newfangled, novel, modern, original, fresh

**Ant** antiquated

**modest**

1 *humble, meek, lowly

**Ana** retiring, withdrawing (see GO): *moderate, temperate

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

appearance, placate, *pacify, propitiate, conciliate

**humor, pamper, *indulge, spoil, baby

atom, *particle, corpuscle

momentary

"transient, transitory, passing, ephemeral,

*wet, damp, humid, dank

moist

financial, pecuniary, fiscal

*discard, cast, shed, slough, scrap, junk

Money, cash, currency, legal tender, specie, coin,

coinage are comparable when they mean pieces of stamped metal or their equivalents issued by a government, or by an authority recognized by the government, to serve as a medium of exchange in the country or section under the control of that government. Money applies to both coined gold, silver, copper, or other metal issued as a medium of exchange and to certificates or notes, often called specifically paper money, that sometimes promise payment in metal money, are issued by a government or governmentally recognized authority (as a bank), and pass like coined metal as a medium of exchange. Cash applies to money, sometimes specifically called ready money, actually in hand or immediate possession of an individual or a business or institution (the firm's supply of cash was very low because the larger part of the day's accumulation had just been deposited in the bank). Currency may apply to all of the money in circulation, as distinguished from that which is not in circulation for one reason or another (the first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency—Hemingway) but it may also apply to paper money as distinguished from coined metal. Legal tender applies specifically to the type of money which the law authorizes a debtor to offer and requires a creditor to receive as payment of money obligations and may or may not at any given time include all lawful money of a particular jurisdiction. Specie, coin (only in a collective sense), and coinage apply only to minted or coined money; they therefore imply an opposition to all forms of paper money (as treasury notes and bank notes) (payments were demanded in specie, or in the coin of the realm) (we are far more concerned today with the debasement of the coinage—Shaw)

**monk**

*religious, friar, nun

Ana *recluse, hermit, eremite, anchorite, cenobite

monkeyshin n *prank, caper, antic, dido


Ana article, paper, *essay

monopolize, engross, absorb, consume mean to take up completely. Monopolize, the general term, means to possess or control exclusively (monopolize the year's crop of cotton) (a child should not be allowed to monopolize the attention of his family) (every railroad monopolizes, in a popular sense, the trade of some area—Justice Holmes) (the party in power at Washington can organize the two houses of the Congress . . . but it cannot monopolize the business of lawmaking—Holcombe) (never attempted to monopolize or even dominate the discussion—J. G. Gray) Occasionally engross implies getting a physical control of (as by purchase of the available supply) (the process of engrossing the land which attended the ascent to power of the aristocracy—Becker) and this notion may persist in extended use (the sun engrossed the east, the day controlled the world—Emily Dickinson) but more often the verb takes an immaterial object and implies a preoccupying (political theory has long engrossed the Indian mind—Poleman) (the works manager who . . . is engrossed chiefly with the engineering problem of securing maximum output with minimum input—Huff) Absorb is frequently interchangeable with engross, but it is less often predicated of persons as conscious agents and more often of things that have an inherent capacity for monopolization (manual occupations do not engage the mind sufficiently . . . . But composition, especially of verse, absorbs it wholly—Cowper) (it is arithmetically impossible for every child to absorb the whole time of an adult tutor—Russell) (the consumption of engross and absorb chiefly in an extended sense of each, implying monopolization of one's time, attention, or interest) (Flané is determined that men and their convictions shall be given a true and proper evaluation. He is consumed with the idea of justice—Boyle) (the consuming anxiety of the ride still held him though the reason for it was gone—Wheelwright) (Ana possess, own, *have, hold: utilize, *use, employ: control, manage (see conduct vb)

monopoly, corner, pool, syndicate, trust, cartel are comparable rather than synonymous terms when they apply to a means of controlling prices. Monopoly denotes the exclusive control of a service (as telephone or telegraph service) or traffic (as transportation of goods and passengers by railroad) or of a commodity (as wheat or petroleum) in a given market. Monopoly may imply exclusive control created by the state (as by franchise or patent or copyright). More frequently, however, the term is used to imply exclusive power to buy or sell a commodity or service in a given market, especially as a result of ownership or control of the sources of supply (as mines) or of the available stock of a commodity (in the reign of Edward 111 [German traders] had a practical monopoly of the carrying trade—Pattison) In extended use monopoly also denotes the group or organization having such control (it might be that when a combination reached a certain size it might have attributed to it more of the character of a monopoly merely by virtue of its size than would be attributed to a smaller one—Justice Holmes) A temporary or local monopoly (as of a particular security on a stock exchange or of a particular commodity on a produce exchange)
constitutes a corner, so called because it puts all those who are determined to buy into a corner, or position where they must pay the price asked (maintained his corner on wheat for three days) Pool in this relation applies primarily to a combination of property, or of interests of different persons or companies, by means of which a more or less permanent control or monopoly is acquired. Distinctively, however, pool implies a joint undertaking or end which cannot be attained unless the market is managed either by manipulating prices (as of a commodity or security) or by destroying the effects of competition (through agreements concerning prices or rates, regulation of outputs, or division of earnings of each organization concerned). Syndicate is applied chiefly to a group of individuals, firms, or corporations (as banking houses) which organize for a limited time to accomplish a given purpose or more specifically such a group that is organized to market an issue of a security, makes its profit from the difference between the agreed-upon sum advanced to the issuing corporation for the securities and the fixed sale price at which they are marketed, assumes responsibility for absorbing any surplus securities not marketed, and dissolves when the marketing period is completed. Outside of the field of finance, the use of the term is extended in its application to any combination (as of newspapers, business concerns, or criminals) interested in a common project or enterprise, and often implies relation to a monopoly. Trust specifically applies to a merger in which stockholders in the merged corporations exchange their stock for trust certificates in the new corporation and surrender their rights to trustees who operate the combined corporations, but trust is often extended to any combination of business entities, especially when felt to represent a threat to healthy competition. Cartel implies an international combination for controlling production and sale of a product or group of products.

The words monstruous, prodigious, tremendous, stupendous, monumental are comparable especially in their extended more or less hyperbolical senses in which they mean astonishingly impressive. Monstrous commonly applies to something abnormal, usually in actual or relative size, but often also in shape or character; the term frequently carries suggestions of deformity, extreme ugliness, or fabulousness (the imagination turbid with monstrous fancies and missashed dreams—Wilde) he seemed of monstrous bulk and significance—G. D. Brown the monstrous way of living that mankind had made for itself out of the industrial revolution—Connolly) Prodigious usually implies a marvelousness that exceeds belief; it sometimes applies to something entirely out of proportion to what is the previous or usual best, greatest, or largest (the prodigious demand for steel in the First World War) men have always revered prodigious inborn gifts, and always will—Eliot) (a mind with such prodigious capacity of development as Shakespeare's—T. S. Eliot) Tremendous may come closer to awe-inspiring or terrifying in its immensity than to gigantic or enormous, its common denotations in more literal use must have made the animal in life look very much like a crocodile and the bite must have been tremendous—Swinton) (how shall we compare the cramped and limited vision of the universe which spread itself to the imagination of mankind in old time with the tremendous vistas opened out to us by modern science—Inge) (the spell and tremendous incantation of the thought of death—L. P. Smith)
basis (the merry vein you knew me in, is sunk into a turn of reflection—Pope) (the whole is written in a vein of ironic seriousness—Laski)

Ana *disposition, temper, temperament, character, personality, individuality: *soul, spirit: emotion, *feeling, affection

mooor vb *secure, anchor, rivet

Ana *tie, bind: attach, *fasten, affix, fix: balance, steady, *stabilize, trim

moral adj Moral, ethical, virtuous, righteous, noble are comparable when they mean conforming to a standard of what is right and good. Moral is the most comprehensive term of the group; in all of its pertinent senses it implies a relationship to character or conduct viewed as good or bad or as right or wrong. Sometimes moral implies relationship to or concern with character or conduct as distinguished especially from intellectual or physical nature (moral goodness may be distinguished from intellectual goodness or spiritual goodness) (the whole tendency of modern thought . . . is to extenuate the responsibility of human nature, not merely on the moral side, but equally on the spiritual side—Mackenzie) (we find ourselves confronted with a most disturbing moral problem . . . those situations, now of such frequent occurrence, in which good means have end results which turn out to be bad—Huxley) Moral also applies to such things as literary works, works of art, and philosophies, or to writers, artists, and philosophers concerned with the determination or teaching of principles of right conduct or good living (a moral tale) (moral essays) (paintings that convey a moral lesson) (tragedy . . . hath been ever held the gravest, morallest, and most profitable of all other poems—Milton) The term also applies to men or communities, to acts, or to conduct in the sense of conforming to the accepted standard of what is right and good, often specifically in sexual conduct, or of conforming to the customs or conventions of a people regarded as binding laws (lead a moral life) (a man of high moral character) (the moral ideals of the community) (I had a character who was ambitious, yet in his own way, moral, and with such a character one could travel deep into the paradoxes of the time—Mailer) (his nature was purely sensuous, and she strove to make him moral, religious—D. H. Lawrence) Ethical primarily implies a relationship to ethics, the branch of philosophy which deals with moral principles, or more specifically with the principles governing ideal human character and with the ideal ends of human action (an ethical system) (an ethical code) Although ethical is often used interchangeably with moral, it characteristically gives a slightly different impression owing to certain subtle connotations; thus, ethical principles may, according to the context, convey a strong suggestion of principles derived from a certain school of ethics, or of a formulated code behind them, or of an idealistic quality; an action is often described as ethical rather than moral when it accords with what the writer or speaker believes to be a higher or finer standard of morality than the one generally accepted, or when it is in keeping with the code of ethics governing a profession (especially law and medicine); the phrase "an ethical person" often differs from the phrase "a moral person," in suggesting an assent to ethical principles or an attention to the niceties of ethics or to the ideal ends suggested by a system or code of ethics (meanwhile we hear . . . the ethical instinct of mankind asserting itself with splendid courage and patience—van Dyke) Virtuous implies the possession or manifestation of moral excellence in character; in its most general sense it implies rectitude, justice, integrity, and all other virtues, but in more restrictive use and especially as applied to women, it often means little more than chasteness or perfect fidelity in marriage (poor people . . . whether they be lazy or busy, drunken or sober, virtuous or vicious—Shaw) (her life had been virtuous, her dedication to innocence had been unswerving—Cheever) (a man might grind the faces of the poor; but so long as he refrained from caressing his neighbors' wives and daughters, he was regarded as virtuous—Huxley) Righteous differs from virtuous chiefly in its stronger implication of freedom from guilt or blame; as applied to persons, it often implies justification, especially worthiness of salvation in the theological sense (I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance—Mk 2:17) (what but thy malice moved thee to deride of righteous Job—Milton) As applied to acts, conduct, and even displays of passion, it usually implies justifiability and often consciousness of rectitude (righteous indignation) But righteous is the one of these words that is freely used in a worsened sense to imply an invalid and sanctimonious assumption of the appearance of rectitude (left most of the work to his assistants . . . and when he found that they were doing as they pleased, he was not righteous nor rebuking—Sinclair Lewis) (meets the resultant gossip, and the ruin of Lily's reputation, with a righteous indifference to either its unfairness or his share in it—Harper's Bazaar) Noble (see also GRAND) applies to persons, their acts, utterances, careers, or lives, and implies the possession and exhibition of a conspicuously high character. Often the word carries no other clear implications and seems little more than a term of high praise implying moral or ethical eminence (that noble passion for human rights and civil liberties possessed by . . . judicial libertarians—Gressman) (a noble aim, faithfully kept, is as a noble deed—Wordsworth) At other times the term suggests not only moral eminence but the absence of all taint of any such petty or dubious thing as self-seeking, self-interest, or concern for the world's standards; it then often suggests independence, or magnanimity, or high courage, or some other outstanding moral excellence (this was the noblest Roman of them all. All the conspirators, save only he, did that they did in envy of great Caesar; he only, in a general honest thought and common good to all—Shak.) (the disinterested search for truth is certainly one of the highest and noblest careers that a man can choose—Inge) And, right, *good: *upright, honest, just, honorable, scrupulous, conscientious: *chaste, pure, modest, decent: ideal: *abstract

Con *immoral, unmoral, amoral, nonmoral

moral, discipline, esprit de corps although not always close synonyms, are comparable when they mean a condition or spirit which holds together a body of persons. Morale usually applies to the qualities of an entire body of men (as an army or a regiment, a people, or a community) with respect especially to their courage and endurance under stress, but it sometimes may refer to an individual in his capacity of a member of a body held together by such qualities (moral . . . describes the communal condition of mind and emotion, and it is incorrect to refer to the low or high morale of an individual, except in his or her relationship to the group—Times Lit. Sup.) (by military leadership we . . . mean . . . the capacity to weld 50 to 250 men into a unit of high morale and lead them into battle—Psychiatry) Discipline applies to the order maintained and observed by a body or an individual that is or has been subjected to training (as in uniform behavior, in control over the passions or other individualistic traits, or in military exercises) so that the whole moves under command as one and the individual thinks of him-
motion

Motion, movement, move, locomotion, stir mean the act or an instance of moving. Motion is the appropriate term in abstract use for the act or process of moving, without regard to what moves or is moved; in philosophical and aesthetic use it is an especially comprehensive term, for it may apply to manifestation of change or of changing not only from place to place, but from condition to condition, or from step to step in a progression (the laws of motion); this vicissitude of motion and rest, which we call life—Steele—in all the arts the principle of motion prevails increasingly over the principle of repose—Babbitt. Movement is always to be preferred to inaction. In motion a man has a chance, his body is warm, his instincts are quick—Mailer. Ordinarily, however, the term implies discernible physical motion (the motion of the planets) (I was lying...injured, and incapable of motion—Hudson). The rest of motion of the sea) (every step and every motion in the old dances had meaning—Reginald & Gladys Laubin). Movement usually implies definite regulated motion; the term is used less often than motion to denote an abstraction, although it may be extended to denote a quality of representation in a work of art that suggests motion. Movement is one of the most striking characteristics of the Elgin marbles and of the Winged Victory (the new freedom and variety in the movements of the Apostles in the boat...are proofs of Giotto’s rare power of invention—Fry) or a quality in literary work (as poetry) that suggests a definite rate of speed or progression (as in the meter, the rhythm, or the action). Movement is most desirable, within a small and exclusive group it becomes dangerous. Assumptions of a closed club, the members of which can, in each other’s eyes, do no wrong—Political Science Quarterly). The inspired and faultless esprit de corps of her flesh and her bones and her blood; never were the features and the colors of a face in such serene and unassailable agreement, never had a skeleton been more singularly honored by the integument it wore—Stafford.

An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

morality

morality is goodness, virtue, rectitude. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

moraity *goodness, virtue, rectitude

Ana integrity, probity, honor, *honesty: *excellence, perfection, virtue, merit

morally *virtually, practically

morph *unwholesome, sickly, diseased, pathological

Ana hypochondriac, atriobulism, *melancholic: gloomy, morose, saturnine (see SULLEN)

Ant sound —Con *healthy, wholesome, well, hale, robust: *healthful, healthy, hygienic

mordant *caustic, acrid, scathing

Ana incisive, trenchant, cutting, biting, clear-cut, crisp: *pungent, poignant, piquant, racy, spicy, snappy: *sharp, keen, acute

moreover besides, furthermore, likewise, *also, too

moron imbecile, idiot, *fool, simpleton, natural

morose glum, gloomy, saturnine, dour, *sullen, surly, sulky, crabbed

Ana splenetic, choleric, *irascible, testy, cranky, cross: *peevish, snappish, waspish, petulant, *irritable: brusque, gruff (see BLUFF)

mortal adj *deadly, fatal, lethal

Ana destructive (see corresponding verb destroy): virulent, venomous, *poisonous: implacable, unrelenting, relentless (see GRIM)

Ant venial (especially of a sin)

mortified *ashamed, chagrined

Ana harassed, harried, worried, annoyed (see WORRY vb): humiliated, humbled, abased (see ABASE): abashed, embarrassed, discomfited (see EMBARRASS)

mostly largely, greatly, chiefly, mainly, principally, generally

nastif n 1 device, design, pattern, *figure

2 *subject, matter, subject matter; argument, topic, text, theme, motive, leitmotiv

motion n Motion, movement, move, locomotion, stir mean the act or an instance of moving. Motion is the appropriate term in abstract use for the act or process of moving, without regard to what moves or is moved; in philosophical and aesthetic use it is an especially comprehensive term, for it may apply to manifestation of change or of changing not only from place to place, but from condition to condition.
**motive**

actuate, *activate

*A* stimulus, quicken, *provok*; excite; arouse, rouse, *stir: inspire, animate, fire, *inform

**motive n**

1 Motive, spring, impulse, incentive, inducement, spur, goad all denote a stimulus inciting or prompting a person to act or behave in a definite way. Motive applies chiefly to such an emotion as fear, anger, hatred, or love or to a desire (as for fame, wealth, knowledge, supremacy, or revenge) or to such a physical appetite as hunger or sexual desire which operates on the will and definitely moves it to activity (always seeking the motive of everyone's speech or behavior—*Browell*). Whenever a man does a thoroughly stupid thing, it is always from the noblest motives—*Wilde*. A child may slay no living thing except from motives of hunger—*Hudson*. Even where some piece of knowledge is uninteresting in itself, a man can force himself to acquire it if he has an adequate motive for doing so—*Russell*.

Spring, often as the plural springs, is used in place of motive without much difference in meaning; however, it may refer to the underlying or basic motive which is often not fully recognized even by the person affected and is especially hidden from all but the most penetrating observers (it is difficult ... to come at the true springs of action—*Forrest*). The love of gold was the sordid spring of the most brilliant enterprises of the republic—*Merivale*. Laying open to his view the springs of action in both parties—*Peacock*. Impulse need not imply as motive and spring regularly imply, actual performance of an act or engagement in an activity; the term stresses impetus, or driving power, rather than its effect; thus, one may check, or restrain, or forgo, or dismiss an impulse. In its more general sense impulse is applicable to a powerful incitation or instigation to activity, especially one arising within oneself as the result of a native propensity, one's peculiarity of temperament, or one's intellectual or emotional constitution (he was not a man ... to yield timidly to the impulses of others—*Prescott*). In * Brave New World ... all are permitted to indulge their sexual impulses without let or hindrance—*Huxley*. Men like the elder Cato, Varro, and the elder Pliny liked to record the curiousities of nature, but they had not the systematizing impulse, the restless passion for order, of the Greeks—*Buchan*. Specifically, impulse is applicable to a spontaneous and often unconsidered and nearly irresistible urge to do something (Dr. Lavendar ... said to himself, chuckling, "If I'd followed my impulse, I'd have married them then and there, and made no bones of it"—*Deland*). The first impulse of a child in a garden is to pick every attractive flower—*Russell*. Garf suffered an odd impulse to get up and kick his chair over; but people don't do those things. He kicked the back log instead—*Mary Austin*. Incentive applies chiefly to a cause which incites and encourages action or activity and especially to one for which the person affected is not himself responsible or which does not originate within himself (offer a bonus as an incentive to greater speed and efficiency in production) (with some pupils praise is not an incentive to study) (money is not the only incentive to work, nor the strongest—*Shaw*). The great incentive to effort, all through life, is experience of success after initial difficulties—*Russell*). People ... cut off here without the influence of example or emulation, with no incentive but some natural yearning for order and security—*Cather*.

**Inducement** is narrower than incentive, for it consistently suggests an external influence and often an attempt to entice or allure to action or activity (the chief inducements to serve were the pension and the right of citizenship which awaited a soldier on his discharge—*Buchan*). His method of holding his followers together by culinary and bibulous inducements has often been described—*L. M. Sears*. Spur applies to an impetus to action which not only incites but stimulates the mind and increases its energy and ardor (fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise ... to scorn delights and live laborious days—*Milton*). Fear or despair may be a temporary spur to action—*Sat. Review*. Goad applies to a stimulus to action or activity that keeps one going in spite of one's will or desire (the daily goad urging him to the daily toil—*Macaulay*). Insecurity, considered by some management people as the indispensable goad for workers' efficiency—*Dun's Review*.

A cause, determinant, antecedent, reason: *desire, appetite, urge, passion, lust: *feeling, emotion, passion: purpose, intent, *intention, aim, end

2 *subject, matter, subject matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motif, leitmotiv

**motive adj** *movable, mobile

*A* active, operative, dynamic: moving, driving, impelling or impulsive (see corresponding verbs at move)

**motley adj** 1 *variegated, parti-colored, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked 2 heterogeneous, miscellaneous, assorted, promiscuous

*A* different, diverse, divergent, disparate, various: discrepant, incompatible, uncongenial, incongruous (see analogous words)

Con uniform, parallel, akin, alike, identical (see like)

**motor** *machine, mechanism, machinery, apparatus, engine

**motorcade** *procession, parade, cortege, cavalcade

**mottle vb** *spot, spatter, sprinkle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

**mottled** spotted, spattered, sprinkled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

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

**mount n** mountain, peak, alp, volcano, mesa

**mount vb** 1 ascend, soar, *rise, arise, tower, rocket, levitate, surge

**Ant** drop 2 *ascend, climb, scale

**Ant** dismount

**mountain, mount, peak, alp, volcano, mesa** denote a relatively steep and high elevation of land. Mountain, the ordinary and inclusive term, varies somewhat in meaning according to locality. In general it designates an elevation higher and steeper than a hill, rising more or less abruptly from its surrounding country, and standing out conspicuously when viewed from a distance. Mount is often used in proper names of mountains. Peak, when applied to a mountain, designates one that rises to a sharp point; it may be isolated or one of a range. Alp suggests a towering, dizzly, or unscalable height (yet do I sometimes feel a languishment ... to sit upon an alp as on a throne, and half forget what world or worldling meant—*Keats*).

Volcano designates a cone-shaped mountain formed chiefly of ejected molten rock or ash and topped, usually, by a crater. Mesa is used especially in the southwestern part of the United States to designate a flat-topped elevation, usually comparable to a hill in height, but more suggestive of a mountain because of its steep clifflike sides.

**Ana** *height, altitude, elevation

**mountebank** n *impostor, faker, charlatan, quack

**mourn** sorrow, *grieve

**Ana** lament, bewail, beemoan (see deplore): weep, keen, wail, *cry

**Con** rejoice, gladden, delight, *please

**movable, mobile, motive** mean capable of moving or of...
being moved. Movable applies not to what has independent power of motion but to what can be moved by men or machines (as by lifting, drawing, pushing, or driving) (a movable steam engine) (one's movable possessions) (some of these cabins were movable, and were carried on sledges from one part of the common to another —Macaulay) or to what is not fixed in position or date (printing from movable type) (a movable attachment for a machine) (movable feast) such as Easter and Whitsunday). Mobile stresses facility or ease in moving or, less often, in being moved. It often describes the quality of flowing which distinguishes a fluid from a solid (the mobile liquid passes into a compact rigid solid —T. H. Huxley) or which characterizes an electric current or charge (long-lasting circulation of the mobile charge, around and around the circuit —Darrow) or the character which distinguishes something or someone that moves or is equipped or able to move quickly and readily, or to go (as from place to place or from one condition to another), from what is slow-moving or unlikely to engage in major moves (a mobile army) (a mobile radio unit) (they attract the more ambitious, the more mobile young people —Amer. Jour. of Sociology) (American society, though highly mobile by European standards, is not classless —Times Lit. Sup.) But equally often mobile describes features, faces, expressions of face, or thoughts which respond quickly and obviously to changing emotions, mental states, or external stimuli, often at the same time connoting either fickleness or instability or flexibility and versatility (the gray restless eye, the thin mobile lips —J. R. Green) (you are as mobile as the veering air, and all your charms more changeful than the tide —Millay) (delicately sniffing the air to the left of him with his mobile nose end —Dahl). Motive implies a moving only in the transitive sense of driving, or causing movement, or compelling to action; the term is used chiefly with reference to power or energy or their sources (as fuel, steam, or electricity) viewed as agent in a process of moving (diesel engines supply the motive power for the new ship) (when horsepower and man power were alone employed, the motive agent was not bound up with the tool moved —Spencer). Even when the reference is to something which constitutes a motive for action, "motive power," "motive force," or "motive energy" is likely to be used (there was no motive power in experience. It was as little of an active cause as conscience itself —Wilde) (this new wave of motive energy began to penetrate the deep absorption in their own affairs of her husband and children —Dorothy Canfield) (his motive force is a blissful and naive faith —Rosten). Ana (activate, actuate, motivate: *provoke, excite, quicken, stimulate: *induce, persuade, prevail, get)

Move, remove, shift, transfer are comparable when they mean to change or to cause to change from one place to another. All of these terms are general in that they do not in themselves and apart from the context imply a definite kind of agent or agency or a definite means of conveyance or transportation or give an indication of the extent of distance covered. Move is by far the most comprehensive term and is chiefly used when nothing more than the motion or activity involved in a change of place is to be indicated (move a table from a corner to the center of the room) (moved his family from New York City to Chicago) (move a house across the street to a larger lot) (he will not move from that chair until he is called to dinner). Remove adds to move the implication that the person or thing that changes or is changed from one place to another is moved from or quits a place which is his or its normal or original location, station, position, or occupation for which is new or temporary (remove the cover from a platter) (remove the dishes from the table). When the idea of getting rid or eradicating is stressed, remove is appropriate (remove a person from office) (they removed the cause of the epidemic of typhoid fever when they put the typhoid carrier under close surveillance) (shift throws so much emphasis on change of location or direction that the implications of voluntary or guided motion or activity are seldom apparent; therefore the term is often preferred when unrest or uncertainty or instability is to be suggested (the cargo shifted in the storm) (the wind will shift during the night to due east) (shifting his weight from one foot to another). However, shift also is used when a mere change in position is implied (shifted his quid of tobacco to the other side of his mouth before answering) (decided to shift his desk as of speed, violence, or show of power, rather more than the impetus given (a ship driven by wind and tide) (the washing machine is driven by electricity) (the heart drives the blood through the arteries) (air and petrol vapor . . . produce explosions powerful enough to drive the engine of a motorcar —Toynbee). Impel, when used of physical motion, adds to drive the implication of great force in the impetus (imitated the action of a man's being impelled forward by the butt ends of muskets —Dickens).

These words also are synonymous when they mean to excite or provoke a person to a given act or action or to given conduct or behavior. Move may imply an agent, an external influence, or an inner spring or motive as the mover (if kingdom move thee not, let move thee zed and duty —Milton) (he was, through the years, a hard man to move —Malamud). Actuate presupposes such an inner stimulus as a desire, a feeling, or a motive (it used to be the thing for parents to represent themselves as Olympians, immune from human passions and always actuated by pure reason —Russell) (you would deny with indignation that they are actuated in their esteem for science by its material serviceability —Dewey). Drive presupposes a compelling force, sometimes outer, sometimes inner, which affects the freedom of the will (it was the crass materialism of America . . . that drove him to exasperation —Parrington) (what had I ever done to you that would drive you to such a step? —Mary Austin). Impel, like actuate, implies an inner prompting, but it suggests greater urgency in the desire or motive and more headlong action (a life of adventure . . . was that to which his nature irresistibly impelled him —Arnold) (she was a prey to shoddy, facile emotions . . . none of which had power to impel her to any action —Rose Macaulay). Ana *activate, actuate, motivate: *provoke, excite, quicken, stimulate: *induce, persuade, prevail, get

Move

1 Move, actuate, drive, impel are comparable when they mean to set or keep going or in motion. Move is so general that the direction or nature of the motion can be gathered only from the context; it may imply an agent or an agency as the mover (who moves the rotating earth?) (the mechanism that moves the locomotive) (vessels moved by wind, steam, or electricity) Actuate is more restricted in its reference than move, being used chiefly in connection with machinery and mechanisms; it stresses the communication of power to work or to set in action (a turbine is actuated by the force of a current of fluid under pressure) (most of the hydraulically operated items of equipment are actuated by pistons and cylinders —W. R. Sears). Drive implies forward and, usually, continuous rather than current motion; it often emphasizes the effect produced,
into a better light> Transfer (see also TRANSFER 2) commonly implies a change from hand to hand, or from one mode of conveyance to another, or from one depository to another; it is often used in a specific sense especially in the business of transportation <you will need to transfer to another train at Albany> <there was no way in which he could transfer his own memories of European civiliza-
tion into the Indian mind—Cather>

Ana
displace, *replace, supplant, supersede: convey, *carry, bear, transport, transmit

move n movement, *motion, locomotion, stir

Ana
change, alteration, variation, modification (see under CHANGE vb): transformation, metamorphosis, conversion, transmogrification (see under TRANSFORM)

movement *motion, move, locomotion, stir

Ana
action, act, deed: change, alteration, variation, modification (see under CHANGE vb): activity, operative-
ness or operation, dynamism, liveness (see corresponding adjectives at ACTIVE)

moving, impressive, poignant, affecting, touching, pathetic are comparable when they mean having the power to excite or the effect of exciting deep and usually saddening and solemn emotion. Moving, the most general of these words, can be used in place of any of the others; the rest, though not mutually exclusive in their implications, can be used very specifically. Something moving stirs one deeply or evokes a strong emotional response (as by thrilling, entrancing, agitating, or saddening) <a moving scene in a play> <a moving appeal for help> <a modern version of the hero for the good of mankind exposed himself to the agonies of the damned. It is always a moving subject— Maugham> <a moving revelation of child life in an orphanage—MacColl>

Something impressive imposes itself forcibly on the mind and compels a response (as of admiration, awe, wonder, or conviction) <scenery . . . but in the sense of sweetness, warmth, and gaiety—Mannes> <men's most touching illusion as to the fragility of their own and their spiritual life—Conrad>

Something pathetic moves one to pity. Sometimes the word suggests pity induced by compassion for one in sorrow or distress <a lonely old man . . . . . . Rather pathetic!—Archibald Marshall> <pathetic gropings after the fragments of a shattered faith—Day Lewis> Sometimes it suggests pity mixed with contempt for what is weak, inadequate, or futile <a pathetic confusion of aims—

Binyon> <a pathetic attempt to make a virtue of necessity—Huxley>

Ana
exciting, stimulating, quickening, provoking (see PROVOKE): thrilling, electrifying (see THRILL): stirring, arousing, rousing, awakening, rallying (see STIR)

muddle vb *confuse, addle, fuddle, befuddle

Ana
*puzzle, perplex, mystify, bewilder, distract, non-
plus, confound, dumbfound: faze, rattle, discomfit, *em-
brarrass: fluster, flurry, upset, agitate, *discompose

Ant
enlighten

muddle n *confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, jumble, clutter, snarl

muddy *turbid, roily

Ana
murky, gloomy, obscure, *dark: confused, muddled, addle (see CONFUSE): *dirty, filthy, foul, nasty, squalid

Con
*clear, transparent, translucent, lucid, limpid

muff vb *botch, bungle, fumble, cobble

mug n *face, countenance, visage, physiognomy, puss

mulct *penalize, fine, amerce

Ana
exact, require, *demand, claim

mulish *obstinate, dogged, stubborn, pertinacious, stiff-
necked, pigheaded, bullheaded

Ana
headstrong, intrinsically recalcitrant, refractory, ungovernable, *unruly: fixed, set (see SET)

multifarious

divers, numerous, various, *many, several, sundry

Ana
disparate, diverse, divergent, *different: incongru-
ous, incompatible, uncongenial, discrepant, discordant, *inconsonant, inconsistent

multiply

*increase, augment, enlarge

Ana
propagate, reproduce, breed. *generate: expand, spread, stretch (see corresponding nouns at EXPANSE)

Con
*decrease, diminish, lessen, reduce, abate

multitude, army, host, legion mean, both in the singular and plural, a very large number of persons or things. They do not (as do the words compared at CROWD) necessarily imply assemblage, but all of them can be used with that implication. Multitude stresses numerosness with respect to what is the standard for or the test of numerosness in the thing referred to; thus, in “that child always asks a multitude of questions” and “I never saw such a multitude of books before in one house” multitude obviously refers to a much smaller number in the first than in the second illustration <we must not . . . expect systematic education to produce multitudes of highly cultivated and symbolically developed persons—Eliot>

When applied to a group of persons taken as a whole, multitude suggests an assemblage of a large number of persons moved his arms with large pawing gestures, as though he were distributing lay blessings to a kneeling multitude—Wharton> but multitude with a definite article suggests the masses of ordinary people or the populace <speeches that sway the multitude> <a book that appeals to the multitude> <both scorns and seeks the understanding and approbation of the multitude—Knight>

Army usually adds to multitude the implications of orderly arrangement without a suggestion of crowding and often, especially in clearly figurative use, a progressive advance without any suggestion of halting or gathering <they were served by a vast army of waiters> <an army of locusts> <we have considered science as a steadily advancing army of ascertained facts—Ingpe>

He discovered around him . . . . . . . a world whose existence he had neither known nor suspected, the army of persons who know no routine labor—Purdy>

Host has for its primary implication numeros-

ousness. It may mean nothing more <the burning of hosts of unfortunate old women—and sometimes young ones—as witches—Cobban> but it may suggest more
strongly than any of the other words a concentration in great numbers of the thing referred to; in such cases it often connotes an impressive or striking array (a clear, cold night and a host of stars in the sky) (<i>I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils—Wordsworth</i>) (a host of exquisite creations, the expression of a great artist's subtle vision and faultless technique—Read) (a very uneasy division, giving rise to a host of perplexities whose consideration has occupied the intervening centuries—Whitehead) Legion in general use retains little suggestion of its basic application to the chief unit of the Roman army and but little more of its scriptural uses; typically it applies to an indefinitely or incalculably large number (the windy arguments of this legion of aberrants—McComas) (<i>the legion of animal owners is also rising fast—Investor's Reader</i>) (a legion of friends hastened to his support—W. B. Parker) (armies of angels that soar, legions of demons that lurk—Browning) Ana bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, *liberal, worldly, *earthly, earthy, terrestrial, sublunary mundane *gibberish, hocus-pocus, abracadabra performer, mime, mimic, player, *actor, thespian, impersonator, trouper mummer gibberish, hocus-pocus, abracadabra mundane worldly, *earthly, earthly, terrestrial, sublunary Ana fleshly, sensual, *carnal, animal: secular, temporal, *profane Ant eternal—Con *infinite, sempiternal, boundless: heavenly, *celestial, empyrean, empyreal munificent bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, *liberal, generous, handsome Ana benevolent, *charitable, philanthropic, eleemosynary, altruistic: *profuse, lavish, prodigal munitions *armament, matériel, arms, ordnance, artillery, ammunition murder vb *kill, slay, assassinate, dispatch, execute murky obscure, gloomy, *dark, dim, dusky Ana *turbid, muddy, roily: lowering, glozing, glooming or gloomy (see corresponding verbs at FROWN): lurid, grim, *ghastly Con *bright, brilliant, radiant, effulgent: illuminated, illumined, lightened, enlightened (see ILLUMINATE): *clear, transparent, translucent, lucid muscular, brawny, sinewy, athletic, burly, husky are applied to persons in the sense of strong and powerful in build or physique. Muscular implies well-developed, but applied to persons in the sense of strong and powerful in the full development of the muscles; it carries no connotation of fatness but rather suggests the might that is associated with hard flesh and great size (a blond, healthy-looking fellows, with short, bare arms, who were approached with dread by all—Zangwill) (tough, weather-rugged, brawny hunters of whales—R. L. Cook) Sinewy attributes no less power to the muscles than brawny, but it suggests greater energy and quickness and seldom connotes huggeness. Rather it often implies a leanness, toughness, and liteness that are the result of training or of persistent exercise; thus, such people as blacksmiths, steelworkers, stevedores, and prizefighters are often described as brawny, but fencers, runners, and acrobats, more often as sinewy (worthy fellows; and like to prove most sinewy swordmen—Shak.) Athletic as used in anthropometry denotes a particular body build marked by heavy frame, large chest, and powerful well-developed muscles. In more general use athletic may suggest much the same type, but more often it stresses fitness for athletic activity and emphasizes muscularity, sinewiness, quick reflexes, and vigor of health (<i>a tall, athletic young man</i>) and it is with this latter aspect that the term is usually extended to the mental life or its products (<i>imaginative skepticism and dramatic irony ... keep the mind athletic and the spirit on the stretch—Blackmur</i>) (<i>she had tried ... to shock and startle: and yet ... had feared to begin with Shaw's athletic wit—Yeats</i>) Burly stresses massiveness of build to such an extent that it often carries connotations of corpulence, of coarseness, or of grossness and suggests the possession of brute force (<i>tail ... burly</i>, quite featureless, built with such a jaw that no man's rule could be his law—Masefield) (<i>a great, burly, red-faced individual, huge in frame, with a stentor voice—Jesse</i>) Husky implies a powerful athletic build and brawniness (<i>the huskiest members of a football team are placed on the line</i>) (<i>good food and leisure and heredity gave me a husky build—S. E. White</i>) Ana robust, *healthy, hale, sound: *strong, sturdy, stalwart, stout: *vigorous, lusty muse vb *ponder, meditate, ruminate Ana *consider, study, contemplate, weigh, excogitate: reflect, reason, *think museum, library, gallery, archives, treasury are comparable but not synonymous terms when they mean a place serving as a repository for monuments (see DOCUMENT 1 for this sense) of the past. Museum is the most general of these terms; it usually implies the intention both to preserve and to exhibit for the education of the public. A museum may be an institution concerned with the preservation and exhibition of objects of historical or scientific interest, especially such as illustrate the development of human civilization or the evolution of species, or it may be one providing for the preservation and exhibition of works of fine art (as paintings and sculptures), or it may combine both purposes. Consequently, the term is usually qualified in proper names or in general designation (<i>The Museum of Fine Arts</i>) (<i>The Museum of Natural History</i>) (<i>an art museum</i>) Library is applicable to a place (as a room, building, or institution) which houses a collection of books not for sale but available for use by specified persons or sometimes the general public. But library is applicable also to a collection of literary material and as such may vary in scope from a handful of books making up a personal collection to a usually public collection consisting of a vast store of books of all kinds and of all ages, manuscripts, records, documents, files of journals, and often, in addition, works of art and serving primarily to preserve works of literature and of reference and documents in all fields of research and to make them available to scholars. Gallery (often art gallery) is used for a room, a suite, or a building housing and exhibiting works of art and especially paintings and pieces of sculpture. The term is used of a place housing a private as well as a public collection and (especially in the plural, galleries) of a place where works of art are exhibited for sale. Archives, when the term designates the place where a collection of old records, old documents, old files, and similar papers are kept rather than the collection itself (see DOCUMENT 1), may refer to a building or, as is more common, to a part of a building (as of a library or museum) where such a collection is housed (<i>the archives of the city hall</i>) (<i>the archives of the department of state</i>) (<i>place a manuscript in the archives of the Royal Society</i>) (<i>Treasury</i> is used to designate a place, often a room, where possessions of intrinsic value and often historical significance are stored and in some instances displayed to visitors (<i>the treasures of the cathedral ... there is a fine, whole, uncut chasuble—Rock</i>) The term is often extended to things or places that are or are felt to be storehouses of precious things (<i>forests whose treasury of bird and beast and insect secrets had been only skimmed by collectors—Beebe</i>)
mutiny *rebellion, revolution, uprising, revolt, insurrection

muster *summon, summons, call, cite, converge

mushy *sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, slushy

mushy

mutual *reciprocal, common

mutation * change, permutation, vicissitude, alternation

mutinous rebellious, seditious, "insubordinate, factious, *dumb, speechless, inarticulate

mutable *changeable, changeful, variable, protean

muster *summon, summons, call, cite, convene

mysterious, inscrutable, arcane mean beyond one's power

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy

mushy
The term can be extended to unsolved or unsolvable problems which provoke speculation rather than serious attempts at solution. <do you think life is long enough to let me speculate on conundrums like that?>—Black

<fail to touch on the political conundrums involved, particularly the problem of how the richer areas of the South can be made to subsidize the poorer>—Cater

mystic adj *mystical, anagogic, cabalistic

Ana occult, esoteric, *recondite, abstruse: *mysterious, inscrutable: visionary, quixotic, *imaginary

mystical, mystic, anagogic, cabalistic are comparable when they denote having a meaning or character hidden from all except those who enjoy profound spiritual insight or are spiritually initiated. Mystical and mystic, though often interchangeable, can be distinguished in use. In general, mystical suggests comprehension of something beyond the range of the perceptive or ratiocinative powers; its use therefore often implies belief in the possibility of such comprehension and the word variously connotes penetration into sacred mysteries, holiness of life, idealism, detachment from material concerns, ecstatic contemplation, or spiritual rapture <the mystical philosophy of Plotinus> <mystical religions such as Buddhism> <the mystical poetry of William Blake> <there is something mystical in this doctrine, this faith, as of Keats, that "what the Imagination seizes as Beauty must be Truth"—L. P. Smith>

Mystic is appropriately used when one wishes to avoid these special implications of mystical or to suggest others more in keeping with a rationalistic or skeptical point of view. Therefore mystic often imputes to the thing it describes: (1) an occult, esoteric, or visionary character <mystic ceremonies> <the mystic symbolism of Blake's poetry> (2) a mysterious, enigmatic, or sometimes nebulous quality <words of mystic import—Shelley> <Guérin's> expression has . . . more than Keats's, something mystic, inward, and profound—Arnold (3) a connection with magic or the arts of magic <mystic numbers> <each silver vase in mystic order laid—Pope> Often its basic denotation is completely obscured and it means merely unintelligible, unfathomable, or incomprehensible <the mystic gulf from God to man—Emerson>

Anagogic refers basically to an ultimate underlying meaning, especially in the Bible, perceptible only to those of profound spiritual insight <when Dante . . . describes his poetry as polysemous, with literal, allegorical, moral, and anagogic meaning levels, he at the same time insists that the literal meaning comes first in comprehension—Burnham> <looming in the distance, there was the final or anagogic meaning> that transformed the symbolic object into a spiritual truth—Malcolm Cowley>

Cabalistic in its primary meaning applies to a secret interpretation of Scriptures <Cabala> held to have been revealed to Moses and handed down orally through a line of chosen Jewish rabbis. The system came to be used by medieval magicians and sorcerers. Both aspects color the extended use of cabalistic so that it sometimes comes close to mystic in its connotations <the power of the theurgic rite or cabalistic word, understood only by the gods—H. O. Taylor> <self-conscious artists, working for the admiration of small followings and often requiring cabalistic analysis before they could be fully understood—Time> but commonly it is closer to occult or magic <by describing with the hands certain cabalistic patterns on the air and uttering at the same time the proper Sanskrit formulas it was believed that goblins and demons . . . could be exorcised—Noss>


mysticism asceticism (see under ASCETIC n)

mystify bewilder, perplex, *puzzle, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound

Ana discomfit, faze, rattle, *embarrass: *discompose, disquiet, perturb, disturb, agitate, upset

Ant enlighten

myth 1 Myth, legend, saga all mean a story which has come down from the past, which ostensibly relates a historical event to legends, and of which the origin has been lost or forgotten. Myth varies considerably in its denotation and connotation depending on the persuasion of the user. Often the word is used to designate a usually fanciful and imaginative story that explains a natural phenomenon or a social practice, institution, or belief <the old myth, imported hazily from the East, which represented the cat-moon devouring the gray mice of twilight—Reppplier>

It is also used to designate a story, belief, or notion commonly held to be true but utterly without factual basis <the doubts that women have about themselves are made, and most women are so enslaved to the myths of their own inferiority they are unable to see the truth for the myths—Ashley Montagu>

The word may be used with wide comprehensiveness in general writing or with narrow exclusiveness and specificity in more limited use <myths may be subdivided into such classifications as origin myths, ritual myths, incidents involving the lives of the gods, stories of culture heroes, trickster tales, journeys to the other world, human and animal marriages, adaptations of old world myths, and retellings of biblical stories—L. J. Davidson> <myths are said to be expressions or objectifications of "collective wishes" which are personified in the "leader" who is endowed by a given society with powers of social magic to fulfill the collective wish—Kroeber>

Legend is likewise used with latitude, but in its most typical use it is likely to apply to a story, incident, or notion attached to a particular person or place that purports to be historical and often has or seems to have a basis in historical reality although as a whole it is either incredible or unverifiable <the medieval legends of the saints> <the wrecking of the Palatine which, according to legend, did not sink but rose flaming into the sky—Zimmer> <the violent deaths of several slaves quartered in them gave rise to a legend that this part of the house is haunted—Amer. Guide Series: Md.>

Saga may refer to a long, continued, heroic story that is action-packed but not especially romantic, that deals with a person or group, and that is historical or legendary or both <the Saga of Burnt Njal> <the building of the railroad in the Northwest was one of the great sagas of man's enterprise—Le Sueur>

Ana *fiction, fable, fabrication, *figment: invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at INVENT)

2 *allegory, parable, fable

mythical *fictitious, fabulous, legendary, apocryphal

Ana *imaginary, visionary, fanciful, fantastic: invented, created (see INVENT)
naïve unsoothed, artless, ingenuous, *natural, simple

**Ana** *sincere, unfeigned: *spontaneous, impulsive, instinctive: fresh, original (see NEW)

naked *bare, nude, bald, barren

**Ana** revealed, disclosed, discovered (see REVEAL):
*evident, manifest, palpable, obvious: uncolored, *colorless:
*pure, simple, sheer

name **n** Name, designation, denomination, appellation, title, style mean the word or combination of words by which something is called and by means of which it can be distinguished or identified. Name is so general that it can be used of any such word or combination whether it distinguishes a person or an object, an individual or a class, a particular or a universal, a thing having distinct existence in fact or a thing having distinct existence only in thought *(all nouns are names)* *(love is the name of an emotion)* *(the child's name is John Joseph Brown)* Sometimes name is thought of as something apart from the real character of the thing to which it is attached *(what's in a name?)* that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet—Shak. *(for sixty years he had been a name, not a figure—Bennett)* More often, however, the term connotes identification of the word with the thing or, especially, the person it names, so that what affects one affects the other *(Oxford)* home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties!—Arnold *(if I discovered the worst, and it had to be exposed, I must see that Jane's name was kept entirely out of it—Rose Macaulay)* This common feeling of a mutual and almost inevitable relation between the name and the thing named is what distinguishes name from designation, denomination, appellation, all of which are thought of as given and therefore as having an artificial association with the thing and a utilitarian purpose such as description or identification.

A designation is a name given primarily for the sake of distinguishing one thing, whether an individual or a class, from other things of the same general description *(the French revolutionists changed the traditional designations of days and months)* *(recognizing that this parasite was new, [he] . . . gave it the designation Aphytis A—Jour. of Economic Entomology)* *(Madame Curie chose polonium as the designation of the newly discovered radio element in honor of her native Poland)* 

Denomination *(see also RELIGION)* is the name given especially to a class, to a category, or to a closely knit group (as of persons); the term implies actual use and differs from designation and denomination in precluding the idea, but not necessarily the fact, of self-choice *(James Tubbington Brown, a boy better known to his fellows by the appellation Stinky)* *(the government of the United States has been emphatically termed a government of laws, and not of men. It will certainly cease to deserve this high appellation, if the laws furnish no remedy for the violation of a vested right—John Marshall)* A title is either a distinctive name given to a work (as a book, a picture, a play, or a musical composition) or an honorary appellation coming to a person by virtue of his rank, office, dignity, or descent or given to him as a mark of respect *(the head of the state must have a title—Buchan)* When used without reference to a particular work of art or person title is sometimes preferred to denomination because it connotes distinction and dignity *(any admixture of logical, of 'prose' meaning detracts from the value of a poem, if it does not disqualify it for the title of poetry altogether—Day Lewis)* When used abstractly in preference to name or designation it often connotes the lack of an essential relation between the name and the thing it names *(things change their titles, as our manners turn—Pope)* Style is used to emphasize the exact form of a name and is applicable chiefly to such legal and formal titles as the legal name of a firm or corporation or the complete, formal designation of a royal or other exalted personage as used in documents or in ceremonial address *(a business incorporated under the style of the Globe Manufacturing Co.)* *(Thrones and Imperial Powers, offsprings of Heaven, ethereal virtues! or these titles now must we renounce, and, changing style, be called Princes of Hell?—Milton)* name vb 1 *(designate, nominate, elect, appoint)*

**Ana** *choose, select, prefer, elect, opt: *declare, announce, publish, advertise 2 *mention, instance, specify

**Ana** *refer, allude, advert: *designate: identify, recognize (see corresponding nouns at RECOGNITION): cite, *quote

nap vb catnap, doze, drowse, snooze, *sleep, slumber

narcotic *anodyne, opi ate, nepenthe

narrate *relate, rehearse, recite, recount, describe, state, report

**Ana** tell, *reveal, disclose, discover: *discourse, expatiate, dilate, descend

narrative *story, tale, anecdote, yarn

*Ana* chronicle, *account, report, story, version: fiction, fabrication, figment, fable

narrow, narrow-minded *il liber al, intolerant, bigoted, hidebound

**Ana** rigorous, *rigid, strict, stringent: obdurate, *inflexible, inexorable: provincial, parochial, local, small-town, *insular

**Ant** broad, broad-minded —*Con* *liberal, progressive, advanced, radical: tolerant, *forbearing, indulgent, lenient

narrow* *s trait, sound, channel, passage

nasty *dirty, filthy, squalid, foul

**Ana** *coarse, gross, vulgar, obscene, ribald: tainted, contaminated, polluted, defiled *(see CONTAMINATE): indelicate, indecent, unseemly, improper, *indecorous

nation **n** *race, people

national n *citizen, subject

native adj Native, indigenous, endemic, aboriginal, autochthonous all mean belonging to or associated with a particular place by birth or origin. A person or thing is native *(opposed to foreign, alien) that has had his or its birth or origin in the place in question *(a native American)* *(a native New Yorker)* *(a native tradition)* *(native artists)* left the state and studied abroad—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) *(a one-story structure of native stone—S. S. King)* A person or thing is indigenous *(opposed to naturalized, exotic) that is not only native but also has not been introduced from elsewhere into the place indicated *(maize is indigenous to America)* *(Southern Rhodesia at present

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

556

employs about half a million Africans, of whom half are
indigenous and half are migrants from neighboring
territories—Peter Scott) <no written flora anywhere in
the world admits as indigenous that lusty weed . . . called
Good-King-Henry—Peattie) Indigenous is applied usually to kinds (as species or races) rather than to individuals
and often implies reference to a larger area than native
(as to a country, or to a region characterized by a particular type of climate). A thing is endemic (opposed to
exotic and in medicine to pandemic) which not only is
indigenous but is also peculiar to, or in the case of a
disease, prevalent in, a restricted region because of special
conditions favoring its growth or existence <edelweiss
is endemic in the Alps> <that complacency which is an
endemic disease of academic groups—Conant) A person
or thing is aboriginal that belongs to the earliest known
race inhabiting a country or to the people found there (as
by explorers, colonists, and invaders); the term usually
implies the lack of a known predecessor and often connotes a primitive culture <Indians are the aboriginal
Americans) < America must turn again to catch the spirit
of her own dark, aboriginal continent—D. H. Lawrence)
<the Kooboos, a primitive aboriginal race in the southeast of Sumatra—Frazer) Aboriginal is more rarely
applied to the earliest ascertainable native plants and
animals. Something is autochthonous which has its origin
in the place in which it is found (autochthonous rocks)
<an autochthonous flora) When applied to races of men
or their achievements, it implies purity of stock or freedom from all external influences <as long as the States
continue to . . . be dominated by the poetry of the Old
World, and remain unsupplied with autochthonous song
. . . so long will they stop short of first-class nationality
— Whitman)
Ant alien, foreign

natural

thing at all except his collection of modern paintings
—Dahl) <she was so simple and trustful that I always
thought it would be as wicked to hurt her as to hurt a
babe in swaddling clothes— Webb) Ingenuous stresses
inability to disguise or to conceal one's thoughts or
feelings; it usually implies frankness or candor, lack of
reserve, or freedom from dissimulation, often with a hint
of childlike simplicity < Father had set a dog on him. A
less ingenuous character would be silent about such
passages . . . but that is not his quality—H. G. Wells)
<to post-Freudian ears this kind of language seems touchingly quaint and ingenuous—Huxley) Naïve implies freedom from all that is artificial, conventional, or acquired;
in early use and still often, especially in its derivative
noun naivete, it suggests freshness, spontaneity, and
genuine expression of a nature untouched by worldly
influences and without affectation or artifices <by contrast
with the poetry of Vergil, that of Homer seems strikingly
naïve) <a delightfully naïve personality) <he claimed to
himself to be innocent or naïve, but his pretense was the
thinnest—Cheever) But it may sometimes become a term
of derogation and then often implies lack of worldly
wisdom <Sophia, the naïve ninny, had actually supposed
that her walking along a hundred yards of pavement with
a god by her side was not going to excite remark!—
Bennett) <one does not ask favors, if it can be avoided,
of persons one genuinely respects; one puts such burdens
upon the naïve and colorless, upon what are called the
good-natured—Mencken) Equally often, especially in
learned use, it suggests the point of view of the untutored
or unenlightened person or of one whose judgments are
not corrected by advanced scientific or philosophical
knowledge and who therefore supposes that things are
what they seem to be <the naïve science of an earlier
day merely took it for granted that space and time existed
in their own right—Jeans) <that naïve patriotism which
leads every race to regard itself as evidently superior to
every other—Krutch) Unsophisticated also stresses lack
of wisdom, especially worldly wisdom. It does not, however, emphasize native simplicity as strongly as naïve;
rather, it suggests lack of the experience or training necessary for worldly success or, more specifically, for graceful
and adroit social relations <she's not the type of the
moment, not elegant or artificial, too much the unsophisticated child of nature—Rose Macaulay)
<Italian
civilization had, in short, everything to dazzle the imagination of unsophisticated northerners emerging into a period
of prosperity— T. S. Eliot) Artless lays the stress on the
absence of design; it suggests naturalness that is the result
of indifference to, or unawareness of, the effect or impression one is producing (overflowing with . . . artless
maternal gratitude—Austen) <almost every turn in the
artless little maid's prattle touched a new mood in him
—Meredith) <he hated to seem heavy or profound or
anything but artless and spontaneous to Cecily—H. G.
Wells) Unaffected centers the attention on the absence
of affectation, but it usually implies both naturalness
and simplicity without any hint of childishness, unworldliness, guilelessness, or indifference <a well-bred, unaffected girl) <he was extremely simple and unaffected
in his attitude, and readily approachable—MacCallum)
<gratified by his young guest's unaffected admiration for
this treasure— Wylie)

natural adj 1 * regular, normal, typical
Ana ordinary, *common, familiar: *usual, customary,
habitual, accustomed, wonted
Ant unnatural: artificial: adventitious
2 Natural, simple, ingenuous, naïve, unsophisticated, artless, unaffected are applied to persons, their acts, and their
utterances, in the sense of wholly free from pretension or
calculation. Natural implies, on the one hand, freedom
from every sign of artificiality, effort, constraint, or
affectation and, on the other hand, an ease, a spontaneousness, or a flexibility that suggests nature rather than
art; the term often implies opposition to whatever is
labored, stiff, formal, or artificial <set him to write poetry,
he is limited, artificial, and impotent; set him to write
prose, he is free, natural, and effective— Arnold) <it is
of the essence of such talk that it should be natural
and attractive, not professional or didactic—Benson)
<she was so friendly and so natural that it was nice to
talk to her about what was interesting him—Archibald
Marshall) <the fact is that a poetic language which
appears natural to one age will appear unnatural or artificial to another—Day Lewis) Simple stresses complete
freedom from everything that might suggest unconscious
or conscious duplicity. It usually implies lack of confusion
of aims, desires, interests, or values and therefore may
carry one or the other of connotations as divergent as
mental immaturity and intellectual ripeness, as the lack
of experience characteristic of the child and the fullness
of wisdom characteristic of the sage, or as the transparency Ana *spontaneous, impulsive, instinctive: ingrained,
of those who do not know how to conceal their nature or constitutional, * inherent
motives and that of those who have nothing to conceal Con formal, conventional, ceremonious, *ceremonial:
<nothing is more simple than greatness; indeed, to be sim- pretentious, ostentatious, *showy: affected, assumed,
ple is to be great—Emerson)
<a man of mild and simple counterfeited, feigned (see ASSUME)
character who up to then had shown no interest in any- natural n *fool, idiot, imbecile, moron, simpleton
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.


nature *type, kind, sort, stripe, kidney,ilk, description, character

Ana *structure, anatomy, framework: *disposition, temperament, character, personality: *form, figure, shape, conformation

naughty *bad, evil, ill, wicked

Ana mischievous, roguish, impish, waggish (see PLAYFUL): froward, balky, restive, wayward, *contrary, perverse

nearsate vb *disgust, sicken

Ana vomit, disgust, *belch: *offend, outrage

nautil *marine, maritime, naval

naval nautical, *marine, maritime

near adj & adv *close, nigh, nearby

Ant far

near vb *approach, approximate

Ana rival, *match, touch, equal

Con vary, *change, alter, modify: *differ

nearby adj & adv *close, near, nigh

Ant far off

nearest, next are both superlative forms of near, but they are not always interchangeable. Nearest may be used whenever the intent is merely to indicate the highest degree of propinquity (as in space, time, or kinship) <the nearest house is five miles distant> <their nearest neighbor lives two miles away> <her nearest relatives are her father and mother> Next has lost this sense and usually implies immediate succession, or sometimes precedence, in an order, a series, or a sequence; thus, the next house is the house just beyond the one in mind in a row or series of houses; their next child is the one who comes after the child under consideration in order of birth; the next best is the second best in a rating or choice <the next chapter of the story> <the next day> <the next time they met> <ask the next person we meet> But in law one's nearest relative is one's "next of kin"; one's "next friend" is a person (as a near relative or natural guardian) who has the right or is appointed by a court to act for a person (as an infant) who by the law of the state has not full legal capacity to sue or make other legal moves. In ordinary language "nearest of kin" is found as often as "next of kin," but "nearest friend" applies distinctively to one's most intimate friend.

nearly, almost, approximately, well-nigh are comparable when they mean within a little of being, becoming, reaching, or sufficing. Their differences in meaning are often imperceptible. However, nearly is suitable when mere proximity is implied <they are nearly at the end of their journey> <it is nearly six o'clock> <she was nearly hysterical with fright> Almost is more explicit when the emphasis is on a falling short or a deficiency <they had almost finished when they were interrupted> <she is almost out of her mind with grief> <the news is almost too good to be true> Approximately is an appropriate choice when the difference is of no practical importance and a reasonable approach to accuracy is implied <there were approximately 10,000 present> <government meteorologists make approximately correct forecasts> Well-nigh often equals virtually <he is well-nigh mad> <the difficulty of selecting the best of his short essays for a strictly limited space is well-nigh insuperable —Desmond MacCarthy>

neat, tidy, trim, trigg, snug, shipshape, spick-and-span mean manifesting care and orderliness. Neat through all its variations in sense keeps as its basic implication clearness, such as the clearness from dirt or soil that is manifest chiefly in perfect cleanliness <her house is as neat as a pin> <the cat is the neatest of domestic animals> <he was remarkably neat in his dress—Johnson> <it was a neat place, with its piles of magazines and newspapers stacked in orderly fashion—MacInnes> or the clearness that is indicated in simplicity and freedom from what clutters, complicates, or confuses or that indicates ordinlessness, deftness, or adroitness <neat workmanship> <a neat style> <neat minds, who prefer things in their proper places, ticketed and pigeonholed—Dixon> <a neat retort> Tidy commonly suggests a pleasing neatness and order diligently maintained <he's always tidy without being smart; his coat is old and his trousers are uncreased, but they're both clean, and nothing's loose or torn—Richard Harrison> As distinguished from neat, tidy throws the stress on ordleness, careful arrangement, or a place for everything, rather than on cleanliness or simplicity <a tidy desk> <a tidy sewing basket> Once upon a time the universe was all tidy, with everything in its proper place, and...ever since then it has been growing more and more disorderly—Russell> (they have an unfailing instinct for doing things in a tidy way—their busy airports handle passengers with remarkable smoothness—Rolo) Trim implies both neatness and tidiness; it stresses, however, such smartness or spruceness in appearance as is given by clear lines and excellent proportions <a trim clipper ship> <a trim figure> <his shoes and buckles, too, though plain, were trim—Dickens> <a crisscross of trim...paths—Lowet> Trig, though close to trim, tends to carry a stronger implication of compactness, of neatness, and of jauntness of appearance and is especially applicable to persons or their clothes <she has a trig new tailored suit> (his hair was hardly even gray, and he stood as straight and trig as a fence post—Hershey> <a wonderfully trig beret, wide and flat—New Yorker> Snug (see also COMFORTABLE) in the present relation applies basically to ships and suggests a fine trimness of line and construction <a snug little ship> or adequate and orderly preparation for a voyage and especially for riding out a storm <soon all was snug aloft, and we were allowed to go below—Dana> In other applications the term may imply a neat, compact, ordered state that affords security or sheltered ease <everything on this snug property was bright, thriving, and well kept—Hardy> <snoo little shops that once offered Cornhill the best soups and jellies—West> Shipshape is often used in place of snug to describe not only ships where tidiness and trimness prevail but whatever depends for its success or well-being upon habits of tidiness and orderliness <his affairs are in shipshape condition> <look to the babes, and till I come again keep everything shipshape—Tennyson> <everything from rifles to shoelaces got a complete going over. It was my job to see that all was perfect. Finally, I felt confident that all was shipshape—H. V. Kaltenborn> <everything was shipshape—Tennyson> Neatness has been kept new in appearance or made to look like new <spick-and-span> <the kitchen was spick-and-span> <spick-and-span machinery> <no spots came on his clothes. No slovenly habits crept upon him. He was always spick-and-span—White> Ana *clean, cleanly: fastidious, *nice, dainty, finicky: exact, precise, *correct, accurate Ant filthy —Con unkempt, disheveled, slovenly, *slipshod, sloppy: slack, lax, remiss, *negligent: confused, muddled, added <see CONFUSE>

neb bill, beak, nib

necessary 1 *needful, requisite, indispensable, essential Ana compelling or compulsory, obliging or obligatory, constraining (see corresponding verbs at FORCE): important, significant, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE): cardinal, vital, *essential, fundamental

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
need, necessity, exigency may all denote either a poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, impoverished, drained, depleted, exhausted, bankrupt (see DEPRETE)

Con *rich, wealthy, affluent, opulent

necessity *need, exigency

*compelling, or compelling, constraining or constraint, obliging or obligation, coercing or coercion (see corresponding verbs at FORCE): indispensableness, requisiteness or requisition, needfulness (see corresponding adjectives at NEEDFUL)

need n 

Need, necessity, exigency may all denote either a state or condition requiring something as essential or indispensable or incapable of or create a demand for something indispensable (as to the well-being, protection, security, success, or functioning of those or the one concerned) (the need of a city for an adequate water supply) (provide food and lodging for those in need) (the need of the American navy for a two-ocean navy) (order and discipline were the crying needs—Malone)

Necessity, though often interchanged with need, usually carries a stronger suggestion of an imperative demand or of a compelling cause (telephone me only in case of necessity) (as soon as war is declared, every nation or institution must subsume all other considerations to the necessity of victory—Inge)

Necessity rather than charity was responsible for Republican commitments to the United Nations—Feuer

amid these malign forces, our haunting anxiety and our paramount necessity is the defense of our country—Hoover

Necessity may also apply to a compelling principle or abstract force inherent in nature or in the constitution of a thing and inevitable in its operation or incapable in its results (there is no logical necessity apparent in the conclusions you have reached) (such families get the necessities of life regardless of prices. To them differences in price levels mean only a difference in luxuries—Arnold)

one of the unhappy necessities of human existence is that we have to “find things out for ourselves”—Eliot

Exigency (see also JUNCTURE) implies the compulsion of necessity or occasionally of an inherent compelling principle, especially as a result of such special circumstances as a crisis, an emergency, or an accident, that imposes severe restrictions or great stress and strain; in either case, the term emphasizes, more than either of the preceding words, extreme urgency, demands of a peremptory and exacting character, and difficulties that cannot be easily overcome (figures which are doing nothing in particular...striking an attitude which is dictated not by the inner necessities of balance or motion, but by the exigencies of the composition—Binyon)

such travel exigencies as having to scout around for a room when you’re tired—Joseph

It may be argued that the exigencies of their work—the tension, the deadline...the abrupt arrivals and departures—drove them to alcohol—Hubbell

*stress, strain, pressure: *lack, want, dearth, absence, defect, privation: poverty, indigence, penury, destitution, privation, want

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

*nullify, annul, abrogate, invalidate

negative adj *neutral, indifferent

Ant affirmative

negative vb 1 *deny, gainsay, traverse, contradict, impugn, contravene 2 *neutralize, counteract

neglect vb Neglect, omit, disregard, overlook, slight, forget are comparable when they mean to pass over something without giving it due or sufficient attention. Neglect usually implies intentional or unintentional failure to give full or proper attention, especially to something one is doing (as a task) or should do (as a duty) or to someone who has a claim upon one's care or attention (he was changing into his dress clothes ... ). He had neglected to hang them up the night before, and for once they were bedraggled—Mailer. 'he asked Mr. Powell with some brusqueness that the chief mate had neglected to instruct him that the captain was to be found on the port side—Conrad. 'neglect his family' Omit leaves a leaving out of something which forms a part of a whole (omit two stanzas of a hymn) got up late and omitted breakfast or a neglecting entirely through oversight, inattention, or absorption of an important detail, opportunity, or aspect (Constance remembered small possessions of her own which she had omitted to remove from the cutting-out room—Bennett. Disregard usually implies voluntary, sometimes deliberate, inattention; the term may or may not imply justifiable neglect (disregard petty annoyances) (disregard an unimportant piece of evidence) (she persists in disregarding the wishes of her mother) (nearly all the humane alleviations of brutal violence, introduced and practised in the days when professional armies fought for a dynasty or for a point of honor, were disregarded—Inge) (flouting convention and disregarding his own clerical position—Handlin. Ignore usually implies either an intention to disregard or a failure to regard something more or less obvious; it may even suggest a deliberate closing of the eyes to what one does not wish to recognize (to those who agree with me I am uttering commonplaces and to those who disagree I am ignoring the necessary foundations of thought—Justice Holmes) (its mathematics approaches mysticism and its theory contains certain impossibilities which are ignored in practice—Theodore Sturgeon) (by tacit agreement they ignored the remarks and insinuations of their acquaintances—D. H. Lawrence. Overlook implies an omitting or disregarding, sometimes through intention but more often through haste, or lack of care (overlook an item in an account) (it is the practice of good nature to overlook the faults which have already, by the consequences, punished the delinquent—Johnson) (when he had heard so young a man call him by nickname, but he overlooked this also in light of what had happened—Purdy) Slight may imply neglect, omission, or disregard, but it also usually implies a contemptuous or an arrogant attitude that makes one undervalue a thing's importance, treat a person disdainfully, or be neglectful in performance of a task or duty (nothing in the service was slighted, every phrase and gesture had its full value—Cather) (I have been slighted, tricked, threatened, insulted, made ill ... but I am justified—H. G. Wells. Forget (compare FORGETFUL) often retains in this relation the implication of losing the memory of something or someone, so that when it implies neglect, it usually carries a suggestion of willful ignoring or of a failure to impress the thing neglected upon one's mind (I shall not be surprised to be neglected and forget—Nelson) (still, he told Hannah to get the boy better clothes—though he forgot to give her any money for the purpose—Deland) (it was—well, until yesterday—all but forgotten—put out of mind, I mean—de la Mare)

Ant cherish —Con *appreciate, value, prize, treasure: *nurse, nurture, foster, cultivate

neglect n 1 *failure, default, miscarriage, dereliction

Ana omitting or omission, disregarding or disregard, ignoring, slighting, forgetting, overlooking (see corresponding verbs at NEGLECT): forgetfulness, obliviousness (see adjectives at FORGETFUL) 2 *negligence

Ana neglecting, omitting or omission, disregarding or disregard, ignoring, slighting, forgetting, overlooking (see corresponding verbs at NEGLECT)

neglectful *negligent, lax, slack, remiss

Ana *careless, heedless, thoughtless

Ant attentive —Con *thoughtful, considerate

negligence, neglect are not always clearly distinguished in use, even though the lines between them may be drawn with some clearness. Negligence stresses the quality or fact of being negligent or careless either as shown in a lack of care in the performance of a task, a duty, or a piece of work or in the operation or handling of a dangerous machine or mechanism which requires effort or close attention (the amazing negligence of some housekeepers) (an act of criminal negligence) (no one has done more through negligence to corrupt the language—Byron) (most of these are involved in accidents through their own negligence—Theodore Sturgeon) or as shown in a temperamental or assumed indifference to small niceties (as in dress, manners, or style) that gives an impression of casualness, artlessness, or lack of artificiality (spoke with conviction, yet with a gentlemanly lightness, almost a negligence, as though to cancel any tone of dogmatism ... in his words—Wouk) (his companion wore well-cut tweeds with a sort of aggressive negligence, as though he hated them—I. A. R. Wylie). Neglect, on the other hand, applies either to the act or fact of leaving undone or carelessly, inadequately, or imperfectly done something which it is one's business or duty to do (convinced of neglect of duty) (we made a nice tidy cleanup ... . If I hadn't done it I ought either to have been shot for neglect or dismissed for incapacity—H. G. Wells) (in dealing with the infant ... there is need of a delicate balance between neglect and indulgence—Russell) or to the state or fact of being neglected, slighted, ignored, or forgotten (rescue my poor remains from vile neglect—Prior) (a motive for reading it ... [that] ensured poetry against neglect—Day Lewis) (destined either to constantly inadequate execution or to complete neglect—Virgil Thomson). For these reasons the phrase 'the negligence of a person' always refers to a quality of character of the person as an agent or to its outward manifestation (as in an act, a piece of work, or an accident) while 'the neglect of a person' refers to the act of another who neglects, slight, ignores, or forgets the person, thereby making the latter his victim.

Ana laxness, slackness, remissness (see corresponding adjectives at NEGLIGENCE): indifference, unconcernedness or unconcern, incuriousness (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENT)

Ant attention: solicitude —Con *care, concern, anxiety, worry: diligence, assiduity, sedulousness (see corresponding adjectives at BUSY)

negligent, neglectful, lax, slack, remiss are comparable when applied to persons, their ways of working or acting,
and the results of their work or activities with the meaning culpably careless or manifesting such carelessness. Negligent implies such culpable inattentiveness as is likely to result in imperfection, incompleteness, slovenliness, or danger or damage to others (his family knew him to be . . . a most negligent and dilatory correspondent—Austen) 

 negociate 1 parley, treat, *confer, commune, consult, negotiate in his poetical style . . . so slovenly, slipshod, and infernicious—Arnold) (a careless workman, negligent of detail—Edith Hamilton) Neglectful is usually more derogatory or censorious than negligent, for it carries a stronger connotation of laziness or deliberate and blameworthy inattention (parents neglectful of their children’s health) (a government at once insatiable and neglectful—Mill) (show no trace of shame, and . . . are utterly neglectful of what we consider the first requirements of decency—Westernmark) 

 Lax (see also loose) implies a usually blameworthy lack of necessary strictness, severity, or precision; the term applies chiefly to persons who do not satisfy the rigorous demands made upon them by their work or duties or to work or an activity performed or carried on without the close attention, constant care, or strict adherence to law or custom that is necessary (a lax parent) (a lax discipline) (a lax morals) (a lax execution of a law) (scandalously lax in restraining drunkards from annoying the sober—Trevelan) (we do not intend to leave things so lax that loopholes will be left for cheats—Roosevelt) 

 Slack (see also loose) stresses the want of proper or necessary diligence and expedition as well as of care; the term usually also implies indolence or sluggishness or indifference (a slack worker) (we keep our wits slack—H. G. Wells) When applied to what is accomplished by a slack worker, the term usually suggests neglect of important details necessary to the completeness, finish, or perfection of the work (see how distant figure of admirable design, though of rather slack execution—Stobart) (a fine nose for what was slack in the play or insufficiently developed—Mailer) 

 Remiss implies culpable carelessness that shows itself in slackness and forgetfulness or in negligence; it is applied chiefly to something lax in performance or maintenance, but it may be applied to a person who is unduly careless or lax in the performance of his duties (remiss housekeeping) (a remiss police officer) (it certainly had been very remiss of him, as Mayor . . . to call no meeting ere this—Hardy) (so remiss did they become in their attentions that we could no longer rely upon their bringing us the daily supply of food—Melville) 

 Ana *careless, heedless, thoughtless, inadvertent: *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious: *slipshod, slovenly 

 Con *rigid, strict, rigorous: *thoughtful, considerate, attentive 

 Negotiate 1 parley, treat, *confer, commune, consult, advise 

 2 Negotiate, arrange, concert are comparable when they mean to bring about or accomplish by mutual agreement especially after discussion or parley. Negotiate and arrange both imply prior exchange of views and wishes and, sometimes, settlement by bargaining or compromise. Negotiate, however, is somewhat more formal and is especially appropriate when the dealings are carried on by diplomatic, business, or legal agencies, while arrange (see also order) may retain some notion of its basic idea of putting in order and is especially applicable to dealings tending to the establishment or restoration of order or to those carried on by private persons or their representatives 

 Negotiate a treaty (arrange a marriage) (negotiate a monetary understanding with the British government—Current Biol.) (arrange the settlement of a case out of court) (a peace with the native chiefs was arranged and the crisis passed—McPherson) Concert implies a planning together and especially a settling upon a joint course of action through conference and negotiation (a conference of Commonwealth finance ministers . . . to discuss the balance-of-payments crisis in the sterling area and to concert action to deal with it—Americana Annual) (within another generation there will be another world war if the nations of the world do not concert the method by which to prevent it—Woodrow Wilson) 

 Neighborhood *locality, district, vicinity 

 Neighboring friendly, *amicable 


 Con unneighborly: ill-disposed—Con antagonistic, *averse 

 Neophyte *novice, novitiate, probationer, postulant, apprentice 

 Neoplasm *tumor, malignancy, cancer 

 Necrophile *anodyne, opiate, narcotic 

 Necrotic *a aquatic, marine, oceanic, thalassic, pelagic, abyssal, lacustrine, fluvial, fluvialite 

 Nerve *effrontery, *temerity, audacity, hardihood, cheek, gall 

 Ana boldness, intrepidity (see corresponding adjectives at Brave): *fortitude, grit, pluck, sand, guts: foolhardiness, recklessness (see corresponding adjectives at Adverse) 

 Nervous 1 *vigorous, lusty, energetic, strenuous 

 Ana forceful, forcible, potent, *powerful: *spirited, mottlesome: virile, manly (see Male) 

 Con *impatient, restless, restive, unquiet, uneasy, fidgety, jump, jurdy 

 Ana excited or excitable, stimulated, provoked or pro vocative (see corresponding verbs at provoke): *inconstant, unstable, mercurial 

 Ant steady—Con constant, even, equable, uniform (see steady) 

 Nettle provoke, exasperate, *irritate, aggravate, rile, peev 

 Ana *annoy, irk, bother, vex: disturb, perturb, agitate, upset, *discompose: fret, chafe, gall (see Abrade) 

 Network *system, scheme, complex, organism, economy 

 Neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst are comparable though not synonymous terms that denote a specialist in mental disorders. A neurologist is a physician skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the nervous system, that is, of diseases (as epilepsy or locomotor ataxia) that involve structural or functional disorder of nervous tissue. Psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist all designate a physician who devotes himself to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the mind or emotions and especially, as distinguished from neurologist, of disorders (as neurasthenia, hysteria, and paranoia) not demonstrably of physical origin. Psychiatrist is the general term, applicable to any such physician, while alienist is the preferred term in medical jurisprudence and may especially suggest skill in detection of mental derangements or of insanity, and psychopathologist may specifically apply to a physician specializing in emotional disorders and dealing largely with the dynamic factors (as defects of personality or unfavorable environment) underlying such disorders. 

 Psychotherapist may be either a physician or a layman (as
neutral adj Neutral, negative, indifferent are comparable when they mean lacking decisiveness or distinctiveness in character, quality, action, or effect. Neutral, in one of its earliest and still common senses, applies to states, governments, parties, or persons who refuse to take sides with either of two or any of several contending parties. The term need not imply an attitude of impartiality, but it usually implies either indecision or a refraining from positive action (his family connections kept him neutral, and the household was never drawn into the war—Buchan) whether it is aimed to win him for the communist or fascist state—Day Lewis <the bucks bridled a little when I came in, and then ignored me. Once the atmosphere had become neutral again, Thompson was willing to talk—Mailer> When otherwise applied (as to colors or terms, or a failure to assume a definite or concrete form <there is some indication that the paradoxical and even mutually negating anecdotes in the history of a human heart can be juxtaposed and annealed by art into verisimilitude and credibility—Faulkner>) Ana offset, countervail, counterbalance, counterpoise (see COMPENSATE): defeat, overcome, subdue, *conquer new adj New, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, modern, modernistic, original, fresh can all mean having very recently come into existence or use or into a connection, a position, or a state (as of being recognized). A thing is new that has never before the time of its advent been known, thought of, manufactured, or experienced, or that is just ready for use, sale, or circulation, or that has just been acquired (new books) (new ideas) (a new washing machine) (no man putteth new wine into old bottles—Mk 2:22) (a new way of dressing her hair) A person is new if he has just been taken into a military, business, social, or other group (a new soldier) (a new stenographer) (three new members) or if he has received his first experience (he was . . . frightened, being new to the sight—Dickens) or if he has been renewed in spirit or in mind or in body (the quiet hills which I am now seeing again, with a new and contented eye—O'Connor) (the hot food made a new man of him) A thing is novel which is not only new but so out of the ordinary course as to strike one as strange, unusual, or unfamiliar (novel forms of government, like those of Russia and Italy—Frankfurter) (novel schemes of salvation—L. P. Smith) (sermons . . . bold in thought and novel in language—Wharton) A thing is new-fashioned which is so different in form, shape, style, or character from what was previously known that it challenges curiosity or has only recently met general acceptance (new-fashioned modes of painting) (new-fashioned hats for women are regarded as absurd by many men) (the type of old-fashioned scholarship) (the type of new-fashioned criticism—S. E. Hayman) A thing is newfangled which strikes one as unnecessarily or as ingeniously novel; often, however, the term differs little from new except in suggesting disparagement (newfangled toys) (newfangled theories of art) (a newfangled nomenclature—Hamilton) quite a modern hostelry for its time. It had such newfangled doodads as mechanical dishwashers and potato peelers

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
—Green Peyton> A person or thing is modern that belongs to the present time or is especially characteristic of it; the term often implies up-to-dateness and novelty or a contrast with what has been long accepted and still is the choice of the conservative: in this special sense modernistic may be preferred to modern, but more often modernistic carries a contumacious suggestion of the ephemeral novel <when I refer to modern music, I do not mean necessarily modernistic music, much of which is a pale afterglow of the great and original modernism of yesteryear—Virgil Thomson> Modern, however, is always preferred to modernistic when contemporaneousness only is implied <in modern art atmosphere counts for so much—Wilde> this strange disease of modern life, with its sick hurry, its divided aims, its heads o‘ertaxed, its palsied hearts—Arnold> But modern is also applicable to things of more remote origin than any of the other terms; as supposedly ancient and medieval it usually implies reference to the centuries beginning with the full Renaissance up to the present <modern languages> modern civilizations> Often, however, the dividing line between what is modern and what is too far distant in time to be called modern has to be supplied by the context <the Victorian era gave way to the modern age of machinery> most modern well-to-do Englishmen and Americans, if they were transported by magic into the age of Elizabeth, would wish themselves back in the modern world—Russell> A person or thing is original that is or produces something new or novel and, at the same time, the first of its kind <that he would be successful in an original way, or that he would go to the dogs in an original way, seemed equally probable—Hardy> they contain no new ideas . . . [he was anything but an original thinker—R. A. Hall> some areas were occupied by savages, in others there were brilliant and original civilizations—Poole> A thing is fresh that is or seems so new that it has not had time to lose the signs of newness, such as liveliness, energy, brightness, or virginal quality <fresh footprints> receive a fresh impetus make a fresh start> this was a new voice falling upon the attentive ears of youth—a fresh challenge to its native and impetuous generosity—Repppler> a great shouting at the coal works because a fresh vein of coal had been discovered—Woolf> Ant

newfangled *new, novel, new-fashioned, modernistic, modern, original, fresh

new-fashioned *new, novel, newfangled, modernistic, modern, original, fresh

news, tidings, intelligence, advice are comparable when they designate a report or the reports of occurrences and conditions not previously known. News stresses novelty and freshness of information the gossip was not news to her> the letter contained no news> wanted to tell her> the letter contained no news> her) <the situation raises a nice question> <it is a nice point in ethics whether it is dishonest to rob one’s own money-box—Lynd> Dainty (see also choice) usually implies a tendency to select carefully what does, or to reject with more or less disdain what does not, satisfy one’s extremely delicate taste or sensibility; it usually connotes chairiness or a tendency to pick and choose, especially in eating I have been silent—the hungry cannot be dainty—but it is useless to tell a pampered man this—M. W. Shelley> <no shape but his can please your dainty eye—Shak> it’s all right to be dainty about money when you’ve lots of it as you have—Behrman> Fastidious implies a strong aversion to something that does not satisfy one’s sense of what is right, proper, or in good taste; it may suggest the possession of ethical, artistic, social, or other standards that are so high that they impose a strain upon those who would meet them <it is . . . an advantage for an author to have two or three fastidious readers whom he can imagine sniffing at his pages—L. P. Smith> he isn’t always easy to work for, being fastidious in his standards and uncompromising in his demands—Wechaburg> or that cause suffering to the possessor when they are not satisfied <the disorder was almost more than his fastidious taste could bear—Cather> or that foster extreme care in selection from what is offered or available <why such a desperate orgy of literature? I thought you were of a more fastidious habit—not like Stanley, who insists on reading everything—Rose Macaulay> he liked people, was . . . not too fastidious to get along with barkeeps and party toughs and sufficiently cultivated to get along with gentlemen—Commager> Finicky and finicking as well as the less common finical imply an affected or overnice fastidiousness <his reserve, to Mrs. Philips were now productive of the most interesting intelligence—Austen> In specific military use intelligence suggests clandestine methods of gathering information (as by secret agents). It is therefore applied not only to the information gathered but to the branch of the service commissioned to gather it <an enemy superior in numbers, who possessed also the advantage in armament, position, and more accurate intelligence—Buchan> In comparison with intelligence, which often suggests the gathering of important information, advice stresses the transmission of information and implies the immediacy of its value. It, or its plural advices, is often applied to the means (as letters, telegrams, or messengers) by which this information is communicated <no doubt he had advices that Casale was sufficiently provisioned to last for many months, perhaps a year—Belloc> beginning their advices with the revelation that a rich potential for future prosperity and happiness had been discovered in atomic energy—Burlingame> newspaper *journal, periodical, magazine, review, organ

next *nearest

nib *bill, beak, neb

nice 1 Nice, dainty, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical, particular, fussy, squeamish, persnickety, persnicketty can all mean exacting or displaying exacting standards (as in selection, judgment, or workmanship). Nice (see also correct, decorous) implies fineness of discrimination and power to distinguish the very good from the merely good; the term may connote more of intellectual quality than the other words can appetite for knowledge <can’t be nice—Johnson> he had a nice taste in literature and had edited Crashaw with conspicuous taste and much perception—Mackenzie> Nice is also applicable to questions or problems which require such powers of discrimination and subtlety or delicacy in handling if the solution is to be found <a nice experiment> <the situation raises a nice question> <it is a nice point in ethics whether it is dishonest to rob one’s own money-box—Lynd> Dainty (see also choice) usually implies a tendency to select carefully what does, or to reject with more or less disdain what does not, satisfy one’s extremely delicate taste or sensibility; it usually connotes chairiness or a tendency to pick and choose, especially in eating I have been silent—the hungry cannot be dainty—but it is useless to tell a pampered man this—M. W. Shelley> <no shape but his can please your dainty eye—Shak> it’s all right to be dainty about money when you’ve lots of it as you have—Behrman> Fastidious implies a strong aversion to something that does not satisfy one’s sense of what is right, proper, or in good taste; it may suggest the possession of ethical, artistic, social, or other standards that are so high that they impose a strain upon those who would meet them <it is . . . an advantage for an author to have two or three fastidious readers whom he can imagine sniffing at his pages—L. P. Smith> he isn’t always easy to work for, being fastidious in his standards and uncompromising in his demands—Wechaburg> or that cause suffering to the possessor when they are not satisfied <the disorder was almost more than his fastidious taste could bear—Cather> or that foster extreme care in selection from what is offered or available <why such a desperate orgy of literature? I thought you were of a more fastidious habit—not like Stanley, who insists on reading everything—Rose Macaulay> he liked people, was . . . not too fastidious to get along with barkeeps and party toughs and sufficiently cultivated to get along with gentlemen—Commager> Finicky and finicking as well as the less common finical imply an affected or overnice fastidiousness <his reserve,
his delicacy, his distaste for many of the persons and things surrounding him... have produced an impression of Gray as being a man falsely fastidious, finical, effeminate—Arnold)—his voice is too soft, his manners too precise. He is genial, yet he is finicky—Mailer)—finicking fishermen demand almost as many rods as there are varieties of fish—Monsanto Mag.) Particular implies an insistence that all details or circumstances must be exactly as one wishes them or that one's special or peculiar standards must be met. In contrast with fastidious, particular need not imply what others would call a high standard; the term usually suggests standards which the individual regards as high or exacting (she is particular about the way steak should be broiled)—every year it used to get a nice coat of paint—Papa was very particular about the paint—Hellman)—when it came to sharing his walks, Henry was rather particular. Alcott served for a stroll, but the real art of walking was beyond him—Brooks)—as she approached, George Adams, who had a particular mother, rose, and Niel followed his example—Cather) Fussy is applicable not only to fastidious or particular persons and acts that manifest a disposition to be querulous or fidgety (she was not one of the trivially fussy domesticated women—Ellis)—men who are finicky and a bundle of nerves. Fussy about their food, too—Christie)—in this matter Augustus moved slowly and tactfully. He was no lawyer, and he had not the fussy interest of Claudius in the work of the courts—Buchan)—indenting each paragraph half the width of a page, in a fussy, old-maidish sort of way—Robert Lewis)—but also to things that are especially difficult or complicated (he looked like a natural for the fussy bookkeeping routine of an orderly room—Binney)—a fussy piece of work) Squeamish implies a tendency to be easily nauseated by the sight, taste, smell, or hearing of something disagreeable (the starved stomach is not squeamish—Hudson)—the increase in body size may have been an important factor in releasing the early primaries from their nightly or twilight feeding habits, by allowing them better to hold their own against aggressors—LaBarre)—but nightly is the one of these terms that usually carries a strong implication of recurrence and is especially appropriate to convey the idea of happening night after night (there is only one novel this writer can recall which delves beneath the surface of the daily and nightly life and death of a great and influential newspaper—Harrison Smith)—Nocturnal, opposed to diurnal, is often interchangeable with nightly, especially in its more general sense (the squares of light along the fifteenth story testified until midnight of their nocturnal industry—Auchincloss)—the changing beauty of nocturnal landscapes—Bennett)—but distinctively it may mean active at night (shopping, working, theatergoing, and arguing hours in Barcelona never cease to amaze visitors from less nocturnal countries. Some shops stay open until well after midnight, and then are closed until the next noon—Wechsb erg)—the eyes of most fish are adapted to the conditions of dim illumination associated with nocturnal feeding—Dowdeswell)—Night in much of its use is interchangeable with nocturnal and may be preferred to the latter when a less formal term is required (night noises) (the night train) (a night ape)—Distinctively, the term is used to describe persons who work at night (a night nurse) (ask the night clerk) and things that occur or are intended for use at night (night baseball) (a bank with a night depository)—Daily nighttime dream, vision, *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, phantasm, daydream—Ana) *delusion, hallucination, illusion: threatening or threat, menacing or menace (see corresponding verbs at Threaten)—Nimble *agile, brisk, spry—Ana) sprightly, *lively, animated: alert, wide-awake, vigilant, *watchful: *supple, limber, lithe—Nievb) blast, blight—Ana) check, *arrest: squeeze, *press: *frustrate, thwart, balk—Nieb n blast, blight (see under Blast vb)—Ana) arresting, checking (see Arrest vb) freezing (see corresponding adjectives at Cold)—Nobility *aristocracy, gentry, county, elite, society—Ana) 1 stately, majestic, imposing, august, magnificent, *grand, grandiose—Ana) glorious, *splendid, resplendent, superb, sublime: illustrious, eminent (see Famous)—Ant ignoble: cheap—Con) despicable, *contemptible, sorry, scurvy, beggarly—2 virtuous, righteous, *moral, ethical
notice

2 *remark, observation, comment, commentary, obiter dictum

Ana annotation, gloss (see under annotate): remembering, reminding or reminding, recalling (see corresponding verbs at remember)

3 *letter, epistle, missive, message, dispatch, report, memorandum

noteworthy, notable, memorable mean having some quality that attracts one's attention. Noteworthy implies a quality and often a degree of excellence in a person or thing that justifies observation or remark (enough to make a philosopher noteworthy . . . not enough to make him great—Arnold) {the appearance of a book which formulates a distinct philosophy of life is a rare and noteworthy event—Cohen} Notable too stresses the power of a person or thing to attract attention, but often it distinctively connotes such a special feature as an excellence, a virtue, a value, or a significance that gives rise to its being noted or remembered {the clock kept time with notable accuracy and pertinacity—New Yorker} {it is a symbol of the abnormality of our days that it should be notable when anyone dares stand up and criticize what is happening in America—Bliven b. 1889} {Elizabethan and Jacobean poetry . . . had this and that notable quality, but, when we wish to admit that it had defects, it is rhetorical—T. S. Eliot} Memorable stresses the capacity in a person or thing not only of attracting attention but of being worthy to be remembered; it sometimes implies a personal reason for remembrance {a girl with long black hair and a memorable figure—Gibbs} {for the irrepressible Lyovochka this first venture into the great world beyond the towered gates was a memorable event—Simmons} {this extravagant temperament endeared him and his work to the public, and it let him write and draw with memorable vividness—Devoe} {his very occasional compliments, steeped in vinegar though they always were, seem more memorable than those of others—Osbert Sitwell}

Ana *noticeable, remarkable, prominent, conspicuous: patent, manifest, *evident

notice vb remark, observe, note, perceive, discern, *see, behold, descry, espys, view, survey, contemplate

Ana recognize, *acknowledge: refer, advert, allude

Con ignore, slight, overlook, disregard, *neglect

noticeable, remarkable, prominent, outstanding, conspicuous, salient, signal, striking, arresting can all mean attracting or compelling notice or attention. Noticeable implies that the thing so described is unlikely to escape observation {a noticeable aversion to his company} {so slight a movement it was barely noticeable—a tiny pushing forward of the hand—Dahl} Remarkable adds to noticeable the further implication of inviting comment or of demanding a call to others' attention; it commonly imputes to the thing so described an extraordinary or exceptional character {he has a remarkable gift for making friends} {far too much has been written and said about ghosts and ghouls . . . . They're remarkable enough, but have you ever realized that things that are remarkable are by definition rare?—Theodore Sturgeon} Prominent seldom loses its basic implication of protuberance or projection above a level or beyond a surface; it is applied appropriately to things that noticeably protrude from their background {a prominent nose} {fleecy gleams . . . served to render sufficiently distinct the more prominent objects around—Poe} In extended use it is applied to persons or things that stand out so clearly from their surroundings that they are often in evidence, are generally known or recognized, or are frequently pointed out; in such use it typically attributes superiority or importance to what it describes {the church occupies a prominent position in the community} {the second prominent fault in our reading and thinking is that we have not learned to fix our attention discriminately—Mott} {with regard to ill fortune . . . fate is given the most prominent part—Linton} Outstanding, although it implies prominence, is applicable only to what rises above or beyond others of the same kind and is remarkable by comparison with them {a stories of outstanding legislators who had to resign simply because they couldn't afford to serve any longer—Armbister} Conspicuous is applicable chiefly to what is so obvious or patent that the eye or the mind cannot miss it {conspicuous merit} {conspicuous bravery} {there was also some Yankee shrewdness here, for to be conspicuous—to be a hero—might entail some untoward financial responsibilities—Cheever} It is also used to describe what strikes the eye or the mind, often unpleasantly, through its singularity {wear conspicuous clothes} {made himself conspicuous by his affectation} {his signature are conspicuous by their absence} {against spending money for cement sidewalks, which he considered conspicuous waste—E. W. Smith} Salient stresses emphatic quality and is applied to what demands the attention or impresses itself insistently upon the mind; it impinges significance more often than obtrusiveness to the thing so described {there are days rich in salient news and days far rich from it—Montague} {pick the salient details out of dull verbiage—Marquand} Signal suggests such distinction from what is ordinary or usual that the thing so described is in itself remarkable or memorable {a signal mark of esteem} {such an appointment is a signal distinction though its value is mainly honorific—Manoukian} {Emily Dickinson is a signal illustration of this assertion. The imagination of this spinner . . . was constantly aware that the universe surrounded every detail of life—Thornton Wilder} Striking is applicable to what impresses itself powerfully and deeply upon the observer's mind or vision {one easily remembers the striking scenes in a play} {give a striking example of loyalty} {a woman of striking beauty} {one of the most striking and fearful figures in our early fiction—Parrington} Arresting adds to striking the suggestion of capturing attention or of being of more than passing interest {an arresting personality} {an arresting story} {the slight, steel-colored figure with steel-colored hair, was more arresting in its immobility than all the vociferations and gestures of the mob—Galsworthy}

Ana *evident, manifest, obvious, palpable, patent

notify apprise, advise, acquaint, *inform

Ana announce, *declare, proclaim, publish, promulgate, broadcast: *oral, divulge, tell

notion *idea, concept, conception, thought, impression, tell

notoriety reputation, repute, éclat, *fame, celebrity, renown, honor, glory

Ana *publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda

notwithstanding, in spite of, despite are often interchangeable prepositions. Notwithstanding, the least emphatic, merely implies the presence of an obstacle; in spite of, the most emphatic, suggests active opposition or strongly adverse considerations to be encountered; despite is somewhat lighter in its emphasis than in spite of and otherwise is closer to notwithstanding than to in spite of {notwithstanding the rain, I shall go} {I shall go in spite of all your efforts to prevent me} {despite his assurances, I doubted him}

nourish *feed, pasture, graze

Ana *nurse, nurture, foster, cultivate

nourishment nutriment, sustenance, *food, aliment, pub-
noxious *baneful, *pernicious, deleterious, detrimental

novitiate *novice, novice, Apprentice, probationer, postulant, neophyte are comparable when applied to one who is a beginner, especially in a trade, a profession, a career, or a sphere of life. Novice and the less common novitiate may be applied to anyone who comes under this description, since inexperience is their chief distinguishing implication (a novice in writing) a novice in mountain climbing had better not start with Mount Everest—Guérard (acquaint the novice with the manuscripts about which the experts talk—Monaghan) (show the Communist novitiate as a being human with idealistic impulses—Daniel Bell) (novitates to the druidic priesthood required twenty years' training in the mysteries—C. W. Ferguson) Novice is specifically applied to a new member of a religious order who is undergoing training before taking first and usually not the final vows. Apprentice is applicable to a beginner who is serving under another as his master or teacher a graduate assistant would begin as an apprentice to a full-time staff member—H. R. Bowen (the breathless, the frustrating adoration of a young apprentice in the atelier of some great master of the Renaissance—Brooks) In such applications it emphasizes subjection to supervision and discipline rather than inexperience. It often denotes a young person who is starting his working career as a beginner at a skilled trade under an arrangement involving both work and on-the-job tuition and often a planned schedule of supplementary study or applies to an enlisted man in the United States Navy (usually called in full apprentice seaman) who is receiving instruction in seamanship, gunnery, and the rudiments of a general education. Probationer designates a beginner who is on trial for a period of time and must prove his aptitude for the work or life the young ones who are seeking recognition and establishment—the graduate students and the instructors—in general, the probationers in the field—R. M. Weaver (the brevity and vanity of this life, in which we are but probationers—Richardson) Postulant implies candidacy for admission (as into a religious order); it may also imply acceptance for a period of probation the Essenes had books of their own which the postulant for admission to their sect had to swear to preserve—Jeffery (words . . . often answering to calls too subtle for analysis, are constantly presenting themselves as postulants for recognition—Fitzedward Hall) Neophyte usually suggests initiation, and is applicable to one who is learning the ways, methods, or principles of something (as an art, a science, a society, a club, or a religious faith) with which he is newly connected such an encounter usually perplexes the neophyte at first—M. C. Cooke) It often carries connotations of innocence and youthful eagerness derived from its association with a newly baptized person or convert to Christianity the old philosopher of Monticello was more than pleased with this ardent neophyte . . . Not since his own years abroad had Jefferson seen such an eager student—Brooks

AnA *support, keep, maintenance, sustenance, *living

novice *novice, apprentice, probationer, postulant, neophyte

noxious baneful, *pernicious, deleterious, detrimental

Ana *injurious, hurtful, harmful (see corresponding nouns at INJURY) poisonous, virulent, venomous, toxic, pes-
number

567

nutriment

fears and excitements—Dahl} {they sulkily avoid his eye, and nurse their wrath in silence—Shaw} Nurture stresses the rearing and training, and so the determination of the course the person, or by extension the thing, will follow {by solemn vision, and bright silver dream, his fears and excitements—Dahl} (they sulkily avoid his eye, and nurse their wrath in silence—Shaw) Nurture stresses the rearing and training, and so the determination of the course the person, or by extension the thing, will follow {by solemn vision, and bright silver dream, his fears and excitements—Dahl} (they sulkily avoid his eye, and nurse their wrath in silence—Shaw) Nurture stresses the rearing and training, and so the determination of the course the person, or by extension the thing, will follow {by solemn vision, and bright silver dream, his fears and excitements—Dahl} (they sulkily avoid his eye, and nurse their wrath in silence—Shaw) Nurture stresses the rearing and training, and so the determination of the course the person, or by extension the thing, will follow {by solemn vision, and bright silver dream, his fears and excitements—Dahl} (they sulkily avoid his eye, and nurse their wrath in silence—Shaw) Nurture stresses the rearing and training, and so the determination of the course the person, or by extension the thing, will follow
obdurate inexorable, *inflexible, adamant, adamantine
Ana *hardened, indurated, callous: *obstinate, stubborn, mulish, stiff-necked: *immovable, immobile
Con *tender, compassionate: yielding, submitting, succumbing, relenting (see yield)

obedient, docile, tractable, amenable, biddable mean submissive to the will, guidance, or control of another. Though applied chiefly to persons, they are sometimes extended to things. Obedient implies due compliance with the commands or requests of a person or power whose authority one recognizes or accepts < obedient to the law> <he seemed to have lost all power of will; he was like an obedient child —Maugham> When applied to things it implies compulsion by a superior force or movement in accordance with natural law <tides obedient to the moon> <and floating straight, obedient to the stream, was carried towards Corinth—Shak> <faces of others seem like stars obedient to symmetrical laws—S spender> Docile implies a responsiveness to teaching, but it stresses either a predisposition to submit to guidance or control or an indisposition to resist impositions or to rebel against authority <that is a question which you must excuse my child from answering. Not, sir, from want of will, for she is docile and obedient—Hudson> <whatever doctrine is best calculated to make the common people docile wage slaves—Shaw> <she is a gentle, docile person .... I think she can be molded into exactly what you would wish her to be—Gibbons> Tractable, which is nearly as often applied to things as to persons and animals, suggests success or ease in handling or managing <one of the most tractable liquid propellants is gasoline—Space Handbook> Unlike docile, which in many ways it closely resembles, it seldom when applied to persons or animals implies a submissive temperament; thus, a docile child is always tractable, but a strong-willed child may prove tractable when he is wisely guided <kept warning him that it really was pneumonia, and that if he wouldn't be tractable he might not get over—Day> <a wave of rebelliousness ran through the countryside. Bulls which had always been tractable suddenly turned savage—George Orwell> Ame nable stresses a temperamental willingness or readiness to submit, not so much in the spirit of obedience as because of a desire to be agreeable or because of a natural openness of mind <well, Joan had a broad brow; she thought things over; she was amenable to ideas—H. G. Wells> <one cannot say that Sean was amenable, but he was pliable, and more than that a wife does not need—Maurice Walsh> <the question they ask is, would he be amenable—would he play ball with the Regulars—New Republic> Biddable, a more homely word than docile, is used chiefly of children <well-behaved children, biddable, meek, neat about their clothes, and always mindful of the proprieties—Cather> <so used to being biddable that words and wishes said and shown by older folks were still like orders to her—Guthrie>

Ana *compliant, acquiescent, resigned: submissive, subdued, tamed: deferential, obedient (see corresponding nouns at honor)

Ant disobedient: contumacious —Con *insubordinate, rebellious: *contrary, perverse, froward, wayward: recalcitrant, refractory, intractable. *unruly, un gov er nable

obeisance deference, homage, *honor, reverence

Ana allegiance, fealty, loyalty, *fidelity: respect, esteem, *regard: veneration, reverence (see under reverse)

obese corpulent, rotund, chubby, *fleshy, fat, stout, portly, plump

Ant scrawny —Con *lean, spare, angular, rawboned, lank, lanky, gaunt, skinny: *thin, slender, slim, slight

obey, comply, mind are comparable when they mean to follow the wish, direction, or command of another. Obey is the general term and implies ready or submissive yielding to the authority of another (as by the performance of his command or bidding) or subjection to a higher principle or to the agency, force, or impulse by which it is actuated <honor and obey your father and mother> <the fiercest rebel against society ... obeys most of its conventions—Muller> <in the feudal regime, disobedience to an order was treason—or even hesitation to obey—Henry Adams> <he marks how well the ship her helm obeys—Byron> <a wholesome and strenuous effort to obey at all costs the call of what was felt as "truth"—Ellis> Comply, often with with, usually carries a stronger suggestion than obey of giving in to or yielding to a person's desires or expressed requests, the rules of an organization, the requirements of a law, or the conditions of one's environment <she complied with them in order to get the instruction, but her own inner fancies broke through—Dodd> It therefore often comes close to conform and accommodate and tends to imply complaisance, dependence, or lack of a strong opinion <if he offered her any more sherry she would not be able to refuse, since all her instinct at this moment was to comply—West> <the rich woman can terrorize the poor woman by threatening to go to law with her if her demands are not complied with—Shaw> <on being invited by the brute to go outside, what could Gerald do but comply?—Bennett> Mind, though often used in the sense of obey, especially in reference to children <mind your mother, Bobby> in a weaker sense carries the implication of heeding or attending to an expressed wish, demand, or command in order that one may comply with it <now mind, mother, not a word about Uncle Richard yet—Lytton> <but if your reverence minds what my wife says, you won't go wrong—Macdonald>

Ana submit, *yield, defer, bow, succumb: accede, acquiesce, subscribe, agree, *assent

Ant command, order

obfuscate *obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog

Ana *confuse, muddle, befuddle, fuddle, addle: stupify, bemuse, *daze: perplex, mystify, bewilder, *puzzle

obiter dictum *remark, observation, comment, commentary, note

object n 1 thing, article

Ana *affair, concern, matter, thing: *form, figure, shape, configuration

2 objective, goal, end, aim, design, purpose, *intention, intent

Ana *motive, incentive, inducement

Con result, *effect, consequence

object vb Object, protest, remonstrate, expostulate, kick mean to oppose something (as a course, a procedure, a policy, or a project) especially by making known one's arguments against it. Object carries so strong an implication of dislike or aversion that it often is lacking in a clear or definite implication of vocal or other outward opposition, though frequently such a reaction is suggested <why do you always object to everything he wishes to do for you> <there's nothing wrong with being painted in the
nude; artists do it all the time. But our silly husbands have a way of objecting to that sort of thing—Dahl
Protest (see also assert 1) implies strong opposition and usually the presentation of objections in speech or in writing against the thing to which one objects <the residents of the district unanimously protested against the granting of the license> <swearing and protesting against every delay in the work—Anderson> <she marched with the pickets, protesting atmospheric testing—Kleiner>
Remonstrate implies protestation but it carries so much stronger an implication of an attempt to convince or persuade than protest carries that it is especially appropriate when the objection is to something being done by a child, a friend, or a relative, rather than by an official or an impersonal agent, or when reproof is also implied <now and then a well-meaning friend of Sir Austin’s ventured to remonstrate on the dangerous trial he was making in modelling any new plan of education for a youth—Meredith> <“Father Joseph,” he remonstrated, “you will never be able to take all these things back to Denver”—Cather>
Expostulate differs little from remonstrate, but it usually carries a heightened implication of firmness, earnest, but friendly reason or insistence on the merits of one’s arguments <the priestly brotherhood . . . prompt to persuade, expostulate, and warn—Cowper> <lost his temper when reporters at his press conference expostulated against playing favorites—New Republic>
Kick implies strenuous protestation and, usually, an exhibition of recalcitrancy or defiance <wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering—1 Sam 2:29> <when the tax rate was raised for the fourth successive year, everybody kicked> <I kicked at that and said that Asquith might be limited but he was honest—Laski>

Analogous words: analogous words
Ant analogues: analogous words
Con contrasts: contrasts

oblige obligation 1 Obligation, duty are comparable when they objectify adj material, physical, corporeal, phenomenal, sensible

oblige 2 Oblige, accommodate, favor mean to do a service or courtesy. To oblige a person is to make him indebted by doing something that is pleasing to him <Punch was always anxious to oblige everybody—Kipling> <most hotels . . . will oblige if on a particular occasion you wish your meal served at a special time—Roetter>

2 *debt, indebtedness, liability, debit, arrear

Analogous words: analogues
Ant analogues: analogous words

obliterate vb 1 Obligation, duty are comparable when they objectify adj material, physical, corporeal, phenomenal, sensible

obliterate 2 impartial, unbiased, dispassionate, uncolored, *fair, just, equitable

Analogous words: analogues
Ant analogues: analogous words

obliviou oblivious
**obscure**

considerate: alert, vigilant, *watchful

**obloquy** 1 *abuse, vituperation, invective, scurrility, billingsgate

*Ana* censuring or censure, condemning or denunciation, denouncing or denunciation, criticizing or criticism (see corresponding verbs at Criticize): calumnly, *destruction, backbiting, slander, scandal

2 *disgrace, dishonor, disrepute, shame, infamy, ignominy, opprobrium, odium

*Ana* *stigma, brand, blot, stain: humiliation, humbling, degradation (see corresponding verbs at Abase)

**obnoxious** distasteful, invidious, abhorrent, *repugnant, repellent

*Ana* *hateful, odious, detestable, abominable: offensive, loathsome, repulsive, revolting

Ant grateful

**obscene** gross, vulgar, ribald, *coarse


Ant decent

**obscureantist** n Obscurantist, philistine, barbarian denote one inaccessible or opposed to enlightenment. An obscurantist is one who is precluded (as by prejudice, tradition, ignorance or bigotry) from intellectual candor and open-minded inquiry and who is opposed to the introduction of new and enlightened ideas and methods (from this class of obscurantists) who had hitherto resisted all Western innovations there now came young leaders eager to emulate Japan—*Peace Handbooks* (if liberals have not always recognized this, their opponents—obscurantists, authoritarianists, and enemies of enlightenment and scientific method—have amply done so—Cohen) (as soon as one begins to hint that the strain of wickedness in the human race . . . is still with us, he is called an obscurantist and is disqualified from further public hearing—R. M. Weaver)

A philistine is one whose attention is centered on material or worldly things, and is indifferent or blind to whatever makes an appeal only to the mind or soul. The term usually implies obtuseness and insensitiveness (it is only the Philistine who seeks to estimate a personality by the vulgar test of production—Wilde) (the Philistine wants to talk about morals, not to understand what is morally wrong—Farrell) Barbarian seldom wholly loses the notion of incompletely civilized that so strongly characterizes the adjective barbarian. As a result the term may be applied aptly to one whose cultural deficiency suggests that befitting a lower or more remote stage of civilization (teachers of freshman composition and mathematics search in vain for even an awareness of the recurring problem of each year's new invasion by lovable but illiterate barbarians who have to be taught the elements of grammar and arithmetic—Gideons) (have him take his meals in the dining room . . . let him sit with me, or he'll grow up a barbarian, with no manners—Deland)

**obscure** adj 1 murky, gloomy, *dark, dim, dusky

*Ana* shady, shadowy, unobtrusive (see corresponding nouns at shade)

*Con* *clear, lucid: bright, brilliant, luminous

2 *Obscure, dark, vague, enigmatic, cryptic, ambiguous, equivocal* are applied to language or expression (or less often to causes, motives, or thoughts) with the meaning not sufficiently intelligible or clearly understood. Something is obscure the true meaning of which is hidden or veiled, because of some fault or defect either in the thing itself or in the person trying to understand it (that decorum and orderliness without which all written speech must be indiscernible and obscure—Ellis) (this sordid, often obscure book, without visible motive or meaning—Purdy) (the mere text of the play will often look scrappy and disjointed and obscure to a reader who does not bring to it the special theatrical imagination—Montague) Something is *dark* which is imperfectly revealed and therefore mysterious (I will utter dark sayings—Ps 78:2) *dark hints of revenge—* ("Poison!") he whispered. But he pronounced it pye-za, making it into a soft, dark, dangerous word—Dahl) Something is *vague* which is lacking in distinct outlines or in clear definition, either because it is too general or because it is so imperfectly conceived or thought out that it is incapable of clear formulation (managed to gain from Judith a vague half-promise that she would be ready as suggested—Gibbons) (we shall never gain power from vague discourse about unknown or unassimilated facts—Grandgent) Something is *enigmatic* which puzzles, mystifies, and, often, baffles one seeking its true meaning or significance (the enigmatic announcement was an appropriate addition to the tangled story of this country's oddest piece of real estate—Thuelsen) (here Shaw's stage direction . . . has the additional advantage of being so enigmatic that even the reader cannot understand it without aid from other Shaw sources—Nethercot) (puzzling out the threats, the enigmatic promises, of a story—Paterson) Something is cryptic which is stated or expressed darkly or enigmatically: the word often implies a definite intention to perplex or to challenge (you had to intercede, with your cryptic innuendoes and mysterious head-waggings—S. S. Van Dine) (gave cryptic indications of his doubts but prudently refrained from open statements of them—Davies) Something is *ambiguous* which admits of more than one interpretation, largely because of the use of words having a dual or multiple meaning without giving an indication of which sense is intended (the title of this chapter is ambiguous. It promises a discussion of the end of the world, but it does not say which end—Eddington) (we are here not far from the ambiguous doctrine that art is "expression," for "expression" may be too easily confused with "communication"—Ellis) Something is *equivocal* which permits a wrong or false impression, thereby admitting uncertainty and confusion or fostering error. As applied to use of words, equivocal is distinguishable from ambiguous in that it may suggest intent to deceive or evade (nor could he find much pleasure in the subtle, devious, and equivocal utterances of Solomon—Omni) (veil the matter with uncertainties capable of more equivocal meaning—H. O. Taylor) In extended use equivocal is applied to something such as an act or a mode of life that admits of two possible or plausible interpretations, one of which may be harmful or discreditable (equivocal conduct) (an equivocal gesture) *Ana* abstruse, *recondite, occult, esoteric: difficult, *hard: complicated, intricate, involved (see complex): mysterious, inscrutable

*Ant* distinct, obvious: celebrated (as a person) —Con *clear, perspicuous, lucid: evident, manifest, obvious: express, *explicit, definite

**obscure** vb Obscure, dim, bedim, darken, eclipse, cloud, becloud, fog, befog, obfuscate all mean to make dark, indistinct, or confused. Of these terms obscure, dim, bedim, and darken all suggest the effect obtained by the lessening or the removal of illumination—the making of an object difficult to see clearly or the weakening or impairing of the ability to see with the eye or the mind. Obscure stresses the indistinctness, often concealment, of the object or idea or the unclearness of the vision or the comprehension (there are readers of papers who . . . like the ordinary, average, vague, undecipherable things, they do not want to have its nature denied or obscured—Montague) (the faded yellow building, its original

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
austerity of line somewhat obscured by a comfortable porch—Amer. Guide Series: Vt. Dim and bedim stress the diminishing of light or of clarity, intensity, or luster or the consequent diminishing of capacity to see, distinguish, or comprehend <celestial tears bedimmed her large blue eyes—Byron> (the old patriotic glow began to dim its ineffectual fires—H. M. Jones) Darken, although like dim and bedim suggesting a diminishing of illumination, is much richer metaphorically in suggesting strongly the alteration of an object or the impairment of clear or normal vision or mental comprehension by reason of confusion, ignorance, or evil <the yearly migrations of passenger pigeons . . . literally darkening the sky—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.> (his intellect was indeed darkened by many superstitions and prejudices—Macaulay) <evils enough to darken all his goodness—Shak.> Eclipse may stand alone in suggesting the effect of an actual astronomical eclipse, the partial or total darkening or concealment of one object by another and, hence, the overshadowing or supplanting of one object by another (in the English field, Anglo-Saxon never eclipsed the study of Shakespeare or Milton—Guérard) Cloud, becloud, fog, befog, and obfuscate all suggest the obstruction or impairment of vision by clouds, fog, or vapor or, in extended use, the making of the mental perception or object of that perception murky or confused. Cloud and becloud stress the obscuring of the object, or the murky view of the object, becloud being somewhat more literary than cloud (the beginnings of our physical universe are necessarily beclouded in the swirling mists of countless ages past—F. L. Whipple) (smoke clouding the prospect before us) (the actual issues clouded by prejudice and politics) (reasoning clouded by hysteria) Fog and befog are applied possibly more frequently than cloud and becloud to matters of the understanding or mental comprehension and usually suggest a greater obstruction or impairment of clear vision of eye and mind and, so, a greater and more unnecessary indistinctness, illogicality, or confusion; fog, however, occurs freely in both the basic sense and extended or metaphorical use while befog is uncommon in literal application (their breaths fogged the windshield—Hunter) (a time of . . . pressure for him and, if his memory fogged slightly, he was not alone—S. L. A. Marshall) (questions of . . . shaking hands or not befog many people—Miall) (the willfully created misunderstandings that so often befog the American political scene—Sandburg) Obfuscate, a somewhat pompous word, suggests strongly an avoidable, often willful, obscuring of an object or confusing of the mind by darkening or illogicality (the process, not of enlightening, but of obfuscating the mind—Thoreau) Ana *hide, conceal, screen: *disguise, cloak, mask, camouflage: *misrepresent, belie, falsify Ant illuminate, illumine obsequious *subservient, servile, slavish, menial Ana deferential, obedient (see corresponding nouns at HONOR): *compliant, acquiescent: sycophantic, parasitic, toadyish (see corresponding nouns at PARASITE): cringing, fawning, truckling, cowering (see FAWN vb) Ant contumelious observation *remark, comment, commentary, note, obiter dictum Ana *opinion, view, belief: annotation, gloss (see under ANNOTATE): *criticism, critique Ant obfuscate 1 *keep, celebrate, solemnize, commemorate Ana respect, esteem, regard (see under REGARD n): *revere, reverence, venerate Ant violate —Con *neglect, ignore, overlook, disregard, slight 2 survey, view, contemplate, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern, *see, behold, descry, esp'y Ana *scrutinize, examine, scan, inspect observer *spectator, beholder, looker-on, onlooker, witness, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer obsolete *old, antiquated, archaic, antique, ancient, venerable, antediluvian Ant current obstacle, obstruction, impediment, bar, snag denote something which seriously hampers action or progress. Obstacle, which is used of both material and immaterial things, applies to an object, condition, or situation which stands in one's way and must be removed or surmounted if one is to progress or attain one's ends <love seats especially constructed for ardent couples who find such devices as armrests an obstacle to affectionate hips and hands—Green Peyton> (they smash themselves against the obstacles of circumstance—Cloote) (as to other social advancement, his record was an obstacle—S. H. Adams) Obstruction may be used of immaterial things, but such use is often obviously figurative, for the word suggests a blocking of a way or passage (an intestinal obstruction) (any phrase repeated too often becomes an obstruction to the flow of thought and feeling. It forms a clot—Brothers) (a very much denser obstruction is in the process of being erected now by literary critics—Day Lewis) Impediment is applied to something material or immaterial which serves to hinder or delay action or progress until one is freed from it (the refugee's limited knowledge of English was for a long time an impediment to his progress in his profession) (I have made my way through more impediments than twenty times your stop—Shak.) (legal restriction is a less effective impediment than the general sentiment that respectable people do not discuss birth control—Petersen) Bar applies to something interposed, whether by nature or by man, which serves to prevent admission or escape as effectually as the bars of a cage or prison (long sentences are a bar to easy reading—Mott) Sometimes the word carries a strong suggestion of prohibition, especially when it applies to a law or condition that restrains (under the immigration laws, a criminal record, an infectious disease, and illiteracy are bars to admission to the United States) (he found his infirmity no bar to his success in his profession) (must I new bars to my own joy create?—Dryden) Snap, from its application to a stump of a tree with jagged points which lies hidden under water and proves a hazard to boats, is extended to an obstacle or impediment which is hidden from view and which one encounters suddenly and unexpectedly (might run into a snag) on the question of whether federal aid should be extended—W. H. Lawrence> Sometimes snap suggests a mere temporary impediment (after an early snap . . . he was able to proceed with his work—The Irish Digest) Ana barrier, *bar: hindering or hindrance, blocking or block (see corresponding verbs at HINDER) obstinate, dogged, stubborn, pertinacious, mulish, stiff-necked, pigheaded, bullheaded are comparable when they mean fixed or unyielding by temperament or nature. Obstinate implies persistent adherence, especially against persuasion or attack, to an opinion, purpose, or course; when applied to persons or to their ideas or behavior the term often suggests unreasonableess or perversity rather than steadfastness (they will not be resolute and firm, but perverse and obstinate—Burke) (so yielding doubtful points that he can be firm without seeming obstinate in essential ones—J. R. Lowell) (>she was—is—a damned obstinate old girl, and the more he swore it was Elsie, the more she swore it was Deacon—Sayers) <unfortunately
grammar is the subject that of all others arouses the most obstinate propensities in the human mind—Richards
Dogged adds the implication of downright and tenacious, sometimes sullen, persistence; usually, also, it connotes great determination or an unwavering purpose (dogged veracity) (dogged perseverance) (men whose hearts insist upon a dogged fidelity to some image or cause—Hardy) (his mother’s influence was to make him quietly determined, patient, dogged, unwarried—D. H. Lawrence) (he had a hard personality in those days... dogged, not altogether fair—Mailer) Stubborn is often used interchangeably with obstinate and dogged, for it implies the unyielding adherence of the one and the tenacious determination of the other; more strongly than either of them, however, it carries an implication of a native fixedness of character or of a deeply rooted quality that makes a person sturdy resistant to attempts to change his purpose, course, or opinion, or that makes a thing highly intractable to those who would work it, treat it, or manipulate it (there is something stubborn in him that makes him follow his own path even though he isn’t certain where it goes—Malcolm Cowley) (Paddy and his old mare are teamed up... man and beast joined against stubborn nature—A. F. Wolfe) (it was all but impossible for the carpenter headstrong, willful, recalcitrant, unruly: obdurate, Ana stubborn up by pigheaded impenetrability to argument and bullheaded, headstrong however, often suggests of severe reproach; (he was formidably upright and his originality lay not in any purely speculative views, Richards) (a fierce, hot, hard, old, stupid squire... small brain, great courage, mulish will—Masefield) Stiff-necked, more even than obstinate or stubborn, stresses inflexibility; it often also suggests a haughtiness or arrogance that makes one incapable of respecting the commands, wishes, or suggestions of others (be ye not stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the Lord—2 Chron 30:8) (she would have felt stiff-necked and ridiculous if she had resisted, like a republican who refuses to stand in a London theater when "God Save the King" is played—West) (he was formidably upright... too stiff-necked to kneel—Dorothy Thompson) Pig-headed and bullheaded suggest a particularly pervers or stupid kind of obstinacy; therefore they are chiefly terms of severe reproach; pigheaded, however, often suggests impenetrability to argument and bullheaded, headstrong determination (many of the managing posts will be filled up by pigheaded people only because they happen to have the habit of ordering poor people about—Shaw) (there was to be no relieving intermission. Using my prerogative as author, I had been bullheaded on this point —Paul Green) (she’s so bullheaded. She always has to have her way—Ginder)

 obstruction *obstacle, impediment, bar, snag

 Obstinate *prevent, preclude, obviate, avert: restrain, check, curb, inhibit

 Obstinate *inflexible: resolute, steadfast, staunch (see corresponding verbs at YIELD): *compliant, acquiescent

 Obstinate *stiff-necked, willful, recalcitrant, unruly: obdurate, Ana stubborn up by pigheaded impenetrability to argument and bullheaded, headstrong however, often suggests of severe reproach; (he was formidably upright and his originality lay not in any purely speculative views, Richards) (a fierce, hot, hard, old, stupid squire... small brain, great courage, mulish will—Masefield) Stiff-necked, more even than obstinate or stubborn, stresses inflexibility; it often also suggests a haughtiness or arrogance that makes one incapable of respecting the commands, wishes, or suggestions of others (be ye not stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the Lord—2 Chron 30:8) (she would have felt stiff-necked and ridiculous if she had resisted, like a republican who refuses to stand in a London theater when "God Save the King" is played—West) (he was formidably upright... too stiff-necked to kneel—Dorothy Thompson) Pig-headed and bullheaded suggest a particularly perverse or stupid kind of obstinacy; therefore they are chiefly terms of severe reproach; pigheaded, however, often suggests impenetrability to argument and bullheaded, headstrong determination (many of the managing posts will be filled up by pigheaded people only because they happen to have the habit of ordering poor people about—Shaw) (there was to be no relieving intermission. Using my prerogative as author, I had been bullheaded on this point —Paul Green) (she’s so bullheaded. She always has to have her way—Ginder)
life of named or recognizable living persons—Yeats

Event is frequently regarded as arising from an antecedent state of things and is usually applied to a more or less important or noteworthy occurrence (the events of the year) (the sequence of events that followed the declaration of war) (the course of human events—U.S. Declaration of Independence) (events acting upon us in unexpected, abrupt, and violent ways—Dewey) (the flat, monotonous plains stretch away...a single tree...becomes an event—Moorehead)

An incident (compare incidental under ACCIDENTAL) is commonly an occurrence of subordinate character or secondary importance, either a mere casual happening having little relation to major events or an occurrence that merely follows because of them (her tone implied that bedroom fires were a quite ordinary incident of daily life in a place like Bursley—Bennett) (very few individuals can be considered as more than incidents in the life histories of the societies to which they belong—Linton) The term may, however, be used of a single event that stands out or is marked off clearly from the other events (as in a story, a play, or a history) in its nature or significance (the book narrates a series of thrilling incidents) (he was delighted and looked upon the incident as an adventure—Anderson) (and beat him she did—in just over 72 days—with only one dangerous incident. A "titled cad" tried to flirt with her—Sat. Review) or applied to a critical event that provokes a break in diplomatic relations between countries or suggests the possibility of war (border incidents)

Episode (see also DREGRESSION) is often used in place of incident in the sense of a single or outstanding event, but the term usually carries a stronger implication of distinctiveness or apartness from the main course than does incident (a pretty little domestic episode occurred this morning—Meredith) (Clare would inevitably...come to regard her passion for Oliver Hobart and its tragic sequel as a romantic episode of girlhood—Rose Macaulay)

Circumstance is used as a synonym for incident only when the latter is thought of as a specific or significant detail (before closing his door for the night, he stood reflected on the circumstances of the preceding hours—Hardy)

The word is also occasionally used as a synonym for event in its more general sense (a life every circumstance of which is regulated after an unchangeable pattern—Wilde)

Ana appearance, emergence (see corresponding verbs at APPEAR): juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency: posture, situation, condition, state

Ant anomalous, irregular, unnatural

Con usual, customary, habitual: ordinary, common, familiar: normal, regular, typical, natural

odds advantage, handicap, allowance, edge

odious hateful, abhorrent, abominable, detestable

odious wretched, loathsome, repulsive, revolting

odilum obloquy, opprobrium, ignominy, infamy, disgrace, dishonor, disrepute, shame

Ana hate, hatred: antipathy, aversion: abhorrence, abomination, detestation

Ana repugnant, repellent, distasteful, obnoxious: offensive, loathsome, repulsive, revolting

odorous flowers such as lilies, tuberoses, and narcissuses—odorous chemicals are often malodorous—odorous gums from the East—Wilde

ability to detect and...infinitesimally small traces of odorous and savory materials—Morrison

Fragrant applies to something with a sweet and agreeable odor, especially to flowers, fruits, spices, and beverages that through their lingering sweetness or richness of scent give sensuous delight (fragrant roses) (where the fragrant limes their boughs unite, we met—and we parted forever—Crawford)

perhaps far back...certain Chinese preferred fragrant tea to insipid water—Heiser

(the recollection that these unfortunate had once been fragrant children—Cheever)

Redolent occasionally means pleasantly odorous; in such use it applies not only to things that diffuse a scent but to the scent itself (the redolent scent of pine) (every flower and every fruit the redolent breath of the warm seawind ripeneth—Tennyson)

More often it applies to a place or thing impregnated with odors, especially with those that are penetrating (dim, shady wood roads, redolent of fern and bayberry—Millay) (ordinary salt air but stronger, redolent of seaweed, damp, and dead fish—Nancy Hale)

the air for half a block was redolent with the fumes of beer and whiskey—Ashbury

Aromatic is more restricted in its implications than aroma, for it distinctively suggests a pungent, often fresh, odor of the kind associated with the foliage of balsams, pine, and spruce, the wood of cedar, the dried leaves of lavender, such spices as cloves, and such gums as myrrh. It is therefore often applied to preparations scented with substances that are aromatic (aromatic blends of tobacco) (as aromatic plants bestow no spicy fragrance while they grow; but crushed, or trodden to the ground, diffuse their balmy sweets around—Goldsmith) (aromatic spirit of ammonia)

Balm applied mostly to things which have a delicate and soothing aromatic odor (the balmy winds breathed the animating odors of the groves around me—Bartram) (their tender beauty of balmy, flowery vegetation—Muir)

Ant malodorous: odorless—Con stinking, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, rancid, fusty, musty (see MALODOROUS)

offal refuse, waste, rubbish, trash, debris, garbage

offend, outrage, affront, insult mean to cause vexation or resentment or damage to self-respect. One offends by displeasing another, by hurting his feelings, or by violating his sense of what is proper or fitting (if the First Amendment means anything, it means that a man cannot be sent to prison merely for distributing publications which offend a judge's esthetic sensibilities—Potter Stewart)

(fangless perceptions which will please the conservative power and delight the liberal power: offend no one—Mailer) (knew that he had offended his father but guilt would have been too exact a word for the pain and uneasiness he felt—Cheever)

One outrages by offending another past endurance, or by offending his pride or his sense of justice or honor (her power to make him do things which outraged all his upbringing—Wakefield-West)

(needed to begin...the beginning of the uproar, the shrill cries of the ladies and the outraged unbelieving exclamations of the men—Dahll) ("Grief of two years' standing is only a bad habit.") Alice started, outraged. Her mother's grief was sacred to her—Shaw

One affronts who, either with an intent to offend or with deliberate indifference to civility or courtesy, humiliates or dishonors a person and arouses his deep resentment (a moral, sensible, and well-bred man will not affront me, and no other can—Cowper)

One insults who wantonly and insolently offends another so as to cause him humiliation or shame (you can annoy, you can insult, you cannot move me—Meredith)

he would insult them flagrantly; he would fling his hands in the air
and thunder at their ignorance—Auchincloss

**Ana** annoy, vex, irk, bother: exasperate, nettle, *irritate*: pique, *provoke, excite: chafe, fret, gall (see ABRADE)

**offense** 1 offense, aggression, *attack

**Ana** assault, *attack, onslaught, onset

2 **Offense, resentment, umbrage, pique, dudgeon, huff** are comparable when they mean a person's emotional reaction to what he regards as a slight, an affront, an insult, or an indignity. **Offense** implies an often extreme state of displeasure or of wounded feelings (it is so sensitive that he takes *offense* at any unintentional or seeming slight) *(this tiny breath of genuine criticism had given deep offense—Forster)*  
**Resentment** implies more indignation than *offense*, more prolonged dwelling upon what one regards as a personal injury or grievance, and, often, more ill will to the person who has offended *(as long as I am free from all resentment . . . I would be able to face the life with much more calm—Wilde)* *(have no right to trifle with their lives merely to gratify an old man's resentment of skepticism—Anthony Boucher)*  
**Umbrage** used chiefly in the phrase "to take umbrage." differs from *offense* in carrying a clearer implication of being slighted or unfairly ignored; the term therefore generally suggests ruffled pride, resentful suspicion of others' motives, or jealousy of those favored *(he took such umbrage at Eliot—who had been delayed at his bank—arriving a few minutes late on the platform, that I doubt he ever forgave him—Osbert Sitwell)* *(Very often umbrage is not clearly distinguishable from offense* *(the instance of a Southern defender who took umbrage at our saying that the leader of the Confederacy was outstandingly dumb—N. Y. Herald Tribune Book Rev.)*  
**Pique** applies to the reaction of one who has taken offense or umbrage, but it distinctively suggests a petty cause and a transient mood and often connotes wounded vanity *(when the wanton heroine chooses to . . . flirt with Sir Harry or the Captain, the hero, in a pique, goes off and makes love to somebody—Thackeray)* *(had not for . . . years allowed his young green jealousy to show itself in words or pique—Buck)*  
**Dudgeon** applies chiefly to a fit of angry resentment or indignation provoked by opposition to one's views or a refusal of one's request *(he left the recent meeting in high dudgeon when compulsory purchase powers were eventually granted—Ian MacLennan)* *(sometimes the employer . . . will in a dudgeon refuse to sit in the same room with the union representatives—Bromley)*  
**Huff**, like dudgeon, applies to a fit of anger, but it comes closer to *pique* in suggesting pettiness of cause and transitoriness; distinctively it implies petulance and a sulky refusal to have more to do with those who have offended *(at the first hint that we were tired of waiting and that we should like the show to begin, he was off in a huff—Henry James)* *(half of 'em will be disgusted, and go away in a huff—De Morgan)*  
**Con** affront, insult, indignity: *indignation, wrath, anger* *(pleasure, delight, joy: gratifying or gratification, rejoicing (see corresponding verbs at PLEASE)*

3 **Offense, sin, vice, crime, scandal** are comparable as general terms denoting a more or less serious or conspicuous infraction or transgression of law or custom. **Offense** is the term of widest application, being referable to a violation of any law, including the law of the state, the law of the church, natural law, moral law, or standards of propriety and taste set up (as by society or the arts). It is also applicable to any transgression regardless of its triviality or gravity or its voluntary or involuntary character, provided it injures or tends to injure the welfare or well-being or happiness of others *(O, my offense is rank, it smells to heaven; it hath the primal eldest curse upon't, a brother-

er's murder—Shak.)* *(had been a strike leader, which, though not a crime, was certainly an offense in New England in 1920—Stong)* *(the greater the number of laws, the greater the number of offenses against them—Ellis)*  
**Sin** primarily applies to an offense against the moral law especially as laid down in the Ten Commandments and in laws derived from them. Theologically its essential character is disobedience of the divine will and willful opposition to the law of God; in somewhat wider use it implies a failure to live up to the moral ideals of one's time or environment or to the moral ideal one has set as the standard of one's own conduct *(regarded stealing and lying as sins—the sin of sacrilege)* *(nonobservance of the Sabbath was the sin most abhorred by the settlers of that region)* *(sin, remember, is a twofold enormity. It is a base consent to the promptings of our corrupt nature . . . and it is also a turning away from the counsel of our higher nature—Joyce)* *(it may not have been much of a culture, crude, bloodthirsty, harsh, and worst sin of all, different—Agnew)*  
**Vice** *(see also FAULT 2), though frequently applied to any of the offenses that from the theological and religious points of view are called sins, often carries little direct suggestion of a violation of divine law: rather, it may imply impropriety in the use of one's own will, and sometimes *vice* is a technical legal term, but it is sometimes used in the courts and is sometimes defined in penal codes, usually as a general term applicable to any act or omission forbidden by law and punishable upon conviction. In such use the term comprehends many clearly distinguished types of offenses *(as a misdemeanor, a felony, or an act of treason)* *(the reason for excluding evidence obtained by violating the Constitution seems to me logically to lead to excluding evidence obtained by a crime of the officers of the law—Justice Holmes)* *(offenses against marriage such as adultery, which is a crime punishable by death in Papua and only a sin in civilized society—Social Science Abstracts)* *(human society may punish us for crimes; human monitors reprove us for vices; but God alone can charge upon us the sin, which He alone is able to forgive—James Martineau)*  
**Crime** and, less often, *sin* may be applied to offenses that are of exceedingly grave nature; in fact, this implication is often found in *crime*, even in its original legal sense *(the betrayal by a people of itself is the ultimate historical crime: the final and the most degrading suicide—MacLeish)* *(I've not been guilty of anything more than an indiscretion . . . I behaved foolishly, but that's not a crime—Mackenzie)*  
**Scandal** *(see also DISGRACE)* applies to an offense against a law that is also an offense in another sense of that word—that of an act, a condition, or a practice which offends the public conscience or which puts a stumbling block in the way of those who should obey the law or should be trained to obey it; unlike the words *sin, vice, and crime, scandal* carries no implication of probable or certain punishment or retribution but emphasizes the distressing effect it has on others or the discredit
softer, kinder, amiable, unoffensive; 

**offensive adj** 1 attacking, aggressive (see under ATTACK 

**Ana** *injustice, injury, wrong, grievance: *breach, infraction, violation, transgression, trespass, infringement, contravention 

**offensive** 

**Analogous words** 

**Antonyms** 

**Contrasted words**
offhand 576  old

her hand preferred the bowl—Pope} ⟨I don’t prefer any claim to being the soul of romance—Dickens⟩

Ana *give, present, bestow, confer: *adduce, advance: propose, design, purpose, *intend
Con accept, take, *receive: reject, refuse, *decline
offhand *extemporaneous, extempore, extemporary, improvised, impromptu, unprompted
Ana casual, desultory, *random: abrupt, hasty, sudden, *precipitate, impetuous: brusque, curt, blunt (see BLUFF)
Con studied, advised, considered, *deliberate
office *function, duty, province
Ana *work, business, calling: *task, job, chore, stint
officious meddlesome, intrusive, obtrusive, *impertinent
Ana meddling, interfering, intermeddling, tampering (see MEDDLE): annoying, vexing, irking, bothering (see ANNOY): pushing, assertive, *aggressive
offset countervail, balance, *compensate, counterbalance, counterpoise
Ana *neutralize, negative, counteract: *nullify, negate: redeem, reclaim, save, *rescue

onfing, young, progeny, issue, descendant, posterity are comparable when they mean those who follow in direct parental line. Offspring applies to those who are by birth immediately related to a parent; the term does not necessarily apply to human beings, for it may refer to animals or sometimes to plants ⟨at each farrow the sow produces many offspring⟩ ⟨the son endeavoring to appear the worthy offspring of such a father—Steele⟩ Young is used most often of the offspring of animals ⟨a bear surrounded by its young⟩ ⟨turtles bury their eggs in beaches and sandbanks and the young dig their way out when they hatch⟩

Progeny usually applies to the offspring of a father or a mother or of both; the term more often refers to those of human parentage, but it is used occasionally of the offspring of animals and plants ⟨from this union sprang a vigorous progeny—Hawthorne⟩ In comparison with offspring, however, it has somewhat extended use, being sometimes applied to those who trace their ancestry more remotely or to those who are the spiritual or intellectual successors of a great man ⟨all the progeny of David⟩ ⟨the intellectual progeny of Plato⟩ Issue, chiefly a legal term, is more abstract than the preceding terms and is used merely to call attention to the fact that a union has or has not reproduced its kind ⟨die without issue⟩ ⟨in the event of issue, the estate will pass to the children who are born of this union⟩ Descendant, on the other hand, applies to anyone who has or, in the plural, to all who have a right to claim relationship with a person as an ancestor in direct line; the degree of nearness does not matter, but the relationship of each as child, grandchild, great-grandchild, and so on must exist ⟨theirs are descendants of the first settlers of the town⟩ ⟨the claims of certain people to be descendants of George Washington are absurd, since he died without issue⟩ Posternity differs from descendants only in connoting all the descendants of a common ancestor ⟨the unnumbered posterity of William Bradford⟩

The term is also often used of the generations that come after a person, a race, or a people ⟨his fame will live to all posterity⟩ ⟨we are leaving many problems for posterity to solve⟩

 oft *often, frequently, oftentimes
often, frequently, oft, oftentimes may be used with little or no distinction to mean again and again in more or less close succession. But often stresses the number of times a thing occurs, without regard to the interval of recurrence; frequently usually stresses repetition, especially at short intervals ⟨he came often⟩ ⟨he called frequently⟩ ⟨the disease is often fatal⟩ ⟨I frequently examined the color of the snow—Tyndall⟩ ⟨you will often find this to be true⟩

unless you write me more frequently I shall feel out of touch with you⟩ Oft and oftentimes differ little from often; oft, however, is used chiefly in compound adjectives ⟨the oft-told tale of her hairbreadth escape—Cerf⟩ ⟨an oft quoted statement⟩ or occasionally in formal discourse ⟨seemingly trifling events oft carry in their train great consequences—Coolidge⟩ and oftentimes is occasionally preferred for intonational reasons ⟨a sense of humor which was sometimes loud, oftentimes lourd, but never deliberately unkind—Metallious⟩

oftentimes *often, frequently, oft
oil vb Oil, grease, lubricate, anoint, cream all mean to smear or treat with an oily, fatty, or greasy substance, but they vary greatly in their implications of the substance used and the purpose for which it is employed and in their idiomatic applications. One oils the parts of a machine or mechanism subject to friction, typically by drops or squirts of a liquid substance, usually a mineral oil. Also, one oils a fabric (as cloth, silk, or paper) when one impregnates it with oil so as to make it waterproof. One greases a thing when one rubs on or in a thick fatty substance, often an animal fat or oil, for some purpose such as to increase speed by reducing friction ⟨grease axles⟩ or as a medicinal application ⟨grease the chest with lard and turpentine⟩ or as a preventive of cohesion ⟨grease a baking dish⟩ One lubricates when one oils, or greases, or provides for the feeding of a lubricant (as oil or grease or graphite or a silicone) to contiguous surfaces in a machine or mechanism to make them slippery, thereby reducing friction, eliminating roughness, and preventing cohesion. Lubricate stresses the effect intended or produced; oil and grease, the substance used or the method of its application. One anoints the body or a part of the body when one smears it with, or rubs into it an oily or fatty substance for some purpose (as a protection from the sun or an aid in massage). Anoint, however, is especially employed in reference to ceremonial uses of oil. In the application of oily or fatty cosmetics, especially those which are called creams, cream is the customary term.

oily uncouth, oleaginous, *fleshy, slick, soapy
Ana hypocritical, pharisaical, sanctimonious (see under HYPOCRISY): bland, politic, diplomatic, smooth (see SUAVE)
old 1 *aged, elderly, supernannted
Ana *weak, feeble, infirm, decrepit

Ant young

2 Old, ancient, venerable, antique, antiquated, antediluvian, archaic, obsolete all denote having come into existence or use in the more or less distant past. Old, opposed to young or new (see also AGED), applies to what has lived or existed long or has been long in use or has stood for a long time in a particular relation to something; ancient, opposed especially to modern, to what lived, existed, or happened long ago or has existed or come down from remote antiquity ⟨old wine⟩ ⟨old friends⟩ ⟨old as the hills⟩ ⟨O heavens, if you do love old men . . . if yourselves are old—Shak⟩ ⟨this new exception condemns an advertising technique as old as history—W. O. Douglas⟩ ⟨from the ancient world those giants came—Milton⟩ ⟨some illus- trious line so ancient that it has no beginning—Gibbon⟩

Venerable suggests the hoariness and dignity of age (venerable as Anglo-Saxon is, and worthy to be studied as the mother of our vernacular speech—Quiller-Couch) ⟨green ropes and leafy ladders hung down from the high limbs of a venerable bread tree—Bemelmans⟩ Antique applies to what has come down from former, ancient, or classical times or is in some way related to them; with regard to articles (as furnishings, implements, or bric-a-brac) the term suggests an old-fashioned type characteristic of an earlier period ⟨an antique highboy that had
belonged to his great-grandmother (even a Leonardo regretted his failure to recover the antique symmetry, but he at least imitated the ancients vitally—Babbitt) refreshing our minds with a savor of the antique, primeval world and the earliest hopes and victories of mankind—Binyon) Something antiquated has gone out of vogue or fashion or has been for some time discredited; the word often implies some degree of contempt (is it true that antiquated legal ideas prevent government from responding effectively to the demands which modern society makes upon it?—Frankfurter) this very lack of manner keeps him from becoming antiquated. His style does not "date," like that of many of his contemporaries—Tinker) cherished still their old rage against the northern invaders, a stout and defiant loyalty to their antiquated limitations—Edmund Wilson) Something antediluvian is so antiquated and outmoded that it might have come from Noah's ark (the whole system of traveling accommodations was barbarous and antediluvian—De Quincey) those were antediluvian times. Unions were weak or nonexistent; employers were backed by the courts, the police, and the federal government—Dwight Macdonald) Something archaic has the characteristics of an earlier, sometimes of a primitive, period; with regard to words, specifically, archaic applies to what is not in use in ordinary modern language but retained in special context or for special uses (as in biblical, ecclesiastical, and legal expressions and in poetry) we visited Medinina, a town so archaic and unreal in its architecture that it was difficult to believe that it was actually inhabited by the human race—Hoffman) much of the remote past is conserved in the husk of convention, and archaic usages govern his conduct toward all the crucial issues of life—Norman Lewis) to those who do not learn to read Shakespeare as a school text his archaic language presents formidable difficulties—Botral) Something obsolete has gone out of use or has been or needs to be replaced by something newer, better, or more efficient that has subsequently come into being obsolete as the feudal baron—Snaith) a scientific textbook is obsolete in a decade or less—Lowes) it was she who had raised a fund for the granite horse trough . . . and who, when the horse trough became obsolete, had it planted with geraniums—Cheever) charged that United States Navy ships were equipped with obsolete torpedoes—Current Biog) Ana primitive, primeval, pristine, primal (see primary) Ant new

oleaginous oily, unctuous, *fulsome, slick, soapy Ana see those at OILY

oligarchy, aristocracy, plutocracy are comparable when they mean government by, or a state governed by, the few. The terms are often applied to governments or states that are ostensibly monarchies or republics but are, in the opinion of the user, actually governed by a clique. Oligarchy is the most inclusive term referred to a government or state where the power is openly or virtually in the hands of a few men (democracy and oligarchy shade into each other and are chiefly distinguished by the degree of the citizens' participation in government—McKeon) Aristocracy basically and historically suggests the rule of the best citizens (true aristocracy is just this, the government of the best, of a ruling class dedicated to the common well-being—F. G. Wilson) but it retains this implication chiefly when it is used in distinction from oligarchy and the latter connotes power seized or held for selfish or corrupt reasons (it ceased to be, in the Greek sense, an aristocracy; it became a faction, an oligarchy—Thirlwall) Its more common implication is power vested in a privileged class, especially in a nobility that is regarded as superior by birth and breeding and that by owning or controlling much of the land exercises direct control over a large portion of the population; in this sense Great Britain was until recent generations an aristocracy (Clay was right . . . revolution was abroad among the people, shifting the basis of our government from aristocracy to democracy without destroying its essential republicanism—Rossiter) Plutocracy, unlike the other terms, is usually derogatory; as a rule it implies concentration of power in the hands of the wealthy and, in consequence, a withholding of power from those to whom it properly belongs, either the people or their representatives (Ward held that we must differentiate three types of democracy . . . the second plutocracy, or the control of the state by organized and predatory wealth—H. E. Barnes) Carthage was a plutocracy and the real power of the state lay in the hands of a dozen big shipowners and mineowners and merchants—van Loon) omen augury, portent, *foretoken, presage, prognostic Ana *sign, mark, token, badge, note, symptom: foreboding, *apprehension, presentiment, misleading ominous, portentous, fateful, inauspicious, unpromising basically mean having a menacing or threatening character or quality. What is ominous has or seems to have the character of an omen, especially of an omen forecasting evil; the term commonly suggests a frightening or alarming quality that bodes no good, and it may imply impending disaster (there was something ominous about it, and in intangible ways one was made to feel that the worst was about to come—London) (my ears were startled by the . . . uproar of yelling and shouting. It sounded ominous, but . . . I had to go on—Heiser) What is portentous has or seems to have the character of a portent; portentous, however, less often than ominous suggests a threatening character; it usually means little more than prodigious, monstrous, or almost frighteningly marvelous, solemn, or impressive (his gravity was unusual, portentous, and immeasurable—Dickens) the assertion that children of six are "mighty prophets, seers blessed," . . . seemed to him portentous nonsense—Babbitt) (it is portentous . . . that here at midnight, in our little town a mourning figure walks, and will not rest—Lindsay) What is fateful has or seems to have the quality, character, or importance decreed for it by fate or suggests inevitability (the fateful conference that brought on war) to meet a Persian, any Persian, in New York seemed a fateful coincidence—Mehdevi) but the term often means little more than momentous or appallingy decisive (the great cases that make the work of the United States Supreme Court of fateful significance—Cohen) What is inauspicious (compare auspicious under FAVORABLE) is or seems to be attended by signs that are distinctly unfavorable (an inauspicious horoscope) But inauspicious usually means nothing more than unlucky, unfortunate, or unlikely to succeed (an inauspicious beginning of a great project) you come at a singularly inauspicious moment, when I need all my strength to forget the world—Sabatini) What is unpromising (compare propitious under FAVORABLE) carries or seems to carry no sign of favoring one's ends or intentions (unpromising omens) In its more common extended sense the term means merely unfavorable, discouraging, or harmful (made a by-election necessary at a time highly unpromising for the Government—Cockburn) (sleep and exercise are unpromising to learning—Jowett) Ana *sinister, baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient: threatening, menacing (see THREATEN) omit *neglect, disregard, ignore, overlook, slight, forget Ana cancel, delete, efface, *erase: *exclude, eliminate

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
Con *remember, recollect, recall: *tend, attend, mind, watch

omnipresent, ubiquitous mean present or existent everywhere. Though they carry this as a basic meaning, they are often used hyperbolically. Something omnipresent is present everywhere at the same time. Though basically applicable to the Supreme Being <omnipresent Deity> the term is often, especially in a weakened sense, applied to something that is or is felt to be always present or existent (as in a class or a type wherever it may be found or in an area to which it belongs) <omnipresent sense of social obligation—Eliot> <the creeping, silent atmosphere of omnipresent fear that I have sensed in the capitals of the satellite countries—Wechsberg> <the mechanization of entertainment through . . . the omnipresent radio—Millett> Something ubiquitous is found everywhere and, often, at the time or in the situation specified or implied <electronics being so numerous and so ubiquitous—Dar- row> <the big public services will have to be made practically ubiquitous—Shaw> Ubiquitous is applicable to a type or an individual, often with the specific implication that one cannot escape him or it wherever one goes <the ubiquitous American tourist> <the sad, ubiquitous spinster, left behind . . . by the stampede of the young men westward—Brooks>

on 1 *at, in 2 *at, in

onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting are comparable when they mean imposing severe trouble, labor, or hardships. All of these terms are applicable to a state of life, its duties or obligations, or to conditions imposed upon a person by that life or by another person; oppressive and exacting are applicable also to persons or agents responsible for these difficulties. Onerous stresses laboriousness and heaviness but often also implies irksomeness or distastefulness <the tyranny of a majority might be more onerous than that of a despot—Whitehead> <“What were the conditions?” “Oh, they were not onerous: just to sit at the head of his table now and then”—Wharton> Bur- densome usually implies mental as well as physical strain and often emphasizes the former <a burdensome tax> <burdensome Government regulations which are a nu- nance to everyone—Roosevelt> <the burdensome and invidious job of a formal application to the Board of Trade—Economist> Oppressive adds to burdensome the implication of extreme harshness or severity; it therefore usually connotes the unendurableness of what is imposed or inflicted, whether by nature or circumstances or by man, or cruelty or tyranny in the one responsible for the impositions or inflictions <oppressive heat> <oppressive rulers> <there are more ways of coercing a man than by pointing a gun at his head. A pacifist society may be unjust and oppressive—inge> <the women are . . . kind and they mean very well, but sometimes they get very oppressive—Cheever> Exacting, like oppressive, implies severity of demands, but otherwise it differs because it commonly suggests rigor, sternness, or extreme fastidiousness rather than tyranny in the one who demands, or the tremendous care or pains required of the one who satisfies these demands <an exacting technique> <an exacting employer> <the exacting life of the sea has this advantage over the life of the earth, that its claims are simple and cannot be evaded—Conrad> <the pity of it was that even the least exacting husband should so often desire something more piquant than goodness—Glasgow>

Ana *heavy, weighty, ponderous, cumbrous, cumber- some, hefty: arduous, *hard, difficult

onlooker looker-on, *spectator, observer, beholder, wit- ness, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer

only adj & adv Only, alone are often used interchangeably (though alone is not found in the attributive position), but seldom without a slight change in meaning or emphasis. Only is especially appropriate when restriction to what is specified or asserted is implied and the term is equivalent to sole or solely; thus, “I want only this book” implies a wish for one and no more; “of all the family only John and Helen came,” that is, the specified persons and no more <to distinguish . . . that which is established because it is right, from that which is right only because it is established—Johnson> Alone may be chosen when the idea of the elimination of all other possibilities is expressed and the term is the equivalent of exclusive or, more often, exclusively; thus, “I want this book alone” implies a wish for a particular one and no other; “of all the family John alone came,” that is, John and none of the others <man shall not live by bread alone—Mt 4:4>

onset *attack, assault, onslaught

Ana aggression, offensive, offense, *attack: storming, bombarding, assailing (see ATTACK vb): *invasion, raid, incursion

onslaught *attack, assault, onset

Ana see those at ONSET

onward, forward, forth are comparable when they mean in the act of advancing or getting ahead (as in a movement, progression, series, or sequence). They are frequently used with little or no distinction, but onward often suggests progress or advance toward a definite goal, end, or place <half a league onward . . . rode the six hundred—Tenny- son> <onward into future lives—Hawridge> Forward, opposed to backward, has more specific reference to move- ment or advance with reference to what lies before rather than back in place <see onward under BEFORE> or in time <his skill in reconciling conflicting points of view and his forward-looking spirit—Dean> <from this time forward Webster’s bête noire was party spirit—Warfel> or in a succession (as of incidents in a narrative or of steps in a process) <the center has not yet been rebuilt, though they are . . . getting forward with it—Rowse> Forth is often interchangeable with forward without loss <expedi- tions went forth into the interior—P. E. James> from that day forth) but in certain idioms it may be quite distinctive and imply a making known, present, available, or real something previously unknown, lacking, unavailable, or hidden; thus, one brings forth from or as if from a place of concealment <bring forth a precious jewel> and one sets forth by providing <set forth an amble supper> or by making simple and clear <in his charge to the grand jury . . . he set forth the democratic basis of the new state government—Meriwether>

opalescent, opaline iridescent, *prismatic

open adj 1 exposed, subject, prone, susceptible, sensitive, liable

Ant closed

2 plain, candid, *frank

Ana *straightforward, aboveboard, forthright: *natural, simple, ingenuous, naive, unsophisticated: *fair, equitable, impartial

Ant close, closemouthed, close-lipped: clandestine

openhanded bountiful, bounteous, *liberal, generous, mu- nificent, handsome

Ant closefisted, tightfisted —Con * stingy, niggardly, close, penurious

operate *act, behave, work, function, react

operative adj *active, dynamic, live

Ana *effective, effectual, efficacious, efficient: *fertile, fecund, fruitful

Ant abeyant

operative n mechanic, artisan, hand, workman, working-
opiate

*anodyne, narcotic, nepenthe

opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion, sentiment are comparable when they mean a more or less clearly formulated idea or judgment which one holds as true or valid. An opinion is a more or less carefully thought-out conclusion concerning something that is or may be questioned. The word not only does not exclude the suggestion of consideration of all the evidence and of arguments on both sides, but it sometimes implies such consideration (seek an expert opinion on the authenticity of a painting) (the word opinion...should be restricted to views entertained on subjects that admit of doubt and are open to controversy. Matters that are not debatable are not open to opinion—Corry) (the attending physician said he would like the opinion of a consulting physician)

However, the term more consistently suggests even in the preceding instances a personal element in the judgment, the possibility of its being in error, and the strong probability that it will be disputed (books...are a public expression of a man's opinions, and consequently they are submitted to the world for criticism—Benson) (the tolerant but untrained...will rarely know the difference between their tastes and their opinions—Virgil Thomson)

A view is an opinion more or less colored by the feeling, sentiment, or bias of the individual (fond of airing his views in public) (each member was asked to state his views on the proposed change in the constitution) (must take the manly view, which is that the failure of the western democracies...is due to the failings of the democratic peoples—Lippmann) (in the fourth century...adopted the view that deceit and lying were virtues if in the interests of the Church—Cohen)

A belief differs from an opinion or view in that it is not necessarily formulated by the individual who holds it, but may have been proposed to him for acceptance (as in the form of a doctrine, a dogma, a proposition, or an authoritative opinion). The emphasis in belief is placed on intellectual assent or assurance of truth (the belief that the whole system of nature is calculable in terms of mathematics and mechanics—Inge) (just one single example of real unreason is enough to shake our belief in everything—Theodore Sturgeon)

A conviction is a belief which one holds firmly and unshakably because one is undisturbed by doubt of its truth (if any one had asked him the reason of this conviction he could not have told them; but convictions do not imply reasons—Deland) (the teacher should learn not to take sides, even if he or she has strong convictions—Russell) (he had overlooked this fact, borne along on his conviction of the abundance of life—Cheever)

A persuasion is usually at once an opinion and a belief. The term often implies that one's assurance of its truth is induced by one's feelings or wishes, rather than by argument or evidence (it was the avowed opinion and persuasion of Calimachus...that Homer was very imperfectly understood even in his day—Cowper) (his strong interest in good government and the proper solution of social problems threw him more and more toward the Democratic persuasion—Michener)

Sentiment (see also FEELING 2) is becoming uncommon in this sense except in a few idiomatic phrases (those are my sentiments). The term applies to a more or less settled opinion, often with reference to something which involves one's feelings or which is formulated so as to suggest the stimulus of emotion (there is no expression in the constitution, no sentiment delivered by its contemporaneous expounders, which would justify us—John Marshall) (it is the actions of men and not their sentiments which make history—Mailer) (he would inform Miss Graves of his sentiments and she would translate them into a polite and brief answer—Bemelmans)

Ana thought, notion, impression, *idea, concept, conception: inference, deduction, conclusion, judgment (see under INFERENCE): deciding or decision, determining or determination, settling or settlement (see corresponding verbs at DECIDE)

opponent, antagonist, adversary all denote one who expresses or manifests opposition. Unlike enemy they do not necessarily imply personal animosity or hostility. An opponent is one who is on the opposite side in a contest (as an argument, disputation, or election) or in a conflict (as of opinion) (since [in France] opposition is never considered to be legitimate, the Government has no opponents—only enemies—Revel) (opponents of the desegregation decision have...largely founded their dissent on the principle that law cannot move faster than public opinion—Roche & Gordon)

Antagonist implies sharper opposition, especially in a struggle or combat for supremacy or control (where you find your antagonist beginning to grow warm, put an end to the dispute by some genteel badinage—Chesterfield) (a swift voracious fish, a formidable antagonist for the angler—J. L. B. Smith)

Adversary ranges in connotation from the idea of mere opposition to that of active hostility (do as adversaries do in law, strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends—Shak) (your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour—1 Pet 5:8)

Ana *enemy, foe: rival, competitor, emulator (see corresponding verbs at RIVAL)

opportunity *seasonable, timely, well-timed, pat

Ana happy, felicitous, appropriate, fitting (see FIT adj): propitious, auspicious, *favorable: ready, prompt, *quick, apt

Ant inopportune

opportunity, occasion, chance, break, time are comparable when they mean a state of affairs or a combination of circumstances favorable to some end. Opportunity is perhaps the most common of these terms; it applies to a situation which provides an opening for doing something, especially in line with one's inclinations, ambitions, purposes, or desires (the suspect had both motive and opportunity for the murder) (to keep in the rear of opportunity in matters of indulgence is as valuable a habit as to keep abreast of opportunity in matters of enterprise—Hardy) (on the whole an infant's desire to learn is so strong that parents need only provide opportunity—Russell) (to strike out in search of new opportunities in new surroundings—Truman)

Occasion (see also CAUSE 1) carries the basic denotation characteristic of its leading senses—a definite moment or juncture, but it applies only to a moment that provides an opportunity or that calls for or prompts action of a definite kind or nature (had occasion to prove the seaworthiness of this type of lifeboat in a gale—N. B. Marshall) (he took the occasion to satisfy his desire for revenge—Occasion may suggest more strongly than opportunity a juncture that provokes or evokes action (with great things charged he shall not hold aloof till great occasion rise—Kipling) (so long as a child is with adults, it has no occasion for the exercise of a number of...virtues...required by the strong in dealing with the weak—Russell) (it has also produced and spread occasions for diseases and weaknesses—Dewey)

Chance applies chiefly to an opportunity that comes seemingly by luck or accident (they had no chance to escape) (it was war that gave Lenin his chance. He might have died in angry exile in Switzerland—Brogan)

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
oppose

Sometimes the word means little more than a fair or a normal opportunity, especially in negative expressions (the feeling that the system under which we live deprives the majority of the chance of a decent life—Day Lewis) Break applies to the occasion of a stroke of fortune that is usually good unless the term is qualified (as by an adjective indicating the kind of chance or suggesting its outcome) (had been haunting the tryouts, for two years: and this was her first break—Wouk) (ascrives his fortunes to luck, to getting the breaks—Cozzens) (She always did have a bad break if it was possible to get one—Nevil Shute) (shady folk ... are generally given a fine break—Lancaster) Time denotes a juncture that is well-timed or opportune (as for the execution of one's end or purpose) (time and tide wait for no man) in which one is found to have a certain superiority over a rival in the quality or force with which the soloist bides his time in his own confidence that he will be handsomely rewarded in the end—Kolodin) the time has come to assert the findings—Towlson) (this is the time to buy stocks) Ana *juncture, pass, contingency, emergency: posture, situation, condition, *state oppose contest, fight, conflict, antagonize, *resist, withstand Ana *contend, fight, battle, war: *attack, assail, assault, storm, bombard: *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard opposite n contradictory, contrary, antithesis, antipode, antonym (see under opposite adj) opposite adj Opposite, contradictory, contrary, antithetical, antipodal, antipodean, antonymous are comparable chiefly as applied to abstractions and as meaning so far apart as to be or to seem irreconcilable with each other. The same differences in applications and implications are found in their corresponding nouns, oppose, contradictory, contrary, antithesis, antipode, antonym, when they mean one of two things which are opposite or contradictory. Opposite is a complete term; it may be used interchangeably with any of the others, though few of the others are interchangeable in precise use. Opposite may be used to describe the relation of either of two abstract elements (as ideas, terms, statements, qualities, or forces) to the other when they are set against each other so as to bring out sharply the contrast, conflict, or antagonism between them oppose views (attraction and repulsion are opposite forces) the plant does two opposite things at once. It is making sugar from carbon dioxide and at the same time burning a little sugar—Michael Graham) (his private thesis that correction ... entails retreat to the opposite mean—a golden mean—Kolodin) he will be handsomely rewarded in the end—Kolodin) a contrary purely humanitarian influence—Santayana) he maintained that the contrary was true But especially as applied to terms and propositions contrary may imply diametrical opposition or the greatest conceivable or possible difference between the things opposed. Contraries are poles apart; unlike contradictories both may be false, for they represent extremes and do not mutually exclude every other possibility; thus, destitute and opulent are contrary terms as applicable to a person's circumstances, but they may be inapplicable in a vast number of particular cases for they describe only the extremes; "John is parsimonious" and "John is prodigal" are contrary statements, but John in truth may be neither parsimonious nor prodigal, but merely close, or thrifty, or free, or liberal, in the expenditure of money (a theory for which neither physics nor common sense can offer confirmatory or contrary evidence—Clement) Antithetical and especially antithesis (see also comparison) imply an intent to set the thing under consideration against its opposite, usually its diametrical opposite, in order to emphasize its significance or to reveal or define sharply its true nature. Both words are applicable to persons and things regarded objectively as well as to ideas, qualities, and terms (antithetical symbolism of ice and flame—Rees) (that mystic faith in unseen powers which is the antithesis of materialism—Rose Macaulay) (the essential interests of men and women are eternally antithetical—Mencken) Although antipodal or antipodean and the corresponding noun, antipode, which often occurs as the plural antipodes with singular or plural construction, also imply diametrical opposition, they do not suggest a logical relation but rather emphasize the unlikeness and the remoteness from each other of the things contrasted. So strong are these implications that often the things contrasted are only figuratively, not generally, opposites, and the contrast constitutes in a sense an inverse simile (the unspannable gulf between the two brothers is widened by their antipodal attitudes toward money—Behrman) (flashy, crude, essentially shallow, but nevertheless at the antipodes from villainy. He is good-hearted and generous—Walcutt) (the very antipode of Grupius. Where the American is romantic, the German is rationalistic—Werner) Antonymous and antonym are applicable only to a word or term which is so opposed to another in meaning that it, in effect, negates or nullifies every implication of it. Antonyms or antonymous words may be contradictory or contrary terms, as defined, or they may be terms which negate other terms by implying the undoing or reversing of what is denoted by them; thus, retain is the contradictory antonym of lose, but recover is the reverse antonym of lose. Ana reverse, converse (see corresponding nouns at converse): antagonistic, *adverse, counter, countercurrent Con reconciling, conforming, adapting, adjusting (see adapt): consistent, compatible, congruous, congenial, *consonant oppress 1 *depress, weigh Ana *abuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat, outrage: *worry, annoy, harass, harry 2 *wrong, persecute, aggrieve Ana *afflict, torment, torture: overcome, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overthrow (see conquer) oppressive *onerous, burdensome, exacting Ana extorting or extortionate, extracting (see corresponding verbs at educe): compelling or compulsory, coercing or coercion, constraining, obliging or obligatory (see corresponding verbs at force): despotic, tyrannical, *absolute, arbitrary

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
Con humane, humanitarian (see charitable): com-passionate, *tender

Opprobrious *abusive, vituperative, contumelious, scurrilous

Ana reviling, vituperating, railing, berating (see scold): *malicious, malevolent, malign, malignant: *excoriable, damnable, accursed

Opprobrium obloquy, odium, ignominy, infamy, shame, *disgrace, dishonor, disrepute

Ana *abuse, inveigle, vituperation, obloquy, scourility: censure, denunciation, condemnation, reprehension (see corresponding verbs at criticize)

Con prestige, authority, credit, *influence

Opt vb *choose, select, elect, pick, call, prefer, single

Ana take, accept, *receive: *adopt, embrace, espouse

Optimistic *hopeful, roseate, rose-colored

Ana *confident, sanguine, assured: cheerful, light-hearted, joyous, *glad

Ant pessimistic — Con *cynical, misanthropic

Option *choice, alternative, preference, selection, election

Ana *right, prerogative, privilege

Opulent 1 affluent, wealthy, *rich

Ana lavish, *profligate, prodigal: *showy, pretentious, ostentatious

Ant destitute: indigent

2 sumptuous, *luxurious

Ana luxuriant, lush, exuberant (see profuse): splendid, resplendent, gorgeous, superb

Opus *work, product, production, artifact

Oracular doctrinaire, dogmatic, *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial

Ana positive, certain, *sure, cocksure

Oral 1 vocal, articulate

Ana written

2 Oral, verbal are often confused in use. Oral (see also vocal 1) implies utterance and speech; it is distinctively applicable to whatever is delivered, communicated, transmitted, or carried on directly from one to another by word of mouth (an oral as opposed to a written confession) (receive oral instructions) (oral teaching of the deaf as distinguished from teaching by signs) Verbal stresses the use of words that may apply indirectly to what is written or spoken, for it carries no implication of the method of communication (verbal difficulties caused by ambiguous or equivocal language) (he often loses himself in little trifling distinctions and verbal niceties — Gray) The use of verbal as a substitute for oral fails to convey the intended distinction or suggests unintended or irrelevant distinctions or contrasts; thus, one would speak of an oral invitation or oral testimony when spoken is to be implied, because verbal would be ambiguous.

Oration *speech, address, harangue, lecture, talk, sermon, homily

Orbit *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, horizon, ken, purview

Ordains *dictate, prescribe, decree, impose

Ana order, *command, enjoin, direct

Order n 1 *association, society, club

2 *command, injunction, bidding, behest, mandate, dictate

Ana instruction, direction, charging or charge (see corresponding verbs at command)

Order vb 1 Order, arrange, marshal, organize, systematize, methodize are comparable when they mean to put a number of persons or things in proper place especially relatively or to bring about an orderly disposition of individuals, units, or elements that comprise (a thing). Order is somewhat outmoded when the idea of putting in a definite order is to be expressed; it more usually implies a straightening out and may connotate either the elimination of friction or confusion, often with resulting peace or harmony, or the imposition of a fixed and rigid discipline (ordered his affairs in expectation of death) (it was a home strictly ordered, and he would have to conform to its ordering — Archibald Marshall) (the Greek states . . . were not well ordered; on the contrary, they were always on the verge, or in the act, of civil war — Dickinson) (a period of yearly relaxation in London, ordered and increasingly stately — Sackville-West) Arrange is more often used than order where the idea of setting in proper sequence, relationship, or adjustment is uppermost. The word often implies a notion of what is orderly, fit, suitable, or right and a placing of things in accordance with this notion (they are the great organizers . . . the Germans classify, but the French arrange) (rather (arrange the furniture in a room) (design fruit for a dish) (each of us arranges the world according to his own notion of the fitness of things — Conrad) Often the term implies a determination of the way in which the things are disposed by an end in view and then suggests careful management or manipulation (we shall arrange matters so that you will not be inconvenienced) (arrange the details of a conference) (she arranged leave for a counselor whose mother was ill — Auchincloss) (political and economic life had been arranged in Utopian fashion — Henry Miller) Marshal usually connotes generalship and implies assemblage and arrangement either for ease or advantage in management (as under stress) or for effectiveness in display or exhibition (marshal troops for battle) (p_FLUSH to marshal his thoughts before beginning his address) (marshaled like soldiers in gay company, the tulips stand arrayed — Lowell) (thanks to Mr. Dawson's erudition and his gift of marshaling facts, we begin to have a notion of what it is all about — Huxley) Organize implies an arrangement in which all persons or things are so related to each other that they work as a unit, each individual having his or its proper function or duty (organize the supporters of a candidate for the presidency) (part of this service is organizing — cataloging, classifying, and arranging on shelves — the collected literature — Bercaw) (the traditional logic was a logic for clarifying and organizing that which was already known — Dewey) Systematize implies arrangement according to a definite and planned scheme thus one systematizes one's daily work when one reduces it to routine order (if grammar was to become a rational science, it had to systematize itself through principles of logic — H. O. Taylor) (how Philosophy . . . blindly spinthet her geometric webs, testing and systematizing even her own disorders — Bridges) Methodize differs from systematize in suggesting the imposition of orderly procedure rather than of a fixed scheme; thus, one can methodize one's work without giving it the character of routine (that art of reasoning . . . which methodizes and facilitates our discourse — Shortshore) (philosophical decisions are nothing but the reflections of common life, methodized and corrected — Thilly)

Ana *adjust, regulate: *line, line up, align, range, array

2 *command, bid, enjoin, direct, instruct, charge

Ana prohibit, *forbid, interdict, inhibit, ban

Con permit, allow, *let: license, *authorize, commission

Orderly adj Orderly, methodical, systematic, regular are comparable when they mean following closely a set arrangement, design, or pattern. Orderly implies observance of due sequence or proper arrangement especially in the harmonious or careful disposition of persons or things (the guests passed in orderly groups into the ballroom) (an orderly placing of furniture) or in obedience to the rules of conduct or behavior that guide disciplined persons (an orderly group of children) (an orderly assem-
ordinance 582


canoe, precept, *law, rule, regulation, statute
An *usual, customary, habitual, wonted, accustomed
Ant extraordinary — Con *abnormal, atypical, a-

tant: *exceptional: *irregular, unnatural, anomalous

organize 1 systematize, methodize, *order, arrange, marshal

organism *system, scheme, network, complex, economy

ordinary

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
deep and fundamental and that the thing itself is only an outward manifestation of its influence. Root therefore more often even than source applies to what is regarded as the first or final cause of a thing (the love of money is the root of all evil—1 Tim 6:10) <John Brown has loosened the roots of the slave system; it only breathes—it does not live—Phillips> Provenance and provenience are chiefly used to designate the place or, sometimes, the race or people from which a thing is derived or where or by whom or among whom it originated or was invented or constructed <antiquities of doubtful provenance> <he would have some difficulty in guessing its provenance, and naming the race from which it was brought—Lang> (a fragment of a cast copper dagger had been discovered earlier, but its provenance is not certain—Dafuku) In mechanics the term specifically applies to the natural or mechanical power which sets a thing moving or in motion; it has been used in reference to wind (as in driving a sailing ship), steam (as in driving a steamship), a waterwheel, a windmill, or a steam or diesel engine. Ana beginning, commencement, initiation, starting (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN): derivation, origination, rising or rise (see corresponding verbs at SPRING): *ancestry, lineage

original adj 1 *initial, primordial
Ana beginning, commencing, starting (see BEGIN): *primary, primal, pristine, primeval: basic, *fundamental Con deriving or derived, stemming or stemmed, proceeding or proceeded (see SPRING): imitated or imitating, copied or copying (see COPY): simulated or simulating (see ASSUME) 2 *new, new, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, modern, modernistic
Ant dependent: banal: trite

ornate, rococo, baroque, flamboyant, florid can all mean elaborately and often pretentiously designed or decorated. Ornate is applicable to anything heavily adorned or ornamented or conspicuously embossed <an ornate style of architecture> <the room's communicating door, heavily ornamented with late Renaissance panels and tarnished silver handles—Machinnes> <in the fiacre were Gerald and a woman. Gerald . . . was talking eagerly to his ornate companion—Bennett> (introduced the direct and colloquial manner upon the American public platform, as distinguished from the highly elaborated and often ornate style which had been established—Higginson) Rococo basically applies to a French architectural style originating in the eighteenth century and characterized chiefly by the extravagant and often fantastic use of curves, shellwork, and fanciful exuberance. The term therefore implies the ornateness of design characteristic of this decorative style especially as evident in architectural details, in furniture, and in mirror and picture frames. It is often extended to describe a style (as in painting or writing) that seems tastelessly or meaninglessly ornate or overadorned <decided instead to have the wedding, rococo excess and all—Wouk> <doesn't mind getting caught out with a rococo phrase or an overstuffed image—Los Angeles Times> Baroque, which is sometimes interchanged with rococo, basically applies to a style of art and architecture which prevailed from the latter part of the sixteenth century to nearly the end of the eighteenth century and which emphasized energy in conception, amplitude in design, the use of dynamic contrasts, extremely high relief, and the employment of curved and often contorted forms <I entered this baroque interior, with its twisted columns and volutes and high-piled, hideous tombs, adorned with skeletons and allegorical figures and angels blowing trumpets—L. P. Smith> In its extended sense baroque may suggest more grotesqueness and extravagance and less fancifulness than rococo, although it too may imply tasteless ornamentation <baroque poetry with its frigid vehemence, its exhibitionistic forcefulness and false dynamism, its arbitrary twisting and distortions—H. L. Davis> (their literature, their modern painting and architecture, their music—it's all baroque. It gesticulates rhetorically, it struts across stages, it sobs and bawls in its efforts to show you how passionate it is—Huxley) Flamboyant basically applies to a late French Gothic architectural style characterized by curves that suggest ascending flames (as in the tracery of windows). In its more general application flamboyant can suggest ornateness but more often stresses such elements as excess of color, conspicuous vigor and dash, or bold and daring display that suggest the freedom and brilliancy of flames <a flamboyant display of courage> <flamboyant penmanship—Dowden> <the flamboyant period of prose—Saintsbury> (these . . . flamboyant tricks of virtuosity have gone quite out of fashion—Quiller-Couch) <some [people] are simply present at accidents, without being involved at all—catastrophes of death, if you'll pardon a flamboyant phrase—Theodore Sturgeon> Florid implies richness, usually overrichness, in details, shown particularly in the use of color, figures of speech, or flourishes, for their own sake; it implies, therefore, showy and ostentatious embellishment <a florid style of poetry> <a florid musical composition> (the screen was an old one, of gilt Spanish leather, stamped and wrought with a rather florid Louis-Quatorze pattern—Wilde) <inexpressible how a book . . . can . . . be banned because of the manner in which it is advertised and sold. However florid its cover, whatever the pitch of its advertisements, the contents remain the same—W. O. Douglas> (a florid musical composition) (the screen was an old one, of gilt Spanish leather, stamped and wrought with a rather florid Louis-Quatorze pattern—Wilde) <inexpressible how a book . . . can . . . be banned because of the manner in which it is advertised and sold. However florid its cover, whatever the pitch of its advertisements, the contents remain the same—W. O. Douglas> <a florid style of poetry> <a florid musical composition> (the screen was an old one, of gilt Spanish leather, stamped and wrought with a rather florid Louis-Quatorze pattern—Wilde) <inexpressible how a book . . . can . . . be banned because of the manner in which it is advertised and sold. However florid its cover, whatever the pitch of its advertisements, the contents remain the same—W. O. Douglas> Ana adorned, decorated, ornamented, embellished (see ADORN): flowery, aureate (see RHETORICAL): *luxurious, sumptuous, opulent: *showy, ostentatious
Ant chaste: austere

orotund *resonant, sonorous, ringing, resounding, vibrant
Ana *loud, stentorian, strident

oscillate *swing, sway, vibrate, fluctuate, pendulate, waver, undulate
Ana vacillate, waver, *hesitate, falter: *shake, tremble, quiver, quaver

ostensible *apparent, seeming, illusory
Ana specious, *plausible, colorable: pretended, assumed, affected, simulated, feigned (see ASSUME)

ostentatious *showy, pretentious
Ana vainglorious, vain, proud (see under PRIDE): flaunting, parading, displaying (see SHOW vb): boasting, bragging, gasconading (see BOAST)

ostacize *banish, exile, expatriate, deport, transport, extradite

---

**ana** analogous words **an** antonyms **con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
outcast

vain, nugatory, idle, empty, hollow

* superfluous, supernumerary, surplus: futile, vain, fruitless, bootless

oust

* eject, expel, evict, dismiss

out-and-out

* outright, unmitigated, arrant

outcast n

Outcast, castaway, derelict, reprobate, pariah, untouchable are comparable when they mean one who has lost contact with or has been excluded from association with men in general or with a particular group. Outcast is usually applied to a person who has been rejected by society and is forced to live without its help, its companionship, or its approval; the term need not imply a degraded or abject condition, but it does suggest a loss of the comforts that accrue from one’s association with other men (the casual offender expiates his offense . . . and after devastating years is given back an outcast to the society that made him—Cardozo) (Arnold the heart-broken outcast from the snug household of faith—Montague) Castaway usually implies abandonment as the result of shipwreck and suggests the wretched and pitiable condition of one isolated from both human society and normal human comforts (took part . . . in that passage through the Straits of Gibraltar which landed him as a castaway on the Portuguese coast—Seller) (a pitiful wreck of an old man he had picked up . . . castaway Englishman, Henry Atkins by name—Cather) Derelict basically applies to property and especially to a ship abandoned and left to the mercy of the elements. In application to human beings the term emphasizes a cutting off from normal social association particularly because of irresponsible or dissolute habits and more often than outcast or castaway suggests a debased state more or less voluntarily assumed (chronic ne’er-do-wells, useless delericts of society, seldom hired and then not for long—F. L. Allen) (strange things happen on a racetrack where human delericts and equine aristocrats fashion bonds . . . beyond the comprehension of the outside world—Gerald Beaumont) Reprobate basically applies to one who, because of his sins, is rejected by God. In extended use reprobate is more likely to imply the disapprobation of society than actual rejection by society, and, while it may impe the grave wrongdoing, it is very likely to suggest a degree of social toleration (may paint his hero as a gay, devil-may-care reprobate, striding to the galleries with a twinkle in his eye—Pawley) (an old reprobate who acted as medicine man, astrologer, doctor, wizard, rainmaker—Birtles) Pariah and untouchable are words basically used to denote specific socially inferior or unacceptable groups in India but in their more general applications often used without reference to the original meaning. Pariah in such general application typically denotes a person especially as a member of a group is, justifiably or unjustifiably, rejected or despised by society (with us, prison makes a man a pariah. I, and such as I am, have hardly any right to air and sun—Wild) (many virile minds dare not speak out for fear of . . . becoming political pariahs—L. L. Rice) (a man who had disgraced himself in battle was a pariah in his native land—Dickinson) (hundreds of thousands of lepers still exist throughout the world as social pariahs—Heiser) Untouchable is applicable not only to an individual but to a group (as a people, nation, or class) which another and supposedly superior group regards as beneath its notice or outside the sphere of its consideration (those in Whitehall may go on thinking there is something extremely meritorious in treating Russia as a diplomatic untouchable—Daily Express) (that former untouchable of the Atlantic, the Tourist-Class passenger—Sutton) (A na vagabond, vagrant, tramp, hobo

outcome

* effect, result, consequence, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, sequel, issue, event

outdo

* excel, outstrip, transcend, surpass, exceed

outer, outward, outside, exterior, unsterior mean being or placed without something. Although in many cases interchangeable, they are more or less restricted in their applications and are therefore clearly distinguished in their implications. Outer usually retains its comparative force, then applying to what is farther out from something described as inner (the outer as distinguished from the inner court) (the outer layer of skin is called the epidermis) or is farther than another thing from the center (shed one’s outer garments) (the outer covering of a butternut is removed before the nut is cracked) Outer is also applicable to what is definitely without as opposed to what is definitely within something, but in this sense the term rarely suggests spatial relations; thus, the outer man is the man as known in the flesh and as distinguished from the inner man, that is, the man as he really is in mind and soul; one’s outer life is the part which is observable to one’s fellows; the outer world is the world as known directly through the senses. Outward may be used of spatial relations; when it is so used it commonly implies motion or direction away from, or the reverse of, what is inward (given to outward display—outward display from New York City is very heavy over the weekends) (the outward curve of a convex lens) Like outer, the term is sometimes used of what is manifest to others in contrast with what is within and especially with what is spiritual or mental (all outward actions, every overt thing we do—Powys) (obstinate questionings of sense and outward things—Wordsworth) (give outward and objective form to ideas that bubble inwardly and have a fascinating lure in them—Mencken) Outside usually implies a position on or a reference to the outer parts or surface of a thing (an outside stateroom on a ship) (outside shutters) (the outside paint is looking shabby) But outside, in extended use, applies especially to a person or thing that is beyond implied borders, bounds, or limits; thus, an outside influence is one not emanating from the particular society, group, or community in mind; the outside world is the world beyond the scope or interest (as of a family group, community, or set) or the confines of a place (as an institution, a town, city, or a state); an outside broker is one who is not a member of an exchange; outside work is work in the open air in contrast with inside work under cover (as in an office, factory, or store) (if it had condemned, Old Chester would not have cared in the very least. It looked down upon the outside world—Deland) External and exterior are often used interchangeably without loss, for both come close in meaning to outside (external appearance of an object) (the exterior form of a body) But external may be preferred when location or situation beyond or away from the thing under consideration is implied (our desires and wills are directed to some object external to us—Alexander) (the slavery which would be imposed upon her by her external enemies and her internal traitors—Russevelts) and exterior is often preferred when location or situation on the surface or on the outer limits of a thing is implied (the exterior slope of a fortification) (the exterior parts of the human body) (thou, whose exterior semblance doth belie thy Soul’s immensity—Wordsworth) In addition, external sometimes comes close to superficial in implying mere appearance or semblance that has no relation or little relation to what the thing really is (but under this external
appearance of ease she was covered with cold beads of sweat—Wharton} <beauty that is purely external> and exterior may, like outer and outward, apply to what shows or is made apparent {the exterior cold had stolen into the cars, forming lenses of ice on the inside surface of the windowpanes—Capote} <the absence of exterior demonstration of affection for my mother—Wecter> 

**Ana** extrinsic, extraneous, foreign, alien 
**Ant** inner —Con inward, inside, internal, interior, inner—testine (see **INNER**)

**outfit** 585 outrageous 

**outfit** n 1 Outline, contour, profile, silhouette, skyline, outlandish 

**outfit** vb *equipment, apparatus, paraphernalia, tackle, machinery, gear, matériel 

**outfit** vb *furnish, equip, appoint, accouter, arm

**outlast** *stranger, foreigner, alien, outsider, immigrant, émigré
**outlast** *furnish, equip, appoint, accouter, arm

**outlive** outlandish *strange, singular, unique, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, curious

**outlive, outlast, survive** are comparable when they mean to remain in existence longer than another person or thing or after a given experience. **Outlive** carries a strong implication of a capacity for endurance and is especially appropriate when competition, struggle, or the surmounting of a difficulty is also connoted {not marble, nor the gilded monuments of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme—Shak} <the world has outlived much, and will outlive a great deal more—J. R. Lowell> **Outlast** differs little from outlive but usually stresses greater length of duration rather than greater capacity for endurance and therefore may be employed when comparison is more important than a suggestion of superiority or when the fact of existing longer is more important than the length of time involved {customs that have long outlasted their usefulness—Inge} <the sweet sensations of returning health made me happy for a time; but such sensations seldom outlast convalescence—Hudson> **Survive** may be used as an intransitive as well as a transitive verb; in general it suggests merely a living or existing longer than another person or thing, or after some event (sometimes implied rather than expressed) which might bring about his or its end {the elder sister survived the younger} <he is unlikely to survive the operation> <one in a million of these childish talents survives puberty—Huxley> <they had at least survived the old year and were alive for the next—Irwin Shaw> {all called their host “Mr. President.”}

That much sense of the proprieties survived the reek of whiskey—S. H. Adams

**Ana** endure, persist, abide, *continue: withstand, *resist

**Ana** endure, persist, abide, *continue: surpass, *exceed

**Ana** forecasting or forecast, predicting or prediction, prophesying or prophecy, presaging or presage (see corresponding verbs at FORETELL): possibility, probability, likehood (see corresponding adjectives at PROBABLE)

**outrage** vb 1 *abuse, misuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat

**outrage** vb *prospect, anticipation, foretaste

**outrage** vb *offend, affront, insult

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>

**outrageous, monstrous, heinous, atrocious** mean enormously or flagrantly bad or horrible. Something outrageous violates even the lowest standard of what is right or decent or exceeds one’s power to suffer or tolerate {an outrageous practical joke} {an outrageous cartoon} {the thought had already occurred to him, and it seemed outrageous to hear it repeated in what was, after all, the mouth of a prostitute—Dahl} <had induced her to come to Camp Tamarack with lies, bald outrageous lies—Wouk>
outside *outer, outward, external, exterior
bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude,
overlay, overflow
*teem, swarm, abound
stranger, foreigner, alien, outlander, immigrant,
overbearing
frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent
outwit
prominent, conspicuous, salient, signal, outstanding
above
outward
outright
adj
Outright, out-and-out, unmitigated, arrant
are comparable when they are used hyperbolically as meaning not limited or qualified. They are often used interchangeably as intensives, but there are clear differences in meaning. What is outright has gone to the extreme and can be made neither better nor worse or is past recall (he is an outright fool) (you speak outright nonsense) (torture more unmerciful than outright killing). What is out-and-out is completely as described at all times or in every part or from every point of view (an out-and-out fraud) (an out-and-out villain) (an out-and-out blessing). What is unmitigated is or seems to be so utterly what it is as to be beyond the possibility of being lessened, softened, or relieved (an unmitigated evil) (unrequited affections are in youth unmitigated woes—L. P. Smith) What is arrant is all that is implied by the term that follows (usually a term of abuse) (an arrant coward) (an arrant hypocrite) (an arrant liar)

outside adj *outer, outward, external, exterior
Ana *extrinsic, extraneous, alien, foreign
Ant inside —Con *inner, inward, internal, interior, intestine
outsider *stranger, foreigner, alien, outlaw, immigrant, émigré
outstanding prominent, conspicuous, salient, signal, striking, arresting, remarkable, *noticeable
Ana *exceptional
Ant commonplace —Con *common, ordinary, familiar
outstrip outdo, *exceed, surpass, transcend, excel
outward *outer, outside, external, exterior
Ana extraneous, *extrinsic, alien, foreign
Ant inward —Con *inner, inside, internal, interior, intestine
outwit *frustrate, thwart, foil, baffle, balk, circumvent
Ana defeat, overcome, surmount (see conquer): *prevent, preclude, obviate: overreach, *cheat, defraud
over *above
Ana beneath
overbearing supercilious, disdainful, lordly, arrogant, haughty, *proud, insolent
Ana domineering, *masterful, imperious: scorning or scornful, despising or despisive, contemptuous (see corresponding verbs at despise): autocratic, despotic, tyrannical, *absolute
Ant subservient
overcome surmount, overthrow, subjugate, rout, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, beat, lick, subdue
Ana capture, *catch: outstrip, outdo, *exceed: *suppress, repress
overdue *tardy, behindhand, late
Ana delayed, retarded, detained, slowed, slackened (see delay vb): deferred, postponed (see defer)
overflow *teem, swarm, abound
overhang *bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, protrude, project, beetle
Ana *threaten, menace: suspend, *hang, dangle
overlay, superfuse, superimpose, appliqué can all mean to add one thing to another by placing the former upon or over the latter. Overlay usually implies covering with another material or substance, sometimes thinly (as with a wash, glaze, or coat) (plated silver is often a white metal overlaid with silver) or sometimes thickly (as by encrusting, veneering, or plastering) (a brick wall overlaid with stucco) In extended use overlay usually implies accretions or additions that conceal or encumber the original thing or smother and stifle whatever there is of life in it (the ancient world had its own complexities, but it was not, like ours, heavily overlaid with the debris of speculative systems—Buchan) (ages of fierceness have overlaid what is naturally kindly in the dispositions of ordinary men and women—Russell) Superpose and superimpose are not always clearly distinguished, especially when they imply a putting of one thing on top of another, thereby extending the height of the original mass; thus, strata are layers of rock successively built up by sedimentary deposits, each layer being superimposed or superposed on the one previously formed. Superpose, however, is more often chosen when relative position only is indicated, and superimpose when the thing added rests upon or is supported by the original thing; thus, superposed columns do not necessarily have the columns of the lower row for their respective bases, but superimposed columns do; an overtone is strictly a superposed tone. Superpose is also the technical term when dealing with light rays or other energy waves that occupy the same position without destroying each other or losing their identities (upon the large and general motion of the glacier, smaller motions are superposed—Tyndall) (originally they [two bright spots] were superposed on each other—Darrow) Superimpose often, especially in extended use, carries the implications of imposition or the addition of something extraneous and unintegrated (his symbolism is too often something superimposed—Bentley) Appliqué basically implies an ornamenting with pieces, usually of contrasting material, that are cut or shaped and applied (as by sewing or pasting); the term is used primarily in reference to textile ornamentation (appliqué a satin blouse with wool of the same color) In extended use appliqué suggests overlaying with something obviously added and forming a pattern (never taking his eyes off the pine trees, appliqué against the blue water—Cather) (footnotes have been appliquéed to books that would have been better off without this factitious decoration—D. C. Smith)
overlook slight, forget, ignore, disregard, *neglect, omit
overplus *excess, superfluity, surplus, surplusage
overreach *cheat, cozen, defraud, swindle
overrun *infest, beset
oversight supervision, surveillance all denote the function or duty of watching or guarding for the sake of proper control or direction. Oversight applies to the function or duty not only of one who is called an overseer or an inspector but of anyone whose duty it is to watch the progress of a piece of work so that no defects or imperfections may occur or to superintend the labors or efforts of a body of workers (each foreman is charged with the oversight of the work done in his department) (his widow was to have the oversight of the portions left to the younger children—Sudder) (legislative oversight of administration is a familiar and well-grounded assumption of responsible government—Macmahon) Supervision carries the strongest implication of authoritative powers, of responsibility, and of superintendence; it usually suggests more rigorous direction or closer management than oversight (the architect had supervision of the construction of the building) (the majority plan advocated supervision of the processing of ores . . . that is, complete control of uranium and
thorium—Current Biol.> Surveillance implies a close watch on persons suspected of being likely to commit misdeeds or offenses against the law or against morals or suffer untoward accidents <the police are maintaining a strict surveillance of the suspect> <keep the inmates of a lunatic asylum under surveillance> <I cannot drink a milk shake or put on a pair of shoes without their friendly but implausible surveillance—A.E. Stevenson> <they subjected her to a pride-breaking foreign surveillance, and refused her even the lip service of recognition as an equal—The Personalist>

**Ana** management, direction, controlling or control (see corresponding verbs at control): inspection, scrutiny, examination (see under scrutinize)

**overspread** vb *cover, envelop, wrap, shroud, veil* *hide, conceal, screen: cloak, mask, disguise, camouflage*

**overset ous ous** statement *exaggeration, hyperbole* *acknowledge, avow, admit, confess*

**overt** vb 1 *overturn, subvert, upset, capsize* *throw, cast, fling, hurl, toss* 2 rout, surmount, overcome, vanquish, conquer, defeat, beat, lick, subdue, subjugate, reduce

**overture** n Overture, approach, advance, tender, bid are words of somewhat indefinite application covering a variety of acts or actions by which one person or party tries to gain the goodwill of another person or party. Overture implies an attempt to begin a relationship. It may designate a formal proposal intended to open negotiations (as for peace; a marriage between persons of royal blood, or for a merger of corporations). It is, however, often applied to an act or speech that may be construed as a search for an opening (as for friendship, for reconciliation, or for cooperation) <she was not one of those backward and delicate ladies, who can die rather than make the first overture—Fielding> “You are the new second officer, I believe.”<Mr. Powell answered in the affirmative, wondering if this was a friendly overture—Conrad>

**Approach**, often in the plural, may be used in place of overture when the latter is felt to be too formal <the two girls made timid approaches to each other> <the minister is always tempted to break through . . . with intimate approaches to a congregation which are off the record—Sperry> <the females who are most often involved in tavern pickups and in street approaches—Kinsey et al> **Advance**, usually in the plural, may be applied to an attempt to gain love, friendship, or goodwill, whether it serve as an overture or as an effort to establish a closer relationship <she tried to make talk, but Hugh answered all her advances . . . briefly—Anderson> and it is the one of these terms that is freely used without qualification to suggest irregularity or impropriety in the overtures made <Frances withstood the advances of the King, but she accepted his gift—Sylvia Gray> <if an officer with a higher rank than my husband's makes advances to me, do I have to submit if I want my husband to get promoted?—Kaderly> **Tender** retains its primary meaning of offer, but it does not necessarily imply specific acts or a formal proposal. Sometimes it suggests little more than a sign or token <"He hath, my lord, of late made many tenders of his affection to me."—Affection! pooh! you speak like a green girl. . . . Do you believe his tenders, as you call them?"—Stark> <honored him by the tender of some important appointment—J.D. Hicks> **Bid** adds to advance the implication of appeal or, sometimes, of invitation; it always requires qualification <a bid for sympathy> <a bid for patronage> Like the other words of this group, the specific nature of the act or action can be inferred only from the context <de Gaulle's speech was generally considered a bid for the presidency—Ehrmann> <the establishing of a whaling colony as their first bid to fortune on the South river—Amer. Guide Series: Del.> **Ana** *proposal, proposition: offering or offer, proffering (see corresponding verbs at offer)*

**overturn**, upset, capsize, overthrow, subvert are comparable because they carry a common basic meaning—to cause to fall, or, intransitively, to fall, from the normal or proper position. Otherwise they vary widely in their applications and implications. Overturn is usually the least explicit in its additional implications; sometimes it implies a turning upside down <the boat overturned and floated with its keel upwards> but more often it implies a turning on the side so that the thing affected lies flat on the ground <overturn a chair by hitting against it> <they overthrew me in the dust, rubbed thistles into my hair, and left me—Masters> Sometimes, especially when the thing affected is a state, an institution, or something which has been built up or become established, the term also implies a breaking down and consequently a ruinizing or destroying <long-reverenced titles cast away as weeds; laws overturned—Wordsworth> <handed down a decision which overturned a century-old judicial rule—Walter Goodman> <a lever for prying apart and overturning the coalition—Straight> **Upset** is the familiar term and implies especially a loss of balance, sometimes physical, sometimes moral (often emotional) <by this sense of upset see discompose as the result of some external or internal cause or agency> <no birds in last year's nests—the winds have torn and upset the mossy structures in the bushes—Jeffries> <a European war lays its blight on whole peoples, deranges their life, upsets their standards of judgment—Montague> But upset more often than overturn is used to imply the abolition of something established or the demolishing of something built up <the general's calculations were upset by the swift advance of the enemy> <we are bound to be very cautious in coming to the conclusion that the Fourteenth Amendment has upset what thus far has been established and accepted for a long time—Justice Holmes> **Capsize** is specifically applicable to the upsetting or overturning of a boat; in more general use it usually suggests a complete overturning and is sometimes employed in an extended sense to imply a turning, especially a sudden turning, upside down or topsy-turvy, not only physically, but mentally or morally <it may well have been the comedians who restored the theatre's balance when the tragedies threatened to capsize it into absurdity—Bridges-Adams> **Overtw** (see also conquer) carries a stronger implication of the exercise of force, violence, or strategy than any of the preceding terms; it often also implies consequent defeat, destruction, or ruin <trees overthrown by a storm> <seek to overthrow religion> <my plans were overthrown—Darwin> <traditional beliefs which science may overthow—Cohen> **Subvert** implies an overturning or overthrowing of something held to be of intrinsic value (as a form of government, or morality, or religion) by undermining its supports or weakening its foundations; often it suggests the operation of insidious or corrupting influences <this doctrine would subvert the very foundation of all written constitutions—John Marshall> <a . . . question . . . whether more harm will be done to morality by weakening or subverting established usage than good—Alexander> <representative government . . . easily may be, and in England has been, used to subvert equality and fraternity—Brownell> **Ana** invert, *reverse, transpose

**own** vb 1 possess, hold, have, enjoy **Ana** control, manage, direct, *conduct: *keep, retain 2 *acknowledge, avow, admit, confess

**Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
pacify, appease, placate, mollify, propitiate, conciliate are * pacific, peaceable, peaceful, irenic

pabulum *food, aliment, nourishment, sustenance, pap
disturbed persons. Pacify implies a soothing or calming of anger, grievance, or agitation, or the quelling of insurrection especially by force (seeing his mounting rage, friends did all they could to pacify and restrain him) (second-grade troops, useful mainly to occupy parts of the country that have already been pacified—Crozer)

Appease may indicate the quieting of agitation or insistent demand by the making of concessions (open in manner, easy of access, a little quick of temper but readily appeased—Buchan) he is utterly and absolutely implacable; no prayers, no human sacrifices can ever for one moment appease his cold, malignant rage—L. P. Smith and it may be used in reference to appetites, desires, and passions as well as persons and to imply a giving of quietening satisfaction (there is always the drive to excel. Work, literacy, food and shelter . . . are minimum requirements of civilization, but they will not appease this ambition—Edmund Wilson) A frantic effort to appease mounting discontent at home—Willen Placate is sometimes interchangeable with appease but may imply a more complete or lasting assuagement of bitter feeling (each and every new route projected was liable to drastic alteration to placate local opposition—O. S. Nock) (federal officials who try to placate witch-hunting Congressmen—New Republic

Mollify stresses softening of anger or abatement of hurt feelings by positive action (as flattery or concession) (the propagandist . . . must be able to mollify and perhaps even convert the hostile—Huxley) (mollified when they heard that the patio, with its famous cottonwood tree will be left intact—Green Peyton

Propitiate may refer to averting the anger or malevolence or winning the favor of a superior or of one possessing the power to injure greatly (propitiate this far-shooting Apollo—Grote) Aunty Rosa, he argued, had the power to beat him with many stripes . . . it would be discreet in the future to propitiate Aunty Rosa—Kipling (the unlimited power of trustees to abuse their trust unless they are abjectly propitiated—H. G. Wells) Conciliate may be used of situations in which an estrangement or dispute is settled by arbitration or to persons or to utterances, acts, influences, or ideas that tend to make peace or to conciliate strife (they flung out a challenge which even the most pacific Quaker in Philadelphia had to heed—Charles & Mary Beard) (the pacific policy of Walpole was regarded by them as a national humiliation—Plumb) Peaceable also applies to persons or to their actions or words, but it describes their character or quality as peace-loving, as disposed to avoid strife, or as inclined to keep peace, rather than their aims or tendencies (the villagers were quiet, peaceable folk) (our king the good Simonides . . . deserves so to be called for his peaceable reign and good government—Shak) (the Mayans were a traditionally gentle and peaceable people—Bracker Peaceful applies especially to a life, a condition or state, a period or age, or a country or people in which peace prevails or there is no strife, but it may apply to whatever is indicative of peace, especially of mind, or provides an opportunity for such peace (and may at last my weary age find out the peaceful hermitage—Milton) (the peaceful countenance of the old clergyman) (you shouldst have seemed a treasure-house divine of peaceful years—Wordsworth) (man has laid down his weapons and resumed a peaceful way of life—Bailey) (the peaceful comportment of the seals had quieted my alarm—London) Irenic, which applies primarily to peace in connection with religious controversy, may describe attitudes and measures likely to allay dispute (the political equivalent of the dogfight on the human level is not made more irenic by the capacity of the participants to verbalize their animosities—Murphy) (Pieter lived to see his synod adopt a very irenic attitude towards its former antagonists—Rohe) Pacifist and pacificist apply chiefly to the views, arguments, writings, or attitudes of opponents of war or the use of military force for any purpose but they may also apply to the spirit or utterances of someone who conscientiously objects to wars or who would substitute arbitration for settlement in any disputes (pacifistic antagonism to conscription) (Grotius' pacificist attitude is founded on his understanding of the humanitarian and cosmopolitan aspects of natural law—Albert Salomon) (as many pacifist writers argue, international warfare has consequences for the lives of people, in terms of spiritual sickness and the brutalizing of attitudes—Garvin)

Anita concede, *grant, allow: *reveal, disclose, divulge
Ant disown: repudiate

Pabulum *food, aliments, nourishment, sustenance, pap

Pacify, appease, placate, mollify, propitiate, conciliate are comparable when they mean to quiet excited, aroused, or disturbed persons. Pacify implies a soothing or calming of anger, grievances, or agitation, or the quelling of insurrection especially by force (seeing his mounting rage, friends did all they could to pacify and restrain him) (second-grade troops, useful mainly to occupy parts of the country that have already been pacified—Crozer)

Appease may indicate the quieting of agitation or insistent demand by the making of concessions (open in manner, easy of access, a little quick of temper but readily appeased—Buchan) he is utterly and absolutely implacable; no prayers, no human sacrifices can ever for one moment appease his cold, malignant rage—L. P. Smith and it may be used in reference to appetites, desires, and passions as well as persons and to imply a giving of quietening satisfaction (there is always the drive to excel. Work, literacy, food and shelter . . . are minimum requirements of civilization, but they will not appease this ambition—Edmund Wilson) A frantic effort to appease mounting discontent at home—Willen Placate is sometimes interchangeable with appease but may imply a more complete or lasting assuagement of bitter feeling (each and every new route projected was liable to drastic alteration to placate local opposition—O. S. Nock) (federal officials who try to placate witch-hunting Congressmen—New Republic

Mollify stresses softening of anger or abatement of hurt feelings by positive action (as flattery or concession) (the propagandist . . . must be able to mollify and perhaps even convert the hostile—Huxley) (mollified when they heard that the patio, with its famous cottonwood tree will be left intact—Green Peyton

Propitiate may refer to averting the anger or malevolence or winning the favor of a superior or of one possessing the power to injure greatly (propitiate this far-shooting Apollo—Grote) Aunty Rosa, he argued, had the power to beat him with many stripes . . . it would be discreet in the future to propitiate Aunty Rosa—Kipling (the unlimited power of trustees to abuse their trust unless they are abjectly propitiated—H. G. Wells) Conciliate may be used of situations in which an estrangement or dispute is settled by arbitration or conciliating

Pack, crowd, cram, stuff, ram, tamp are comparable when they mean to fill tightly or cause to fill tightly something which holds a limited amount or presents a limited space. Pack, in its basic sense, implies a forming into packs or bundles for convenience in storing or transporting (oranges are packed in crates for shipment) (pack books in cartons before moving them) (in this factory huge quantities of meat are processed, packed, and shipped to all parts of the country). Additionally it may imply close, orderly arrangement in receptacles of determined size, and, as a corollary, compact and complete
filing. In extended use it may suggest completeness of filing or, frequently, an excessive or uncomfortable filing, without any relation to the ideas of storing or transporting

*<the play packed the theater>*<the crowd in the bus was packed in like sardines>*<packs an extraordinary amount of information into a few pages>*<Time Lit. Sup.>*<Crowd (see also PRESS) implies the presence of great numbers of persons or things in proportion to the space, area, or time; the term often suggests numbers so great as to press upon or otherwise seriously inconvenience>*<the harbor was crowded with ships>*<crowd more persons into a hall than it can safely hold>*<in revolutions men live fast: the experience of years is crowded into hours>*<Macaulay>*<the road ... was now crowded with people who had come up the hill for their Sunday afternoon walk>*<Archibald Marshall>*<his mind was crowded with the detail he observed>*<Nevil Shute>*<Cram carries a similar implication of pressing so as to bruise or squeeze, but the word usually also suggests a forcible and, sometimes, disorderly insertion into a receptacle or space of more than can easily or comfortably or safely take>*<cram a trunk full of clothes>*<their storehouses crammed with grain>*<Shak.>*<crammed his head full of knowledge>*<cram for an examination>*<most of the newcomers arrive with only such means as can be crammed into a bundle or two>*<Hershey>*<Stuff implies the use of such a material as padding, wadding, or straw in expanding or distending>*<stuff a pillow with feathers>*<stuff a mattress with straw>*<from this specific meaning comes the more general meaning of to fill so that a thing bulges or so that the filling protrudes>*<stuffed his purse with bills>*<stuff a turkey with dressing>*<i have stuffed too many of the facts of history and science into my head full of knowledge>*<as many hot hors d'oeuvres as the greediest guest could stuff into himself>*<Wouk>*<Ram nearly always retains some notion of its basic implication of pounding and tamping>*<ram home the charge in a muzzle-loading firearm by means of a ramrod>*<but this implication is sometimes obscured or subordinated and that of stuffing or cramming as if by pounding in is stressed>*<ram tobacco into his pipe>*<i always ram my clothes into a box>*<Burty>*<pronging great slices of meat onto his fork and ramming them into his mouth>*<Bruce Marshall>*<Tamp, which often comes close to ram in meaning, originally meant and still means to plug up a drill hole above a blasting charge with clay, earth, or similar material. In its extended use it implies a series of blows which press something into a confined space or under, over, or about another thing that needs to be supported>*<cram the gravel back around the ties>*<Laird>*<crammed his pipe>*

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

All of these words except the last designate also mental suffering. **Pain** commonly suggests sorrow (as for something lost or unattainable) <my craving to hear from her was at times a gnawing pain—Kenneth Roberts> **Ache** usually implies suffering that must be endured or longing not likely to be appeased <there was an ache in his heart like the farewell to a dear woman—Steinbeck> **Pang** suggests a sudden sharp access of a painful emotion <sharp pangs of envy>*<pangs of remorse>*<the next time I ran away just the same, and suffered the most ghastly pangs of fear—John Reed>*<statements ... made unhesitatingly, with no visible pangs of conscience—Sanders>*<Three presupposes the existence of mental agony and designates one of the recurrent spams that characterize the state of mind>*<fierce maternal passion ... was now bowing her still lower, in the throes of a bitter renunciation—Wharton>*<Twinge suggests less poignant than pang but often connotes compunction>*<twinges of conscience>*<too painfully preoccupied to feel a twinge of self-reproach at this undeserved praise—George Eliot>*<shot down his victims without shadow—Scott>*


2 in plural form pains *effort, exertion, trouble

**Ana** labor, toil, travail, *work: industriousness or industry, diligence, sedulousness, assiduousness (see corresponding adjectives at BUSY)

**pair n** *couple, brace, yoke

**palatable, appetite, savory, sapid, tasty, toothsome,** flavorsome, relishing mean agreeable or pleasant to the taste. **Palatable** is not emphatic in its implication of pleasantness; therefore it seldom suggests deliciousness and often, on the other hand, implies little more than acceptability <provide palatable meals for her family>*<the root, when properly cooked, was converted into a palatable and nutritious food—Prescott>*

The term is used frequently of things which are mentally digested <the rebuke was not palatable>*<I 'm afraid that my remarks have not been very palatable, but I can assure you that they were sincerely meant—Mackenzie>*

**Appetizing** implies a whetting of the appetite; it is applicable to the smell and appearance as well as to the taste of food <the appetizing odor of a roasting turkey>*<a convaalesce requires appetizing meals>*

In its extended use the word is applicable to things that stimulate a desire for more or an
eagerness to go further (an appetizing introduction to a subject) (the journalist with a nose for appetizing front-page tidbits—Zirato) Savory, also, is applied to foods that have an agreeable odor as well as taste, but it conveys definite implications of piquancy; it is therefore applied to highly seasoned dishes as contrasted with sweet or bland dishes (a bland meat sometimes needs a savory sauce) (a savory stuffing for the turkey) In extended use savory may suggest a pleasantly stimulating and agreeable quality (engaging books . . . neither autobiography, nor fiction, nor essays, but a savory mixture of all three—N. Y. Times) but more often than not it is used in negative construction or with or without implications (the conquest of the West . . . is not among the more savory chapters in American history—Agnew) Sapid is an uncommon and chiefly technical term that primarily applies to a substance able to stimulate taste receptors (assuming that the sapid substance . . . initiates the electrical depolarization of the taste cells—Beiderer) In general use it may imply a marked taste or flavor (a sapid dish) or in extended use one that is distinctly keen or exhilarating (a sapid and antisecptical quality of bright intelligence—Ellis) Tasty implies a marked taste, but it suggests in addition an appreciating quality (a tasty morsel) (a tasty cheese) (many trees, like the caju, which produce tasty fruits—P. E. James) (tasty ingredients for a good, breezy book—Barrett) Toothsome heightens the implication of agreeableness in palatable and may add the suggestion of tenderness or of daintiness (a toothsome dessert) (one of the most toothsome chicken dinners you'll ever munch—Gelston Hardy) Flavorsome usually suggests richness rather than sharpness of taste, and often implies fragrance as well as savor (flavorsome apricots) (incredibly flavorsome wild mushrooms from the forests—Davenport) Relishing stresses gusto in enjoyment (he found all this praise extremely relishing) (find ways in which the soldier's food could be made more relishing—Current Bigg) Ana *delightful, delicious, delectable, luscious: piquant, *pungent, spicy Ant unpalatable: distasteful palate *taste, relish, gusto, zest pale adj 1 Pale, pallid, ashen, ash, wan, livid mean devoid of natural or healthy color as applied to a complexion or deficient in vividness or intensity of hue as applied to a specific color. Pale is the least rich of these words in implications and connotations; it merely implies relative nearness to white and deficiency in depth and brilliance of coloring (his face grew pale) (the sea is a pale green in this light) Pallid adds to pale the suggestions of depriviation, rather than absence, of color and of an abnormal condition (as weakness or faintness, or intense weariness); thus, one may be naturally pale but a person made pale by illness would usually be called pallid (his pallid face reveals the strain he has been under) (trembling limbs and pallid lips—Shelley) (its little smoke, in pallid moonshine, died—Keats) Ashen and ashy definitely suggest not only the pale gray color of ashes but often, also, extreme pallor (as of the skin in death). A thing described as ashen or ashy may therefore be said to be deadly or ghastly pale (the skies they were ashen and sober—Poe) (the ash hue of age—Scott) (oft have I seen a timely-parted ghost, of ashen hue and presence—Shak) (Mr. Cruncher, who was all in a tremble, with an ashy and solemn visage—Dickens) Wan suggests the blanching associated with an unhealthy condition or waning vitality; it usually therefore denotes a sickly paleness (the blasted stars looked wan—Milton) (her poor wan face with its wistful, pitiful little smile—Hewlett) Livid basically means leaden-hued; it is chiefly used of things, especially of human faces that under the influence of something that distorts them have lost their normal coloring and have assumed a dull grayish tinge (he grew livid with rage) (in the greenish glass her own face looked far off like the livid face of a drowned corpse at the bottom of a pool—Conrad) The word is also applied to various dull or dun colors when the hue is barely apparent (the livid red of the sun seen through a heavy fog) (the livid yellow of a stormy sky) (his trembling lips are livid blue—Scott) Ana *ghastly, macabre: cadaverous, *haggard, worn 2 Pale, anemic, bloodless are comparable in their extended senses when they are applied to things and mean weak and thin in substance or in vital qualities, as though drained of blood. Pale stresses deficiency in qualities necessary to give a thing its true color or character. Sometimes it connotes lack of vigor, force, or energy (the French . . . shake in their fear and with pale policy seek to divert the English purposes—Shak) (does pale little studies that are as innocuous as his earlier work was adventurous—Coates) but more often it implies inadequacy or failure to measure up to the requirements of a type or standard (her whole existence was too pale, too inadequate in some way—too unvital—Farrell) Anemic in its extended applications to things implies deficiency in the elements that make for vigor or richness, especially intellectual or spiritual vigor or richness (the African Negro has . . . joy of life, love of color, keen senses, beautiful voice, and ear for music—contributions that . . . might one day prove a tonic to an anemic and artless America—Zangwill) (not even a respectable vocabulary of indecency to draw upon in support of our anemic cussing—Whicher) Bloodless stresses the absence of qualities necessary to life or lifelikeness (as vitality, warmth, color, and human emotion) (now if I make this sound bloodless, I am exaggerating a bit—even an old habit is livened once in a while with color—Mailer) (books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life—Stevenson) Ana *insipid, wishy-washy, inane, jejune: ineffective, ineffectual pall clov, surfeit, *satiate, sate, glut, gorge palliate, extenuate, gloze, gloss, whitewash, whiten are comparable when they mean to give a specially fine appearance to what is base, evil, or erroneous. Palliate may stress the concealing or cloaking or the condoning of the enormity of a crime or offense (retracing thus his frolics (‘tis a name that palliates deeds of folly and of shame)—Cowper) (we have not endeavored to conceal or even palliate his errors—Lockhart) (we cannot . . . explain away this deliberate act as due to the garrulity of age, or accept the other excuses with which his admirers have sought to palliate it—L. P. Smith) The word also is used especially in reference to other than moral evils in the sense of to disguise the true nature or extent of so as to soften the bad effects (minds which are keener and wills which are stronger than the average do not rest in "quiet desperation" palliated by illusion—Krutch) (re- sort to coercive force and suppression of civil liberties are readily palliated . . . when the cry is raised that "law and order" are threatened—Dewey) Extenuate (see also Whit) implies the aim to lessen (as by excuses or explanations) the seriousness or magnitude of some crime, offense, or guilt (when you shall these unlucky deeds relate, speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice—Shak) (she did not extenuate, she rather emphasized, the criminality of Catiline and his confederates—Froude) But the term is often used in the sense of to make excuses for (had never forgiven Cromwell the execution of the martyr Charles; and to extenuate the conduct of the
great Roundhead captain, was to make Mrs. Doria despire and detest you—Meredith) he permits himself...costly Havana cigars and an electric typewriter. There are circumstances that extenuate both indulgences—Kahn> Gloze and gloss often followed by over, imply an aim to veil by more or less light dissembling (as by specious comments or by flattering talk) the true harshness, unpleasantness, or disagreeableness of something; often, the words suggest a representation of what is actually disagreeable as much or less agreeable or as not distinctly unpleasant; gloze, however, is usually more derogatory than gloss which is a relatively neutral word (the explorer has been endowed in glozing over the hardships he endured) (not to wish to gloss over the fragmentary state of our present knowledge—Edington) (with the tongue of flattery glozing deeds which God and Truth condemn—Whittier) (we glozed our fraud by conducting their necessary war purely and cheaply—T. E. Lawrence) (believed in youth and did not gloze the unpleasant consequences of age—MacNeice) Whitewash, and less often whitlen, imply an attempt to cover up (as a crime, a defect or fault, or a person's guilt) by some such means as a superficial investigation, or a perfunctory trial, or a special report that leads to a seeming acquittal or exonerating or that gives the person or persons accused an appearance of innocence or blamelessness (a poet and an author will go so far in whitewashing a munificent tyrant—Walpole) (by selecting the evidence any society may be relatively blackened, and any other society relatively whitened—Spencer) (his object in attempting to whitewash the evildoers was not so clear—Crofts) Ana mitigate, alleviate, light (see RELIEVE): condone; *excuse: *moderate, qualify, temper: cloak, mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage pallid *pale, ashen, ashy, wan, livid palpable 1 *perceptible, sensible, tangible, appreciable, ponderable Ana *apparent, ostensible, seeming: believable, credible, colorable, *plausible Ant *insensible 2 plain, clear, *evident, apparent, manifest, patent, obvious, distinct Ana *sure, certain, positive: *noticeable, remarkable, striking, arresting Ant impalpable —Con *doubtful, dubious, questionable, problematic palpate vb *touch, feel, handle, paw palpation see under palpate at TOUCH vb palpitate beat, throb, *pulsate, pulse Ana vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate, *swing, sway palpitation beat, throb, pulsation, pulse (see under PULSATE vb) Ana vibration, oscillation, fluctuation, swinging, swaying (see corresponding verbs at SWING) palter *lie, varietate, equivocate, fib Ana evade, elude, *escape: *trifle, daily pathology trifling, trivial, *petty, puny, measly, picayunish, picayune Ana *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurrty, cheap, beggarly, shabby: abject, ignoble, *mean: *base, low, vile panopter *indulge, humor, spoil, baby, Mollycoddle pamper *gratify, tickle, regale, *please: fondle, pet, cosset, *caress, dandle Ant chasten pandect *compendium, syllabus, digest, survey, sketch, précis, aperçu pandemonium uproar, *din, hubbub, babble, hubbub, clamor, racket pander *cater, purvey Ana truckle, toady, *fawn, cringe: gratify, tickle, regale, *please panegyric tribute, eulogy, *encomium, citation Ana commendation, applauding or applause, complimenting or compliment (see corresponding verbs at COMMEND): acclaiming or acclaim, lauding, praising or praise, extolling or extollation (see corresponding verbs at PRAISE) pang *pain, ache, throe, twinge, stitch Ana agony, *distress, suffering: anguish, *sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak: torturing or torture, tormenting or torment (see AFFLICTION) panic terror, horror, trepidation, consternation, dismay, alarm, fright, dread, *fear Ana agitation, upsetting or upset, perturbation, disquieting or disquiet, disobeying or discomposing (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE) Con *confidence, assurance, self-possession, aplomb: *equanimity, composure, sangfroid pant aspire, *aim Ana thirst, hunger, *long, yearn, pine: crave, covet, *desire, wish, want pap *food, aliment, pabulum, nutriment, nourishment, sustenance paper n 1 Paper, instrument, document all mean a writing (often typed, sometimes printed) that is of value to its owner or to others who come after him as a source of information or proof of a right, contention, or claim. Paper is the most general term, applicable to such writing (as a letter, deed, certificate, or writ) filed away for future use or reference (state papers) (a peculiar difficulty I have experienced in dealing with Lord Macaulay's private papers—G. O. Trevelyan) (it was not until I was forty that my father put into my hands a few old family papers which furnished clues to an investigation of my more remote ancestry—Ellis) Instrument is a legal term applicable to a paper (as a deed, a writ, a will, or a contract) that is made and executed according to the terms of the law, as concrete evidence of some legally defined action (as a transfer of property, the enforcement of a judgment, one's decisions as to who shall inherit one's property, or the terms of an agreement) (set up a confederacy based upon a written instrument—Nevins) Document (see also DOCUMENT 1) applies to a legal instrument or to an original or authentic copy of a letter, a record, or other paper that may be used as a source of information, evidence, or proof (her letters I sent back except those of her correspondents, or proof of their quarrelling correspondence, and those, being documents, are placed in the hands of a third person—Byron) (the Declaration of Independence stands out as one of the vital documents of history—Canfield & Wilder) 2 article, *essay, theme, composition par n norm, *average, mean, median par adj mean, median, average (see under AVERAGE n) parable *allegory, myth, fable parade n 1 *display, array, pomp Ana showiness, ostentatiousness or ostentation, pretentiousness (see corresponding adjectives at SHOWY) 2 *procession, cavalcade, cortège, motorcade parade vb flaunt, expose, display, exhibit, *show Ana *reveal, disclose, divulge: *declare, proclaim, publish, advertise: vaunt, *boast, brag, gasconade Con cloak, mask, *disguise, dissemble, camouflage paradox, antinomy, anomaly are comparable terms that involve the idea of expressing or revealing an inner or inherent contradiction and are therefore not always clearly distinguished. A paradox is primarily a statement or proposition which contains a contradiction yet which, absurd as it seems to be, may still be true and in accordance with the facts and common sense (the perfectly bred man is...
born, not bred, if the paradox may be permitted—Brownell. By extension paragraph may apply to something which is known to exist, yet which when described or put in words seems incredible because it involves a logical contradiction <the old will perennially become new at the hand of genius. That is the paradox of art—Lowes> (the colon ... is a paradox—a well-known secret agent—Kohler) An antinomy, in philosophical use, is a contradiction among two or more terms, principles, or conclusions, both of which are held to be true but are mutually exclusive and irreconcilable. An antinomy, in the opinion of Kant both can be accepted as rules regulative of experience. In more general use the term is often applied to one thing that contradicts another thing and is irreconcilable with it (form and expression ... should stand toward one another not as clashing antinomies but as reconciled opposites—Babbit) or it may apply to a conflict (as of principles, beliefs, forces, tendencies, or aspirations) that is irresolvable in the light of present knowledge (a mind that is not naturally analytical, and conscious of the antinomies of existence—Amer. Speech) (every dogma is but one side of an inevitable antinomy—Cushing) (the antinomy between contented security and adventure for gain, between equilibrant justice and the justice of rewards—an antinomy whose resolution calls for a reasonable compromise and not a clear-cut choice—Aron) An anomaly is something that is contrary to what it should be. For example, it may be an exception or a contradiction to a rule; it may be a freak, a monster, a sport, or a contradiction to a type; it may be an anachronism or solemnism, irreconcilable with its surroundings or conditions; it may be an action, a practice, or a mood, that is in effect a denial of what one believes or teaches (there is no greater anomaly in nature than a bird that cannot fly—Darwin) (the anomaly of a war fought to preserve freedom by a people enslaved by prejudice—Quentin Anderson) (the political world must keep pace with the scientific world. A security league, in an age of flight, is an anomaly—E. B. White)

paragon n Paragon, apotheosis, nonpareil, onesuch are comparable when they mean a person or thing of consummate quality or transcendent excellence in its kind. Paragon distinctively implies supremacym and incomparability (an angel! or, if not, an earthly paragon—Shak.) (Mill's book is a paragon of expository writing—Macy) (neither the violent demagogue his enemies thought, nor the paragon his friends esteemed him—Bonham) Apotheosis basically applies to a raising from an earthly to a divine or ideal status (Wagner believed that Beethoven's Seventh Symphony ... was an apotheosis of the dance—Ellis) but it may be indistinguishable from paragon in denoting one that is the extreme and usually the highest of its kind (here all is spotless grace, ethereal delicacy ... the very apotheosis of womanhood—Jameson) (in the Third Reich the nation-state found both its zenith and its nadir, its apotheosis and its Black Mass—Deutscher) Nonpareil and onesuch, like paragon imply the absence of a rival or equal, but they sometimes impute uniqueness more strongly than excellence (thou art the best o’ the cutthroats: yet he’s good that did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it, thou art the nonpareil—Shak.) (it was the strapping leader, the nonpareil of newspaper-dom—Swabanerg) (a nonpareil at her dimly lit specialties, but ... certainly no Fitzgerald—Hentoff) (the Eiffel Tower, the mighty onesuch of the Paris exposition—Kobler) (for more than fifty years a political boss, a political onesuch, and a general nuisance to the forces of political progress—New Yorker)

parallel adj *like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, uniform, identical Ana *same, identical, equal, equivalent: corresponding, correlative (see reciprocal)

parallel n 1 *comparison, contrast, antithesis, collation Ana *likeness, similarity, resemblance, similitude Con *dissimilarity, unlikeliness, difference, divergence, diverseness

2 Parallel, counterpart, analogue, correlate are comparable when they denote a person or thing that corresponds in essentials to another person or thing, or closely resembles
the latter in the points under consideration. Parallel is especially appropriate when the two things compared are so like each other that their lack of divergence suggests two parallel lines; the term is often used in negative expressions (we shall seek in vain a parallel for this situation) (it is hard to find a parallel for this mode of procedure) (none but thyself can be thy parallel—PoPE) Sometimes, especially when actual comparison is implied, the word suggests that the two things follow a similar course, order, or line of development (cultural parallels found in the two hemispheres—R. W. Murray) (many interesting parallels are drawn with the historical plays of Shakespeare—Times Lit. Sup.) Counterpart often suggests a complementary and sometimes an obverse relationship (the two halves of a globe are counterparts of each other) (not an elaboration of Romanticism, but rather a counterpart to it, a second flood of the same tide—Edmund Wilson) More commonly, however, the word implies a duplication, especially in another sphere, or age, or language (synthetic chemistry has produced many a drug or perfume that has no counterpart in nature) (he saw that there was no mood of the mind that had not its counterpart in the sensuous life—Wilde) (French big businessmen and reactionaries politicians have the support of their counterparts in the U.S.—Gorell) Analogue usually implies a more remote likeness than the preceding words and suggests comparison with something familiar and tangible for the sake of clarifying an explanation or enforcing an argument. Like counterpart, it often involves reference to something in another sphere, or order, or genus (the gall in fishes is an analogue of the lung in quadrupeds) (the deepest and simplest reports of man’s trouble have always been told in animal analogues—Morley) (civilization is . . . the process by which primitive packs are transformed into an analogue, crude and mechanical, of the social insects’ organic communities—Huxley) Correlate retains its primary implication of correspondence, but does not retain that of a complementary relationship. A thing which is a correlate of another is what corresponds to it from another point of view or in a different order of viewing (the scientist asks what is the physical correlate of the rainbow) (words are the mental correlates of direct experience—Weaver) (fear persisted, and with it persisted an animosity toward the sister. Undoubtedly this is the psychological correlate of the incest taboo—Dollard)

**paralyze** *daze, stun, bemuse, stupefy, benumb, petrify* 
\*dismay, daunt, appall, horrify: disable, cripple, usually physical but sometimes social or intellectual, from reference to something in another sphere, or order, or genus of wealth, power, or influence in order to derive personal advantage or who is useless and unnecessary to society (the ones who evade the earth and live upon the others in some way they have devised. They are the parasites, and they are the despised—Buck) (a court society ridden with parasites) (as our present society disintegrates, this démodé figure will become clearer; the Bohemian, the outsider, the parasite, the rat—one of those figures which have at present no function either in a warring or peaceful world—Forster) (the poorer citizens were little more than parasites, fed with free state bread, amused by free state shows—Buchan) SycoPhant applies to one who clings to a person of wealth, power, or influence and wins or tries to win his favor by fawning, flattery, or adulation (a man who rose in this world because he curried favor, a sycophant—Kenneth Roberts) (sycophants who kept him from wholesome contact with reality, who played upon his overweening conceit and confirmed him in his persecutonal manias—Overstreet) Favorite applies to a close associate or intimate of a king or noble who is unduly favored by him, especially with power; it may suggest parasitism or sycophancy on the part of the one favored and often connotes the exerting of undue or improper influence (huge grants of land to court favorites—W. C. Ford) (reduced to the ranks every officer who had a good record and appointed scoundrel. favorites of his own in their places—Graves) (Pharaoh’s family and his favorites—J. E. M. White) Toady, often interchangeable with sycophant, stresses more the servility and snobbery of the social climber (he preens himself in the velvet coat, he spies out the land and sees that the Dowager is “the one”; he becomes the perfect toady—Stevie Smith) (this induced a sharp distaste for the flagrant political plunder, the obscene scramble for the loaves and fishes by the spoilsmen and their toadies—Sidney Warren) Lickspittle and bootlicker are interchangeable in common speech with sycophant and toady, implying, however, even stronger contemptibleness (characterized those who disagreed as licksplittles and toadies of official whiffy—Asahel Bush) (a ‘lickspittle humility that went beyond flattery—Moorehead) (its principal characters were stupid and bemused commanders, or vicious bootlickers tainted with homosexuality—Sutton) Hanger-on applies to someone who is regarded, usually contemptuously, as adhering to or depending unduly on another especially for favors (there were the hangers-on who might be called domestics by inheritance—Ybarra) (a hanger-on at Court, waiting for the preferment that somehow eluded him—Times Lit. Sup.) (those rather hangers-on than friends, whom he treated with the cynical contempt that they deserved—Graves) (Leech stresses the persistence of clinging to or bleeding another for one’s own advantage (hatred for the freeloader or deadbeat. Yet, as a student of humanity, he tolerated these leeches—Maule & Cane) (leeches: hateful parasites feeding up on the blood of pests—Robertson Davies) (Sponge and sponger stress a parasitic laziness, dependence, and indifference to the discomforts caused and usually a certain pettiness and constant regard for opportunities to cadge (all social sponges; all satellites of the court; all beggars of the marketplace—Drummond) (a girl whose disappointment with the world has made her the prey of an unsuccessful crook and sponger—Times Lit. Sup.)

**ana** fawner, cringer, truckler (see corresponding verbs at FAWN)

**parboil** *boil, seethe, simmer, stew* 
\*bundle, bunch, pack, package, packet, bale

**parcel** 1 part, portion, piece, detail, member, division, section, segment, sector, fraction, fragment 2 *bundle, bunch, pack, package, packet, bale* 3 *group, cluster, bunch, lot*

**ana** analogous words  **Ant** antonyms  **Con** contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page
parcel vb *apportion, portion, ration, prorate
Ana *allot, assign, allocate, apportion: *grant, accord, award
parch *dry, desiccate, dehydrate, bake
Ana see, scorch, char, *burn: shrivel, wizen, *wither
pardon n Pardon, amnesty, absolutio in their legal and ecclesiastical senses mean a remission of penalty or punishment. Pardon, which is the comprehensive term, is often ambiguous; it denotes a release not from guilt but from the penalty imposed for a transgression of secular or spiritual law. Thus in civil and military affairs a pardon usually implies a release from prison, or from the payment of a fine, or from a sentence of death, and permission to go scot free, though not acquitted, but the term may suggest as a cause either executive clemency or the undoing of a judicial wrong. When a pardon is extended to an entire class (as an insurgent group) or to an entire community, it is called an amnesty (*a general amnesty and liberty of conscience were promised to parliament by Charles II in the Declaration of Breda (1660) >Amnesty often suggests not only that past offenses will go unpunished, but that they will be forgotten. When, in ecclesiastical use and especially in the use of the Roman Catholic Church, a pardon is extended for sins confessed and atoned for according to the laws of the Church, it is specifically called absolutio when it implies that the eternal punishment for sin has been remitted in the sacrament of penance.
pardon vb forgive, remit, *excuse, condone
Ana *free, release, liberate: acquit, absolve, *exculpate
Ant punish —Con *penalize, fine, amerce: discipline, correct, chasten, castigate, chastise (see PUNISH)
pardonable n *venial
pare peel, *skin, decorticate, flay
pariah *outcast, castaway, derelict, reprobate, untouchable
parley treat, negotiate, *confere, commune, consult, advise
Ana *discuss, debate, dispute, argue, agitate: converse, talk, *speak
parochial *insular, provincial, local, small-town
Ana circumscribed, restricted, limited, confined (see LIMIT vb): narrow, narrow-minded, *illiberal, intolerant, hidebound, bigoted
Ant catholic —Con *universal, cosmopolitan, cosmic
parody n travesty, *caricature, burlesque
Ana skit, squib, lampoon, *libel
parody vb travesty, caricature, burlesque (see under CARICATURE n)
paroxysm spasm, convulsion, *fit, attack, access, accession
parry *dodge, shirk, sidestep, duck, fence, malinger
Ana ward, avert, *prevent, preclude: forestall, anticipate (see PREVENT): elude, evade, avoid, shun (see ESCAPE)
parsimonious niggardly, penurious, *stingy, close, close-fisted, tight, tightfisted, miserly, cheeseparing, penny-pinching
Ana avare, *covetous, grasping, greedy: *sparing, frugal: *mean, ignoble, sordid, abject
Ant prodigal —Con *profuse, lavish: *liberal, munificent, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, generous
part n Part, portion, piece, detail, member, division, section, segment, sector, fraction, fragment, parcel are comparable when they mean something which is less than the whole but which actually is or is considered as if apart from the rest of the whole. Part is the most comprehensive of these terms; it may be used in place of any of the succeeding words in this group or even in place of such words as element, component, or constituent (see ELEMENT) (all but parts of one stupendous whole—Pope) He spent part of his life in China >a large part of the estate went to the elder son >the cup was broken into three parts >the better part of valor is discretion—Shak. Its basic assumption is that the social whole has greater worth and significance than its individual parts—Huxley> Portion, although it denotes a part of a whole, does not always presuppose a compact or integral whole; it may suggest a whole that comprises all of an existing or a possible stock or store without any connotation of its assemblage (he is a portion of the loveliness which once he made more lovely—Shelley) >she dreaded . . . taking from the small sum of peace they had in the world, adding to the portion of their unhappiness—Malamud> But portion (see also FATE) is preferred to part when there is the intent to imply determination of amount or quantity or assignment or allotment, especially of a share (divide a pie into six equal portions) >a portion of each day was given to this artistic labor—Hudson> (when the plant was set, a portion of water, nicely calculated as to quantity, ran down a pipe and was deposited at the plant roots—Anderson> Piece applies to a separate or detached part of a whole; thus, a piece of bread is a part of a larger whole such as a loaf; a piece of clothing is a length cut from a bolt, a smaller length left after the larger part of that piece has been used, or a bit that serves as a swatch or sample >break a stick of candy into pieces >ask for a small piece of the cake> But piece so stresses the implication of independence that the term may come close to item and then is often applied to a thing that is relatively complete in itself, and has reference to a whole only as it presupposes a mass from which it was taken, a collection of similar or related things, especially as produced by one person, one machine, or one factory (the red-hot piece of iron upon the blacksmith's anvil) >each piece of furniture has been freshly polished >a piece of poetry >she had learned . . . that there really was more than one man in the world—the piece of knowledge that more than anything else divides women from girls—Wouk> Detail (see also ITEM) applies to a part chiefly when the presupposed whole is a plan or design, or represents the working out of a plan or design; in this sense the term is used largely in the arts of painting, sculpture, and architecture, and often denotes a small but important part or feature (produce a detail of a painting) (the sculptor's students were set to work, each modeling a detail of the Venus of Milo) >this blueprint shows the details of the façade >she had her plan clearly in her head, with every detail as distinct as though the scheme had already been carried through—Gibbons> Member applies to a part that constitutes one of the units of which a body (as a human or animal body, a social or legislative body, or a constructed or manufactured body) is comprised; the term, though it usually implies close association with the body under consideration, also usually implies separability of the unit in thought or in fact (the legs, arms, and head are often specifically regarded as members of the human body) >the saddle seat is a distinctive member of a Windsor chair> (the flying buttress is an important architectural member of most of the great medieval Gothic cathedrals) >members of Congress> (the club has 500 members) >a lolling, impudent tongue—a truly unruly member—Banfield> (society is a joint-stock company, in which the members agree, for the better securing of his bread to each shareholder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater—Emerson> Division and section apply to a distinct, often a detached, part formed by or as if by cutting or dividing. The terms are often used interchangeably, but division is usually applied to larger parts than is section; thus, one would refer to the divisions A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
part vb divide, *separate, sever, sunder, divorce

share, participate

detach, disengage: apportion, * allot, allocate, assign: * tear, rend, cleave

cleave (see STICK) — Con cling, * stick, adhere: * unite, combine, conjoin

*share, participate

Analogous words

Ano separate, divide, part: take, * receive, accept: * have, hold, own, possess, enjoy

analogy words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
modern concept, an atom is the smallest particle of an element that can exist either alone or in combination with smaller particles of the same or of a different element (an atom of hydrogen) Molecule denotes the smallest particle of an element or of a chemical combination (as a compound) that retains chemical identity with the substance in mass. Molecules are usually composed of two or more atoms, either of the same or of different elements (a molecule of water is composed of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen)

parti-colored *variegated, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked

particular adj 1 *single, sole, separate, unique, lone, solitary
2 individual, *special, specific, especial
3 particularized, detailed, itemized, *circumstantial, minute

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

partner, copartner, colleague, ally, confederate all denote "follower, adherent, disciple, sectary, henchman, particular, detailed, itemized, "circumstantial, particularized

A nuanced description of words and their usages is provided, emphasizing their context and usage in different scenarios.

pass vb Pass, pass away, expire mean to move or come to a termination or end. Pass and pass away imply gradual or gentle movement to another state or condition; they often imply a transition from life to death but they may suggest a transition from any one state or time or season to another (all that lives must die, passing through nature to eternity—Shak.) (when those conditions have passed away and history returns to normal—W. P. Webb) (but yet I know, where'er I go, that there has passed away a glory from the earth—Wordsworth) (the strangeness of his life passed, and he began to feel what this city was—Buck.)

Expire suggests a movement that seems like the slipping and gliding away of something that moves silently or without notice; the word applies particularly to a period of time, either in reference only to itself or in reference to something that should have been accomplished within that time (became burdensome to him as time elapsed and political conditions changed—Malone) (all prophecies make sad reading when their term has elapsed—Krutich) (the period for the payment of the debt had now elapsed) Expire basically means to breathe one's last breath and hence to die; but it comprehends the extended senses as well as the ordinary sense of die, and is used in reference to many things that come to an end as if by death (the flame of the candle suddenly expired) (the society expired after a single meeting) (in the expiring, diffused twilight—Conrad) (suddenly their whispers expired—Bennett)

It is often used with this underlying notion in reference to a period of time (as stated in a bond, a note, a promise, an agreement, a patent, or a lease) which has come to an end (your note, which was due on June 24, has now expired) (the two years of grace which the bank gave the city will soon expire) (when this copyright expires, it cannot be renewed, unless there is a new edition of the book) (Antony regarded the triumvirate as having expired on the last day of 33 B.C. and did not wish it renewed—Buchan)

pass n passage, way, route, course, artery

pass n *juncture, exigency, emergency, contingency, pinch, strait, crisis

passage 1 pass, *way, route, course, artery
2 Passage, passageway, corridor, hall, hallway, gallery, arcade, cloister, aisle, ambulatory designate a typically long narrow way connecting parts of a building or affording access to a particular room or section in it. Passage (see also WAY 1) and passageway are the comprehensive terms, usually interchangeable with any of the others. A corridor is a passageway flanked on one or both sides by rooms, apartments, compartments, or offices or leading from one part of a building to another. Hall can be applied to a corridor or to a room that serves as an entrance to a house, but hallway is used only of the former. A gallery is a corridor having a continuous row of windows; it may be a part of the building or form an enclosed veranda. An arcade is an arched and covered passageway, usually between rows of shops but, sometimes, between the fronts of a row of shops and the street or an open court. A cloister is a similar structure in a monastery or in a building imitating monastic architecture, but it runs along one or more sides of an open court or patio, and is arcaded or colonnaded on the outer side. An aisle is, basically, not a passageway but a part of a church or other building divided from the central part, or nave, by a row of columns or piers. The term is also applied to a passage flanked by rows of seats (as in an auditorium, a theater, a railway car,
passageway 597 pathos

or a bus). An ambulatory is a passageway through which one may walk; it is specifically applied to the cloister of a monastery, and to the curved passageway between the choir of a church and the chapels of an apse.

passageway *passage, corridor, hall, hallway, gallery, arcade, cloister, aisle, ambulatory

pass away *pass, elapse, expire

passing adj *transient, transitory, ephemeral, momentary, passage, corridor, hall, hallway, gallery, passageway

passion n 1 suffering, agony, dolor, *distress, misery

Passion which cause or in the pursuit of the end <with all the ardor or enthusiasm for a cause or end and coupled with Inge >they are both weary of politics today, still provides the pupil with something concrete to admire, to

enthusiasm channel, but he stimulates ardor; thus, a teacher may stimulate without a clearly envisioned goal, but

nearly

enthusiasm always implies an objective, a cause, or an object of devotion; thus, a teacher may stimulate without a hint from the context the nature of the emotion remains unknown <Knipe also knew that passion was powerful, heady stuff, and must be prudently dispensed— Dah!>

Passion (see also FEELING, DESIRE) may specifically designate intense erotic love, or often lust, or it may designate violent rage <she flew into a passion >I am very sorry, good Horatio, that to Laertes I forgot myself . . . but, sure, the bravery of his grief did put me into a towering passion—Shak.>

Fervor and ardor both imply the kindling of emotion to a high degree of heat, but fervor more often suggests a steady glow or burning and ardor a restless or leaping flame. Fervor is associated especially with matters (as emotions that express themselves in prayer, contemplation, or devotion) involving persistent warmth; ardor, with those (as emotions that express themselves in eager longings, or zealous efforts) that suggest the violence and sometimes the transitoriness or wavering of flames <the fervor of a nun >the ardor of a missionary >exhort with fervor >dampened his ardor >all prayed and hunted quail with equal fervor and died . . . at an advanced age—Styron >in the prints of Harunobu there is an intense sympathy with youth, with its shyness, its tumultuous aridors—Binyon>

Enthusiasm often comes very close to ardor, but it may differ in its emphasis on the rational grounds for the emotion, such as thoroughgoing admiration for a person, place, or thing, or the conviction of the worthiness of a cause or end. Aridors may suggest aspiration without a clearly envisioned goal, but enthusiasm nearly always implies an objective, a cause, or an object of devotion; thus, a teacher may stimulate ardor in a pupil without necessarily directing the latter's emotion into a definite channel, but he stimulates enthusiasm only when he provides the pupil with something concrete to admire, to follow, or to fight for <he showed in this cause not only the enthusiasm of an idealist, but the sagacity of a practical leader—Inge >they are both weary of politics today, still radicals out of habit, but without enthusiasm and without a cause—Mailer>

Zeal retains from earlier senses a suggestion of a goading or driving passion expressed as great ardor or enthusiasm for a cause or end and coupled with energetic and unflagging activity in the service of the cause or in the pursuit of the end <with all the zeal which young and fiery converts feel—Byron >it took the Frisian movement about twenty years to lose the passion of its early zeal—Huxley >worked in almost silent zeal and entire absorption—Buck>

Ana *ecstasy, rapture, transport: *anger, rage, fury, wrath: eroticism, amorousness (see corresponding adjectives at EROTIC)

passionate *impassioned, ardent, fervent, fervid, perverted

Ana *intense, vehement, fierce, violent: impetuous, headlong, *precipitate, abrupt: excited, quickened, stimulated (see PROVOKE)

passive *inactive, inert, idle, supine

Ana *impassive, phlegmatic, stolid, apathetic

ana active —Con live, operative, dynamic (see ACTIVE)

paste n *dough, batter

pastoral *rural, rustic, bucolic

pasture vb graze, *feed, nourish

pat adj *seasonable, timely, well-timed, opportune

Ana apt, happy, felicitous, appropriate, fitting (see FIT adj): pertinent, apposite, apropos, applicable (see RELEVANT)

patch vb *mend, repair, rebuild

Ana emend, remedy, redress, amend, *correct: fix, *adjust, regulate

patent *evident, manifest, distinct, obvious, apparent, palpable, plain, clear

Ana *noticeable, conspicuous, salient, prominent: *flagrant, glaring, gross, rank

Ant latent —Con *imperceptible, insensible, impalpable: hidden, concealed, secreted (see HIDE vb)

pathetic poignant, affecting, *moving, touching, impressive

Ana *pitiful, piteous, pitiable: plaintive, *melancholy, tenderness—J. R. Green>

the keenest sarcasm to the trick employed (as by a writer, speaker, or artist) in seeking to produce such an effect <he passed without an effort from the most solemn appeal to the gayest railery, from the keenest sarcasm to the tenderest pathos—J. R. Green>

"My poor children, what had I ever done to you that would drive you to such a step?" The touch of pathos was all that Jane needed to stiffen her—Mary Austin>

Poignancy is sometimes preferred by literary and art critics to pathos because it carries no suggestion of artificiality and centers the attention on the genuineness of the thing's emotional quality and of the emotions it arouses; it also specifically implies a power to pierce the mind or heart so that the reader, hearer, or observer feels acutely as well as with aesthetic pleasure the emotion aroused whether it be pity or sorrow or another overwhelming emotion <the most famous of the women-poets of Japan, whose verse expresses with peculiar poignancy a sense of the glory of beauty and the pathos of it—Binyon >felt the poignancy of the kakapo's plight and had somehow managed to slip in this intimation of pity for a fellow creature—Tilford>

Pathos is often applied to a false or pretentious
pathos and typically implies a maudlin sentimentality so detached from reality as to arouse disgust at contempt rather than the softer emotions that it is intended to elicit (the poet seeks to render soulfully the blubering of a happy idiot, and falls into bathos—Clariță) But bathos may also apply to a silly and artificially lugubrious reaction to something emotionally appealing that is akin to self-pity (the voice of God, even at second-hand, should do more than make us sniff moistly in self-indulgent bathos—Hatch)

patience, long-suffering, longanimity, forbearance, resignation can all mean the power to endure or a capacity for enduring without complaint something which is disagreeable or requires effort. Patience stresses calmness or composure, not only under suffering or under provocation, but in awaiting an outcome that seems unduly or inordinately delayed, or in performing a task that makes severe demands upon one's attention <upon the heat and flame of passion—Cronin> <upon the heat and flame of passion—Hooker> <he gathered . . . that he had been either a man of saintly patience, a masochist or a deaf-mute—Theodore Sturgeon> <bred to patience . . . she had cultivated and perfected a vast cowlike calm—Pynchon> Long-suffering and longanimity imply extraordinary patience under provocation or trial. The former sometimes also suggests undue meekness or submissiveness <it shows much long-suffering in you to put up with him, and keep him in your employ—Hardy> <the long-suffering type on whose bosom repentant tears always eventually fall—Warren> The latter term more often than the former names a virtue, and so is chiefly found in abstract use <in Isaac such simplicity, such longanimity in Jacob—Hooker> <the second window was to be devoted to longanimity, symbolized . . . by the passion-flower and the heavenly crown for long-suffering—Kil-lackey> Forbearance (see also under forbearing) adds to long-suffering the implication of restraint in the expression of one's feelings or in exacting punishment or one's due; it therefore often suggests toleration, for the sake of peace, of something that merits censure or castigation <my lord Kew has acted with great forbearance and under the most brutal provocation—Thackeray> Resignation implies a submission to suffering or evil or an acceptance of it because it must be endured or cannot be escaped; it sometimes connotes patience arising from submission to what is believed to be the Divine Will, but often it implies a stoical or fatalistic rather than a religious attitude <resignation superadds to patience a submissive disposition . . . ; it acknowledges both the power and the right of a superior to afflict—Cogan> <a last-ditch fighter by nature . . . humspheric resignation stems from the heart and flamel-y suspicious—Wouk> <for a modern American or Englishman, waiting is a psychological torture. An Indian accepts the blank hours with resignation—Huxley>

Ana perseverance, persistence (see corresponding verbs at persevere); fortitude, backbone, pluck, grit, sand, guts; *equanimity, composure

Ant impatience

patois *dialect, vernacular, lingue, jargon, cant, argot, slang

patrician *gentleman, aristocrat

patrimony *heritage, inheritance, birthright

patron *sponsor, surety, guarantor, backer, angel

Ana supporter, upholster, champion (see corresponding verbs at support); benefactor, contributor (compare benefaction, contribution, at donation); protector, defender (see corresponding verbs at defend)

Ant client: protégé

patter vb chatter, prate, *chat, gab, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber

pattern n 1 exemplar, example, *model, ideal, standard, beau ideal, mirror

Ana *paragon, apotheosis

2 *figure, design, motif, device

Ana *form, figure, shape, configuration, configuration

paunch *abdomen, belly, stomach, gut

pause n Pause, recess, repose, lull, intermission are comparable when they mean a temporary cessation especially in action, in activity, or in movement. Pause, though it carries an implication of expected resumption, stresses the fact of stopping without indicating, in itself, the duration or the cause of the stop. The term is often applied to such a letup in utterance as that marked in printing by a period or a caesura or as that caused by an interruption, by hesitation, or by awaiting an answer, but it may quite as readily be applied to a temporary cessation of activity (as for play, for sleep, or for relaxation) <there was a short pause before he resumed speaking> (between the dark and the daylight . . . comes a pause in the day's occupations, that is known as the Children's Hour—Longfellow> <there is no pause in the invention of new and appalling weapons—Grenville Clark> Recess implies a temporary cessation of work; usually it applies to an interval granted (as to legislators or students) for the sake of relaxation or diversion <the smaller boys and girls are granted a recess of ten minutes each morning> <Parliament is now in recess> <the justices adjourned for their summer recess—N. Y. Times> Respite implies a time of relief (as from labor, suffering, or war) or of delay (as before sentencing or executing) <there will be no respite for such workers for the duration of the war> <a battle that seemed to be without respite and without end—Röld-vaag> <a body of people . . . thrown together for a week or so without the possibility of respite or escape—Lowes>

Lull implies a temporary cessation or marked decline of activity (as in the course of a storm, in business, or in military activity between two offensives) <after a lull the storm turned inland with increased fury> <running full tilt in most of its departments following a summer lull—Eri-son> <there was a lull in the noises of insects as if they . . . were making a devotional pause—Crane> Intermission basically implies a break in continuity but comes close to lull in stressing one caused by a temporary cessation (as of an action, a process, or a proceeding). However, its application is usually quite different since it usually suggests a pause available for some new or special activity (as for rest or recuperation) <the habit of stern thrift, begun in 1870 and practiced without any intermission till . . . 1897—Bennett> <the attack occurred after a few pays' intermission> <the attack occurred after a few pays' intermission from such melancholy reflections—Burke> <several persons gathered around to talk during the intermission between the acts of a play>

Ana interruption, gap, interval, *break, interim: stopping or stop, ceasing or cessation (see corresponding verbs at stop)

paw vb *touch, feel, palpate, handle

paw n hostage, *pledge, earnest, token

pay vb Pay, compensate, remunerate, satisfy, reimburse, indemnify, repay, recompense are comparable when they mean to give money or an equivalent in return for something. Pay is the ordinary term when the giving or furnishing of money to discharge an obligation (as for services rendered or goods delivered) is implied <pays good wages to his gardener> <pay ten dollars for a hat> <taxes are what we pay for civilized society—Justice Holmes> <could once more meet his running expenses, and with pinching and scrimping, even pay off some outstanding bills—Malamud> When, in extended use, pay does not imply A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
the actual giving of money, the term is often employed purely as a figure of speech (nothing can pay him for his pains) (the hard knowledge of the hipster that you pay for what you get is usually too bitter for the beatnik—Mailer) or it means merely to give as due or deserved (pay a compliment) or to give in the hope of a return in kind (pay attention to a young woman) Compensate is often preferred to pay when no legal obligation is implied or no payment for services is expected, because the term stresses a return, usually in money, that is regarded as an equivalent for a service given or for trouble taken or time spent (compensate a waiter for his cheerful willing service) (compensate a neighbor for taking care of one's pets during the summer) (an epoch in which the immense costs of a war could never be compensated by any economic gains that came from it—Lerner) In this sense (see also COMPENSATE 1) compensate often does not imply an obligation to another or the passing of money; it often suggests a counterbalancing (as of something unpleasant by something pleasant or of something lost by something gained) (the beauty of the view compensated for the labor of the climb) (compensate for) or a feeling of liveliness by assertions of superiority—Auden Remunerate, like pay, usually implies the discharge of an obligation in money and, like compensate, usually suggests the giving of an equivalent for services rendered rather than for goods delivered (goods with which the Cayuá is remunerated for his work for Brazilians—J. B. Watson) but unlike both of these terms it often carries a suggestion, sometimes a mere hint, sometimes a distinct implication, of a reward (he promised to remunerate the searchers handsomely) (the king remunerated them both, the former with an addition of honor, the latter with an accession of estate—Fuller d. 1661) Both compensate and remunerate can replace pay when pay might seem offensive or indelicate (the party always remunerates its faithful workers) Satisfy (see also SATISFY 1 & 3) implies the payment of something that is asked, demanded, or required especially by the terms of the law or the decree of a court (satisfy a claim) (satisfy a judgment) (death duties had been paid and the demands of creditors satisfied—Gibbons) Reimburse implies a return for money that has been expended by oneself in hope of making a profit or by another (as one's agent or attorney) in doing one's business (the profits of his business did not reimburse him for the money he had invested in it) (reimbursed his lawyer for earlier expenditures) (a promise of reimbursing . . . what the people should give to the king—Bolingbroke) (only Pennsylvania, of all the states, reimbursed loyalists for confiscated property—Smelser & Kiprin) Indemnify implies promised or actual reimbursement for loss (as by fire), for injury (as by accident), or for damage (as by war or disaster) (the basic purpose for which insurance exists is to indemnify persons subject to loss when such loss occurs—Hedges) (the governments of Louis XVIII and Louis Philippe so far as practicable indemnified the citizens of foreign states for losses caused by . . . Napoleon—J. B. Moore) But indemnify may approach compensate and implies less a reimbursing than a counterbalancing (he flogged them with merciless severity: but he indemnified them by permitting them to sleep on watch, to reel drunk about the streets, to rob, beat, and insult the merchants and the laborers—Macaulay) Repay and recom pense carry a weaker implication of giving or furnishing money than any of the preceding terms and a stronger implication of returning like for like; both therefore stress the demands of justice and usually the compulsion of an obligation. When the passing of money or of an equivalent is implied, repay may be preferred when there is a suggestion of giving something back that has been paid out to one (repay a loan) and recompense when compensation for voluntary services or for losses or injuries sustained is suggested and a due or adequate return is implied (recompense these people, and especially the priest, for their great kindness—Kipling) But repay and recompense sometimes imply reciprocation of something given, advanced, or inflicted. Repay usually implies little more than paying back in kind or amount (repay her scorn for scorn—Keats) (we never can repay your kindness) (Peacock's fidelity as a correspondent . . . was repaid by the magnificent series of letters from Shelley—Garnett) but it is sometimes used when the return is not what might be expected but is its diametrical opposite (repay love with hate) (repaying incredulity with faith—Browning) (these Indians enabled the Pilgrims to replenish their dwindling stores, a friendly act that was later repaid with treachery—Amer. Guide Series: Me.) Recompense often in this extended sense specifically implies a desire to make amends or to atone for a wrong that has been inflicted (in some part to recompense my rash but more of it to some measure of my own folly—Virgil) Indemnify, like pay, wage or wages, salary, stipend, fee, hire, emolument Ana *repayment, restitution, indemnity, redress, amends

paying adj Paying, gainful, remunerative, lucrative, profitable share the meaning of bringing in a return in money. Paying often implies only such a return, but it may imply a satisfactory return for the labor or effort or expenditure involved (as in a venture, a business, or a trade) (a position as office boy was his first paying job) (oats proved a paying crop) (toolmaking is one of the better paying trades) (a paying investment) (important minerals found in paying quantities in Alabama include asbestos—Willingham) Gainful applies chiefly to an endeavor (as a business or a trade) that leads to a money return whether large or small, but it may apply to persons or their acts that are motivated by a desire for gain (gainful occupations) (the lawyer's profession is often preferred to government service as the more gainful career) (most girls choose to be gainful workers for at least a few years before marriage—Landis) (the hypocrisy that covers gainful exploitation by the pretext of a civilizing mission—Hobson) Remunerative suggests a rewarding of labor, effort, or expenditure and often implies a profit or recompense that exceeds what is usual or customary (it was a remunerative venture for all concerned) (some British farmers with land beside main lines of railways . . . find big boldly silhouetted advertisements to be the most remunerative of their crops—Montague) (the State has come nearer than usual to a useful and remunerative working partnership with the industry—Macmillan) Lucrative carries a stronger implication of large returns and applies to a business, trade, or profession or to an enterprise or undertaking that succeeds beyond one's hopes (he made a lucrative deal when he sold his house) (a lucrative speculation in cotton futures) (contributing to the town's prosperity and wealth was a lucrative smuggling trade—Amer. Guide Series: La.) (our rulers will best promote the improvement of the nation . . . by leaving capital to find its most lucrative course—P. M. Fraser)

Profitable also is applied to what is rewarding, but it need not imply a money return (see BENEFICIAL); however it usually suggests such returns, not necessarily in a lucrative manner but in any degree that is consonant with one's deavor (as a business or a trade) that leads to a money return whether large or small, but it may apply to persons or their acts that are motivated by a desire for gain (gainful occupations) (the lawyer's profession is often preferred to government service as the more gainful career) (most girls choose to be gainful workers for at least a few years before marriage—Landis) (the hypocrisy that covers gainful exploitation by the pretext of a civilizing mission—Hobson) Remunerative suggests a rewarding of labor, effort, or expenditure and often implies a profit or recompense that exceeds what is usual or customary (it was a remunerative venture for all concerned) (some British farmers with land beside main lines of railways . . . find big boldly silhouetted advertisements to be the most remunerative of their crops—Montague) (the State has come nearer than usual to a useful and remunerative working partnership with the industry—Macmillan) Lucrative carries a stronger implication of large returns and applies to a business, trade, or profession or to an enterprise or undertaking that succeeds beyond one's hopes (he made a lucrative deal when he sold his house) (a lucrative speculation in cotton futures) (contributing to the town's prosperity and wealth was a lucrative smuggling trade—Amer. Guide Series: La.) (our rulers will best promote the improvement of the nation . . . by leaving capital to find its most lucrative course—P. M. Fraser)

Profitable also is applied to what is rewarding, but it need not imply a money return (see BENEFICIAL); however it usually suggests such returns, not necessarily in a lucrative manner but in any degree that is consonant with one's wishes or hopes (he owns a profitable hardware business) (they hoped to make a profitable investment) (follow a profitable trade) (scientific research is the development of new, more profitable products and processes—K. S. Davis) (putting to profitable use his conviction that
the atmosphere of the music should determine its ... presentation—Koldin) (he spoke unreservedly and plainly ... at a time when it would have been profitable to have been, at least, noncommittal—Charles Graves)

peace *true, cease-fire, armistice

peaceable *peaceful, peaceful, pacific, pacificist, irenic

Ana *amicable, friendly, neighborly: *amiable, complaisant: *calm, placid, serene, tranquil

Ant contentious: acrimonious—Con quarrelsome, bellicose, *belligerent: *martial, warlike

peaceful 1 *calm, tranquil, serene, placid, halcyon

Ana *soft, gentle, mild: *still, stilly, quiet, silent, noiseless

Ant turbulent

2 *peaceable, peacefast, pacific, pacificist, irenic

Ana composed, collected, untruffled, *cool: equable, constant, *steady

Con disturbed, perturbed, disquieted, agitated, upset, discomposed (see DISCOMPOSE).

peak 1 *mountain, mount, alp, volcano, mesa

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

peculiar 1 individual, *characteristic, distinctive

Ana *special, especial, particular, specific: idiosyncratic, eccentric (see corresponding nouns at ECCENTRICITY)

2 eccentric, odd, queer, *strange, singular, unique, quaint, outlandish, curious

Ana bizarre, grotesque, *fantastic: *abnormal, atypical, aberrant: unusual, uncanny (see affirmative adjectives at USUAL).

pecuniary *financial, monetary, fiscal

pedantic, academic, scholastic, bookish are comparable as terms of derogation applied to thinkers, scholars, and learned men and their utterances. Pedantic often implies ostentatious display of knowledge, didacticism, and stodginess (his opinions were as pedantic as his life was abstemious—Froude) It may also connotate undue attention to scholarly minutiae and small interest in significant issues (much pedantic mistaking of notions for realities, of symbols and abstractions for the data of immediate experience—Huxley) Academic rarely carries implications of disagreeable personal characteristics but it does stress abstractness, lack of practical experience and interests, and often the inability to consider a situation realistically (there is so much bad writing ... because writing has been dominated by ... the academic teachers and critics—Ellis) Scholastic is less fixed in its implications than the others, for sometimes the allusion is to philosophic Scholasticism and sometimes to modern education. As a rule it implies dryness, formalism, adherence to the letter, and sometimes subtlety (it is very able, but harsh and crabbed and intolerably scholastic—Laski) Bookish often suggests learning derived from books rather than from actualities (the Greeks had a name for such mixture of learning and folly, which might be applied to the bookish but poorly read of all ages—Adler) (the gestures of Mr. Lytens's heroes are a trifle bookish, too seldom of the dusty streets—Times Lit. Sup.) and sometimes it implies a decided literary or rhetorical quality (bookish words) (bookish interests)

Ana *learned, erudite: *recondite, abstruse

pedestrian adj *dull, humdrum, dreary, monotonous, stodgy

Ana commonplace, platitudeous, truisic (see corresponding nouns at COMMONPLACE): banal, jejune, inane, wishy-washy (see INSIPID): *irksome, wearisome, tiresome, boring

pedigree *ancestry, lineage

peck n peep, glimpse, glance, *look, sight, view

peel vb *skin, decorticate, pare, flay

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
penetrate 1  *enter, pierce, probe

penetrous *perforate, puncture, bore, prick

penetrate 1  *enter, pierce, probe

penetrate 2  *pervade, impenetrable, interpenetrable, *permeate, impregnate, saturate

penetrate *sway, sway, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate, waver, undulate

pendulous *suspended, pendent

pendulum *swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate

perceptible 601

Ana bent, turn, talent, knack, *gift: bias, prepossession, *predilection, prejudice

pendant *flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pennon, jack

pendent *suspended, pendulous

pendulate *swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate, waver, undulate

pendulous *suspended, pendent

penetrate 1  *enter, pierce, probe

Ana invade, entrench, encroach, *tresspass: *perforate, puncture, bore, prick

2 pervade, impenetrable, interpenetrable, *permeate, impregnate, saturate

Ana insert, insinuate, interpolate, *introduce: *soak, saturate, drench, steep

penetration insight, acumen, *discernment, discrimination, perception

Ana sharpness, keenness, acuteness (see corresponding adjectives at SHARP): shrewdness, astuteness, perspicacity, sagaciousness or sagacity (see corresponding adjectives at SHREW)

penitence, repentance, contrition, attrition, compunction, remorse denote sorrow or regret for sin or wrongdoing.

Penitence implies little more than such sorrow or regret <the outward signs of penitence> <all calls to penitence fall on deaf ears. Penitence implies admission of guilt and no one wishes to stand accused—Political Science Quarterly> <he showed his penitence in many ways> <the majority . . . took the attitude that no sin is beyond forgiveness if it is followed by true penitence—Latourette>

Remorse is richer in its implications, for it also implies a change of heart, an awareness of one’s shortcomings morally or spiritually, or of the evil of one’s actions or life as a whole <I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance—Lk 5:32> <God of my mercy give you patience to endure, and true repentance—Shak.> <there’s no repentance in the grave—Watts> Contrition and attrition are both theological terms, and as such contrasted; only contrition is found in general use. Both imply deep sorrow for sin and the purpose of amendment, but in theological use contrition implies that one’s sorrow arises out of love of God and a realization of one’s failure to respond to his graces, and attrition that it arises from a lower motive, such as fear of hell or fear of the loss of heaven <O may Thy love and pity supply whatsoever has been wanting in the sufficiency of my contrition—Manual of Prayers> <sacramental grace to raise our sorrow from attrition to contrition—Manning> In general use contrition implies penitence that is manifest in signs of pain or grief <you must—whether you feel it or not—present an appearance of contrition—Meredith> <Sophia thought that, after such a sin, the least Amy could do was to show contrition—Bennett> Compunction and remorse both imply a painful sting of conscience, but compunction usually suggests a momentary reaction not only for something already done, but also for something being done or to be done, and remorse usually suggests prolonged and insistent self-reproach and often intense suffering for past wrongs and especially for those whose consequences cannot be escaped <a heartless scoundrel who had . . . abandoned her in her poverty forevermore, with no touch of compunction—Dickens> <would not have hurt a gnat unless his party . . . told him to do so, and then only with compunction—Sir Winston Churchill> <not one of them . . . was showing any trifling compunction at deserting the rebel cause when it was most in need—Kenneth Roberts> <remorse that makes one walk on thorns—Wilde> <spent in Paris a year marked by futile indiscretions and equally futile remorse—E. S. Bates> <O, that the vain remorse which must chastise crimes done, had but as loud a voice to warn, as its keen sting is mortal to avenge!—Shelley>

Ana regret, *sorrow, anguish: humiliation, humbling, degradation, debasement (see corresponding verbs at ABASE): *qualm, scruple

Con obdurate or obduracy, inexorableness, adamantine (see corresponding adjectives at INFLEXIBLE)

pen name *pseudonym, nom de plume, alias, nom de guerre, incognito

pennant *flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pennon, jack

penniless *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, impeccunious, poverty-stricken, necessitious

Ana impoverished, bankrupt, drained (see DEPLETE): penurious (see corresponding noun at POVERTY)

Con opulent, affluent, wealthy, *rich

pennon *flag, ensign, standard, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pennon, jack

penny-pinching *stingy, close, closefisted, tight, tight-fisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheese-paring

pensive *thoughtful, reflective, speculative, contemplative, meditative

Ana solemn, somber, *serious, earnest, sober, grave: musing, pondering, ruminating (see PONDER)

penumbra umbra, adumbration, umbrage, *shade, shadow

penurious parsimonious, niggardly, *stingy, close, close-fisted, tight, tightfisted, miserly, cheese-paring, penny-pinning

Ana avaricious, grasping, greedy, *covetous: *mercenary, venal: *mean, abject, sordid, ignoble

penury *poverty, indigence, want, destitution, privation

Ana *need, necessity, exigency: pinch, strait, pass, *juncture

Ant luxury

people n *race, nation

peppery fiery, gingery, *spirited, high-spirited, mettle-some, spunky

Ana impetuous, headlong, *precipitate, abrupt: *pug- nent, piquant, spicy, snappy

perceive discern, note, remark, notice, observe, contemplate, *see, behold, descry, esp'y, view, survey

Ana grasp, seize, *take: *apprehend, comprehend: *enter, penetrate, pierce, probe

percept sense-datnum, sensum, *sensation, image

Ana *idea, concept, notion: recognition, acknowledgment (see corresponding verbs at ACKNOWLEDGE)

perceptible, sensible, palpable, tangible, appreciable, ponderable all mean capable of being apprehended through the senses or intellect as real and existent. Perceptible may be used inclusively to describe whatever comes within the range of one’s senses and can be recognized in itself or by certain signs (perceptible sounds) (the ship is barely perceptible on the horizon) (without argument, without any perceptible stages, the estrangement of almost a year was gone—Wouk) something strange was in the air, perceptible to a little boy but utterly beyond his under- standing—H. G. Wells) It may also be used with or without qualification (as by just, scarcely, or barely) to describe something that just passes a borderline (as that between invisibility and visibility or inaudibility and audibility) (a perceptible change in her tone) (there are perceptible differences between surprise and astonish) (a perceptible flavor of onion) (her remark had no perceptible relevance to the topic of conversation) Sensible (see also MATERIAL, AWARE) may be used to describe whatever is clearly apprehended through the bodily senses or which impresses itself strongly on the mind through the medium of sensations (a rich and thronging world of sens-

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
(sible things—Lowes) your true ideas of sensible things do indeed copy them—James) In contrast with perceptible, however, sensible applies to what is more obvious, even sometimes to what is patent through its effects or signs; thus, a sensible change in tone is one which is immediately recognized; a sensible difference in a person's expression is one which is quickly detected (the direct, sensible influence of Protestantism has been to isolate and to individualize—Brownell) every owner is entitled to have the water come on to him without sensible diminution as regards quantity and sensible alteration as regards quality—F. D. Smith & Barbara Wilcox) Both palpable and tangible in their primary senses may be used to describe anything which is perceptible through the sense of touch. Palpable, however, although it is used of what is felt by touching with the tips of the fingers (a palpable powder is one that feels gritty) (touch beauty as though it were a palpable thing—Maugham) (before the clouded night dropped its mysterious veil, it was the immensity of space made visible—almost palpable—Conrad) as often implies a sensation produced as a sensation sought and therefore may be applied to whatever evokes a response from tactile receptors in any part of the body (there is a palpable chill in the air) Tangible, on the other hand, is applied primarily to things which may be or are handled or grasped (if an infant is not provided with light tangible objects, he will play with a sandwich or shadow) (dots and solids or divisions in tangible form) (a cloud, a pillar of fire, a tangible physical something—London) In their secondary senses these two words diverge widely. Palpable, in one of its most common meanings, implies a high degree of perceptibility (see under evident); in poetic use, especially when applied to an immaterial thing, it suggests an almost physical awareness of its existence or reality (what happiness to live when every hour brings palpable access of knowledge—Wordsworth) Tangible in its extended senses is applied to things that can be thought of as having real, independent, or objective existence whether they are apparent to the senses or not or whether they can be handled or not; thus, tangible ideas are those that can be grasped by the mind and made objects of thought; tangible advantages are those having a substantial character; tangible assets are those (as equipment and inventory) that can be appraised with reasonable accuracy as distinguished from those (as goodwill) that are intangible (the conquest of a territory meant a tangible advantage to the conqueror—Angell) Appreciable is applicable to whatever is large enough to be measured, weighed, valued, or otherwise estimated; thus, a perceptible change in the temperature may be so slight a change that it almost but not quite escapes notice; a palpable change in temperature may still be slight, but it is great enough to make it definitely felt; an appreciable change in temperature may also be slight, but its extent is determinable by reference to a thermometer (the current . . . generated is small but appreciable—Engel) (a satellite must be launched above the appreciable atmosphere—Newell) But appreciable may lose any clear notion of measurability and then often approaches considerable or significant in meaning (there had been an appreciable feeling of strain, and a corresponding rise in your sense of the obligation of meeting it—Mary Austin) There was no appreciable craft tradition in astronomy before modern times—S. F. Mason) Ponderable is applicable to whatever can be weighed either physically or mentally (something ponderable from the outer world—something of which we can say that its weight is so-and-so—Jeans) The word tends, however, to be applied to what is appreciable in terms of weight or significance as distinguished from what is so intangible as to elude such determination (exert a ponderable influence upon the events of his time) A clear, lucid, perspicacious; *noticeable, conspicuous, signal: discerned or discernible, noted or notable, observed or observable (see corresponding verbs at SEE) Imperceptible penetration, insight, acumen, *discernment, discrimination Appreciation, comprehension, understanding (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND) sharpness, keenness, acuteness (see corresponding adjectives at sharp) Percussion concussion, crash, shock, *impact, impingement, collision, jar, jolt Striking, hitting, smiting (see strike) (vibration, oscillation, fluctuation (see corresponding verbs at swing) Perdurable durable, permanent, stable, *lasting, perpetual Enduring, abiding, persisting, continuing (see continue) *everlasting, endless, interminable Fleeting impermanent, imperious, *masterful, dominating Decisive, *decided: positive, certain (see sure) *dictatorial, dogmatic, oracular Perennial perpetual, incessant, unremitting, constant, *continuous, continual Perishable perishable, perishable, perishable, *everlasting, interminable Perfect, whole, entire, intact are comparable when they mean not deficient, defective, or faulty in any particular. Perfect is the usual term to describe such a condition, for it may imply not only the presence of every part, every element, and every quality necessary to a thing in its finished or fully developed state, but the soundness, the proportionateness, and the excellence of each part, element, or quality (a perfect set of teeth) (a perfect diamond) (a physically perfect infant) (the memory of that night remained intact and perfect—Wylie) The term is also applicable where there is no more definite measure or test than correspondence to a very high standard of excellence (a perfect gentleman) (a perfect coloring) (a perfect poem like Lycidas, a perfect fiction like Esmond, a perfect handling of a theory like Newman's idea of a University—Pater) (he is the most perfect writer of my generation, he writes the best sentences word for word, rhythm upon rhythm—Mailer) or to an archetype, definition, or pattern (a perfect hexagon) (a perfect Greek temple) or to a conception that represents an ideal or personal vision of the highest possible of its kind (perfect virtue) The term is also used in the sense of utter or complete (he is a perfect fool) (that is perfect nonsense) Whole and entire (see also whole 2) are somewhat elevated and often reminiscent of scriptural use. Whole usually implies a perfection, typically a moral or physical perfection, that can be sought and attained or that can be lost and regained; it usually suggests the attainment of or restoration to health, soundness, completeness (here, with one balm for many fevers found, whole of an ancient evil, I sleep sound—Housman) (one silver spider of machine, so intricate and whole as to appear rightly sufficient in itself—Terry Southern) (daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole—Mt 9:22) Entire usually implies a physical, intellectual, moral, or spiritual perfection that derives from the completeness, integrity, soundness, and often the freedom from admixture of the thing so described; more than whole, it suggests a perfection that is unimpaired or without sign of previous imperfection; thus, a collection is entire when no constituent item is missing; an entire horse is an adult uncastrated male (co...
perforate, puncture, punch, prick, bore, drill mean to
make a hole or puncture: *faithless, false, disloyal, traitorous, perfidious
perfervid
perfection
virtue, merit, *excellence
vb
perfect
Ant
failing
perform vb
Perform, execute, discharge, accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill are comparable when they mean to carry out or into effect. Perform, sometimes merely a formal synonym for do, is more often used with reference to processes than to acts. One performs processes that are lengthy or exacting or ceremonial in character (perform a play) (perform a surgical operation) (perform the marriage service) (a solemn sacrifice, performed in state —Pope) One performs acts that are distinguished or striking (perform feats of skill) When the end rather than the means to the end is stressed, what is performed is, usually something undertaken or pledged (lobbyists perform a legitimate, even necessary, function —Armbrister) One executes what exists in design or intent by bringing it into being or by putting it into effect (the heads of departments are . . . political or confidential agents . . . merely to execute the will of the president —John Marshall) (the escape was planned meticulously and executed boldly —Edmond Taylor) Sometimes execute is used in place of perform of a process involving great skill or a highly exacting technique (few dancers can execute an adagio beautifully) One discharges duties or obligations when one goes through a required round of tasks (I had discharged my confidential duties as secretary . . . to the general satisfaction —De Quincey) Accomplish usually stresses the completion of a process rather than the means bored or the accomplished something begun or something which there is reason to expect (it took us twenty-three days to accomplish the return journey —Hudson) (this project was so vast and so quickly accomplished that it has no parallel —Stoumen) Sometimes accomplish implies the fruitfulness of effort or the value of the results obtained (because of his efforts things are accomplished —Anderson) (there's very little to be accomplished by telling men anything. You have to show them —Mary Austin) Achieve adds to accomplish the implication of conquered difficulties. One achieves a work, a task, or an enterprise that is of great importance and that makes unusual demands (as on one's energy, willpower, or resources) (the American public schools achieve . . . the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation —Russell) Effect implies obstacles to be removed but, unlike achieve, it emphasizes inherent force in the agent rather than such personal qualities as daring and perseverance. Also, it is often pred-

grant me, Phoebus, calm content, strength unimpaired, a mind entire —Conington) Intact usually implies the re-
tention of the perfection of a thing in its finished or its natural or its original state; often it suggests its passage through some experience that might have destroyed its soundness, integrity, or wholeness (that high courage which enabled Fielding . . . to keep his manly benevolence and love of truth intact —Thackeray) (had seen many storms, and had reached middle age with some illusions intact —Michener) (I am . . . thankful that I was among the last persons to see the original Rheims intact. The cathedral . . . remains enshrined . . . in my memory forever —Ellis)
Ana *pure, absolute, simple, sheer: *consummate, finished, accomplished: *impeccable, flawless, faultless, errorless
Ant imperfect —Con *deficient, defective
perfect vb *unfold, evolve, develop, elaborate
Ana complete, finish (see close)
perfection virtue, merit, *excellence
perform vb *enter, penetrate, pierce, probe
perfect 603 perform

perform vb Perform, execute, discharge, accomplish, achieve, effect, fulfill are comparable when they mean to carry out or into effect. Perform, sometimes merely a formal synonym for do, is more often used with reference to processes than to acts. One performs processes that are lengthy or exacting or ceremonial in character (perform a play) (perform a surgical operation) (perform the marriage service) (a solemn sacrifice, performed in state —Pope) One performs acts that are distinguished or striking (perform feats of skill) When the end rather than the means to the end is stressed, what is performed is, usually something undertaken or pledged (lobbyists perform a legitimate, even necessary, function —Armbrister) One executes what exists in design or intent by bringing it into being or by putting it into effect (the heads of departments are . . . political or confidential agents . . . merely to execute the will of the president —John Marshall) (the escape was planned meticulously and executed boldly —Edmond Taylor) Sometimes execute is used in place of perform of a process involving great skill or a highly exacting technique (few dancers can execute an adagio beautifully) One discharges duties or obligations when one goes through a required round of tasks (I had discharged my confidential duties as secretary . . . to the general satisfaction —De Quincey) Accomplish usually stresses the completion of a process rather than the means bored or the accomplished something begun or something which there is reason to expect (it took us twenty-three days to accomplish the return journey —Hudson) (this project was so vast and so quickly accomplished that it has no parallel —Stoumen) Sometimes accomplish implies the fruitfulness of effort or the value of the results obtained (because of his efforts things are accomplished —Anderson) (there's very little to be accomplished by telling men anything. You have to show them —Mary Austin) Achieve adds to accomplish the implication of conquered difficulties. One achieves a work, a task, or an enterprise that is of great importance and that makes unusual demands (as on one's energy, willpower, or resources) (the American public schools achieve . . . the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation —Russell) Effect implies obstacles to be removed but, unlike achieve, it emphasizes inherent force in the agent rather than such personal qualities as daring and perseverance. Also, it is often pred-
notated as things as well as of persons (only two prisoners affected their escape) (taxation as an instrument for effecting a more equal distribution of income—Shaw) (a neurotic general overcome with work may believe he has the power to effect nothing—Mailer) Fulfill implies a full realization of what exists potentially, or hitherto in conception, or is implicit in the nature or the sense of responsibility of the agent (a law that fails to fulfill its intended end) (fulfill a promise) (a sense of the failure of life to fulfill its ultimate expectations—Rees) Ana (reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain: finish, complete, conclude (see close vb)

performer (actor, player, mummer, mime, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trouper

perfume (fragrance, bouquet, redolence, *smell)

peril (danger, jeopardy, hazard, risk) Ana (menacing or menace, threatening or threat (see threaten): exposure, subjection, openness, liability (see corresponding adjectives at liable)

perilous (dangerous, hazardous, risky, precarious) Ana (desperate, forlorn, hopeless (see despondent): chancy, chance, haphazard, *random

perimeter (circumference, periphery, circuit, compass

period, epoch, era, age, aeon all denote a portion or division of time; epoch and era can also denote an event regarded as the beginning of a portion or division of time.

Period is the generic term, designating an extent of time of any length for whatever purpose delimited (request a one-minute period of silence as a tribute to a dead person) (it began in 1915 in one of the darkest periods of the first world war—Pollock) (was returned for eight successive Congresses—a period of seventeen years—W. C. Ford)

Epoch can denote the starting point of a new period, especially as marked by striking or remarkable changes or events (this is an epoch...the end and the beginning of an age—H. G. Wells) or it may apply to such a new period (a phenomenon of our own special epoch, a man who couldn’t...be a writer in the only meaning of the term, but who can and probably will write a book—Purdy) (Dante’s work...initiated a new epoch in literature—R. A. Hall)

Era applies to a period characterized especially by some new order of things (a better intellectual era is dawning for the working men—Kingsley) (the Victorian era) (an era of singular crisis and upheaval—Aldridge) Age, usually interchangeable with but possibly more specific than era, is frequently used of a period dominated by some central figure or clearly marked feature <the age

of politics—The Age) <the Bronze Age—John Gross> (the French Revolution and its age—Arnold) 

Aeon applies to an immeasurably or indefinitely long period of time (aeons of primeval power have shaped that pillared bulk—Gibson) (during the three terrible hours...he had lived centuries of pain, aeon upon aeon of torture—Wilde)

Periodic (intermittent, recurrent, alternate Ana (fitful, spasmodic, convulsive: sporadic, occasional (see infrequent)

periodical n (journal, magazine, newspaper, review, organ

peripatetic (itinerant, ambulatory, ambulant, nomadic, vagrant

periphery (circumference, perimeter, circuit, compass

periphery (limit, confine, boundary, end

peripheries (verbiage, redundancy, tautology, pleonasm, circumlocution

persist (colonade, arcade, arcature, portico

perjury, forswear are comparable when they mean to violate one’s oath or, when used reflexively, to make a false swearer of oneself. In general use perjury is often employed less precisely than in law, where it is a technical term meaning to make a willfully false statement of fact or sometimes of an intention to do something, while under oath or under a solemn affirmation to tell the truth (the judge was convinced that the witness had perjured himself) In general use perjure often implies making a liar of oneself whether one is under oath or not (when a native begins perjury he perjures himself thoroughly. He does not boggle over details—Kipling) (he thanked her, with as much enthusiasm as he could muster without actually perjuring himself—Archibald Marshall) Forswear (see also abjure) often implies a violation of an oath, promise, or vow (he swore a thing to me on Monday night, which he forswore on Tuesday morning—Shak.) (thou shalt not perjure thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths—Mt 5:33) but it may also suggest untruth or ill faith to something (as one’s principles, one’s beliefs, or the laws of one’s country) as sacred as an oath (Shelley indignantly refused to “forswear his principles” by accepting “a proposal so insultingly hateful”—Arnold)

Ana (deceive, delude, mislead, beguile: lie, prevaricate

permanent (lasting, perdurable, durable, stable, perpetual Ana (perennial, constant, continuous, *continual

Art temporary: ad interim (of persons

permeate, pervade, penetrate, impregnate, interpenetrate, impregnate, saturate can all mean to pass or cause to pass through every part of a thing. Permeate may be used in reference to either a material or an immaterial thing and implies diffusion through all the pores or interstices of some substance or entity (the rain has permeated the soil) (the air is permeated by the pungent scent of onions—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) (the Elizabethan age) English society at large was accessible to ideas, was permeated by them—Arnold) (the sense of beauty had permeated the whole nation—Binyon) (the religious issue permeated every meeting I conducted—Michey

Pervade is a very close synonym of permeate, but it distinctively carries a heightened suggestion of diffusion throughout every part or parcel of the whole and it is more often used in reference to such matters as places, writings, and works of art than to purely material things (a deep and solemn harmony pervades the hollow vale from steep to steep—Wordsworth) (a principle which so entirely pervades the constitution...as to be incapable of being separated from it—John Marshall) (a kind of easy morality seems to pervade all levels of the state government—Armbrister)

Penetrate (see also enter 1) may be preferred to permeate or pervade when there is the intent also to suggest the entrance of something that goes deeply or profoundly into the essence or nature of a thing, thereby giving it its characteristic quality or efficient force (a whole nation...penetrated with an enthusiasm for pure reason, and with an ardent zeal for making its prescriptions triumphant—Arnold) (a letter penetrated with affection for the old plain edifice and its memories—Quiller-Couch) (a commanding significance, which penetrates the whole, informing and ordering everything—Leavis)

Impenetrable is an intensive of penetrate implying a more thorough and often a diffusive penetration (power to isolate and impenetrable Poland—Gunther) (the church structure is backed up and impenetrated by the kinship structure—Vogt & O’Doea) Interpenetrate, too, may imply no more than thorough penetration or penetration into, within, or throughout (Westerners who interpenetrated the East in the nineteenth century—Davis) but distinctively it may imply a mutual penetration (the state and the economy interpenetrate; during slump, war, and boom, the tie-ins tend to become ever closer—Labor and Nation) (had both imagination and a stubborn will, curiously balancing and interpenetrating each other—Cather)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
permission 605  persecute

pregnate often carries a stronger implication of the operation of a causative power (as a human agent) than any of the preceding terms; it also suggests a filling of every available part or portion of a whole so that the thing which enters or is entered is diffused throughout the entire substance, structure, work, or group (the water is impregnated with magnesium—Huxley) (any judge who has sat with juries knows that . . . they are extremely likely to be impregnated by the environing atmosphere—Justice Holmes) (a very notable poem impregnated with the pessimism of a time—Lovett) Saturate (see also SOAK) implies impregnation to the point where no more of the thing which enters can be taken up or absorbed; the term is often used in preference to permeate or pervade when what permeates or pervades is highly obvious,deeply ingrained, or overabundant (the smell, sweet and poignant beyond imagining, saturated the air—Woolf) (a verse that is saturated with emotion—Lowes) (the air is saturated with golden light—Diamant)

Ana *infuse, imbue, ingrain: drench, steep, *soak, saturate: *inform, animate, inspire, fire

permission, leave, sufferance denote the sanction which enables one to do something that requires the consent of those in authority. Permission is the ordinary term except in some conventional phrases; it commonly implies the power or authority to grant or to refuse what is asked (have the owner's permission to hunt on his estate) (‘The horses can go in our barn. I’m sure Mr. Forrester would have no objection.” She spoke as if he had asked her permission—Cather) Leave differs very little from permission. It occurs chiefly in conventionally courteous phrases such as “by your leave,” “to ask leave,” and “give me leave,” but it may be used elsewhere in place of permission (ask for leave to remove papers from a file) In military, naval, and some official use the term implies official permission to absent oneself from one’s duties or from one’s station for a fixed period of time, or the furnishing of leave to relieve papers from a file. (after being absent without leave for a month, the soldier was arrested as a deserter) (at home on sick leave) Sufferance usually implies a neglect or refusal to forbid and therefore suggests either a tacit permission writable on the books or, more often, merely allowing a person to be present or to do something (you are here only on sufferance and if you want to stay, you must listen without interrupting) (he comes among us on sufferance, like those concert singers whom mamma treats with so much politeness—Thackeray)

Ana authorization, commission or permission, licensing or license (see corresponding verbs at AUTHORIZE): letting, allowing (see LET): sanctioning, approval, endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)

Ant prohibition

permit vb *let, allow, suffer, leave

Ana *authorize, license, commission: sanction, endorse, *approve

Ant prohibit, forbid

permutation mutation, *change, vicissitude, alternation

Ana moving or move, shifting or shift, removing or remove (see MOVE): transformation, conversion, metamorphosis (see under TRANSFORM)

pernicious, baneful, noxious, deleterious, detrimental are comparable when they mean exceedingly harmful but they differ as to the kind and extent of the potential for harm. Something is either pernicious or baneful which is irreparably harmful but pernicious is more often applied to things that harm exceedingly or irreparably by evil or by insidious corrupting or enervating and baneful to those that poison or destroy (pernicious anemia) (a pernicious

influence) (the effects of false and pernicious propaganda cannot be neutralized—Huxley) (pernicious social institutions which stifle the nobler impulses—Parrington) (the baneful notion that there is no such thing as a high, correct standard in intellectual matters—Arnold) (they were under as little personal restraint as was compatible with their protection from the baneful habit of swallowing one another—Bierce) (the full extent and degree of their baneful psychological influence is quite inadequately realized—Moore) (something is noxious which is harmful especially to health of body or mind (a cold noxious wind—Haughton) (only when the educator shall have been educated, the air cleared of noxious failancies . . . will the reign of Humbug come to an end—Grandgent)

Deleterious is used chiefly of something which causes harm when taken into the body (as into the digestive or respiratory tract) and may suggest obscure or ill-understood effects (many drugs that seem so good in the first trials prove to have deleterious aftereffects—Heiser) (this gas was well known to be deleterious—John Phillips)

Detrimental, like deleterious, generally suggests a much lower degree of harmfulness than the remaining terms; typically it imputes an impairing or hampering quality to the agent or an impaired or hampered condition to the one acted upon (a federal-scholarship program is a project worthy of our united support, provided it can be administered at the state level, free from political or other detrimental influences—L. M. Chamberlain) (they both ran down the theory as highly detrimental to the best interests of man—Peacock) (bismuth is considered to be a detrimental impurity in refined lead—Pasterneck) (although too rich a diet is harmful to calves of both sexes, the detrimental effects are less marked in a bull calf than in a heifer—Farmer’s Weekly)

Ana baleful, malign, *sinister, malefic, maleficient: *poisonous, venomous, toxic, pestilent, miasmatic: injurious, hurtful, harmful, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY)

Ant innocuous

pernickety persnickety, fastidious, finicky, finicking, finical, *nice, dainty, particular, fussy, squeamish

Ana exacting, demanding, requiring (see DEMAND): annoyed, vexed, irked (see ANNOY)

perpendicular *vertical, plumb

Ana *steep, abrupt, precipitous, sheer

Ant horizontal

perpetrate *commit

Ana accomplish, achieve, effect (see PERFORM)

perpetual 1 *lasting, permanent, perdurable, durable, stable

Ana *everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable: eternal, sempiternal, *infinite

2 *continual, continuous, constant, incessant, unremitting, perennial

Ana enduring, persisting, abiding, continuing (see CONTINUE): set, settled, fixed, established (see SET vb)

Ant transitory, transient

perplex *puzzle, mystify, bewilder, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound

Ana disturb, perturb, upset, *discompose: baffle, balk, thwart (see FRUSTRATE): astound, amaze, astonish, *surprise

perquisite *right, prerogative, privilege, appanage, birthright

Ana *worry, annoy, harass, harry: torture, torment, rack (see AFFLICT): *bait, badger, hound, ride

Con *indulge, pamper, humor: favor, *oblige, accommodate: *support, uphold, champion, back

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
persevere, persist are both used in reference to persons in the sense of to continue in a given course in the face of difficulty or opposition. Persevere nearly always implies an admirable quality; it suggests both refusal to be discouraged by failure, doubts, or difficulties, and a steadfast or dogged pursuit of an end or an undertaking (I will persevere in my course of loyalty, though the conflict be sore between that and my blood—Shak.) (For, strength to persevere and to support, and energy to conquer and repel — these elements of virtue, that declare the native grandeur of the human soul—Wordsworth) (I do not intend to take that cowardly course, but, on the contrary, to stand to my post and persevere in accordance with my duty—Sir Winston Churchill) Persist (see also CONTINUE) may imply a virtue (this is the poetry within history, this is what causes mankind to persist beyond every defeat—J. S. Untermeier) but it more often suggests a disagreeable or annoying quality, for it stresses stubbornness or obstinacy more than courage or patience and frequently implies opposition to advice, remonstrance, disapproval, or one's own conscience (persist in working when ill) (it is hard to see how they can have persisted so long in effecting useless misery—Russell)

Ana *continue, abide, endure, last
Con vary, change, alter: wave, vacillate, falter, hesitate
perseverate *badinage, raillery

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
petulant impotent, feeble, or completely without vitality {none of your thin, puny, yellow, hectic figures, exhausted with abstinance and hard study—Smollett} {one no sooner grasps the bigness of the world's work than one's own effort seems puny and contemptible—J. R. Green} Something is trivial which seems petty and commonplace and scarcely worthy of special consideration or notice {that strange interest in trivial things that we try to develop when things of high import make us afraid—Wilde} {he regarded no task as too humble for him to undertake, nor so trivial that it was not worth his while to do it well—Huxley} The term is often applied to persons, minds, or activities which reveal engrossment in trivial affairs or a lack of serious or profound interests {she knew him for a philanderer, a trivial taster in literature—Rose Macaulay} {the incessant hurry and trivial activity of daily life— Eliot} Something is trifling which is so small as to have little if any value or significance {our ordinary distinctions become so trifling, so impalpable—Hawthorne} {a considerable sum was paid to Egmont and a trifling one to the Prince—Motley} Something is paltry which is ridiculously or contemptibly small in comparison especially to what it should be {a paltry allowance} {our little ambitions, our paltry joys—Benson} {the paltry prize is hardly worth the cost— Byron} Something is measly which is contemptibly small (as in size or quantity) or petty {a measly portion of pie} {snatch at a little measly advantage and miss the big one—Anderson} Something is picayunish or picayune which is insignificant in its possibilities or accomplishments or hopelessly narrow in outlook or interests {a picayunish policy} {a lifetime of picayunish drudgery in the company of louts—H. L. Davis} {the obvious futility, the picayune, question-begging character, of such ethical analyses—Asher Moore} {a picayune congressman} Ana *small, little, diminutive, minute Ant important, momentous: gross petulant *irritable, fractious, peevish, pettish, snapish, waspish, huffy, fretful, querulous Ana cross, cranky, touchy, testy (see irascible): *impatient, restive, fidgety phantasm 1 *apparition, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade, revenant Ana *illusion, illusion, hallucination 2 *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, vision, dream, daydream, nightmare phantasy *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, vision, dream, daydream, nightmare phantom *apparition, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade, revenant Ana counterfeit, deception, *imposture: *delusion, illusion, hallucination pharisical hypocritical, sanctimonious, canting (see under hypocritical) pharisism *hypocrisy, sanctimony, cant pharmaceutical n *drug, medicinal, biologic, simple pharmacist *drugist, apothecary, chemist phase, aspect, side, facet, angle are comparable when they denote one of the possible ways in which an object of contemplation may be seen or may be presented. Phase may distinctly imply a change in the appearance of a thing without a change in the observer's point of view. From its original denotation as one of the four different shapes which the moon apparently assumes during its waxing and waning it often suggests a cyclical change in appearance {the wheel of the world swings through the same phases. . . Summer passed and winter thereafter, and came and passed again— Kipling} In extended use it is often applied to an outward and passing manifestation of a stage in growth, development, or unfolding {the way children develop and the different phases they go through—Barclay} but it also may apply to one of two or more distinctive appearances or values of something with little or no suggestion of cyclical or temporal succession {the red fox occurs in several color phases, of which the silver phase has been found to breed true} {he was a shrewd, smooth political-financier, shady in both phases—S. H. Adams} {the two alternating forces or phases in the rhythm of the universe which Empedocles calls Love and Hate—Toynbee} Aspect sometimes implies a change in appearance without a shifting in point of view, but unlike phase it usually suggests a superficial change, especially one brought about by unpredictable circumstances {every time I look out of the window, the hills present a new aspect} More distinctively it implies a change in appearance that is traceable to a change in the observer's point of view {the one and only aspect of a rich and complex subject which I mean to treat—Lowes} {an entirely new aspect of the Everest massif filled our northwestern horizon—Shipton} {the two men lay whispering for hours, canvassing every aspect of Monck's situation—Upton Sinclair} Thus, one who proposes to treat the phases of the depression of the nineteen-thirties implies that he intends to consider its stages as they manifested themselves outwardly; one who proposes to treat all aspects of that depression implies that he intends to consider it from every possible point of view (as the political, the economic, and the sociological). Side, though often used interchangeably with phase and aspect, may retain implications derived from other of its senses and is used chiefly in reference to something that may be thought of as having two or more faces and therefore not fully apprehensible unless it or its observer shifts position {see life only on its pleasant side} {if you get on the wrong side of authority, you are executed or exiled—Edmund Wilson} {the history as a whole is deficient on the economic side—Allen Johnson} But side differs from phase and aspect in less regularly connecting appearance or referring to physical or intellectual vision {hear both sides of a dispute} {read all sides in a controversy} {on its theoretic and perceptive side, Morality touches Science; on its emotional side, poetic Art—George Eliot} {this kind of discussion went on all the time between the parents. They could take either side with ease— Wouk} Facet differs from side in implying a multiplicity of other faces similar to or like the one singled out for attention {noticed the different shades of green on the planes and facets of each clipped tree—Dahl} {the strength of the lyric lies in the complete statement of a single selected facet of experience—Day Lewis} Angle denotes an aspect which is observable from a point of view restricted in its scope {he knows only one angle of his subject} {it is necessary to consider all angles of the situation} {views these developments from a fresh angle— Dumas Malone} Ana *state, condition, situation, posture: *appearance, look, semblance phenomenal *material, physical, corporeal, sensible, objective Ana actual, *real Ant nounal phenomenon *wonder, marvel, prodigy, miracle Ana abnormality (see corresponding adjective at abnormal): anomaly, *paradox: singularity, peculiarity, uniqueness (see corresponding adjectives at strange) philanthropic *charitable, benevolent, humane, humanitarian, eleemosynary, altruistic Ana *liberal, munificent, bountiful, bounteous, open-handed, generous: lavish, *profuse, prodigal Ant misanthropic
philanthropy *charity
Ant misanthropy
philippic n *tirade, diatribe, jeremiad
Ana harangue, *speech, address, oration: condemnation, denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)
philistine n *obscurantist, barbarian
phlegm 1 impatience, stolidity, apathy, stoicism (see under IMPASSIVE)
Ana insensibility, insensitiveness, impassibility, anesthetia (see corresponding adjectives at INSENSIBLE)
2 *equanimity, composure, sangfroid
Ana imperturbability, nonchalance, coolness, collectedness (see corresponding adjectives at COOL): calmness or calm, tranquillity, serenity (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

phlegmatic *impassive, stolid, apathetic, stoic
Ana *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof: cool, chilly, *cold, frigid: sluggish, *lethargic
phony adj *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pseudo, phoney
photograph n, portrait, image, effigy, statue, icon, mask
phrase, idiom, expression, location mean a group of words which, taken together, express a notion and may be used as a part of a sentence. Phrase may apply to a group of words which for one reason or another recurs frequently (as in the language of a people, the writings of an author or school of authors, or the speech of a person or a clique of persons). Sometimes the word means little more than this <this phrase, a priori, is in common most grossly misunderstood—Southey> but more often it suggests a distinctive character, such as triteness <to use the phrase of all who ever wrote upon the state of Europe, the political horizon is dark indeed—Cowper> or pithiness or pointedness <I summed up all systems in a phrase—Wilde> <"You don't understand a young philosopher," said the Baronet. "A young philosopher's an old fool!" returned Hippias, not thinking that his growl had begotten a phrase—Meredith> In the combinations "noun phrase" and "verb phrase" it suggests one of the principal parts of a sentence. Idiom (see also LANGUAGE 1) applies to a combination of word elements which is peculiar to the language in which it occurs either in its grammatical structure or in the meaning which is associated with it but which cannot be derived from it when the elements are interpreted literally; thus, "to keep house," "to catch cold," "to strike a bargain" are examples of idioms. Expression and location are sometimes used in place of phrase when the idea of a way of expressing oneself is uppermost. Although both terms may be applied to phrases that are generally current, they are perhaps more typically applied to those that are idiosyncratic. Expression is particularly used when accompanied by a characterizing adjective or clause or phrase <he is in the habit of using telling expressions> <that is a very odd expression> <an expression that has gone out of use> Location is somewhat more bookish than expression and is therefore often preferred when the reference is to phrases that are peculiar to a language or a group as an idiom <a pet location of the author> <Carlyle and Carlyles were to leave their traces. Even the style of Thoreau was to be tinged faintly here and there with the rhythms and locations of a writer whom lesser minds could not resist—Brooks>

phraseology, phrasing *language, vocabulary, diction, style
physic n *remedy, cure, medicine, medicament, medication, specific
physical 1 *bodily, corporeal, corporal, somatic
Ana fleshy, *carnal, sensual, animal
2 *material, corporeal, phenomenal, sensible, objective

physique, build, habit, constitution all mean bodily makeup or structure or organization peculiar to an individual or to a group or kind of individuals. Physique applies to the structure, appearance, or strength of the body of an individual or of a race and may connotate such qualities as capacity for endurance, stamina, or predisposition to disease <a people of robust physique> <a man of slight physique> Build, though often interchangeable with physique, may distinctively suggest not so much the makeup of a body as its conformation; it tends to call attention to such qualities as size, structure, and weight and rarely when used of man or an animal to health or the lack of it <a horse of heavy build> <a person of fleshy build but of feeble physique> Habit implies reference to the body as the outward evidence of natural or acquired characteristics that suggest the nature of one's physical condition and capabilities; thus, a full habit suggests an appearance marked by stoutness, redness, and congestion of the visible blood vessels <a youth of consumptive habit> <old Mrs. Mingot's... being, like many persons of active mind and dominating will, sedentary and corpulent in her habit—Wharton> Constitution applies to the makeup of a body, particularly of an individual, as affected by the complex of mental or physical conditions which collectively determine its state (as of healthiness) and its powers (as of endurance and resistance) <persons of sickly constitutions are given to worry> <buy them horses to ride, if you want them to enjoy good health and sound constitutions—Jefferies> <the key to her nature lay, I think, largely in her fragile constitution—Ellis>
Ana *body: *structure, framework, anatomy: *system, organism
picayune, picayune *petty, trivial, trifling, puny, paltry, meagly
pick vb *choose, select, elect, opt, cull, prefer, single
Ana *take, seize, grasp: determine, *decide, settle
Con reject, spurn, refuse, *decline
picked *select, elect, exclusive
pickle n *predicament, plight, dilemma, quandary, scrape, fix, jam
pictorial *graphic, vivid, picturesque
picture vb *represent, depict, portray, delineate, limn
Ana describe, *relate, narrate, recount: *sketch, outline
picturesque vivid, *graphic, pictorial
Ana charming, attractive, alluring (see under ATTRACT): conspicuous, salient, striking, arresting (see NOTICEABLE)
piece n *part, portion, detail, member, division, section, segment, sector, fraction, fragment, parcel
pied, piebald adj *variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkerered, checked, skewbald, dappled, freaked
pler 1 *butress, abutment
2 *wharf, dock, quay, slip, berth, jetty, levee
pierce penetrate, probe, *enter
Ana *perforate, bore, drill, puncture: rend, *tear, cleave, split, rive
pietistic sanctimonious, pious, *devout, religious
Ana reverencing or reverential, venerating, adoring, worshipping (see corresponding verbs at REVERE): fervid, perfervid, ardent, fervent (see IMPASSIONED): *sentimental, maudlin, romantic
piety devotion, *fideliy, allegiance, fealty, loyalty
Ana obedience, docility (see corresponding adjectives at OBEDIENT): fervor, ardor, zeal, enthusiasm, *passion: *holiness, sanctity
Ant impiety
pigeonhole *assort, sort, classify
Ana systematize, methodize, organize, arrange, *order

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
pigheaded 609

pigheaded *obstinate, stubborn, mulish, stiff-necked, bullheaded, dogged, pertinacious

Ana headstrong, willful, recalcitrant, refractory (see UNRULY): *contrary, perverse, froward

pilaster *pillar, column

pilfer *steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, snitch, swipe, cop

pimple

pilot *ravage, devastate, waste, sack, despoil, pillage

pile


pilgrim *journey, voyage, tour, trip, jaunt, excursion, cruise, expedition

plague

vb *ravage, devastate, waste, sack, despoil, spoliate

Ana plunder, loot, *rob, rifle: invade, encroach, *trespass: confiscate, *arrogate, appropriate, usurp

pillar, column, pilaster denote a structure that rises high from a base or foundation, is slender in comparison with its width, and usually has a monolithic and decorative appearance. Pillar is the general term and applies to any such structure whether it stands alone (an obelisk is a kind of pillar) or is a supporting architectural member of a building or similar structure (the building was a spacious theater, half round on two main pillars vaulted high—Milton). In extended use pillar usually applies to something which stays or supports (the four pillars of government...religion, justice, counsel, treasure—Bacon) (the Classics have...lost their place as a pillar of the social and political system—T. S. Eliot) but when the application is to persons the term usually suggests the character of one who supports, though it may also imply leadership or prominence (he is a pillar of the church) (the middlemen...the pillars of society, the cornerstone of convention—Lewis & Maude) Column in architectural use primarily applies to a supporting pillar that is often cylindrical and free at every point except its bottom and top. The term commonly also implies three more or less elaborate parts, the base, by which it is attached to the floor, the shaft, often a fluted or channeled cylinder which rises high from the base, and the capital, the uppermost member which crowns the shaft and takes the weight or its share of the weight of what rests on it (a portico supported by a line of columns) But column is also applicable to a monument or memorial fashioned in the manner of an architectural column (the most conspicuous object in the whole churchyard, a broken column of white marble, on a pedestal—Mary Fitt) By extension the term is also applicable to something that suggests a column especially in shape (the wind sent columns of smoke into the tenement—N. Y. Times) or in use or structure (the spinal column) Sometimes the suggestion is remote and the term is applied to anything that is long and relatively narrow (the columns of a newspaper page) (a column of figures) (a column of infantry) Pilaster, though used with reference to a supporting member of a piece of furniture, is chiefly employed with reference to an architectural member which in function is a pier (see pier under BUTTRESS) but which in design and treatment resembles a column. In this latter sense pilaster implies engagement or attachment to a wall and suggests a rectangular rather than cylindrical form.

pilot vb steer, *guide, lead, engineer

Ana direct, manage, *conduct, control: *handle, manipulate

pimple *abscess, boil, furuncle, carbuncle, pustule

pinch vb *steal, pilfer, pinch, pilloin, lift, snitch, swipe, cop

pinch n *juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, strait, crisis

Ana *difficulty, hardship, rigor, vicissitude

pinchbeck adj *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pseudo, phony

pinched adj *haggard, cadaverous, worn, careworn, wasted

Ana gaunt, scrawny, skinny, angular, rawboned (see LEAN adj)

Con *strong, sturdy, stout, stalwart: robust, *healthy

pinch hitter *substitute, supply, locum tenens, alternate, understudy, double, stand-in

piny vb *long, yearn, hanker, hunger, thirst

Ana crave, covet, *desire: languish, enervate (see corresponding adjectives at languid)

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

pious *devout, religious, pietistic, sanctimonious

Ana *holy, sacred, divine, religious: worshiping, adoring, reverencing, venerating, revering (see REVERE): fervent, ardent, fervid (see IMPASSIONED)

Ant impious

piquant *pungent, poignant, racy, spicy, snappy

Ana *incisive, trenchant, cutting, biting, clear-cut, *bland Con *insipid, flat, banal, jejune, inane

pique n *offence, resentment, umbrage, dudgeon, huff

pique vb *provocate, excite, stimulate, quicken, galvanize

Ana *stir, rouse, arouse: prick, punch (see PERFORATE): kindle, ignite (see LIGHT vb)

2 *pride, plume, preen

pirate, freebooter, buccaneer, privateer, corsair basically mean one who sails in search of plunder. Pirate suggests a person or a ship or its crew that without a commission from an established civilized state cruise about in quest of ships to plunder. Since pirate in this sense is seldom used of contemporary life, the word has been extended to one who wanders over a wide territory in search of plunder (a band of 400 desert pirates...raided the bazaar section and fled back across the river with their loot—Time) or one who infringes upon a right legally restricted to another (English books published by American pirates...pirates of wavelengths in radio) or one known for predatory business practices (now my grandfather there who made the money...was a hard-boiled man of business. From your point of view he was a pirate—Edmund Wilson) Freebooter often suggests a maritime plunderer who pursues his occupation without the excuse that his country is at war and then differs from pirate only in its connotations of membership in a less closely organized band and of use of less violent methods (English freebooters who made life merry hell on the high seas for Spanish galleons waddling home from the Americas heavy-laden with gold—Dodge) In extended use freebooter is often applied to one who seizes rights, privileges, and property on a large scale without regard to the restraints of law or of order (many empire builders have been mere freebooters) (an era of comparably good feeling and incomparably good pickings. He took things easy, and his fellow freebooters took almost everything easily—Hodding Carter) Buccaneer, primarily applied to early French residents of Haiti, is more generally used of these people and others who preyed, sometimes with the tacit consent of their own governments, on Spanish ships and settlements in the New World (in the reign of Charles II, the buccaneers of the West Indian Islands were in the heyday of their romantic glory, as the unofficial maintainers of England's quarrels along the Spanish Main—Trevelyan)

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
pirouette vb *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, whirl, wheel, eddy, swirl

pitch vb 1 hurl, fling, cast, *throw, toss, sling
 Ana heave, *lift, raise, hoist: *move, drive, impel
2 *plunge, dive
Ana *fall, drop, sink: *descend: *jump, leap, spring

piteous 1 pitiful, pitiable
 Ana imploring, suppliant, entreating, beseeching (see BEG): *melancholy, dolorous, plaintive

pithy summary, compendious, *concise, terse, succinct, laconic
Ana sententious, pregnant, meaningful, *expressive: *brief, short
Con flatulent, inflated, turgid: prolix, diffuse, *wordy, verbose

piteable 1 piteous, *pitiful
Ana sad, depressed, dejected, melancholy (see corresponding nouns at SADNESS): forlorn, hopeless, despairing, desperate, *despondent
2 despicable, *contemptible, sorry, scurvy, cheap, beggary, shabbily
Ana *miserable, wretched: deplorable, lamentable (see corresponding verbs at DEPREVE)

pitiful when a contemptuous commiseration is implied, but contempt may be weakly or strongly connoted (that pitiable husk of a man who a hundred years ago was a familiar figure in its streets, a shadow of his former insouciance and splendor—Lucas) (felt a tender pity . . . mixed with shame for having made her pitiable—Malamud)

Ana touching, *moving, pathetic, affecting: *tender, compassionate, responsive, sympathetic

Ant cruel

pittance *ration, allowance, dole

pity *sympathy, compassion, commiseration, condolence, ruth, empathy
Ana *sadness, melancholy, depression; *paths, poignancy: *charity, mercy, clemency, lenity

pivotal *central, focal
Ana *essential, cardinal, vital: important, significant, momentous (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE): capital, principal, *chief

place n Place, position, location, situation, site, spot, station
 are comparable when they mean the point or portion of space occupied by or chosen for a thing. Place, the most general of these terms, carries as its basic implication the idea of extension in space, though often with no clear connotation of how great or how small that extent is; in some use it comes very close to space in meaning (he passed the flaming bounds of Place and Time—Gray) but it more usually implies a limited, though not always clearly defined, extent of space (the place where we shall meet) (the place where they were born) (the cardplayers changed their places several times during the evening)

Position is capable of abstract as well as concrete use and therefore may be employed whether the thing referred to is immaterial or material, ideal or actual, or invisible or visible; it usually also implies place in relation to something in particular (a point has definite position but no extent in space) (an instrument to find the position of an invisible target) (the 7th regiment took up its position on the left flank) (the plots of shade and flakes of light upon the countenances of the group changed shape and position endlessly—Hardy) (she dropped forks into their appointed positions with disdain—Bennett)

Location is used in a concrete sense implying a fixed but not necessarily a clearly definite place for something or sometimes a person; it may refer to the place as found or as usable as well as to the place actually occupied by a thing (this is a most desirable location for your factory) (he knows the location of every house in the town built before 1800) (they visited Windsor. Mr. Beck said that if he had such a location he should always live there—Besant & Rice)

Situation may differ from location in being more specific about the character of the surroundings (this is the best situation for the house, for the land is high and dry) (the situation of this camp was chosen with respect to its healthfulness and its nearness to the city) (not a place upon earth might be so happy as America. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world—Paine)

Site, though close to situation in many ways, carries a clearer reference to the land on which something specific (as a building, a group of buildings, or a town) is built (every ruined village on the road stands on the site of an ancient city—J. L. Stephens) (you may derive amusement from the historians when they . . . explain how Oxford and Cambridge . . . came to be chosen for sites—Quiller-Couch) (the site for the factory has been well selected) (the hill, with its view of the lake, affords excellent sites for summer cottages) Spot, only in an extended sense, implies
a particular place, clearly defined in extent, which may be occupied or occupied by a person or thing or may be the scene of an occurrence or activity; the word carries a stronger implication of restricted space than of its particular use (it is one of the pleasantest spots in the Adirondacks) (we have found just the spot for the picnic)<br>she said he wouldn't move from the spot (the spot where the corpse was found) (there was one spot in Rome which was calm amid all tumults—Farrar)<br>Station implies the place where a person or sometimes a thing stands or is set to stand; it usually carries an implication of accepted responsibility (as in performance of duty or participation in a game) (waiters at their stations in the dining room) (every vessel in the squadron has its station) (the crew went to their battle stations)<br>placidity, tranquillity, serenity, peace, peacefulness, halcyon<br>pester, tease, tantalise, harry, harass, worry, plague<br>vb
1
locality, vicinity, district: region, tract, area, zone: field, territory, province<br>placid *calm, tranquil, serene, peaceful, halcyon<br>plague *bait, badger, hector, hound, ride: torment, afflict, try<br>con relieve, mitigate, lighten, assuage, alleviate<br>plain adj 1 plane, flat, *level, even, smooth, flush<br>ant solid<br>2 clear, distinct, obvious, *evident, manifest, patent, apparent, palpable<br>plains<br>plaisir*<br>plain<br>analogous words: analogynear antonyms: antonymy contrasted words: contrasty
placid <br>a peaceful setting: a placid lake</p>
in combination, self-delusion, craftiness, or self-seeking on the part of the agent (he doesn't scheme and twist things about trying to get the best of someone else—Anderson) (a lurking suspicion that our work was ... a scheme to superimpose American economic control upon ingenious foreign countries—Heiser) Project comes close to scheme except in its connotations. Sometimes it suggests enterprise; sometimes, imaginative scope or vision; sometimes, mere extensiveness (sanguine schemes, ambitious projects, pleased me less—Wordsworth) (such were my projects for the city's good—Browning) (I projected, and drew up a plan for the union—Franklin) (although his health was rapidly failing, he projected a new book—Dinsmore)

Ana *intention, intent, purpose: *idea, conception, notion: *chart, map, graph: diagram, outline, sketch (see under sketch vb)

plan vb design, plot, scheme, project (see under plan n)

Ana propose, purpose, *intend: *sketch, outline, diagram, delineate

plane adj plain, flat, *level, even, smooth, flush

Ant solid

plank *paragraph, verse, article, clause, count

plastic, pliable, pliant, ductile, malleable, adaptable are applied to things and to persons regarded as material susceptible of being modified in form or nature. Something plastic has the quality (as of wax, clay, or plaster) of being soft enough to be molded or to receive an impression yet capable of hardening into a final form (a pill mass should be plastic: that is, it should be capable of being worked—C.O. Lee) (the language at the period during which the Bible was being translated into English was in its most plastic stage—Lowes) (life is plastic: it will assume any shape you choose to put on it—Gogarty) Something pliable or pliant has the quality (as of willow twigs) of being supple enough to be easily bent or manipulated and therefore yielding without resistance. Pliable, in extended use, usually suggests the imposition of or submission to another's will (I flatter myself that I have some influence over her. She is pliable—Hardy) (I've always been a pliable sort of person, and I let the ladies guide me—Upson Sinclair) (he was criticized as being too pliable, too eager to please—Beverly Smith) Pliant, on the other hand, suggests flexibility rather than obedience (art which is alive and pliant in the hands of men—Quiller-Couch) (ready to be used or not used, picked up or cast aside ..., pliant to fate like a reed to the wind—Goudge) Something ductile has the quality of a tensile metal (as copper) of being tenacious enough to be permanently drawn out or extended, or of water, of being made to flow through channels. In extended use ductile often approaches plastic and pliant but it may have distinctive connotations directly derived from its literal senses, such as quick responsiveness (as distinguished from submissiveness) to influences that would form, guide, or fashion (verse ... is easier to write than prose ... Mr. Shaw would have found his story still more ductile in the meter of Hiawatha—Quiller-Couch) (a vast portion of the public feels rather than thinks, a ductile multitude drawn easily by the arts of the demagogue—Loweman) Sometimes fluidity within bounds is connoted (smooth, ductile, and even, his fancy must flow—Cowper) Something malleable is literally or figuratively capable of being beaten or pressed into shape, especially after being conditioned (as by heating) (tempers ... rendered pliant and malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation—Irving) (finds a sort of malleable mind in front of him that he can play with as he will—Masefield) Something adaptable is capable of being modified or of modifying itself to suit other conditions, other needs, or other uses. As applied to persons the term implies sometimes a pliant, but more often an accommodating, disposition and a readiness to make one's habits, one's opinions, and one's wishes correspond to those of one's present society or environment (he was an adaptable person. He had yielded to Joyce's training in being quietly instead of noisily disagreeable—Sinclair Lewis) (anarchism has always been an elastic and adaptable faith, and looking round for a suitable machinery to replace state centralization—Connolly)

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

Con rigid, *stiff, inflexible

platitude *commonplace, truism, bromide, cliché

Ana banality, inanity, vapidity, insipidity (see corresponding adjectives at insipid): mawkishness, sentimentality (see corresponding adjectives at sentimental)

plaudits *applause, acclamation, acclaim

Ana cheering (see applause)

plausible, credible, believable, colorable, specious are comparable when they mean capable of impressing the observer, auditor, or reader as truly or genuinely possessing the quality or character that is set forth or claimed. A thing or otherwise a person is plausible that is capable of winning acceptance, approval, or belief by its or his apparent possession of qualities which make it or him seem pleasing, genuine, or reasonable at first sight or hearing; the word need not definitely imply a false outside, or an intention to deceive, or a lack of soundness, but it usually connotes such a possibility, even though it also clearly suggests an ingratiating or mentally satisfying character (a plausible argument) (the most plausible and persuasive confidence man of his day—S. H. Adams) (that is a perfectly intelligible position, and it is plausible to the last degree—Lowes) (he learns what is wanted is not an interesting or plausible story, but exact facts—Notes and Queries on Anthropology) A thing or less often a person is credible that seems to be worthy of belief or of being credited, sometimes because of plausibility, but more often because of its or his support by known facts or by sound reasoning (a credible explanation) (a credible witness) (right reason makes that which they say appear credible—Hobbes) (a theory which denies the truth of one of our fundamental convictions about our own minds must have very strong evidence from other quarters to make it credible—Inge) A thing that is credible because it comes within the range of possibility or probability, or because it is in accordance with other facts that are known, is believable (his undergraduate characters ... are all alive and believable. With his older characters he is less convincing—Havighurst) (a down-to-earth, rat-chasing, thoroughly believable wharf cat—Camper) (demand for ... believable explanations—Fearing) A thing is colorable which at least on its face or outwardly seems true, just, or valid or which is capable to some extent of being sustained or justified (a colorable evidence has as yet been presented in support of this theory) (the Chinese were given ... a colorable excuse for joining in the fight. The excuse, of course, was much more than colorable: it was morally and practically ideal—Purcell) A thing or, less often, a person is specious that is outwardly or apparently attractive, beautiful, valid, or sincere but that is inwardly or actually the reverse in character. Specious is the only one of these terms that clearly implies dissimulation or fraud or deceit or hypocrisy (specious picturesqueness) (specious piety) (a specious rogue) (they sanctified the wrong cause with the specious pretext of zeal for the furtherance of the best—Cowper) (effusions of fine sentiments about brotherly
love that are only a *specious* mask for envy and hatred of riches and success—Babitt


---

**play**

**play vb 1** Play, sport, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under PLAY vb 1)

*Ana* enjoyment, delection, *pleasure, delight: amusement, diversion, recreation, entertainment (see under AMUSE): *athletics, sports, games

**Ant** work

2 *fun, jest, sport, game

3 *room, berth, elbowroom, leeway, margin, clearance

---

**play n 1** sport, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under PLAY vb 1)

*Ana* enjoyment, delection, *pleasure, delight: amusement, diversion, recreation, entertainment (see under AMUSE): *athletics, sports, games

**Ant** work

---

**plea**

*Ana* divert, entertain, recreate, *amuse: *trifle, toy, daily

2 *act, impersonate

*Ana* feign, simulate, counterfeit, *assume

**player** *actor, performer, mummer, mime, mimic, thespian, impersonator, trouser

**playful,** frolicsome, sportive, roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous mean given to play, jests, or tricks or indicative of such a disposition or mood. **Playful** stresses either lighthearted gaiety or merriment (playful children) (in a playful mood) (a confiding, playful little animal, whom one . . . trained to do tricks—Sackville-West) or a lack of serious or earnestness (his words were serious, but in his eyes there was a playful gleam) (his pen was more playful than caustic—Williams & Pollard)

**Frolicsome** heightens the implications of **playful**; it carries a stronger suggestion of friskiness or prankishness or irresponsible merriment (as frolicsome as a bird upon a tree, or a breeze that makes merry with the leaves—Hawthorne) (frolicsome sailors returning from their cruises . . . paraded through the streets—Nevins & Commager)

**Sportive** carries a stronger implication of jesting or of levity than either of the preceding words; the term sometimes implies merely excess of animal spirits, but it usually connotes a desire to evoke or provoke laughter (three generations of serious and of sportive writers wept and laughed over the very nature of the senate—Macaulay)

**Roguish** not only heightens the implications of **sportive** but it suggests an engaging naughtiness or slyness ("I don't think I shall want anything else when we've got a little garden; and I knew Aaron would dig it for us," she went on with roguish triumph—George Eliot) (not a pretty girl or a roguish buck in the lot—Cooke)

**Waggish** suggests a less engaging sportiveness than roguish and one less delicate in its character; usually also the term carries a stronger suggestion of jocoseness or of jocularity (with all his overbearing roughness there was a strong dash of waggish good humor at bottom—Irving)

**Impish** adds to roguish a hint of elfish, malicious mockery (teasing . . . with impish laughter half suppressed—Hardy) (he also displays impish ingenuity in picking his examples of error from the most dignified sources—Brit. Book News)

**Mischievous** combines the implications of frolicsome and impish (took a secret and mischievous pleasure in the bewilderment of her attendants—Stafford) Although it may imply the doing of mischief (see mischief under INJURY 1) or the causing of an injury to others it commonly retains some suggestion of mingled playfulness and malice (the three mischievous, dark-eyed witches, who lounged in the stern of that comfortable old island gondola, . . . were a parcel of wicked hoodwinks, bent on mischief, who laughed in your face—Melville) (the little buried eyes still watching . . . in that mischievous, canny way, and . . . catching out some further unpleasantness or scandal—Dahl)

Often it suggests little more than thoughtless indifference to the possible effects of one's sports, tricks, or practical jokes (a garden ruined by mischievous boys) (she . . . was . . . waked by Meta, standing over her with a sponge, looking very mischievous—Yonge)

*Ana* gay, sprightly, *lively: merry, blithe, jocund, jolly, jovial: mirthful, gleeful, hilarious (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH)

---

**ana** analogous words

**Ant** antonyms

**Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
plead vb pray, sue, petition, appeal (see under PRAYER)
Ana entreat, implore, supplicate, beseech; *beg: intercede, mediate, intervene, *interpose
Con bestow, confer, present, *give: *grant, vouchsafe, accord

Pleasant, pleasing, agreeable, grateful, gratifying, welcome are comparable when they mean highly acceptable to or delighting the mind or the senses. Pleasant and pleasing are often indistinguishable; however, pleasant usually imputes a quality to the object to which it is applied, and pleasing suggests merely the effect of the object upon one. A pleasant garden (she liked everything to be tidy and pleasant and comfortable about her—Gibbons) A pleasing arrangement of colors (the thought of gazing on life’s Evening Star makes of ugly old age a pleasing prospect—L. P. Smith) Agreeable implies harmony with one’s tastes or likings (an agreeable taste) (if I was obliged to define politeness, I should call it the art of making oneself agreeable—Smollett) (replied with an agreeable, cultured throaty intonation—F. M. Ford) Gratifying carries the implications of both pleasant and agreeable; in addition it stresses the satisfaction or relief after and sensations, something less often, the mind (they laid down on the clean grass under the grateful shade of the tall cottonwoods—Cather) (only occasional voices from the road outside came to disturb the grateful sense of quiet and seclusion—Archibald Marshall) Gratiying is applied chiefly to what affords mental pleasure to the individual by satisfying his desires, hopes, conscience, or vanity (the reviews of his book were very gratifying) (the gratifying feeling that our duty has been done—Gilbert) can satisfy their lust for power in a most gratifying way—Huxley) Welcome even more than pleasing stresses the pleasure or satisfaction given by the thing to which it is applied; it often suggests prior need or an answer to one’s longings (the explorers found fresh fruit and vegetables a welcome addition to their diet) (the news was most welcome) (revivals offered welcome interludes in pioneer life—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.)

Ana charming, attractive, alluring (see under ATTRACT vb): *soft, gentle, mild, balmy, smooth
Ant unpleasant: distasteful: harsh

Please vb Please, gratify, delight, rejoice, gladden, tickle, regale mean to make happy or to be a cause of happiness. Please usually implies an agreement with one’s wishes, tastes, or aspirations and a happiness which ranges from mere content and the absence of grounds for displeasure to actual elation (the family was pleased with the daughter’s marriage) (the aim of poetry is to please) (the suggestion did not please him) (he may apply himself . . . to feeding and protecting his family, but he no longer need strain to please—Edmund Wilson) (fangless perceptions which will please the conservative power—Mailer) Gratify (compare gratifying under PLEASANT) suggests an even stronger measure of satisfaction than please and is normally positive in its implication of pleasure (it gratifies us to imagine that . . . we have reached a point on the road of progress beyond that vouchsafed to our benighted predecessors—Elliot) it (gratified him to have his wife wear jewels; it meant something to him—Cather) he had a sense of humor in his peculiar quiet way, but he never gratified it by proofs of the obvious—Theodore Sturgeon) Delight stresses the emotional rather than the intellectual quality of the reaction, though the latter is often also implied; it suggests intense, lively pleasure that is not only keenly felt but usually vividly expressed in outward signs (O, flatter me; for love delights in praises—Shak) (the girl was embarrassed and delighted by the effusive attention that followed—Hervey) (she was as delighted as if he had given her a Christmas present all wrapped in shining paper—MacInnes) Rejoice implies a happiness that exceeds bounds and reveals itself openly (as in smiles, in song, in festivities, or in enthusiastic effort) (rejoice, you men of Angiers, ring your bells—Shak) (Hendrik worked, rejoicing in the strength that God had given him—Cloote) Gladden sometimes is indistinguishable from rejoice except in rarely suggesting excess of emotion and in being usually transitive (a small pleasant frankly uttered by a patron, gladdens the heart of the dependent—Irving) It often, however, connotes a raising of the spirits, or a cheering or consoling in depression or grief (the comrades of the dead girl assemble in the temple on certain days to gladden her spirit with songs and dances—Hearn) Tickle and regale involve the idea of delight, but they are often less dignified in their connotations. Tickles implies such pleasurable sensations as tingles and thrills or suggests an almost physical gratification (food that tickles the palate) Sometimes, with reference to physical tickling, it suggests provocation of laughter (the mimic court of justice in the orchard tickled him immensely—Deland) (the idea of himself as a parson tickles him: he looks down at the black sleeve on his arm, and then smiles slyly—Shaw) Regale connotes huge enjoyment or a feasting upon what gives pleasure (Mr. Sycamore was regaling himself with the discomfiture of Lady Charlotte—H. G. Wells) (would always regale them generously with madeira, sherry or whiskey, rich cake, and richer stories—Chapman-Huston)

Ana *satisfy, content: beguile, *while, while
Ant displease: anger: vex

Pleasing *pleasant, agreeable, grateful, gratifying, welcome
Ana winning (see GET): charming, attractive, alluring, enchanting (see under ATTRACT)
Ant displeasing: repellent

Pleasure, delight, joy, delectation, enjoyment, fruition denote the agreeable emotion which accompanies the possession, acquisition, or expectation of something good or greatly desired. Pleasure so strongly implies a feeling of satisfaction or gratification that it sometimes carries no implication of visible happiness or actual gladness (faintly unpleasant pleasures being atoned for by the dull unappreciated pain of guilt—Styron) (he owned over forty pairs of boots, and he had the same pleasure in handling them that jewels give—Bemelmans) Often, however, the term suggests an excitement or exaltation of the senses or of the mind that implies positive happiness or gladness (when these wild ecstasies shall be matured into a sober pleasure—Wordsworth) (a great work of art always gives pleasure) (she didn’t want to ride on the roller coaster . . . her ideas of pleasure were more sophisticated—Cheever) Delight carries a stronger implication of liveliness, intensity, or obviousness in the satisfaction or gratification (induced in pleasure often suggests a less stable or enduring emotion) (that pleasure the possession of my money could have afforded him I am unable to say; but . . . as it did give him evident delight I was not sorry that I had parted with it so readily—Kipling) (the errors he made in pitch and in language would be so amusing that the geishas would giggle with delight—Mailer) (next to their wondrous delight in each other came their delighted wonder at earth itself—Theodore Sturgeon) Joy is often used in place of pleasure and still more often in place of delight. It is, however, especially appropriate when a deep-seated, rapturous emotion is implied or when the happiness is so great as to be almost painful in its intensity (and all its aching joys are now no more, and all its dizzy raptures—Wordsworth)

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

A superlative measure or procedure for determining the collective will of a group or nation, often used for matters of national importance or to resolve disputes within a country or international context. It typically involves voting by the populace, either directly or through representatives, to express their opinion on a particular issue.

In its historical and political context, plebiscite has been employed in various scenarios: to end long-standing conflicts such as the Italian unification process, to affirm national boundaries like in Ireland to decide whether to remain part of the United Kingdom or to form an independent republic, or to confirm the legitimacy of a government. Notably, plebiscites have been a controversial tool in the hands of leaders aiming to solidify their power or to resist external pressures by popular consent.

Plebiscite as a concept is also linked to the idea of self-determination, where people have the right to decide their own political status and the type of government under which they wish to live. This principle is enshrined in international law and is recognized by the United Nations.

Example: "The plebiscite was held to decide whether the region should remain part of the country or opt for independence, a decision that would shape the nation's future for decades to come."
or fullness of information <declarers of a copious vein —Berkeley> <French, English, or any other copious lan-
guage—Hobbes> <be copious and distinct, and tell me a
great deal of your mind—Johnson>

*fruitful, prolific (see FERTILE): sumptuous, opulent,
*luxurious: *profuse, lavish, prodigal

Ant scanty, scant

pleonasm *verbiage, redundancy, tautology, circumlocu-

pleiable *plastic, pliant, ductile, malleable, adaptable

Ant lithie, limber, *supple: *elastic, resilient, springy,

flexible: *compliant, acquiescent

pliant *plastic, pliable, ductile, malleable, adaptable

Ant see those at Pliable

plight vb *promise, engage, pledge, covenant, contract

pln n *predicament, dilemma, quandary, scrape, fix, jam,

plight

plop n *difficulty, *difficulty, rigor, hardship, vicissitude

plot n 1 *plan, design, scheme, project

Ant *chart, map, graph

2 Plot, intrigue, machination, conspiracy, cabal are compa-

rable when they mean a secret plan devised to entrap or

ensnare others. Plot implies careful planning of details

and usually an intent to accomplish an evil, mischievous,
or treacherous end; the action may involve one or more

devisers and a person, a group, a class, or a people as the

victim <there is a plot against my life, my crown—Shak.>

<the great Jesuit plot for the destruction of Protestant

England—Crothers> <the conspirators roped into their

scheme a whole network of the magnates. Nevers joined

in the plot—Belloc> Intrigue implies more complicated

scheming or maneuvering than plot and often the use of

petty underhand methods in an atmosphere of duplicity;

it more often implies an attempt to gain one's own ends

through clandestine means (as in politics, in business, or

in love) than (as plot frequently implies) an attempt to

destroy, to betray, or to usurp power <Mr. Swift hath

desirably described that passion for intrigue, that love of

secrecy, slander, and lying, which belongs to weak people,

hangers-on of weak courts—Thackeray> <the party pol-

ticians forgot their good resolutions, and reverted to their

familiar intrigues—H. G. Wells> <they had all stooped to

folly and . . . here they were, alive, tainted, laughing,

and like as not in some new intrigue with a waiter or a

musician—Wouk>

Machination, usually in the plural, imputes hostility or treachery to the makers; often, also, it

suggests craftiness in devising or contriving annoyances,

injuries, or evils. If these ideas are to be connoted, it

may be applied to a plot, an intrigue, or any of the secret plans

named by the words in this group <tortured by some black

tube?—Deland> <we are plunged once more into the war-

bodily into the water after a forty-foot

(drop—Forester> <we are plunged once more into the war

into the crowd plunged and was soon lost to view> <the

singer drew breath and plunged, shrieked, plunged

down from the bank—Deland> <an enormous water rat

dived down from the bank—Deland>

plunge vb Plunge, dive, pitch are comparable when they

mean to throw or cast oneself or to be thrown or cast

cast forward or downward with force or impetuosity into or

as if into deep water. Plunge carries a more obvious impli-

cation than the others of the force with which one throws

oneself or is thrown, but it does not always suggest a

penetration of deep water; it may imply entrance into any

penetrable medium, especially one that suggests a being

lost to view, or into a state or condition in which one is

overwhelmed or immersed, or into a course which marks a

depth descent, a complete change, or a distinct involve-

ment <plunge bodily into the water after a forty-foot

drop—Forester> <we are plunged once more into the war

of nerves—Times Lit. Sup.> <he plunged into the crowd

and was soon lost to view> <the singer drew breath and

plunged into a new stanza—Henri>

Dive, though it implies an action very similar to that indicated by plunge, usually suggests deliberation or, at least, consciousness of an aim, more skill in execution, and less heaviness and more grace; thus, "he dived into the sea" usually implies intent where "he plunged headlong into the sea" may suggest either intent, accident, or impulsion by some force <the gulls dive into the water for pieces of food> <an enormous water rat dived down from the bank—Powys>

In techniques of verbal use the word implies the doing of an unlawful act or the use of unlawful means in accomplishing a lawful end <monopoly . . . is conspiracy in restraint of

dealings, including under the term conspiracy all contracts

and combinations entered into for the purpose of restrain-

ming trade—The Amer. Individual Enterprise System>

<the company brought suit against the strike leaders, charging

them with conspiracy to ruin the business—Amer. Guide

Series: Conn.> Cabal applies usually to an intrigue in

which a group combines to accomplish some end favorable to

it but injurious to or disastrous to the person or group,

often, specifically, the government, affected <the cabal

against Washington found supporters exclusively in the

north—Bancroft> <the innate character of the cabal and

its purposes roused resentments and antagonisms in

Congress which compelled its adherents to abandon the

move . . . and . . . the scheme collapsed—Fitzpatrick>

Ant contrivance, *device, contraption: maneuver, stratag-

em, *trick, ruse, artifice

3 sketch, outline, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, blue-

print (see under sketch vb)
plurality 617

point of view

THROW is often used instead of plunge to imply a falling forward and downward usually without intent or design (he pitched headlong over the cliff) (he tripped on a root and pitched forward on his face) (my anxiety to own the ducks caused me to pitch into the water with all my clothes on—Wister) The term also is often used in reference to the alternate forward and backward plunging of a ship in a storm as distinguished from rolling or tossing from side to side (the passengers found the pitching of the ship more disquieting than the rolling) (the sea was rough and my heart pitched with the small motorboat—J. W. Brown)

*plutocracy, oligarchy, aristocracy

pocket *hole, hollow, cavity, void, vacuum

vb *handle, manipulate, wield, swing

plurality *majority

plutocracy *oligarchy, aristocracy

ply vb *handle, manipulate, wield, swing

Ana submerge, immerse, *dip: *throw, cast, fling, hurl: *push, thrust, shove, propel

point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, angle, slant denote a fixed way of looking justified by one's fundamental principles or one's stock of information and not necessarily resulting in a limited understanding (from the poet-writer's standpoint all this prevalent talk about a New Order is sheer waste of time—Forster) (<my criticism of what seem to me one-sided views will be better understood if my general standpoint is known—Inge)

* massacre, slaughter, butchery, carnage

poignant 1 *pungent, piquant, racy, spicy, snappy

poetaster *poet, versifier, rhymer, rhymester, bard, minstrel, troubadour denote a composer who uses metrical or rhetorical language as his medium. Poet is used in a generic sense and in several highly specific senses. In its generic sense it applies to any writer or maker of verses in which it is used specifically only to a composer of verse who in his composition exhibits qualities regarded as essential by the age or time or by the writer or speaker who uses the term. With all its variations in implications in these specific senses, poet usually stresses creative and expressive power as the prime essential, sometimes without clear reference to skill in constructing verses (every man, that writes in verse is not a Poet—Ben Jonson) (<the Poet is chiefly distinguished from other men by a greater promptness to think and feel without immediate external excitement, and a greater power in expressing such thoughts and feelings—Wordsworth) Versifier may designate a composer who uses verse as his medium without reference to qualities thought of as essential to poetry. In contrast to poet, it implies the lack of such a quality or qualities (<a clever versifier might have written Cowley's lines; only a poet could have made what Dryden made of them—T. S. Eliot) Rhymer and rhymester, once descriptive rather than deprecative, now tend to be even more definitely and consistently deprecatory than versifier in their implication of mediocrity or inferiority. Poetaster is a term of contempt applied to versifiers whose work is regarded as unimportant, trashy, or inane (<there are poetasters always) <every man of great literature enables us to see with another man's eyes . . . but only when we abandon ourselves for the time to his point of view—Kilby) (<the general shape of the galaxy and the point of view from which we are looking at it—B. J. Bok) <all will benefit from exposure to the fresh viewpoint which he presents—Harrison Brown) <describes his own method of photographing motor races, and gives hints on the choice of subjects and viewpoints—Kodak Abstract> Standpoint may have connotations which tend to distinguish it from point of view and viewpoint; it is more often restricted to the mental point of view (<consider totalitarianism from the German standpoint> and it more often connotes than definitely implies a fixed way of looking justified by one's fundamental principles or one's stock of information and not necessarily resulting in a limited understanding (<from the poet-writer's standpoint all this prevalent talk about a New Order is sheer waste of time—Forster) (<my criticism of what seem to me one-sided views will be better understood if my general standpoint is known—Inge>)

Angle (see also PHASE) definitely implies one-sidedness or limitations in the scope or one's vision (<every man of genius sees the world at a different angle from his fellows, and there is his tragedy. But it is usually a measurable angle—Eliot) (<in the rhetorical speeches from Shake-
speare which have been cited, we have... a new clue to the character, in noting the angle from which he views himself—T. S. Eliot. Slant stresses bias, but it may be bias derived from temperament, mental habits, or experience rather than from prejudice (periodicals, not normally pro-Democratic in editorial slant—Cater) (no one sees anything without some personal slant—S. R. L.)

Ana *position, stand, attitude

poise vb *stabilize, steady, balance, ballast, trim
Ana *support, uphold, back

Con disturb, agitate, upset (see DISCOMPOSE): *overturn, overthrow, subvert

poise n 1 *balance, equilibrium, equipoise, tension
Ana suspending or suspension, hanging (see corresponding verbs at HANG): *equanimity, composure
2 *tact, address, savoir faire
Ana self-possession, aplomb, assurance, *confidence: calmness, tranquillity, serenity (see corresponding adjectives at CALM): grace, dignity, *elegance

poison n Poison, venom, virus, toxin, bane mean matter or a substance that when present in an organism or introduced into it produces injurious or deadly effect. Poison is the most inclusive of these words and is applicable to any deadly or noxious substance whether introduced into or produced within the body of an organism *killed by a poison-barbed arrow (carbon monoxide gas, when inhaled, is a deadly poison) *keeping poisons out of the reach of children *many alkaloids are dangerous poisons

In extended use poison applies to whatever is felt to have the destructive effect of a physical poison *fear uncontrolled is a poison that destroys all self-confidence
Ana basically means a fluid containing a poison secreted by an animal (as a snake, scorpion, or bee) and injected into another animal during offensive or defensive action, usually by a bite or sting (man spurns the worm, but poisons he who makes the slumbering venom of the folded snake—Byron) The term is occasionally extended to a poisonous secretion of a plant and in more general extended use applies especially to states of mind or utterances that are felt to have the malignant quality of an animal venom (their belief in venom and jealousy behind the war—Paxson) *spouting angry venom about his neighbors
Ana Virus (see also GERM), once equivalent to venom, retains this value only in extended use and then applies to something felt to have a corrupting quality that can poison the mind or spirit *the force of this virus of prejudice—V. S. Waters
Ana toxin applies to a complex organic poison that is a product of the metabolic activities of a living organism, is extremely poisonous when introduced into the tissues but usually destroyed by the digestive juices, and is usually able to induce antibody formation *bacterial toxins, such as those of botulism and tetanus
Ana Bane may apply to any cause of ruin, destruction, or tribulation (his wife is the bane of his life) *time can be an poison or something (as a plant) containing poison *ratsbane *henbane contains a poison resembling belladonna

poisonous, venomous, virulent, toxic, mephitic, pestilent, pestilential, miasmatic, miasmatic, miasmal are comparable when they mean having the properties or the effects of a poison (see POISON). Basically poisonous implies that the thing so described will be fatal or exceedingly harmful if introduced into a living organism in sufficient quantities (as by eating, drinking, or inhaling) *the most poisonous of mushrooms *poisonous gases *aniline is also poisonous but by proper chemical manipulation it becomes the parent of many beneficent medicines—Morrison

In its extended use the term implies extreme noxiousness or perniciousness or power to corrode, rankle, or corrupt *you might condemn us as poisonous of your honor—Shak. *the sentence was pronounced... in a stifling poisonous atmosphere—Conrad
Ana mortal, fatal, lethal, *deadly: *pernicious, baneful, noxious, deleterious, detrimental

poke vb Poke, prod, nudge, jog are comparable when they

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
mean, as verbs, to thrust something into so as to stir up, urge on, or attract attention and, as nouns, the act or an instance of such thrusting. **Poke** implies primarily the use of a body part (as a finger or foot) or of some instrument or implement (as a stick, a rod, or a poker), but sometimes, especially in verbal use and in idiomatic phrases, it may imply the operation of something equally effective in stirring up or in rooting out (walked up and down and **poked** among the rocks—Masefield) (he **poked** the man in front of him to attract his attention) (he **poked** the fire in a stove) (he handed one to Lonnie, poking it at him until Lonnie's attention was drawn from the hogs—Caldwell) (he **poked** his head round the corner—Sayers) (liked to **poke** his nose into another person's affairs) (give the fire a poke or two) **Prod** suggests the use of something sharp which can stab or prick or goad into action; it may be a physical thing (as a sharp pointed stick) (probed and **prodded** and palpated that tortured and self-tortured flesh—Styron) (the cottage needed to be **prodded** along) or it may be something less tangible but equally effective (as sharp words, a threat, or a taunt) (the excitement of trying to ... to **prod** them into action—J. R. Green) (**prod** lazy schoolboys (give Willis a **prod** on the subject of church attendance—Mackenzie). **Nudge** suggests gentler action than the preceding terms; it may imply the use of an elbow in attracting attention especially under conditions when speech is impossible (he **nudged** the person sitting next to him to allow him to pass) (Squeers then **nudged** Mrs. Squires to bring away the brandy bottle—Dickens) (give him a nudge or he will not see her) or it may imply a mere suggestion or hint (what was not trimmed from our pages by the editor's nudge was given away in the haggles of publisher and author—Mailer) or it may imply repeated gentle action (as in moving or shifting) (impudent little tugboats ...) **nudged** our ship out of its slip—J. W. Brown) **Jog** implies a thrust or, often, a touch on or as if on the elbow or arm that to some extent shakes one up (a bored-looking man, with a fashionably-dressed woman jogging his elbow—Jerome) (a jog to one's memory) (almost any idea which jogs you out of your current abstractions may be better than nothing—Whitehead).

**Ana** *push, shove, thrust: *stir, arouse, rouse, awaken: *provoke, excite, stimulate, galvanize, quicken.

**Poke** vb prod, nudge, jog (see under **Poke** vb)

**Polite** *civil, courteous, courtly, gallant, chivalrous.

**Ponder** *display, parade, array.

**Ponder**, **meditate**, **muse**, **ruminate** can mean to consider or examine something attentively, seriously, and with more or less deliberation. **Ponder** characteristically retains its original implication of weighing and usually suggests consideration of a problem from all angles or of a thing in all its relations in order that nothing important will escape one; unlike weight in a related sense (see **Consider** 1) it does not usually suggest a balancing that leads to a conclusion (the great Sung master was wont ... to ... spend the day pondering the subjects of his brush by the side of running streams—Binyon) (**was pondering** over the best style in which to address the unknown and distant relations—Gibbons) **Meditate** adds to **ponder** an implication of a definite directing or focusing of one's thought; in intransitive use, especially, it more often suggests an effort to understand the thing so considered in all its aspects, relations, or values than an effort to work out a definite problem (meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them—1 Tim 4:15) (I sat down ... to give way to the melancholy reflections called up by the sight before me. I know not how long I **meditated**—Wilkie Collins) **Intransitive use meditate** implies such deep consideration of a plan or project that it approaches **intend** or **purpose** in meaning (meanwhile, he was **meditating** a book on Shakespearean questions—H. J. Oliver) **Muse** comes close to **meditate** in implying focused attention but it suggests a less intellectual aim: often it implies absorption—Ogg & Ray> Sometimes **politician** is used with a strong suggestion of derogation or contempt to imply scheming, self-interest, artifice, or intrigue in accomplishing one's ends (made the better publicized pilfering of Washington **politicians** seem petty by comparison—Woodward) (known as a **politician** in the deprecatory sense of the word, with all its undertones of corruption and dirty deals and smoke-filled rooms—Rodell) **Statesman** implies elevation above party conflict and a mind able to view objectively the needs and problems of the state and its citizens and to concern itself with the long-term greatest good of the greatest number. The term, often in contrast to **politician**, is likely to stress both eminence and ability (they were **statesmen** not **politicians**; they guided public opinion, but were little guided by it—Henry Adams) (the scornful may say that "a **statesman** is a dead politician," but it is more truly said that a **statesman** lives by his principles and a **politician** is ruled by his interest—H. D. Scott) (the **statesman** differs from the ordinary **politician** in that he is able to envisage and inspire support for policies that are in the long-run, best interests of the most people—Hallowell) **Politico** is virtually interchangeable with **politician** but perhaps more likely to stress concern with partisan political activity than with the actual business of government (his strength rests on the support of veteran **politics** throughout the state—Shannon) (some sharp **politic** still think the President won't run again—Wall Street Journal) Like **politician**, it can be highly derogatory (Machiavelli's The Prince in which the individual **politico** is shown how to succeed by ignoring all moral, social, and religious restraints on his own action—Higher).

**Politician** *political, statesman.* **Politician** is used with a strong suggestion of derogation or contempt to imply scheming, self-interest, artifice, or intrigue in accomplishing one's ends (made the better publicized pilfering of Washington **politicians** seem petty by comparison—Woodward) (known as a **politician** in the deprecatory sense of the word, with all its undertones of corruption and dirty deals and smoke-filled rooms—Rodell) **Statesman** implies elevation above party conflict and a mind able to view objectively the needs and problems of the state and its citizens and to concern itself with the long-term greatest good of the greatest number. The term, often in contrast to **politician**, is likely to stress both eminence and ability (they were **statesmen** not **politicians**; they guided public opinion, but were little guided by it—Henry Adams) (the scornful may say that "a **statesman** is a dead politician," but it is more truly said that a **statesman** lives by his principles and a **politician** is ruled by his interest—H. D. Scott) (the **statesman** differs from the ordinary **politician** in that he is able to envisage and inspire support for policies that are in the long-run, best interests of the most people—Hallowell) **Politico** is virtually interchangeable with **politician** but perhaps more likely to stress concern with partisan political activity than with the actual business of government (his strength rests on the support of veteran **politics** throughout the state—Shannon) (some sharp **politic** still think the President won't run again—Wall Street Journal) Like **politician**, it can be highly derogatory (Machiavelli's The Prince in which the individual **politico** is shown how to succeed by ignoring all moral, social, and religious restraints on his own action—Higher).
and a languid turning over of a topic as if in a dream, a fancy, or a remembrance {let him ... read a certain passage of full poesy or distilled prose, and let him wander with it, and muse upon it ... and dream upon it—Keats} {Cabot mused over the fact that the old bastard considered himself ... one of the eminences of the great metropolis—Purdy} {still a pleasant mystery; enough to muse over on a dull afternoon—Davis} 

Ruminate implies a going over the same problem, the same subject, or the same object of meditation again and again; it may be used in place of any of these words, but it does not carry as strong a suggestion of weighing as ponder, of concentrated attention as meditate, or of absorption as muse, and it more often implies such processes as reasoning or speculation {I sit at home and ruminate on the qualities of certain little books like this one—little elixirs of perfection, full of subtlety and sadness—which I can read and read again—L. P. Smith} {forty years of ruminating on life, of glimpsing it in its simplest forms through microscopes—Kaempffert} {A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.} 

ponderable appreciable, *perceptible, sensible, palpable, tangible 

Ana important, significant, momentous, weighty, consequential (see corresponding nouns at IMPORTANCE) 

Con trivial, trifling, *petty, paltry 

ponderous cumbrous, cumbersome, *heavy, weighty, hefty 

Ana *massive, massy, bulky, substantial: clumsy, *awkward, maladroit: *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting 

pool n *monopoly, corner, syndicate, trust, cartel 

poor adj 1 Poor, indigent, needy, destitute, penniless, impecunious, poverty-stricken, necessitous are comparable when they mean having less money or fewer possessions than are required to support a full life. Poor describes a person, a people, or an institution that comes under this description; it is the most general term of the group, applying not only to those who are in actual want or to those in straitened circumstances, but also to those who, as compared to other groups, live below the level of what is regarded as comfortable {despite the death of the breadwinner, his family was not left poor—Wecter} {I’t wasn’t only that they were not rich ... but that they were so poor that they couldn’t afford things—Mary Austin} 

Between indigent and needy there is very little difference in meaning, both implying urgent and pressing want; both, but especially indigent, may be used to express the state of want to which those who are poor are reduced {the depression had left a number of them indigent, without state or support, the only avoidable source of revenue}{Green Peyton} {would make contributions to needy groups of all races and creeds—Current Biog} {there are many needy persons in this town}{green Peyton} {needy children are provided with hot luncheons, free of cost} {old couple} <the bulk of the pioneers was formed by poverty-stricken people who migrated from densely populated areas—J. F. Embree & W. L. Thomas> 

Necessitous comes close to needy in meaning but often carries a clearer connotation of insistent or persistent demands for relief {it holds out a shadow of present gain to a greedy and necessitous public—Burke} {according to sample surveys ... six percent are only “moderately in need.” The rest are immoderately necessitous—Liebling} 

A rich—an wealthy, affluent, opulent (see RICH) 

2 *bad, wrong 

Ana *deficient, defective: *petty, puny, trivial, trifling, paltry: *base, low, vile 

Con *good, right: satisfying, fulfilling, meeting, answering (see SATISFY) 

poppycock *nonsense, twaddle, drivel, baffle, balderdash, gobbledegook, trash, rot, bull 

popular *common, ordinary, familiar, vulgar 

Ana general, *universal, generic, common: accepted, received, admitted (see RECEIVE): prevalent, *prevailing, current 

Ant unpopular: esoteric 

port n *harbor, haven 

port n presence, *bearing, deportment, demeanor, mien 

portal *door, gate, doorway, gateway, postern 

portend presage, augur, prognosticate, *foretell, predict, foretell, foreshadow, prophecies, forebode 

Ana betoken, *indicate, bespeak, attest: signify, import, *mean, denote 

portent *foretold, presage, prognostic, omen, augury 

Ana presentiment, foreboding, misgiving, *appréhension: forewarning, warning, cautioning or caution (see WARN) 

portentous *ominous, unpropitious, inauspicious, fateful 

Ana threatening, menacing (see THREATEN): prodigious, monstrous: prophesying or prophetic, presaging, foreboding, predicting, foretelling (see corresponding verbs at FORETELL) 

portico *colonnade, arcade, arcade, peristyle 

portion n 1 part, piece, detail, member, division, section, segment, sector, fraction, fragment, parcel 

Ana distribution, dispensation, division, dealing (see corresponding verbs at DISTRIBUTE): fortune, hap, *chance, luck 

portion vb *apportion, parcel, ration, prorate 

Ana allot, assign, allocate: *distribute, dispense, divide, deal 

portly *fleshy, stout, plump, rotund, chubby, fat, corpulent, obese 

Ana burly, hulky, brawny, muscular 

portrait photograph, *image, effigy, statue, icon, mask 

portray *represent, depict, delineate, picture, limn 

Ana image, photograph (see corresponding nouns at
image): describe, *relate, narrate: reproduce, copy, duplicate (see corresponding nouns at reproduction)

pose vb *propose, propose, pound

Ana *ask, question, query: *puzzle, confound: baffle (see frustrate)

pose n 1 Pose, air, affectation, mannerism are comparable when they mean an adopted rather than a natural way of speaking and behaving. Pose implies an attitude deliberately assumed in order to impress others or to call attention to oneself; it may be applied to opinions, policies, declared beliefs, and preferences as well as to manners (his reticence is just a pose) [identified himself with the Great Commoner, and this seemed to me purely a pose, which verged upon demagoguery—Edmund Wilson] Air in its more general related use may come close to demeanor (compare demeanor under bearing), but as compared with pose it, especially in the plural airs, definitely implies artificiality and the intent to give a false appearance, and usually also implies a vulgar pretense of breeding, of grandeur, or of superiority (the red-headed singer dropped her patronizing air, offered her scotch from the bottle—Wouk) [there was no doubt at all that she had acquired insufferable airs—Stafford] Affectation usually designates a specific trick of speech or behavior of one who obviously puts on airs or whose trick impresses others as deliberately assumed and insincere (regarded carrying cigarettes in a case as an affectation—Richard Burke) [agitation for opera in English seems a particular affectation to those who have come to know the works in the original—Dale Warren] Mannerism designates an acquired peculiarity or eccentricity in speech or behavior; it seldom implies insincerity, but it nearly always connotes habit or potential habit. A mannerism consciously assumed becomes thereby also an affectation; what begins as an affectation may become an unconscious and habitual trick of behavior, and so a mannerism (he giggled, and she was surprised she had not noticed this mannerism in him before—Purdy) [those little mannerisms of hers... especially the way she has of pointing a finger at me to emphasize a phrase—Dahl]

2 *posture, attitude

posit vb *presuppose, presume, assume, postulate, premise

posit n presupposition, presumption, assumption, postulate, premise (see under presuppose)

position 1 Position, stand, attitude denote a more or less fixed mental point of view or way of regarding something. Position and stand both imply reference to a question at issue or to a matter about which there is difference of opinion. Position, however, is often the milder term, since it, unlike stand, seldom connotes aggressiveness or defiance of a widely held or popular opinion (he was asked to make known his position on disarmament) [he took the stand that disarmament would not accomplish the ends its proponents had in view] [bases his position on a wide and shrewd scrutiny of man and his history—Alain Locke] [he... agreed thoroughly with my stand that no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it by their own efforts—Heiser] Attitude suggests a personal or, sometimes, a group or communal point of view, especially one that is colored by personal or party feeling, is influenced by one's environment or the fashion of the moment, and is, on the whole, more the product of temperament or of emotion than of thought or conviction (a humorous attitude to life) (the Greek attitude toward nature) (it was their attitude of acceptance... their complaisance about themselves and about their life—Wolfe) [their beliefs, attitudes, and prejudices were a crowd of inconsistencies—Farrell]

Ana *point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, angle, slant

positive 1 certain, *sure, cocksure

Ana *confident, assured, sanguine, sure: dogmatic, doctrinaire, oracular, *dictatorial

Ant doubtful

2 *affirmative

Ant negative —Con *neutral, indifferent: nugatory, *vain, idle, hollow: nullifying, annulling (see nullify)

possess own, enjoy, hold, *have

Ana control, manage, direct, *conduct: retain, *keep, reserve, withhold

possessions, belongings, effects, means, resources, assets can mean all the items that taken together constitute a person's or group's property or wealth. Possessions, belongings, effects stress ownership; means, resources, assets emphasize value and especially pecuniary value of what is owned. Possessions may be applied to the aggregate of things owned, regardless of the individual worth or significance of each thing; thus, one may speak of the possessions of an indigent old woman or of the possessions of a Rothschild, the former referring to a few articles of furniture and clothing, the latter to extensive properties and enormous invested capital. Belongings is applied commonly to an individual's more intimate personal possessions (as clothes, household goods, and valuables) (left the house and took all his belongings with him) (my belongings were put away in the room—Frank Perry) Effects may be more inclusive than belongings, but usually less so than possessions. It is often applied to personal as distinguished from real property, especially when the reference is to the estate of a deceased person (he died leaving no effects of value) (all his effects were divided among his relatives before an administrator could be appointed) Sometimes it is applied to movable articles as distinguished from those that are stationary (a sale of household effects) (all his personal effects are in his trunk) Means usually applies to all the money that is available, in the form of revenue from capital, income, or ready money, for expenditure (lived beyond his means) (a man of large means) When unqualified means frequently implies some degree of affluence (decked out with furs, gloves and a hat sewn with pearls—one of those middle-aged women of means—Cheever) Resources, on the other hand, is applied to all possessions that have actual or potential, but not necessarily money, value and that may be depended upon in case of need or of deficiency (a society which gives an increasing share of its resources to military purposes—Science) Sometimes the term comprehends all tangibles and intangibles possessed whether they are actually used or are merely available for use; thus, a statement of a company's resources is a statement that covers every item that may be regarded as a part of the company's wealth (the turn of the 20th century, when the financial resources of the well-to-do were matched by the national affluence—Lucius Beebe) Often the term refers specifically to possessions held in reserve for emergencies or to sources of supply as yet untapped; thus, the natural resources of a country include its unmined minerals, unfeled timber, water sources, and wild life. Assets both in law and in accounting implies an opposition to liabilities and therefore suggests the possibility of an inequality between the two and a difference between one's ostensible and one's actual wealth. When the term is used in reference to the settlement of the estate of a deceased person or to the legal administration of the property of an insolvent or bankrupt person or concern, the assets include all the possessions of marketable value which may be turned into money to provide for the payment of the liabilities (the assets of the estate were sufficient to cover all liabilities,
including the decedent's debts and his legacies. When used in reference to general balance sheets of a company or corporation, the term comprehends all items which from one point of view can be called resources having book value. But assets is never exactly the same as resources, because the latter word does not, as assets does, imply a comparison with liabilities.

**possible**

1. Possible, practicable, feasible can mean capable of being realized. Possible is used to dispel doubt that something may or does occur or exist or may come to exist (the regime of religious toleration has become possible only because we have lost the primal intensity of religious conviction—Cohen) (although he still asserts that community of goods would be the ideal institution, he reluctantly abandons it as a basis for a possible state—Dickinson). Practicable refers to what may be readily effected, executed, practiced, used, or put into operation (trial by jury—an institution in which . . . we have the very abstract and essence of all practicable democratic government—Mallock) (the only practicable tactics to be pursued were those of the routine police procedure—S. S. Van Dine).

Feasible may designate what is likely to work out or be put into effect successfully or what in a difficult situation seems the expedient least liable to fail (cheap iron and steel made it feasible to equip larger armies and navies than ever before—Mumford) (only the most simple types of utilization are feasible—Van Valkenburg & Huntington).

**posture**

1. Posture, attitude, pose denote a position assumed by the body, or the disposition of the parts of the body with relation to one another. Posture applies to the relative arrangement of the different parts of the body. It may apply to a habitual or characteristic arrangement and then specifically means the way in which one holds oneself and refers to one's physical carriage or bearing (her posture is excellent) (pictures illustrating defects of posture) (examples of correct posture) (an urbane alertness about the face, the posture—Wouk) or it may apply to an arrangement determined with reference to the needs of the mood or the moment and then requires qualification (a sitting posture) (a kneeling posture) (the posture of supposition) (his whole figure had a prowling and half-crouching posture—Wolfe) or the assistance of the context to evoke a picture of how the parts of the body are disposed or to reveal the intention or end (there's a posture for a man to fight in! His weight isn't resting on his legs—Shaw). Attitude applies chiefly to a posture that is unconsciously expressive or is intentionally assumed, often as a result of a particular mood or state of mind (they slipped into the embassy . . . so wary, so frightened and in such attitudes of wrongdoing—Cheever) (uttering platitudes in stained-glass attitudes—Gilbert). Pose applies to an attitude or to a position of some part or parts of the body which is assumed for the sake of effect, or which, if unconscious, strikes the observer as effective or as affected (the pose of a model) (the lofty pose of her head expressed an habitual sense of her own consequence—Shaw) (his pose was easy and graceful). A superb self-confidence radiated from him—Gibbons.

**pot**

1. *bet, wager, stake, ante

**potent**

1. *powerful, puissant, forceful, forcible

**pouch**

1. *bag, sack

**pour**

1. *beat, pummel, buffet, baste, belabor, thrash
poverty

though it also may connote abundance or continuousness in that flow <the guests streamed past, shaking hands, exchanging greetings—Styron> Gush implies a sudden and copious emission of or as if of something released from confinement; it often connotes a coming in a jet or in spurs <blood gushed from the wound> <he . . . suddenly gushed forth in streams of wondrous eloquence—Stephen> <beer began to gush . . . in a white cascade—Pynchon>

Sluice implies the operation of something like a sluice for the regulation or control of the flow of water; therefore the verb sluice suggests a sending of water or liquid over a surface in an abundant stream <water so fresh . . . never sluiced parched throats before—Thackeray> <Mowgli, with the rain sluicing over his bare shoulders—Kipling>

Ana emerge, *appear: flow, issue, proceed, *spring

poverty, indigence, penury, want, destitution, privation all denote the state of one who is poor or without enough to live upon. Poverty, the most comprehensive of these terms, typically implies such deficiency of resources that one is deprived of many of the necessities and of all of the comforts of life <in Syria he feathered his nest so successfully that in two years he raised himself from poverty to opulence—Buchan> <complaining of his poverty as if it were a new invention and he its first victim—Malamud>

Indigence, often opposed to affluence, does not suggest dire or absolute poverty, but it does imply reduced or straitened circumstances and therefore usually connotes the endurance of many hardships and the lack of comforts <reduced to indigence in his old age> <our newfound European indigence now makes us more materialistic than we used to pride ourselves on being—Times Lit. Sup.>

Penury may or may not imply abject poverty, but it does suggest such a degree of need, especially of money, that one is cramped or oppressed by it <chill Penury repressed their noble rage—Gray> <she has to take anything she can get in the way of a husband rather than face penury—Shaw>

But penury may imply the semblance of poverty that comes from miserliness or penuriousness <compare penurious under stingy> <her relatives considered that the penury of her table discredited the Mingott name, which had always been associated with good living—Wharton>

Want (see also lack) and destitution both imply an extreme of poverty that leaves one without the basic necessities of life; both terms, but especially the latter, often imply starvation and homelessness or the urgent need of help <he is in great want> <here to the homeless child of want my door is open still—Goldsmith>

<sinking stage by stage from indigence to squalor, from squalor to grimy destitution—Mumford> Privation, though implying a state that is comparable to the one suggested by indigence, does not, as the latter term does, necessarily suggest poverty; although it implies a condition of being without many of the comforts and sometimes of the necessities of existence or having only an insufficient supply of them, it may connote another cause of such a condition than a lack of money or of possessions of value <an explorer must undergo prolonged privations> <months of privation after the crop failure had left them ill-nourished>

Ana necessity, *need, exigency: strait, pass, pinch (see juncture)

Ant riches

poverty-stricken *poor, indigent, needy, destitute, peniless, impemcious, necessitous

power

1 Power, force, energy, strength, might, puissance mean the ability to exert effort for a purpose. Power is the most general of these terms and denotes an ability to act or be acted upon, to effect something, or to affect or be affected by something <the finest machine in the world is useless without a motor to give it power> <the mechanical power of the internal-combustion engine> <raise the productive power of the nation> <the sound of a great flood moving with majesty and power—Cather> <give an attorney the power to act for one> <in any link between past and present there was potent magic, some power to evoke allegiance—Hervey> <hateful to feel their power over me when I knew that they were nothing but fancies—Hudson>

Force (see also force 2) implies the exhibition or the exercise of power; the term usually carries with it a suggestion of actually overcoming resistance (as by setting a thing in motion or accelerating its motion or driving a person or thing in the desired direction); thus, one having the power to do something exerts force only when he actually does it <a wind gathers force> <accumulated force which drove them as if discharged from a crossbow>

jefferies> <a hard and rebellious element not to be conquered mainly by skill . . . but mainly by force—Ellis> <the perverse wish to flee . . . not from the laws and customs of the world but from its force and vitality—Cheever>

Therefore force is often applied to a person or thing that exerts its power with marked efficacy or efficiency <they believed that the Church was the only force which could consolidate the nation—inge> <art is but the expression of a harmony of life, a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit—Binyon>

Energy in general use and especially as applied to persons implies stored-up power releasing itself in work or craving such release <the prodigious energy put forth by industry in time of war—Morrison> <in spite of his small size and fragile build, the man was a dynamo of energy and could perform the labors of a Titan—Wolfe> <it was marvelous . . . that the energy of her spirit could carry through so triumphantly her frail nervous system—Ellis>

Strength applies to the power that resides in a person or thing as a result of qualities or properties that enable him or it to exert force or to manifest energy or to resist pressure, strain, stress, or attack. Physically strength implies soundness (as of health or of construction or design) <the tensile strength of a rope> <I was not delicate, not physically; when it was a matter of strength I had as much as the next man—Mailer> while mentally and morally it may imply capacity for endurance or resolution or intrepidity <show strength in temptation> <strength to surmount the horrors and humiliations of . . . defeat—O'Donovan>

When applied to military forces it usually implies power manifest in such things as numbers, equipment, and resources <estimate the strength of the enemy> <a fleet incomparable in strength> Might and puissance are rather rhetorical or poetical words meaning operative or effective power or force. Might often suggests great or superhuman power; it is therefore appropriate when the reference is to supernatural beings or supranatural forces or to human power that is so strong that it cannot be gainsaid <protect us by thy might, Great God, our King—S. F. Smith> <let us have faith that right makes might—Lincoln>

<the pride and might and vivid strength of things—Galsworthy>

Puissance is often indistinguishable from might, but it can also connote an impressive display of power <we should advance ourselves to look with forehead bold and big enough upon the power and puissance of the King—Shak> <the sapience and puissance of the American businessman in general—G. W. Johnson>

Ana *ability, capacity, capability: *gift, genius, talent; faculty: qualification, competence (see corresponding adjectives at able)

Ant impotence

2 Power, faculty, function can all mean an ability of a living being to act or perform in a given way or a capacity for a
particular kind of action or performance. Power, the comprehensive term of this group, may apply to a capacity for action or performance that does not or apparently does not call the mind into play (the power to digest food) (the power of reflex movement) but it more frequently applies to an ability or capacity that involves either mental activity or mental receptiveness (the power to think clearly (the human mind is a fearful instrument... in its mysterious powers of resilience, self-protection, and self-healing—Wolfe) Faculty in general, as distinct from technical psychological or metaphysical use, is applicable to those powers which are the possession of every normal human being, though not always manifested in the first months of infancy or the earliest years of childhood (the faculty of hearing) (the faculty of speech) or it may apply to any one of the several specific powers of the mind (as will, memory, and reason) that are often felt as discrete and discoverable (the truth is that memory and imagination, the two most important human faculties, are scarcely cultivated at all—Grandgent) Sometimes faculty means no more than a distinguishable capacity of the functioning mind or soul (once a thing did become pertinent, he had an amazing faculty for absorbing it wholly—Terry Southern) (her faculty for moral perception had withdrawn into that dim neutrality—Hervey) (it is the one occasion when violent grief, disturbing his faculties, appears in his correspondence—Bello) Function may denote an activity which can be more or less definitely associated with the brain or the central nervous system or a part of either (all mental activities, such as seeing, hearing, perceiving, conceiving, imagining, recalling, etc., are termed functions—Murchison) or it may apply to one (as digestion or respiration) in which the mental component is slight or obscure.

3 Power, authority, jurisdiction, control, command, sway, dominion are comparable when they mean the right or prerogative of determining, ruling, or governing or the exercise of that right or prerogative. Power even in this specific sense never loses its fundamental implication of ability, but in this case it is a capacity for rule that may derive from rank, office, or even character or personality (in an absolute monarchy the king has sole power) (it is a strange desire, to seek power, and to lose liberty; or to seek power over others, and to lose power over a man's self—Bacon) (for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever—Mt 6:13) Power when used with reference to a definite person or body or office commonly connotes divisibility or strict limitation (the trustees have power of appointment) (the charter gives the city power to tax sales) (he was given power of attorney to act for his brother) (it is not enough that a statute goes to the verge of constitutional power. We must be able to see clearly that it goes beyond that power—Justice Holmes) Authority is often used interchangeably with power; nevertheless, there can be an essential difference in meaning, since authority usually refers to power resident in or exercised by another than oneself; thus, one may have power, rather than authority, to determine one's own actions, but a parent or a master or a ruler has the authority, rather than the power, to determine the actions of those under him; children are obedient to authority rather than to power (they were both getting childish and needed care and yet they resented any loss of authority—Buck) (the object is to induce the child to lend of his own free will; so long as authority is required, the end aimed at has not been achieved—Russey) (authority in the religious sphere generally means absolute or infallible authority, such as Catholics ascribe to the Church—Inge) Power and authority, especially in the plural, often refer to the persons who have or hold power or authority as defined. Powers, however, usually occurs in the phrase "the powers that be" and is either somewhat more comprehensive or less explicit in its reference than "the authorities," which often means the persons who have authority in the special instance to direct, to decide, or to punish (he is always in instinctive opposition to the powers that be) (he threatened to report the offense to the authorities) Jurisdiction implies possession of legal or actual power to determine, to rule, or to govern within definitely assigned limits, and of the authority to so act in all matters coming within the sphere of that power (the principle of law is too well settled to be disputed, that a court can give no judgment for either party, where it has no jurisdiction—Taney) (this new and populous community must, for the present, the Kansas Board wrote, be accounted under Father Latour's jurisdiction—Cather) Control stresses possession of the authority to restrain or curb and its effective exercise, or of actual power to regulate or keep responsive to one's will not only persons but things; thus, a teacher who has lost control of his class has reached a point where the pupils no longer recognize his authority; a fire has gone beyond control when those who are fighting it have lost all power to check it (completely out of control, the woman had shrugged off her husband's embarrassed efforts to stop her—Wouk) (he was at last in triumphant control of his destiny—Wolfe) Command implies such control as makes one the master of men, and such authority that obedience to one's order or one's will either inevitably follows or is inexorably enforced; thus, one speaks of the officer in command, rather than in control, of a regiment; a person has command of a situation when he completely dominates it or has all persons or things involved in it under control (how, in one house, should many people, under two commands, hold amity?—Shak.) Command is also used in reference to things which one has mastered so thoroughly that one encounters no resistance or interference in using, recalling, or controlling them (his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials—Jeffries) (something beyond disorderly or careless thinking, something close to a complete loss of emotional command—Anthony West) Sway tends to be slightly rhetorical because its use in this sense was originally figurative and the word still carries a hint of its original implications of swinging or sweeping through an arc or circle; hence, when a word is desired that means power but also connotes extent or scope and such added matters as preponderant influence, compelling authority, or potency, sway is the appropriate choice (the British Empire extended its sway to every quarter of the earth) (primal spirits beneath his sway—Shelley) (the law of compensation rules supreme in art, as it holds sway in life—Lowes) Dominion impues sovereignty to the power in question or supremacy to the authority in question (God of our fathers, known of old, Lord of our far-flung battle line, beneath whose awful Hand we hold dominion over palm and pine—Kipling) (foreign dominion in any shape would soon become hateful—Freeman) Ana (right, privilege, prerogative, birthright: management, direction (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT): ascendency, *supremacy

powerful, potent, puissant, forceful, forcible are comparable when they mean having or manifesting power to effect great or striking results. Powerful is applicable to something which stands out from the rest of its kind as exceeding the others in its display of strength or force or in its manifestation of energy; the word also usually implies
powerless, impotent both mean unable to effect one's purpose, intention, or end. Powerless denotes merely lack of ability to effect; it often implies the actual exertion of power or force; it usually means merely inability to move: "she was powerless to move." Impotent has a more specific and restricted sense; it is used only of organisms or of impotence acquired by loss of function: "he was impotent because his penis was amputated." *Powerless: inefficacious

Powerless is not limited to the exercise of power; it also refers to that which makes no display of effort or violence, provided it impresses its undoubted force on the observer: "a forceful personality." The term "forceful" is often used to indicate energy or strength regardless of whether it is being exercised or not. The word is applicable even to something which makes no display of effort or violence.

**practice**

Vb Practice, exercise, drill are comparable when they mean, as verbs, to perform or cause one to perform an act or series of acts repeatedly and, as nouns, such repeated activity or exertion. Practice fundamentally implies doing, especially doing habitually or regularly, often in contrast to thinking, believing, and professing or to theory and precept. However, the meaning of a word may change over time, and usage may differ. Therefore, it is important to consider the context in which a word is used.

**Analogous Words**

- Powerless: inefficacious
- Practicable: possible

**Antonyms**

- Able, capable, competent: efficacious, effectual
- Effective, efficient: vigorous, energetic, strenuous
- Practicable 1 feasible, possible

**Contrasted Words**

- اًپت: impotent
- Practical: impracticable

**Related Words**

- Practice vb: Practice, exercise, drill are comparable when they mean, as verbs, to perform or cause one to perform an act or series of acts repeatedly and, as nouns, such repeated activity or exertion. Practice fundamentally implies doing, especially doing habitually or regularly, often in contrast to thinking, believing, and professing or to theory and precept.

**Connoted Words**

- Effective, efficient: vigorous, energetic, strenuous
- Practicable: possible

**Other Relevant Words**

- Power: efficacious
- Practicable: possible

---

**Notes**

The terms "powerless" and "impotent" are often used interchangeably to denote the inability to perform an action or task. However, "powerless" is more general and can refer to the inability to exert power in any form, while "impotent" is more specific and usually refers to the inability to perform a sexual act. "Practicable" and "impracticable" are antonyms, indicating whether something is possible or not. "Practicable" means possible or feasible, while "impracticable" means impossible or not possible. These terms are often used in technical or scientific contexts, but can also be applied in everyday language.

---

**Page References**

- Page 625: Powerless, impotent
- Page 630: Practicable, practical

---

**Explanatory Notes**

See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
occasion for the **exercise** of a number of important virtues, namely, those required by the strong in dealing with the weak—Russell** <i>will can only be exercised in the presence of something which retards or resists it—Inge</i>. Like practice, **exercise** may be used also to imply acts performed repeatedly for the sake of an ulterior end, but **exercise** refers especially to those directed to the attainment of health or vigor (as of body or mind) **Tom was being exercised like a raw recruit** <i>grow mentally dull through lack of physical exercise</i> <i>exercise** is good for the muscles of mind and to keep it well in hand for work—J. R. Lowell</i> <i>poetry is in France an exercise, not an expression. It is to real French expression, to prose, what gymnastics and hygiene are to health—Brownell</i> **Drill** fundamentally connotes an intention to fix physical or mental habits as deeply as though they were bored in by the use of a drill; the term stresses repetition (as of military evolutions, of word pronunciations, or of grammatical rules) as a means of training and disciplining the body or mind or of forming correct habits **<i>drill troops in marching and handling arms</i>** <i>a drill in arithmetic</i> <i>this is a real danger in modern education, owing to the reaction against the old severe drill. The mental work involved in the drill was good; what was bad was the killing of intellectual interests—Russell</i> **An** > **perform, execute, fulfill: follow, pursue: repeat, iterate**

**practice n** 1 habit, custom **An** procedure, process, proceeding: method, system, way, fashion, mode, manner 2 exercise, drill (see under practice vb) **An** use, usefulness: use, form, convention, convenance: pursuit, calling, work **Ant** theory: precept

**praise, laud, acclaim, extol, eulogize** mean to express approval or esteem. Praise often implies no more than warmly expressed commendation <i>what we admire we praise</i> and when we praise, advance it into notice—Cover.> When specifically referred to persons, it frequently suggests the judgment of a superior <i>praise a pupil for his diligence</i> <i>he's given you every encouragement. He's praised you to the skies—Wouk</i> However, it is also used in reference to God or a god or to a saint; then it implies glorification by such acts of homage as song or prayer **praise God from whom all blessings flow—Kent** **Laud** implies high, sometimes excessive, praise **history written by the conqueror, lauding to the skies the victories of its sublime troops—Americas** <i>both of the writers lauded highly . . . contemporaries who were certainly no better than middling performers in their several arts—Montague</i> Acclaim usually suggests enthusiastic and public expression of approval <i>he was acclaimed not only in his own country but throughout the civilized world—Heiser</i> **a new British film that has been widely acclaimed by the critics and public as a classic of its kind—Gillett** Extol retains its original implication of lifting up or raising and suggests praise that exalts or magnifies **extol the Lamb with loftiest song, ascend for him our cheerful prayer** <i>one of those rare days in June eulogized by poets—Barkins</i> **An** commend, applaud, compliment: exalt, magnify, aggrandize **Ant** blame — **Con** asperse, malign, traduce, vilify, calumniate, defame, libel: disparage, decry, detract, belittle: reprehend, reprobrate, censure, denounce, criticize **prank n** Prank, caper, antic, monkeyshine, dido mean a playful, often a mischievous, act or trick. Prank carries the strongest implication of devilry of all these words, though there is little suggestion of malice and primary emphasis upon the practical joke <i>the sons are wild and wanton sons, and perform all the pranks to be expected of them—T. S. Eliot</i> **when, with elfin delight, he performs a successful practical joke—Wouk** however, it is also used <i>a small boy whose antics were somewhat amusing, but not understandable—Terry Southern</i> **Monkeyshine** may be applied to a caper or antic, but, especially in the plural, the term typically applies to behavior or a trick that attracts attention by its inappropriateness and often impropriety <i>scientists on the alert for any atomic monkeyshines—McCarten</i> <i>have been at this monkeyshine for a generation. Today a loaf of "bread" looks deceptively real—Philip Wylie</i> <i>students of political monkeyshines—Newsweek</i> Dido, also frequently used in the plural, applies to an absurd, foolish, or mischievous act and may come close to monkeyshine in suggesting obtrusive inappropriateness <i>this and ancillary didoes culminate in a whopper of an orgy—Perelman</i> <i>some time mayor . . . whose unstatesmanlike didoes made a circus of municipal affairs—Time</i> **Prat** chatter, *chat, gab, patter, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber **Prattle** chatter, patter, prat, gab, prattle, babble, gabble, jabber, gibber **Pray** plead, petition, appeal, sue (see under PRAYER) **An** supplicate, entreat, beseech, implore, *beg **Prayer**, suit, plea, petition, appeal mean an earnest and usually a formal request for something and their corresponding intransitive verbs <i>pray, sue, plead, petition, appeal** mean to make such a request. Prayer and pray imply that the request is made to a person or body invested with power or especially to God or a god; the words usually therefore connote humility in approach and often fervor in entreating <i>we do pray for mercy; and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy—Shak</i> In religious use, where <i>pray** andpray** always imply an act of worship, they may or may not connote a request or petition. The implication of making a request is retained, however, in the specific legal use of these terms in a court of equity, where formally one *prays* for relief; the *prayer* in a bill in equity is the part that specifies the kind of relief sought. The words are also used in formal petitions or remonstrances to a legislative body. Suit and sue imply

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
preamble 627 precipitate

da deferential and formal solicitation sometimes for help or relief but often for a favor, a grace, or a kindness. Except in legal use (see suit n 2), in reference to the addresses of a man to the lady he hopes to marry, and in some idiomatic phrases such as "sue for peace," the words are somewhat old-fashioned in flavor (this suit to the Muse . . . relies too much on exertions and capacities—The Nation) <she sued year after year . . . for acceptance by a society of dreary dowagers—E. K. Brown> Plea (see also APOLOGY) and plead often suggest a court of law, the status of a defendant or of an accused person, and formal statements in answer to a plaintiff's allegations or the state's charge. In general use both terms imply argument or urgent entreaty, of which self-justification, a desire for vindication or support, or strong partisanship is usually the motive <make a plea for forgiveness> <plead for a more tolerant attitude> <she dreaded the arguments, their tear-stained pleas—Malamud> <I plead frankly for the theistic hypothesis as involving fewer difficulties than any other—Inge> Petition and its verb petition imply a formal and specific request, often in writing, presented to the person or body that has power to grant it. The words carry little or no connotation of abject humility or of entreaty; rather, they suggest a right to make a request, as one of the sovereign people or as one who is confident that it will be judged on its merits <the flood of interest begging relief from the political crisis—Woodward> <she neither petitioned for her right, nor claimed it—Meredith> Appeal, as noun and verb, basically implies a call for attention to and favorable consideration of one's plea <appeal for mercy> <appeal to one’s family for help> Often it additionally connotes an insistence on being heard and hence a change of plea from an inferior to a superior power (as a higher court or a higher authority) or to an emotion in an attempt to evoke a favorable response or judgment <appeal to the supreme court for a new trial> <to what sources of information do I appeal for guidance?>—Cardozo >Mantalinis and Dobbins who pursue women with appeals to their pity or jealousy or vanity—Shaw> Sometimes, used alone, either noun or verb implies a sympathetic or favorable response or a compelling quality <an appealing child> <the song has a human appeal> Ana supplication, entreaty, beseeching, imploring, begging (see corresponding verbs at BEG): worship, adoration (see under REVERE)
preamble *introduction, prologue, prelude, preface, foreword, exordium

precarious *dangerous, hazardous, perilous, risky Ana *doubtful, dubious, questionable: distrustful, mistrustful (see corresponding verbs at DISTRUST): chance, chancy, haphazard, *random Con *safe, secure: *steady, even, equable, constant

precedence *priority Ana leading or lead, guiding or guide (see GUIDE): antecedent, foregoing (see corresponding adjectives at PRECEDING)

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

preceding, antecedent, precedent, foregoing, previous, prior, former, anterior are comparable when they mean being before, especially in time or in order of arrangement. Preceding, opposed to succeeding and following, is restricted to time and place; it usually means immediately before <the preceding day> <the preceding clause> <events preceding the opening of the story> Antecedent, opposed to subsequent and consequent, usually implies order in time, but unlike preceding, it often suggests an indefinite intervening interval <events antecedent to the opening of the story> <Chaucer’s poems were written in a period antecedent to the Elizabethan Age> Very often, also, the word implies a causal or a logical, as well as a temporal, relation <to understand the success of modern dictators we must have a knowledge of antecedent conditions> <a conclusion is based on a chain of antecedent inferences> Precedent often applies to one thing which must precede another thing if the latter is to be valid or become effective; thus, a condition precedent in law is a condition that must be fulfilled before an estate can be vested in one or before a right accrues to one. Foregoing, opposed to following, applies almost exclusively to statements <the foregoing citations> <the foregoing argument> Previous and prior, opposed to subsequent, are often used almost interchangeably <his life previous to his marriage> <this will cancels all prior wills> But prior sometimes implies greater importance than previous; thus, a previous obligation suggests merely an obligation entered into earlier in point of time, whereas a prior obligation is one which surpasses the other in importance and must be fulfilled in advance of any other; a prior preferred stock is one whose claim to dividends or to a specified sum in liquidation comes before other preferred stocks of a company. Former, opposed to latter, even more definitely than prior, implies comparison; thus, there can be a former engagement only when there is also a later one; a previous or prior engagement may prevent one’s making a second. Anterior, opposed to posterior, also comparative in force, applies to position, usually in space, sometimes in order or time <the anterior lobe of the brain> <organization must presuppose life as anterior to it—Coleridge>

Ant following

precept rule, *law, canon, regulation, statute, ordinance Ana *principle, fundamental, axiom: *doctrine, tenet, dogma: injunction, behest, bidding (see COMMAND n)

Ant practice: counsel

precious *costly, expensive, dear, valuable, invaluable, priceless Ana *choice, exquisite, recherché, rare: valued, prized, appreciated, cherished (see APPRECIATE)

precipitate vb *speed, accelerate, quicken, hasten, hurry Ana drive, impel (see MOVE vb): *force, compel, coerce, constrain

precipitate n *deposit, sediment, dregs, lees, grounds

precipitate adj Precipitate, headlong, abrupt, impetuous, hasty, sudden as applied to persons or their acts or behavior denote characterized by excessive haste and unexpectedness. Precipitate especially stresses lack of due deliberation; sometimes it suggests promptness and is therefore especially applicable to decisions or to actions based on decisions <she was resolved to lose nothing by neglect or delay, but also she meant to do nothing precipitate—H. G. Wells> Headlong throws the emphasis on rashness and lack of forethought; it is used to describe not only persons and their acts but the qualities exhibited by such persons or in such acts <headlong folly> <headlong haste> <the headlong torrent of her feelings scared her—Wouk> Abrupt when applied to actions suggests a complete lack of warning or, sometimes, unceremoniousness <an abrupt departure> <the story came to an abrupt end> and when applied to manners or words, it usually implies coarseness <an abrupt refusal> Impetuous implies violence or vehemence; as applied to persons, it often also suggests impulsiveness or, at times, extreme impatience <no necessity exists for any hurry, except in the brain of that impetuous boy—Meredith> <they had been impetuous and daring, making up their minds in a couple of flashes—Farrell> Hasty stresses quickness of response and often suggests thoughtlessness and hot temper rather than impul-

Analogous words:

Antonyms:

Contrasted words:

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
siveness (often hasty in her judgment of strangers—Dahl) <too passionate and hasty to keep pace with the deliberate steps of his leader—Philip Marsh> Sudden is distinguishable from sudden meaning unexpectedly only by its added implications of extreme hastiness or impetuosity <given to sudden rages> <now and then an access of . . . sudden fury . . . would lay hold on a man or woman—Kipling>

Anna headstrong, willful, refractory (see UNRULY)

Ant deliberate — Con leisurely, *slow

precipitous *steep, abrupt, sheer

Ana soaring, towering, rocketing, ascending, rising (see RISE)

précis sketch, aperçu, survey, *compendium, syllabus, digest, pandect

precise exact, accurate, *correct, nice, right

Ana definite, express, *explicit: strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent

Ant loose — Con lax, slack (see LOOSE): *careless, heedless

preciseness *precision

precision, preciseness both denote the quality or character of what is precise. Precision denotes a quality that is sought for or is attained usually as a highly desirable thing. When used in reference to language it implies expression with such exactitude that neither more nor less than what applies to the thing under consideration is said <defining words with utmost care, they fashioned their statements of doctrine with meticulous precision—Dinsmore> <a vague term of abuse for any style that is . . . so evidently bad or second-rate that we do not recognize the necessity for greater precision in the phrases we apply to it—T. S. Eliot> When used in reference to the arts and sciences, the term usually implies such clearness of definition or such sharpness in distinction or in distinguishing that there is no confusion about outlines, boundaries, dividing lines, or movements <however we may disguise it by veiling words we do not and cannot carry out the distinction between legislative and executive action with mathematical precision—Justice Holmes> <acting, singing, and dancing seem to me the best methods of teaching aesthetic precision—Russell> Precision is also used in reference to an instrument, a machine, or a part of a machine that must be made with such exactness of measurements that an infinitesimal fraction of an inch would debar it from fulfilling its function <precision instruments> (tiny, Swiss-made replicas, they were precision machined and finely detailed, all scaled to perfection—Terry Southern)

Preciseness is rarely interchangeable with precision, since it carries so strong an implication of severity or of strictness, or sometimes of overnicety in the observance of religious laws, the code of one's profession, or the proprieties as dictated by one's class or social equals that it is deprecative as often as it is laudatory <savoring of Puritanism and overstrict preciseness—Prynne> <the letter . . . had the preciseness of an imperial mandate—Meredith> <there was a certain amount of preciseness about the young man, and his approach to Texas was in the best striped-trowsers tradition—T. D. Clark>

prerequisite *predict, obviate, avert, ward

precisely accurate, *correct, nice, right

Ana define, express, *explicit: strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent

Ant loose — Con lax, slack (see LOOSE): *careless, heedless

preciseness *precision

precision, preciseness both denote the quality or character of what is precise. Precision denotes a quality that is sought for or is attained usually as a highly desirable thing. When used in reference to language it implies expression with such exactitude that neither more nor less than what applies to the thing under consideration is said <defining words with utmost care, they fashioned their statements of doctrine with meticulous precision—Dinsmore> <a vague term of abuse for any style that is . . . so evidently bad or second-rate that we do not recognize the necessity for greater precision in the phrases we apply to it—T. S. Eliot> When used in reference to the arts and sciences, the term usually implies such clearness of definition or such sharpness in distinction or in distinguishing that there is no confusion about outlines, boundaries, dividing lines, or movements <however we may disguise it by veiling words we do not and cannot carry out the distinction between legislative and executive action with mathematical precision—Justice Holmes> <acting, singing, and dancing seem to me the best methods of teaching aesthetic precision—Russell> Precision is also used in reference to an instrument, a machine, or a part of a machine that must be made with such exactness of measurements that an infinitesimal fraction of an inch would debar it from fulfilling its function <precision instruments> (tiny, Swiss-made replicas, they were precision machined and finely detailed, all scaled to perfection—Terry Southern)

Preciseness is rarely interchangeable with precision, since it carries so strong an implication of severity or of strictness, or sometimes of overnicety in the observance of religious laws, the code of one's profession, or the proprieties as dictated by one's class or social equals that it is deprecative as often as it is laudatory <savoring of Puritanism and overstrict preciseness—Prynne> <the letter . . . had the preciseness of an imperial mandate—Meredith> <there was a certain amount of preciseness about the young man, and his approach to Texas was in the best striped-trowsers tradition—T. D. Clark>

preclude *prevent, obviate, avert, ward

Ana *hinder, obstruct, impede, block, bar: *stop, discontinue, quit, cease: *exclude, eliminate, shut out, debar

precocious untimely, forward, * prematurity, advanced

Ana *immature, unmatured, unripe

Ant backward

preceptor *forerunner, harbinger, herald

Ana *sign, mark, token, symptom: antecedent, determinant, *cause, reason

predilection, dilemma, quandary, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle can all denote a situation from which one does or can extricate himself only with difficulty. Predilection carries the implication that the situation constitutes a problem for those who are involved in it and may additionally imply lack of freedom to do what one wishes or finds essential for some reason, or it may imply deep perplexity as to ways out of the situation <advice . . . may be of such nature that it will be painful to reject and yet impossible to follow it; and in this predilection I conceive myself to be placed—Crabbé> <the predilection with which our civilization now finds itself confronted—the problem, namely, how to find healthy, happy leisure for all the working millions who are now being liberated by machines—L. P. Smith> Dilemma applies to a situation which constitutes a predilection from which one can escape only by a choice of equally unpleasant or unsatisfactory alternatives <faced with a dilemma: if they discard obsolete, headings, for the librarians may suffer; if they do not discard them, the user may be penalized—Lawler>

Quandary differs from dilemma chiefly in its stress on puzzlement or perplexity; in fact, this implication is often so emphasized that the suggestion of a dilemma or an unavoidable choice between alternatives is lost or obscured <he was in a quandary as to how he could keep his appointment> <all his quandaries terminated in the same catastrophe; a compromise—Disraeli> The remaining words all definitely imply a difficulty, often a very disagreeable situation. Plight suggests an unfortunate, trying, or unhappy situation <the plight in which the world finds itself today—Hobson> <the plight of the ten million forgotten men and women living at or below the destitution level—Crossman> Scrape applies to a specific difficulty in which one is involved through one's own fault; often it suggests a being in disgrace or disadvoyr <he escapes from trouble only to become idiotically concealed; and . . . plunges dementedly into a more ghastly scrape—Swinerton> Fix and jam are somewhat casual terms that stress involvement and entanglement from which extrication is difficult <he will be in a fix if he doesn't settle his debts> <they get sick and it puts them in a jam and they end up under a pile of bills—Basso> Pickle applies to a particularly distressing or sorry plight <but when I was left ashore in Melborne I was in a pretty pickle. I knew nobody, and I had no money—Shaw>

Ana *state, situation, condition, posture: pass, pinch, strait, emergency, exigency, *juncture

predict *affirm, declare, profess, *assert, aver, protest, avouch, avow, warrant

predict *foretell, forecast, prophesy, prognosticate, augur, predicate

Ana *declarative, declarative: *affirm, profess, *assert, aver, protest, avouch, avow, warrant

predication *foretell, forecast, prophesy, prognosticate, augur, predicate

Ana *declarative, declarative: *affirm, profess, *assert, aver, protest, avouch, avow, warrant

predilection, partiality, prepossession, prejudice, bias are comparable when they mean an attitude of mind which predisposes one to make a certain choice or judgment or to take a certain view without full consideration or reflection. Predilection implies a strong liking that results from one's temperament, one's principles, or one's previous experience and that predisposes one to prefer certain kinds of things (as friends, books, foods, or methods) or to accept a thing without reference to any other test <a predilection for the strange and whimsical—Coleridge> <one or two authors of fiction for whom I have a predilection—Benson> Partiality implies a disposition to favor a particular person or thing because of some predilection or, more often, because of undue fondness or partialisanship; it may connote unfairness <show partiality in appointments to office> <fond partiality for their own daughters' performance, and total indifference to any other person's—
predispose 629  premature

**Austen** 〈I have a partiality for a man who isolates an issue and pleads to it, not all around the bush—Cozzens〉

Prepossession implies a fixed idea or conception in the light of which a new person, new idea, or new experience is judged 〈no approach opens on anything except from its own point of view and in terms of its own prepossessions—Blackmur〉 〈the prepossessions of childhood and youth—Dugald Stewart〉

**Prejudice** applies to a judgment made before evidence is available and typically to an unfavorable preconception marked by suspicion and antipathy 〈those who use their reason do not reach the same conclusions as those who obey their prejudices—Lippmann〉 〈I do not think I speak only from my prejudices, although in justice I must admit that I approached Riesman's work with animus—Mailer〉

Bias implies a lack of balance or distortion in one's judgment owing to the pull in a predictable or consistent direction of a predilection or a prepossession or of partiality or prejudice and a resulting inclination in favor of or against a person or thing 〈it is as well that you be able to allow for my personal bias—Shaw〉

〈the most pernicious kind of bias consists in falsely supposing yourself to have none—Moberly〉

**Ana**  *leaning, propensity, proclivity, flair: bent, turn, knack, aptitude, *gift

**Ant** aversion

**predispose** dispose, *incline, bias

**Ana** influence, sway, *affect, touch, impress, strike

**predominant** *dominant, paramount, preponderant, preponderating, sovereign

**Ana** controlling, directing, conducting, managing (see conduct vb): *prevailing, prevalent: *chief, principal, leading, main, foremost

**Con** *subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject

**preeminent** surpassing, transcendent, superlative, *superior, superior, incomparable

**Ana** *dominant, paramount, paramount: excelling or outstanding, outstripping (see corresponding verbs at exceed): *consummate, finished

**preempt** *arrogate, usurp, appropriate, confiscate

**Ana** *take, seize, grasp, grab: *exclude, eliminate, shut out, debar

**preen** plume, *pride, pique

**Ana** congratulate, *felicitate

**preface n** *introduction, prologue, prelude, foreword, exordium, preamble

**prefatory** *preliminary, introductory, preparatory

**Ana** preparing, fitting, readying (see PREPARE)

**prefer** 1 *choose, select, elect, opt, pick, single

**Ana** accept, *receive, admit, take: *approve, endorse, sanction: favor: *oblige, accommodate

2 *offer, proffer, tender, present

**preferable** *better, superior

**preference** selection, election, *choice, option, alternative

**Ana** *predilection, prepossession, partiality

**preferment** *advancement, promotion, elevation

**Ana** advance, progress (see under advance vb 2): rising or rise, ascending or ascent (see corresponding verbs at rise)

**pregnant** meaningful, significant, *expressive, eloquent, sentient

**Ana** weighty, momentous, consequential, significant, important (see corresponding nouns at importance)

**prejudice n** bias, partiality, prepossession, *predilection

**Ana** predisposition, disposition, inclination (see corresponding verbs at incline): *leaning, penchant

**preliminary adj** Preliminary, introductory, preparatory, prefatory describe something that serves to make ready the way for something else. Preliminary suggests reference to what must be done or made ready or acquired before entrance into some definitive state or activity becomes possible (the small amount of trouble involved in this preliminary measure will prove to be well worthwhile in avoiding muddle—Dowdeswell) 〈a preliminary education obtained at home and in the local schools—Phalen〉 〈the ideal of cultivation cannot be appealed to as a standard without preliminary explanations and interpretations—Eliot〉

〈the scientific spirit demands . . . a wish to find out the truth . . . There must be preliminary uncertainty, and subsequent decision according to the evidence—Russell〉

**Introductory** usually implies reference to the first steps in a process and therefore seldom applies to what is a prerequisite, as does preliminary, but rather to what sets an action, a work, or a process going (the introductory scene should present the situation to be developed) (an introductory sketch of equity courts and their jurisdiction—Wilkinson)

**Preparatory** comes close to preliminary in meaning, but it throws the emphasis upon matters that should be attended to in order to make a person or thing ready for what ensues or may ensue (take preparatory measures against a possible air raid) (a note on sources and a bibliography . . . indicate the wide range of the author's preparatory reading—Brown)

**Prefatory** usually suggests not absolute need of preparation but a desire on the part of someone to prepare others (as for reading, for hearing, for action, or for understanding) (remarks prefatory to the customary toasts) (he introduces each of them with a really distinguished little group of prefatory passages—Bierstedt)

**Ana** *primary, primal: *elementary, elemental: basic, *fundamental

**prelude** *introduction, prologue, preface, foremost, exordium, preamble

**premature, untimely, forward, advanced, precocious** are comparable though rarely interchangeable when they mean unduly early in coming, happening, or developing.

**Premature** applies usually to something which takes place before its due or proper time (a premature birth) (a premature announcement) or comes into existence before it is fully grown or developed or ready for presentation (a premature baby) (a premature conclusion) or to actions or persons that manifest overhaste or impatience (I have been a little premature, I perceive; I beg your pardon—Austen)

**Untimely** usually means little more than unseasonable but when it is applied to something which comes or occurs in advance of its due or proper time, it approaches very close to premature in meaning; the term, however, applies not so often to what begins a life or outward existence before its proper time as to what ends or destroys a life, a season, or a growing or developing thing before it has run its normal, natural, or allotted course (untimely falling of fruit from a tree) (the untimely death of the son and heir) (the untimely frosts that brought summer's beauty to an end) (whose harvest . . . perished by untimely blight—Bronie)

**Forward** applies chiefly to young living things or to growing crops, but also sometimes to seasons, that show signs of progress beyond those that are normal or usual for things of its kind at the time in question (an unusually forward spring) (a child very forward in mental development for his age)

**Advanced** tends to supplant forward when by comparison with other persons, other growing things, or other seasons of the same kind or class the one so described is notably ahead of the others (the most advanced children in the school) (conflict between the economic interests of the advanced and backward peoples—Hobson)

**Precocious** basically implies an exceptional earliness in development (as in the germinating of seeds, the flowering of plants, the occurring of a process, or especially in the maturing
of the mind) inhibition of precocious germination of seeds—Chronica Botanica (a precocious youth bursting with ideas—Henry Miller) The term is also applied to qualities, conditions, or circumstances which properly belong to maturity but come or belong to one who is otherwise immature (his precocious dignities were hard for youth to support without arrogance—Buchan) Shaw is dramatically precocious, and poetically less than immature—T. S. Eliot

Ana *immature, unmatured, unripe, unmellow: abortive, fruitless (see futile): *precipitate, hasty, sudden, abrupt

Ant matured

premeditated *deliberate, considered, advised, designed, studied

Ant intended, purposed, meant (see intend): *voluntary, intentional, willful

Ant unpredicated: casual, accidental —Con *pre- precipitate, abrupt, headlong, hasty, sudden

premise n postulate, posit, presupposition, presumption, assumption (see under presuppose)

Ana ground, *reason: proposition, *proposal

premise v§ postulate, posit, *presuppose, presume, assume

premium, prize, award, reward, meed, guerdon, bounty, bonus are comparable when they mean which is bestowed upon a person as a recompense for cooperation, greater effort, superior merit, or supremacy in competition. Premium is applied usually to something extra or additional that serves as an incentive to buy, sell, loan, compete, or strive (the worker who does more... is rewarded by a premium, which is usually a percentage of the amount the additional work would cost—G. D. Halsey) (racking their brains last fall for a new premium that would intrigue... the breakfast-food public—Cerf) (ask a premium as well as interest for a loan—Prize is applied to something which is striven for or, sometimes, which may be won by chance; it is bestowed upon the winner in a contest or competition or in a lottery (bridge prizes) (a prize for the best composition) (at last the Dodo said, “Everybody has won, and all must have prizes” —Lewis Carroll) In extended use prize commonly implies effort, struggle, and uncertainty in the seeking and often imputes value or worth to what is sought or competed for (let a man contend to the uttermost for his life’s set prize, be it what it will!—Browning) (he had embarked early upon that desperate game of which the prize was a throne, and the forfeit, life—Repplier) (the leading chairməns are regarded as great prizes—Nevins) Award implies both a decision of judges and a bestowment of a prize or an honor; it is therefore often preferred to prize when the recipients have not been competitors in the strict sense but have in their work or performances fulfilled the conditions required by those who offer prizes (receive an award for civic service) (the urge to make the most of ourselves and to get awards along with our success—J. T. Adams) Award is also applicable to the act of awarding a prize or to the decision in a particular competition (the judges may conceivably find themselves... unable to make an award—Barkham) Reward strongly involves the idea of recompense for something good or meritorious or ironically for something evil; it may be used in reference to a prize or premium only when that has been earned (as by effort or sacrifice); thus, a winner of a prize for the best novel of the year may feel that he has been given a reward for intense effort; a reward is offered for the return of a lost article (he scorned to take a reward for doing what in justice he ought to do—Steele) (it may come as a shock to the cynical that the mere embrace of wickedness is no guarantee of financial reward—Sat. Review) Meed and guerdon are close synonyms of reward, often employed without distinction, but the former tends to suggest a reward recognizing merit and proportioned to it, and the latter a prize or honor conferred as a reward (he must not float upon his watery bier unwetted, and weller to the parching wind, without the meed of some melodious tear—Milton) (finds his guerdon in the consciousness of work done perfectly—Beethoven) (verse, like the laurel, its immortal meed, should be the guerdon of a noble deed—Cowper) Bounty and bonus are applicable chiefly to a sum of money or its equivalent given as a premium or reward. Bounty is usually applied to a premium promised by a government or governmental agency as an inducement to some act (as enlistment in the army or navy, emigration to a distant colony, or destruction of noxious animals or pests) or as a subsidy (the State pays a bounty for every wildcat killed) (generous bounties for enlistment were offered by federal, state, and local authorities—T. A. Bailey) Bonus, in contrast, is usually applied to something given over and above what is regularly received or due, either as a reward or encouragement or as a distribution of surplus (a soldier’s bonus) (the subsidies became only a bonus for inefficiency—T. W. Arnold) (bonus... includes extra payments for night work, hazardous work, regular attendance, and overtime, as well as any annual or regular allotment such as a Christmas bonus—Glossary of Currently-Used Wage Terms) (the reader is given a bonus of material not ordinarily found in meteorology texts—Science) Ana *gift, present, gratuity, favor: enhancement, intensification, heightening (see corresponding verbs at intensify)

preoccupied *abstracted, absent, abstemiated, distraught

Ana *intent, engrossed, absorbed: *forgetful, oblivious, unmindful

preparatory *preliminary, introductory, prefatory

Ana fitting, preparing, qualifying, readying, conditioning (see prepare)

prepare, fit, qualify, condition, ready are comparable when they mean to make someone or something ready. Prepare is the most inclusive of these terms; it implies a process, often a complicated process, involving a making ready, a getting ready, or a putting in readiness one or more persons or things (prepare ground for a crop) (prepare a corpse for burial) (prepare a person for bad news) (made a few notes for a paper I was preparing—Dahl) Fit is more limited in its scope than prepare: it suggests a making a person or thing fit for or suitable to a particular end or objective (accomplishments, fitting him to shine both in active and elegant life—Irving) (I had fitted myself to do everything, from sweeping out to writing the editorials—White) (the soldier’s efforts to fit himself into the new world made possible by his sweat and blood—Wecter) Qualify (see also moderate) stresses the implication that a person’s fitness for a duty, office, function, or status requires the fulfillment of some necessary conditions, such as taking certain courses of study or training, an examination, or an oath (do not let druggists prescribe for you; they are not qualified to treat syphilis—Fishbein) (his extensive knowledge of foreign languages specially qualified him for such service—A. P. Wills) Condition implies a getting into or a bringing to the condition that is proper or necessary for a person or, more often, a thing to satisfy a particular purpose or use (condition air by purification, humidification, and adjustment of temperature) (condition an athletic team by exercise and practice) (condition cattle for show or market) Ready emphasizes a putting a thing into order, especially for use, or a making ready a person for action (ready a bedroom for the use of a guest) (the whole town took part in helping to ready the outdoor
preponderant 631

press

theater—Marguerite Johnson} {the expedition readied itself during the summer—Handlin

*provide, supply, furnish: endow, endue, *dower: equip, outfit (see furnish): predispose, dispose, *incline

preponderant, preponderating *dominant, predominant, paramount, sovereign

*supreme, preeminent, transcendent, surpassing: outstanding, salient, signal (see noticeable)

prepossession partiality, prejudice, bias, *predilection

*bent, turn, knack, aptitude, *gift: *leaning, penchant: predisposition, inclination (see corresponding verbs at incline)

preposterosous absurd, *foolish, silly

*irrational, unreasonable: bizarre, grotesque, *fantastic

prerequisite requisite, *requirement

*necessity, *need, exigency

prerogative *right, privilege, perquisite, appanage, birthright

*immunity, *exemption: *claim, title: *freedom, license, liberty

presage n *foretoken, prognostic, omen, augury, portent

*sign, symptom, mark, token: forewarning, warning (see warn)

presage vb augur, portend, forebode, prognosticate, *foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy

*indicate, betoken, bespeak: signify, import, denote, *mean

prescribe 1 *dictate, ordain, decree, impose

*order, *command, enjoin, bid: exact, *demand, require

2 Prescribe, assign, define mean to fix arbitrarily or authoritatively for the sake of order or of a clear understanding. Prescribe stresses dictation, especially by one in command, and usually implies that the aim is to give explicit directions or clear guidance to those who accept one's authority or are bound to obey one's injunctions {the Constitution prescribes the conditions under which it may be amended} {the attending physician prescribes the medicines for his patient} {the fixed routine of prescribed duties—Wilde} {the code of behavior which the culture prescribes for child training—F. Alexander} Assign (see also allot, ascribe) usually has some suggestion of allotment or ascription; it implies arbitrary but not despotic determination for the sake of some practical end such as harmony in operation or functioning, the proper distribution of a number of things, or the settlement of a dispute by agreement {the city charter assigns the duties of each elected official and the limits of his authority} {the clause, assigning original jurisdiction to the supreme court—John Marshall} {impersonal words, such as those assigning latitude, longitude, and date—Russell} Define (see also bear, deportment, demeanor, mien, port) usually has some suggestion of allotment or ascription; it implies arbitrary but not despotic determination for the sake of some practical end such as harmony in operation or functioning, the proper distribution of a number of things, or the settlement of a dispute by agreement {the city charter assigns the duties of each elected official and the limits of his authority} {the clause, assigning original jurisdiction to the supreme court—John Marshall} {impersonal words, such as those assigning latitude, longitude, and date—Russell} Define (see also bear, deportment, demeanor, mien, port) usually has some suggestion of allotment or ascription; it implies arbitrary but not despotic determination for the sake of some practical end such as harmony in operation or functioning, the proper distribution of a number of things, or the settlement of a dispute by agreement {the city charter assigns the duties of each elected official and the limits of his authority} {the clause, assigning original jurisdiction to the supreme court—John Marshall} {impersonal words, such as those assigning latitude, longitude, and date—Russell}

press vb 1 *give, bestow, confer, donate, afford

*nurse, grant, award, accord

2 *offer, tender, proffer, prefer

*exhibit, display, parade, *show: advance, *adduce, allege, cite

presentment misgiving, foreboding, *apprehension

*feal, dread, alarm, terror: foetrate, anticipation, *prospect: disquieting or disquietude, compromising or discomposing, disturbance, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at discompose)

presently, shortly, soon, directly are comparable when they mean after a little while or before long. Presently carries this as its chief meaning; it is a term of rather vague implication as to the time indicated {the doctor will be here presently} {he said he would tell them the full story presently} {I shall forget you presently, my dear, so make the most of this, your little day—Millay} {I cannot attend to this at once but will do so presently} Shortly is often less vague as to the exact time indicated; it frequently retains one of its earlier implications of following quickly or with little delay {your father will be home shortly, for it is after five o'clock} {the ship will leave the wharf shortly, but perhaps you can catch it} {the two concluding volumes which will appear shortly—P. H. Douglas} {questions of vital importance came up for solution shortly after his appointment—Knott} Soon (see also early) implies that the thing narrated or predicted happened or will happen without much loss of time; otherwise the term is indefinite and may suggest any length of time that seems short, depending on the nature of the matter involved {they will soon repent their anger} {the rout soon became general} {the doctor will see you soon} {the plants soon took root} Directly often replaces its more basic sense of without delay by a value in which it is interchangeable with shortly and implies with little, or a minimum of, delay {I shall be back directly after sundown—Hichens} {I expect Rachel in directly, as she said she should not stay a moment—Henning}

preserve vb *save, conserve

*rescue, deliver, redeem, ransom: protect, guard, safeguard (see defend)

press n throng, crush, *crowd, mob, rout, horde

*multitude, army, host, legion

press vb Press, bear, bear down, squeeze, crowd, jam mean to exert pressure upon something or someone continuously or for a length of time. They are not close synonyms because of added implications and connotations which often give them distinct or specific senses. Press fundamentally implies an effect involving a weighing upon or a steady pushing or thrusting and may suggest little more than this {press down the soil with his feet} {the crowd pressed against them} {press clothes with a hot iron} More often, however, the word is used in any of several extended senses in which it additionally implies such ideas as constraint or compulsion {he pressed the agitated girl into a seat—Hardy} or urgency in driving or in prosecuting {the work was pressed forward with the same feverish haste—Henry Adams} {you see, my people believe tomorrow morning, though they were pressed to stay, the lama insisted on departure—Kipling} {she pressed me to take some cream crackers also—Joyce} or, especially in the intransitive, a pushing or shoving to an objective {as in great numbers or with speedy movement} {he pressed on rapidly . . . towards what was evidently a signal light—Hardy} Bear (see also carry, bear 3) implies the exertion of weight or of pressure upon another person or thing

Analogous words

Antonyms

Contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

Analogous words

Antonyms

Contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
pressing

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

Pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, importunate

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

Urgent is stronger than pressing and places greater stress upon the constraint or compulsion of attention (as by a vehement urging), and it also usually connotes the need of promptness (as in replying, considering, or relieving) (an urgent telegram) (the urgent needs of the war—Costain) (the more power the people are given the more urgent becomes the need for some rational and well-informed superpower to dominate them—Shaw) (if human ingenuity fails in an urgent task, fate may take a hand—Buchan) Imperative (see also MASTERY) stresses the obligatory nature of a task, need, or duty, but it also usually implies that immediate attention is essential (I feel it my imperative duty to warn you) (a remonstrance had become imperative—Buchan d. 1902) (military necessity makes it imperative that the bridge should be blown up—Peter Forster) Crying stresses the demand for attention but adds the implication of the extreme or shocking conspicuousness of the need (an organiser of genius in a day when order and discipline were the crying needs—Malone) (our crying need is for more blood donors) Importunate carries a strong implication of pertinacity in demanding or claiming attention; often therefore it is applied to persons or to their acts (an importunate beggar) (an importunate knocking at a door) (when people are importunate, and will not go away when asked, they had better come in—Shaw) but it is also much used in reference to impersonal matters (as problems or difficulties) which persistently and naggingly make claims upon one's full and immediate attention (the demands of the dance becoming...too importunate for a divided attention—Austen) (it is a work which ought to be studied by anyone to whom the relation of Church and State is an actual and important problem—T. S. Eliot) Like importunate, INSISTENT basically implies a quality of persons, that of insisting or maintaining or asserting persistently (how continual and insistent is the cry for characters that can be worshiped—Galsworthy) (de Vaca was insistent, and Charles approached the table—Hergesheimer) and it too is often used in reference to a quality which enforces attention by its perseverance or compels it by obtruding itself upon one's consciousness (an insistent noise) (an insistent voice) (the insistent odor of fertilizer—Amer. Guide Series: Md.) (we who read poetry are ridden and haunted by no such insistent problem—Lowe) Exigent implies less a demand for immediate attention than one for action (as by way of giving assistance or settling matters); moreover, it expresses not pressure upon all sides but (as in reference to a gun, an engine, or a machine) the presence of an obstacle or an obstruction or the displacement of a part which prevents operation (her propeller got foul of a rope, so that the shaft was jammed, and the engines could not be worked—Herschel)

Ana *push, thrust, propel, shove: drive, impel, *move: *pack, cram, stuff, ram

pressing adj Pressing, urgent, imperative, crying, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant are comparable when they imply a pressure exerted by one or more persons in pushing or shoving through a crowd (the speakers crowded their way through the throng to the platform) Jam in its most frequent meaning carries an implication of being wedged in so that pressure on all sides ensues and movement or escape is made impossible (the courts need not be jammed with negligence cases—S. H. Hofstadter) (just above McCauslin's, there is a rocky rapid, where logs jam in the spring—Thoreau) (traffic was completely jammed by the crowd) (a jammed car) (the ride seemed to be stuck) that implies not pressure upon all sides but (as in reference to a gun, an engine, or a machine) the presence of an obstacle or an obstruction or the displacement of a part which prevents operation (her propeller got foul of a rope, so that the shaft was jammed, and the engines could not be worked—Herschel)

Ana *push, thrust, propel, shove: drive, impel, *move: *pack, cram, stuff, ram

prestige

632

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

pressing bore heavily upon him) Like press, the term has extended use; it and bear down may imply the achievement of any end consistent with the action of pressing down or heavily upon (Clan Alpine's best are backward bore—Scott) (his activity and zeal bore down all opposition—Macaulay) Squeeze usually implies the exertion of pressure on both sides or on all sides strongly enough and for a long enough time to accomplish a flattening, a crushing, a shaping, an emptying, or a compression (in washing silk stockings be sure to squeeze them, not wring them) (the child had squeezed the wax doll out of shape) Usually, however, the term carries an added implication that gives it an extended or specific meaning while often retaining its basic implication. Sometimes it implies nothing more than an expression of affection (he squeezed his friend's hand) but at other times it implies such a different idea as extraction (squeeze the juice from a lemon) (approximates a laugh formed by...squeezing) guttural sounds out of the throat—Pynchon (or eliciting with difficulty (we squeezed out of him an admission that he was leaving) or extortion

<squeezing the people...of all the wealth that could be drained out of them—Froude) Squeeze is also susceptible to use even when there is no suggestion of exerting force on another but a clear suggestion of forcing someone, often oneself, or something into a space that is extremely small or is very circumscribed (squeeze through a half-opened window) (squeezes his hand into the hole and grasps the prize—Stevenson-Hamilton) Crowd (see also PACK) implies the exertion of pressure upon and usually suggests such a force as a number of persons or of things closely packed together (great numbers of the birds were crowded to death) (I hope not too many try to crowd in here at once. It isn't a very big room—Steinbeck) (never have more startling twists been crowded into the concluding scene of a melodrama—J. M. Brown) (the multitude of weeds crowded out the flowers) Sometimes crowd implies pressure exerted by one or more persons in pushing or shoving through a crowd (the speakers crowded their way through the throng to the platform) Jam in its most frequent meaning carries an implication of being wedged in so that pressure on all sides ensues and movement or escape is made impossible (the courts need not be jammed with negligence cases—S. H. Hofstadter) (just above McCauslin's, there is a rocky rapid, where logs jam in the spring—Thoreau) (traffic was completely jammed by the crowd) (a jammed car) (the ride seemed to be stuck) that implies not pressure upon all sides but (as in reference to a gun, an engine, or a machine) the presence of an obstacle or an obstruction or the displacement of a part which prevents operation (her propeller got foul of a rope, so that the shaft was jammed, and the engines could not be worked—Herschel)

Ana *push, thrust, propel, shove: drive, impel, *move: *pack, cram, stuff, ram
Presume, presume, assume, postulate, premise, posit (see under PRESUMPTION)

Presumption, presumption, assumption, postulate, premise, posit (see under PRESUMPTION)

Presumptuous *confident, assured, sanguine, sure
Ana self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE): presuming, assuming (see PRESUMPTION): positive, cocksure, certain, *sure: arrogant, insolent, overbearing (see PROUD)

Presuppose, presume, assume, postulate, premise, posit are comparable when they mean to take something for granted or as true or existent especially as a basis for action or reasoning. Their corresponding nouns presupposition, presumption, assumption, postulate, premise, posit when they denote something that is taken for granted or is accepted as true or existent are distinguishable in general by the same implications and connotations as the verbs. Presuppose and presupposition, the most inclusive of these words, need not imply dubiousness about what is taken for granted. At the one extreme they may suggest nothing more than a hazy or imperfectly realized belief that something exists or is true or an uncritical acceptance of some hypothesis, in either case casting doubt on what is taken for granted (a lecturer who talks above the heads of his listeners presupposes too extensive a knowledge on their part); a school of theology that presupposed the total depravity of human nature) (it presupposes an opposition between the end of the individual and that of the State, such as was entirely foreign to the Greek conception—Dickinson) At the other extreme the terms may be used in reference to something that is taken for granted because it is the logically necessary antecedent of a thing known to be true or the truth of which is not presently in question (an effect presupposes a cause) (so deliberate a murder presupposes a motive) (belief in the supernatural presupposes a belief in natural law—Inge) Presume and presumption may imply conjecture (I presume they are now in London) but ordinarily they carry the implication that whatever is taken for granted is entitled to belief until it is disproved. Therefore one presupposes only something for which there is justification in experience, or which has been shown to be sound in practice or in theory or which is the logical inference from such facts as are known (until a man or an organization has been condemned by due process of law he or it must be presumed innocent—Hutchins) (the fact that a custom is ancient and is still revered creates a presumption in its favor) (it cannot be presumed that any clause in the constitution is intended to be without effect—John Marshall) Assume and assumption stress the arbitrary acceptance as true of something which has not yet been proved or demonstrated or about which there is ground for a difference of opinion (some debaters weaken their case by assuming too much) (for the sake of argument let us assume that the accident occurred as contended) (I know of nothing more false in science or more actively poisonous in politics than the assumption that we belong as a race to the Teutonic family—Quiller-Couch) (1... assume that one purpose of the purchase was to suppress competition—Justice Holmes) (she was amazed and at a loss. She had assumed that Elfine's family would be overjoyed at their offspring's luck—Gibbons) Postulate, either as verb or noun, differs from assume or assumption in being more restricted in its application and more exact in its implications. One can assume or make an assumption at any point in a course of reasoning, but one postulates something or lays down a proposition as a postulate only as the groundwork for a single argument or for a chain of reasoning or for a system of thought. Postulate, therefore, has reference to one of the underlying assumptions, which are accepted as true but acknowledged as indemonstrable and without which thought or action or artistic representation is impossible because of the limitations of human knowledge or of human reason or of art (the ordinary man always postulates the reality of time and of space) (the dramatist postulates certain conventions which it is necessary for the audience to accept) (belief in the uniformity of nature, which is said to be a postulate of science—Russell) (the prevailing theological system is one which postulates the reality of guidance by a personal God—Huxley) (what I'm postulating in all this... is that the unconscious, you see, has an enormous teleological sense—Maier) Premise is often used as though it were identical in meaning with postulate. Premise, the noun, in logic denotes a proposition, or one of the two propositions in a syllogism, from which an inference is drawn. In more general use it may refer to a proposition which is the starting point in an argument. But a premise is not a proposition that is frankly an assumption, as a postulate often is; it may have been previously demonstrated or it may be admitted as true or axiomatic, but it is always advanced as true and not as assumed (his listeners could not assent to his conclusion because they doubted the truth of his premises) (begin with a simple statement which is the premise for all that I have to say—F. C. James) Premise, the verb, means to lay down as a premise or to base on or introduce by a premise or other pertinent matter and usually refers to the broader rather than to the technical meaning of the noun (he premised his argument on a proposition which all but a few of his readers accept as true) (it was quickly evident that the decision was not premised upon any abhorrence of the test oath technique—New Republic) (these observations are premised solely for the purpose of rendering more intelligible those which apply more directly to the particular case under consideration—John Marshall) Posit, as noun and verb, comes close to postulate in implying the laying down of a proposition as a base for an argument, a line of reasoning, or a system of thought, but it may differ in suggesting subjective and arbitrary grounds rather than, as postulate regularly does, objective and rational grounds for selection of the proposition (if she needs salvation, she will posit a savior—Santayana) (he did not posit a world of wormless apples to set off the fruit he reported in such wonderful detail—Grattan) (materialism at that time posited the premise that character was the product of environment, and this was the basis for Zola's naturalism—Farrell) but even when it connotes actual falsity it remains very close to postulate (such posits or postulated entities are myths from the standpoint of the level below them, the phenomenalist level—Hofstadter) (kill or be killed, the surgeons cried, discriminating Die from Live, and spoke the truth. And also lied, posited false alternative—Gibson) Ana surmise, *conjecture, guess: *infer, deduce, gather, judge
pretension

2 Pretense, pretension, make-believe are comparable though seldom interchangeable when they involve the idea of offering something false or deceptive as real or true. Pretense may denote false show in general, or the evidence of it (she is utterly devoid of pretense); there is too much pretense in his piety (the pretense that eludes the detection of others and that which deceives the pretended himself—Brownell) (confuse dignity with pomposity and pretense—Cerf) The term may apply also to an act that is performed, an appearance that is assumed, or a statement that is made in the hope that it will convince others of the truth or reality of something that is false or unreal (rushing away from the discussion on the transparent pretense of quieting the dog—Conrad) (my mother's affectionate pretense of his being the head of the family—Mary Austin) Pretension (see also CLAIM, AMBITION) is rarely used in place of pretense as a concrete act, appearance, or statement, but it is often used in the sense of false show or the evidence of it, with, however, somewhat differing implications. Where pretense in this general sense often implies hypocrisy or intentional deceit, pretension suggests rather an unwarranted assumption that one possesses certain desirable qualities or powers, and therefore more often implies overweening conceit or self-deception (his disdain of affectation and prudery was magnificent. He hated all pretension save his own pretension—Mencken) (this mannerism which has become so offensive . . . is Roslyn's social pretension. Perhaps I should say intellectual pretension. She entertains people as if she were conducting a salon—Mailer) (annoyed with . . . the pretensions of simplicity and homeliness in her parlor—Cheever) Make-believe applies usually to pretense or pretenses that arise not so much out of a desire to give others a false impression as out of a strong or vivid imagination (as that of children or poets who like to take what their fancies create as real or as true) (in children, the love of make-believe usually expresses itself in games) The term is occasionally used to denote the acceptance against one's better judgment of something manifestly unreal or untrue because of some power in the thing itself or in its accompaniments (tells us that the make-believe of the stage is a higher reality than life outside—Bentley)

Ana humbug, fake, sham, fraud, deceit, deception, *imposture: affectation, *pose, air, mannerism

pretension 1 *claim, title, pretense
Ana *right, privilege, prerogative: assertion, affirmation, declaration, protestation (see corresponding verbs at ASSERT)
2 *pretense, make-believe
Ana *hypocrisy, sanctimony, cant: dissimulation, duplicity, guile, *deceit
3 *ambition, aspiration
Ana *hoping or hope, expectation (see corresponding verbs at EXPECT): dream, vision, *fancy

pretentious 1 *showy, ostentatious
Ana *gaudy, garish, flashy; *ornate, flamboyant, florid, baroque, rococo
Ant unpretentious
2 *ambitious, utopian
Ana *aiming, aspiring, panting (see AIM vb): conspicuous, striking, arresting (see NOTICEABLE)

preternatural *supernatural, supranatural, miraculous, superhuman
Ana unnatural, anomalous (see IRREGULAR): *abnormal, atypical: outstanding, remarkable, salient (see NOTICEABLE): *exceptional

pretext excuse, plea, alibi, *apology, apologia

Ana ruse, *trick, maneuver, stratagem: *deception: justification, vindication, defending or defense (see corresponding verbs at MAINTAIN)

pretty bonny, comely, fair, *beautiful, lovely, handsome, good-looking, beauteous, pulchritudinous
Ana charming, attractive, alluring (see under ATTRACT): dainty, delicate, exquisite (see CHOICE adj)

prevail *induce, persuade, get
Ana *move, actuate, drive, impel: influence, *affect, impress, sway

prevailing, prevalent, rife, current are comparable when they mean general (as in circulation, acceptance, or use) especially in a given place or at a given time. Prevailing applies especially to something which is predominant or which generally or commonly obtains at the time or in the place indicated or implied (the prevailing winds are westerly) (the prevailing opinion among booksellers) (their frankly barbarous outlook and prevailing grossness of expression—Bridges-Adams) Prevalent applies especially to something which is general or very common over a given area or at a given time. The term, however, does not suggest, as prevailing usually suggests, a predominance in frequency or in favor; rather, it connotes a frequency without necessarily implying that it is the most frequent; thus, the prevailing or usual wind in a region is from the southeast, but southwest winds may, nevertheless, be prevalent there; colds and grippe are prevalent in northern states during the winter; a widely prevalent pronunciation of a word may not necessarily be the prevailing pronunciation (so prevalent is urban blight that the nickname "Garden State" seems a macabre joke—Armbrister) Rife adds to prevalent an implication such as the rapid spread of the thing so qualified, or a great increase in the number of its instances, or merely its commonness or abundance (rumor is already rife here as to Dr. Trefoil's successor—Trollope) (in a national political campaign, when issues are hotly contested and prejudices are rife—Mott) (was a considerable poet himself in days when poets were rife—Gogarty) Current applies especially to things (as language, philosophy, or fashion) that are constantly in process of change or development, or to things (as coins or diseases) that circulate constantly from one person or thing to another; hence, current so often describes what is widespread in its use, adoption, or acceptance at the time in question that it has come to imply the present if no other time is indicated; thus, current English is the English language of the present time; a current notion is one that is widely accepted at the moment; banknotes, postage stamps, or coins of the current series are those still being printed or minted for circulation or sale (current styles in hats) (current tendencies in fiction) (a current practice) However, when the term applies to things (as periodicals) that come out in a series or in installments, current describes the one appearing during the present period (as the week or month) or the latest to appear (the current issue of a magazine) (the current installment of a new novel appearing serially in a periodical) But current is often used in the place of the other words of this group when the time or place is definitely indicated and merely the passing from one person to another is stressed (Shakespeare used the current language of his day—J. R. Lowell) (as current in her time, the Evangelical creed was simple—Ellis) (she had been given, at fourteen, the current version of her origin—Wharton)

Ana *dominant, predominant, preponderant: *common, ordinary, familiar: general, *universal

prevalent *prevailing, rife, current
Ana *common, ordinary, familiar: pervading, impreg-
prevent *lie, equivocate, palter, fib

Prevent, anticipate, forestall can mean to be or get ahead of or to deal with beforehand, with reference especially to a thing's due time or to its actual occurrence or to the action of another. Prevent implies frustration (as of an intention or plan) or an averting (as of a threatened evil) or a rendering impossible (as by setting up an obstacle or obstacles) (the surest way to prevent aggression is to remain strong enough to overpower and defeat any who might attack—Lawrence) Sometimes the emphasis upon hindrance (see prevent 2) is so strong that other implications are nearly lost, but in the sense here considered advance provision or preparation against something possible or probable is clearly implied (medical science knows how to limit these evils and can do much to prevent their destructiveness—Elliot) (steps had therefore to be taken to prevent or impede these unseemly displays—Thorton) (who stands safest? tell me, is it he?... whose preventing care in peace provides fit arms against a war?—Pope)

Anticipate (see also FORESEE) takes the place of prevent when merely getting ahead of another especially as a precursor or forerunner is implied (most of the great European thinkers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were in some measure inspired, influenced, or anticipated by Shaftesbury—Ellis) (a "Teacher of Righteousness" who seemed in some ways to anticipate Jesus—Edmund Wilson) Like prevent, anticipate sometimes suggests frustrating another in carrying out an intention or plan, but implies its prior performance or execution rather than interposition of obstacles to its performance (he would probably have died by the hand of the executioner, if the executioner had not been anticipated by the populace—Macaulay) (in October came Commodore T. A. C. Jones, palpitating lest Great Britain anticipate him in seizing California—H. I. Priestley) Distinctively, the word implies dealing with (as by using, paying, or acting) in advance of the due time or proper order but it often involves another implication which can be gathered only from the context; thus, one anticipates a payment on a loan by making a payment before it is due; one anticipates his salary by spending its equivalent before it is earned (anticipate some details in telling a story) Forestall, in what has become perhaps the less common meaning, carries over from its earliest sense so strong an implication of intercepting that it means merely to stop in its course (something you were not in the least prepared to face, something you hurried to forestall—Mary Austin) (forestalled by the watchful Julks who fetched it for him—Dahl) But often the word loses most of its suggestion of intercepting and then implies beforehand action that serves to render a thing, and especially something inevitable, powerless to harm or merely useless (to forestall public opinion and guide its judgment—L. P. Smith) (posterity will still be explaining me, long after I am dead. Why, then, should I forestall their labors?—Rose Macaulay)

2 Prevent, preclude, obviate, avert, ward are comparable when they mean to hinder or stop something that may occur or, in the case of prevent and preclude, to hinder or stop someone from doing something. Prevent usually implies the existence of something which serves as an insurmountable obstacle or an impediment (there is no law to prevent you from erecting a building on this spot) (the authority of his presence and the purposefulness of his manner at least prevents the role becoming a minor one—Bentley) (he prevents an innocent man going to the gallows—New Books) Preclude differs from prevent in stressing the existence of some situation or condition or the taking of anticipatory measures that effectually shuts out every possibility of a thing's occurring or of a person's doing something (he makes everything so clear that all misunderstanding is precluded) (death precluded him from completing his investigation) (the doctrine... was adopted, not to promote efficiency but to preclude the exercise of arbitrary power—Brandes) (the roar of the motor precluded further conversation—Gerald Beaumont) Obviate usually implies the use of intelligence or judgment; preclude also often implies these but sometimes it suggests the operation of chance. The chief distinction between these words when anticipatory measures are implied is that obviate usually connotes an attempt to forestall disagreeable eventualities by clearing away obstacles or by disposing of difficulties (the use of bills of exchange obviates the risk in transporting money from one country to another) (no care, no art, no organization of society, could obviate the inherent incompatibility of individual perfection with the course of nature—Dickinson) (ward and, the latter usually with off, differ from the other words of this group in implying prevention of an approaching or oncoming evil. They suggest therefore immediate and effective measures in the face of what threatens. Avert, however, suggests the use of active measures to force back the evil before it is actually encountered (avert a catastrophe by prompt action) (the satisfaction of averting war—J. R. Green) (it was very doubtful whether the consequences could be averted by sealing my lips—Shaw) Ward, on the other hand, implies a close encounter and the use of defensive measures (ward off an opponent's blow) in order to avoid the evil or to diminish its disastrous effects (ward off a chill with hot drinks) (a magic charm to ward off evil—Herskovits) (our nation has warded off all enemies—Eisenhower) (a nation has warded off all enemies—New Books) (ward a catastrophe by prompt action) (ward against war—W. E. B. Du Bois) <steps had therefore to be taken to prevent or impede these unseemly displays—Thorton) (who stands safest? tell me, is it he?... whose preventing care in peace provides fit arms against a war?—Pope)
of the price asked and expense often designating the aggregate amount actually disbursed for something (they found the cost of the piano made too severe a drain on their resources) <the cost of provisions> <traveling expenses> <the heavy expense of a long illness> But cost sometimes replaces price with, however, a difference in connotation. Since cost applies to whatever must be given or sacrificed to obtain something, to produce something, or to attain some end whether it be money, labor, or lives or whether it is actually given or sacrificed, it, when replacing price, tends to suggest what will be taken or accepted from one in exchange rather than what the item is worth (the price of this article is below the cost of its manufacture) <victory will be won only at great cost of life> he felt that the cost in effort was greater than he could afford> Expense also may denote expenditure especially but not only of money <fresh news is got only by enterprise and expense—Justice Holmes> a convenient way of producing the maximum amount of "copy" with the minimum expense of intellect—Babbit>

priceless invaluable, precious, *costly, expensive, dear, (see corresponding adjectives at PRICE)

prick vb 1 punch, puncture, *perforate, bore, drill
Ana *enter, pierce, probe, penetrate; cut, slit, slash 2 urge, egg, exhort, goad, spur, prod, sic
Ana stimulate, excite, pique, *provoke: *activate, actuate, (see corresponding adjectives at ACT)

pride vb 1 Pride, plume, pique, green are all reflexive verbs meaning to congratulate oneself because of something one has, or has done or achieved. Pride usually implies a taking credit to oneself on or upon something that re- dounds to one's honor or gives just cause for pride in oneself <he prides himself on his ancestry> Mark prided himself upon maintaining outwardly a demeanor that showed not the least trace of overstrung nerves—Mackenzie> he prided himself on his part in the new century, but he resisted the installation of a telephone—Frank>
Plume adds to pride the implication of a display of vanity or of a more obvious exhibition of one's gratification; the term usually suggests less justification than does pride <the Viceroy plumed himself on the way in which he had instilled notions of rectitude into his staff—Kipling> Cicero plumed himself on flirting with dis- reputable actresses—Buchan> authors who plume themselves on writing history with "popular appeal"—L. B. Wright>
Pique (see also provoke 1) differs from plume chiefly in carrying a hint of stirred-up pride or satisfaction; usually the cause of the pride is a special accomplishment <every Italian or Frenchman of any rank piques himself on speaking his own tongue correctly—Walpole> "Pride," observed Mary, who piqued herself upon the solidity of her reflections, "is a very common failing, I believe—Austen>
Preen is occasionally used in place of plume, sometimes with a slight suggestion of adorning oneself with one's virtues <he preened himself upon his apiece—Lowell> men have admired, in theory, feminine virtue and preened themselves on the fear they aroused in the timid sex—Cunnington>
Ana *boast, brag, vaunt, crow, gaunconst: congratulate, *felicitate

priggish adj smug, self-complacent, self-satisfied, *complacent
Ana righteous, ethical, *moral: conceited, egotistic, self-esteeming, self-loving (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT)

prim adj Prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, puritanical, straitlaced, stuffy
Ana see those at priggish 1

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
all over his face—Dahl> (there is . . . no moralizing of that offensively priggish kind which the instinct of boys teaches them to despise and mistrust—Pall Mall Gazette> (it was, as you warned me, very expensive. But I have no priggish objections to a little luxury—Ambler> Prissy, though sometimes very close to prim in meaning, is applied to a person who shows, or to a thing that manifests, an exaggerated sense of what is proper or precise; the term connotes sissiness but usually as a feminine concern for niceties of expression, of conduct, or of design and may imply a lack of forcefulness or virility <an outspoken candidate who offended the prissiest members of his party> (shock words may wear out their welcome just as readily as prissy ones—New Republic> (a shockable, narrow, prissy people obeying the rules . . . and protecting their treasured, specialized pruderies—Theodore Sturgeon> Prudish implies a modesty and decorum so marked as to seem affected or overasserted; the term, however, seldom suggests pretense but rather an undue consciousness of propriety or fear of impropriety or an excessive sense of the importance of modesty and decorum <a verse, not fettered in its movements, or prudish in its expressions—Edinburgh Review> (tried to condemn her own attitude as old-fashioned, prudish. There was no such thing as an adulteress anymore, she told herself—Wouk> had become so serious, so prudish almost, since she had given up balls and taken to visiting the poor—Wharton> Puritanical, often capitalized, may refer specifically to the religion of the Puritans especially as it showed itself in strict regulation of behavior, but in ordinary uncivilized use it more often suggests only an excessive narrowness or illiberality in judgment (as of books, plays, or pictures), in regulation (as of manners and morals), or in narrowly determining the boundary between what is good and what is bad (<the puritanical suspicion of beauty> that Fielding in his hatred for humbug should have condemned purity as puritanical, is clearly lamentable—Stephen> (he held old-fashioned and rather puritanical views as to the vice of luxury and the sin of idleness—Woof> afraid that if it became known he might jeopardize his position in the rather puritanical community, he avoided consulting any of the Coltertown doctors—Elmer Rice> Straitlaced and stuffy are derogatory terms applicable to persons or things that are markedly puritanical or prudish; straitlaced refers more often to a person or his principles from a less subjective point of view than does stuffy, which is usually a term of contempt expressive of their effect upon the observer <“Stuffy, my lord; it’s an expression a good deal used in modern Society.” “What does it mean?” “Straitlaced, my lord”—Galsworthy> (a stuffy book> (abiding by the rather involved, stuffy code of ethics—Riggs> (set himself in- tress such as physics and chemistry—Univ. of Fla. Bulletin> But primary may convey little or no suggestion of a time order and imply superiority in importance, thereby coming close to principal <the primary object of education> (the primary end of poetry) (all of us in the news business ought to remember that our primary responsibility is to the man who buys his newspaper, or turns on his radio, expecting . . . the whole truth—Davis> Primordial applies to what is primary in the sense of initial, fundamental, or elemental (some who maintain that the regime of religious toleration has become possible only because we have lost the primary intensity of religious conviction—Cohen> (not philosophy, after all, but human- ity, just sheer joyous power of song, is the primary thing in poetry—Beethoven> or to what goes back to the origin or to the beginnings, especially of the human race <it hath the primary eldest curse upon’t, a brother’s murder—Shak> The Biblical vocabulary is compact of the primary stuff of our common humanity—Lowes> (ultimate issues, primordial springs—Kipling> Primordial applied to what serves as the starting point in a course of development or growth or is the earliest in order or in formation. The term often suggests a rudimentary quality or state; thus, the primordial ooze is thought of as the substance out of which the earth was formed; a primordial cell is in biology the first and least specialized of a line of cells <primordial germ cells> <primordial man> (assuming that the sun, planets, and their satellites had all originated from a primordial mass of gas—S. F. Mason> Something primitive belongs to or is associated with an early stage, often but not necessarily a remote stage, in the development of something (as the human race). Often, when used in reference to art or manufacture, the term suggests lack of knowledge of such modern techniques or conventions as perspective in painting or modes in mereval music or adornment of industries <primitive potteries> (the symmetry of the body provides the archetype of primitive design in most religious art—Binyon> When used in reference to persons, their ways of living, or their instincts, emotions, or laws, it usually suggests either a connection with a very rudimentary civilization or a retention of a character or quality associated with such a civilization <a primitive but effective police inquiry—T. S. Eliot> (primitive laws to protect inheritance, to safeguard property—Rose Macaulay> (genuinely primitive traits that reveal themselves in the childhood of either the individual or the race—Babbitt> (he worked in the seed gardens, learned the primitive pharmacy of roots, barks, and herbs—Genzmer> Often, however, the term merely stresses an opposition to what is highly civilized or sophistiaced and therefore unduly complicated, and may suggest naturalness or simplicity <life is very primitive here—which doesn’t mean that one is getting down to anything fundamental, but only going back to something immediate and simple—H. G. Wells> (the town band, a very primitive affair, brings up the rear, playing “Yankee Doodle”—Shaw> Pristine applies to something in its earliest and freshest and newest state <an image of the pristine earth—Wordsworth> (the qualities of pristine Christianity> (restored to its pristine freshness <a pru- tine form of air conditioning—Mumford> Primeval in its basic sense applies to something which belongs to
or is characteristic of the first ages of the earth ⟨for food you must still go to the earth and to the sea, as in primeval days—Jefferies⟩ ⟨drawings have a harsh, primeval definiteness, as though the world were in the throes of creation—Eric Newton⟩ Often, however, the term merely suggests extreme antiquity or the absence of all signs of human trespass or influence ⟨primeval ages⟩ ⟨behind the primeval curtain of trees and swamps the old tribal and pagan life went on—Cutforth⟩ Prime in its basic sense comes very close to primordial and primitive in designating what is first in order of time ⟨high heaven and earth all from the prime foundation—Housman⟩ but in its more common use it applies specifically to what is first in rank, degree, or dignity ⟨makes his moral being his prime care—Wordsworth⟩ ⟨a matter of prime importance⟩ or sometimes to what is merely choice or excellent of its kind ⟨prime beef⟩ ⟨a prime claret⟩ *Prime, initiating or initial, beginning, commencing, starting (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN): elemental, *elementary: basic, *fundamental, radical: *chief, leading, principal Con following, succeeding, ensuing (see FOLLOW): secondary, *subordinate prime adj *primary, primal, primordial, primitive, pristine, primeval *Ania *chief, leading, principal, main: *choice, exquisite, recherché prime mover *origin, source, provenance, provenience, inception, root primeval pristine, primitive, primordial, primal, *primary, prime Ania aboriginal, *native, indigenous, autochthonous: original, *new primitive *primary, primal, primordial, pristine, primeval, prime Ania *fundamental, basic, radical: elemental, *elementary: aboriginal, *native primordial 1 primeval, pristine, primitive, primal, *primary, prime 2 *initial, original princedly *kingly, regal, royal, queenly, imperial Ania *luxurious, sumptuous, opulent: munificent, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, *liberal principal adj *chief, main, leading, foremost, capital Ania *dominant, predominant, paramount: vital, cardinal, fundamental, *essential: preeminent, *supreme, superlative principally mainly, chiefly, mostly, *largely, greatly, generally principle, axiom, fundamental, law, theorem are comparable when they denote a proposition or other formulation stating a fact or a generalization accepted as true and basic. Principle applies to a generalization that provides a basis for reasoning or a guide for conduct or procedure ⟨the principle of free speech⟩ ⟨his remarkable grasp of principle in the remaining field, that of historical geography—Farrington⟩ ⟨the same hankering as their pious ancestors for a cozy universe, a closed system of certainties erected upon a single principle—Muller⟩ ⟨the principle was established that no officer or employee . . . was entitled to any classified information whatever unless it was necessary for the performance of his duties—Baxter⟩ ⟨I do not mean to assert this pedantically as an absolute rule, but as a principle guiding school authorities—Russell⟩ Axiom can apply to a principle that is not open to dispute because self-evident and is usually one upon which a structure of reasoning is or may be erected ⟨the axioms of Euclidean geometry⟩ Perhaps more frequently the term implies a principle universally accepted or regarded as worthy of acceptance rather than one necessarily true ⟨the journalistic axiom that there is nothing as dead as yesterday's newspaper—G. W. Johnson⟩ ⟨the superficial commonplaces which pass as axioms in our popular intellectual milieu—Cohen⟩ Fundamental usually applies to a principle, but sometimes a fact, so essential to a philosophy, religion, science, or art that its rejection would destroy the intellectual structure resting upon it ⟨the fundamentals of scientific research⟩ ⟨developed the arch and other fundamentals of architecture—R. W. Murray⟩ ⟨what they deemed the fundamentals of the Christian faith—Latourette⟩ Law applies to a formulation stating an order or relation of phenomena which is regarded as always holding good ⟨the conquest of nature's procreative forces, through the discovery of the laws of agriculture and animal husbandry—R. W. Murray⟩ ⟨the laws of the rain and of the seasons here are tropic laws—M. S. Douglas⟩ ⟨it is a law that no two electrons may occupy the same orbit—Eddington⟩ Theorem applies to a proposition that admits of rational proof and, usually, is logically necessary to succeeding logical steps in a structure of reasoning ⟨theoretical economics puts the patterns of uniformity in a coherent system [of which] the basic propositions are called assumptions or postulates, the derived propositions are called theorems—Lange⟩ ⟨the error that was to prove most durable of all, the theorem that only a very short land traverse would be found necessary from Missouri to Pacific waters—De Voto⟩ Ania basis, foundation, ground (see base): *law, rule, canon, precept: *form, usage, convention print n *impression, impress, imprint, stamp Ania mark, token, *sign: *trace, vestige printing *edition, impression, reprinting, reissue prior previous, foregoing, precedent, anterior, former, antecedent, *preceding Ania ahead, *before, forward Con behind, *after priority, precedence can both mean the act, the fact, or, especially, the right of preceding another. When the reference is to the right, both terms usually imply an established or accepted code that determines which shall precede the other. Priority is the usual term in law and the sciences and chiefly concerns an order of time. When there is merely a question concerning the time relations of events, the term implies antecedence in occurrence ⟨the courts established the priority of the wife's death in an accident⟩ ⟨the right to inherit a title is dependent mainly on priority of birth⟩ ⟨they disputed priority of invention of the regenerative electron-tube circuit—C. B. Fisher⟩ When, however, the question concerns a number of things (as debts or cases) which cannot be taken care of or dealt with all at once and must be arranged in order of time, priority suggests a rule of arrangement that determines the order in which one goes before another ⟨in payment of debts he must observe the rules of priority—Blackstone⟩ ⟨liens on a property take priority in bankruptcy settlements⟩ ⟨the "law of priority" in biological classification is the principle that the first published name of a genus or species has preference over any one subsequently published⟩ ⟨where roads cross one another without a sign on either, there is no absolute priority, but it is usual to give way to the vehicle on one's right—Joseph⟩ Precedence, though frequent in general use, is, in the sense under consideration, primarily a term of formal etiquette; it then implies an established order (as in receiving, greeting, or seating) which gives preference to those who are superior in rank, dignity, or position ⟨among ambassadors of equal rank, precedence is usually determined by order
of seniority or length of service) <(the order of precedence was very rigidly observed, for the visiting maids and valets enjoyed the same hierarchy as their mistresses and masters—Sackville-West) In more general use the term often suggests a prior place, chance, or seat accorded to one, often because of age, sex, social position, or as a mere courtesy <(no one lost anything by granting precedence to a man so flawlessly urbane—Reppier) to give organizations precedence over persons is to subordinate ends to means—Huxley>

**Ana** ordering or order, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): ascendency, *supremacy*; preeminence, transcendence (see corresponding adjectives at SUPREME)

**priory** *cloister, monastery, nunnery, convent, abbey*

**prismatic,** iridescent, opalescent, opaline are comparable when they mean marked by or displaying a variety of colors. Prismatic implies an exhibition of the colors of the spectrum (as when a ray of light is refracted by a prism) or of a rainbow. In its nontechnical and extended use it merely suggests a brilliant or striking variety of colors <Jeremy Taylor's style is prismatic. It unfolds the colors of the rainbow—Hazlitt> <(have you ever observed a hummingbird moving about in an aerial dance among the flowers—a living prismatic gem that changes its color with every change of position?—Hudson>) Iridescent implies a rainbowlike play of shifting, merging colors such as is exhibited by a soap bubble, by mother of pearl, and by the plumage of some birds <the whole texture of his mind, though its substance seem plain and grave, shows itself at every turn iridescent with poetic feeling like shot silk—J. R. Lowell> <something iridescent, like the shining of wet sand—Reppier>

Opalescent and the less frequent opaline imply both the soft milky quality and the iridescence of an opal <Titian hardly ever paints sunshine, but a certain opalescent twilight which has as much of human emotion as of imitative truth in it—Ruskin> <the opaline light which comes through these lateral bays, and makes a sort of veil . . . under the lofty vaulting—Henry Adams>

**prisoner,** captive both denote one who is deprived of his liberty. Prisoner is the general term, applicable to anyone so deprived, but it is frequently used in a more specific sense, and applied to one who is confined to a prison or held under guard <prisoners of war> <(take one prisoner>) <(the prisoners in the penitentiary)>

Captive implies seizure by force (as in war, conquest, or brigandage); it also often implies bondage or slavery rather than imprisonment, and sometimes suggests capture for ransom <he hath brought many captives home to Rome, whose ransoms did the general coffers fill—Shak.>

**prissy** *prim, priggish, prudish, puritanical, straitlaced, stuffy

**Ana** womanish, effeminate, ladylike, *female*; finicky, fastidious, *nice, squeamish*; scrupulous, punctilious, meticulous, *careful

**pristine** primeval, primordial, primitive, primal, *primary, prime

**Ana** original, fresh, *new

**privateer** *pirate, freebooter, buccaneer, corsair

**privation** 1 *lack, want, dearth, absence, defect

**Ana** negation, nullification, annulling, abrogation (see corresponding verbs at NULLIFY) 2 *poverty, want, destitution, indigence, penury

**Ana** depletion, draining, exhaustion, impoverishment (see corresponding verbs at DEPLETE): need, necessity, exigency: pinch, strait (see JUNCTURE)

**privilege** *right, prerogative, birthright, perquisite, appanage

**Ana** concession, *allowance*; favor, boon (see GIFT):

**Ana** analogous words **Ant** antonyms **Con** contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
tion to some end (watching for a likely place to picnic) chose the eastern part of the island as the more likely district for discovery of prehistoric remains—Clodd
Ana credible, believable, colorable, *plausible: reasonable, *rational
Ant certain: improbable

**probationer** *novice, novitiate, apprentice, postulant, neophyte

**probe** n investigation, *inquiry, inquisition, inquest, research
phob vb pierce, penetrate, *enter
Ana examine, inspect, *scrutinize: *prove, try, test

**probity** *honesty, honor, integrity

**problem** *mystery, enigma, riddle, puzzle, conundrum
Ana perplexity, mystification, wilderness, distraction (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE): *predicament, dilemma, plight, quandary

Ant solution

**problematic** *doubtful, dubious, questionable
Ana ambiguous, equivocal, *obscure, vague, cryptic, enigmatic: uncertain, suspicious, mistrustful (see corresponding nouns at UNCERTAINTY)

**procedure** *process, proceeding
Ana ordering or order, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): *method, system, manner, way: conducting or conduct, management (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT)

**proceed** issue, emanate, stem, flow, derive, *spring, arise, proceed
Ana *follow, succeed, ensue: *come, arrive

**proceeding** n *process, procedure
Ana *action, act, deed: *affair, business, concern: operation, functioning, working (see corresponding verbs at ACT)

**process, procedure, proceeding** denote the series of actions, operations, or motions involved in the accomplishment of an end. Process is particularly appropriate when progress from a definite beginning to a definite end is implied and something is thereby made, produced, or changed from one thing into another; the term usually suggests a division of the entire sequence of events into steps or stages (describe the process of making sugar from sugar-cane) (the process of digestion) (perfect knowledge is no mere intellectual process)—Inge (I have always liked the process of commuting; every phase of the little journey is a pleasure to me—Dahl) The idiomatic phrase "in process" means in the course of being made, produced, built, constructed, evolved, or attained (for men in practical life perfection is something far off and still in process of achievement)—James

**Procedure** stresses the method followed or the routine to be followed, whether in carrying through an industrial, a chemical, a mental, or other process, or in doing some specific thing (as conducting a meeting, a trial, a conference, or a business, or performing an experiment or an operation, or prosecuting an investigation or a search) (study the rudiments of parliamentary procedure) (knows laboratory procedure thoroughly) (correct legal procedure) (you know what a stickler she is for procedure—"red tape" I called it to her—Terry Southern) (this Byzantine court, which is trying to adapt its procedure to the ideals of its Western education—Edmund Wilson)

**Proceeding,** a much less definite term than the others of this group, applies not only to the sequence of events, actions, or operations directed toward the attainment of an end, but also to any one of such events, acts, or operations. The term throws more stress on the individual or collective items than on their closely knit relation to each other or on the final end which they have in view, and often the term means little more than an instance, sometimes a course, of conduct or behavior (the law... stepped in to prevent a proceeding which it regarded as petty treason to the commonwealth—Froude) (record the proceedings of a meeting of a society) (the precise habits, the incredible proceedings of human insects—L. P. Smith) (legislative proceedings frequently veer off into areas of somewhat less than momentous significance—Armbrister)

Ana progress, advance (see under ADVANCE vb): conducting or conduct, management, controlling or control, direction (see corresponding verbs at CONDUCT): performance, execution, accomplishment, fulfillment (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM)

**procession,** parade, cortège, cavalcade, motorcade mean a body (as of persons and vehicles) moving along in order. Procession stresses the orderly arrangement and smooth procedure; often it suggests formality, solemnity, and pomp (a funeral procession) (and all the priests and friars in my realm shall in procession sing her endless praise—Shak) (and delegate Dead from each past age and race, viewless to man, in large procession pace—Lanier)

**Parade** is used of a usually large and formal procession. The term also implies marching in a more or less military fashion to the accompaniment of a band and often suggests other evidences of pomp and display (see also DISPLAY) (the Fourth of July program includes a parade and fireworks) (the annual parades of both organizations... open-air festivals, with colorful banners, drum and fife bands—Moege) (there was a parade in honor of the successful candidate for governor—Cortege, sometimes used in the meaning of a retinue or train, usually means a procession of mourners at a funeral; it can refer either to those who follow the casket on foot or to those who follow in vehicles (declared that the cortège of the dead emperor must set forth on the journey homeward—Buck) Cavalcade throws the emphasis upon the moving of men on horseback or in vehicles; often it applies specifically to a dignitary and his retinue (the king's cavalcade through the gates of the city the day before his coronation—Walpole) and only indirectly does it suggest the appeal of a spectacle or spectacular procession. Motorcade may replace cavalcade when the intent is to stress mechanized as distinguished from equine power; otherwise the two terms are similar in values (with a motorcade of more than 2,000 vehicles, New York yesterday celebrated its traffic safety record for the first quarter—N. Y. American) (more than 300 floats will form a brilliant motorcade to the fairgrounds—Brooklyn Daily Eagle) (the three heads of state motored to Arlington Cemetery. It was raw and windy as the motorcade entered the cemetery—Time)

Ana *succession, sequence, train: pomp, array (see DISPLAY)

**proclaim** declare, announce, publish, advertise, promulgate, broadcast
Ana *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge, tell: voice, utter, vent, ventilate (see EXPRESS vb): *inform, apprise

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

**proclivity** propensity, *leaning, penchant, flair
Ana knack, aptitude, *gift, bent, turn: inclination, disposition, predisposition (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE): *predilection, prepossession, prejudice, bias

**procrastinate** *delay, lag, dawdle, loiter
Ana *defer, suspend, stay, postpone: protract, prolong (see EXTEND)

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

hasen, hurry

procreate *generate, engender, beget, get, sire, breed, propagate, reproduce

procure *get, obtain, secure, acquire, gain, win

Ana *negotiate, arrange, concert: *reach, compass, gain, achieve, attain

prod vb 1 *poke, nudge, jog

Ana prick, punch, bore (see PERFORATE): goad, spur (see corresponding nouns at MOTIVE): pierce, penetrate (see ENTER)

2 *mingle, egg, exhort, goad, spur, prick, sic

Ana *incite, instigate: stimulate, excite, pique, *provoke

prod n poke, nudge, jog (see under POKE vb)

Ana *stimulus, stimulant, incitement, impetus

prodigal adj *profuse, lavish, luxuriant, lush

Ana extravagant, exorbitant, immoderate, *excessive: abundant, *plentiful, plenteous, ample, copious: *supererogatory, uncalled-for, gratuitous

Ana parsimonious: frugal —Con niggardly, penurious, *stingy: economical, *sparing, thrifty

prodigal n *spendthrift, profligate, waster, wastrel

Ana spender, expender, disburser (see corresponding verbs at SPEND)

prodigious *monstrous, tremendous, stupendous, monumental

Ana enormous, immense, *huge, vast, gigantic, mammoth, colossal: amazing, astounding, flabbergasting (see SURPRISE)

prodigy *wonder, marvel, miracle, phenomenon

Ana abnormality (see corresponding adjective at ABNORMAL): monstrosity (see corresponding adjective at MONSTROUS): anomaly, *paradox

produce vb *bear, yield, turn out

Ana *generate, breed, propagate: *make, form, shape, fabricate, manufacture: create, *invent

produce n *product, production

product 1 *work, product, opus, artifact

Ana execution, fulfillment, performance (see corresponding verbs at PERFORM): *effort, exertion

2 *product, produce

profanation, desecration, sacrilege, blasphemy can all mean a violation or a misuse of something regarded as sacred. Profanation applies to an irreverent outrage shocking to those who cherish and hold sacred the thing mistreated; although it may suggest base callousness, it often applies to vulgar intrusion or insensitive irreverence (as of vandals) (these sages attribute the calamity to a profanation of the sacred grove—Frazer) Desecration applies especially to any action whereby sacred character is impaired or lost; often it indicates loss of that character through defilement, often malicious or malign and culpable (desecration of the cathedrals by the invading barbarians) (last priest, feeling there was no work to be done in such a dreary outpost, burned the chapel in 1706 to prevent its desecration—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.)

Sacrilège may refer technically to reception or administration of a religious sacrament by one unworthy; it refers commonly to any outrageous profanation (the execution was not followed by any sacrilege to the church or defiling of holy vessels—Cather) (above all things they dread any contact with the spirits of the dead. Only a sorcerer would dare to commit such a sacrilege, an offense punishable with death—Frazer) Blasphemy (see also BLASPHEMY 1; compare blasphemous under IMPIOUS) may refer to any strong irreverence, often one involving or suggesting reviling, defying, mocking, or otherwise treating with indignity something sacred (he cooperated with me in sending the pious elders to unspeakable corners of hell; we arranged a wordless language of blasphemy and signaled to each other across the laps of the godly—Brace)

Ana defilement, pollution, contamination (see corresponding verbs at CONTAMINATE): debasement, vitiation, corruption, perversion (see corresponding verbs at DEBASE): violation, transgression, trespass (see BREACH)

profane adj 1 Profane, secular, lay, temporal mean not dedicated or set apart for religious ends or uses. Profane specifically implies an opposition to sacred (see HOLY); in this sense it is purely descriptive and not derogatory; thus, profane history is history dealing with nations or peoples rather than with biblical events or characters; profane literature comprises all literature except the Scriptures, other sacred writings, and sometimes writings having a definite religious end or use; profane love applies to human love as between man and woman, as distinguished from the love of man for God and of God for man (the profane poet is by instinct a naturalist. He loves landscape, he loves love, he loves the humor and pathos of earthly existence—Santayana) The term also is used to imply an opposition to holy, religious, spiritual (I have observed that profane men living in ships, like the holy men gathered together in monasteries, develop traits of profound resemblance—Conrad) Secular usually

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
implies a relation to the world as distinguished from the church or religion or the religious life; it may come close to profane (secular music) the secular drama or it may be opposed to regular in the sense of governed by a monastic rule; thus, a secular priest is a priest who does not belong to a religious order; a regular priest is one who does. The term is most often opposed to religious in the sense of belonging to or serving the ends of a religion or church, then coming close to civil or public secular schools secular journals the secular authority there are peoples in the world who have no secular dances, only religious dances—Ellis believing that no creed, religious or secular, can be justified except on the basis of reason and evidence—Times Lit. Sup. Lay is applied to persons, or sometimes to their activities, interests, or duties, that do not belong to the clergy and particularly the regularly ordained clergy; it therefore usually implies an opposition to clerical or ecclesiastical laymen and laywomen of the parish a lay preacher lay sermon lay delegates to a diocesan convention In religious orders the term is applied to a class of religious who are occupied chiefly with domestic and manual work as distinguished from those who are occupied with liturgical observances, teaching, and study the lay brothers in a monastery Lay is often extended to other than the clerical profession (compare lay analyst under neurologist) in the sense of nonprofessional or of not having a professional source or character; thus, a lay opinion on a question of law is merely an opinion delivered by one who is neither a lawyer nor a judge the doctrine of scienter in the lay mind has been converted into the popular half truth that a dog is entitled to its first bite—Field-Fisher Temporal implies an opposition to spiritual (in the sense of being concerned not with material or mundane but with immaterial and eternal ends) and is applied chiefly to sovereigns, rulers, or dignitaries having political authority or civil power; thus, lords temporal are those members of the British House of Lords who are not bishops or archbishops (these latter being called lords spiritual) the Papacy had no temporal power between 1870, the year of the fall of the Papal State, and 1929, the year of the establishment of Vatican City persuading the Church to forego its claim to temporal authority and confine its attention to spiritual benefactions—Littlefield Ana worldly, mundane earthly, terrestrial Ant sacred Con holy, divine, religious, spiritual 2 impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious Ana foul, filthy, dirty, nasty: ungodly, godless, irreligious: iniquitous, nefarious, villainous, vicious profanity blasphemy, cursing, swearing Ana imprecation curse, mallection: exegation, objur- gation, damming (see corresponding verbs at EXCRIMATE) profess assert, declare, affirm, aver, protest, avouch, avow, predicate, warrant Ana allege, adduce, advance profession art, handicraft, craft trade proffer offer, tender, present, prefer Ana propose, design, intend: confer, bestow, present, give Con reject, spurn, refuse, decline proficient, adept, skilled, skilful, expert, masterly are comparable when they mean having the knowledge and experience necessary to success in a given line especially of work or endeavor. When applied to things rather than persons, all these terms carry the implication that the quality of the person has been attributed to the thing. Proficient implies training and practice as the source of competency beyond the average proficient in the art of self-defense—Shaw Jane began to type. It bored her, but she was fairly proficient at it—Rose Macaulay Adept implies proficiency but stresses aptitude and often cleverness adept at ledgermaking so adept at the lovely polishing of every grave and lucid phrase Gibbons Skilled, often interchangeable with proficient, may distinctively suggest mastery of the details of a trade or handicraft or of the technique of an art or profession. In modern industrial use skilled simply connotes that one has met a standard set up by employers for a special type of work or job skilled labor the skilled trades by long practice, he was skilled in the arts of teaching Gibbon professors, students, and skilled employees make a varied assault upon the mysteries of marine biology Parsley Skilful implies adeptness coupled with dexterity in execution or performance a skilful operator of an automobile a skilful teacher in little danger with a skilful hand at the helm Nordhoff & Hall the solution achieved by a skilful majority in face of a hostile majority—Parrington Expert applies to one who has attained extraordinary proficiency or is exceptionally adept an expert accountant an expert bridge player expert knowledge of engines neither of them was expert in the roping of cattle Mary Austin explaining at length, but with an expert lucidity, some basic point of law Edmund Wilson Masterly, applied more often to the thing executed or the quality displayed than to the person who executes or displays, is close to expert in its implication of proficiency and adeptness, but it commonly adds a suggestion of confident control (he compressed into the masterly introductory essays . . . his entire theory of the progress of the United States Bidwell his masterly dissimulation Molley how masterly is he in all the points of his profession Trollope Ana efficient, effectual *effective: capable, able, competent, qualified: finished, accomplished, consummate: practiced, drilled, exercised (see practice vb) Con awkward, clumsy, maladroit, inept, gauche: ignorant, untaught profile outline, contour, silhouette, skyline profit n use, service, advantage, account, avail Ana reward, award, meed, guerdon (see premium) gaining or gain, winning (see get) profit vb benefit, avail Ana *get, gain, win: advance, progress profitable 1 beneficial, advantageous Ana *favorable, auspicious, propitious: expedient, advisable, politic Ant disadvantageous 2 *benefitting, gainful, remunerative, lucrative Ana fruitful (see fertile) compensating, recompensing, repaying (see pay) valuable, precious (see costly) profligate adj dissolute, reprobate, abandoned Ana debauched, corrupted, depraved, debased, perverted (see under DEBASE) degenerate, corrupt, vicious, loose, relaxed, slack, lax profligate n spendthrift, prodigal, wastrel, waster Ana debauche, pervert, corrupt (see corresponding verbs at DEBASE) libertine, lecher (see corresponding adjectives at licentious) profound deep, abysmal Ana penetrating, probing, piercing (see enter) scrutinizing, inspecting, examining (see scrutinize) Ant shallow profuse lavish, prodigal, luxuriant, lush, exuberant carry as their basic meaning giving out or given out in great abundance. What is profuse seems to pour or be poured forth in abundance, without restraint, or in a stream...
fuse apologies) (profuse sweating) (pourest thy full heart in profuse strains of unpremeditated art—Shelley) (a land where life was great . . . and beauty lay fuse—Browning) What is lavish is so exceedingly profuse as to suggest, positively, munificence or extravagance or, negatively, the absence of all stint or moderation (lavish gifts) (a lavish feast) (lavish expenditures) (the lavish attentions of his mother—Meredith) (our lavish use of a bountiful supply of crude oil—Morrison) What is prodigal gives or is given so lavishly and so recklessly as to suggest waste or the ultimate exhaustion of resources (chary of praise and prodigal of counsel—Stevenson) (the prodigal expenditures of the recent war—M. W. Childs) (he had been prodigal with his money and she probably imagined that he was still in funds—Cliff. Farrell) What is luxuriant produces or is produced in great and rich abundance; the term usually connotes not only profusion but gorgeousness or splendor in what is produced (her luxuriant hair) (the luxuriant imagination of Milton) (this damp and mild climate makes possible the most luxuriant forest growth—Forde) (rich and luxuriant beauty; a beauty that shines with deep and vivid tints—Hawthorne) What is lush is not only luxuriant but has reached the peak of its perfection; the term distinctively connotes richness, fullness of development, or luxuriousness (how lush and lusty the grass looks! how green!—Shak.) (the lush . . . full-blown landscape of the south through which they had set out that morning—Jan Struther) (the fabulous period of the Nineties, that lush, plush, glittering era with all its sentimentality and opulence and ostentation—S. H. Hay) What is exuberant produces or is produced so abundantly or luxuriantly as to suggest exceedingly great vigor, vitality, or creative power; the term applies chiefly to persons or their words, emotions, or qualities that display a vigor or vitality that is almost rampant (an exuberant fancy) (the exuberant genius of Shakespeare) (to restrain my too exuberant gesture—Mary Austin) (exuberant energy) (actually, in the present context, all our exuberant post-Sputnik talk is irrelevant and even nonsensical—Huxley) Ana copious, abundant (see plentiful): *excessive, immoderate, extravagant: *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent, generous Ant spare, scanty, scant —Con *meager, skimpy, scrimpious, exiguous, sparse progenitor *ancestor, forefather, forebear Ant progeny progeny *offspring, young, issue, descendant, posterity Ant progenitor prognosis *diagnosis prognostic *foretoken, presage, omen, augury, portent Ana indication, betokening, bespeaking (see corresponding verbs at indicate): symptom, *sign, mark, token prognosticate *foretell, predict, forecast, prophesy, augur, presage, portend, foretell Ana *indicate, betoken, bespeak: *foresee, knowfore, apprehend, divine, anticipate program, schedule, timetable, agenda denote a formulated plan listing things to be done or to take place, especially in their time order. Program is the term of widest application. It may refer to a mental plan or to one that is written or printed; it may be applied not only to a plan for a meeting, an entertainment, or a service but to one made by an individual in ordering his own day or his own future or to one made by a group that has certain ends in view and proposes their orderly achievement (what is your program for today?) (the program of a concert) (theater programs) (the Five-Year Plan was the name given the industrialization program of the Soviet Union) Schedule and timetable stress the importance of the time element and imply a plan of procedure which establishes not only the chronological order of events or steps but also their time limits (the schedule for a college year) (a schedule of production in a factory) (the timetable life of a New York University student—N. Y. Times) (the timetable for expansion of Soviet power and influence in Asia has been seriously upset—Mosely) Schedule is sometimes used, but timetable distinctly more often, for a tabulated list of regularly recurring events (as arrivals and departures of trains or buses) (a schedule of classes) (it was in October 1839 that George Bradshaw issued the first timetable to show all trains then running in this country—O. S. Nock) Agenda is applied chiefly to a schedule of the order of business for a meeting. progress n 1 advance (see under ADVANCE vb 2) Ana improvement, betterment (see corresponding verbs at IMPROVE): headway, impetus (see SPEED n) 2 Progress, progression are not always clearly distinguished, although they can be more or less sharply differentiated. Both denote movement forward. Progress (see also progress n under ADVANCE vb 2) usually applies to a movement considered as a whole, stressing such aspects as the distance covered, the change or changes taking place, and the amount of improvement made (we made little progress that day) (note the extent of his progress during the past year) (delightful never-ending progress to perfection—Hazlitt) (the history of educational progress) (the rapid progress of a disease) Progression (see also succession) commonly applies to a movement in itself or in its detail, often implying a continuous series of steps, degrees, or stages toward an objective but sometimes implying little more than a moving on more or less continuously (mode of progression) (that slow progression of things, which naturally makes elegance and refinement the last effect of opulence and power—Reynolds) (every generation . . . adds . . . its own discoveries in a progression to which there seems no limit—Peacock) progress vb *advance Ana *move, drive, impel: further, forward, promote, *advance: develop, *mature Ant retrogression progression 1 *succession, series, sequence, chain, train, string 2 *progress progressive *liberal, advanced, radical Ant reactionary prohibit *forbid, inhibit, enjoin, interdict, ban Ana *prevent, preclude, obviate: debar, shut out, *exclude: *hinder, impede, obstruct: *restrain, curb, check Ant permit —Con *let, allow, suffer: tolerate, endure, *bear project n scheme, design, plot, *plan Ana sketch, delineation, draft, outline, diagram (see under sketch vb): *device, contrivance project vb 1 scheme, design, plot, plan (see under plan n) Ana propose, purpose, *intend: *sketch, outline, diagram, delineate 2 *bulge, jut, stick out, protrubere, protrude, overhang, beetle Ana *extend, prolong, lengthen: swell, distend, *expand projection, protrusion, protruberance, bulge all denote something which extends beyond a level or a normal outer surface. Projection is applicable to anything that juts out, especially at a sharp angle (buttresses are projections which serve to support a wall or a building at a point of great strain or pressure) (machinery set in motion to keep a level smooth . . . feels the least projection, and
promising vb promise, engage, pledge, plighted, covenant, contract are comparable when they mean to give one's word that one will act in a specified way (as by doing, making, giving, or accepting) in respect to something or words that suggest the giving of a solemn assurance or the provision of a formal guarantee (pledged their loyalty to their sovereign) (pledge themselves to maintain and uphold the right of the master—Taney) (pledged $1,000 at a charity auction) (pledged to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland—Rose Macaulay) Contract (see also CONTRACT vb 3, INCUR) implies the entry into a solemn and usually legally binding agreement (see contract n) (contract for a large loan) (the company has contracted to supply the schools of the state with textbooks) (the good wife realizes that in becoming a wife she contracts to forget self and put her husband's happiness above her own—D. F. Miller)

prone adj quick, ready, apt

prone to forget self and put her husband's happiness above her own—D. F. Miller
prop
vb
"support, sustain, bolster, buttress, brace quality, character, attribute, accident property propensity "leaning, proclivity, penchant, flair propaganda
pronounce
*articulate, enunciate proof
1 ground, *reason, argument Ana demonstration, trial, test (see under PROVE): corroboration, confirmation, substantiation, verification (see corresponding verbs at CONFIRM)
2 demonstration, test, trial (see under PROVE) Ant disproof prop vb *support, sustain, bolster, buttress, brace Ana uphold, back (see SUPPORT): hoist, heave, boost, *lift propogate 1 *generate, engender, breed, beget, procreate, sire, reproduce Ana *increase, multiply, augment: *continue, persist: *extend, lengthen, prolong 2 *spread, circulate, disseminate, diffuse, radiate Ana *scatter, disperse, dissipate: *distribute, dispense: *teach, instruct, educate: *communicate, impart: incultate, instill, *implant propel *push, shove, thrust Ana *move, drive, impel: *force, compel, constrain, oblige propensity *leaning, proclivity, penchant, flair Ana *predilection, prejudice, bias, presupposition: *gift, aptitude, bent, turn, knack: predisposition, disposition, inclination (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE) Ant antipathy proper 1 meet, appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous, *fit, suitable Ana congruous, congenial, compatible, *consonant: *correct, nice, right: *due, rightful, condign Ant improper —Con *wrong, *false 2 seemingly, *decorous, decent, nice Ana formal, conventional, ceremonious, *ceremonial property *quality, character, attribute, accident Ana peculiarity, individuality, characteristic (see corresponding adjectives at CHARACTERISTIC) prophecy *revelation, vision, apocolypse Ana communication, impartation (see corresponding verbs at COMMUNICATE): *inspiration prophecy predict, forecast, *foretell, prognosticate, augur, presage, portend, forebode Ana *foresee, foreknow, divine, apprehend, anticipate propositivity *proximity Ana closeness, nearness (see corresponding adjectives at CLOSE): relatedness or relationship, kindredness or kindred (see corresponding adjectives at RELATED) propitiate *pacify, appease, placate, mollify, conciliate Ana reconcile, conform, adjust, *adapt: *satisfy, content: intercede, mediate (see INTERPOSE) propitious auspicious, *favorable, benign Ana benignant, *kind, kindly: fortunate, *lucky, providential, happy Ant unpropitious: adverse —Con *sinister, malefic, maleficient, malign, baleful: *ominous, inauspicious, portentous, fatal proportion *symmetry, balance, harmony proportional, proportionate, commensurate, commensurable are often used without marked distinction because all mean being duly proportioned to something else. Proportional and proportionate both imply due proportions either to a related thing or things, or of things that are related (as by belonging to the same set, series, design, or construction, or by being the effect of a cause or the response to a stimulus). Proportional is the more usual term when a constant and often mathematically precise ratio between corresponding aspects (as size, amount, number, or length) of related things is under consideration; thus, a proportional tax is one assessed as a constant percentage of the value (as of income or realty) being taxed; a proportional wage is a fixed percentage (as of gross sales or profits) (the circumferences of all circles are proportional to the lengths of their radii) (a detailed plan for proportional . . . disarmament to be achieved by stages—Grenville Clark) Proportional may be used, but proportionate is more often used, when the term is intended to imply the adjustment and sometimes the deliberate adjustment of one thing that bears a reciprocal relationship to another thing, so that both are in keeping with each other or not out of keeping with what is just, fair, due, or reasonable (the punishment should be proportionate to the crime) (ponderous bodies forced into velocity move with violence proportionate to their weight—Johnson) (most state taxes produce a yield proportionate only to general economic growth—Armbrister) (they rushed into freedom and enjoyment . . . with an energy proportional to their previous restraint—Dickinson) Commensurate and commensurable differ from the preceding words chiefly in carrying a stronger implication of equality between related things each of which has a value (as of measure, degree, or intensity) that is intimately related to that of the other (the meagerness of the result was commensurate with the crudity of the methods—Buchan) (the two punishments must be perfectly commensurable—Bentham) Sometimes both terms, but especially commensurable, differ from the other words in implying a common scale of values by which outwardly different things can be shown to be equal or proportionate in some significant way (if two magnitudes can both be expressed in whole numbers in terms of a common unit, they are commensurable—W. G. Shute et al) (all civilization[s] . . . are commensurable, and . . . are but ramifications (if not historically, at least phenomenologically) of the one idea of civilization—Schröder) (the measure of a rancher's ability to take care of live- stock while not on public land . . . is referred to as his commensurability and the property so used is his commensurable property—Appraisal Terminology & Handbook) Ana corresponding, correlative, *reciprocal: relative, contingent, *dependent proportionate *proportional, commensurate, commensurable Ana corresponding, correlative, *reciprocal
propose 1 purpose, *intend, mean, design

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

fore often used when the writer or speaker wishes to convey no implications of how the one propounding would answer the question or deal with the proposition (the query is propounded whether the privilege should be accorded to a physician of putting a patient painlessly out of the world when there is incurable disease—Cardozo) (propound the thesis that the great artist is an unconscious artist—T. S. Eliot) (if we may judge from his . . . facility in the propounding of theories—Huxley) Pose often equals propound, except that it frequently implies that no attempt will be or can be made to seek an immediate answer (the problems posed by this situation in the control of cancer and diseases of the heart are receiving the most serious study—Morrison) (I shall try at least to pose basic issues that underlie all our political problems—Frankfurter)

A state (see RELATE): *offer, tender, present

proposition *proposul

propound *propose, pose

proprity *decorum, decency, etiquette, dignity

prorate *apportion, portion, parcel, ration

prosac, proxy, matter-of-fact all denote having a plain, practical, unimaginative, unemotional character or quality. Prosaic implies an opposition to poetic in the extended sense of that word. Although the term suggests the quality of prose, it seldom refers to literary prose as such but rather to the ordinary language of men in communicating their wants, their ideas, or their experiences, or in rendering intelligible what is difficult to understand or make clear; hence, prosaic usually implies a commonplace, unexciting quality, and the absence of everything that would stimulate feeling or awaken great interest (to make verse speak the language of prose, without being prosaic . . . is one of the most arduous tasks a poet can undertake—Copper) (a certain irreverent exuberance which prompts him never to choose a prosaic example for his concrete illustrations—Times Lit. Sup.) (the eighteenth century, from the religious point of view, is a period of rather cold and prosaic common sense—Inge) (a record of mediocrities, of the airless prosaic world of a small college town—E. K. Brown) Prosy, on the other hand, suggests a relation to poetic; it is the verb, rather than to the noun, and heightens the implication in the verb of turning what is poetry or interesting prose into dull plain prose (as by paraphrasing or by translating). Consequently, prosy stresses extreme dullness or tediousness and usually implies a tendency to talk or write at length in a boring or uninviting manner (made me wish that he would be long-winded and prosy instead of twitching me from one thing to another—Sassoon) (call prosy dull society sinners, who chatter and bleat and bore—Gilbert) Matter-of-fact stresses a lack of interest in the imaginative, speculative, visionary, romantic or ideal; sometimes it connotes accuracy in detail, but often it suggests concern only for the obvious and a neglect of the deeper or spiritual reality or an absence of emotional quality (a matter-of-fact account of his experience) (a matter-of-fact historian) (faced with this matter-of-fact skepticism you are driven into pure metaphysics—Shaw) (Lilly, who was matter-of-fact and in whom introspection, poetry or contemplation had no place—Ethel Wilson)

A practical, *practicable: boring, tedious, *irksome

proscribe *sentence, condemn, damn, doom

proselyte *convert

prospect, outlook, anticipation, foretaste are comparable when they mean an advance realization of something to
prosper *succeed, thrive, flourish
vb
prostrate
protract
Hervey
shorten, abridge, abbreviate
Ant
curtail —Con *shorten, abridge, abbreviate

protrude *bulge, jut, stick out, protuberate, project, overhang, beetle
Ana obtrude (see INTRUDE): *extend, prolong: swell, distend, *expand
protrusion *projection, protuberance, bulge
protuberance *projection, protrusion, bulge
protuberate *bulge, jut, stick out, protrude, project, overhang, beetle
Ana swell, distend, *expand
proud 1 Proud, arrogant, haughty, lordly, insolent, overbearing, supercilious, disdainful can mean in common filled with or showing a sense of one's superiority and scorn for what one regards as in some way inferior. Proud (see also proud under PRIDE n) usually connotes a lofty or imposing manner, attitude, or appearance that may be interpreted as dignified, elevated, spirited, imperious, satisfied, contemptuous, or inordinately conceited according to the circumstances *why, why should the spirit of mortal be proud? Like a swift-flitting meteor, a fast-flying cloud . . . he passeth from life to his rest in the grave—William Knox) <she's a stick-up proud girl, and she hasn't a proper decency—{Buck}) Arrogant implies a disposition to claim for oneself, often domineeringly or aggressively, more consideration or importance than is warranted or justly due <the Junker developed into a judge, dominating, arrogant type of man, without cultivation or culture—Shirer) in holidays the atmosphere of home is apt to be dominated by the young people. Consequently they tend to become arrogant and hard—Russell) Haughty implies a strong consciousness of exalted birth, station, or character, and a more or less obvious scorn of those who are regarded as beneath one <pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall—Prov 16:18) <his walk, his haughty, indifferent manner spoke his scorn for the two . . . men who accompanied him—Hervey) The last four words of this group are more specific than the preceding terms and refer more to the ways in which arrogance or haughtiness is exhibited than to the temperament or attitude. Lordly usually suggests pomposity, strutting, or an arrogant display of power or magnificence a lordly indifference to making money by his writings—Stephen) a lordly foreman in a shoe factory—a man who, in distributing the envelopes, had the manner of a prince doling out favors to a servile group of petitioners—Dreiser) Insolent implies both haughtiness and extreme contemptuousness; it carries a stronger implication than the preceding words of a will to insult or affront the person so treated <she could not determine whether the silent contempt of the gentlemen, or the insolent smiles of the ladies, were more intolerable—Austen) <vile food, vile beyond belief, slapped down before their sunken faces by insolent waiters—K. A. Porter) Overbearing suggests a bullying or tyrannical disposition, or intolerable insolence <an overbearing employer) <back country militiamen whose rough overbearing manners sorely tried the Indians' patience—Amer. Guide Series: Tenn.) Superficial stresses such superficial aspects of haughtiness as a lofty patronizing manner intended to repel advances. It refers to one's behavior to others rather than to one's conceit of oneself, though the latter is always implied; often it suggests not only scorn but also incivility <they have no blood these people. Their voices, their supercilious eyes that look you up and down—Galsworthy) <supercilious and haughty they [camels] turn this way and that, like the dowagers of very aristocratic families at a plebeian evening party—Huxley) Disdainful implies a more passionate scorn for what is beneath one
than does supercilious; it as often as not suggests justifiable pride or justifiable scorn (very elegant in velvet and broadcloth, with delicately cut, disdaining features)—one had only to see him cross the room . . . to feel the electric quality under his cold reserve—Cather (a democracy smugly disdainful of new ideas would be a sick democracy—Eisenhower)

Ana contemptuous, scornful, disdainful (see corresponding nouns under DESPISE): pretentious, ostentatious (see SHOWY): imperious, domineering, *masterful

Ant humble: ashamed

2 vain, vainglorious (see under PRIDE n)

Ana exalted, magnified, aggrandized (see EXALT): self-satisfied, *complacent, smug: contented, satisfied (see under SATISFY)

Ant ashamed: humble

prove

Prove, try, test, demonstrate are comparable when they mean to establish a given or an implied contention or reach a convincing conclusion by such appropriate means as evidence, argument, or experiment. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are evident in their corresponding nouns proof, trial, demonstration when they denote the process or the means by which a contention is established or a convincing conclusion is reached. Prove and proof (see also INDICATE, REASON n 1) are the most widely useful of these terms, employable not only in reference to contentions and conclusions, but also in reference to persons or things whose quality (as of strength, genuineness, or fitness) is in question. When used in reference to contentions or to conclusions reached by study, they imply that evidence sufficient in amount and sufficiently reliable in its character has been adduced to bring conviction of the truth of the contentions or conclusions and to make other contentions or other conclusions untenable (this proposition may or may not be true; at present there is certainly no evidence sufficient to prove it true—Russell) (the legislation of the different colonies furnishes positive and indubitable proof of this fact—Taney) But prove and proof when used in reference to persons or things about which there is doubt in some particular imply the settlement of this doubt or the establishing of certainty of his or its quality by subjecting the thing to an experiment or by giving the person a chance to manifest his quality in experience, or by such means as assaying, verifying, or checking (we want to realize our spontaneity and prove our powers, for the joy of it—Justice Holmes) (prove a cannon) (proved his courage in action) (put a man’s loyalty to the proof) (the proof of the pudding is in the eating) Try and trial (see also ATTEMPT vb, TRIAL 2) carry implications from their earliest senses of to separate, or the separation of, the good from the bad in a person or thing, and therefore stress not the conclusion reached but the process by which the guilt or innocence of a person is definitely proved, or a thing’s genuineness or falsity, its worth or worthlessness, or its degree of strength or validity is definitely established (try a person for theft) (a boy does not like to be called a fool, and is usually ready to try the question with his fists—Meredith) (some other apparently inaccessible peak on which to try their ardor and endurance—Mays) (the new employee is on trial) (a brief trial of the plan would convince the people of its futility—Osg & Ray) Test, both as a verb and as a noun, implies a putting to decisive proof by means of experiment, use, experience, or comparison with a high standard, or through subjection to a thorough examination or trial for the sake of such proof or a determination of the facts (experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution—Washington) (the first time he made a helmet, he tested its capacity for resisting blows, and battered it out of shape; next time he did not test it but “deemed” it to be a very good helmet—Russell) (one test of a writer’s value lies in the series of illusions and superstitions which surround his work—Geismar) Demonstrate and demonstration (see also SHOW vb 1) imply the conclusive proof of a contention or the reaching of a conclusion about which there can be no doubt. In such use, prove and demonstrate and their corresponding nouns are not distinguishable except that in demonstrate the emphasis is upon the resulting certainty or formality of method (I’ll first imagined, and then demonstrated, that the geologic agencies are not explosive and cataclysmal, but steady and patient—Eliot) Ana corroborate, verify, substantiate, *confirm: *justify, warrant

Ant disprove

2 *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak, argue

Ana evidence, manifest, evince, *show, demonstrate

provenance, provenience *origin, source, inception, root, prime mover

Ana beginning, commencement, starting (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN)

provender *food, fodder, forage, feed, victuals, viands, provisions, comestibles

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

provide, supply, furnish mean to give or to get what is desired by or needed for someone or something. The words are often used interchangeably without seeming loss (provide what is needed for an army) (supply daily rations of food) (furnish enough men for the expedition) but sometimes one of them rather than either of the others may be selected because of the implications or connotations that it stresses. Provide may suggest foresight and stress the idea of making adequate preparation for something by stocking or equipping; the agent of the action in such cases is usually personal (provide for the common defense—U. S. Constitution) (through the long painful days of inaction his wife sought by every possible means to provide him with occupation—Current Biog.) (federal old-age and survivors insurance provides retirement benefits to workers—Collier’s Yr. BK.) Supply may stress the idea of replacing, of making up what is needed, or of satisfying a deficiency (cards . . . and the polished die, the yawning chasm of indolence supply—Cowper) (unable to supply the public demand) (an age which supplied the lack of moral habits by a system of moral attitudes and poses—T. S. Eliot) (the book would be incomplete without some such discussion as I have tried to supply—Inge) Furnish (see also FURNISH) may emphasize the idea of fitting something or someone with whatever is necessary or, sometimes, normal or desirable (as for use, occupancy, service, or emergencies) (a small salary out of which she had to furnish her own wardrobe—Current Biog.) (the . . . tail of this bird . . . is furnished with proper quills—Winchell) (the southeast trade winds and the tropical foliage furnish alleviating coolness—Chippendale)

Ana *prepare, fit, ready: equip, outfit, arm (see FURNISH): purvey, *cater

provided *if

providence *prudence, foresight, forethought, discretion

Ana *care, solicitue, concern: thoughtfulness, consideration (see corresponding adjectives at THOUGHTFUL): frugality, thriftiness, economy (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING)

Ant improvidence

provident prudent, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet
providential

(provision under PRUDENCE)

Ana careful, solicitous, concerned (see under CARE n):
*thoughtful, considerate: *sparing, economical, frugal, thrifty

Ant improvident

providential *lucky, fortunate, happy

Ana benign, auspicious, propitious, *favorable: be-
nignant, kindly, *kind

providing see under provided at IF

province 1 •field, domain, sphere, territory, bailiwick

Ana *limit, confine, bound, end

2 •function, office, duty

Ana *work, calling, pursuit, business: *task, duty, job

provincial *insular, parochial, local, small-town

Ana circumscribed, confined, limited, restricted (see LIMIT vb): narrow, narrow-minded, *illiberal, intolerant, hidebound, bigoted

Ant broad

—Con cosmic, cosmopolitan, *universal:

*literal, progressive

provision 1 •condition, stipulation, terms, proviso, reservation, strings

Ana clause, article, *paragraph: prerequisite, requisite, *requirement

2 in plural form provisions •food, feed, victuals, viands,

anaesthetic, anesthetic

costembles, provender, fodder, forage

provisional 1 Provisional, tentative are comparable when they mean not final or definitive. Something provisional is adopted only for the time being and will be discarded when the final or definitive form is established or when the need which called it into being no longer exists. Provisional, therefore, is used to describe something made or devised while its permanent successor is in process of formation or construction (a provisional government) <these provisional assemblies would decide the conditions under which elections should be held—Cronyn> or when circumstances prevent introduction of a corresponding definitive or permanent thing; thus, a provisional order of a government agency is one subject to review and revision by the legislative branch; a provisional license or certificate (as of a driver or a teacher) is one destined to be replaced by a permanent license or certificate if the holder maintains certain standards or meets certain additional qualifications. Something tentative is of the nature of a trial or experiment or serves as a test of a thing's practicability or feasibility <the awakening of the modern world to consciousness, and its first tentative, then fuller, then rapturous expression of it—J. R. Lowth> it would be folly to treat the first tentative results as final—Jeans> <Maria was entranced with this reverent gesture, and her tentative approval of her cousin settled into awed respect—Hervey>

Ana *temporary: conditional, *dependent, contingent

Ant definitive

2 •temporary, ad interim, acting, supply

proviso *condition, stipulation, terms, provision, reservation, strings

Ana clause, article, *paragraph: limitation, restriction (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT): contingency, exigency (see JUNCTURE)

provoke 1 Provoke, excite, stimulate, pique, quicken, galvanize can all mean to rouse one into doing or feeling something or to call something into existence by so rousing a person. Provoke stresses a power in the agent or agency sufficient to produce such an effect, but it is often the least explicit of these terms as to the nature or character of that power and may imply nothing more than the effecting of the stated result (<it is not in . . . the emotions provoked by particular events in his life, that the poet is in any way remarkable or interesting—T. S. Eliot> <inoculate you with that disease . . . in order to provoke you to resist it as the mud provokes the cat to wash itself—Shaw> <his candor provoked a storm of controversy—Times Lit. Sup.> Excite carries so strong an implication of a rousing that stirs up, moves profoundly, or serves as a challenge to one's powers that the term is often used merely in the sense of to rouse in any of these ways (<the ideas which excited my own generation—Æ> <a city beautiful enough to delight the romantic, picturesque enough to excite the jaded—Cassidy> Often, however, excite adds to these implications those found in provoke, and thereby becomes a more explicit or richer word than the latter by suggesting the powerful or stirring nature of the agent or agency and the degree or intensity of the activity stirred up (<the curiosity excited by his long absence burst forth in . . . very direct questions—Austen> <the ruler's rivals, driven to outrage or excited to greed had, . . . , intrigue governments built on stilts—Flora Lewis> Stipulate suggests a provoking or exciting by or more often as if by a prick, a spur, or a goad; sometimes therefore it connotes a rousing out of lethargy, indifference, inaction, or inactivity, or a bringing forth into play something that is latent, dormant, or quiescent <the stupidity of the opposition stimulated him, and made him resolve—Mencken> <I have always believed that it is better to stimulate than to correct, to fortify rather than to punish—Benson> Often stimulate specifically implies excitement or reexcitement of interest, especially of an intellectual interest (<some subjects, which are remarkably stimulating to the mind of the pupil, are neglected, because they are not well adapted for examinations—Inge> <it's stimulating to be outside the law. It makes you look sharp, it simplifies the day's job—'Woud> Pique, a term of more restricted application, suggests provocation or stimulation by or as if by something that pricks or irritates (<a show of secrecy always piques her curiosity> <piqued . . . by what he considered to be a premature disclosure of the plan—Armbrister> Quicken implies a stimulation of life, vigor, energy, or activity with consequent beneficial results (<the mistress which I serve quickens what's dead—Shak> <with his feeling for history quickened and sharpened, he was to find another stimulus to follow up this interest of his boyhood—Brooks> Galvanize suggests a highly artificial stimulating or quickening, especially of something old, or stiff, or dying (<he seemed a mere automaton, galvanized into moving and speaking—Hardy> <galvanize the government into vehement and extraordinary preparation—Str Winston Churchill>)

Ana arouse, rouse, *stir: *thril, electrify, enthuse: *galvanize

2 •irritate, exasperate, nettle, aggravate, rile, peev

Ana affront, *offend, insult, outrage: *anger, incense, madden: agitate, upset, perturb (see DISCOMPOSE)

Ant gratify

prowess *heroism, valor, gallantry

Ana bravery, boldness, audacity, intrepidity (see corresponding adjectives at BRAVE): *courage, mettle, spirit: strength, might, puissance, *power

prowl vb •wander, stray, roam, ramble, rove, range, gad, gallivant, traipse, meander

proximity, propinquity are often used almost interchangeably to denote nearness. Proximity, however, commonly implies simple and often temporary nearness in space; it may be used with reference to either persons or things found in the same vicinity or neighborhood (for centuries and centuries their nests have been placed in the closest proximity to man—Jeffries> <his office geographically was just down the corridor from George's, a proximity which Harry had insisted on—Auchincloss> affected
much as he might have been by the proximity of a large dog of doubtful temper—Shaw—Propinquity may imply proximity, but it then usually distinctively suggests closeness, sometimes even contact: we read a book because it happens to be near us and it looks inviting. It is a case where propinquity is everything—Brothers

(they are jammed into such propinquity with one another in their new suburbia—Whyte) But it is more often used as proximity is not, to imply nearness in relationship: here I disclaim all my paternal care, propinquity, and property of blood—Shak.) or closeness in association, in age, or in tastes. (Environment and propinquity make for a desire to graduate from marijuana to opiates—Mauer & Vogel) or even closeness in time: (events occurring in close propinquity to each other) thereby was declared the propinquity of their desolations, and that their tranquility was of no longer duration than those soon decaying fruits of summer—Browne

Ana nearness, closeness (see corresponding adjectives at CLOSE): adjacency, contiguousness, juxtaposition (see corresponding adjectives at ADJACENT)

Ant distance

proxy 650 pseudonym

prudential: prudence, providence, foresight, forethought, discretion are comparable when they denote a quality that enables a person to choose the wise and sensible course, especially in managing his practical affairs. The same differences in implications and connotations are apparent in the corresponding adjectives prudent, provident, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet. Prudence and prudent (see also WISE), the most comprehensive of these words, imply both that one does not act rashly or unadvisedly and that one has foreseen the probable consequences of one's act. Consequently the terms usually imply habitual caution and circumspection: that type of person who is conservative from prudence but revolutionary in his dreams—T. S. Eliot (prudence is a virtue that reviews all of the values at stake and then assigns to each its proper weight—JAMA) (had judged it more prudent to hide than to fight—Heiser) Providence and provident imply thought for the future, especially with reference to its difficulties and its needs and, usually, the provision in advance of what will then be required: (the intellectual providence to acquire...vast stores of dry information—Baghetto) a provident, rather thoughtful people, who made their livelihood secure by raising crops and fowl—Cather

Foresight and foresighted stress a power, usually the result of a highly developed intelligence, of seeing what is likely to happen and of being prepared for it: (the more we study the making of the principate, the more we shall be impressed with the grasp and foresight of its founder—Buchan) (incapable of the foresighted control and adjustment of action which are the essence of all the higher forms of behavior—McDougall)

Forethought and the less frequent forethoughtful suggest due consideration of contingencies (in choosing the Yankee dialect, I did not act without forethought—J. R. Lowell) (every newcomer, be he never so forethoughtful, finds himself lacking tools—Bell) Discretion and discreet stress qualities (as good judgment, caution, and self-control) which make for prudent or compel prudent action; they often imply the power to restrain oneself when one is tempted to be temerarious, passionate, incensed, or loquacious: (encountered an eagerness to talk and a candor of expression among officials that...has heavily taxed my discretion—A. E. Stevenson) (I dare say he will be a disreeter man all his life, for the foolishness of his first choice—Austen)

Ana caution, circumspection, calculation (see under CAUTIOUS): expediency, advisableness (see corresponding adjectives at EXPEDIENT): frugality, thriftiness or thrift (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING)

prudent 1 judicious, sensible, sane, *wise, sage, sapient

prudent 2 provident, foresighted, forethoughtful, discreet (see under PRUDENCE)

Ana *cautious, circumspect, calculating, wary: politic, *expedient, advisable: economical, frugal, thrifty, *sparring

3 Prudent, prudential are sometimes confused in use. Prudent applies to persons or their acts or utterances and implies such qualities of mind or character as caution, circumspection, and thrift (see prudent under PRUDENCE), or as wisdom in practical affairs (see WISE) (a prudent man) (a prudent course) (a prudent way of life) (people who are both dissolute and prudent. They want to have their fun, and they want to keep their position—Sackville-West)

Prudential, on the other hand, applies not to individuals but either to habits, motives, policies, or considerations which are dictated or prescribed by prudence, forethought, business sense, or practical wisdom: (in a prudential light it is certainly a very good match for her—Austen) (from obvious prudential considerations the Pacific has been principally sailed over in known tracts—Melville) or to committees, groups, or associations having charge of practical affairs such as expenditures or exercising discretionary or advisory powers in regard to these (a prudential investment society) (the prudential committee of a Congregational church)

Ana political, *expedient, advisable: advising, counseling (see corresponding verbs under ADVICE)

prudential *prudent

prudish *prim, priggish, prissy, puritanical, straitlaced, stuffy

Ana *rigid, strict: stern, *severe, austere: formal, conventional, solemn (see CEREMONIAL)

prune vb trim, lop, *shear, poll, clip, snip, crop

Ana enhance, heighten (see INTENSIFY): eliminate, *exclude

prying *curious, inquisitive, snoopy, nosy

Ana meddlesome, officious, *impertinent, intrusive, obtrusive

pseudo *counterfeit, spurious, bogus, fake, sham, pinchbeck, phony

Ana *false, wrong: *misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory

pseudonym, alias, nom de guerre, pen name, nom de plume

Incognito all denote a name other than one's true or legal name. Pseudonym usually implies assumption of a fictitious name as an accepted practice of writers, prizefighters, actors, and entertainers; it does not suggest a discreditable motive for one's attempt to conceal one's identity. Alias, in legal use, covers not only assumed names, but those ascribed by others; thus, a boy's true name may be John Potter but he is better known by the alias John Rhoads (Rhoads being his stepfather's name). In more general use alias is associated regularly with offenders against the law and usually connotes an attempt to free oneself by a change of name from the onus of a criminal record. Nom de guerre is a pseudonym assumed by one who seeks anonymity or freedom of scope typically as an adventurer, a critic, or a controversialist; pen name or nom de plume is the pseudonym of a writer. Incognito can denote a name or character adopted especially by a person of rank or eminence from a desire to remain unrecognized or as a polite fiction by which the honors due his rank or eminence may be avoided (the Prince
public
*following, clientele, audience

publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda

*neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist

psychic *mental, intellectual, intelligent, cerebral

psychophysiologist *neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychotherapist

psychopathologist *neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychotherapist, psychoanalyst

psychosis *insanity, lunacy, mania, dementia

psychotherapist *neurologist, psychiatrist, alienist, psychopathologist, psychoanalyst

puberty, pubescence *youth, adolescence

public n *following, clientele, audience

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

publicity, ballyhoo, promotion, propaganda are comparable when they mean either a systematic effort to mold public opinion in respect to something or the means or the manner used in such an effect. Each implies a specialized form of advertising. Publicity is used especially in reference to the activities of and the information disseminated by a person or persons in the employ of individuals, corporations, organizations, associations, or institutions that seek advertising through more or less indirect means in order to attract attention to themselves, their products, or their objectives or that wish to provide a source of authoritative information on matters concerning themselves that are of interest to the public; thus, the work of a theatrical press agent and of a public relations counsel is publicity; in the first case, for an actor or producer seeking favorable notices in the press; in the second, for a corporation or institution that seeks to control the kind of information regarding itself that is published some of his carefully planned speeches, always made in the presence of the right listener, are perfect of their kind—their kind being advertisement, or, as we say now, publicity—Lucas

*beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pulchritudinous

puissance might, strength, *power, force, energy

puissant *powerful, potent, forceful, forcible

Ant impussant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)

*impuissant

pulchritudinous beauteous, good-looking, comely, bonny, pretty, handsome, fair, lovely, *beautiful

pull vb Pull, draw, drag, haul, hale, tug, tow mean to cause to move in the direction determined by the person or thing that exerts force. Pull, the general term, is often accompanied by an adverb or adverbial phrase to indicate the direction (two locomotives pull the heavy train up the grade) (pull a person toward one) (pull down goods from a shelf) (pull out a drawer) (he felt pulled this way and that way by duty and by ambition)
pulsate, pulse, beat, throb, palpitate can mean to manifest a rhythmic movement such as or similar to the one which occurs in the circulatory system when blood is forced along by alternate contractions and relaxations of the vessels of the heart. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are to be found in the nouns pulsation, pulse, beat, throb, palpitation when they are used of this rhythmic movement or of one distinct step in it. Pulsate and pulsation carry few specific or distinguishing connotations, but they usually imply regularity, continuity, and vigor in the rhythm whether it is apparent in movements or in sounds (when the heart no longer pulsates, death occurs). Great effort pulsating from the heart of this small island—Sir Winston Churchill (the pulsations of its engine had died away—Bennett) (long heavy pulsation of airplanes passing over—Thirkell) Pulse, the verb, carries a strong implication of impelled movement; in distinction from pulsate it may also connote a lively succession of spurts, waves, or gushes; thus, the arteries pulsate as the blood pulses through them. The term is more common in general and literary than in technical use. It sometimes takes as its subject what flows or moves in this fashion (as the blood) and at other times what evidences the rhythmic movement (as the heart or blood vessels) (the pulsing waters of the sea) (through the tensed veins on his forehead the blood could be seen to pulse in nervous, staccato bounds—Donn Byrne) (that it moved and breathe in an environment that pulses and glows—Mencken) Pulse, the noun, is chiefly a technical term; even its extended use is affected by or dependent on the term's meaning in physiology. In this sense, pulse usually denotes the number of pulsations of the arteries in a minute as observed commonly by feeling the radial artery of the wrist (a normal pulse) (to feel a patient's pulse) (an intermittent pulse) (in his eardrums, his heavy pulse—Lowell) In extended use pulse, when it does not take the place of pulsation is usually a metaphoric extension of the technical use (Rome was the heart and pulse of the empire... and on its well-being hung the future of the civilized world—Buchan) (one felt the pulse of the village in the pub—MaiS) Beat, both verb and noun, is the ordinary non-technical word often used in place of pulsate and pulsation and sometimes in place of pulse. It stresses rhythmic recurrence of sounds more often than rhythmic and continuous alternation in movement (he could hear the beat of his heart) (his breathing was hard and... the blood beat in his ears and eyes—Robertson Davies) (a question was beating unanswered at the back of his brain—Glascow) It is the more usual designation for something (as the tick of a clock, a stroke on a drum, and the accented syllable in verse or note in music) that strikes the ear at regular intervals (the beat of a bird's wings against a windowpane) (the beating of tom-toms) Both the noun and verb throb imply vigorous and often violent or painful pulsation (throb of drum and timbal's rattle—Housman) The throbbing of an abscised tooth Either is especially appropriate when there is the intent to imply excitement, strain, or emotional stress (the love which fills the letter, which thobs and burns in it—H. O. Taylor) (here is a captain, let him tell the tale; your hearts will throb and weep to hear him speak—Shack) (the throb of their activity is felt throughout the whole body politic—R. M. Dawson) Palpitate and palpitation imply rapid, often abnormally rapid and fluttering, pulsation. In medical use the terms commonly imply overexertion, violent emotion, or a diseased condition; in extended use, however, the words more often imply a rapid vibration, quivering, or shaking, without any connotation of something amiss (then, delicate and palpitating as a silver reed, she stood up in the soft light of the morning—Hewlett) (though the book palpitates with its amour, nothing like simple ordinary human love is to be seen anywhere—Barrett) Ana vibrate, fluctuate, waver, oscillate (see SWING) quiver, shudder, quaver, tremble (see SHAKE) Pulsation pulse, beat, throb, palpitation (see under PULSATE) Pulse n pulsation, beat, throb, palpitation (see under PULSATE) Ana *rhythm, cadence, meter: vibration, fluctuation (see corresponding verbs at SWING) Pulse vb *pulsate, beat, throb, palpitate Ana *move, drive, impel: vibrate, fluctuate, oscillate (see SWING) Pummel vb *beat, pound, buffet, baste, belabor, thrash Ana *strike, hit, smite, slug, punch Punch vb 1 *strike, hit, smite, slug, smack, clout, slap, box, cuff Ana *beat, pound, pummel, baste, belabor 2 *perforate, puncture, prick, bore, drill Ana pierce, penetrate, probe, *enter Punch n *vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, élan, drive Punctilious punctual, meticulous, scrupulous, *careful Ana particular, fuss, squeamish, fastidious, *nice: formal, conventional, ceremonious, *ceremonial Punctual punctilious, meticulous, scrupulous, *careful Ana *quick, prompt, ready: precise, *correct, nice, right Puncture vb *perforate, punch, prick, bore, drill Ana pierce, penetrate (see Enter): deflate, shrink (see CONTRACT vb) Pungent, piquant, poigniant, racy, spicy, snappy are comparable when they mean characterized by sharpness, zest, and a piercing or gripping quality. Pungent applies especially to a sharp, piercing, stinging, biting, or penetrating quality, primarily of odors; it may suggest power to excite or stimulate keen interest or telling force and cogency (her perfume, a sweet pungent odor... evocative and compelling—Styron) (the pungent reek of a strong cigar—Doyle) (his pungent pen played its part in rousing the nation to its later struggle with the Crown—J. R. Green) (the mob needs concrete goals and the pungent thrill of hate in order to give vent to its destructive impulses—Cohen) Piquant may indicate an interesting or appetizing tartness, sharpness, or pungency that stimulates or a zestful, arch, provocative, challenging, or exciting quality that is individual or peculiar (a piquant sauce) (piquant with the tart-sweet taste of green apples and sugar—Spitzer) (piquant touch of innocent malice in his narration—Coulton) (those piquant incongruities, which are the chief material of wit—Montague) Poignant (see also MOVING) may describe what is sharply or piercingly effective upon the senses or stirring to one's inmost consciousness or deepest emotions (the air of romantic poverty which Rosalie found so tragically piquant—Wylie) (with poignant flatness, as a lover might put away a rose from a lost romance—Tobull) (a vague but poignant sense of discouragement that the sacrifices of the
punish, chastise, castigate, chasten, discipline, correct

Ant *incisive, trenchant, biting, cutting: penetrating,

penalize, fine, amerce, mulct: *imprison, incarcer-
correct chastening or made redolent of spice; in extended uses it may suggest
tional wrongdoing <if ye will not... hearken unto me, then

Correct implies punishment having for its aim the amendment or reformation of the offender <his
faults lie open to the laws; let them, not you, correct him
—Shak.> must moreover know how to correct without wounding—Barzun

purchase vb *buy

Ana gain, win, *get, obtain, procure, secure

pure 1 Pure, absolute, simple, sheer denote free from every-
thing that is foreign to the true nature or the essential
character of the thing specified. Pure distinctively suggests freedom from intermixture. When applied to concrete
things, it usually implies lack of contamination, adultera-
ton, or pollution (pure water) (a pure breed) When ap-
piled to an abstraction or to a concrete example of an
abstraction, it implies the absence of everything that would obscure the thing in its essence or in its ideal character
(pure poetry) <an institute devoted to pure physics, as
distinct from applied physics—Endeavour> (as there is a
constant mingling of Hebrew and Aramaic passages, the
Aramaic is not pure—Barton) Absolute implies freedom
from relation to or dependence on anything else; it is ap-
piled chiefly to abstractions (as space, time, and magni-
tude) viewed independently of experience and considered
in their ultimate ideal character; thus, absolute space, as
used in physics, is space conceived of as apart from the
things which occupy it, and which limit or determine the
ordinary person’s notion of it. Because of such use, abso-
late often comes close to real, as opposed to apparent.

 Absolute music, in theory, is music that depends solely on
such distinctive properties of that art as tone, harmony,
and rhythm to produce its effects, and avoids, in contrast
to program music, all suggestion or characterization of
external things. Absolute is applied to substances less
often than is pure, but both are applied to alcohol: pure
alcohol is free from other matter except for a modicum of
water; absolute alcohol is both pure and completely de-
hydrated. Simple stresses singleness of character and is
distinguished from what is compound or complex. It can
connotate homogeneity and incapacity for analysis or further
reduction <an element is a simple substance> quality and
relation are simple notions <was now confronted by
simple beauty, pure and undeniable—Gibbons> <too-
elaborate deference paid them by the neighbors embarr-
sed them and caused them to clothe their wealth in
muted, simple gray—Styron> Simple, as applied to ab-
stractions or conceptions, often suggests artificial freedom
from complexity, and sometimes also unreality or untruth,
when the simplicity is attained by eliminating essential
factors <the world to which your philosophy professor
introduces you is simple . . . . The contradictions of real
life are absent from it—James Sheer, more than any of
these words, tends to lose its significance and to become a
mere intensive <Sheer nonsense> However, it can distin-

guish such a dissociation from everything else that the
pure and essential character of the quality (as a trait, virtue,
or power) to which it is applied is clearly displayed
<the “Ancient Mariner” . . . is a work of sheer imagination
—Lowes> he was part sheer technician, part delighted
dchild when he could demonstrate his sound system—

Theodore Sturgeon>

Ana elemental, *elementary: *clear, transparent, lucid,
lipid: genuine, *authentic

Ant contaminated, polluted: adulterated (of foods,
metals): applied (of science)

2 *chaste, modest, decent

Ana *clean, cleanly: virtuous, *moral, ethical

**Analogous words, Antonyms, Contrasted words** See also explanatory notes facing page 1
purloin *steal, pilfer, filch, lift, pinch, snitch, swipe, cop
puritanical *prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, straitlaced, stuffy
purge vb *rid, clear, unburden, disable
puritanical *prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, straitlaced, stuffy
purge vb *rid, clear, unburden, disable
An abstract, *detach: *rob, plunder, rifle, loot, burgle
purport *substance, gist, burden, core, pith
purposing *supposed, supposititious, suppositious, reputed, putative, conjunctural, hypothetical
purpose n *intention, intent, design, aim, end, object, objective, goal
An *ambition, aspiration: proposition, *proposal: *plan, project, scheme
pursue *follow, chase, trail, tag, tail
An *persevere, persists: *practice, exercise: persecute, oppress (see WRONG vb): hound, ride, *bait, badger
Con flee, fly, *escape: avoid, evade, elude, shun (see ESCAPE)
pursuit calling, occupation, employment, *work, business
pursue *cater, pander
An *furnish, equip, outfit
pursuview *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken
push vb Push, shove, thrust, propel mean to use force upon a thing so as to make it move ahead or aside. Push implies the application of force by a body (as a person) already in contact with the body to be moved onward, aside, or out of the way <push a wheelbarrow along the road> <push a door open> <push a man over a cliff> <an extra locomotive was needed at the rear to push the long train up the grade> <push the excited children into another room>
Shove often differs from push in carrying a stronger implication of the exercise of muscular strength and of forcing something along a surface <the boys shoved the furniture up against the walls> <I picked him up trying to shove in the front door. There wouldn't been any door in a minute—Hellman> Often, when muscular exertion is not strongly implied, haste or roughness or rudeness in pushing is suggested <shoved the paper into his pocket> <shove the articles on the desk into a box> <shove a person out of one's way> <I can't say that I took the drink. It got shoved into my hand—Warren>
Thrust differs from push in carrying a weaker implication of steadiness or continuance in the application of force and a stronger suggestion of rapidity in the movement effected or of violence in the force that is used; often the use of actual physical force is not clearly implied <Abraham . . . thrust the old man out of his tent—Taylor> <thrust her hands in her coat pockets in a coquettish pose—Wouk> Often, also, it implies the sudden and forcible pushing (as of a weapon, implement, or instrument) so that it enters into the thing aimed at <thrust a spear into an opponent's breast> <thrusting their money into a stranger's hand—Wolfe>
Propel implies a driving forward or onward by a force or power that imparts motion. In some use it implies pressure exerted from outside or behind, usually by some power that is not human <the flow of air which propels the slow-sailing clouds—Lowes> <she walked—as if she were being propelled from the outside, by a force that she neither knew nor could control—Tate> Additionally, it is the usual term when the use of a mechanical aid or of an actuating power (as steam or electrical power) is implied <ships propelled by steam> <a galley propelled by fifty oars> <automobiles are usually propelled by internal-combustion engines>
In extended uses push implies a pressing or urging forward (as with insistence, with vigor, or with impetuousness) so that one's end may be gained, one's work may be completed, or one's goal be reached <push the nation into war> <push a theory to an extreme> <he directed a year-long probe . . . then pushed through sweeping reforms—Armbrister> Shove often suggests obtrusiveness or intrusiveness or lack of finesse in attaining an end or making a way for oneself or another <shove oneself into society> <shoving the boring tiring jobs off onto other people—Ann Bridge> Thrust implies a forcing upon others of something that is not wanted, desired, or sought for <some have greatness thrust upon 'em—Shak> <Amy had a grievance . . . because Sophia had recently thrust upon her a fresh method of cooking green vegetables—Bennett> Propel is sometimes used in place of impel when a strong inner urge or appetite is implied as pushing one on, especially toward what one desires <anxiety is not the only force that propels us, but it is surely one of the most potent—Binger>
An *move, drive, impel: *force, compel, constrain, oblige
pushing, pushy *aggressive, militant, assertive, self-assertive
An *vigorous, energetic, strenuous: officious, intrusive, obtrusive (see IMPERTINENT): self-confident, confident, self-assured, assured (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE)
puuss n *face, countenance, visage, physiognomy, mug
pustule *face, countenance, visage, physiognomy, mug
putrefy rot, decompose, *decay, spoil, disintegrate, crumble
An corrupt, vitiate, deprave, *debase: deliquesce (see LIQUEFY)
putrid fetid, noisome, stinking, *malodorous, rank, rancid, fusty, musty
An decomposed, decayed, rotten, putrefied (see DECAY): corrupted, vitiated (see under DEBASE)
putsch *rebellion, revolution, uprising, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, coup
put up *reside, live, dwell, sojourn, lodge, stay, stop
puzzle vb Puzzle, perplex, mystify, bewilder, distract, nonplus, confound, dumbfound are comparable when they mean to disturb and baffle mentally or throw into mental confusion. The first three words express various mental reactions to what is intricate, complicated, or involved. Puzzle implies such complication or intricacy that the mind finds it exceedingly, often distressingly, difficult to understand or to solve <a great poet may tax our brains, but he ought not to puzzle our wits—Birell> <there was much that impressed, puzzled and troubled a foreign observer about the new Germany—Shirer> Perplex adds to puzzle the implications of worry and uncertainty, especially about reaching a decision on a course of action or the right solution of a personal problem <Southerners . . . were terribly perplexed and torn when the conceptions on which

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
they had been living began to be broken down—Edmund Wilson
To mystify is to perplex, sometimes by playing upon one's credulity, but more often by concealing important facts or factors or by obscuring issues (when she was weary of mystifying foreign statesmen, she turned to find fresh sport in mystifying her own ministers—J. R. Green) (once prescriptions were written almost altogether in Latin. This was not done to mystify the patient—Fishbein). Bewilder often implies perplexity, but it stresses a confused state of mind that makes clear thinking and complete comprehension practically impossible (bewilder by contradictory statements and orders) (do not run to the Socialists or the Capitalists, or to your favorite newspaper, to make up your mind for you: they will only unsettle and bewilder you—Shaw). Distract implies strong agitation arising from divergent or conflicting considerations or interests (she seemed nervous and distracted, kept glancing over her shoulder, and crushing her handkerchief up in her hands)—Cather. Consciousness of ... a current of unsaid speeches, which would distract her feelings and perhaps confuse a little her thoughts—Gibbons.) The last three words imply less mental disturbance and distress than some of the preceding terms, but they heighten the implication of bafflement and mental confusion. Nonplus implies blankness of mind or utter inability to find anything worth saying or doing (the problem which nonplussed the wisest heads on this planet, has become quite a familiar companion of mine. What is reality?—L. P. Smith) (she was utterly nonplussed by the pair of them. ... What on earth were they?—Goudge.) Confound (see also mistake) implies mental confusion, but it stresses the implication either of mental paralysis or of profound astonishment (so spake the son of God; and Satan stood a while as mute, confounded—Milton) (language to him is a means of communication ... He does not wish to dazzle or confound his friends, but only to make himself understood—Crothers) (this sorrow ... seemed to have confounded him beyond all hope—Styron). Dumbfound tends to replace confound in casual and oral use (I cannot wriggle out of it; I am dumbfounded—Darwin) (he captured the public and dumbfounded the critics—Mac). Sometimes dumbfounded so strongly implies astonishment that it is used in place of astounded (I was dumbfounded to hear him say that I was on a quixotic enterprise—William Lawrence).

**Ana** amaze, astound, flabbergast (see surprise): confuse, muddle, addle: embarrass, disconcert, discomfit

**quality**

one quality in a woman that appealed to him—charm—Galsworthy) (the persistent contemporariness that is a quality of all good art—Huxley) (her self-consciousness awkwardness lent her a dangerous amateur quality—Salinger). A property is a quality that is proper to a species or type; it therefore belongs to a thing by virtue of that thing's true or essential nature (the eye has this strange property: it rests only in beauty—Woolf) (rhythm is a property of words—Rickword) (Sir Joseph Thomson ... pointed out that weight is only an "apparently" invariable property of matter—Ellis). A character is a peculiar or distinctive quality more often of a class than of an individual. The term is used especially in scientific and philosophical writing with reference to the properties which distinguish an isolable subgroup (as a species) within a larger group (as a genus) (wheat and oats share the properties of cereal grasses but have specific characters that clearly differentiate them) (barynite and noselite show characters like sodalite, but they differ from it in containing the radical SO3 in the place of chlorine—Pirsson). An attribute is a quality that is ascribed to a thing. The term may imply a lack of definite knowledge of the thing in question; thus, one can speak of the attributes of God, meaning the qualities men ascribe to him (to endow her with all the attributes of a mythological paragon upon Olympus—Wylie) (historical personages become invested with romantic attributes—Wright). More often attribute denotes a quality that, though ascribed, is felt as an essential concomitant which must belong to a thing by reason of its nature (mercy is ... an attribute to God himself—Shak). This Confederation had none of the attributes of sovereignty in legislative, executive, or judicial power—Taney). An accident basically is a nonessential trait; in philosophical use, however, the term often means one of the qualities by which a thing manifests itself and implies, therefore,

**puzzle**

one, another, as many as, as much as, as much of, as many of, as much as any, as many as any, as much as all, as many as all, as much as some, as many as some
a contrast with the substance—or the real, but unapparent, nature—of the thing <waves [on a Japanese artist's screen] such as these, divested of all accident of appearance, in their naked impetus of movement and recoil—Binyon> In more general use accident usually implies fortuitousness or lack of intrinsic value <rhyme is . . . an accident rather than an essential of verse—Lowers> <certainly many mystics have been ascetic. But that has been the accident of their philosophy, and not the essence of their religion—Ellis> *Ana predication, affirmation (see corresponding verbs at assert): peculiarity, individuality, characteristic (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic)

2 Quality, stature, caliber are often interchangeable as indicating, when used without modifiers, distinctive merit or superiority. Quality implies a complex of qualities <see quality 1> and is therefore always singular in use. The term usually implies a high order of excellence, virtue, strength of character, or worth <splendid writing, of course, but to no purpose . . . It's not quality we look for in a novel, but mileage—Purdy> <they're all made by machinery now. The quality may be inferior, but that doesn't matter. It's the cost of production that counts—Dahl> <this little Tania had quality; she carried her scars without a whimper—Bambrick> Stature implies that the one considered has reached or is in process of reaching the height or greatness possible to one of his kind <problings in the realms of life and matter have seemed to diminish man's stature and to belittle his dignity—Marquand> <every piece of work you do adds something to your stature, increases the power and maturity of your experience—Wolfe> Caliber suggests extent or range especially of one's mind or powers; it may connote unusual but measurable range, scope, or breadth of ability or intellect but often depends on qualification to supply a standard of reference or comparison or to indicate the direction of deviation from the norm <a man of high moral caliber—We are on the hill—John Hammond> <pundits of big and little caliber—Craig Thompson> *Ana *excellence, virtue: value, *worth

qualm, scruple, compunction, demur can all denote a feeling of doubt or hesitation as to the rightness or wisdom of something one is doing or is about to do. Qualm implies an uneasy, often a sickening, sensation that one is not following the dictates of his conscience or of his better judgment <have no qualms at all in committing adultery—Book-of-the-Month Club News> <how few little girls can squash insects and kill rabbits without a qualm—Rose Macaulay> <we go on spreading culture as if it were peanut butter . . . but we feel qualms about the result—Barun> Scruple denotes mental disturbance occasioned by doubt of the rightness, the propriety, the fairness, or, sometimes, the outcome of an act; it often implies a principle as the source of the disturbance, and it may imply an overnice conscience or an extremely delicate sense of honor <she has no scruples about carrying away any of my books> <began to have scruples, to feel obligations, to find that veracity and honor were . . . compelling principles—Shaw> <he has not pretended an apprehension which he does not feel, but has candidly disclosed his conscientious scruples—Meltzer> Compunction (see also penitence) implies a usually transitory prickle or sting of conscience that warns a person that what he is about to do or is doing is wrong, unfair, unjust, or improper; it may additionally suggest a degree of concern for a potential victim <showed no compunction in planning devilish engines of military destruction—Ellis> <he has to be taught . . . to feel compunction when he has wantonly caused tears—Russell> *Demur stresses hesitation to such an extent that it carries a stronger implication of delay than any of the other terms; it usually suggests, however, a delay caused by objections or irresolution rather than by an awakened conscience or by a scruple or compunction <he doubts with a persistence of demur and question that might well have surprised Descartes himself—Times Lit. Sup.> <with some misgivings but without demur his committee accepted the decision—Time> *Ana misgiving, *apprehension, foreboding, presentiment: doubt, mistrust, suspicion, *uncertainty

quandary *predicament, dilemma, plight, scrape, fix, jam, pickle

Ana *juncture, pass, exigency, emergency, contingency, crisis: *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude: puzzling or puzzle, mystification, perplexity, bewilderment (see corresponding verbs at puzzle)

quantity amount, *sum, aggregate, total, whole, number

quarrel n Quarrel, wrangle, altercation, squabble, bicker- ing, spat, tiff are comparable when they mean a dispute marked by anger or discord on both sides. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are found in their corresponding verbs, quarrel, wrangle, altercation, squab- ble, bicker, spat, tiff. Quarrel usually implies heated verbal contention, but it stresses strained or severed relations which may persist even after verbal strife has ceased <patch up a quarrel> <she hated any kind of quarrel . . . shuddered at raised voices and quailed before looks of hate—Stafford> <the middle class had taken over the reins. It quarreled with James I, beheaded Charles I—Barr> Wrangle implies undignified and often futile disputation with noisy insistence on each person's opinion <a vulgar wrangle was unknown and indented it was only among the upper servants that . . . jealous friction existed—Sackville-West> <makes them wrangle interminably about petty details—Laski> Altercation and the rare verb altercate imply fighting with words as the chief weapons, though blows may also be connotated <i have an extreme aversion to public altercation on philosophic points—Franklin> <Lydia, foreseeing an altercation, and alarmed by the threatening aspect of the man, attempted to hurry away—Shaw> <it becomes us not . . . to altercate on the localities of the battle—Lytton> Squabble stresses childish and unseemly wrangling over a petty matter; it does not necessarily imply anger or bitter feeling <they had always squabbled . . . but their scenes, with the shouting, the insults, the threats, and the flare-ups of mutual revulsion had gradually increased—Farrell> <a mere squable in the children's schoolroom—Moorehead> Bickering and bicker imply constant and petulant verbal sparring or interchanges of cutting remarks; they suggest an irritable mood or mutual antagonism <the tearing worries of political snarls, of strife between capital and labor, of factional bickering—Salzberger> <though men may bicker with the things they love, they would not make them laughable in all eyes, not while they loved them—Tennyson> *Spat also implies an insignificant cause but, unlike squabble and bicker, it suggests an angry outburst and a quick ending without hard feelings <it wasn't a fight, really—more of a spat than anything else—Heggen> <a teen-ager who . . . is spattering with her mother over unchaperoned dates—Time> Tiff differs from spat chiefly in implying a disagreement that manifests itself in ill humor or temporarily hurt feelings <at the trial circumstantial evidence piled up against him, including his earlier tiff . . . which was offered as a motive—Hilton>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
quarrel vb wrangle, altercation, squabble, bicker, spat, tiff (see under QUARREL n)
Ana *contend, fight, battle, war: dispute, agitate, argue, *discuss
Con *agree, concur, coincide
quarrelsome pugnacious, combative, bellicose, *belligerent, contentious
Ana antagonistic, *adverse, counter: hostile, inimical, antipathetic, rancorous (see corresponding nouns at ENMITY)
quarry *victim, prey
quash 1 *annul, abrogate, void, vacate 2 *crush, quell, extinguish, suppress, quench
Ana *destroy: *ruin, wreck: *suppress, repress
quaver vb *shake, tremble, shudder, quake, totter, quiver, shiver, wobble, teeter, shimmery, dither
Ana falter, waver, vacillate, *hesitate: vibrate, fluctuate, sway (see SWING)
quay *wharf, dock, pier, slip, berth, jetty, levee
quench *crush, quell, extinguish, suppress, quench
Ana *destroy: *ruin, wreck: *suppress, repress
quell
Ana *doubtful, dubious, questionable: droll, funny, *laughable: bizarre, grotesque, *fantastic
quell *victim, prey
quarry
Ana *intelligent, clever, smart, quick-witted: deft, adroit, *dexterous: *sharp, acute, keen
Ant sluggish
quicken vb 1 Quicken, animate, enliven, vivify can mean to make alive or lively, but the words diverge more or less widely in their implications. Quicken stresses either the renewal of life, especially of suspended life or growth, or the rousing of what is inert into fullness of activity. Sometimes the rekindled life is physical but more often it is spiritual, intellectual, or imaginative (it is the Spirit that quickeneth . . . the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life—Jn 6:63) its characters never quicken with the life one feels lurks somewhere within them—Jerome Stone) Animate (compare animated under LIVING and LIVELY) emphasizes the imparting of vitality or of motion and activity or the giving of liveliness or of the appearance of life to something previously deficient in or lacking such a quality (that which animates all great art—spiritual ferment—Clive Bell) vendors and shoppers . . . animate its lanes—W. R. Moore) Enliven suggests a stimulating influence that kindles, exalts, or brightens; it therefore presupposes dullness, depression, or torpidity, in the thing affected (the sun . . . was wonderfully warm and enlivening—D. H. Lawrence) but soon the feel of the paint on the canvas begins to enliven his mind; and the mind thus quickened conceives a livelier curiosity about the creature before him—Montague) Vivify sometimes, like quicken, implies the renewal of life and at other times, like animate, implies the giving of the appearance of life. In each case it usually also suggests a freshening or energizing effect and implies vitality more often than activity or motion (in . . . the Elizabethan age, English society at large was accessible to ideas, was permeated by them, was vivified by them—Arnold) (the room was dead. The essence that had vivified it was gone—O. Henry) (that Promethean fire, which animates the canvas and vivifies the marble—Reynolds) Ana activate, *vitalize, energize: rouse, arouse, *stir
Ant deaden
quick-witted clever, bright, smart, *intelligent, alert, knowing, brilliant

race •define, specify, designate—Ant

quick-wittedness cleverness, brightness, smartness, smartness, *intelligence, alertness, knowing, brightness

Race •the Celtic race, usually designates the citizenry as a whole of a sovereign state and implies a certain homogeneity because of common laws, institutions, customs, or loyalty •the British nation •the French nation •the house must have been built before this country was a nation •Tate •what is a nation? A group of human beings recognizing a common history and a common culture, yearning for a common future or social rather than a national unity, can apply to a large group crossing national boundaries and with something significantly in common •the children of the world are one nation •the very old, another—Jan Struther •for the two nations that inhabit the earth, the rich and the poor—Sitwell •the Gypsy nation •People, sometimes interchangeable with nation though stressing a cultural or social rather than a national unity, can apply to a body of persons, as a whole or as individuals, who share a consciousness of solidarity or common characteristics suggesting a common culture or common interests or ideals and a sense of kinship •the Mexican people •Prewett •the British and American peoples •Sir Winston Churchill •the people of the United States •U. S. Constitution •the peoples of the United Nations •U. N. Charter

R

rabid *furious, frantic, frenzied, wild, frenetic, delirious •maddened, enraged, infuriated, incensed, angered (see ANGER vb): violent, compulsive (see corresponding nouns at FORCE): *insane, crazed, crazy, demented, deranged

race 1 Race, nation, people, even though in technical use they are commonly differentiated, are often used popularly and interchangeably to designate one of a number of great divisions of mankind, each made up of an aggregate of persons who are thought of, or think of themselves, as comprising a distinct unit. In technical discriminations, all more or less controversial and often lending themselves to great popular misunderstanding or misuse, race is anthropological and ethnological in force, usually implying a distinct physical type with certain unchanging characteristics (as a particular color of skin or shape of skull) •the Caucasian race •the Mongolian race •the Aryan race •the house must have been built before this country was a nation—Tate

2 vb •define, specify, designate—Ant

quote, cite, repeat are not close synonyms, though all mean to speak or write again something already said or written by another. Quote usually implies a use of another's words, commonly with faithful exactness or an attempt at it, for some special effect like adornment, illustration, close examination •I will quote a passage which is unfamiliar enough to be regarded with fresh attention —T. S. Eliot •But sometimes quote is applied to a more general referral to someone as the author or source of information without implication of precise reproduction of an original statement •don't quote me as your authority •in one sense we are quoting all the time. To whistle Tin Pan Alley's latest inanity is to quote •To transmit the tired gag of a television comic is to quote—Fadiman

Cite is likely to stress the idea of adding, bringing forward, or mentioning for a particular reason, like substantiation or proof, with or without the idea of uttering another's words •the critic cited in the opening of this chapter—Leavis •ask a senator if he could cite a single piece of legislation enacted solely for the benefit of the public—Armbrister

Repeat stresses the fact of a saying or writing over again of someone else's words often with no reference to the source •repeat a rumor

Typically it carries none of the implication of formal or dignified reasons for the procedure that attaches to quote and cite •unrealistic to go on repeating phrases about the connection of industry with personal independence—Dewey

Aqu •adduce, allege, advance

R

R

R
rally
*stir, rouse, arouse, awaken, waken•rank
racket *din, uproar, pandemonium, hullabaloo, babel, hubbub, clamor
racking *excruciating, agonizing
Ana persecute, oppress (see wrong vb): harry, harass, *worry, annoy

Analogous comparison

Ana luxuriant, lush, exuberant, *profuse, lavish: im-moderate, *excessive, inordinate
Con *moderate, temperate: restrained, curbed, checked (see restrain)
rampart *bulwark, breastwork, parapet, bastion
rancid *malodorous, stinking, fetid, rank, noisome, putrid,usty, musty
Ana decomposed, decayed, spoiled (see decay): *offensive, loathsome, repulsive
rancor antagonism, animosity, animus, antipathy, *enmity, hostility
Ana hate, hatred, detestation, abhorrence, abomination (see under hate vb): spite, *malice, malevolence, malignity, malignancy, spleen, grudge
random, haphazard, chance, chancy, casual, desultory, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky are comparable when they mean having a cause or a character that is determined by accident rather than by design or by method. What is random comes, goes, occurs, or is done or made without a fixed or clearly defined aim, purpose, or evidence of method or system or direction; the term implies an absence of guidance by a governing mind, eye, or objective (a random shot) (a random answer to a question) (my choice was as random as blindman’s buff—Burns) (the tail end of the conference was becoming frayed and random—Rand) (the clerks became tired and bored and start making random mistakes—Martin Gardner) What is haphazard is done, made, arranged, used, or said without concern or without sufficient concern for its fitness, its effectiveness, or its possible ill effects, and is more or less at the mercy of chance or whim or of natural or logical necessity (a haphazard policy) (the disorder ... the haphazard scattering of stray socks, shirts and collars, old shoes, and unpressed trousers—Wolfe (not a collection of haphazard schemes, but rather the orderly component parts of a connected and logical whole—Roosevelt) What is described as chance comes or happens to one or is done or made by one without prearrangement or preawareness or without preparation; the term is applicable not only to things but to persons with whom one comes into contact more or less by accident (a chance acquaintance) (a chance meeting with an old friend) (found it increasingly difficult to welcome chance visitors with his usual affability—Graves) What is chancy involves uncertainty and risk because its results, actions, responses, or condition cannot be predicted; the term applies more often to situations and things than to persons (a chancy road to take at night) (a chancy appeal, at best, to the shifting and unguessable sympathies of their readers—Morse) (despite recent advances in geophysics, oil drilling is still a chancy business—Kane) What is casual (see also accidental) leaves or seems to leave things to chance, and works, acts, comes, or goes haphazardly or by chance, or without method or deliberation or indication of intent or purpose; the term often also suggests offhandedness (a casual remark) (his treatment of his friends is casual) or lightness or spontaneity (she was constantly referring to dear friends ... in a casual way) (in a casual and familiar way—Ellis) or lack of definiteness in terms or intention (their policy was opportunistic at home and casual abroad—Spectator) (the casual allusion, the chance reference to her—Henry Adams) What is desultory is not governed by method or system but jumps or skips erratically from one thing to another; the term may imply additionally such consequences as irregular or inconsistent performance or lack of continuity or plan or persistence (make reading have a purpose instead of being desultory—Russell) (its growth from 1900 to 1950 had been desultory—Michener) (a dragged-out ordeal of worry,
aimless wandering, and desultory shopping—Wouk> What is hit-or-miss is so haphazard in its character or operation as to be or appear so wholly lacking in plan, aim, system, or care that one is indifferent as to how it turns out or as to what pattern or arrangement it makes <hit-or-miss patchwork> <a hit-or-miss policy was pursued by the Department of Justice—Ripley> <his . . . training had given him a profound prejudice against inexact work, experimental work, hit-or-miss work—Forester> A person is happy-go-lucky who leaves everything to chance or who accepts with happiness or easy indifference whatever comes; a thing is happy-go-lucky that is governed by such a disposition <a radical pragmatist on the other hand is a happy-go-lucky . . . sort of creature—James> <a funny little happy-go-lucky native-managed railway—Kipling> Ana fortuitous, *accidental, casual: vagrant, vagabond, truant (see corresponding nouns at VAGABOND)

range n 1 *habitat, biotype, station

2 Range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview can denote the extent that lies within the powers of something to cover, grasp, control, or traverse. Range is the general term indicating the extent of one’s perception or the extent of powers, capacities, or possibilities <safe, well out of the range of the pursuers> <a beautiful voice with a wide range between the high and the low tones—Ellis> <a creative writer can do his best only with what lies within the range and character of his deepest sympathies—Cather> <the whole range of Greek political life—Dickinson> Gamut suggests a graduated series running from one possible extreme to another <types of light each occupying its particular place in that far-reaching roster or gamut which is called the spectrum—Darrow> Reach suggests an extent of perception, knowledge, ability, or activity attained to or experienced by or as if by stretching out <moving step by step toward the widest generalizations within his reach—L. J. Henderson> <of out of reach of the first invading forces> <anything like sustained reasoning was beyond his reach—Stephen> Radius suggests a usually circular area (as of activity) implied by a known or determined center <the town’s history has been the history of coal; within a radius of five miles are 12 large mines—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.> Compass implies an extent, sometimes more limited than that suggested by range, of perception, knowledge, or activity; it is likely to connote a bounding circumference <the powers expressly granted to the government . . . are to be contracted . . . into the narrowest possible compass—John Marshall> <here we get in very small compass . . . as many different reminders of the continuity of the country . . . as you will find anywhere—Mails> Sweep suggests extent, often circular or arc-shaped, of motion or activity, which latter notion it more strongly suggests than the preceding terms <the boldness and sweep of Webster’s original scheme appear plain on reflection; it was sweep of their universal robbery, they showed at least no discrimination between native and foreign victims—Osbert Sitwell> Scope is applicable to an area of activity, an area predetermined and limited, but an area of free choice within the set limits <its scope was widened by the legislature to include other departments—Amer. Guide Series: Texas> the infinite scope for personal initiative in business—Shaw> Orbit suggests a range of activity or influence, often circumscribed and bounded, within which forces work toward accentuating, integrating, or absorbing <communities . . . outside the orbit of modernity—Lippmann> <the war as a gigantic cosmic drama, embracing every quarter of the globe and the whole orbit of man’s life—Buchan> Horizon suggests an area, periphery within which forces are working or moving.
rapture

**ecstasy, transport**

**rate**

vb

1

**rapt**

ratify, rarefy

vb

berate, upbraid, *scold, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl,* *scrape, scratch, grate, grind*

rasp

rash

•villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, ras- *vagabond, vagrant, tramp, hobo, bum*

rat

absorbed, engrossed, *intent*

ecstatic, transported, rapturous (see corresponding nouns at ECSTASY): enchanted, captivated, fascinated (see ATTRACTION)

Con

*indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, uninterested, disinterested*

rapture

ecstasy, transport

Anna

bliss, beatitude, blessedness, felicity, *happiness*

rare

1 tenous, slight, *thin, slender, slim*

2 delicate, dainty, exquisite, *choice, elegant, recherché*

Anna

excelling or excellent, transcending or transcendent, surpassing (see corresponding verbs at EXCEED): superlative, *supreme, incomparable*

3 scarce, *infrequent, uncommon, occasional, sporadic*

Anna

exceptional: singular, unique, curious, *strange*

Con

*usual, customary, wonted, accustomed, habitual:*

*common, ordinary, familiar*

rarefy

*thin, attenuate, extenuate, dilute*

Anna

diminish, reduce, lessen, *decrease: expand, dis- tend, inflate*

rascal

*villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, rogue, scam, rascal, rascally, miscreant*

rash

daring, daredevil, reckless, foolhardy, *adventurous, venturesome*

Anna

*punctilious, abrupt, impetuous, sudden, hasty: *desperate, forlorn (see DESPONDENT)

Ant calculating —Con

*cautious, circumspect, wary, chary*

rasp

vb

*scratch, grate, grind*

Anna

*abrade, excoriate, chafe, fret: irritate, exasperate, aggravate: annoy, vex, irk, bother*

rate

vb

berate, upbraid, *scold, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig, rail, revile, vituperate*

Anna

*reprove, reproach, rebuke, reprimand, admonish, chide: censure, condemn, denounce, reprehend, reprove, *criticize*

rate

vb

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

Anna

*calculate, compute, reckon, estimate: decide, determine, settle*

2 *class, grade, rank, graduate, graduade*

Anna

*order, arrange, systematize, methodize: assort, sort, classify*

ratify, confirm

are comparable when they mean to make something legally valid or operative. Both terms pre- sume previous action by a person or body with power of appointing, of legislating, or of framing such a document as a constitution, a treaty, or a contract, and imply reference therefore only to the act of the person or body endowed with the power to accept or to veto the appointment, bill, or document. The terms are occasionally interchanged without loss, but ratify usually carries a stronger implication of approval than confirm and is therefore used by preference when the acceptance of something (as a constitution, a treaty, or a course of action) that has been framed or proposed by a committee or a small body is put up to a larger body (as a society, legislature, or nation) for a vote that testifies to its approval (the men who had written and signed the Constitution became the leaders of the fight to ratify it—Smelser & Kirwin) confirm, on the other hand, stresses the giving of formal or decisive assent as necessary to a thing's validity; it applies specifically to appointments made by an executive (as a president or governor) that according to the constitution of a nation or state require the consent of a body (as a senate, a legislature, or a council) before they are def- initely settled and made legally valid (the other executive function of the Senate, that of confirming nominations submitted by the president—Bryce) (the Senate's powers to ratify treaties and confirm appointments of ambassadors —Dimond & Pfieger)

Anna

*authorize, accredit, license, commission: sanction, *approve, endorse: validate, authenticate (see CONFIRM)*

tialiocation

*inference*

Ant

intuition

ratioinative

inferential (see under INFERENCE) *

Ant

intuitive

ration

Ration, allowance, dole, pittance denote the amount of food, supplies, or money allotted to an individual.

Ration implies apportionment and, often, equal sharing. Specifically it is applied in military and naval use to the daily supply of provisions given each man, and in stock- breeding to the daily or periodical supply of food for each animal. In these uses it generally implies dietary variety and restricted amounts of each food. When used of a particular food or commodity (as meat or gasoline) it implies a shortage in the supply and a limitation on the amount allowed each person. Allowance, though often interchangeable with ration, is wider in its range of application. Both imply restriction in amount, but allowance stresses granting rather than sharing and is applicable to money and many other things besides food or commodities (a daily allowance of tobacco for the old pensioners) (a schoolboy's weekly allowance) (the court determines an heir's allowance during his minority) Dole tends to imply a grudging division and needy or sometimes grasping recipients (cold charity's unwelcome dole—Shelley) (no rich man's largess may suffice his soul, nor are the plundered succored by a dole—E. V. Cooke) In current, chiefly British, use dole is applied to a payment to unem- ployed workers, whether in the form of relief or insurance, by the national government. Pittance is likely to suggest, or even stress, scantiness or meagerness. It is applicable to a ration, an allowance, a dole, or a wage, the context usually making the reference clear (and gained, by spinning hemp, a pittance for herself—Wordsworth) (in England, such a dowry would be a pittance, while elsewhere it is a fortune—Byron)

Anna

apportionment, portioning or portion (see corre-ponding verbs at APPORTION): sharing or share, participation, partaking, (see corresponding verbs at SHARE)

ration vb

*apportion, portion, prorate, parcel*

Anna

divide, * distribute, dispense, deal, dole: * share, partake, participate

rational, reasonable

may be applied to men, their acts, utterances, or policies in the senses of having or manifesting the power to reason, or of being in accordance with what reason dictates as right, wise, or sensible. Rational usually implies a latent or active power to make inferences from the facts and to draw from such inferences conclusions that enable one to understand the world about him and to relate such knowledge to the attainment of personal and common ends; often, in this use, rational is opposed to emotional or animal (we are rational; but we

Anna

analogous words

Ant

antonyms

Con

contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
are animal too—Cowper) (the rational, the intelligent, the orderly processes of behavior—Mumford) (to cure this habit of mind, it is necessary . . . to replace fear by rational prevision of misfortune—Russell) When the term is applied to policies, projects, systems, or to something conceived or formulated, rational is preferred when justification on grounds that are satisfactory to the reason is specifically implied (the advantages of a rational orthography—Grandgent) (let's just entertain the notion as a rational hypothesis which may or may not be true—Mailer) Reasonable usually carries a much weaker implication than rational of the power to reason in general, or of guidance by conclusions drawn by the reasoning powers; typically it applies to actions, decisions, choices, or proposals that avoid obvious mistakes and that are practical, sensible, just, or fair (if that belief, whether right or wrong, may be held by a reasonable man, it seems to me that it may be enforced by law—Justice Holmes) (asking me some reasonable if openly ignorant questions about the nature of the bullfight—Mailer) (the formation of reasonable habits, of method, of punctuality . . . makes enormously for the happiness and convenience of every one about us—Benson).

Ant irrational: animal (of nature): demented

demolish, raze

raze *demolish, *destroy

rationalize *explain, account, justify


Loud, stentorian, earsplitting, hoarse, strident, *strident

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
reach vb Reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain can mean to arrive at a point by effort or work. Reach is the most general term, being capable of reference to whatever can be arrived at by exertion of any degree and applicable to such diverse matters as a point in space, in time, or in a development, or as a destination, a goal, or a position of eminence. <i>They reached the city that night</i> (after a long discussion they reached an understanding) In extended use reach may be predicated even of inanimate things (the hour hand has reached two). Gain usually implies a struggle to reach a contemplated or desired destination or goal (gained the confidence of the mountain people by his . . . sympathetic approach—Persons) (I had gained the frontier and slept safe that night—Browning) Compass implies efforts to get around difficulties or to transcend limitations; it often connotes skill or craft in management (a writer who is attempting a higher strain of elevation or pathos than his powers can compass—Montague) (If you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the officers—Austen) Achieve can stress the skill or the endurance as well as the efforts involved in reaching an end (some are born great, some achieve greatness—Shak.) (no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it—Heiser) Often it implies accomplishment of something that is in itself a feat or triumph (a complete moral unity such as England achieved—Bellow) Attain connotes more strongly than any of the others the spur of aspiration or ambition (his constant efforts to attain his ends) It is therefore especially referable to ends beyond the vision, the scope, or the powers of most men (this indispensable condition of the safety and civilization of the world is, indeed, very difficult to attain—Hobson) (a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit such as but once or twice has been attained in the world's history—Binyon) 

Reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain can mean to reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain can mean to arrive at a point by effort or work. Reach is the most general term, being capable of reference to whatever can be arrived at by exertion of any degree and applicable to such diverse matters as a point in space, in time, or in a development, or as a destination, a goal, or a position of eminence. (they reached the city that night) (after a long discussion they reached an understanding) In extended use reach may be predicated even of inanimate things (the hour hand has reached two). Gain usually implies a struggle to reach a contemplated or desired destination or goal (gained the confidence of the mountain people by his . . . sympathetic approach—Persons) (i had gained the frontier and slept safe that night—Browning) Compass implies efforts to get around difficulties or to transcend limitations; it often connotes skill or craft in management (a writer who is attempting a higher strain of elevation or pathos than his powers can compass—Montague) (If you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the officers—Austen) Achieve can stress the skill or the endurance as well as the efforts involved in reaching an end (some are born great, some achieve greatness—Shak.) (no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it—Heiser) Often it implies accomplishment of something that is in itself a feat or triumph (a complete moral unity such as England achieved—Bellow) Attain connotes more strongly than any of the others the spur of aspiration or ambition (his constant efforts to attain his ends) It is therefore especially referable to ends beyond the vision, the scope, or the powers of most men (this indispensable condition of the safety and civilization of the world is, indeed, very difficult to attain—Hobson) (a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit such as but once or twice has been attained in the world’s history—Binyon)

reach n range, gamut, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview reach n range, gamut, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview 

reach n range, gamut, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview

Ana, analogous words reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain Can mean to arrive at a point by effort or work. Reach is the most general term, being capable of reference to whatever can be arrived at by exertion of any degree and applicable to such diverse matters as a point in space, in time, or in a development, or as a destination, a goal, or a position of eminence. (they reached the city that night) (after a long discussion they reached an understanding) In extended use reach may be predicated even of inanimate things (the hour hand has reached two). Gain usually implies a struggle to reach a contemplated or desired destination or goal (gained the confidence of the mountain people by his . . . sympathetic approach—Persons) (i had gained the frontier and slept safe that night—Browning) Compass implies efforts to get around difficulties or to transcend limitations; it often connotes skill or craft in management (a writer who is attempting a higher strain of elevation or pathos than his powers can compass—Montague) (If you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the officers—Austen) Achieve can stress the skill or the endurance as well as the efforts involved in reaching an end (some are born great, some achieve greatness—Shak.) (no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it—Heiser) Often it implies accomplishment of something that is in itself a feat or triumph (a complete moral unity such as England achieved—Bellow) Attain connotes more strongly than any of the others the spur of aspiration or ambition (his constant efforts to attain his ends) It is therefore especially referable to ends beyond the vision, the scope, or the powers of most men (this indispensable condition of the safety and civilization of the world is, indeed, very difficult to attain—Hobson) (a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit such as but once or twice has been attained in the world’s history—Binyon) 

Ana, analogous words reach, gain, compass, achieve, attain Can mean to arrive at a point by effort or work. Reach is the most general term, being capable of reference to whatever can be arrived at by exertion of any degree and applicable to such diverse matters as a point in space, in time, or in a development, or as a destination, a goal, or a position of eminence. (they reached the city that night) (after a long discussion they reached an understanding) In extended use reach may be predicated even of inanimate things (the hour hand has reached two). Gain usually implies a struggle to reach a contemplated or desired destination or goal (gained the confidence of the mountain people by his . . . sympathetic approach—Persons) (i had gained the frontier and slept safe that night—Browning) Compass implies efforts to get around difficulties or to transcend limitations; it often connotes skill or craft in management (a writer who is attempting a higher strain of elevation or pathos than his powers can compass—Montague) (If you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the officers—Austen) Achieve can stress the skill or the endurance as well as the efforts involved in reaching an end (some are born great, some achieve greatness—Shak.) (no government or private organization could give health; people had to achieve it—Heiser) Often it implies accomplishment of something that is in itself a feat or triumph (a complete moral unity such as England achieved—Bellow) Attain connotes more strongly than any of the others the spur of aspiration or ambition (his constant efforts to attain his ends) It is therefore especially referable to ends beyond the vision, the scope, or the powers of most men (this indispensable condition of the safety and civilization of the world is, indeed, very difficult to attain—Hobson) (a fine balance of all the forces of the human spirit such as but once or twice has been attained in the world’s history—Binyon) 

reach n range, gamut, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview 

reach n range, gamut, radius, compass, sweep, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview
ize, externalize, objectify, hypostatize, reify are the chief words in English meaning to give concrete or objective existence to something that has existed as an abstraction or a conception or a possibility. They are seldom freely interchangeable, because their implications vary widely and their applications are largely determined by idiom. Realize commonly implies emergence into the sphere of actual things (as of something that has been a dream, an ideal, a hope, or a plan) the project was never realized owing to a lack of funds (he did not realize his ambition until he was past middle life) The implication of attainment, of achievement, or of fulfillment is at times so strong in realize as to obscure or subordinate this fundamental idea of coming into existence to achieve a beautiful relation to another human being is to realize a part of perfection Binyon however evolution is the effect, a divine purpose is being realized in it Inge Actualize, though sometimes used interchangeably with realize, is found chiefly in philosophical or technical writings with the implication of emergence (as of something that has existed only in potentiality) either into fullness or perfection of existence powers of the mind never actualized or into act or action potential energy becomes kinetic energy when it is actualized by motion Embody and incarnate sometimes imply investment with an outward or visible form of something abstract (as a principle, an idea, a trait, or a quality) the poet cannot embody his conceptions so vividly and completely as the painter Binyon Dickens incarnated hypocrisy in his Uriah Heep Materialize stresses emergence into the sphere of what is perceptible or tangible and usually presupposes prior vagueness, haziness, or elusiveness I had the glimmering of an idea, and endeavored to materialize it in words Hawthorne Externalize and objectify emphasize the projection of what is subjective (as a thought, an emotion, or a desire) so that it takes form apart from the mind. Externalize often suggests a conscious or unconscious urge for expression or relief madness has produced valuable art... the artist attempts to rid himself of his abnormality by externalizing it into the work of art Day Lewis Objectify is more likely to suggest a conscious attempt to overcome the limitations of subjectivity and sometimes to contemplate one's own mental processes art has always attempted to express, to objectify the dynamic processes of our inner life Robert Humphrey Hypostatize and reify occur chiefly in philosophical and technical writing. They imply conversion by the mind of something that is a concept or abstraction into a thing that has real and objective even if not tangible existence our ingrained habit of hypostatizing impressions, of seeing things and not the reverse Langer it is people, real flesh and blood human beings not a reified entity called "culture" who do things L A White Ana effect, fulfill, execute, accomplish, achieve, perform 2 think, conceive, imagine, fancy, envisage, envision Ana understand, comprehend, appreciate reap, glean, gather, garner, harvest are comparable when they mean to do the work or a given part of the work of collecting ripened grains in cultivation, reaping as a method of gathering, it may suggest a return or resumption reaping early wheat for market the lucky artisan producing something they could use would reap a fortune Billington Glean basically applies to the stripping of a field or vine that has already been gone over once but may be extended to any picking up of valuable bits from here and there and especially to a gathering of what has been left or missed gleaned the fields after the reapers have gone assembled a multitude of facts gleaned from many and varied sources Amer Guide Series Wash she had gleaned all the information the library contained Robertson Davies data gleaned from the questionnaires Terry Gather, the most general of these terms, applies to the collecting or bringing together of the produce of the farm, plantation, or garden; in extension, it can apply to any similar amassing or accumulating the fruit is gathered in late July and August Amer Guide Series Tenn workers who gathered rubber P E James she had traveled by safari to gather her material Current Biog the multitude of pitfalls in the gathering, writing, and processing of the news Motty mail is gathered and distributed by electrically operated conveyors Amer Guide Series Minn Garner implies the storing of produce as grain; in extension, it can apply to a laying away of a store more harvest than one man can garner Buck a skilled picker may garner 100 quarts Amer Guide Series Ark wisdom garnered through the years Hambly these short pieces garnered from a magazine catering to the masculine taste Lisle Bell Harvest, the general term, may imply any or all of these processes be extended in meaning to apply to any gathering together or husbanding of current phenomena Garside the harvesting of shellfish Amer Guide Series Conn busy harvesting your crop of furs Natl Fur News he had sown pain and harvested regret Samuel Ana collect, assemble (see gather) reason vb 1 build, construct, erect, frame, raise 2 raise lift, elevate, hoist, heave, boost Ana rise, ascend, mount, soar nurse, nurture, foster breed, propagate (see generate) rear adj posterior, after, back, hind, hinder Ant front reason n 1 Reason, ground, argument, proof are comparable when they mean a point or series of points offered or capable of being offered in support of something questioned or disputed. Reason usually implies the need of justification, either to oneself or another, of some practice, action, opinion, or belief; it is usually personal in its reference; thus, a father asks the reason for his son's disobedience a person gives the reasons for his preference. Reason is often applied to a motive, consideration, or inducement which one offers in explanation or defense so convenient it is to be a "reasonable creature," since it enables one to find or make a reason for everything one has in mind to do Franklin Ground is often used in place of reason because it too implies the intent to justify or defend. When, however, the emphasis is on evidence, data, facts, or logical reasoning rather than on motives or considerations, ground is the acceptable word; thus, the reasons for a belief may explain why it is held, but the grounds for it give evidence of the validity of that belief a scientist presents the grounds for his conclusion. Ground also suggests more solid support in fact and therefore greater cogency and objectivity than reason; thus, one may speak of frivolous or of trumped-up reasons but not grounds the future as we see it offers no grounds for easy optimism Current Biog grounds for divorce Argument stresses the intent to convince another or to bring him into agreement with one's view or position. It can imply the use of evidence and reasoning in the making and stating of a point in support of one's contention the debaters came well provided with arguments a party organ providing usable facts and arguments, in terse paragraphs Boatfield but often it suggests reasoning without reference to fact one of the commonest of all evasions
reason 665  rebellion

the argument which is not an argument but an appeal to the emotions—Woolf. Proof in much of its use (see proof under prove) emphasizes not an intent but an effect: that of conclusive demonstration; therefore, a proof is a piece of evidence (as a fact or a document) or of testimony (as of a witness or expert) or an argument that evokes a feeling of certainty in those who are to be convinced. These arguments [for the existence of God] are sometimes called proofs, though they are not demonstrations; they are, however, closely inwoven with the texture of rational experience—Inge. Euclid, the author of the Elements, who gave irrefutable proofs of the looser demonstrations of his predecessors—Farrington. 

ana explanation, justification, rationalization (see corresponding verbs at explain) 2 *cause, determinant, antecedent, occasion ana *motive, incentive, inducement, impulse: basis, foundation, ground (see base n) 3 reason, understanding, intuition can all denote that power of the intellect by which man arrives at truth or knowledge. Reason centers attention on the faculty for order, sense, and rationality in thought, inference, and conclusion about perceptions (the maintenance of reason—the establishment of criteria, by which ideas are tested empirically and in logic—Dorothy Thompson). Reason is logic; its principle is consistency; it requires that conclusions shall contain nothing not already given in their premises—Kallen. Understanding may sometimes widen the scope of reason to include both most thought processes leading to comprehension and also the resultant state of knowledge (understanding is the entire power of perceiving and conceiving, exclusive of the sensibility; the power of dealing with the impressions of sense, and composing them into wholes—Coleridge). Philosophy is said to begin in wonder and end in understanding—Dewey.

Intuition (see under intuitive at instinctive) stresses quick knowledge or comprehension without orderly reason, thought, or cogitation (all this . . . I saw, not discursively, or by effort, or by succession, but by one flash of horrid simultaneous intuition—De Quincey) (do we not really trust these faint lights of intuition, because they are lights, more than reason, which is often too slow a conception of a rebellion, either because it is quickly put down or is of a small and ineffective movement that flares up suddenly and violently among an insurgent class or section . . . I shatter creeds and demolish idols—Shaw) (the blundering crudity of the tough-minded iconoclast—Garrison). Ana *opponent, antagonist, adversary: assailant, attacker (see corresponding verbs at attack) rebellion, revolution, uprising, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, putsch, coup can all denote a war or an armed outbreak against a government or against powers in authority. Rebellion implies open, organized, and formidable armed resistance to constituted authority or to the government in power; the term is usually applied after the event to an instance of such resistance as has failed to overthrow the powers that be (Jack Straw's Rebellion) (the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745). Revolution applies to a rebellion that has been successful to the extent that the old government is overthrown and a new one substituted (the French Revolution) (the American Revolution). The term, however, does not invariably imply a war or a warlike outbreak (effected a bloodless revolution by a coup d'état). The words are often applied to the same event according to the point of view of the user or sometimes according to the time in which it is used; thus, the American Civil War of 1861-1865 was called the "War of the Rebellion" by Northerners, not only during its progress but for a long time after; a revolution is often called a rebellion by the overthrown government or its supporters until bitterness has faded (the English Civil War (1642-1652) was, after the Restoration (1660), and still sometimes is, called the Great Rebellion). Uprising is a somewhat general term applicable to an act of violence that indicates a popular desire to defy or overthrow the government; it is often used in reference to a small and ineffective movement that flares up suddenly and violently among an insurgent class or section of the people but it is applicable also to the first signs of a general or widespread rebellion (there was fear of uprisings in different parts of the country) (whenever the whole nation should join together in one sudden and vigorous uprising—Freeman). Revolt and insurrection apply to an armed uprising which does not attain the extent of a rebellion, either because it is quickly put down or is
immediately effective. Revolt, however, carries a stronger suggestion of a refusal to accept conditions or continue in allegiance than does insurrection, which often suggests such a seditious act as an attempt to seize the governing power or to gain control for one's party (the Reformation... was no sudden revolt, but the culmination of a long agitation for national independence in religious matters—Inge) (Balzatar's tyranny grew little by little, and the Acoma people were sometimes at the point of revolt—Cather) (insurrections of base people are more furious in their beginnings—Bacon) (excess of obedience is... as bad as insurrection—Meredith) Mutiny applies chiefly to an insurrection against military or especially maritime or naval authority (the ship's master feared mutiny long before it occurred) (the mutiny of a regiment made the situation desperate for the invaders) Putsch may apply to a small popular uprising or demonstration, or a planned attempt to seize power (the Munich beer hall Putsch of Hitler's supporters in 1923) Coup, in full coup d'etat, applies to a sudden overthrowing of a government by other than normal constitutional means; typically it implies careful planning on the part of a comparatively small opposition that usually has such backing from the military forces as insures the success of its effort, often without the need for bloodshed (General Naguib's coup, peaceful only because of the lack of resistance on the part of the falttering king... well illustrates the old definition of a dictator—one who has a bankrupt country—Ayteo) (it's not in our usual tradition of coups d'etat at all. Normally, nobody is killed in a coup d'etat. A certain amount of firing, yes, but over the heads of the crowds, just to show people they are serious—Rama Rau) (Czechoslovakia was absorbed by a coup under the direct threat of nearby Russian military force—Isaacs) Ana *sedition, treason: resistance, opposition, combating, withstanding (see corresponding verbs at RESIST) rebellious *insubordinate, mutinous, seditious, factious, contumacious Ana recalitrant, refractory, intractable, *unruly, ungovernable: estranged, alienated, disaffected (see Extrange) Ant acquiescent, resigned: submissive rebound, reverberate, recoil, resile, repercuss are comparable when they mean to spring back to an original position or shape. Rebound basically implies a springing back after a collision or impact (the ball readily rebounds when thrown against a wall) In extended use the term implies a springing back from one extreme to another or from an abnormal condition to one that is normal (literature is rebounding again from the scientific-classical pole to the poetic-romantic one—Edmund Wilson) Reverberate is used chiefly of rays or waves, most typically of sound waves, which are forced back in the manner of an echo or series of echoes or are repelled or reflected from side to side or from one surface to another (the evening gun thundered from the fortress, and was reverberated from the heights—Hawthorne) but it may be extended to other matters giving a similar effect (presents even simple subjects with a percepitiveness that makes them reverberate in the mind—Babette Deutsch) Recoil (see also recoil 1) often implies a springing back after being stretched, strained, or depressed (a spring recoiling after pressure has been removed) or a sudden or violent backward movement (a gun recoils when it is fired) Sometimes it carries the suggestion of a return to the source or point of origin in the manner of a boomerang (that evidence missed the mark at which it was aimed, and recoiled on him from whom it proceeded—Macaulay) But recoil often implies a springing back in the sense of being forced back by or as if by a blow; it then may connote a retreat, a recoiling, or a reeling (ten paces huge he back recoiled—Milton) (as deep recoiling surges foam below—Burns) (commentators recoiled from the spectacle as if it were too loathsome for remark—S. L. A. Marshall) Resile, much less common than its corresponding adjective resilient, like recoil may imply a springing back (as of an elastic body) into the original state or position, but in practice it is largely restricted to an essentially legal use in which it implies a withdrawing from something to which one has previously committed oneself (the suggestion which he had brought... meant that India was seeking to resile from its solemn international commitments—Pakistan Affairs) Perccuss, also much less common than its corresponding noun repercussion and adjective repercussive, is a close synonym of reverberate and rebound, for it implies the return of something moving ahead with great force or, in extended use, set in motion or operation, back to or toward the starting point. However it distinctively suggests repulsion upon impact and a return with undiminished force, or sometimes even greater force, and often, when persons are involved, with a marked effect upon the ones who initiated the action (the waves dashed against the rocks and repercussed with a great roar) (sickness produces an abnormally sensitive emotional state... and in many cases the emotional state repercusses... on the organic disease—Peabody) Ana bound, *skip, ricochet rebuild *mend, repair, patch Ana *renew, restore, renovate, refresh rebuke *reprove, reprimand, admonish, reproach, chide Ana rate, upbraid, *scold, berate: *criticize, reprehend, reprobrate rebut *disprove, refute, confute, controvert recalcitrant refractory, intractable, headstrong, willful, *unruly, ungovernable Ana rebellious, *insubordinate, factious, contumacious: *obstinate, stubborn: resisting, opposing, withstanding (see RESIST) Ant amenable (sense 2) recall vb 1 recollect, *remember, remind, reminisce, be-think, mind Ana evoke, elicit, extract, *educe: *stir, rouse, arouse, awaken, awaken 2 *revoke, reverse, repeal, rescind Ana *annul, abrogate, void: retract, *abjure, recant recant retract, *abjure, renounce, forswear Ana withdraw, remove recede, retract, retrograde, retract, back can all mean to move or seem to move in a direction that is exactly the opposite of ahead or forward. Recede stresses marked and usually gradually increasing distance from a given point, line, or position, but it implies movement on the part of what recedes only when a fixed point of view is indicated or understood (the tide is receding) (until the flood waters recede) (while I stood gazing, both the children gradually grew fainter to my view, receding, and still receding—Lamb) When the point of view is that of a traveler or the distance is in time rather than in space, the receding thing is subjective and the point of view changes. In such a case either a gradual disappearance (as from view or consciousness) or a change in perspective is implied (he stood at the ship's stern watching the shore recede from view) (past events as they recede appear in truer proportions—L. P. Smith) (the possibility of certain ultimate solutions has rather receded than approached as the years went by—Krutch) When used of persons and their ideas or attitudes, recede suggests departure from a
fixed idea, or determined attitude, or a definite stand (he was far too self-willed to recede from a position, especially as it would involve humiliation—Hardy) Retreat implies withdrawal from a point or position reached, usually because of uncertainty, or of imminent defeat or danger, or in obedience to orders (after the failure of the first attack, the army retreated) (she had retreated inside himself, as into a dense thicket—Hervey) (they frequently approached this theme, and always retreated from it—Meredith) Retrograde implies movement contrary to what is expected, normal, or natural; thus, a planet retrogrades when it moves or seems to move from east to west, or in a direction opposite to that of the usual planetary course. The verb is also used to imply the reverse of progress in the course of development (as of an institution, a species, or an individual) (some races have been stationary, or even have retrograded—Lubbock) (in his Latin and Greek he was retrograding—Meredith) (we have no control over the process by which the arts or sciences advance or retrograde—Whitehead) Occasionally it is used to imply a going backward in time or an inversion of the chronological order (our narrative retrogrades to a period shortly previous to the incidents last mentioned—Scott) Retract suggests a drawing backward or inward from a forward or exposed position, often in reference to those parts of an organism which can be thrust forward or drawn backward (a cat retracting its claws) (throwing out and retracting their left fists like pawing horses—Shaw) Back applies to any retrograde motion and is often qualified by an adverb (as up, out, or down) (back an automobile) (the water in a drain backs up when a pipe cannot carry it off) (back out of a room) (a wind backs when it shifts to a counterclockwise direction) Often when followed by out or down it implies a receding from a stand or attitude, or a retreating from a promise or an undertaking (he will never back down once his word is given) (he is trying to back out now that he sees how much work the project entails) (the opposition forced the governor to back down and to recall his recommendations—Ana) withdraw, retire, depart (see go)—*rebound, recoil
Ant proceed: advance (sense 2)

receipt 667 reception

2 Receipt, recipe, prescription are comparable when they mean a formula or set of directions for the compounding of ingredients especially in cookery and medicine. Receipt is often employed as a designation of a formula for making a homemade medicine (she has an excellent receipt for a cough syrup) Though also often used in reference to cookery formulas, the term in this sense is commonly felt as old-fashioned or dialectal and is being gradually displaced by recipe. Recipe is perhaps the most general of these terms since it can apply not only to a formula or set of instructions for making or doing something but to a method or procedure for attaining some end (recipes are used in making steel, and each ingredient is measured to a fraction of one percent—Hot-Metal Magic) (reading good books . . . is the recipe for those who would learn to read—Adler) In application to medicinal formulas recipe may come close to receipt or it may suggest an old-fashioned empirical remedy as distinct from a modern pharmaceutical product (some of his recipes are printed in pharmacopoeias of today—Norman Douglas) In cookery recipe is the usual and standard English term for a set of directions for preparing a made dish (a family recipe for plum pudding) The usual term for a physician's direction to a pharmacist for the compounding or dispensing of a medicine is prescription. That term is also applied to a medicine which is compounded or dispensed according to such a direction (his doctor gave him three prescriptions (he is still taking the prescription for bronchitis)

receive, accept, admit, take can all mean to permit to come into one's possession, presence, group, mind, or substance. They are seldom interchangeable except within a narrow range and, even then, rarely without modification of the thought expressed. Receive very often implies nothing more than what has been stated in the common definition; it may be predicated of persons or of things (he did not receive the news gladly) (the barrel receives excess rain water) In general receive implies passiveness in the receiver even when the subject is a person and his response is indicated in the context (an infant merely receives impressions, for he does not understand them) (soft wax receives the impression of anything that touches it) Only when it implies welcoming or recognition does receive connote activity in the receiver (after some delay, the king received the ambassador) (the social leaders refused to receive the newcomers) (the indifference and hostility with which his earlier work was received—Day Lewis) Accept adds to receive an implication of some measure of mental consent, even of approval; thus, a person may be received but not necessarily accepted in society; an idea may be received but not accepted by the person who receives it. One may receive with apparently merely accepting an apology. Frequently accept suggests tacit acquiescence rather than active assent or approval. Sometimes it connotes an uncritical attitude (the man who . . . accepted simply, as a matter of course, the tradition—Dickinson) Sometimes it implies a surrender to the inevitable (it is the business of the sensitive artist in life to accept his own nature as it is, not to try to force it into another shape—Huxley) Admit is synonymous with receive only when the agent (the one that lets in) is the one that receives rather than introduces (the king admitted the ambassador to his presence) (the heart admits fluid through these apertures) Admit, in this restricted sense, is distinguishable from receive by slight syntactical differences but chiefly by its strong implications of permission, allowance, or surrender; thus, a judge admits evidence only after its admissibility has been questioned and he has allowed its entrance. The situation remains the same when the subject is impersonal (the archway was wide enough to admit ten men abreast) Admit, in contrast with accept, often adds the implication of concession; thus, one who admits the truth of a contention accepts it more or less unwillingly; one can accept a proposition without question, but one admits it only after he has questioned it. Take is a synonym of receive only when it suggests no reaching out on one's own part or of one's own initiative to get hold of something (see also TAKE 1) or when it suggests an offering, presenting, conferring, or inflicting by another; it then implies merely a letting something be put into one's hands, mind, possession, or control (this gift was meant for you: take it or leave it as you please) (he takes whatever fortune sends him) (the British showed that they can take the German bombing) (what was it that made men follow Oliver Cromwell and take at his hands that which they would not receive from any of his contemporaries?—Crothers) (you don't have to take anything from him, or to stand his bad manners—Cather) Ana *enter, penetrate: seize, *take, grasp
Recent *modern, late
Ana fresh, *new, new-fashioned
Reception, receipt both mean a receiving, but they are not often interchangeable, their use being dependent upon accepted idiom. Reception is the more appropriate term when what is received is a person, especially a caller, a visitor, or a guest; the term may then apply to the act,
fashion, or manner of receiving (she gave all her friends a warm reception) or the manner of being received (much pleased with the reception she had—Pepys) or a ceremonious receiving or entertaining (invite one's circle of friends to a reception) (hold a reception for the out-of-town delegates and their wives) or an admission or entrance (as into a place, a society, or a company) (the house is ready for the reception of its new tenants) (call attention to the reception of several new members into the society.) When what is received is a thing, reception is employed when to the idea of receiving is added the idea of admitting into or as if into a space or enclosure (the tower is large enough for the reception of several bells) or of apprehension (as by a sense, the senses, or the mind) (their minds are not ready for the reception of such ideas) (the proposal met a favorable reception) (television reception was poor during the storm) Receipt (see also receipt 2) stresses the simple fact of receiving and is the customary term when what is received is a thing (as money, goods, or a letter) given or sent by another and delivered into one's custody or possession (acknowledge the receipt of goods ordered) (I am awaiting the receipt of your letter) (making my decision) Receipt is also applied to a signed paper or document testifying to the receiving of money due or of goods delivered.

recess n. *pause, respite, lull, intermission

Ana withdrawal, retirement (see corresponding verbs at go): *break, interruption, interval, gap: relaxation, leisure, *rest

recherché elegant, *choice, exquisite, delicate, dainty, rare

Ana fresh, original, *new, novel: *select, exclusive, picked

Ant banal

recipe *receipt, prescription

reciprocal 1 Reciprocal, mutual, common mean shared, participated, partaken (see SHARE): interchanged, exchanged (see EXCHANGE): balancing, compensating, counterpoising (see COMPENSATE)

2 Reciprocal, corresponding, correlative, complementary, complemental, convertible are not close synonyms, although in some instances they are interchangeable, and all are comparable in meaning like, equivalent, or similarly related to each other (as in kind, quality, or value). Reciprocal (see also reciprocal 1) implies that the likeness or equivalence of two things or of one thing to another rests on the fact of their being returns or its being a return in kind, value, or quality for what one side has given to the other (reciprocal courtesies) (a treaty providing for reciprocal trade privileges) (each flexor muscle which contracts has its reciprocal extensor muscle which operates in the reverse direction—Wier) (public and private systems engage in reciprocal services—Lepawsky) Corresponding implies a likeness or equivalence proceeding from the fact that one answers to the other or conforms to it so that they are fitted to each other, or proportionate to or commensurate with each other, or in perfect accord with each other (corresponding sides of similar triangles are in proportion—G. F. Wilder) (the light, with its corresponding shadow—Kitson) (all rights carry with them corresponding responsibilities—Paepe) Correlative implies a close relationship rather than a likeness and is applicable chiefly to two things, or one of two things, which cannot exist independently of each other either because one logically implies the other (husband and wife, father and child, are correlative terms) or one cannot exist without the other (the "right" of the worker to demand work on reasonable terms, and the correlative obligation of the organized community to provide it—Hobson) In more casual use correlative may imply nothing more than so close a correspondence or relation between two or sometimes more things that they come naturally, necessarily, or logically together (two correlative rules: first, that no one shall be allowed to undertake important work without having acquired the necessary skill; secondly, that this skill shall be taught to the ablest of those who desire it—Russell) (disorder in any one of nature's correlative hierarchies—physical, political, psychological—automatically produces disorder in the others—Bingham) Complementary also implies a close relationship rather than a likeness; the term carries a strong suggestion that one thing is so necessary to another or to others that without it an entire or perfect whole is not possible (it is important to recognize that these two uses of the surplus are complementary and not competitive—Hobson) (the corpuscular and undulatory concepts of light must be regarded as complementary rather than antithetical—Jeans) Complemental has essentially the same meaning, differing only in applying usually to a quantitative completing (revelation is regarded by many theologians as complemental to reason) Convertible implies so strong a likeness that the things, though not identical, are virtually interchangeable (the law, and the opinion of the judge, are not always con-
reckless, daring, daredevil, rash, foolhardy, venturesome, recluse, hermit, eremite, anchorite, cénobite all designate
reclaim save, ransom, redeem, deliver, *rescue
Ant cautious, circumspect, wary,
•precipitate, sudden, hasty, headlong, impetuous,
enumerate, tell, •count, number: detail, itemize,
Ana think, conceive, imagine, envision: •conjecture,
Ana chary abrupt: desperate, hopeless (see DESPONDENT)
Ana •consider, regard, account, deem
Ana •think, conceive, imagine, envision: •conjecture, surmise, guess
3 count, bank, •rely, trust, depend
reclaim save, ransom, redeem, deliver, *rescue
Ana •new, restore, renovate: reform, rectify, remedy,
Ana •correct, amend
Ant abandon —Con desert, forsake (see ABANDON)
recluse, hermit, eremite, anchorite, cénobite all designate a person who lives apart from the world usually in order to devote himself to prayer, contemplation, and penance. Recluse and hermit are also applied to persons who avoid intercourse with men for other than religious motives, but even in such extended use they retain their original
distinguishing implications, for recluse stresses retirement from the world and the life of the world into seclusion but not necessarily into physical isolation and hermit, a solitary life lived apart from men and usually in a place or under conditions where there is little likelihood of intrusion. Recluse is the broader term; it may be applied to a hermit or to a religious who lives in a cloistered community. Hermit is often applied to a member of one of the very few religious orders (as the Carthusians) whose members dwell alone and meet other members of the community only in church and in the refectory on Sundays. Eremite, archaic as a variant of hermit, is sometimes chosen to unequivocally designate a solitary who is under a religious vow. Anchorite and cénobite are contrasted terms for the two leading types of recluses in the Eastern and in the Western Church. Anchorite designates the type known as hermit or eremite; cénobite, the type that dwells in a community, especially a strictly cloistered community of monks or nuns.

recognized, identification, assimilation, apperception are comparable when they designate a form of cognition which relates a perception of something new to knowledge already acquired. Recognition implies that the thing now perceived (as by seeing, hearing, or smelling) has been previously perceived, if not in itself then in another instance of the same kind, and that the mind is aware that the two things are identical or of the same kind. Identification implies not only recognition, but such previous knowledge as permits one to recognize the thing as an individual member of a class of things. Assimilation implies that the mind responds to new facts, new ideas, or new experiences by interpreting them in the light of what is already known, thereby making them also an integral part of one's body of knowledge. Apperception differs from assimilation in implying that the mind responds to new facts, ideas, or situations when and only when it can relate them to what is already known.
recognize *acknowledge
Ana accept, admit, *receive: notice, note, observe, remark (see see)
recite rehearse, recount, *relate, narrate, describe, state, report
Ana enumerate, tell, *count, number: detail, itemize, particularize (see corresponding adjectives at CIRCUMSTANTIAL)
reckless daring, daredevil, rash, foolhardy, venturesome, *adventurous
Ana *precipitate, sudden, hasty, headlong, impetuous, abrupt: desperate, hopeless (see DESPONDENT)
Ant calculating —Con *cautious, circumspect, wary, chary
reckon vb 1 *calculate, compute, estimate
Ana enumerate, *count, number: figure, total, *add, sum, cast, foot
2 *consider, regard, account, deem
Ana *think, conceive, imagine, envision: *conjecture, surmise, guess
3 count, bank, •rely, trust, depend
reclaim save, ransom, redeem, deliver, *rescue
Ana *new, restore, renovate: reform, rectify, remedy,
Ana •correct, amend
Ant abandon —Con desert, forsake (see ABANDON)
recluse, hermit, eremite, anchorite, cénobite all designate a person who lives apart from the world usually in order to devote himself to prayer, contemplation, and penance. Recluse and hermit are also applied to persons who avoid intercourse with men for other than religious motives, but even in such extended use they retain their original
her self-imposed task—Hardy> (the process of purgation is always perilous, though it is ... still more perilous to flinch from making the attempt—Toynbee) Flinch is sometimes used but wince more often when by some in- voluntary, often slight, physical movement (as starting or recoiling) one manifests pain, fear, disgust, or acute sensitiveness <cannot bear the slightest touch without flinching—Smollett> his horse stands wincing at the flies, giving sharp shivers of his skin—Hunt> <Old Lady Kew's tongue was a dreadful thong which made numbers of people wince—Thackeray> Mr. Warburton winced when he heard so young a man call him by nickname—Purdy> Blench may be indistinguishable from flinch; it often, however, carries a stronger suggestion of faint-heartedness or of signs of fear <this painful, heroic task he undertook, and never blenched from its fulfillment—Jeffrey> though his death seemed near he did not blench—Masefield> To quail is to shrink cowardingly, as from something which strikes terror <the most formidable woman I have ever known ... eminent men invariably quailed before her—Russell> I am never known to quail at the fury of a gale—Gilbert> Ana waver, falter, *hesitate: shy, balk, stick, stickle (see DEMUR) Ant confront: defy 2 *rebound, reverberate, resile, repercuss Ana retreat, *recede, back, retract: *return, revert recollect *remember, recall, remind, reminisce, bethink, mind Ana *stir, rouse, arouse, rally, waken, awaken recollection *memory, remembrance, reminiscence, mind, souvenir recommend *commend, compliment, applaud Ana *approve, endorse, sanction: *praise, extol, acclaim recommendation testimonial, *credential, character, reference Ana approval, endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE): commendation (see corresponding verb at COMMEND) recom pense vb reimburse, indemnify, repay, satisfy, remunerate, compensate, *pay Ana award, accord, vouchsafe, *grant: balance, offset, *compensate reconcile conform, accommodate, adjust, *adapt Ana harmonize, accord, square. *agree: *correct, rectify, amend, revise reconcile, abstruse, occult, esoteric can all mean being beyond the power of the average intelligence to grasp or understand. Recondite stresses difficulty resulting from the profundity of the subject matter or its remoteness from ordinary human interest. It often, especially as applied to persons, implies scholarly research carried beyond the bounds of apparent usefulness <the recondite and occult in human nature alike attract the insurgent temper—Lowes> profound and scholarly, but often recondite to the point of obscurity—Woodring> Abstruse suggests extreme complexity or abstractness in the material as well as its remoteness from the ordinary range of human experience or interest <the vast army of illiterate or semi- literate people who distrust the learned world, especially the abstruse world of science—Meyer> the last quartets and piano sonatas of Beethoven, which are some of the most abstruse music ever written—Whitehead> Occult basically implies secret, mysterious knowledge purporting to be attainable only through special and often supernatural or magical agencies and not through ordinary channels of human reason <the occult sciences> whether it be from natural predisposition or from some occult influence of the time—J. R. Lowell> But often the word is used with much weakened force to mean little more than mysterious <the sense of occult rivalry in suitorship was so much superadded to the palpable rivalry of their business lives—Hardy> <juries selected by some occult procedure satisfactory to the judges—Amer. Guide Series: Nev.> Esoteric basically implies knowledge guarded by, and imparted only to, members of a cult or inner circle of initiates <the esoteric sects, which guard a mystery known only to the initiated—Sperry> but it is extended in general use to describe knowledge in the possession only of adepts, students, and specialists (as far as the general public was concerned the museum was an esoteric, occult place in which a mystic language was spoken—Saarinen) Ana scholarly, erudite, *learned: *pedantic, scholastic, academic record vb Record, register, list, enroll, catalog can mean to commit to writing for the sake of immediate or future use. Record usually implies as its purpose the making of an exact or official entry or statement which gives evidence of the facts involved; the act serves as an aid or a check to memory or as a means of supplying details unlikely to be remembered indefinitely <record the proceedings of a meeting> <record the events of each day in a diary> <record a deed in the county clerk's office> <in all recorded history, nothing like this has happened before> Register usually implies accurate entry into a formal record of facts or particulars of a certain kind which require or deserve recording <required by law to register all births> <all purchases are registered in our books> Sometimes register carries a further or a slightly different implication; thus, one registers a letter by payment of a special fee and obtaining a receipt to ensure its safe delivery by requiring a record of each person who handles it; a thermometer registers the temperature when the mercury expands or contracts to a certain mark in degrees. List implies an entering in a list (as of names, figures, needs, or events) <list the achievements of an athlete> <list alphabetically the books you have read> <list the survivors of an accident> <list the food needed for the party> <list your expenses carefully> Enroll may add to list the notion of setting apart those entered in a distinctive category (as members of a body or adherents of a person or cause) and therefore may connote a winning over, an enlisting, or an admission to membership <interested persons are invited to enroll themselves as members of the society> those who are ... tempted to enroll themselves as soldiers—Malthus> as he goes on, he ... enrolls a following—Montague> Enroll is sometimes also used of things in the sense of record, but in its more usual extended sense, it also includes the connotation of honoring <enroll your triumphs o'er the seas and land—Pope> Catalog commonly implies an enumeration of all items making up a class or group, usually with descriptive or defining details <catalog the books in a library> <the porcelains in the collection needed to be cataloged> <allowing time to catalog the items to be sold at auction> Catalog may also imply assignment of an item to its proper place in a list or sometimes in a category <the book has not yet been cataloged> a specimen impossible to catalog in the existent classification often turns out to be a new species> Ana *enter, admit, introduce recount recite, *relate, rehearse, narrate, describe, state, report Ana enumerate, *count, number, tell: detail, itemize, particularize (see corresponding adjectives at CIRCUM-STANTIAL)
recoup vb recruit, retrieve, regain, *reccover

Ana *compensate, balance, offset, counterpoise

recover 1 Recover, regain, retrieve, recoup, recruit can mean to get back something that has been let go or lost. Recover, the most comprehensive of these terms, may imply finding or obtaining something material or immaterial that has been lost (recover a lost watch) (recover his health) (recover peace of mind) (recover his balance) or a getting of something in reparation or compensation (recover damages in a lawsuit) Regain, though often used interchangeably with recover, carries a stronger implication of winning back or getting once more into one's possession something of which one has been deprived (regain a fortune) (regain a person's good will) (regained his sight) (regained freedom) Regain also may imply, as recover seldom implies, success in reaching again a place or point at which one has been before (in his efforts to regain his hotel—Meredith) (the trench allowed the performers, after being thrust down into perdition, to regain the greenroom unobserved—Quiller-Couch) Retrieve implies a recovering or regaining after assiduous effort or search (desperate efforts to retrieve lost territory) (it now seemed impossible to retrieve the foreign trade lost by war) (his desire to retrieve his military reputation—Bello) (marveling at the silent uniting activity with which her popularity had been retrieved—Wharton) But retrieve sometimes takes for its object such words as loss, error, failure, or disaster, then implying not recovery but a setting right or a making what is bad good, or a reparation by making up for what was wrong or unsuccessful (life is not long enough to retrieve so many mistakes) (one false step is never retrieved—Gray) (he is to retrieve his father's failure, to recover the lost gentility of a family that had once been proud—Brooks) Recoup, basically a legal term implying a rightful deduction by a defendant of part of a claim awarded to a successful plaintiff in a lawsuit, can in its general and extended use imply recovery or retrieval, usually in equivalent rather than identical form, of something lost (able to recoup his gambling losses by more careful play) (Elizabeth had lost her venture; but if she was bold, she might recoup herself at Philip's cost—Froude) Recruit fundamentally implies growth through fresh additions; in military use it can imply an increase in numbers through drafting and enlisting or a filling of vacancies in a force resulting from casualties (it was his custom to recruit his army with conquered people—Newton) In more general use it may imply a regaining of what has been lost (as vigor through illness, or money through extravagance or heavy expenditures) by fresh additions or replenishment of the supply (recruiting his strength with a good plain dinner—Dickens) (the middle class is continually recruited from the capitalist families—Shaw) Ana redeem, reclaim (see RESCUE): *compensate, offset, balance

2 improve, recuperate, convalesce, gain

Ana restore, refresh, rejuvenate, *renew: revive, resuscitate, revivify (see RESTORE)

recreant n *renegade, apostate, turncoat, backslider

Ana treacherousness or treachery, perfidiousness or perfidy, traitorousness (see corresponding adjectives at FAITHLESS)

recreate *amuse, divert, entertain

Ana *renew, restore, refresh, rejuvenate: enliven, *quicken, animate

recreation amusement, diversion, entertainment (see under AMUSE)

Ana relaxation, repose, ease (see REST): play, sport, frolic, rollick (see under PLAY vb): *mirth, jollity, hilarity

recrudescence *return, revert, recur

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

Ana *renew, renovate, refurbish

Con *suppress, repress: *stop, cease, discontinue

recrudescence return, reversion, recrudescence (see under RETURN vb)

Ana renewal, restoration, refreshment, renovation (see corresponding verbs at RENEW)

Con suppression, repression (see corresponding verbs at SUPPRESS)

recruit vb *recover, regain, retrieve, recoup

Ana *renew, restore, renovate, refresh: repair, *mend, rebuild

rectify *correct, mend, amend, reform, revive, remedy, redress

Ana *improve, better, help, ameliorate: *mend, repair, rebuild: *adjust, regulate, fix

rectitude virtue, *goodness, morality

Ana integrity, probity, *honesty, honor: righteousness, nobility (see corresponding adjectives at MORAL): uprightness, justness, conscientiousness, scrupulousness (see corresponding adjectives at UPRIGHT)

recommerce *prone, supine, prostrate, couchant, dormant

Ana upright, erect

re recuperate *improve, recover, convalesce, gain

Ana invigorate, *strengthen, fortify, energize

recur *return, revert, recrudescence

Ana *repeat, iterate, reiterate

redeem deliver, *rescue, ransom, save, reclaim

Ana *free, liberate, release, emancipate, manumit: restore, *renew, renovate: *recover, regain

redolence *fragrance, perfume, incense, bouquet

Ana odor, aroma, *smell: balminess, aromaticness or aromaticity (see corresponding adjectives at ODOROUS)

redolent aromatic, balmy, fragrant, *odorous

Ana *pungent, poigniant, piquant, racy, spicy: penetrating, piercing (see ENTER)

redress vb *emend, remedy, amend, *correct, rectify, reform, revise

Ana *relieve, lighten, alleviate, assuage, mitigate, ally: repair, *mend

redress n *reparation, amends, restitution, indemnity

Ana compensation, offsetting, balancing (see corresponding verbs at COMPENSATE): *retaliation, reprisal, vengeance, retribution

reduce 1 *decrease, lessen, diminish, abate, dwindle

Ana *shorten, abridge, abbreviate, curtail, retrench: *contract, shrink, condense

Con *increase, augment, enlarge, multiply: *extend, lengthen, elongate, prolong, protract: *expand, swell, amplify

2 *conquer, vanquish, defeat, subjugate, beat, overcome, lick, subdue, surmount, overthrow, rout

Ana *weaken, cripple, disable, undermine, enfeeble: humble, humiliate, degrade, debacle (see ABASE)

3 *degrade, demote, declass, disrate

Ana humble, humiliate, debase (see ABASE)

redundancy *verbiage, tautology, pleonasm, circumlocution, periphrasis

Ana wordiness, verbosity, prolixity, diffuseness (see corresponding adjectives at WORDY): inflatedness or inflation, turbidity, timidity, flatulence (see corresponding
adjectives at inflated): *bombast, rant, fistian

redundant *wordy, verbose, prolix, diffuse

Ana *superfluous, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare: repeating or repetitious, iterating, reiterating (see corresponding verbs at repeat)

Ant concise —Con terse, succinct, laconic, pithy, summary (see concise): compact, *close

reef vb *shoal, bank, bar

reel vb Reel, whirl, stagger, totter are comparable when they mean to move or seem to move uncertainly or uncontrollably (as in weakness, in giddiness, or in intoxication). Reel usually implies a turning round and round, or a sensation of so turning or being turned <for, while the dagger gleamed on high, reeled soul and sense, reeled brain and eye—Scott> <in these lengthened vigils his brain often reeled—Hawthorne> But it may also imply a being thrown off balance (as an army that recoils before a mighty attack, a ship that has lost its equilibrium, or a person affected by exhaustion, a wound, faintness, or intoxication) <giddy and restless, let them reel like stubble from the wind—Milton> <when Church and State were reeling to their foundations—Stanley> <he . . . placed his open palm gently against the breast of Lucian, who instantly reeled back as if the piston rod of a steam engine had touched him—Shaw> Whirl (see also turn) is often used like reel, especially when referred to the head or to the brain <the dim brain whirls dizzy with delight—Shelley> but it more frequently implies swiftness or impetuosity of movement often by someone or something being carried along blindly or furiously <in popular commotions, each man is whirled along with the herd—Lytton> Stagger stresses uncertainty or uncontrollability of movement, typically of a person walking while weak, giddy, intoxicated, or heavily burdened, but sometimes of whatever meets with difficulty or with adverse conditions; thus, a boat that labors, a mind that is perplexed, confused, or bewildered, and a faith, opinion, or purpose that meets heavy opposition can all be said to stagger <a porter half my size who . . . staggered through the shallow water under what must have been an almost overwhelming weight—Heiser> <at whose immensity even soaring fancy staggers—Shelley> Totter (see also shake) implies not only weakness or unsteadiness as a cause of uncertain movement but often also suggests an approaching complete collapse <from the day of Cressy feudalism tottered slowly but surely to its grave—J. R. Green> <[the waning moon] like a dying lady, lean and pale, who totters forth, wrap in a gauzy veil—Shelley>

Ana *turn, spin, revolve, rotate: sway, waver, *swing: wobble, teeter, quiver (see shake)

refer 1 assign, credit, accredit, *ascribe, attribute, impute, charge

Ana associate, relate, connect (see Join): *direct, aim, point, lay

2 *resort, apply, go, turn

Ana consult, *confer, commune, advise: address, *direct

3 Refer, allude, advert are comparable when they mean to mention something so as to call or direct attention to. Refer, when unqualified, usually suggests intentional introduction and distinct mention <a day or two later she referred to the matter in—Mary Austin> (we may here again refer, in support of this proposition, to the plain and unequivocal language of the laws—Taney) but often it is so qualified as to add the idea of judging to that of mentioning <inclined at times to give a subjective interpretation to mathematical-physical theories and to refer to them as fictions—Cohen> Allude, though often close to refer in the latter's more general sense, distinctively implies indirect reference (as by a hint, a suggestive phrase, a roundabout or covert method of expression, or a figure of speech); it may suggest mere casual interest, modesty, timidity, or reticence in the one who alludes <fruit . . . gives him that intestinal condition I alluded to—Stafford> <the traveling facilities alluded to . . . would date the story as between 1842 and 1844—O. S. Nock> Sometimes, however, it connotes bias or ill will <proposals, which were never called proposals, but always alluded to slightly as innovations—Mackenzie> Advert, which basically means to turn the mind or attention to something (see advert 1), is sometimes interchangeable with refer but in such use it may distinctively imply a slight or glancing reference interpolated in a text or utterance <regards as truly religious certain elevated ethical attitudes and cosmologies that Freud, when he adverted to them at all, regarded as too highbrow to be given the name of religion—Kiesman> <letters from Franklin to his wife's grandmother . . . in which he adverted to having had to do with her education—Justice Holmes>

Ana *introduce, insert, interpolate: *quote, cite

referee n umpire, arbiter, *judge, arbitrator

reference testimonial, recommendation, character, *credential

referendum initiative, *mandate, plebiscite

refinement culture, cultivation, breeding

Ana suavity, urbanity (see corresponding adjectives at suave): courtesy, politeness, civility (see corresponding adjectives at civil): *elegance, grace, dignity

Ant vulgarity

reflect *think, cogitate, reason, speculate, deliberate

Ana *consider, contemplate, study, weigh: *ponder, muse, meditate, ruminate

reflection *animadversion, stricture, aspersion

Ana imputing or imputation, ascribing or ascription (see corresponding verbs at ascribe): criticizing or criticism, reprehending or reprehension, blaming or blame (see corresponding verbs at criticize): *attack, assault, onslaught, onset: disparagement, derogation, depreciation (see corresponding verbs at decry)

reflective *thoughtful, contemplative, meditative, pensive, speculative

Ana thinking, reasoning, deliberating, cogitating (see think): analytical, *logical, subtle

reform vb *correct, rectify, amend, amend, remedy, re修复, revise

Ana *mend, repair, rebuild: better, *improve, help, ameliorate

reform n *reformation

reformation, reform can both denote a making better or a giving of a new and improved form or character and are sometimes interchangeable without loss <the reformation of a criminal> <the reformation of society> Reformation is the more usual term as a designation of a movement that has brought about many revolutionary amendments or improvements, especially in morals or religious practices <the Protestant Reformation> It is also appropriate when the idea of making over so as to eradicate defects is stressed <not directed to the reformation of what was ill—Bellow> <never came reformation in a flood, with such a heady currancy, scouring faults—Shak> (it is the moral basis of this reformation that I wish to lay—Hobson) Reform, on the other hand, is more usual as a designation of an attempt to remove abuses, correct corrupt practices, or to make changes for the better <hostile to all persons advocating reform—Boeotia, choose reform or civil war!—Shelley> <a wave of municipal reform had passed over it—Ellis> Reform also applies, as reformation does not, to a particular or specific amendment, whether achieved or proposed, as a measure of reform <initiate sweeping
refractory 673
regard

reforms in the government (a reform worthy of a good prince and of a good parliament—Mackaulay)

refractory recalcitrant, intractable, ungovernable, unruly, headstrong, willful

Ana *contrary, perverse, froward, wayward: *insubordinate, rebellious, contumacious

Ant malleable: amenable (sense 2)

refrain, abstain, forbear are comparable when they mean to keep or withhold oneself voluntarily from something to which one is moved by desire or impulse. Refrain is especially suitable when the checking of a momentary inclination is implied (refrain from laughter) At times, to refrain from an action implies merely its nonperformance (no tolerable parent could refrain from praising a child when it first walks—Russell) Abstain is more emphatic than refrain, because it usually stresses deliberate renunciation or self-denial on principle and often implies permanence of intent (early Christians... abstained from the responsibilities of office—Acton) I have... abstained from the use of many expressions, in themselves proper and beautiful, but which have been foolishly repeated by bad poets—Wordsworth

It is used especially in reference to those natural appetites and passions whose control or renunciation are a part of self-discipline (from this personal blow stemmed, I believe, an act of renunciation, his decision to abstain from meat—Shirer)

Forbear usually implies self-restraint rather than self-denial, be it from patience, charity, or clemency, or from discretion, or from stoicism (he was so poison-mean that the marsh mosquitoes forbore to bite him—S. H. Adams) Wherever he has not the power to do or forbear any act according to the determination or thought of the mind, he is not free—Thilly But often forbear is but vaguely distinguishable from refrain (I cannot forbear quoting what seems to me applicable here—Justice Holmes)

Ana check, *arrest, interrupt: *restrain, curb, inhibit

refresh *new, restore, rejuvenate, renovate, refurbish


Ant jade, addle

refuge asylum, sanctuary, *shelter, cover, retreat

Ana safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at SAFE): stronghold, citadel, *fort, fortress: *harbor, haven, port

refugient effugient, luminous, radiant, lustrous, bright, brilliant, beaming, lambent, lucent, incandescent

refurbish renovate, *newen, refresh, restore, rejuvenate

refuse vb *decline, reject, repudiate, spurn

Ana *deny, gainsay: balk, baffle, *frustrate, thwart, foil: deafen, *exclude, shut out

refuse n Refuse, waste, rubbish, trash, debris, garbage, offal can mean all matter that is regarded as worthless and fit only for throwing away. Refuse, ordinarily the most comprehensive term of the group, stresses the rejection of the matter, or its uselessness from the point of view of the owner (a manufacturer, processor, builder, or housekeeper) and usually implies its being cast aside or thrown away. The term includes anything covered by this description without regard to whether another will find use for it (a stream polluted by refuse from a manufacturing plant) (heaps of refuse left by the former tenant) (arrangements made by the city to collect refuse) (a road surfaced with the hardened refuse from a neighboring tannery) Waste may also be a comprehensive term approaching refuse in meaning, but it typically applies to material that is unused by its producer but can or could be useful in other ways or in other circumstances or to other people (wiped his hands on a wad of cotton waste) Rubbish is likely to mean an accumulation of useless material and worn-out, broken-down, used up, worthless things (throw it in the rubbish barrel) (her closets heaped with rubbish) Trash stresses material of no account (as something worn-out or exhausted of what was good in it or parts discarded in shaping, trimming, or clipping). In general use trash is often employed in place of rubbish as a name for waste materials requiring disposition, but both terms in this sense usually exclude refuse that is animal or vegetable matter. Debris usually applies to what remains from the breaking up, the disintegration, or the destruction of something (as a building, a wall, or a tree); the term usually suggests a loose accumulation of detritus or broken fragments (a pile of debris was the only sign that a house was once there) (the sandstone cliffs... are battered down and their debris carried out to sea—Geikie) (after the air raid nothing was left of the building but a pile of rubble and debris) Garbage chiefly applies to organic refuse (as from a kitchen, a store, or a market) including waste of animal or vegetable origin or animal or vegetable matter that is or is regarded as unfit for human food. Offal may refer to something (as chips of wood or pieces of leather) cut off in dressing or fitting for use, but the term is usually applied specifically to the parts of a butchered animal that are removed in dressing the carcass, that consist chiefly of viscera (as liver, kidneys, and heart) and of trimmings (as tail, hooves, blood, and head meat), and that include edible meats and raw materials for processing as well as refuse. But offal may also be applied to carrion and other worthless or distasteful refuse and tends then and in extended use to stress offensiveness or disagreeableness.

All these terms except waste also have extended use; refuse refers usually to something left after the available supply has been thoroughly picked over and therefore implies the worst, the meanest, or the least desirable of the lot (the refuse of society) Rubbish may be applied to something (as inferior merchandise or a ridiculous or nonsensical idea, argument, or discussion) that in its worthlessness suggests a heap of trash (much of the goods in bargain sales is mere rubbish) (most of the stuff talked about Nordics and Aryans is simply rubbish—Huxley) Trash retains its implication of relative worthlessness (who steals my purse steals trash—Shak.) (most of these paintings are trash, but there are two or three good things) Debris may be applied to something inanimate or intangible that remains as evidence of what the original thing once was (those eastern lands which were the debris of Alexander’s empire—Buchan) Garbage also may be applied to something that in comparison with other things of the same sort may be described as filthy or foul (she flew with voracious appetite to sate herself on the garbage of any circulating library—Porter) Offal ordinarily applies to persons considered as the lowest or meanest of refuse or as offscourings (wretches... whom everybody now believes to have been... the offal of gaols and brothels—Macaulay)

refute confute, rebut, *disprove, controvert

Ana contradict, impugn, traverse, negative, contravenere (see DENY)

regain *recover, recruit, recoup, retrieve

regal royal, *kingly, queenly, imperial, princely

Ana majestic, imposing, stately, magnificent, august (see GRAND): *splendid, resplendent, glorious, sublime

regale tickle, gratify, delight, *please, rejoice, gladden

Ant vex

regard n Regard, respect, esteem, admiration, and their analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
regard

674

reinforce

regarding

regular adj 1 Regular, normal, typical, natural can all mean being of the sort or kind that is expected as usual, ordinary, or average. A person or, more often, a thing is regular, as opposed to irregular, that conforms to what is the prescribed rule or standard or the established pattern for its kind (a regular verb) (a regular meeting of a society) A person or a thing is normal, as opposed to abnormal or exceptional, that does not deviate in any marked way from what has been discovered or established as the norm (see norm under AVERAGE n) for one of its kind. In contrast with regular, normal carries a stronger implication of conformity within prescribed limits or under given conditions and therefore sometimes admits a wide range of difference among the things that may be described as normal for a class or kind (normal winter weather) (a perfectly normal child physically as well as mentally) (his pulse is normal for a person of his age) (her intensity . . . would leave no emotion on a normal plane—D. H. Lawrence) When applied to persons, normal often specifically connotes mental balance or sanity (his actions are not those of a normal person) but it may connotes merely an approach to the average in mentality, implying the exclusion of those below or above this average (the twins, since they had gone to Oxford, never admitted that they needed for a book that normal people cared for—Rose Macaulay) A person or thing is typical, as opposed to individual, that markedly exhibits the characters or characteristics identifying the type, class, species, or group to which he or it belongs, often to the exclusion or the obscuring of any that differentiate him or it individually (a typical example of Browning's style) (I would suggest that the most typical, as it is probably the oldest of the arts, is the Dance—Binyon) (peculiar to himself, not typical of Greek ideas—Dickinson) (a typical English country town with wide High Street, narrow Market Street, picturesque Market Square—Mackenzie) A person or thing is natural (see also NATURAL 2) that acts, behaves, or operates in accordance with the nature or essence of his or its kind or constitution; the term also applies to what is normal in or suitable to one because of such nature or constitution (the father is the natural protector of his children) (the natural love of a mother) (flesh is the natural food of a dog) (he died from natural causes)

regard

regarding

region

register

regeneratology

regret

regress

reinforce

...
reissue n *edition, impression, reprinting, printing
reiterate *repeat, iterate, ingeminate
reissue vb repudiate, spurn, refuse, *decline
Ana *discard, cast, shed: ousted, expel, dismiss, *eject:
*exclude, debar, shut out, eliminate
Ant accept: choose, select
rejoice delight, gladden, *please, gratify, tickle, regale
Ana grieve: aggrieve: bewail
rejoin *answer, respond, reply, retort
Con question, interrogate, *ask, inquire, query, catechize, examine
rejoinder answer, response, reply, retort (see under
ANSWER vb)
Ana returning or return, reverting or reversion (see under
RETURN vb): retaliation, reprisal
rejuvenate *newen, restore, refresh, renovate, refurbish
reprise n lapse, backsliding (see under LAPSE vb)
Ana *reversion, atavism, throwback: degeneration, decline,
declinence, decadence, *deterioration
reprise vb *lapse, backslide
Ana revert, *return: degenerate, decline, deteriorate
(see corresponding nouns at DETERIORATION)
relate vb 1 Relate, rehearse, recite, recount, narrate,
describe, state, report are comparable when they mean to
tell orally or in writing the details or circumstances
necessary to render understanding or knowledge of
real or imagined situation or combination of events. Re-
late implies the giving of a usually detailed or orderly
account of something one has witnessed or experienced
relating the story of his life) then Father Junipero and
his companion related fully their adventure —Cather
Rehearse usually suggests a repetition; it may imply
a summary of what is known (let us rehearse the few facts
known of the inconspicuous life of Thomas Traherne
—Quiller-Couch) or a second or third or oft-repeated
telling (designed to fool the easilyfooled . . . it rehearsed
all the lies with which we are now familiar —Shirer)
or a going over and over something in one's mind, or with
another person, or in privacy before relating or some-
times performing or presenting it to others or to an
audience (Mr. Hynes hesitated a little longer . . . He
seemed to be rehearsing the piece in his mind —Joyce)
 felt certain . . . that his smile was as he had rehearsed it,
polished and genially satanic —Hervey) Recite and the
more common recount imply greater particularity of detail
than the preceding terms; in fact, the implication of enu-
eration or of mention of each particular is so strong that
both verbs usually take a plural object; thus, one relates
an experience, but he recites or recounts his experiences
reciting the events of the day) (as with all mysteries, it
cannot be rationally explained, merely recounted —
Shirer) Narrate suggests the employment of devices
characteristic of the literary narrative such as plot, cre-
ation of suspense, and movement toward a climax (what
verse can sing, what prose narrate the butcher deeds of
bloody Fate —Burns) the discovery of Madeira is nar-
rated with all the exaggerations of romance —Southey
Describe usually implies emphasis upon details that give
the hearer or reader a clear picture or that give not only
a visual representation but one that appeals to the other
senses (bitter sea and glowing light, bright clear air, dry
as dry,—that describes the place —Jeffries) described
her . . . as "a dear little thing. Rather brainy, but quite
a nice little thing" —Gibbons) State stresses particularity,
clearness, and definiteness of detail, and suggests the aim
of presenting material (as facts, ideas, or feelings) in their
naked truth so that they will be distinctly understood or
fixed in others' minds (Dryden's words . . . are precise,
they state immensely, but their suggestiveness is often
nothing —T. S. Eliot) (one should know what one thinks
and what one means, and be able to state it in clear terms
—Rose Macaulay) Report implies a recounting and
narrating, often after investigation, for the information of
others (report the progress on defense projects to the
 cabinet) (he was assigned to report the murder trial for the local newspaper) (in his letters Thaddeus re-
ported approaching an island in an outrigger one evening
—Cheever)
Ana tell, *reveal, disclose, divulge: detail, itemize,
personalize (see corresponding adjectives at CIRCUM-
STANTIAL)
2 associate, link, connect, *join, conjoin, combine, unite
Ana attach, *fasten, fix: refer, assign, credit, impute,
*ascribe
Con disengage, *detach, abstract: divorce, sever, sun-
der, *separate
3 bear, pertain, appertain, belong, apply
related, cognate, kindred, allied, affiliated can all mean
connected by or as if by close family ties. Related, when
referred to persons, usually implies consanguinity, but
sometimes implies connection by marriage —the royal
families in Europe are nearly all related to each other
When applied to things, related suggests and often close
connection; particular nature of which is to be gathered
from the context —related species) related events
related activities) every part of an organism is related
to the other parts) (body and soul are contrasted, but re-
lated, concepts) Cognate differs from related chiefly
in being referable only to things that are genetically alike
or that can be shown to have a common ancestor or source
or to be derived from the same root or stock —cognate
races) cognate languages) cognate words in various
languages, such as pater, Vater, father) (physics and
chemistry are cognate sciences) Kindred, in its primary
sense, stresses blood relationship —kindred members of
a community) In its more common extended sense, it
implies such likenesses as common interests, tastes,
aims, or qualities that might be characteristic of a family.
When the reference is to persons, congeniality is usu-
ally connoted (he would never be popular . . . but he
might appeal to a little circle of kindred minds —Joyce)
When applied to things, a more obvious connection
or a closer likeness is implied than in related —kindred
qualities in two otherwise alien tongues [Hebrew and
English] —Lowes) Allied more often implies connection
by union than by origin, and especially by marriage or
by voluntary association. It often connotes a more re-
 mote family connection than related —the Raycie blood
was . . . still to be traced in various allied families: Kents,
Huzzards, Cosbys —Wharton) In its extended use it
usually stresses relation based on the possession of com-
mon characters, qualities, aims, or effects which lead
either to union or to inclusion in the same class or category
—allied physical types) —allied societies) —allied
diseases) Affiliated also stresses connection by union, but it may
imply a dependent relation such as that of a child to a parent.
Sometimes it implies the adoption of the weaker by the
stronger (a small college affiliated to a university)
Sometimes it connotes a loose union in which the affili-
ating units retain their independence, but derive support
or strength from the main, central, or parent body, or
cooperate in its work —Monte Cassino and affiliated
monasteries) the CIO and its affiliated unions
Ana associated, connected (see JOIN): *reciprocal,
corresponding, correlative, convertible, complementary:
akin, identical, alike, analogous (see LIKE) *relevant,
germane, pertinent
relative *dependent, contingent, conditional
Ant absolute
relaxation *rest, repose, leisure, ease, comfort
Ana amusement, diversion, recreation (see under AMUSE vb): relieving or relief, assuagement, alleviation, mitigation (see corresponding verbs at RELIEVE)
relaxed *loose, slack, lax
Ana mitigated, lightened, alleviated, assuaged, relieved (see RELIEVE): flexuous, sinuous (see WINDING): *soft, mild, gentle, lenient
Ant stiff — Con strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent: *severe, stern, austere, ascetic
release vb *free, liberate, emancipate, manumit, deliver, discharge, enfranchise
Ana *detach, disengage: *exculpate, exonerate, acquit: surrender, resign, yield, *relinquish
Ant detain (as a prisoner): check (as thoughts, feelings): oblige
relegate vb *commit, entrust, confide, consign
Ana refer, assign, credit, accredite, charge (see AScribe)
relent *yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, defer, bow, cave
Ana comply, acquiesce (see corresponding adjectives at Compliant): forbear, *refrain, abstain: *abate, subside, wane, ebb
relevent unrelenting, merciless, implacable, *grim
Ana inexorable, obdurate, adamant, *inflexible: strict, stringent, *rigid, rigorous: *fierce, ferocious, cruel, inhuman
Con *soft, lenient, mild, gentle: *tender, compassionate: yielding, submitting or submissive (see corresponding verbs at YIELD)
relevant, germane, material, pertinent, apposite, applicable, apropos are comparable when they mean having a relation to or a bearing upon the matter in hand or the present circumstances. Something relevant has a traceable connection, especially logical connection, with the thing under consideration and has significance in some degree for those who are engaged in such consideration (the judge decided that the evidence was relevant and therefore admissible) (great books are universally relevant and always contemporary; that is, they deal with the common faculties for absorbing it wholly—Scott) Something germane is so closely related (as in spirit, tone, or quality) to the subject, the matter, the occasion, or the issue that the fitness or appropriateness of their association is beyond question (enliven his lecture by introducing amusing anecdotes germane to his subject) (an interesting point but not germane to the issue) (the passionate cravings which are germane to the hermit life—H. O. Taylor) Something material is so closely related to the matter in hand that it cannot be dispensed with without having an evident and especially a harmful effect (the motion is supported by an affidavit showing that the evidence is material—B. F. Tucker) (certain passages material to his understanding the rest of this important narrative—Scott) Something pertinent is so decisively or significantly relevant that it touches the real point at issue or contributes materially to the understanding of what is under discussion or to the solution of what is in question (once a thing did become pertinent, he had an amazing faculty for absorbing it wholly—Terry Southern) (it is more pertinent to observe that it seems to me that logically and rationally a man cannot be said to be more than once in jeopardy in the same cause, however often he may be tried—Justice Holmes) Something apposite is relevant and germane to such a degree that it strikes one both by its pertinency and by its felicitousness (an apposite illustration) (apposite quotations. . . came easily to his pen to grace the lucid flow of his English—Perring) whatever she did, she made her circumstances appear singularly apposite and becoming—Sackville-West) Something applicable may be brought to bear upon or be used fittingly in reference to a particular case, instance, or problem (the word tool is applicable to a plow only when used in a general sense) (the principle is not applicable to the case in question) (although. . . I do not get much help from general propositions in a case of this sort, I cannot forbear quoting what seems to me applicable here—Justice Holmes) Something apropos is both appropriate and opportune (a person who is not aware of an undercurrent of feeling may make remarks that are far from apropos) (we . . . find a new pleasure in the hackneyed words. They are really not quite apropos—Julian Huxley) Sometimes it can suggest relevancy rather than appropriateness or opportuneness (he is not witty but Frenchily apropos—Flanner)
Ana *related, cognate, allied: fitting, appropriate, proper (see FIT): important, significant, weighty (see corresponding nouns at importance)
Ant extraneous — Con alien, foreign, *extrinsic
reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty, tried can be applied to persons, their utterances, views, methods, or instruments to mean having or manifesting qualities which merit confidence or trust. Reliable describes what one can count upon not to fail in doing what is expected (she is a very reliable servant) (one of the most reliable of our employees) (a reliable washing machine) or to give or tell the exact truth (a reliable work of reference) (reliable testimony) Dependable is very close to reliable: it may suggest steadiness or trustworthiness in time of need or in an emergency (ask a friend to recommend a dependable physician) (he is the most dependable of our friends) (a dependable source of information) Dependable is also used merely as a descriptive term implying a character that is predictable or that is the antithesis of what is fickle or capricious (Laura wasn't pretty, but . . . healthy-looking and dependable—Mary Austin) A person or occasionally a thing is trustworthy that merits or has earned one's complete confidence in his or its soundness, integrity, veracity, discretion, or reliability (a trustworthy confidant) (a trustworthy witness) (a trustworthy wife) (the most trustworthy comment on the text of the Gospels and the Epistles is to be found in the practice of the primitive Christians—Macauly) Trusty applies to a person or thing that has been found by experience to be reliable and trustworthy (a trusty guide) (a trusty servant) or that has been found never to have failed one in need or in an emergency or that has been found dependable whenever needed (his trusty sword—Spenser) (he wrapped the trusty garment about him—Cather) Tried also stresses proved reliability, dependability, trustworthiness, or trustiness (a tried and true friend) (a tried remedy) (a tried soldier) (his tried expedients—Bagehot)
Ana *safe, secure: *infallible, inerrant, reliable: cogent, *valid, sound, convincing, compelling, telling
Ant dubious — Con *doubtful, problematic, questionable
reliance *trust, confidence, dependance, faith
Ana credence, credit, *belief, faith: assurance, conviction, certitude, *certainty
relieve, alleviate, lighten, assuage, mitigate, allay are comparable when they mean to make something tolerable or less grievous. Though they are often used interchangeably, they are clearly distinguishable. Relieve implies
a lifting of enough of a burden to make it definitely en-
durable or temporarily forgotten <drugs that relieve pain>
(taking steps to control the fire and relieve the suffering
it entailed—Miliben) Occasionally relieve, when used in
the passive, implies a release from anxiety or fear <they
were greatly relieved when her letter came> Sometimes
it suggests a break in monotony or in routine <I've had
some trouble to get them together to relieve the dullness
of your incarceration—Meredith> Alleviate stresses the
temporary or partial nature of the relief and usually im-
plies a contrast with cure and remedy <oil of cloves will
alleviate a toothache> <to help alleviate New York's
chronic traffic problem—Current Biol.> Lighten implies
credence in the weight of what oppresses or depresses;
it often connotes a cheering or refreshing influence <his
interest in his work lightened his labors> <that blessed
mood. . . in which the heavy and the weary weight of
all this unintelligible world is lightened—Wordsworth>
Assuage suggests the moderation of violent emotion by
influences that soften or mollify or sometimes sweeten
<the good gods assuage thy wrath—Shak.> <the life-giving
zephyrs that assuage the torment of the summer heat—
Cloete> Moderate suggests moderation in the force,
violece or intensity of something painful; it does not,
as assuage does, imply something endured but something
inflicting or likely to inflict pain <mitigate the barbarity
of the criminal law—Inge> <group friction and conflict
are generally mitigated when people realize their common
interests—Cohen> Allay, though it seldom implies com-
plete release from what distresses or disquiets, does
suggest an effective calming or quieting <the report
allayed their fears> <his suspicions were allayed> <these
. . . words. . . allayed agitation; they composed, and con-
sequently must make her happier—Austen>
Ana *comfort, console, solace: *moderate, qualify,
temper: diminish, reduce, lessen, *decrease
Ant intensify: embarrass: alarm

religion, denomination, sect, cult, communion, faith, creed,
persuasion, church can all denote a system of religious
belief and worship or the body of persons who accept
such a system. Religion, the usual uncrowned term, may
apply to a system (as Christianity or Buddhism) which
represents the beliefs and worship of all those who accept
a given revelation or to one (as Anglicanism) which rep-
resents the beliefs and practiced worship of a specific
body of those who accept the same revelation <the religion
of the Arabs> <the religion of the Scribes and Pharisees>
Denomination basically applies to a body of people holding
common and distinctive religious beliefs and called by
a particular name so as to distinguish them from a more
inclusive body <Methodists form one denomination of
Protestants> <the leading Christian denominations>
Sect is applied to a group cut off from a larger body or,
more specifically, from an established or a parent
church through discontent with some matter of doctrine
or observance; thus, one speaks of the Christian religion
as comprising all who accept the New Testament as divine
revelation, but of the various sects into which the seven-
teenth-century and eighteenth-century Protestant de-
nominations were divided. Cult though widely varied in use
is typically applied to any member of a religious
order of women who devote themselves to prayer, con-
templation, and work; and may wear a habit.

relinquish, yield, leave, resign, surrender, cede, abandon,
waive are comparable when they mean to let go from one's
control or possession or to give up completely. Relinquish
in itself seldom carries any added implication, but it of-
ten acquires color from the words with which it is asso-
ciated or from the character of the thing given up <dis-
inclined to relinquish his command> <relinquished his

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
grasp only after a struggle. She had let something go . . . something very precious, that he could not consciously have relinquished—Cather. Yield adds to relinquish the implication of concession or compliance; in some collocations it does not even suggest finality—a prevailing but not always necessary implication in the words of this group—but rather, a giving way as a favor, or as a sign of weakness, or as an indulgence "yield not thy neck to fortune's yoke, but let thy dauntless mind still ride in triumph over all mischance—Shak." Leave is often used in place of relinquish but distinctively it can imply a forsaking "we have left all, and have followed thee—Mc 10:28" he has left me . . . quitted me! abandoned me!—Bennett. Like relinquish it can be strongly colored by context and may convey such dissimilar notions as a giving up or letting go that constitutes sacrifice "the opium eater who cannot leave his—Wolf" or neglect "by all ye leave or do, the silent, sullen peoples shall weight your Gods and you—Kipling" or concession "the constitution leaves them [the States] this right in the confidence that they will not abuse it—John Marshall" or even imposition upon others "she leaves most of the work to her sister"—Resign emphasizes voluntary or deliberate sacrifice without struggle; it usually connotes either renunciation or acceptance of the inevitable "the ambition which incites a man to seize power seldom allows him to resign it—Times Lit. Sup." in her face . . . was that same strange mingling of resigned despair and almost eager appeal—Galsworthy. Surrender distinctively implies the existence of external compulsion or demand; it commonly suggests submission after a struggle or after resistance or show of resistance "when they saw all that was sacred to them laid waste, the Navaho . . . did not surrender; they simply ceased to fight—Cather." At times the implication of resistance is blurred and that of conscious sacrifice, as for a greater advantage, is heightened "surrender rights to a portion of an estate" Cede is narrower in its application than surrender; as a rule it suggests juridical pressure as expressed in a court decision, the findings of arbitrators, or the terms of a treaty, though it may suggest previous negotiation, and is used in reference to the transfer of lands, territory, or rights "the territory ceded by France, under the name of Louisiana—Taney." Abandon (see also ABANDON 1) stresses finality and completeness in relinquishment, especially of intangible things (as hopes, opinions, methods, or schemes) "no, no; you stick to your prejudices, or at any rate don't abandon them on your account—Mackenzie" Waive, like yield, need not imply finality and often suggests a concession, but unlike yield and the other terms of this group, it seldom implies the compulsion of force or necessity. Its main implication is a refusal to insist on something (as a right, a claim, one's preference, one's immunity, or obedience to a rule, law, or convention) usually for the sake of courtesy, simplicity, or concentration on what is relatively more important "waive extradition proceedings" "waive a jury trial" "he waived his right to be heard in his own defense" "he waived the ceremony of introduction—Burney." if art can enthrall him, he is willing to waive all question of logic or rationality—Babbitt. Ana *abdicate, renounce, resign: *abandon, desert, forsake: *forgo, forbear, abnegate, sacrifice: *discard, shed, cast Ant keep relish n 1 savor, tang, flavor, *taste, smack 2 *taste, palate, gusto, zest Ana liking, loving, enjoying, relishing (see LIKE): *pre-dilection, partiality, prepossession, prejudice, bias: propensity, *leaning, flair, penchant

relish vb fancy, dote, enjoy, *like, love Ana appreciate, *understand, comprehend: *approve, endorse, sanction

relishing *palatable, appetizing, savory, sapid, tasty, toothsome, flavorsome Ana pleasing, gratifying, delicious, delighting, rejoicing, tickling, regaling (see PLEASE) Con flat, *insipid, jejune, banal, insane

reluctant *disinclined, indisposed, hesitant, loath, averse Ana *cautious, circumspect, chary, wary, calculating: *anaptipathetic, unsympathetic Con inclined, disposed, predisposed (see INCLINE vb): *eager, avid, keen

rely, trust, depend, count, reckon, bank can all mean to have or place full confidence. One relies on or upon someone or something that one believes will never fail in giving or doing what one wishes or expects. Rely usually connotes a judgment based on previous experience and, in the case of persons, actual association "he relies on his father to help him out of trouble" "he never relies on the opinions of others" a physician upon whom all his patients rely "bitter experience soon taught him that lordly patrons are fickle and their favor not to be relied on—Huxley" "he is entitled to one or two men whose personal loyalty he can rely upon—Michener." One trusts, or trusts in or to, when one is completely assured or wholly confident that another will not fail one in need. Trust stresses unquestioning faith which need not be based on actual experience "take short views, hope for the best, and trust in God—Sydney Smith" "because he trusted his own individual strength, he was hostile to planning—Commager." One depends on or upon someone or something when one, with or without previous experience, rests confidently on him or it for support or assistance. Depend may connote a lack of self-sufficiency or even weakness; it often implies so strong a belief or so confident an assumption that the hoped-for support or assistance is forthcoming that no provision for the contrary is made "his diﬀerence had prevented his depending on his own judgment . . . but his reliance on mine made everything easy—Austen" "the captain of the ship at sea is a remote, inaccessible creature . . . depending on nobody—Conrad." "the man never cared; he was always getting himself into crusades, or feuds, or love, or debt, and depended on the woman to get him out—Henry Adams." One counts or reckons on something when one takes it into one's calculations as certain or assured; the words often imply even more confidence in expectation than depend and may carry even more than the latter's frequent suggestion of possible distress or disaster if one's expectations are not fulfilled "they told me I was going to get a pension. I counted on it. And now they take it away—Upson." "Christian souls who counted on the slaves for their bread and butter—Brooks" "the Oriental writer reckons largely on the intellectual cooperation of his reader—Cheyne." But these terms are often weakened in use to the point that they mean little more than expect "the Soviet economic administration . . . reckons on good rather than poor crops—Van Valkenburg & Huntington" "he had not counted on having to pay for a room—Irwin Shaw." "One banks on something or someone in which one's confidence is as strong as it would be in a bank to which one would entrust one's money; hence, the term is appropriate when one wishes to express near absolute certainty without any of the other implications inherent in depend, count, and reckon "the kind of people you could bank on in a tight place—J. D. Adams" "you can bank on his honesty" "had reliable sources of information, and you could bank on what he said."
remain *stay, abide, tarry, linger
Ant depart

remains, residue, residuum, remains, leavings, rests, balance, remnant can all mean what is left after the subtraction or removal of a part. Remainder is the technical term for the result in the arithmetical process of subtraction \( \text{subtract } 8 \text{ from } 10 \text{ and the remainder is } 2 \)\). It is otherwise a comprehensive term for things that remain after the others of a collection, assemblage, or stock have been taken away, used up, or accounted for, or for any persons that remain after the others of the group have departed (he spent the remainder of his life in seclusion) (it took a week to eat up the remainder of their Thanksgiving feast) (the remainder of the exploring party turned homeward) Residues and residuum are often interchanged with remainder, but they usually imply whatever may be left of a former whole, often a previously intact whole, after it has been subjected to some process which depletes or diminishes it but does not annihilate it. Both terms, but especially residue, have acquired specific meanings; thus, a testator, after making certain bequests and providing for the payment of all his debts and charges, usually leaves the residue of his estate to a legatee, or to legatees, of his choice; water after evaporation often leaves a residue of mineral material; the residue of something destroyed by burning is called ash or ashes. Residuum is frequently used in place of residue, especially when evaporation or combustion is implied, and it may be preferred to residue when what is left after a process, whether physical or chemical or mental, is such that it cannot be ignored or left out of account or may have value as a product or significance as a result (the residuum of the process by which sugar is extracted from cane is called molasses) (there is always a residuum of air in the lungs after the most forcible expiration possible) (one might say that every fine story must leave in the mind of the sensitive reader an intangible residue of pleasure—Cather) Remainder is chiefly used of what is left after death, decay, decline, disintegration, or consumption; the term is specifically applied to a corpse, to the unpublished works of a dead author, and to the ruins of an ancient civilization (they buried Keats’s remains in the Protestant cemetery in Rome) (appointed executor of a friend’s literary remains) (the remains of Pompeii) (the remains of a meal) Leavings usually implies that the valuable or useful parts or things have been culled out and used up or taken away or that what is left has been rejected or discarded (how like the leavings of some vast overturned scrap basket—Brooks) Rest is seldom distinguishable from remainder (except in the latter’s technical arithmetical sense), and the two are commonly used interchangeably without loss. However it may be preferred to remainder when it means simply the persons or things not previously referred to or mentioned (as in an enumeration or list) and carries no implication of subtraction, deduction, or depletion (England, as well as the rest of Europe, awaited the effect of the ultimatum with anxiety) (only two stories in this book are interesting and the rest are uniformly dull) Balance is sometimes used in the simple sense of remainder or rest (answers will be given in the balance of this chapter—R. W. Murray) But balance is more often found in technical and especially commercial use; thus, in reference to a banking account, balance usually is applied only to the amount left after withdrawals and other charges have been deducted from the deposits and accumulated interest; in a mercantile charge account, balance is usually applied to the amount owed after credits have been deducted from the debts (a balance in the bank is a sum of money to the depositor’s credit) (a balance of a bill is an amount still owed by the debtor) (a balance in hand is an amount left when all assets are reckoned after all liabilities have been discharged) Remnant and its plural remnants are applied to a remainder that is small in size or numbers or that represents only an insignificant part or piece left from a former whole (the remnant of a once powerful army) (a sale of remnants of cloth) (living in Santa Fe on the remnants of the family fortune—Mary Austin) (sleeping bits of woodlands—remnants of the great forests in which Tom had worked as a boy—Anderson) Remains leavings, residue, *remainder, residuum, rest, balance, remnant

remark \( \text{vb} \) 1 notice, note, observe, perceive, discern, *see, behold, descry, esp, view, survey, contemplate 2 Remark, comment, commentate, animadvert are comparable when they mean to make observations or to pass judgment but they diverge in their implications regarding the motive and the nature of these observations and judgments. Remark usually implies little more than a desire to call attention to something (a bore remarks upon everything he sees) (a metropolitan newspaper remarked that no one today hopes for progress—Biersted) Comment stresses interpretation (as by bringing out what is not apparent or by adding details that help to clarify) (the dramatic reader frequently interrupted his performance to comment upon a scene) (whether could be induced to make an oral report on his country or to comment during general discussions—Boesen) Occasionally the word carries some hint of the unfavorable interpretation that is often a feature of the related noun (we cannot help commenting on a certain meanness of culture—T. S. Eliot) Commentate is sometimes used as a substitute for comment to suggest a purely expository or interpretative intent (commentating upon and collating of the works of former times—H. E. Cushman) (emerged from routine commentating to dramatic . . . reporting and interpreting—Life) but the verb is less frequently used than its agent noun, commentator (radio commentators on the news of the day) Animadvert (compare ANIMADVERSION) implies a remarking or commenting on something that may be based on careful judgment (I went to an old-fashioned school. All those who wish to animadvert on education ought to be able to begin that way—Calisher) but this basic implication is often obscured by an emphasis on passing an adverse judgment (we talked of gaming, and animadverted on it with severity—Boswell)

remark \( \text{n} \) Remark, observation, comment, commentary, note, obiter dictum can all denote a brief expression intended to enlighten, clarify, or express an opinion. A remark is a more or less casual expression in speech or writing of an opinion or judgment (as of something seen in passing, something read for the first time, or something to which one’s attention has been called); the term usually carries no implication of a final or considered judgment (comments I have to make . . . on the man . . . Brief remarks, absolutely not exhaustive—Mallor) (had a genius for remembering the most telltale gestures as well as the most self-revelatory remarks . . . of his master—Krutch) Observation may suggest a reasoned judgment based on more or less careful scrutiny of the evidence (he was impressed by my observation that disease had made it largely impossible for Indians to smile—Heiser) (intimate letters . . . even when containing valuable critical observations, should not be published in the same volume as achieved works—Wyndham Lewis)
remarkable

* noticeable, prominent, outstanding, conspicuous

Comment applies to a remark or an observation made in criticism, in interpretation, or in elucidation of something. It is often used to convey a sense of importance or significance. **Gibbons** puts it in context: “Remarkable” comments are those that are unexpected or noteworthy, often highlighting a significant point or insight. **Rose Macaulay** discusses the use of commentaries to accompany a film, where the critic’s obiter dicta (dicta that are not intended to be part of the main narrative) provide additional insights and analysis. **Milton Crane** notes the importance of commentaries in television and radio, where they are often used to provide context or commentary on the main content.

remedy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
remembrance 681

own recent experience—Mencken> {I will permit my memory to recall the vision of you, by all my dreams attended—Millay} But recall may imply, as recount does not, an agent or an agency other than oneself, and in such use suggests the awakening or evocation of a memory <forty years later Mr. Wilson recalled this circumstance to my memory—Repeil> {that tree always awakened pleasant memories, recalling a garden in the south of France where he used to visit young cousins—Cather} Remind implies the evocation of something forgotten, or not at the time in one’s mind, by some compelling power or agent. Often also it strongly implies a jogging of one’s memory. Usually the agent or agency is someone or something external that causes one to remember <he reminded me of my promise> {this incident reminded him of another and similar one> <he reminded himself that he had made an appointment for eight o’clock> <he found it necessary to keep on reminding himself that the time was short and the work must be finished according to schedule> Reminisce can imply the process of recollecting or of recalling something <how do people remember anything? How do they reminisce?—Lang> but often it suggests a nostalgic dredging up and retelling of events and circumstances of one’s past life <well, anyhow, we old fellows can reminisce—Garland> <he cut me short to reminisce of his schoolmates—Hervey Allen> Bethink, a commonly reflexive verb little used today, can distinctly imply recollection or recalling after reflection or a reminding oneself by thinking back <I have betought me of another fault—Shak> {to be- think themselves how little they may owe to their own merit—Helps> Mind (see also TEND) in the sense of remember is sometimes chosen to convey a dialectal feeling of simplicity or quaintness <I mind him coming down the street—Tennyson> {the lads you leave will mind you till Ludlow tower shall fall—Housman> <I can mind her well as a nursing mother—a comely woman in her day—Quiller-Couch> Ant forget —Con ignore, disregard, *neglect, overlook remembrance* 1 *memory, recollection, reminiscence, mind, souvenir* Ant forgetfulness 2 Remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake, souvenir denote something that serves to keep a person or thing in mind. Remembrance and the less common remembrancer are applied to an object which causes one to call back to mind someone or something, especially someone dead or far away or an event or occurrence of the past, often the distant past <I desire your acceptance of a ring, a small remembrance of my father—Swift> {every article she possessed . . . is separately bequeathed as an affectionate remembrance—Ellis> {the apricot scent of the gorge, which was ever afterwards to be the remembrancer of their love—Kaye-Smith> Reminder suggests something (as a memorandum) that keeps one from forgetting; the term need not suggest a wish to remember <occasional sawmills, reminders of the once-active lumber industry—Amer. Guide Series: Me.> Memorial suggests a wish or desire to preserve the memory of something (as a person or event) and therefore applies to a reminder (as a building, a monument, an endowment, or an observance) that is of a kind fitted to endure <the Lincoln Memorial in Washington> {the memorials of the rule of the Pharaohs are still engraved on the rocks of Libya—Newman> {it was the white man’s way to assert himself in any landscape . . . to leave some mark or memorial of his sojourn—Cather> The remaining words more consistently suggest a personal association between the thing intended as a remembrance or reminder and the person, experience, or place to be remembered. Memento typically applies to something small or trivial kept to satisfy a desire to renew the remembrance of some past interest; often the word suggests that the thing itself has no longer any value <the drawer was filled with mementos of her girlhood—dance programs, love letters, a glove> Token often refers to something treasured as a memento, but it usually denotes a gift presented to one as a sign of affection, esteem, or regret at parting {a handkerchief, an antique token my father gave my mother—Shak> <I leave in every house some little token, a rosary or a religious picture—Cather> Keepsake represents the attitude of the receiver rather than of the giver; otherwise it differs little in general use from token and memento <perhaps the strongest keepsake is a slice of her . . . wedding cake—Green Peyton> But keepsake may apply specifically to a giftbook, often one made up for a particular group or occasion or as a specimen of fine printing. Souvenir (see also MEMORY) usually implies a material reminder not necessarily given nor received that remains or is kept as a memento (as of a place visited or of an experience worthy of remembrance) <pockmarks in the masonry . . . are souvenirs of the bomb that exploded there—John Brooks> Ana *gift, present, favor remembrancer* *remembrance, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake, souvenir* remind *remember, recollect, recall, reminisce, bethink, mind Ana *suggest, intimate, hint, imply remembrance* *remembrance, remembrancer, memorial, memento, token, keepsake, souvenir* remiss lax, slack, neglectful, *negligent Ana *careless, heedless, thoughtless: *forgetful, oblivious, unmindful: indolent, slothful, faineant, *lazy Ant scrupulous remit 1 pardon, forgive, *excuse, condone Ana *expel, exonerate, acquit, vindicate, absolve 2 forward, transmit, route, ship, *send, dispatch remnant *remainder, residue, residuum, remains, leavings, rest, balance Ana *part, piece, fragment, segment, section: vestige, trace recollectrate expostulate, *object, protest, kick Ana oppose, combat, *resist, withstand, fight: *criticize, denounce, reprobate remorse *penitence, repentance, contrition, attrition, compunction Ana regret, *sorrow, grief: *qualm, scruple, compunction, demur remote* *distant, far, faraway, far-off, removed Ana close move vb *move, shift, transfer Ana convey, *carry, bear, transport, transmit: eradicate, extirpate, uproot (see EXTERMINATE) removed remote, far-off, faraway, far, *distant remunerate* *pay, compensate, satisfy, reimburse, indemnify, repay, recompense Ana award, accord, vouchsafe, *grant remunerative *paying, gainful, lucrative, profitable Ana handsome, bountiful, munificent, *liberal: lavish, prodigal, *profuse Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
renew, *restore, refresh, renovate, refurbish, rejuvenate are strongly derogatory terms denoting a person who forsakes his faith or party, a cause, or an allegiance, and aligns himself with another. Renegade, originally applied to a Christian who became a Mohammedan, came to mean one who completely denies all he has been brought up to believe by going over to the enemy or the opposition. <venom the renegade can summon up against his former beliefs and associates—New Yorker> Apostle stresses the giving up, either voluntarily or under compulsion, of something (as one's religious beliefs or political or intellectual principles) one has formerly professed and the acceptance of others which are usually, by implication, of a less exalted character. Apostle therefore usually connotes surrender, but it need not, as renegade often does, imply treachery or hostility to what is forsaken <That incomparable apostate from intelligence—Laski> <prepared to welcome back even the apostate, if he shows repentance and remorse—Bienenstok> Turncoat, a controversial disavowal, differs from renegade and apostate chiefly in its implications that profession of faith or allegiance is regarded lightly and that convenience or profit rather than conviction motivates the change <An American who went abroad and stayed, without an official excuse . . . was regarded as a turncoat—Brooks> Recreant, like apostate, implies a retreat from a stand one has taken, but it stresses cowardice and meanspiritedness, and usually connotes treachery to the party or cause once supported <call such recreants as either refused to sail with the colonists or having sailed with them should afterwards desert—Frazer> Backslider, in contrast to the other terms, usually implies a previous conversion and a reversion to the old indifference or the old beliefs; thus, a convert who goes back to his earlier state morally or to his earlier religious affiliation is regarded as a backslider by one adherent to the position he held as a convert. <Ana *rebel, insurgent, iconoclast: deserter, forsaker, abandoner (see corresponding verbs at abandon): *heretic, schismatic Ant adherent renew, restore, refresh, renovate, refurbish, rejuvenate are comparable when they mean to give a person or thing that has become old, worn, or exhausted the qualities light Shak.y quench thee, thou flaming minister, I can again thy former the loss of a vital or essential quality or character <if I injured, or wrecked (as by passage of time, use, accident, or assault in war) <I their foliage) <I each spring the trees grated <each spring the trees think I will be extravagant enough to new to replace the old that has died, decayed, or disintegrated <each spring the trees renew their foliage <I think I will be extravagant enough to renew my entire wardrobe—Shaw> or a remaking so that it seems like new of a thing which has depleted its vitality or force or has lost its freshness <they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength—Isa 40:31> <to renew and re-build civilization, and save the world from suicide—T.-S. Eliot> or a making a fresh start <renewed his efforts> <renewed his offer of assistance> Restore (see also restore 2) definitely implies a return to an original state or to a prime condition typically after depletion, exhaustion, or illness <restored his vigor> <restored his good humor> <a long rest restored him to health> or after being marred, injured, or wrecked (as by passage of time, use, accident, or assault in war) <Rheims Cathedral was restored after World War I> <an attempt to restore a picture> or if the loss of a vital or essential quality or character <if I quench thee, thou flaming minister, I can again thy former light restore, should I repent me—Shak.> Refresh often implies the supplying of something necessary to restore lost strength, animation, or power <sleep refreshes both body and mind> <a cool, refreshing drink> or to make up for what has been lost through forgetfulness or disuse <he made it his business to see Dr. Lavendar, and be refreshed as to facts—Deland> Equally often the term implies the imparting of freshness to something by or as if by cooling, wetting, or allaying thirst; it then usually connotes an enlivening, invigorating, or exhilarating effect <the springs . . . under the earth . . . break forth to refresh and gladden the life of flowers and the life of man—Binyon> <it refreshes me to find a woman so charmingly direct—Bromfield> Renovate and refurbish differ from the preceding terms chiefly in being referred almost exclusively to material things and as a consequence in not having the poetic connotations so often found in renew, restore, and refresh. Renovate is often used in place of renew when cleansing, repairing, or rebuilding is implied <renovate an old colonial house> <drawn into a sequence of violent episodes that cause him to renovate his attitudes toward life and death—Martin Levin> while refurbish implies the restoration of newness or freshness by or as if by scouring or polishing and suggests here little more than a freshening up of the appearance or the external aspects of a thing <refurbish an old table by sandpapering and waxing it> and therefore occasionally is used in depreciation <hoped to reform national conduct . . . by reforming our vocabulary . . . but it does seem a good bit to achieve with nothing more tangible than a refurbished vocabulary—Laird> <the refurbishing of trite thoughts is the sole accomplishment of many would-be poets> Rejuvenate implies a restoration of youthful vigor, powers, appearance, or activities; sometimes it merely suggests a giving a youthful aspect to something old <he . . . had the air of an old bachelor trying to rejuvenate himself—Irving> <outworn themes may be rejuvenated by taking on contemporary garb—Lowes> Ana *mend, repair, rebuild: reform, revise, rectify, *correct Con exhaust, *deplete, drain, impoverish, bankrupt renunciation 1 *abdicate, resign Ana sacrifice, abnegate, *forsgo, forbear, eschew Ant arrogate: covet (sense 2) —Con usurp, preempt, appropriate (see arrogate) 2 *abjure, forswear, recant, retract Ana reject, repudiate, spur (see decline vb): *forsgo, forbear, eschew Ant confess: claim renounce rejuvenate, renounce, *renew, restore, refresh Ana *mend, repair, patch: *clean, cleanse renown *fame, honor, glory, celebrity, reputation, repute, notoriety, éclat Ana prestige, authority, *influence, weight, credit Con contempt, despite, disdain, scorn (see under despise): disrepute, *disgrace, dishonor, obloquy renowned *famous, famed, celebrated, eminent, illustrious Ana praised, acclaimed, lauded, extolled (see PRAISE): outstanding, signal, prominent (see noticeable) rent vb *hire, let, lease, charter rent n *breach, break, split, schism, rupture, rift Ana separation, severance, division (see corresponding verbs at SEPARATE): tearing or tear, cleaving or cleavage (see corresponding verbs at tear): interruption, gap, hiatus (see break) renunciation, abnegation, self-abnegation, self-denial can all mean voluntary surrender or putting aside of something desired or desirable. Renunciation (see also under renounce at abdicate) commonly connotes personal sacrifice for a higher end (as the good of others, or moral A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
discipline, or the attainment of the highest good) <she had learnt the lesson of renunciation, and was as familiar with the wreck of each day's wishes as with the diurnal setting of the sun—Hardy> Historically abnegation is scarcely distinguishable from self-abnegation, although the trend is toward preference for the latter or its equivalent abnegation of self. Both words more often denote a quality of character than an act, and both imply a high degree of unselfishness or a capacity for putting aside all personal interests or desires <individuals who are willing to abandon the pleasures of the world for lepers are rare, but, when found, usually exhibit complete abnegation of self—Heiser> <his self-abnegation prevented him from taking credit for the victory—Patrick> Self-denial, unlike abnegation, is usually applied to an act or a practice. Though it means denial of oneself or forbearance from gratifying one's own desires, it does not necessarily connote nobility in the act, its motive, or its end and is therefore applicable to a larger range of instances than either abnegation or renunciation <her still face, with the mouth closed tight from suffering and disillusion and self-denial—D. H. Lawrence>

Ana sacrificing or sacrifice, forgoing, forbearing, eschewing (see FORGO)

repair vb *mend, patch, rebuild
Ana remedy, redress, amend, emend, rectify, *correct; *renew, renovate, refurbish, restore

reparation, redress, amends, restitution, indemnity are
•mend, patch, rebuild
vb

just balance <if I did take the kingdom from your sons, Ana

analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
as well as by speech. Action can tell a story . . . and depict every kind of human emotion, without the aid of a word—Justice Holmes>

**Portray** suggests the making of a detailed representation of individual persons, or of specific characters, emotions, or qualities (as by drawing, engraving, painting, acting, or describing) *(in literature they are portrayed all human passions, desires, and aspirations—Eliot)* *(a star who unquestionably conveyed to audiences the very essence of the character he was portraying—J. F. Wharton)*

**Delineate** (see also SKETCH) basically implies representation by an art (as engraving or drawing) that uses lines to gain its effects, but, like *portray*, it is often used to stress care for accuracy of detail and fullness of outline *(his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials. He could delineate whatever he elected with technical skill—Jeffries)* Picture less than any of these terms implies the employment of a particular art; it emphasizes the ability to realize a thing in a pictorial or vivid way and may either imply graphic description *(those villages Mark Twain . . . has pictured for us—Brooks)* or sensible representation in any form *(her emotions are all pictured in her face)* or, sometimes with *"to oneself," mere imaginative power *(the girl was in his mind a lot . . . he had always had a good imagination. He pictured her as she came down the stairs in the morning—Malamud)* *(they tried, in their sympathetic grief, to picture to themselves all that she had been through in her life—Bennett)*

**Limn** is used chiefly as an equivalent of *depict or delineate*, often implying the art of painting vividly and with color *(since not every ancestral likeness had been limned by the brush of a maestro, dignity . . . sometimes seemed merely bovine—Warren)* *(had too much taste to bare all these grubby secret details, but she limned a general picture for him—Stafford)*

**Ana** exhibit, display, *show*; *suggest, hint*; *sketch*, outline, draft, delineate: describe, narrate, *relate*

**representative** *n* delegate, deputy

**repress** *suppress*

**reprimand** *vb* reprove, rebuke, reproach, admonish, chide

**Ana** upbraid, rate, berate, *scold*: censure, denounce, blame, reprehend, reprobate, *criticize*

**reprinting** *edition, impression, printing, reissue*

**reprisal** *retaliation, retribution, revenge, vengeance*

**reproach** *vb* chide, admonish, *reprove, rebuke, reprimand*

**Ana** *criticize, reprehend, censure, reprobate*: *warn, forewarn, caution: counsel, advise* *(see under ADVICE)*

**reprobat e** *vb* censure, reprehend, *criticize, blame, condemn, denounce*

**Ana** *decry, derogate, detract, depreciate, disparage: reject, repudiate, spurn* *(see DECLINE vb)*: reprimand, rebuke, *reprove*

**reprobate** *adj* *abandoned, profligate, dissolute*

**Ana** *vicious, iniquitous, corrupt, degenerate*: *blame-worthy, guilty, culpable*

**Ant** elect *(in theology)* — *Con* righteous, virtuous, *moral*, ethical

**reprobate** *n* outcast, castaway, derelict, pariah, un-touchable

**Ana** sinner, offender *(see corresponding nouns at OFFENSE): transgressor, trespasser *(see corresponding nouns at BREACH)*: *villain, scoundrel, blackguard*

**reproduce** propagate, *generate, engender, breed, beget, get, sire, procreate*

**Ana** produce, *bear*, yield: multiply *(see INCREASE)*

**reproduction**, *duplicate, copy, carbon copy, facsimile, replica, transcript* are comparable when they mean one thing which closely or essentially resembles something that has already been made, produced, or written. *Reproduction* may imply identity in material or substance, in size, and in quality, or it may imply differences, provided that the imitation gives a fairly true likeness of the original; thus, a reproduction of an Elizabethan theater may be on a very small scale; a reproduction of a Sheraton chair may be in cherry rather than in the mahogany of the original *(the present director, on tour in Western Canada, discovered the need for reproductions of Canadian pictures—Report on Nat'l Development (Ottawa)*) *(the late works look finer in reproduction than they do in the original—Kitson)* A *duplicate* is a double of something else: the word may be used of something that exactly corresponds to or is the counterpart of any object; whatsoever *(a duplicate of a bill of sale)* *(this postage stamp is a duplicate of one in my collection)* *(make out a receipt in duplicate)* *(plans a movie of the salvage operations, and will sail a duplicate vessel on the course taken—Current Bio)* A *copy* is a reproduction of something else, often without the exact correspondence which belongs to a duplicate; however copy, rather than *duplicate* *(which logically implies that there is but a single reproduction)*, is applicable to any one of a number of things printed from the same type format, struck off from the same die, or made in the same mold *(a thousand copies of a magazine)* *(production costs of popular records vary, of course, but a sales figure of sixty thousand copies is the . . . break-even point—Robert Rice)* *(modern copies of sixteenth-century chess sets—New Yorker)* *(mimeographed copies of a letter)*

**Carbon copy** stresses the idea of exactness found in *duplicate* *(the full moon rising like an immense red carbon copy of the earth seen from a distance—Peggy Bennett)* *(the civilians . . . seem well-content to let our foreign policy be a carbon copy of the strategy worked out by the military—Atlantic)* A *facsimile* is a close but usually not exact reproduction; the term may imply differences (as in scale) but it implies as close an imitating in details and material as possible or feasible *(the heavy chandeliers were loaded with flattened brass balls, magnified facsimiles of which crowned the uprights of the . . . massively-framed chairs—Shaw)* *(a screen cast . . . presses hard for emotional impact. What results is less a facsimile than a parody of the original—Hatch)* *(looking for an intellectual equal, or at least the facsimile of an intellectual equal—Mailer)*

**Replica** applies specifically to an exact reproduction of a statue, a painting, or a building made by or under the direction of the same artist, architect, or artisan; thus, one does not speak accurately of a modern *replica* of the Winged Victory, but of a modern *reproduction*; one may speak of the confusing tendency of some Renaissance artists to make *replicas* of their paintings. However the word is often used merely to emphasize very close likeness *(collection of miniature sports cars. Tiny, Swiss-made replicas, they were precision machined and finely detailed, all scaled to perfection—Terry Southern)*

**Transcript** applies only to a written, typed, or printed copy made directly from an original or from shorthand notes *(a stenographer's transcript of a letter)* *(ask for a transcript of a will)*

**Reprove**, rebuke, reprimand, admonish, reproach, chide can all mean to criticize adversely, especially in order to warn of or to correct a fault. To *reprove* is to blame or censure, often kindly or without harshness and usually in the hope of correcting the fault *(his voice sounded so bright and cheerful . . . that she could not find it in her
heart to reprove him—Röylaag> Rebuke implies sharp or stern reproof (he could not evade the persistent conviction that she was the Church speaking, rebuking him—Hervey> Reprimand suggests reproof that is formal, and often public or official (a word... which the Duke of Wellington, or Admiral Stopford, would use in reprimanding an officer—Macaulay> Admonish stresses the implication of warning or counsel (count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother—2 Thess 3:15> A highly sensitive dog, and cannot bear reproof. Perhaps this is because he is not admonished sufficiently at home—Littel> Reproach and chide imply dissatisfaction or displeasure; reproach usually connotes criticism or faultfinding; chide implies mild reproof or a slight scolding (if he came home late, and she reproached him, he frowned and turned on her in an overbearing way—D. H. Lawrence> It is not fitting for men of dignity to threaten and reproach because women have had a falling out—Shirley Jackson> The gentle irony with which he chides the overzealousness of modern critics—Joseph Frank> Ana *criticize, reprehend, censure, reprobate: chasten, correct, discipline, *punish

repudiate 1 spurn, reject, refuse, *decline
Ana renounce, *abjure: *forgo, forbear, eschew, sacrifice
Ant adopt —Con *acknowledge, own, admit, avow, confess: embrace, espouse (see ADOPT)
2 *disclaim, disavow, disown, disallow
Ana *abandon, desert, forsake: *discard, cast
Ant own —Con *acknowledge, admit, avow, confess: *grant, concede, allow

repugnant 1 Repugnant, repellent, abhorrent, distasteful, obnoxious, invidious are comparable when they mean so alien or unlikable as to arouse antagonism and aversion. Repugnant is applied to something so incompatible with one's ideas, principles, or tastes as to stir up resistance and loathing (soon the pressures of male eyes, eyes expressing sex... became repugnant to her—Peggy Bennett> The nonlegal methods of the magistrates in dispensing judgment, so repugnant to the spirit of the common law—Parrington> Repellent usually implies a forbidding or unlovely character in something that causes one to back away from it (the mediocre was repellent to them; cant and sentiment made them sick—Rose Macaulay> What he does say is that hanging is barbarous and sickening, that electrocution and the gas chamber are no less brutal and repellent—Rover> Abhorrent (see also Hateful) is applied to something that is incapable of association or existence with something else, and it often implies profound antagonism (dictatorial methods abhorrent to American ways of thinking—Forum> Distasteful is applied to something that one instinctively shrinks from not because it in itself is necessarily unlikable but because it is contrary to one's particular taste or inclination (even the partition of the world into the animate and the inanimate is distasteful to science, which dislikes any lines that cannot be crossed—Inge> She finds it hard to think of using the personal belongings of... previous occupants—Kenneth Roberts> Obnoxious is applied to what is so highly objectionable, usually on personal grounds, that one cannot endure the sight or presence of it or him with equanimity (the nation hadulked itself into a state of tacit rebellion against the obnoxious Volstead Law—S. H. Adams> An opportunity to... make himself generally obnoxious—Simeon Ford
Invidious is applied to something that cannot be used as (a word) or made (as a distinction) or undertaken (as a task or project) without arousing or creating ill will, envy, or resentment (the invidious word usually—Hume> What I would urge, therefore, is that no invidious distinction

should be made between the Old Learning and the New—J. R. Lowell> Undertake the invidious task of deciding what is to be approved and what is to be condemned—Daniel Jones>


Ant congenial
2 repellent, revolting, *offensive, loathsome
Ana odious, *hateful, abominable, detestable: foul, nasty (see DIRTY): vile, *base, low
repulsive repugnant, revolting, *offensive, loathsome
Ana repellant, *repugnant, abhorrent, obnoxious
Ant alluring, captivating
reputation repute, *fame, renown, honor, glory, celebrity, éclat, notoriety
Ana credit, weight, *influence, authority, prestige
repute n reputation, *fame, renown, celebrity, notoriety, éclat, honor, glory
Ant dispute
reputed *supposed, suppositional, suppositional, putative, purported, portended, conjectural, hypothetical
Ana assumed, presumed (see PRESUPPOSE)
request vb *ask, solicit
Ana *beg, entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate, impotent: appeal, petition, sue, pray (see under PRAYER)
require 1 exact, claim, *demand
Ana *prescribe, assign, define: warrant, *justify
2 lack, want, need

requirement, requisite, prerequisite can all mean something that is regarded as necessary to the success or perfection of a thing. Although requirement, the more general term, may be employed in place of requisite, it is the customary term when the idea to be conveyed is of something more or less arbitrarily demanded or expected, especially by those who lay down conditions (as for admission to college, for enlistment in the army or navy, for membership in a church, or for entrance into a course) (college entrance requirements) (a list of requirements for all campers) (action was instituted... to compel the school board to revoke the oath requirement—Clinton) Requisite is the customary term when the stress is on the idea of something that is indispensable to the end in view, or is necessitated by a thing's nature or essence or is otherwise essential and not arbitrarily demanded (the first requisite of literary or artistic activity, is that it shall be interesting—T. S. Eliot> The requisites of our present social economy are capital and labor (intellectual freedom... is the prime requisite for a free people—Science> Prerequisite differs from requisite only in a stress on the time when something becomes indispensable; it applies specifically to things which must be known, or accomplished, or acquired as preliminaries (as to the study of a subject, the doing of a kind of work, or the attainment of an end) (answered the questions put to him by the Senators as a prerequisite to his confirmation—Current Biol>) (he possesses the prerequisite of an original poet—a percipience unifying, exact and exhilarating—Day Lewis)

requisite adj *needful, necessary, indispensable, essential
Ana compelled or compulsory, constrained, obliged or obligatory (see corresponding verbs at FORC): fundamental, *essential, cardinal, vital

requisite n *requirement, prerequisite
requisite nutrient, requisite
requisite *reciprocate, retaliate, return
Ana repay, recompense, compensate (see PAY): *satisfy, content: revenge (see AVENGE)
rescind *revoke, reverse, repeal, recall
Ana cancel, expunge, *erase: abrogate, *annul, void
and usually suggests the status of a guest either in a hotel or in a private home (two seasons ago I put up at a farmhouse—T. H. White) (where does he put up when he is in Chicago?) Stop, which is often used in the sense of stay (he is stopping at the largest hotel in the city) often specifically implies the breaking of a trip or journey by a short stay (where shall we stop for the night?)

Ana remain, abide (see stay): continue, endure

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

resident n *inhabitant, denizen, citizen

residue residuum, remains, leavings, *remainder, rest, balance, remnant

residuum residue, *remainder, remains, leavings, rest, balance, remnant

resign 1 yield, surrender, leave, abandon, *relinquish, cede, waive

Ana *forgo, eschew, sacrifice, forbear, abnegate: *abjure, renounce, forswear

2 *abdicate, renounce

resignation 1 compliance, acquiescence (see under COMPLY)

Ana submitting or submission, yielding, deferring or deference (see corresponding verbs at yield): meekness, modesty, humbleness or humility, lowness (see corresponding adjectives at humble)

2 *patience, long-suffering, longanimity, forbearance

Ana endurance, toleration, suffering or sufferance (see corresponding verbs at bear): *fortitude, backbone, pluck

resigned *compliant, acquiescent

Ana submissive, subdued (see tame): reconciled, adjusted, adapted, accommodated, conformed (see adapt)

Ant rebellious

resile recoil, *rebounce, reverberate, repercuss

resilient 1 *elastic, springy, flexible, supple

Ana recoiling, resiling, rebounding (see rebound): recovering, regaining, retrieving (see recover)

Con rigid, *stiff, inflexible, tense

2 *elastic, expansive, buoyant, volatile, effervescent

Ana responsive, sympathetic (see tender): *spirited, high-spirited, mettlesome

Ant flaccid

resist, withstand, contest, oppose, fight, combat, conflict, antagonize are comparable when they mean to set one person or thing against another in a hostile or competing way, and they may be roughly distinguished according to the degree to which one of the things or forces takes the initiative against the other. Resist and withstand suggest generally that the initiative lies wholly with the person or force competed against. Resist implies an overt recognition of a hostile or threatening force and a positive effort to counteract it, repel it, or ward it off (the very region which had resisted and finally destroyed the Roman Empire—Malone) (it is hard to resist the thought that metaphor is one of the most important heuristic devices—R. M. Weaver) (resist the pressure of political orthodoxy)

Withstand may suggest a more passive yet often successful resistance in which if nothing is gained, at least nothing is lost (most plants cannot withstand frost) (built to withstand work and worry—Yoder) (having withstood the pressure of her parents—Rose Macaulay) Contest and oppose suggest a more positive action against a threatening or objectionable force. Contest often stresses the raising of the issue or the bringing into open question of the matter over which there is conflict (the board's power to inspect private welfare agencies was later contested and restricted—Amer. Guide Series: N. Y.) (it is impossible to contest your principle—Meredith)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
resonant, sonorous, ringing, resounding, vibrant, orotund

2 determine, *decide, settle, rule
*Ana purpose, propose, design, *intend, mean: plan, scheme, project (see under PLAN n)
3 *solve, unfold, unravel, decipher
*Ana dispel, dissipate, disperse (see SCATTER): clear, *rid, purge, disabuse

resonant, sonorous, ringing, resounding, vibrant, orotund

are applied to the sounds or tones of speech and music and mean conspicuously full and rich. Resonant implies intensification or enrichment of tone by sympathetic vibration (as by the soundboard and body of a violin or by columns of air above and below the vocal cords in the larynx). It applies especially to musical tones (the tones produced by this piano are very resonant) *heard the beating of the small drums—a hollow, resonant sound—Nordhoff & Hall) but in more general use it is applicable to a sound (as of speech or a bird note) that seems more than naturally full and rich *his deep resonant voice that makes even a line from a financial statement have the ringing, rhythmic tones of a Yeats quotation—Saarinen

Sonorous implies a quality of tone or speech suggesting the reverberant sound elicited by striking some metals (as copper or brass) or some kinds of glass; it may apply to a voice that is high and clear or, more often, to one that is deep and rich, but loudness and fullness are usually clearly implied *a herald chosen for his sonorous voice—Frazer) *the deep, sonorous voice of the red-bearded Duke, which boomed out like a dinner gong—Doyle

As applied to language or utterance as distinct from voice sonorous may suggest depth and richness *its earnestness and patience, and its utter lack of synthetic drama, give many of its pages the sonorous sureness of pure philosophy—Marquand) but is more likely to suggest an obscuring or the absence of real meaning by lush verbiage or florid presentation *detains thought within pompous and sonorous generalities wherein controversy is as inevitable as it is incapable of solution—Dewey) *adept at distilling from the sonorous official speeches the three or four words that contain the meaning the speechmakers sought to conceal—New Yorker

Ringing usually implies a sound made by or as if by a bell; the word suggests a vigorous, stirring quality *her beautiful, ringing, honest voice, the expression of her whole personality—Ellis) *a perfect ecstasy of song—clear, ringing, copious—Burroughs)

Resounding applies not only to vocal or instrumental sounds but to any sound that seems to reecho or to awaken echoes. It usually implies the increase of sound by something that throws it back *the sound of a great underground river, flowing through a resounding cavern—Cather) but it may imply a loudness and fullness of sound that seem to call forth echoes *put into circulation many resounding phrases which rang from the hustings—Krock)

*closed the door behind him with a resounding bang—Brennan

Vibrant, when used of sounds or tones, suggests vibration but not necessarily resonancy; rather it implies qualities of life, vigor, or strong feeling *the speaker paused a moment, his low vibrant tones faltering into silence—Zangwill) *it concentrates in one vibrant poem the despair and the hopes of millennia—Edmund Wilson

Orotund usually describes an acquired or an affected quality of speech. It implies fullness, roundness, and dignity of utterance which may be regarded either objectively or contemptuously *it is rather the exquisite craftsmanship of France than the surging and orotund utterances of Leaves of Grass that has given to free verse . . . its most distinctive qualities—Lawrence) *the voice was like no voice ever heard before—orotund, massive, absolute, like the sound of thunder—Styron)

Ana *full, replete; *rich, opulent: intensified, enhanced, heightened (see INTENSIFY)

Described words

resort n *resource, expend, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate

Ana see those at RESOURCE 2

resort vb Resort, refer, apply, go, turn are comparable when they mean to betake oneself or to have recourse when in need of help or relief. Resort often implies that one has encountered difficulties or has tried ineffectually to surmount them; when it carries the latter implication, it often also connotes an approach to desperation *he found he could not get relief, unless he resorted to the courts) *most powers conceivably may be exercised beyond the limits allowed by the law . . . But we do not on that account resort to the blunt expedient of taking away the power—Justice Holmes) *Refer usually suggests a need of authentic information and recur to someone or something that will supply such information *every time he comes across a new word he refers to the dictionary) *most men refer to their own watches when someone reports the time) *Apply suggests having direct recourse (as in person or by letter) to one having the power to grant a request or petition *apply to a hospital for aid) *apply to the court for relief) *determined, that if he persisted in considering her repeated refusals as flattering encouragement, to apply to her father, whose negative might be uttered in accomplishing what must be decisive—Austen)

Go and turn are more general but often more picturesque or dramatic terms than the words previously considered, for they directly suggest action or movement *the president decided to go to the people with his plan for reorganization) *there was no one to whom she could go for sympathy) *she had taken fright at our behavior and turned to the captain pitifully—Conrad)

Ana *direct, address, devote: *use, employ, utilize

resounding *resonant, sonorous, ringing, vibrant, orotund

Ana *loud, stentorian, ear-splitting: intensified, heightened (see INTENSIFY)

resource 1 in plural form resources assets, belongings, effects, *possessions, means

2 Resource, resort, expend, shift, makeshift, stopgap, substitute, surrogate can all denote something to which one turns for help or assistance in difficulty or need when the usual means, instrument, or source of supply fails one, is not at hand, or is unknown to one. Resource applies to an action, activity, person, method, device, or contrivance upon which one falls back when in need of support, assistance, or diversion *he has exhausted every resource he can think of) *I must e'en hasten to matters of fact, which is the comfortable resource of dull people—Shenstone) *I am doomed to be the victim of eternal disappointments; and I have no resource but a pistol—Peacock) *with all the resources of her slovenliness, she was cunningly protecting herself against him by inducing him to believe she was a slut—Callaghan)

Resort is less often used than resource except when qualified by last or in the phrase "to have resort to" *have resort to a fortune-teller) *thus the income tax became a last resort—Shaw) *for many plankers transparency of body is a chief resort for concealment—Coker) *courts are the ultimate resorts for vindicating the Bill of Rights—Frankfurter

Expedient applies to a means, device, or contrivance which serves in place of what is usual or ordinary, or sometimes as a means, a device, or a contrivance to accomplish a difficult end easily or without waste of time *everything is brought about . . . through the medium of the author's reflections, which is the clumsiest of all expedients—Scott) *is not this a desperate expedient, a last refuge likely to appeal only to the leaders of a lost cause?—Krutch)

A shift is commonly a ten-
tative or temporary and often imperfect expedient; the term when applied to plans or stratagems typically implies evasiveness or trickery <the dear delicious shifts I used to be put to, to gain half a minute's conversation with this fellow!—Sheridan> <not amused by her shifts and her shameless deceit—Tinker> Makeshift is even more derogatory than shift for it implies substitution of the inferior for the superior and often it imputes carelessness, indifference, or laziness to the one who chooses or makes use of it <his ingenuity had been sharpened by all the recent necessity to employ makeshifts—Forster> <three or four rooms . . . have been kept nearly habitable by makeshifts of patchings—Pierce> Stopgap applies to a person or thing that momentarily or temporarily supplies an urgent need or fills a gap, hole, or vacancy <both vigilantes and mass meeting were looked upon as temporary stopgaps, to be disbanded as soon as governmental machinery was provided—Billington> Substitute (see also SUBSTITUTE 2) does not carry as strong a suggestion of an emergency or exigency as the preceding terms do; the word is applicable to something one chooses, accepts, or prefers, whether rightly or wrongly, rationally or irrationally, in place of the usual or original thing, or which has been invented or devised to take its place or to do its work <a substitute for milk . . . could be manufactured from the soya bean—Heiser> <daydreams, in adult life, are recognized as more or less pathological, and as a substitute for efforts in the sphere of reality—Russell> <this mock king who held office for eight days every year was a substitute for the king himself—Frazier> Surrogate is a somewhat learned word for a substitute <slang is . . . a facile surrogate for thought—Lowe> It is frequently applied to people whether as literal replacements or as replacement figures in psychological or sociological analyses <college presidents or their surrogates appealed for a revival of idealism—Adler> <to primitive men the cranes were . . . the surrogates of the resurgent sun-god—E. A. Armstrong> <the relationship to the mother surrogate retains the qualities . . . of the little boy's attachment to his mother—Scientific American> **Ana** device, contrivance, contraption: invention, creation (see corresponding verbs at INVENT): *method, manner, way, fashion, mode, system* respect **n** regard, esteem, admiration **Ana** reverence, awe, fear: *honor, homage, deference: veneration, reverence, worship, adoration (see under REVERE) **Ant** contempt respect **vb** regard, esteem, admire (see under REGARD n) **Ana** reverence, *revere, venerate: value, prize, cherish, *appreciate **Ant** abuse: misuse respecting concerning, regarding, *about respectively *each, apiece, severally, individually respite *pause, respite, lull, intermission **Ana** leisure, ease, *rest: interruption, interval, *break resplendent *splendid, gorgeous, glorious, sublime, superb **Ana** effulgent, refugent, radiant, brilliant, *bright: blazing, glowing, flaming (see BLAZE vb) respond *answer, reply, rejoin, retort **Ana** react, behave, *act **Con** stimulate, excite, quicken (see PROVOKE) response *answer, reply, rejoinder, retort (see under ANSWER vb 1) responsible, answerable, accountable, amenable, liable can all mean subject to an authority which may exact redress in case of default. Responsible, answerable, and accountable are very close, all meaning capable of being called upon to answer or to make amends to someone for something. Although often used interchangeably they are capable of distinction based on their typical applications. One is responsible for the performance of a task or duty, or the fulfillment of an obligation, or the execution of a trust, or the administration of an office to the person or body that imposes the task, duty, or trust or delegates the power <the governor is responsible to the electorate for the administration of the laws> Sometimes the to phrase or the for phrase is suppressed but still implied <the salesmen are responsible to the manager and the manager is responsible to the owner> <a teacher is responsible for the conduct of pupils in the classroom> <the ideally free individual is responsible only to himself—Henry Adams> <while held responsible for the bank's operations, the president has powers considered largely nominal—Current Biol> Sometimes when both phrases are suppressed, responsible implies manifest ability to fulfill one's obligations especially by reason of developed powers of judgment and sense of moral obligation <his record shows that he is a responsible person> One is answerable to someone for something who, because of a moral or legal obligation or because the one who is supposed to give an account of such an obligation for another, may be called upon to pay the penalty for a violation of the law or a neglect of duty; the term usually indicates or implies the existence of a judge or tribunal <men in business, who are answerable with their fortunes for the consequences of their opinions—Hazlitt> <there was something ineradicably corrupt inside her for which her father was not answerable—E. K. Brown> <the minister who is answerable to Parliament for the affairs of the BBC—Beachcroft> One is accountable to someone for something who because of something entrusted to him is bound to be called upon to render an account of how that trust has been executed. Accountable is much more positive than responsible or answerable in its suggestion of retributive justice in case of default <if the physicist discovers new sources of energy that may be readily released for destructive purposes, he should not be held accountable for their use—Gauss> <the Russian leaders . . . are not accountable to their people—The Reporter> Amenable and liable especially stress subjection and suggest the contingency rather than the probability or certainty of being called to account. One is amenable, usually to something, whose acts are subject to the control or the censure of a higher authority and who, therefore, is not self-governing or absolute in power <is it to be contended that the heads of departments are not amenable to the laws of their country?—John Marshall> <scholar and teacher alike ranked as clerks . . . amenable only to the rule of the bishop—J. R. Green> One is liable that by the terms of the law may be made answerable in case of default <a surety is liable for the debts of his principal> <the present United States . . . took nothing by succession from the Confederation . . . was not liable for any of its obligations—Taney> Liable does not, however, always imply answerability. It may imply mere contingent obligation <every citizen is liable for jury duty> <he is only 39, and liable for military service under the new act—Shaw> **Ana** subject, open, exposed (see LIABLE): *reliable, dependable, trustworthy* responsive **1** *sentient, sensitive, impressee, impressionable, susceptible* **Ana** answering, responding, replying (see ANSWER vb): reacting, acting, behaving (see ACT vb) **Ant** impasse 2 sympathetic, warm, warmhearted, compassionate, *tender* **Ana** gentle, mild, lenient (see SOFT): sensible, conscious,
alive, awake, *aware: sensitive, susceptible, prone (see LIABLE)

rest n
Rest, repose, relaxation, leisure, ease, comfort are comparable when they mean freedom from toil or strain. Rest, the most general term, implies withdrawal from all labor or exertion and suggests an opposition to the term work; it does not in itself explicitly imply a particular way of spending one's time, but it does suggest as an aim or as a result the overcoming of physical or mental weariness (there the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest—Job 3:17) (night came, and with it but little rest—Hardy) (there was rest now, not disquietude, in the knowledge—Glasgow) Repose implies freedom from motion or movement and suggests not only physical quiet (as in sleeping or slumbering) but also mental quiet and freedom from anything that disturbs, annoys, agitates, or confuses. Typically the term suggests tranquillity or peace or the refreshment that comes from complete quiet or rest (heavily passed the night. Sleep, or repose that deserved the name of sleep, was out of the question—Austen) (eighteen years of commotion had made the majority of the people ready to buy repose at any price—Maclavoy) (walls... that shut out the world and gave repose to the spirit—Cather) Relaxation may imply rest that comes from diversion or recreation but it usually stresses either a releasing of the tension that keeps muscles taut and fit for work or the mind keyed up to the processes of clear and protracted thinking, or a physical and mental slackening that finally induces repose (those who wish relaxation from analysis... the tired scientist, and the fatigued philologist and the weary man of business—Babbit) (now and then came relaxation and lassitude, but never release. The war towered over him like a vigilant teacher—H. G. Wells) (found relaxation in her unobtrusive company—Shirer) Leisure implies exemption from the labor imposed upon one by a trade or profession or by duties; it may apply to the hours in which one is not engaged in one's daily work, or to the period in which one is on vacation, or to the entire time of a person who is not compelled to earn his living (have little leisure for reading... he looked forward to the prospect of a full month of leisure) (those who lead lives of leisure) Leisure, therefore, stresses freedom from compulsion, or routine, or continuous work; it usually suggests not freedom from activity but the freedom to determine one's activities (labor is doing what we must; leisure is doing what we like; rest is doing nothing whilst our bodies and minds are recovering from their fatigue—Shaw) Ease (see also READINESS) stresses exemption from toil, but it also implies a freedom from whatever worries or disturbs and from what demands physical or mental activity. In contrast to leisure it implies rest and repose; in addition it suggests either complete relaxation of mind and body or a state of mind that finds no attraction in work or activity (all day I sit in idleness, while to and fro about me thy eyes and thoughts wander) (I am weary of my lonely ease—Millay) But ease may also imply absence of strain, especially mental or nervous strain, rather than freedom from toil (not only devoted, but resourceful and intelligent, one who would be at his ease with all sorts of men—Cather) Comfort differs from the other words of this group in carrying little if any suggestion of freedom from toil; it applies rather to a state of mind induced by relief from all that strains or inconveniences or causes pain, dishquie, or discontent. Positively it suggests perfect well-being and a feeling of quiet enjoyment or content (he had bought for himself out of all the wealth streaming through his fingers neither adulation nor love, neither splendor nor comfort—Conrad) (this sudden calm and the sense of comfort that it brought created a more genial atmosphere over the whole ship—Dahl) (spent every dollar he earned on the comfort of his family—Wouk) Ana intermitting or intermission, suspending or suspension, deferring (see corresponding verbs at DEFER): stillness, quietness or quiet, silence or silence (see corresponding adjectives at STILL): calmness or calm, tranquillity, serenity (see corresponding adjectives at CALM)

rest vb
base, found, ground, bottom, stay (Ana) (depend, hang, hinge: rely, depend, count
rest n remaining, residue, residuum, remains, leavings, balance, remnant
Ana excess, superfluity, surplus, surplusage, overplus
restful comfortable, cozy, snug, easy
Ana soft, gentle, mild, lenient: still, quiet, silent: placid, peaceful, calm, serene, tranquil

restitution
amends, redress, *reparation, indemnity
Ana repayment, recompense, reimbursement (see corresponding verbs at PAY)

restitute
1 contrary, perverse, balky, froward, wayward
Ana intractable, *unruly, ungovernable, refractory: obstinate, stuborn, mulish, stiff-necked, pigheaded
2 restless, *impatient, nervous, unquiet, uneasy, fidgety, jumpy, jittery
Ana see those at RESTLESS

restless
restive, *impatient, nervous, unquiet, uneasy, fidgety, jumpy, jittery
Ana *fitful, spasmodic: inconstant, capricious, unstable, fickle: agitated, disquieted, perturbed, discomposed (see DISCOMPOSE)

restorative adj
*curative, remedial, corrective, sanative
Ana stimulating, quickening (see PROVOKE)

restore
1 *renew, refresh, rejuvenate, renovate, refurbish
Ana save, reclaim, redeem, *rescue: reform, revise, amend (see CORRECT vb): recover, regain, retrieve, recoup, recruit
2 Restore, revive, revivify, resuscitate can all mean to regain or cause to regain signs of life and vigor. Restore (see also RENEW) implies a return to consciousness, to health, or to vigor often through the use of remedies or to treatments (it took many months to restore him to health) (gave her aromatic spirits of ammonia to restore her to consciousness) Revive, when used in reference to a person, implies recovery from a deathlike state (as stupor or a faint or shock); it carries a stronger suggestion of apparent death in the victim and a less positive suggestion of restored health and vigor than does restore (slowly revived from the effects of shock) (revived her by throwing water on her face) But the term is often applied to spirits or to feelings that are depressed, to plants that seem withering, to states, arts, industries, or fashions that are not flourishing and implies a return to a prior state (as of animation, freshness, or activity) (the flowers have been revived by the shower) (ambitious hopes which had seemed to be extinguished, had revived in his bosom—Macaulay) Revivify differs from revive in suggesting an adding of new life and in not carrying so strong a suggestion of prior loss or depletion of vital power; hence, it is applicable to normal persons or to their powers (a good night's sleep revivifies every healthy person) (cessation in his lovemaking had revivified her love—Hardy) The term is also applicable to something that tends to become exhausted of interest through long usage or familiarity and then suggests a freshening or a vitalizing from a new source (being a true poet, he was able... to revivify them [old, much-used words] as poetical agents—Day Lewis) (tradi- tion is dead; our task is to revivify life that has passed away—Buchan) Resuscitate implies commonly a restora-
tion to consciousness, but in comparison with revive it usually also implies a condition that is serious and that requires arduous efforts to correct or relieve (uncertain of success in resuscitating the boy they had taken from the water) especially in extended use it can suggest a bringing again to a quick or vital state of someone or something in which life appears to be extinct (resuscitate an old interest) it was Delta's turn to be silent. The past was too overwhelmingly resuscitated in Charlotte's words—Wharton

*Ana* cure, heal, remedy: arouse, rouse, rally, *stir

*restrain*, curb, check, bridle, inhibit are comparable when they mean to hold a person or thing back from doing something or from going too far in doing something. *Restrain*, the most comprehensive of these terms, may imply the intent either to prevent entirely or to keep under control or within bounds, but it usually suggests the operation of some force, authority, or motive that is sufficiently strong or compelling as to achieve the desired end (to produce in the child the same respect for the garden that restrains the grown-ups from picking wantonly—Russell) (her voice is not usually one of her assets...the whines, the snarls and the sneers of a poor childhood are restrained with difficulty—Mailer) *Curb* can imply either a sharp, drastic method of bringing under control (attempts to curb lynching by legislation—F. W. Coker) or a guiding or controlling influence that tends to restrain or moderate something or to restrict a person's freedom of action (the sober scientific method does not stimulate the imagination; it curbs it—Brothers) (it was necessary to set up devices for curbing the swindles of the speculators—Edmund Wilson) (the feudal nobility was civilized here—Coulton)

*Check* (see also arrest 1) often implies the use of a method suggestive of a checkrein which holds up a horse's head and prevents him from getting the bit between his teeth (Father Latour checked his impetuous vicar—Cather) but it may carry implications derived from other senses of the noun such as those of delaying or impeding motion or progress (the ship, hauled up so close as to check her way—Conrad) (a spot where her footsteps were no longer checked by a hedgerow—George Eliot) or of attacking or defeating some force or influence (the ambition of churchmen...disciplined and checked by the broader interests of the Church—Henry Adams) (check for a time the inward sweeping waves of melancholy—Bromfield)

*Bridle* (see also STRUT) carries a strong implication of bringing or keeping under one's control (as by subduing, moderating, or holding in); it is used chiefly in respect to strong or vehement emotions or desires (bride his wrath) (potential violence of feeling is bridled by good form—N. Y. Herald Tribune Book Rev.) (strong in censuring and bridling the wicked—H. O. Taylor) (bridled his curiosity) (he could no longer bridle his passion) *Inhibit* (see also FORBID) is a synonym of these terms in a predominantly psychological sense in which it implies the repression or suppression of certain emotions, desires, or thoughts by a curbing influence (as one's conscience or religious principles or the social conventions of one's class) (a people long inhibited by the prevailing taboos—Ellery)

*Ana* *arrest, check, interrupt: abstain, *refrain, forbear: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block

*Ant* impel: incite: abandon: *refrain (oneself)

*restraint* constraint, compulsion, *force, coercion, duress, violence

*Ana* curbing, checking, inhibiting (see RESTRAIN): hindering, impeding, obstructing, blocking (see HINDER)

*Ant* incitement: liberty

*restrict* *limit, circumscribe, confine

**restrain**

- *spend, reserve, forebear, deny, curtail, restrict, curb, check*
- *divert, contain, suppress, repress, control, deter, hold back, moderate*
- *circumscribe, confine, confine, limit, repress*

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
when merited punishment is administered, not by the vic-
tim, but by a higher power or impersonal chance (his coat pockets . . . a mess of broken eggs, studded with coins and miscellaneous objects. This mishap was retribu-
Fishing for robbing nests—C. L. Barrett: (to be left alone
and face to face with my own crime, had been just retribu-
Longfellows)

Ana punishment, disciplining or discipline, correcting
or correction (see corresponding verbs at PUNISH): rec-
compassing or recompense, indemnification, repayment
(see corresponding verbs at PAY)

retard *delay, slow, slacken, detain
Ana reduce, lessen, *decrease: *arrest, check, interrupt:
clog, fetter, *hamper: balk, baffle (see FRUSTRATE)
Ant accelerate: advance, further

reticent *silent, reserved, uncommunicative, taciturn,
secretive, close, close-lipped, closedmouthed, tight-lipped
Ana restrained, inhibited, curbed, checked (see REST-
strain): discreet, prudent (see under PRUDENCE)
Ant frank —Con candid, open, plain (see FRANK)

retrive
Ana return, revert: *reverse, invert: relapse, *lapse,
yield, surrender, abandon
Ant relate

retort vb rejoin, reply, *answer, respond
Ant rejoinder, answer, reply, response (see under
ANSWERS vb 1)

Ana retaliation, reprisal, revenge: repartee (see WIT)

retract 1 retrograde, back, *recede, retreat
Ant protract
2 recant, *abjure, renounce, forswear
Ana eliminate, *exclude, suspend, rule out

retract n *shelter, cover, refuge, asylum, sanctuary
Ana *haven, harbor, port: safety, security (see cor-
responding adjectives at SAFE): seclusion, *solitude

retray vb *recede, retrograde, back, retract
Ana withdraw, retire, depart, *go: *recoil, shrink, quail

retranche
Ant curtail, abridge, *shorten, abbreviate
Ana *decrease, lessen, reduce, diminish

retribution reprisal, vengeance, revenge, *retaliation
Ana *reparation, redress, amends, restitution: visitation,
rebuked, *affliction

Con *mercy, clemency, lenity, grace: forgiveness,
pardoning or pardon, remitting or remission (see corre-
ponding verbs at EXCUSE)

retrieve *recover, regain, recoup, recruit
Ana amend, remedy, redress, reform (see CORRECT vb):
repair, * mend, rebuild

Ant lose

retrograde adj *backward, retrogressive, regressive
Ana reversed, inverted (see REVERSE vb): relapsing,
lapsing, backsliding (see LAPSE vb)

retrograde vb * recede, retreat, back, retract
Ana *return, revert: * reverse, invert: relapse, *lapse, back-
slide

retrogressive regressive, retrograde, *backward
Ana reversing, inverting (see REVERSE vb): receding,
retreating, retrograding (see RECEDE)
Ant progressive —Con advancing, furthering, forward-
ing (see ADVANCE vb): improving, bettering (see IMPROVE)

return vb 1 Return, revert, recur, recrede are compara-
tible when they mean to go or come back (as to a person or
to a place or condition). The same distinctions in impli-
cations and connotations are evident in their corresponding
nouns return, reversion, recurrence, recrudescence. Return
is the ordinary term of this group; it usually implies either
a going back to a starting place or a source (they returned
as wolves return to cover, satisfied with the slaughter that
they had done—Kipling) (the sickness of a child
caused their sudden return) or it may imply, especially
in the case of the noun, a coming back to a former or
proper place or condition (now shall the kingdom return

to the house of David—1 Kings 12:26) (look forward to the return of spring) (he was greeted with enthusiasm
on his return home) (he returns here tomorrow) (sorry
to hear you had a return of your rheumatism—Whitman)

Revert and reversion (see also REVERSION 2) most fre-
quently imply a going back to a previous, often a lower,
state or condition (the conception of a lordly splendid
destiny for the human race, to which we are false when we
revert to wars and other atavistic follies—Russell) (in
the last hours of his life he reverted to the young man
he had been in the gutter days in Vienna—Shirer) (the
reversion to barbarism in political trials and punishments
—Cobban) Both terms, however, are often used when a
return after an interruption is implied (as to a previous
owner, to a previous topic, or to a previous decision)
(when the lease expires, the property reverts to the lessor)
(thought that he would not pass between these two—then
he decided that he would hurry up and do so, then he
reverted to his former decision—H. G. Wells) (on re-
version to private trading in aluminium in this country
—Financial Times) Recur and recrudescence imply a return,
or sometimes repeated returns at more or less regular
intervals, of something that has previously happened,
that has previously affected a person or thing, that has
previously been in one's mind, or that has been previously
known or experienced (the idea kept recurring, and
growing stronger each time it came back—Cloete)
(they came back to her as a dream recurs—Bennett)
(a melancholy tempered by recurrences of faith and resig-
nation and simple joy—Joyce) (incessant recurrence
without variety breeds tedium; the overiterated becomes
the monotonous—Lowes) Recrudescence and the more fre-
cquent recrudescence imply a return to life or activity;
usually the terms imply a breaking out again of something
that has been repressed, suppressed, or kept under control
(the general influence . . . which is liable every now and
then to recrudescence in his absence—Gurney) (the recru-
descence of an epidemic of influenza)

Ana *advert, revert: *turn, rotate, revolve: restore,
renew: *recover, regain: reaverberate, repercuss, *re-
bound

return n reversion, recurrence, recrudescence (see
under RETURN vb)

reveal, discover, disclose, divulge, tell, betray can all
mean to make known what has been or should be con-
cealed or is intended to be kept concealed. Reveal implies
a setting forth or exhibition by or as if by lifting a curtain
that veils or obscures. It can apply to supernatural or
inspired revelation of truths beyond or above the range of
ordinary human sight or reason <sacred laws . . . unto
Nature to us—Ellis)

both mean to make known what has been or should be con-
cealed or is intended to be kept concealed. Reveal implies
a setting forth or exhibition by or as if by lifting a curtain
that veils or obscures. It can apply to supernatural or
inspired revelation of truths beyond or above the range of
ordinary human sight or reason <sacred laws . . . unto
Nature to us—Ellis)

reveal—Malamud) to private trading in aluminium in this country
—Financial Times)

Recrudescence and the more frequent recrudescence imply a return to life or activity;
usually the terms imply a breaking out again of something
that has been repressed, suppressed, or kept under control
(the general influence . . . which is liable every now and
then to recrudescence in his absence—Gurney) (the recru-
descence of an epidemic of influenza)

Ana *advert, revert: *turn, rotate, revolve: restore,
renew: *recover, regain: reaverberate, repercuss, *re-
bound

return n reversion, recurrence, recrudescence (see
under RETURN vb)

reveal, discover, disclose, divulge, tell, betray can all
mean to make known what has been or should be con-
cealed or is intended to be kept concealed. Reveal implies
a setting forth or exhibition by or as if by lifting a curtain
that veils or obscures. It can apply to supernatural or
inspired revelation of truths beyond or above the range of
ordinary human sight or reason <sacred laws . . . unto
Nature to us—Ellis)

both mean to make known what has been or should be con-
cealed or is intended to be kept concealed. Reveal implies
a setting forth or exhibition by or as if by lifting a curtain
that veils or obscures. It can apply to supernatural or
inspired revelation of truths beyond or above the range of
ordinary human sight or reason <sacred laws . . . unto
Nature to us—Ellis)}
graduate will almost always reveal the differences in their formal education—Joseph. Discover (see also discover, invent) implies an exposing to view by or as if by uncovering; the term usually suggests that the thing discovered has been hidden from sight or perception but is not, as often in the case of reveal, in itself beyond the range of human vision or comprehension (go draw aside the curtains and discover the several caskets to this noble prince—Shak.) (it is a test which we may apply to all figure-painters—a test which will often discover the secret of unsatisfactory design—Binyon). Disclose is more often used in this sense than discover (a black dress which disclosed all she decently could of her shoulders and bosom—Wouk) (the stress of passion often discloses an aspect of the personality completely ignored till then by its closest intimates—Conrad). More often disclose implies the making known of something that has not been announced or has previously been kept secret (the court refused to disclose its decision before the proper time) (the confessions of St. Austin and Rousseau disclose the secrets of the human heart—Gibbon) (there was a hint that disclose his objective, and the Vicar asked no questions—Cather). Divulge differs little from disclose in this latter sense except in often carrying a suggestion of impropriety or of a breach of confidence (his voice became secretive and confidential, the voice of a man divulging fabulous professional secrets—Dahl) (he knew of the conspiracy and did not divulge it—Bello) or in implying a more public disclosure (it seemed to me an occasion to divulge my real ideas and hopes for the Commonwealth—L. P. Smith) (Tell (see also count 1) may come very close to divulge in the sense of making known something which should be kept a secret (gentlemen never tell) but more often it implies the giving of necessary or helpful information, especially on request or demand (tell me the news) (why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?—Gen 12:18) (she never told her love—Shak). Betray (see also deceive) often implies a divulging of a secret, but it carries either a stronger and more obvious suggestion of a breach of faith (had . . . written no letters that would betray the conspiracy he had entered into—Anderson) or of a disclosure (as through signs or appearances) against one’s will (life moves on, through whatever deserts, and one must compose oneself to meet it, never betraying one’s soul—Rose Macaulay) (the stamp of desire on his face had betrayed him once and he did not want to be betrayed by disappointment or anger—Cheever).

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

revelation, vision, apocalypse, prophecy are comparable whereas they mean disclosure or something disclosed by or as if by divine or preternatural means. Revelation is often specifically applied to the religious ideas transmitted by writers of books regarded as sacred or divinely inspired, especially the Bible; by extension it has come to mean a body of knowledge distinguishable from that attained by the ordinary human processes of observation, experiment, and reason (his revelation satisfies all doubts, explains all mysteries, except her own—Cowper). Revelation differs from natural knowledge, he says, not by being more divine than certain than natural knowledge, but by being conveyed in a different way—Arnold. Vision implies, as revelation does not, a seeing of something not corporeally present; often, especially in mystical and poetic language, it suggests a profound intuition of something not comprehensible to the ordinary or unaided reason and often implies the operation of some agent (as the Holy Spirit) or the gift or accession of some inexplicable power (as genius or poetic rapture) not attributable to all men. Vision, however, unlike revelation, does not necessarily imply that what is seen or realized is true or of value to oneself or others (and some had visions, as they stood on chairs, and sang of Jacob, and the golden stairs—Lindsay) (the ecstasy of imaginative vision, the sudden insight into the nature of things, are also experiences not confined to the religious—Edmund Wilson) (an age in which men still saw visions . . . seeing visions . . . was once a more significant, interesting, and disciplined kind of dreaming—T. S. Eliot). Apocalypse in religious use denotes a type of sacred book (of which the Book of Revelation is an example) which presents a vision of the future in which the enemies of Israel or of Christianity are defeated and God’s justice and righteousness prevail. In its general application apocalypse usually denotes a vision of the future, when all the mysteries of life shall be explained and good shall magnificently triumph over evil. The noun and still more its adjective apocalyptic often carry one or more connotations as various as those of a spectacular splendor or magnitude suggestive of the Book of Revelation or of wild and extravagant dreams of the visionary or passionate reformer (the apocalyptic imagination of Michelangelo—N. Y. Times) (this allegedly universal religion is challenged today by another secular religion with an alternative apocalypse of history—Niebuhr) (the writers of political apocalypse and other forms of science fiction . . . have dealt in absolutes—Davis). Prophecy has become rare in its original meaning except in learned use and in some religious use. Its occasional connotation of the prediction of future events has been emphasized to such an extent that its historical implications have almost been lost, with the result that the word in older writings is often misinterpreted. Prophecy in this narrow sense implies a commission to speak for another, especially and commonly for God or a god. It therefore further implies that the prophet has been the recipient of divine communications or revelations or that he has been granted a vision or visions (though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge . . . and have not charity, I am nothing—1 Cor 13:2) (prophecy is not prediction, it is not a forecasting of events. Rather, it is the vision which apprehends things present in the light of their eternal issues—Seaver). Ant. adulation.

revenant *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, ghost, spirit, specter, shade
revenge vb *avenge
recompense, repay (see pay) (vindicate, defend, justify (see maintain)
revenge n vengeance, *retaliation, retribution, reprisal
repay (see corresponding verbs at pay)
revengeful *vindicative, vengeful
impeachable, relentless, unrelenting, merciless, grim: inexorable, obdurate, adamant, inflexible
reverberate repercuss, *rebound, recoil, resile
revere vb, *revere, venerate, worship, adore can all mean to regard with profound respect and honor. All imply a recognition of the exalted character of what is so regarded and honored, but they can differ in regard to their objects and to the feelings and acts which they connote. Their differences in implication extend to their corresponding nouns, reverence (for both verbs revere and reverence), veneration, worship, and adoration. One reveres with tenderness and deference not only persons or institutions entitled to respect and honor but also their accomplish-

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

695

reversion

ments or attributes or things associated with or symbolic of such persons or institutions {that makes her loved at home, revered abroad—Burns} {revered for the wisdom of his counsels and the nobility of his character—Collier} {islands and cities which he revered as the cradle of civilization—Buchanan} {towards Johnson ... his [Boswell's] feeling was not sycophany, which is the lowest, but reverence, which is the highest of human feelings—Carlyle} One reverences things more often than persons, especially things (as laws and customs) which have an intrinsic claim to respect or are commonly regarded as inviolable {we reverence tradition, but we will not be fettered by it—Inge} {sincerity and simplicity! if I could only say how I reverence them—Benson} {pledged to reverence the name of God—Steck} One venerates persons as well as things that are regarded as holy, sacred, or sacrosanct because of character, associations, or age {veneration painting and heroes} {for Socrates he had an almost religious veneration—Nicholls} In a narrow sense one worships only a divine being, God, a god, or a thing deified, when one pays homage by word or ceremonial churches are buildings in which God is worshiped {pagans worship idols, the sun, and the stars} In wider use worship implies a kind of veneration that involves the offering of homage or the attribution of an especially exalted character, whether the object is a divine being or not {there is a difference between admiring a poet and worshipping at a shrine—Replinger} {in his calm, unexcited way, he worships success—Rose Macaulay} Adore (see also adore 2) is often used for worship in application to divinity; worship, however, usually suggests the group approach, and adore the personal approach, to deity. Adore therefore commonly implies love and the performance of individual acts of worship that express unquestioning love and honor (as by obeisance, prostration, and prayer) {the devil said to him: all these will I give thee, if falling down thou wilt adore me—Mt 4:9} {quiet as a nun breathless with adoration—Wordsworth} In more general application adore implies an extremely great and usually unquestioning love {his staff adored him, his men worshiped him—White} Ana esteem, respect, regard, admire (see under regard n) cherish, prize, value, treasure, *appreciate Ant flout

reverence n 1 *honor, homage, deference, obeisance Ana piety, devotion, fealty, loyalty, *fidelity: esteem, respect, *regard, admiration 2 veneration, worship, adoration (see under reverence) Ana fervor, ardor, zeal, *passion: devoutness, piousness, religiousness (see corresponding adjectives at devout) 3 Reverence, awe, fear are comparable when they denote the emotion inspired by something which arouses one's deep respect or veneration. Reverence distinctively implies a recognition of the sacredness or inviolability of the person or thing which stimulates the emotion {a profound reverence for and fidelity to the truth—Mencken} {Richter's reverence for the throne was constant—Bello} {I feel a reverence for this place. Wherever humanity has made that hardest of all starts and lifted itself out of mere brutality, is a sacred spot—Cather} Awe, in all of its shades of meaning, fundamentally implies a sense of being overwhelmed or overcome by great superiority or impressiveness, typically manifested by an inability to speak in its presence or to come near to it. Otherwise, it may suggest any of such widely different reactions as adoration, profound reverence, wonder, terror, submissiveness, or abashment {stood in awe of his teachers} {my heart standeth in awe of thy word—Ps 119:161} {make me as the poorest vassal is that doth with awe and terror kneel—Shak} {he is a great man of the city, without fear, but with the most abject awe of the aristocracy—T. S. Eliot} Fear (see also fear 1) occurs, in the sense here considered, chiefly in religious use {the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom—Ps 111:10} In this sense and as referred chiefly to the Supreme Being as its cause, it implies awed recognition of his power and majesty and, usually, reverence for his law {and calm with fear of God's divinity—Wordsworth} reverence vb venerate, worship, adore, *revere Ana love, enjoy (see like): esteem, respect, regard, admire (see under regard n) reverse vb 1 Reverse, transpose, invert can all mean to change to the contrary or opposite side or position. Reverse is the most general of these terms, implying a change to the opposite not only in side or position but also in direction, order, sequence, relation, connection; thus, to reverse a coin is to turn it upside down; to reverse a process is to follow the opposite order of sequence; to reverse a judgment is to change a previous judgment to another that is contrary to it; to reverse a garment or part of a garment is to turn it inside out; to reverse the direction of a locomotive is to make it go backward instead of forward {having his shield reversed—Scott} {half were put on a diet of unpolished rice; half on polished. The latter group came down with beriberi. Then the diets were reversed—Heiser} Transpose implies a change in position, usually by reversing the order of two or more units (as letters or words) or by an exchange of position {the printer was instructed to transpose the letters sr in the word set as vesr} {if the term b in the equation a + b = c is transposed, the result obtained is a = c - b} But transpose often, especially in grammar or anatomy, implies merely a change in the natural order or position {he frequently transposes words for the sake of effect} {a transposed heart} Invert implies a change from one side to another chiefly by turning upside down but occasionally, especially in surgery, by turning inside out or outside in {invert a tumbler} {invert a comma} {invert the uterus} {the photograph of the pond showed the inverted images of the trees on its bank} In its secondary senses it approaches reverse but applies within narrower limits {invert the order of words in a sentence} {invert the relation of cause and effect} {the custom ... to invert now and then and the order of the class so as to make the highest and lowest boys change places—Thomas Moore} Ana *overturn, upset, capsize 2 *reverse, repeal, rescind, recall Ana upset, *overturn: retract, recant, *abjure, forswear: abrogate, *annul reverse n *converse, obverse Ana back, rear, posterior (see corresponding adjectives at posterior): opposite, contrary (see under opposite adj) reversion 1 return, recurrence, recrudescence (see under return vb) 2 Reversion, atavism, throwback are comparable when they mean return to an ancestral type or an instance of such return. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are evident in the adjectival forms reversionary and atavistic. Reversion and reversionary are the technical terms in the biological sciences for the reappearance of an ancestral character or characters in an individual, or for an organism or individual that manifests such a character we could not have told, whether these characters in our domestic breeds were reversions or only analogous variations—Darwin} {similar mutations are paired together; divergent or reversionary individuals are eliminated—J. A. Thomson} Atavism and atavistic are widely used
both in general and in technical English. Their implication is of an apparent reversion to a remote rather than to an immediate ancestral type through the reappearance of remote, even primitive, characters after a long period of latency. Often, in general use, this connotation of primitiveness carries with it a suggestion of barbarism or even degeneration of a magnificat atavism, a man so purely primitive—London> (those who had made England what it was it had done so by sticking where they were, regardless of their own atavistic instincts, which might have led them back to France or Denmark—Brooks) Throwback is preferred to reversion or atavism by those who seek a picturesque or less technical word. It is chiefly applied to the concrete instance and is often extended to other than living things (the racial laws which excluded the Jews from the German community seemed . . . a shocking throwback to primitive times—Shirer) <an aristocrat of the old line, a throwback to another century—White> Ana relapse, lapse, backsliding (see under Lapse vb)

reversionary atavistic (see under REVERSION)

revert 1 *return, recur, recrudesce

Ana *redeem, retreat, retrograde, back: *lapse, relapse, backslide
2 *advert
Ana *return, recur

review n 1 *criticism, critique, blurb, puff
2 *journal, periodical, magazine, organ, newspaper

revile vituperate, rail, berate, rate, upbraid, *scold, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig
Ana vilify, calumniate, *malign, traduce, defame, asperse, slander, libel: *excere, objure, curse
Ant laud —Con *praise, extol, eulogize, acclaim

revise 1 *correct, rectify, emend, remedy, redress, amend, reform
Ana *improve, better, ameliorate: *change, alter, modify
2 *edit, compile, redact, rewrite, adapt
Ana amend, emend, *correct, rectify: *improve, better, revive

revive *restore, revivify, resuscitate
Ana *recover, recruit, regain: recuperate, *improve, gain: refresh, rejuvenate, *renew

revivify *restore, revive, resuscitate
Ana reanimate (see base word at QUICKEN): *vitalize, vilify, calumniate, *malign, traduce, defame, asperse, Ana Ant laud —Ana

reversionary atavistic (see under REVERSION)

anachronous—Editions of old books are often published in the form in which they were written, with no attempt to correct the spelling or grammar of the time. This can give a quaint, nostalgic feeling to the original text, but it can also be confusing to modern readers who are not familiar with the writing style of the past. The term "anachronous" means "out of its proper time," and it is often used to describe historical events, literary works, or other things that do not fit in with the current era. The word is derived from the Greek words "ana" ("up") and "chronos" ("time").
rhythm, rhymer, rhymester
*poet, versifier, poetaster, bard,
Ana
Additionally, rhythm phenomena where a comparable pulsing movement is strongly apparent to the senses. Consequently, rhythm is used not only in reference to speech sounds and musical tones ordered with relation to stress and time, but also to dancing, games, and various natural phenomena where a comparable pulsing movement is apparent, and even to the arts of design, where fluctuations in line or pattern suggest a pulsing movement (the wavering, lovely rhythms of the sea—Rose Macaulay) (every one learned music, dancing, and song. Therefore it is natural for them to regard rhythm and grace in all the actions of life—Ellis) (lost their talent in the deadening rhythms of war, its boredom, its concussion, and . . . its injustice—Mailer) Meter implies the reduction of rhythm to system and measure. Poetry that has meter has a definite rhythmical pattern which determines the typical foot or rhythmical pattern which determines the typical foot or

**rhythm, meter, cadence** can all mean the more or less regular rise and fall in intensity of sounds that one associates chiefly with poetry and music. Rhythm, which of these three terms is the most inclusive and the widest in its need not suggest regular alternation of these sounds, but it fundamentally implies the recurrence at fairly regular intervals of the accented or prolonged syllable in poetry or of the heavy beat or the accented note in music, so that no matter how many unaccented or unstressed syllables or notes lie between these, the continuing up and down movement is strongly apparent to the senses. Consequently rhythm is used not only in reference to speech sounds and musical tones ordered with relation to stress and time, but also to dancing, games, and various natural phenomena where a comparable pulsing movement is apparent, and even to the arts of design, where fluctuations in line or pattern suggest a pulsing movement (the wavering, lovely rhythms of the sea—Rose Macaulay) (every one learned music, dancing, and song. Therefore it is natural for them to regard rhythm and grace in all the actions of life—Ellis) (lost their talent in the deadening rhythms of war, its boredom, its concussion, and . . . its injustice—Mailer) Meter implies the reduction of rhythm to system and measure. Poetry that has meter has a definite rhythmical pattern which determines the typical foot or rhythmical pattern which determines the typical foot or
riddle 698

right

some or pestiferous <England had in the meantime rid ded herself of the Stuarts, worried along under the Hanove rians—Repliier> <a lazy man's expedient for rid ding him self of the trouble of thinking and deciding—Cardozo>

Clear is likely to be used to refer to tangible matters which obstruct progress, clutter an area, or block vision <wars which . . . enabled the United States first to clear its own territory of foreign troops—Benis> <rose from the food she had barely tasted and began to clear the table—Glasc ow> and may be used also in relation to ideas that hinder progress <of service to his fellow Methodists in clearing away obstructions to modern thinking—H. K. Rowe> Un burden typically implies a freeing of oneself from some thing taxing or something distressing the mind or spirit, in the latter situation often by confessing, revealing, or frankly discussing <insisted that he unburden himself of most of the weighty chores that go with the job of majority leader—Time> <conquers his own submissiveness and unburdens himself, before his domineering wife, of all the accumulated resentment and dislike of years—S. M. Fitzgerald> Disappropriate is appropriately chosen to refer to freeing the mind from an erroneous notion or an attitude or feeling making clear straightforward thought difficult <if men are now sufficiently enlightened to disbelieve them selves of artifice, hypocrisy, and superstition—Adams> <neither familiarity with the history and institutions of Old World nations nor contact with them during two warse disabused the average American of his feeling of superior ity—Commager> Purge may refer to cleansing out of or purification from whatever is impure or alien or extrinsic <purged of all its unorthodox views—Shaw> <the room had never quite been purged of the bad taste of preceding generations—Edmund Wilson> In political matters it may suggest ruthless elimination <the dictator has purged academic faculties of every savant suspected of being opposed to his regime—H. M. Jones>

Ana *free, release, liberate: *exterminate, extirpate, eradicate, uproot: *abolish, extinguish

riddle n puzzle, conundrum, enigma, problem, *mystery

ride vb 1 Ride, drive as verbs (transitive and intransitive) and as nouns may both involve the idea of moving in or being carried along in a vehicle or conveyance or upon the back of something. The basic meaning of ride is a being borne along in or upon something; when this idea is upper most, it makes little difference who or what controls the animal, the vehicle, or mechanism by which one is borne along; thus, one rides or rides on a horse, a bicycle, or a motorcycle when, mounted upon it, one controls its operation or movements, but a woman seated on a pillow behind the saddle may also be said to ride the horse, and a person in the rear seat of a tandem bicycle may be said to ride the bicycle, but a person in a sidecar of a motorcycle rides in the sidecar (not rides the motorcycle). Sometimes ride, the transitive verb, is preferred when the management of the horse and vehicle is also implied, and ride, the intransitive verb, when merely the being mounted upon a moving horse or vehicle is suggested <when he rides his horse his small daughter usually rides on it with him> The basic meaning of drive (see MOVE 1) is a causing to move along; the term therefore primarily refers to the action of an agent that controls the movement of a vehicle whether it is drawn by an animal or self-propelled <drove a four-horse brewery wagon> <it is usually wise to have your child taught to drive by a professional> There is usually a further distinction between ride and drive when movement in a vehicle or conveyance is implied. Ride usually suggests movement in a vehicle (as a train, a bus, or a stranger's automobile) which is not in any sense under one's control <it is a long train ride from New York to Chicago> <he said he preferred riding in a bus to riding in a train> <will you give me a ride to the next town?> Drive often suggests movement in a horse-drawn or motor ve hicle the course of which is in some way or in some degree under one's control, whether one is the actual driver or one (as an employer, patron, or guest) whose wishes the actual driver observes <take a drive along the shore of the lake> <we are going for a short drive>

2 *bait, badger, heckle, hector, chivy, hound

Ana *worry, annoy, harass, harry: persecute, oppress (see WRONG vb): torment, torture (see AFFLI CT)

ride n drive (see under RIDE vb)

Ana *journey, tour, trip, excursion, expedition

ridicule vb Ridicule, deride, mock, taunt, twit, rally are comparable when they mean to make a person or thing the object of laughter. Ridicule implies deliberate and often malicious belittling of the person or thing ridiculed <the old State religion which Augustine attacks, ridiculing the innumerable Roman godlings whose names he perhaps found in Varro—Inge> <the man who wants to preserve his personal identity is ridiculed as an eccentric—Harris> Deride implies a bitter or contemptuous spirit <he took his revenge on the fate that had made him sad by fiercely deriding everything—Huxley> <sardonic wisecracks in which supposedly lofty ideals are mercilessly derided—Times Lit. Sup.> Mock stresses scornful derision and usually implies words or gestures or sometimes acts expressive of one's defiance or contempt <nowhere can men be entirely happy while human nature is still being mocked and tortured on other parts of the globe—Kennan> When used in reference to things, mock often implies a setting at naught that suggests scorn or derision <a perishing that mocks the gladness of the spring—Wordsworth> <a joke was a good way to mock reality, to dodge an issue, to escape involvement—MacInnes> Taunt implies both mockery and reproach; it often connotes jeering insults <taunted in fun or in earnest with the foibles and short comings of their fathers—de Laguna> <he . . . took no part in the revivals and usually teas ed and taunted those who did—J. M. Hunt> Twit may come close to taunt and imply a mocking or cruel casting something up to someone <the absence of ideas with which Matthew Arnold twits them—Inge> <a British author snooting American food is like the blind twitting the one-eyed—Liebling> but twit, like rally, may imply no more than good-natured raillery or friendly ridicule <the paper delights in taunting new laws—Newsweek> <a useful place for getting away from the cheery rallying of . . . the English govern ess—Nancy Hale>

Ana *scorn, flout, jeer, gib: caricature, burlesque, travesty (see under CARICATURE n)

ridiculous *laughable, risible, ludicrous, droll, funny, comic, comical, farcical

Ana absurd, preposterous, *foolish, silly: amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE): *fantastic, grotesque, bizarre, antic

rife *prevailing, prevalent, current

Ana abundant, plentiful, copious, ample: *common, ordinary, familiar

rife vb plunder, *rob, loot, burglarize

Ana despoil, spoilate, *ravage, pillage, sack, devastate: *steal, pilfer, purloin, filch

riff *breach, break, split, schism, rent, rupture

Ana *crack, cleft, fissure: gap, interval, hiatus, interruption (see BREAK): separation, division (see corresponding verbs at SEPARATE)

right adj 1 *good

Ant wrong

2 *correct, accurate, exact, precise, nice

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

Right...prerogative, privilege, perquisite, appanage, birthright can all mean something to which a person has a just or legal claim. They differ in their implications both of the nature of the thing claimed and of the grounds of the claim. Right, the most inclusive term, may designate something (as a power, a condition of existence, or a possession) to which one is entitled by nature, by the principles of morality, by grant, by the laws of the land, or by purchase: (the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) <rights in a patent> (we do not lose our right to condemn either measures or men because the country is at war—Justice Holmes) (every person has a right to a certain amount of room in the world, and should not be made to feel wicked in standing up for what is due to him—Russell) Prerogative denotes a right which belongs to an actual or an alleged person by virtue of status (as in sex, rank, office, or character) and which thereby gives precedence, superiority, or an advantage over others (the fundamental fact that eminent domain is a prerogative of the State—Justice Holmes) (endurance and stamina in the last analysis are prerogatives of the male—Gerald Beaumont)

Privilege applies to a special right either granted as a favor or concession or belonging to one as a prerogative; privilege often implies an advantage over others (equal rights for all, special privileges for none—Jefferson) (a propertyed class struggling for its privileges which it honestly deems to be its rights—White) (what men prize most is a privilege, even if it be that of chief mourner at a funeral—J. R. Lowell) Perquisite signifies something, usually money or a thing of monetary value, to which one is entitled, especially by custom, as an addition to one's regular revenue, salary, or wages (fees that constitute the perquisites of an office) (a domestic servant often regards her mistress's cast-off clothing as her perquisite) (the petty graft and favoritism which are normal perquisites of machine rule—Green Peyton) Appanage is often used as if it meant merely an adjunct or appurtenance (whose literary work had become a mere appanage of his domestic life—Brooks) but more precisely it can denote something to which one has a claim through custom, through tradition, or through natural necessity (the religious supremacy became a kind of appanage to the civil sovereignty—Milman) (beauty, which is the natural appanage of happiness—Patmore) (their acquired prestige as a token of power and dignity makes appanage of the ruling classes—Anny Latour) Birthright, which basically applies to the property or possessions belonging to one by right of inheritance (see HERITAGE), has acquired extended use in which it differs from right only in being restricted to a right to which one is entitled by some reason connected with one's nativity (as by being a man, a native-born citizen, or a descendant of a particular family line) (we sell our birthright whenever we sell our liberty for any price of gold or honor—Whipple) (the poetic imagination that was his Elizabethan birthright—Parrington)

Ana *claim, title: *freedom, license, liberty

righteous virtuous, noble, *moral, ethical

ant iniquitous—Con *vicious, nefarious, flagitious, corrupt: profligate, dissolve, reprobate, *abandoned

rightful *due, condign

Ana *fair, equitable, just, impartial: *lawful, legal, legitimate

rigid 1 *stiff, inflexible, tense, stark, wooden

Ana *firm, hard, solid: compact, *close: tough, tenacious, *strong

Ant clastic—Con resilient, flexible, supple, springy (see ELASTIC)

2 Rigid, rigorous, strict, stringent are often used interchangeably in the sense of extremely severe and stern, especially when applied to laws or imposed conditions or to the persons who enforce them. There are, however, differences in implications and in range of application. Basically rigid and rigorous imply extreme stiffness or utter lack of elasticity or flexibility, while strict and stringent imply tightness so extreme as to permit no looseness, laxity, or latitude. These implications are preserved in their extended uses. Rigid (see also STIFF) in extended use is applied less often to persons than to their acts or to the conditions the persons make for themselves or others; it usually suggests uncompromising inflexibility (rigid laws) (rigid discipline) (a rigid system, faithfully administered, would be better than a slatternly compromise—Benson)

Rigorous is applied to persons, to their acts, to their way of life, and to the natural or artificial conditions under which they live. It commonly implies imposed severities or hardships; thus, a rigid rule admits of no change or compromise, but a rigorous rule imposes exacting or harsh conditions; a rigorous enforcement of a law makes the people feel its rigors; a rigid enforcement of a law admits of no relaxations in anyone's favor; one can speak of a rigorous winter, a rigorous disciplinarian, the rigorous life of an explorer or a monk. Strict is applied chiefly to persons or their acts and denotes showing or demanding undeviating conformity to rules, standards, conditions, or requirements; thus, a strict rule demands obedience; a strict teacher may impose rigorous discipline and adhere to a rigid system of grading; a strict watch admits no relaxing of vigilance, and strict silence no freedom to speak; a strict construction of a law is one confined to the letter of that law (the strictest obligations of intellectual honesty—Inge) (strict justice, either on earth or in heaven, was the last thing that society cared to face—Henry Adams)

Stringent is to strict as rigorous is to rigid, in that it usually emphasizes the effect or effects rather than the presence of a quality in an agent or his act. Both stringent and rigorous connote imposition, but stringent suggests impositions that limit, curb, or sometimes coerce; thus, a stringent rule narrows one's freedom or range of activities; a stringent interpretation of the constitution may either be narrower or more restrictive in its effects than the letter of the constitution warrants; poverty may be described as stringent when it narrows one's opportunities to satisfy one's aspirations; necessity may be called stringent when it forces one to live within bounds or forces one into distasteful acts (he endeavors by the most stringent regulations to prevent the growth of inequalities of wealth—Dickinson) (colleges with the most stringent admissions requirements—Frederiksen) (with energy sufficiently great to burst the bounds of the most stringent confinement—Rogow)

Ana *inflexible, inexorable, obdurate, adamant, adamantine: stern, *severe, austere

Ant lax

rigor *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude

Ana austerity, severity, sternness (see corresponding adjectives at SEVERE): harshness, roughness (see corresponding adjectives at ROUGH): *trial, tribulation, visitation, affliction

Ant amenity

rigorous *rigid, strict, stringent

Ana *stiff, rigid, inflexible: stern, austere, ascetic, *severe: exacting, *onerous, burdensome, oppressive

Con *easy, facile, light, smooth, effortless

rim brim, brink, *border, margin, verge, edge

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page
rise  

1 *spring, arise, originate, derive, flow, issue, ripe *mature, matured, mellow, adult, grown-up *tear, rend, split, cleave, rive

adj  

ring

vb  

*combination, combine, party, bloc, faction

rind *skin, bark, peel, hide, pelt

risible droll, funny, *laughable, ludicrous, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical

risk n  

hazard, *danger, peril, jeopardy

*chance, fortune, luck, accident: exposedness or exposure, liability or liability, openness (see corresponding adjectives at LIABLE)

Con safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at SAFE): *exemption, immunity

risible droll, funny, *laughable, ludicrous, ridiculous, comic, comical, farcical

risk vb  

*venture, hazard, chance, jeopardize, endanger, imperil

especially intellectually, spiritually, or aesthetically {the skylark} singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest—Shelley {up from the eastern sea soars the delightful day—Housman} {young soaring imaginations—John Reed} {the soaring melody of the rondo in the Waldstein sonata is Beethoven’s . . . transfiguration of the air of a ribald folk song—Lowes} Tower is used more often in reference to things that attain conspicuous height through growth or thrusting upward, or building than in reference to things that actually move upward; it also frequently connotes extension to a height beyond that of such comparable neighboring objects as buildings, trees, mountains, or, when eminence is suggested, persons {the Empire State Building towers above New York City} {full thirty foot she towered from waterline to rail—Kipling} {this towered but erratic genius . . . combined in his tempestuous character so many of the best and the worst qualities—Shirer} When the word does imply movement upward, it usually evokes a picture of something shooting up so as to suggest a tower or steepie {the nimble flames towered, nodded, and swooped through the surrounding air—Hardy} Rocket suggests the inordinately swift ascent of a projectile; it is used chiefly with reference to things that rise with extraordinary rapidity or wildly and uncontrollably (as under the impetus of events) {prices have rocketed sky-high—Kenn} {cock pheasants rocket from the misty spinneys—Glover} (Indian pride was reawakened; Indian hopes rocketed—J. M. Brown) Levitate implies a rising or floating in or as if in air that suggests the intervention of antigravity; the term connotes actual or induced lightness or buoyancy and ease of movement {a 1 1/2-in. niobium sphere levitated in a liquid helium bath—J. L. Taylor} {we are levitated between acceptance and disbelief—O’Faloain} {dwellings . . . levitated by his imagination into new structural creations—Flanner} The word is sometimes specifically associated with supra-normal and especially spiritualistic practices {the levitation of a table at a séance} and with illusory risings {it is asserted that a man or a woman levitated to the ceiling, floated about there, and finally sailed out by the window—T. H. Huxley} Surge suggests the upward heaving or spurring of waves. It is used often with up, in reference to emotions and thoughts that rise powerfully from the depths of subconsciousness {strong emotions surged through him as he strode on—Röläva} {things half-guessed, obscurely felt, surged up from unsuspected depths in her—Wharton} Quite as often, usually with an adverb of direction, it suggests a rolling movement comparable to that of oncoming waves {the troops surged forward} {traffic surging past}

rise n  

*beginning, genesis, initiation

Ana *origin, source, inception, root, provenance, proveniencer derivation, origination (see corresponding verbs at SPRING)

fall

700
risky

**Ana** dare, brave, beard, *face, defy: confront, encounter, *meet

**rob** precarious, hazardous, *dangerous, perilous

**risky** adventurous, venturesome: chancy, *random, hap-hazard, hit-or-miss, happy-go-lucky

**rite** ritual, liturgy, ceremonial, ceremony, *form, formality

**rival vb 1 Rival, compete, vie, emulate** can all mean to strive to equal or surpass another or his achievements. *Rival* (see also *MATCH*) usually suggests an attempt to outdo each other *a work ...* which containing sects have *rivalled* each other in approving—*Heber* *Compete* and *vie*, usually with the opponent explicitly stated after with and the objective after for, may sometimes omit direct reference to one or both of these *a modified apple syrup to *compete* in the ... market of syrups for infant feeding—*Crops in Peace and War* *Compete* stresses a struggle for an objective (as position, favor, profit, or a prize); unlike rival, it need not suggest a conscious attempt to outdo another but may imply a quite impersonal striving *athletes competing in track sports* *Colleges compete with each other, promotionally, for public favor—*Hoff* *The buyer does not *compete* with the seller. He bargains with him; he *competes* with other buyers—*C. E. Griffin* Vie carries less suggestion of arduous struggle to hold one's own or to excel than *compete*, but it may suggest more conscious awareness of the opponent (the calypso singers who ... vie with one another in duels of lyrical improvisation—*The Lamp* It sometimes suggests the excitement of contest that is a game rather than a battle *the boys vied with each other in showing off* *they vied with each other in enlivening their cups by lampeting the depravity of this degenerate age—*Peacock* *Emulate* implies a conscious effort to equal or surpass someone or something by imitation or by using him or it as a model *a simplicity *emulated* without success by numerous modern poets—*T. S. Eliot* *these young ... heroes, reared on the immense empty western plains, seek to *emulate* an eastern sophistication—*Geismar* *Emulated* the proverbial and sagacious rat; he got off in time—*S. H. Adams* *Ana* strive, struggle, try, *attempt: contend, fight 2 *match, equal, approach, touch

**rive vb** cleave, split, rend, *tear, rip

**rivet vb** secure, anchor, moor

**roam** wander, stray, ramble, rove, range, prow, gad, gallivant, traipse, meander

**roar vb** Roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, vociferate, clamor, howl, ululate are comparable when used only of animals but also of persons or things that make doleful or agonized and often prolonged sounds *a legion of foul fiends ... howled in my ears—*Milton* *howls of mangled rage and pain* *the howling of the wind on a stormy night* Especially when used of human utterances, howl may suggest not only the quality of the sound but the unrestrained character of the utterance or of its underlying emotion *he ... chortled at their errors, howled at the inconsistencies—*Martin Gardner* *howled at a brother for his low-down ways; his howling, guzzling, sneak-thief days—*Lindsay* *from faint doubt to uneasy suspicion, from the stirring of resentment to the howl of outraged protest—*Lewis & Maude* Ululate and ululation are less common and more literary than howl, from which they differ chiefly in carrying less suggestion of unrestrained emotion and a stronger implication of wailing, often giving a hint of the peculiar rhythm of the sounds *ululating coyotes* *an ululating baritone mushy with pumped-up pity—E. B. White* *who uttered in public or in private such high-pitched notes of ululation—*Swinburne*


**rob vb** Rob, plunder, rifle, loot, burglarize are comparable when they mean to take unlawfully possessions of a person or from a place. All in this basic use imply both an owner of and value inherent in the thing taken. In its basic and legal use rob implies the taking of personal property or valuables from another or from a place in a felonious manner (as by the exercise of violence, by intimidation, or by trickery or fraud) *rob a bank* *a man of his savings by selling him worthless securities* In extended use rob implies deprivation by unjust means or by powers
rollick vb  frolic, deport, sport, play, romp, gambol (see under play vb)
romantic adj  *sentimental, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, mushy, slug
Ana  fanciful, *imaginary, quixotic, fantastic, visionary: invented, created (see invent): picturesque, pictorial, vivid, *graphic
romp vb  frolic, rollick, gambol, deport, sport, play (see under play vb)

room n 1 Room, chamber, apartment all denote space in a building enclosed or set apart by a partition. Room is the word in ordinary use. Chamber is somewhat elevated; it is used chiefly of a private room, especially of a bedroom on an upper floor (high in her chamber up a tower to the east—Tennyson) (he . . . hardly ever slept two nights successively in one chamber—Southey) Apartment is decreasingly frequent in the sense of a single room (her morning room was an airy apartment on the first floor—Braddon)

berth, basically a nautical term meaning maneuvering space for a ship, in more general use denotes a space kept between one and some source of potential danger (an orderly place to which outlaws and criminals gave wide berth—Holbrook) Play (see also play, fun) can specifically imply freedom of movement and action especially with reference to two or more things which must work together in close relation or without interference or conflict (some play must be allowed to the joints if the machine is to work—Justice Holmes) (the free play of passion and thought . . . were crushed out of existence under this stern and rigid rule—Dickinson) Elbowroom does not greatly differ from room except that it is somewhat more forceful and definitely implies freedom from interference or constraint as well as space for movement or for action (which would give him more elbowroom to act against France—Chesterfield) Leeway, basically a nautical term meaning the drift to leeward especially of a sailing vessel, in its closest extended sense means a space kept for interests which can develop into avocation—Sat. Review (the president was given wide leeway in deciding what constituted a threat to public safety—C. E. Black & K. D. White)

Play (see also play, fun) can specifically imply freedom of movement and action especially with reference to two or more things which must work together in close relation or without interference or conflict (some play must be allowed to the joints if the machine is to work—Justice Holmes) (the free play of passion and thought . . . were crushed out of existence under this stern and rigid rule—Dickinson) Elbowroom does not greatly differ from room except that it is somewhat more forceful and definitely implies freedom from interference or constraint as well as space for movement or for action (which would give him more elbowroom to act against France—Chesterfield) Leeway, basically a nautical term meaning the drift to leeward especially of a sailing vessel, in its closest extended sense means a falling off from the line of progress and therefore may connote something (as a shortage) to be made up (Africa has been late in its emergence into modern civilization and it has still considerable to make up—Simnett) More frequently, however, leeway tends to mean room or margin for freedom of action (educational program . . . must allow leeway for interests which can develop into avocation—Sat. Review) (the president was given wide leeway in deciding what constituted a threat to public safety—C. E. Black & K. D. White) (he asked his creditors to allow him a little leeway) Margin (see also border) implies an amount (as of time, money, or material) additionally allowed or made available so as to provide for contingencies or emergencies which cannot be foreseen (the King, in his instructions, left a wide margin of discretion to the generals—Froude) (an enormous margin of luxury . . . against which we can draw for our vital needs—Lippmann) Clearance stresses lack of obstruction.
Typically it implies a carefully calculated amount of space between two physical objects such as the water level and the underside of a bridge, or a roadway and the underside of a viaduct above it, or a shaft and the hole into which it is fitted easily but not loosely. Sometimes it may appear to intangible obstructions and then stress removal (as by the satisfying of legal or official requirements) rather than planned avoidance.

**root vb** perch, *alight, light, land*

**root n** *origin, source, inception, provenance, provenience, prime mover*

**Ana** beginning, commencing or commencement, starting or start (see corresponding verbs at **BEGIN**): foundation, basis, ground (see **BASE**)

**root vb** *applaud, cheer*

**roseate** *hopeful, optimistic, rose-colored*

**rose-colored** *hopeful, optimistic, roseate*

**roster** *list, table, catalog, schedule, register, roll, inventory*

**rot vb** *decay, decompose, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, crumble*

**Ana** corrupt, vitiate, *debase: taint, *contaminate, Ana*

**rot n** *nonsense, twaddle, drivel, bunk, balderdash, poppyrot*

**rotation** *list, table, catalog, schedule, register, roll, inventory*

**vb** root

**root vb** *decay, decompose, putrefy, spoil, disintegrate, crumble*


**Ana** commensurate, concomitant, respective, corresponding, concurrent

**roost vb** *perch, alight, light, land*

**roost v** *perch, alight, light, land*

**rough adj** 1 Rough, harsh, uneven, rugged, scabrous are comparable when they mean not having a smooth or even surface, exterior, or texture. Rough, the usual and comprehensive word, basically applies to whatever may be said to have a surface or an exterior which to the sense of touch or to the sight is not smooth but is covered with perceptible inequalities (as points, bristles, projections, or ridges) *rough ground* *(a rough block of stone) (the rough skin of a chapped hand) (a rough tongue) (a rough unshaved face)*

2 Often when applied to materials and substances employed in the arts and in manufacturing, rough means lacking a final finish (as of polishing, smoothing, or dressing) *(a rough diamond) (rough steel) (rough lumber)* By extension the term applies also to things which impress another than the tactile sense or one's nerves or feelings as lacking in smoothness and evenness *(rough words) (rough winds) (rough sounds) (he has had a rough time) (see also rude)*

**Harsh** suggests a more definitely disagreeable sensation or impression than rough; when applied to what is felt with the hand, it implies a surface or texture that is distinctly unpleasant to the tactile sense *(a harsh fabric) (a harsh sand)* or when applied to something heard, it suggests a rasping, grating quality *(harsh voices)* *(harsh din broke the fair music—Milton)* and when applied to something seen, tasted, or smelled, it suggests a character or quality that is offensive or repellant to a sensitive person *(a harsh liquor)* *(a harsh stink)* *(a harsh combination of coughs)*. Unlike rough, harsh in its extended senses seldom implies a lack of polish or refinement, but rather it suggests a nature that is unfeeling, cruel, and indifferent to the pain it inflicts *(a harsh critic) (a harsh parent)* or when applied to things, effectiveness in promoting discomforts or in imposing rigors *(a harsh reboke) (a harsh climate) (a harsh sentence)*. Uneven applies either to surfaces or to lines and suggests a lack of uniformity in height through all the points of the surface *(an uneven road) (an uneven floor)* or a lack of straightness and the presence of curves or angles *(an uneven edge)* *(an uneven hem)*. In extended use it implies a lack of uniformity especially in excellence or agreeableness in all the parts (as of a life, a performance, or a work of art) *(the artist's brushwork in this painting is uneven)* *(the trio's playing of the sonata was uneven)*

**Rugged** more often applied to persons so strong and healthy or machines so strongly made that they can survive great stress and strain, is not uncommonly employed in the sense of rough; in such use it applies chiefly to surfaces broken by ridges, prominences, gorges, and gullies that can offer serious difficulty to the traveler or worker *(a rugged road up a mountain)* or which (as in the case of faces or countenances) are gaunt, seamed, or heavy-tended use *(scaly, scurfy)* *(scabby)* *(thorny)* *(prickly)* *(knobby)* *(and knotty)* *(when applied to surfaces)* *(a scabby leaf) (a scabby hide)*

**Scabrous** applies basically to a surface that is rough to the touch though not necessarily uneven; in this sense it is a generic term including such species as scaly, scurfy, scabby, thorny, prickly, knobby, and knotty *(when applied to surfaces)* *(a scabrous leaf) (a scabrous hide)*

In extended use scabrous applies chiefly to subject matter or to writings and works of art having subject matter that is prickly or thorny, or difficult to treat, often because it is offensive to the tastes or morals of the community *(what writer... has spoken more acutely on the somewhat scabrous, but none the less important subject of feminine temperamant?—Huxley)*

**Ana** analogous words  
**Ant** antonyms  
**Con** contrasted words  
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
2 Rude, ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, ungracious can all mean not observant of the manners or forms required by good breeding. Rude suggests lack of delicacy or consideration for the feelings of others; it does not necessarily suggest lack of breeding, for it is applicable to persons of all stations or conditions. It usually stresses impudence, insolence, or a generally insulting manner (a rude answer) demanding an explanation of the rude familiarity with which Jim had treated him—Anderson. Ill-mannered is a more general and less explicit term, and it seldom carries a suggestion of an intent to offend or insult such as rude usually carries; it is therefore applicable to a person, act, or utterance that shows ignorance of, indifference to, or a disregard of the proprieties (the tone . . . seems to me as gratuitously ill-mannered as the sentence itself is foolish—Corker). Impolite, discourteous, and uncivil, as the negatives of polite, courteous, civil (for all three, see CIVIL), imply merely the reverse of the care in observing the proprieties of good or formal society that is suggested by polite (scientists may form schools of thought, but these ungracious (compare GRACIOUS) stresses the lack of kindliness or courtesy resulting from awkwardness, callowness, surliness, or irritation (an ungracious refusal) (an ungracious answer) these criticisms of a book that is a labor of love and piety may seem ungracious—Cohen). Ana brusque, curt, gruff, crusty (see BLUFF): *impertinent, intrusive, meddlesome: surly, crabbed (see SULLEN). Ant civil: urbane. ruiful dolorous, doleful, lugubrious, plaintive, *melancholy. Ana depressed, weighed down, oppressed (see DEPRESS): piteous, *pitiful: despairing, *despondent, hopeless. rugged *rough, scabby, harsh, uneven. Ana robust, *healthy: brawny, husky, *muscular: *rank, rampant: arduous, *hard, difficult. Ant fragile. ruin n. Ruin, havoc, devastation, destruction are comparable when they mean the bringing about of disaster or what is left by a disaster. They are general terms which do not definitely indicate the cause or the effect yet suggest the kind of force operating to produce the kind of disaster involved. Ruin implies generally a falling or tumbling down and is applicable to anything that through decay, corruption, neglect, or loss is unable to maintain its wholeness or soundness and so gives way or falls apart; this idea underlies all of the many uses of the word (the old castle has fallen in ruins) (this carelessness . . . was to be his ruin—M. A. Hamilton) (cases of hopeless ruin . . . in which the body has first been ruined through neglect or vice—Elliot) (the possessive instinct . . . when pushed too far becomes the cause of the ruin of . . . society—Ellis). Havoc suggests an agent that pillages, despoils, or ravages and brings confusion and disorder with it (appropriated by the havoc and loss of life caused by the earthquake—Crowley) (he was now the blockaded . . . for Agrippa had worked havoc with his sea communications—Buchan). Hookworms live a long, long time in the small intestine, creating havoc all the while—Heiser. Devastation basically implies a laying waste, usually of a widespread territory (as by war or a natural catastrophe) the terrible devastation wrought by the great tidal wave which followed the earthquake at Lima—T. H. Huxley) but it also is applicable to something (as disease) that overthrows the individual or his property or resources like a natural catastrophe (those [letters] . . . make clear the devastation in her health that was soon to be revealed—Ellis). Destruction implies an unbuilding or pulling down or apart, but, since it is used alike of material and of immaterial things, it may suggest not only demolition but a killing, an undoing, or an annihilation; also, although it often connotes a conscious attempt to pull down, it as often suggests rather an inevitability or an irony in the effect produced (an unjust society wreaks cruel if subtle imprisonments and destructions of personal energy—Mailer) the destruction of a man's edifice [life work] by his own instruments of construction—Bellloc. Ana disintegration, crumbling (see corresponding verbs at DECAY). Ruin vb. Ruin, wreck, dilapidate can all mean to subject a person or more often a thing to forces that are destructive of soundness, worth, or usefulness. Ruin usually suggests a bringing to an end the structural or mental integrity, the value, beauty, or the well-being of something or of someone through such destructive agencies as weather, age, or neglect, through partial destruction by fire, flood, or collision, or through loss of something vital to happiness or success (as one's fortune, one's good name, or one's chastity) (the storm has ruined the garden) (the firm's reputation was ruined by rumors) (there was in all of them [persons] something ruined, lost or broken—one precious and irretrievable quality which had gone out of them and which they never could get back again—Wolfe). Wreck implies a ruining by or as if by crushing or being shattered. Basically it is used in reference to a ship, a train, a vehicle, or an airplane (the ship was wrecked on the rocky coast). In its extended sense wreck is often used in place of ruin when there is an intent to imply injury, often to something intangible such as one's career, one's credit, or one's prospects, past all hope of repair or of reconstruction (his health was wrecked by dissipation) (their plans were wrecked by the unexpected change in weather). When the pulling down of a building is implied, wreck is often preferred to demolish or destroy because it does not necessarily carry the suggestion implicit in those words of the uselessness of that which is left. Dilapidate historically implies ruin especially of a building, or of developed property, or of one's fortune or financial resources through neglect or through wastefulness; the term in such use carries, as the other terms do not, a strong implication of culpability [men bent . . . upon intriguing for places at court, for salaries, and for fragment after fragment of the Royal fortune which they were dilapidating—Bello] (the church . . . was . . . shamefully suffered to dilapidate by deliberate robbery and frigid indifference—Johnson). In more general use dilapidate implies a shabby, run-down, and often tumbledown condition and is used chiefly in the past-participial form as an adjective (negotiating the dilapidated and pubblind vehicle over the curving roads—Cheever) (an aged man, traveling alone, and wearing the dilapidated look of a retired missionary—Glasgow) Ana destroy, demolish, raze: *deface, disfigure: *maim, mutilate, mangle. Rule n. Law, regulation, precept, statute, ordinance, canon. Ana order, mandate, dictate, *command: *principle, axiom, fundamental: etiquette, *decorum, propriety.
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sacrifice vb

sadness, depression, melancholy, melancholia, dejection,

sacrosanct inviolate, inviolable, *sacred

abnegate, forbear, *forgo, eschew

sacrilegious blasphemous, *impious, profane

vb

analogous words

ana

Ant

Con

safe

her bureau drawers—Mary McCarthy> Involate and inviolable apply to things (as laws, principles, treaties, agreements, institutions, persons, places, or objects) that for one reason or another are secure from breach, infringement, attack, intrusion, or injury; the terms differ from each other chiefly in that inviolate suggests the fact of not having been violated while inviolable implies a character which does not permit or which distinctly forbids violation; thus, one holds a vow inviolable but keeps his vow inviolate (what seemed inviolable barriers are burst asunder in a trice—Meredith) (the Navahos . . . believed that their old gods dwelt in the fastnesses of that canyon . . . an inviolate place—Cather)

Ana

Ano

Ant

ana

safe, secure can both mean free from danger or apprehension of danger. Safe may imply that one has passed through dangers or has run some risk (as of injury or of being lost) without incurring harm or damage (arrived home safe and sound after their long journey) or it can apply to persons or possessions whose situation or position involves neither risk nor exposure to destruction or loss (let the great world safe from falling bombs) (he felt that his money was safe when it was in a bank) (sat in a niche of the tower when her somewhat faded beauty was safe from the sun)—Benetmans—Involate and inviolable apply to things (as laws, principles, treaties, agreements, institutions, persons, places, or objects) that for one reason or another are secure from breach, infringement, attack, intrusion, or injury; the terms differ from each other chiefly in that inviolate suggests the fact of not having been violated while inviolable implies a character which does not permit or which distinctly forbids violation; thus, one holds a vow inviolable but keeps his vow inviolate (what seemed inviolable barriers are burst asunder in a trice—Meredith) (the Navahos . . . believed that their old gods dwelt in the fastnesses of that canyon . . . an inviolate place—Cather)

Ana

Ant

Con

ana

sacrilege
desecration, *profanation, blasphemy

analogous words

ana

Ant

Con

ana

safety

sacrifice vb

rename, *abdiclate: surrender, yield, resign,

*relinquish

sacrilege desecration, *profanation, blasphemy

sacred

analogous words

ana

Ant

Con

ana

safety

saddle vb

*burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight,

load, lade, tax, charge

safety

sadness, depression, melancholy, melancholia, dejection,

gloom, blues, dumps are comparable when they mean a state of mind when one is unhappy or low-spirited or an attack of low spirits. Sadness is the general term; apart from the context it carries no explicit suggestions of the cause of the low spirits or of the extent to which one is deprived of cheerfulness (a feeling of sadness and longing that is not akin to pain—Longfellow) (we feel his underlying sadness . . . but Rome may have felt more strongly than we do his cheerfulness and pride—Buchan) (the leafless trees left her with unearned sadness. She mourned the long age before spring and feared loneliness in winter—Malamud) Depression applies chiefly to a mood in which one feels let down, discouraged, and devoid of vigor or to a state of mind, usually outwardly manifested by brooding, in which one is listless, despondent, or sullen; the term usually implies a precipitating or predisposing cause which may be external but is as often inherent in the nature of the affected individual (as for his look, it was a natural cheerfulness, striving against depression from without, and not quite succeeding—Hardy) (Tina's love was a stormy affair, with continual ups and downs of rapture and depression—Wharton) (a defeat would bring me closer to a general depression, a fog bank of dissatisfaction with myself—Mailer) Melancholy often applies to a not unpleasant or displeasing mood or a mental state characterized by sadness, pessiveness, and deep but not depressing or heavy seriousness (tend our hearts and spirits wholly to the influence of mild-minded melancholy—Tennyson) (the lively, curious mind, the wit, the gaiety of spirit tinged with a tender melancholy—Hudson) (fate did not bring her dreamed-of love. Instead, it gave her cause for melancholy, disappointment, and disillusionment—Farrowly (in spite of her civic zeal, she had a taste for melancholy—for the smell of orange rinds and wood smoke—Cheever) Melancholia may denote a disordered mental state characterized by a settled deep depression (the excited phase is called mania and its counterpart is known as melancholia . . . . The latter phase is marked by mournful and self-accusatory ideas and a countenance disfigured by despair—Ellery) Dejection suggests especially the mood of one who is downcast, discouraged, or dispirited; the term differs from depression chiefly in its suggestion of an external cause and in its more frequent application to a mood than to a prolonged state of mind (it was the last of the regiment's stay in Meryton, and all the young ladies in the neighborhood were dropping apace. The dejection was almost universal—Austin) (full of the dejection of a nice child whose toy has been snatched from its hand—Tracy) Gloom applies either to the effect produced by melancholy, dejection, or extreme sadness on the person afflicted or to the atmosphere which a person of low spirits or a depressing event creates; the term carries a suggestion of darkness and dullness and it further connotes lack of all that enlivens or cheers (the leaden gloom of one who has lost all that can make life interesting, or even tolerable—Hardy) (the idea that I am being studied fills me, after the first outburst of laughter, with a deepening gloom—Huxley) Blues and dumps are familiar, expressive terms for an attack of low spirits. Blues may suggest an acute attack of depression or melancholy which afflicts one almost as if an illness (a fit of the blues) (I believe that the attack of intense blues which caught me in that moment would have taken weeks to shake off—Ingamells) while dumps, usually in the phrase in the dumps, is more likely to suggest a deep sullen persistent dejection of spirits (doeful dumps the mind oppressed—Shak) (where someone else would have been in the dolefulest dumps . . . this young fellow took it out in joking—Overstreet)

Ana

safety

ana

Ant

Con

ana

safety

safety

safety

safety

safety
make a venture without fear, or the provision of safe-
guards or protective devices which make a thing safe
to use or follow (the offer of a partnership by making his
future secure also made his marriage possible) (now that
the foundations were in good repair they regarded the
bridge as secure) (a provident, rather thoughtful people,
who made their livelihood secure by raising crops and
fowl—Cather) (an independent, stubborn man who
knew what he wanted, a man who was firmly rooted,
established, secure against calamity and want—Wolfe)
Often the term suggests not only a freedom from fear of
danger but a position, condition, or situation free from
all hazards (has made a secure place for himself in the
history of English poetry) (university graduates who had
been unable to find suitable jobs or any secure place in
normal society—Shirer)

Ana protected, guarded, shielded (see DEFEND): *reliable,
dependable, tried

Ant dangerous — Con precarious, hazardous, risky,
perilous (see DANGEROUS)

safeguard vb guard, shield, protect, *defend

Ana conserve, preserve, *save: secure, insure, *ensure,
assure

sag vb *droop, wilt, flag

Ana sink, slump, subside, *fall, drop: *hang, dangle,
suspend

saga *myth, legend

sagacious perspicacious, astute, *shrewd

Ana *sharp, keen, acute: penetrating, piercing, probing
(see ENTER): *wise, judicious, sage, sapient

sage adj *wise, sapient, judicious, prudent, sensible, sane

Ana *intelligent, knowing, brilliant: *learned, erudite:
sagacious, perspicacious (see SHREWED)

sail vb float, skim, scud, shoot, dart, *fly

sailor *mariner, seaman, tar, gob, bluejacket

salary *wage or wages, stipend, pay, hire, emolument, fee

salient conspicuous, outstanding, signal, striking, arresting,
prominent, remarkable, *noticeable

Ana significant, important, weighty (see corresponding
nouns at IMPORTANCE): impressive, *moving: obtrusive,
intrusive (see IMPERTINENT)

salubrious *healthful, healthy, wholesome, salutary,
hygienic, sanitary

Ana *beneficial, advantageous: benign, *favorable

salutary wholesome, *healthful, healthy, salubrious,
hygienic, sanitary

Ana *beneficial, advantageous, profitable

Ant deleterious: evil

salutation *greeting, salute

salute vb *address, greet, hail, accost

salute n *greeting, salutation

same, selfsame, very, identical, *identical, equivalent, equal,
tantamount can mean either not different from the other
or others or not differing from each other. Same may
imply, and selfsame invariably implies, that the things
under consideration are in reality one and not two or
three different things (this is the selfsame book that John
once owned) (they go to the same summer resort year
after year) (voted out of power . . . by the selfsame
people who had put them into office in the first place—
Fairless) (perhaps the selfsame owl that used to fly
overhead—Eve Langley) But same may also be applied
to things actually distinct but with no appreciable dif-
fERENCE in quality, kind, appearance, amount, or signifi-
cance (say Wheeler riding in state in the great Dewey
parade . . . in 1898, wearing the same uniform that Miles
and Merritt wore—Long) would be looked upon as one of
the afterguard, and would eat the same rations as the
captain—Chippendale) Very, like selfsame, implies

complete absence of difference and therefore oneness in
the things under consideration (you are the very
man I have been anxious to see) (that is the very
thing that I was saying—Shelley) (here in this very
town there was once a café—McCullers) identical (see also LIKE)
implies either selfsameness (I found it at the identical
spot where I left it) (the authors of the anonymous
Waverley and of the popular Lady of the Lake were
found to be identical) or absolute agreement in all details
(as of quality, shape, and appearance) (since the sculp-
tures are identical one must be a replica of the other)
(no two leaves from the same tree are identical) (twins
that are identical develop from a single fertilized egg)
(a thousand identical guant gray houses—Rowecht)

the same measures . . . may flow from distinct powers;
but this does not prove that the powers themselves are
identical—John Marshall) identical occurs chiefly in
diplomatic or governmental use and like identical
implies absolute agreement in all details (the Allies sent
identic answers to the ultimatum) (identic notes utilized
by the powers in making joint representation to a government
—Stuart) equivalent is used of things that amount to
the same thing or are freely interchangeable in some respect
(as worth, force, significance, or import) (some heirs
received their legacies in cash, some in real estate of
equivalent value) (in economics, the equivalent of
a beautifully composed work of art is the smoothly running
factory in which the workers are perfectly adjusted to
the machines—Huxley) equal implies complete corre-
spondence (as in number, amount, magnitude, or value)
and therefore equivalence but not selfsameness (equal
salaries) (equal quantities) (equal merit) (divide in
equal shares) (the General . . . greeted Mrs. Churchill
in English, and spoke it throughout the meal. To make
things equal, I spoke French—Sir Winston Churchill)
tantamount, otherwise identical with equivalent, is
restricted in application to one of a pair of usually
immaterial things that are in effect equivalent the one to
the other (as in value, significance, or effect) (such a move-
ment . . . would be tantamount to a confession of failure
—Trollope) (refusal to prolong the truce . . . would be
tantamount to a threat—Current Biog.)

Ana alike, *like, akin, parallel, uniform

Ant different

sample n specimen, example, *instance, case, illustration

Ana piece, *part, portion, segment, fragment

sanative remedial, *curative, restorative, corrective

Ana salutarv, hygienic, sanitary, *healthful: healing,
curing, remedying (see CURE vb)

sanctimonious 1 pietistic, religious, *devout, pious

Ana see those at SANCTIMONIOUS 2

2 hypocritical, pharisical, canting (see under HYPOCRISY)

Ana affected, feigned, simulated, counterfeited, as-
sumed, pretended (see ASSUME): perfervid, fervid, ardent,
fervent (see IMPASSIONED)

sanctimonious *hypocritical, pharisical, canting

Ana pretending or pretense, simulation, feigning, counter-
feiting, affecting or affectation (see corresponding verbs
at ASSUME): enthusiasm, zealotry, fanaticism (see nouns
at ENTHUSIAST)

sanction vb *approve, endorse, accredit, certify

Ana *authorize, license, commission: confirm, *ratify:
enforce, implement

Ant interdict

sanctity *holiness

sanctuary refuge, asylum, *shelter, cover, retreat

Ana safety, security (see corresponding adjectives at
SAFE): protection, shielding or shield, guarding or guard

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sangfroid phlegm, composure, "equanimity
Annadifference, unconcernedness or unconcern, aloofness, detachment (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENCE): self-possession, aplomb, self-assurance, assurance, self-confidence, "confidence
sanguine *bloody, sanguine, sanguineous, gory
sanguineous *bloody, sanguine, sanguineous, gory
sanitize disinfect, *sterilize, fumigate
sarcasm satire, irony, *wit, humor, repartee
sapid *palatable, appetizing, savory, tasty, toothsome, flavorsome, relishing
satellite *follower, adherent, henchman, partisan, disciple, sectary
sate vt *satiate, surfeit, clay, pall, glut, gorge
satiate, sate, surfeit, clay, pall, glut, gorge are comparable when they mean to fill or become filled to the point of replenishment. Although both sate and sate can imply no more than a complete satisfying, both terms more often imply an overfilling or an overfeeding so that there is no longer a pleasure in what once pleased or seemed desirable (the ordinary Roman . . . sated alike with the fervors of the democrats and the rigidity of the conservativeness—Buchan) (when even then if a few common words of explanation, a few sober words of promise, would not have satisfied the crowd, already sated with eloquence—Repliplier) (so overwhelmed by information . . . that curiosity becomes sated, discrimination dulled—W. R. Parker) Surfeit distinctly implies a feeding or supplying to excess with consequent nausea or disgust (surfeited herself with candy) (surfeited a person with flatter) (readers surfeited with the . . . wild overstate-ments and wild understatements of public dispute—Montague) (if music be the food of love, play on; give me excess of it, that, surfeiting, the appetite may sicken, and so die—Shak.) Stress the resulting disgust or boredom more than the surfeit which induces them (and thus, with sinning cloyed, has died each Murtagroyd—Gilbert) (poetic wit itself is a rarity . . . Large in-discriminatory doses of it tend to cloy—Horace Gregory) Pall differs from cloy only in its greater emphasis upon the loss of all power in something with which one is surfeited to challenge one's interest or attention or to what one's appetite; the term therefore refers rather to things that tend to satiate than to the persons whose appetites or desires have been sated by such things (there anguish or desires have been sated by such things with unpaid gestation of greed or satiation <banks glutted with unpaid commercial paper—Lehman) Gorge usually implies the stimulation of a greed that knows no limits except those imposed upon it by physical necessity (its hunger was already all but glutted, and its purpose seemed to be, mainly, to kill—C. G. D. Roberts) Gorge may be used also in reference to impersonal things, implying merely an overloading, and carrying no suggestion of greed or satiation <banks glutted with unpaid commercial paper—Lehman)

sand 709
satiate

sand n *fortitude, grit, backbone, pluck, guts
Annacourage, mettle, spirit, resolution, tenacity
sanewise, judicious, prudent, sensible, sage, sapient
Annarational, reasonable: right, *good: sound, cogent, convincing, compelling (see VALID)
Antinsane
sangfroid phlegm, composure, "equanimity
Annadifference, unconcernedness or unconcern, aloofness, detachment (see corresponding adjectives at INDIFFERENCE): self-possession, aplomb, self-assurance, assurance, self-confidence, "confidence
sanguine *bloody, sanguine, sanguineous, gory
sanguineous *bloody, sanguine, sanguineous, gory
sanitize disinfect, *sterilize, fumigate
sarcasm satire, irony, *wit, humor, repartee
sapid *palatable, appetizing, savory, tasty, toothsome, flavorsome, relishing
Annaindidsp—Convapid, flat, inane, jejune (see INSIPID): bland, *soft, mild
sapientsage, *wise, judicious, prudent, sensible, sane
Annalearned, erudite, scholarly: sagacious, perspicacious
(see SHREWID)
sarcasm satirize, irony, *wit, humor, parterre
Annainciviness, trenchancy, bitingness, cuttingness (see corresponding adjectives at INCISIVE): mockery, taunting, derision (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)
sarcastic, satirize, ionic, sardonic can mean having or manifesting bitterness and power to cut or sting. A person, a mood, a remark, or an expression is sarcastic when he or it manifests an intent to inflict pain by deriding, taunting, ridiculing (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE): *sinister, malign
satevt *satiate, surfeit, clay, pall, glut, gorge
satiate, sate, surfeit, clay, pall, glut, gorge are comparable when they mean to fill or become filled to the point of replentishment. Although both sate and sate can imply no more than a complete satisfying, both terms more often imply an overfilling or an overfeeding so that there is no longer a pleasure in what once pleased or seemed desirable (the ordinary Roman . . . sated alike with the fervors of the democrats and the rigidity of the conservativeness—Buchan) (when even then if a few common words of explanation, a few sober words of promise, would not have satisfied the crowd, already sated with eloquence—Repliplier) (so overwhelmed by information . . . that curiosity becomes sated, discrimination dulled—W. R. Parker) Surfeit distinctly implies a feeding or supplying to excess with consequent nausea or disgust (surfeited herself with candy) (surfeited a person with flatter) (readers surfeited with the . . . wild understate-ments and wild understatements of public dispute—Montague) (if music be the food of love, play on; give me excess of it, that, surfeiting, the appetite may sicken, and so die—Shak.) Stress the resulting disgust or boredom more than the surfeit which induces them (and thus, with sinning cloyed, has died each Murtagroyd—Gilbert) (poetic wit itself is a rarity . . . Large in-discriminatory doses of it tend to cloy—Horace Gregory) Pall differs from cloy only in its greater emphasis upon the loss of all power in something with which one is surfeited to challenge one's interest or attention or to what one's appetite; the term therefore refers rather to things that tend to satiate than to the persons whose appetites or desires have been sated by such things (there anguish or desires have been sated by such things with unpaid gestation of greed or satiation <banks glutted with unpaid commercial paper—Lehman) Gorge usually implies the stimulation of a greed that knows no limits except those imposed upon it by physical necessity (its hunger was already all but glutted, and its purpose seemed to be, mainly, to kill—C. G. D. Roberts) Gorge may be used also in reference to impersonal things, implying merely an overloading, and carrying no suggestion of greed or satiation <banks glutted with unpaid commercial paper—Lehman)

analogy words
Antanonyms
Concontrasted words
Sees also explanatory notes facing page 1
more—Kipling\) (heaven can gorge us with our own

desires—Defoe)\n\n**Ana** *satisfy, content: pamper, humor, *indulge: gratify, regale (see PLEASE)\n\nsatiny silky, silken, velvet, glossy, *sleek, slick\n\nsatire irony, *wit, humor, sarcasm, repartee\n\n**Ana** railly, persiflage, *badinage: lampoon, pasquinade, *libel, skit: ridiculing or ridicule, deriding or derision, taunting (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)\n\nsatiric ironic, sardonic, *sarcastic\n\n**Ana** *pungent, piquant, poignant: ridiculing, deriding or derivative, taunting, mocking (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE): mordant, *caustic, scathing\n\nsatisfied content (see under SATISFY)\n\n**Ana** gratified, gladdened, pleased (see PLEASE): appeased, pacified (see PACIFY)\n\nsatisfy 1 Satisfy, content or contented. Satisfy implies full appeasement not only of a person's desires or longings but also of his needs or requirements (walks that satisfy a wish for exercise, a pupil) <a little, upright, pert sitting bird—Ruskin>\n\n2 recompense, compensate, remunerate, repay, *pay, plies exact agreement with the test or measure and there-\nwith the world, not because fulfillment, a requirement, or a hypothesis) and found to be fulfilled human hopes—A. E. Stevenson\n\n*Ant* tantalize\n\n2 recompense, compensate, remunerate, repay, *pay, reimburse, indemnify\n\n**Ana** balance, *compensate, offset\n\n3 Satisfy, fulfill, meet, answer all can mean to measure up to a condition, a need, a claim, a hope, or a requirement. They are seldom interchangeable, however, without loss of precision or expressiveness or without violation of idiom. Satisfy, with this meaning (compare SATISFY 1), is used chiefly in reference to things or to persons considered impersonally which are submitted to a test (as a condition, a requirement, or a hypothesis) and found to be such in constitution or makeup as not to fall short (there is one condition that a lyric ought to satisfy: it ought to pass the test of being read aloud—Binyon) <he will satisfy Newman's famous definition of a gentleman as one who never inflicts pain—Montague>\n\nFulfill usually connotes more than adequacy or richness and fullness of measure; also what is fulfilled is not determined by something calculable but usually by something indefinite or immeasurable (as expectations, hopes, desires, or needs) (a son seldom fulfills his father's hopes) \n\n2 impregnate, interpenetrate, penetrate, permeate, pervade\n\n**Ana** *infuse, imbue, inoculate: penetrate, pierce, probe (see ENTER)\n\nsaturine dour, gloomy, *sullen, glum, morose, surly, sulky, crabbed\n\n**Ana** grave, *serious, solemn, somber, staid: taciturn, reserved, uncommunicative, *silent\n\n**Ana** genial: mercurial\n\nsaucy, pert, arch are comparable when they mean flippant and bold rather than serious and respectful in one's manner or attitude. Saucy is rarely strongly derogatory though it implies some degree of lack of proper respect (a saucy pupil) <a saucy retort> Usually it also implies piquancy and levity with a hint of smartness or of amusing effrontery <a little saucy rosebud minx can strike death-damp into the breast of doughty king—Browning> Sometimes it is applied also to birds and small animals on similar grounds <some saucy puppies on their hind-legs—Ruskin>\n\nArch usually implies roguish or coquettish audacity or mischievous mockery sometimes carried to the point that it seems forced or awkward <imperious expressions and arch posturing—Osbert Lancaster> \n\nElizabeth . . . turned to him with an arch smile, and said—"You mean to frighten me, Mr. Darcy, by coming in all this state to hear me?"—Austen\n\n**Ana** flippant, frivolous, volatile, light-minded (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS): intrusive, obtrusive, meddlesome, *impertinent: brash, impudent (see SHAMELESS): piquant, snappy (see PUNGENT)\n\nsaunter, stroll, amble can all mean to walk slowly and more or less aimlessly, especially in the open air. Saunter suggests a leisurely pace and an idle and carefree mind <sauntering> about the streets, loitering in a coffeehouse—Fielding> <he had stepped out into the street well ahead of the man sauntering toward the doorway—MacInnes>\n\nStroll differs from saunter chiefly in its implications of an objective (as sight-seeing or exercise) pursued without haste and sometimes with wandering from one place to another <then we strolled for half the day through stately theaters—Tennyson> (the notables of the town . . . stroll past with the dignity of Roman senators—Huxley>\n\n**Amble** occasionally conveys the same implications as saunter or sometimes stroll, but it more often suggests merely an easy, effortless gait comparable to that of a saunter—Fielding>
of an ambling horse <you were just ambling around that party, eating, drinking, carefree as a bird—Wouk>

savage adj 1 *fierce, ferocious, barbarous, inhuman, cruel, fell, truculent

Ana implacable, relentless, unrelenting, merciless, *grim: rapacious, *voracious, ravenous

Con gentle, mild, lenient (see soft): humane, benevolent, *charitable

2 barbaric, *barbarian, barbarous

Ana primitive, primeval (see primary): *rough, harsh: untutored, untutored, *ignorant

Con *tame, submissive, subdued: civilized, cultured (see corresponding nouns at civilization)

save vb 1 deliver, redeem, *rescue, ransom, reclaim

Ana *free, release, liberate, emancipate: *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard: *recover, retrieve, recoup, recruit

Ant lose: waste: damn (in theology)

2 Save, preserve, conserve can mean to keep free or secure from injury, decay, destruction, or loss. Save may imply measures taken to protect something from danger of loss, injury, or destruction <they had her in a Sunday-go-to-meeting dress . . . never washed or worn, just saved—Welty> <saved his papers in a vault> <he wavered around an atomistic explanation of the world, yet held fast to the Biblical Creation, to save his orthodoxy—H. O. Taylor> but, more often, it suggests rescue or delivery from a dangerous situation (see under rescue). Preserve stresses the idea of resistance to destructive agencies and hence implies the use of means to keep something in existence or intact <old records are preserved by protecting them from light and moisture> <preserve food for winter use> <constitutions are intended to preserve practical and substantial rights, not to maintain theories—Justice Holmes> <there's nothing like routine and regularity for preserving one's peace of mind—Dahl> Conserve, on the other hand, suggests keeping sound and unimpaired and implies the use of means to prevent unnecessary or excessive change, loss, or depletion <a conveyancing must conserve his energy if he is to make rapid progress> <our constitutional rights can be conserved only by an intelligent electorate> <the air is recirculated within the cabin in order to conserve heat—Armstrong> <sipped his coffee, made from his carefully conserved supply brought with him from England—Bambrick>

Ana *have, hold, own, possess, enjoy: *keep, retain, reserve

Ant spend: consume

savour faire poise, *tact, address


Con awkwardness, clumsiness, ineptness, maladroitness, gaucherie (see corresponding adjectives at awkward)

savor n *taste, flavor, tang, relish, smack

Ana *quality, property, character, attribute: peculiarity, individuality, characteristic, distinctiveness (see corresponding adjectives at characteristic): *impression, impress, print, stamp

savory *palatable, appetizing, tasty, toothsome, flavorous, relishing

Ant bland (to taste): acrid (in taste and smell)

say n *saying, adage, proverb, maxim, motto, epigram, aphorism, apothegm

vb Say, utter, tell, state are comparable when they mean to put into words. Say often means merely to articulate or pronounce <say the words after me> <the baby has not yet learned to say "mama" or "daddy" > or is used in reporting something voiced <he said over the telephone that he would be late in coming home> <"I am going now," he said> Say may also imply the fact of putting in speech or in writing without necessarily suggesting the actual wording <you must learn to say what you mean> <he meant what he said> <do as I say and everything will be all right> Utter (see also express) stresses the act of putting into speech or spoken words, often with reference only to the use of the voice and with no indication of motive or impulse in speaking <she sat still, not uttering a single word> <just as the actor uttered his first speech> <he formed this speech with his lips many times before he could utter it—Dickens> Tell (see also count, reveal) carries no clear implication of whether what is said is put into speech or writing, for the stress is upon imparting an idea or thought and not upon the method used. Consequently tell may suggest a putting into spoken or written words, or it may connote an equally clear or forcible means of impressing an idea upon the mind of a person or of revealing a condition or a sequence of events <I am telling you the truth> <the rocks tell the story of past ages> State (see also relate) is often used in place of say when the added implication of clearness and definiteness is necessary <perhaps I had better take this opportunity of stating he need have no expectations from me; all my money will go in public bequests—Deland> <one should know what one thinks and what one means, and be able to state it in clear terms—Rose Macaulay>


saying, saw, adage, proverb, maxim, motto, epigram, aphorism, apothegm can all denote a sententious expression of a general truth. A saying is a brief current or habitual expression that may be anonymous, traditional, or attributable to a specific source <the saying is true, "The empty vessel makes the greatest sound”—Shak> A saw is an oft-repeated and usually traditional or old saying <full of wise saws and modern instances—Shak> <the old saw that ignorance is bliss—M. W. Childs> An adage is a saying given credit by long use and general acceptance <if there is verity in wine, according to the old adage—Thackeray> <there's an adage to the effect that a good horse eventually comes back to his best form—Audax Minor> A proverb is an adage couched, usually, in homely and vividly concrete or figurative phrase <accused (in the phrase of a homely adage) of being "penny-wise and pound-foolish”—Spectator> <we hear, that we may speak. The Arabian proverb says, "A fig tree, looking on a fig tree, becometh fruitful”—Emerson> A maxim offers a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct often in the form of a proverb <the difference between principles as universal laws, and maxims of conduct as prudential rules—Robinson> <we have reversed the wise maxime of Theodore Roosevelt: "Speak softly and carry a big stick”—Warburg> A motto is usually a maxim or moral aphorism adopted by a person, a society, or an institution as a guiding principle or as a statement of an aim or ideal <William of Wykeham's old motto that "Manners maketh Man” —Quiller-Couch> he adopted the maxim "Napoleon is always right," in addition to his private motto of "I will work harder" —George Orwell> The last three terms, epigram, aphorism, and apothegm, commonly imply known authorship and a conscious literary quality. An epigram gets its effectiveness from its terseness and a witty turn of phrase; it characteristically presents a paradox or a cleverly pointed antithesis <what is an epigram? A dwarfish whole,
its body brevity, and wit its soul—Coleridge> An aphorism is a pithy epigram that requires some thought <when Mark Twain utters such characteristic aphorisms as “Heaven for climate, hell for society”—Brooks> An apothegm is a sharply pointed and often startling aphorism such as Johnson’s remark, “Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.”

scabrous 1 rough, harsh, uneven, rugged

Ant glabrous: smooth
scale vb climb, mount, *ascend
scamp villain, scoundrel, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, rascallion, miscreant

Ant malefactor; culprit, delinquent, *criminal
scampers vb *scuttle, scurry, skedaddle, sprint

Ant speed, hurry, hasten: *rush, dash, shoot
scan vb scrutinize, examine, inspect, audit

Ant consider, study, contemplate: observe, survey, remark, notice (see see)

scandal n 1 *offense, sin, vice, crime

Ant indignity, insult, *affront: offending or offense, outraging or outrage (see corresponding verbs at OFFEND): wrong, grievance, injury, *injustice

2 *defraudation, calumny, slander, hackbitching

Ant gossiping or gossip, tattling (see corresponding verbs at Gossip): maligning, defaming or defamation, traducing (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN)

scanning scrutiny, examination, inspection, audit (see under SCRUTINIZE)

Ant study, application, *attention, concentration: *over-sight, supervision, surveillance: analysis, dissection (see under ANALYZE)

scant scanty, skimpy, scrumpy, *meager, exiguous, spare, sparse

Ant *deficient, defective: scarce, rare, *infrequent

Ant plentiful: profuse

scanty scant, skimpy, scrumpy, *meager, exiguous, sparse, sparse

Ant *deficient

Ant ample, plentiful: profuse

scarce rare, uncommon, *infrequent, occasional, sporadic

Ant *deficient: curtailed, abridged, shortened (see SHORTEN)

Ant abundant

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

Ant daunt, appall, *dismay: *intimidate, cow, browbeat: astound, amaze, flabbergast, astonish, *surprise

Ant enite

scathing *caustic, mordant, acrid

Ant scorching, searing, burning (see BURN): *fierce, ferocious, truculent, savage: *incisive, biting, cutting, trenchant

scatter 1 Scatter, disperse, dissipate, dispel can mean to cause a group, mass, or assemblage to separate or break up. Scatter may imply the use or operation of force which drives the persons or things in different directions <the hurricane scattered the ships of the fleet> <the heavy assault scattered the troops> <the wind scattered the leaves> <but the whip—in fancy he cracked it aloft and sent his adversaries scattering—Hervey> On the other hand, scatter may imply little more than throwing or casting so that the things thrown will fall by or as if by chance <scatter pennies> <scatter seeds> Disperse usually implies a wider separation of the units than scatter and a complete breaking up of the mass or assemblage <the rain quickly dispersed the crowd> <in a few years, the Bureau was dismembered, its staff dispersed—Heiser> <a sea where all the ships in the world might be so dispersed as that none should see another—Cowper>

Disperse suggests definitely the idea of complete disintegration or dissolution (as by evaporation, crumbling, squandering, or blowing away) and consequent vanishing <the sun dissipates the mist> <dissipated her energy in futile efforts> <from the far-off wooded hills the haze . . . had not yet dissipated—D. H. Lawrence> <had a small patrimony . . . that he dissipated before he left college—Meredith> Dispel carries less suggestion of separation of units or particles than any of these words but it stresses a driving away as if by scattering of something that clouds, confuses, or bothers <the rising sun dispelled the darkness> <a blind man whose darkness no street lamp can dispel—Shaw> <truth and frankness dispel difficulties—Russell> if there were any lingering doubts in his mind they were dispelled by an incident which occurred . . . on February 17—Shirer

Ant *throw, cast, fling, toss: *distribute, dispense, divide: *discard, shed, cast

Con *accumulate, amass, hoard: collect, *gather, assemblage: *compact, concentrate

2 *strew, straw, broadcast, sow

Ant *spread, disseminate: *sprinkle, besprinkle

scent n *smell, odor, aroma

Ant emanation, issuing or issue (see corresponding verbs at SPRING)

schedule n 1 *list, table, catalog, register, roll, roster, inventory

2 *program, timetable, agenda

scheme n 1 *plan, design, plot, project

Ant *proposal, proposition: arrangement, ordering (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): *device, contrivance: expedient, shift, makeshift (see RESOURCE)

2 *system, network, complex, organism, economy

Ant organization, arrangement, ordering (see corresponding verbs at ORDER): whole, total, *sum

scheme vb plan, design, plot, project (see under PLAN n)

Ant propose, purpose, *intend: *aim, aspire: manipulate, *handle, swing, wield

schism split, rupture, *breach, break, rent, rift

Ant division, separation, severance (see corresponding verbs at SEPARATE): estrangement, alienation (see corresponding verbs at ESTRANGE): *discord, dissension

schismatic n *heretic, sectarian, dissenter, nonconformist

Ant academic, scholastic, *pedantic: abstruse, *recondite: accurate, exact, precise (see CORRECT)

scholarship learning, erudition, *knowledge, science, information, lore

scholastic academic, *pedantic, bookish

Ant *conversant, versed: *dry, arid: formal, conventional (see CEREMONIAL)

school vb discipline, train, *teach, instruct, educate

Ant *practice, exercise, drill: *guide, lead: *conduct, control, direct, manage

science n 1 *knowledge, learning, erudition, scholarship, information, lore

2 *art

scintillate *flash, gleam, glance, glint, spark, glitter, glister, coruscate, twinkle

scoff, jeer, gibe, fleer, gird, sneer, sniff can all mean to show one’s scorn or contempt in derision or mockery. Scoff stresses insolence, irreverence, lack of respect, or incredulity as the motives for one’s derision or mockery <it is an easy thing to scoff at any art or recreation; a little wit mixed with ill nature, confidence, and malice, will do it—Walton> <fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray—Goldsmith> <in jesting mood his comrades heard his tale, and scoffed at it—Lowell> Jeer carries a stronger implication of loud derisive laughter than scoff; it usually

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

connotes a coarser and more vulgar or, at least, a less keenly critical attitude than scoff (how does it come that men ... in its streets and see the faces of men—Dos Passos) 

to him—Rational Preoccupations of Childhood—Krutch

Gibe stresses taunting, often in derisive sarcasm, sometimes in good-natured raillery (you...with taunts did give...in audience—Shak.) after one of her visitations you gibe each other good-naturedly over the extent to which you found yourself nibbled from other fisher of reasoned conclusion—Mary Austin

generosity of spirit which had prevented him from gifting at individuals for characteristics beyond their control—Gwethalyn Graham

Fl eer throws the emphasis upon derisive grins, grimaces, and laughs rather than on utterances (look like two old maids of honor got into a circle of feering girls and boys—Gray) he listened with a s sneering mouth to his father's long dogmatic grace before meat—Hergesheimer

Gird implies an attack marked by scoffing, gibing, or jeering (the subprior was bidden to sing...the 'Elegy of the Rose': the author girding cheerily at the clerkly man's assumed ignorance of such compositions—Pater (it worked off steam and got its comedy largely by girding at the great ones of the past—Times Lit. Sup.)

Sneer carries the strongest implication of cynicism and ill-natured contempt of any of these terms; it often suggests the use of irony or satire the real purport of which is indicated by an insultingly contemptuous facial expression, tone of voice, or manner of phrasing (it has become...fashionable to sneer at economics and emphasize 'the human dilemma'—Mailer) people are nowadays so cynical—they sneer at everything that makes life worth living—L. P. Smith

Flout may imply any of the actions suggested by the preceding terms, but it carries a heightened implication not only of disdain and contempt but of refusal to heed or of a denial of a thing's truth or power (that bids him flout the law he makes, that bids him make the law he flouts—Kipling) no form of Christianity which flouts science is in the true line of progress—Inge

(for the past eight years they had watched an administration purposely flout the intellectual life—Michener)

Ana *ridicule, deride, mock, taunt: scorn, disdain, scoff, contempt, *despise

scold vb Scold, upbraid, rate, berate, tongue-lash, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig, rail, revil, vituperate can all mean to reproach, rebuke, or censure angrily, harshly, and more or less abusively. Scold, the term most common in ordinary use, usually implies a rebuking in a mood of irritation or ill temper, with or without sufficient justification (his father scolded him for staying out late) (our great authors have scolded the nation more than they praised it. Often their scolding has been...wholly justified, but often too it has been eccentric or ill-informed—Malcolm Cowley

U p b r a i d stresses reproaching or censuring on more definite grounds than scold does and usually suggests justification or justifiable anger (the judge upbraided the parents for the delinquency of their children) (I think he'd meant to upbraid me for sneaking off, but he didn't—Cather)

he had so often upbraided her for her superficiality—Sackville-West

R a t e and the more common berate usually imply more or less prolonged, angry, and sometimes abusive scolding either in censuring or in reprimanding (the voice continued violently rating me—Hudson) (hearing Ed Hall berate a farmer who doubted the practicability of the machine—Anderson)

Fairly close synonyms of rate and berate are the expressive tongue-lash which stresses the punitive effect on the person berated (tongue-lashed them in a way that could be heard blocks off—Fast) (suffer from a fifteen-minute tongue-lashing) and the crude terms jaw, bawl, usually with out, chew out, and wig (chiefly British), which emphasize the noisy prolonged ranting which usually attends a berating (I have been jawed for letting you go—Marryat) you'll get bawled out when you pull a boner—Mathewson) some niggling Quartermaster lieutenant chewed them out because they were a few hundred cases short—Liebling (a student with a riding habit who presumably had been severely wigged by his chief—The Times)

Rail carries a more definite implication of either abusive or scoffing language than rate or berate (enemies...rail at him for crimes he is not guilty of—Junius) the couples railed at the chant and the frown of the witchmen lean, and laughed them down—Lindsay Revile carries a much stronger implication of abusive, scurrilous language than rail does but little, if any, suggestion of scoffing; it often also implies deliberate vilification (the words humiliated her, the tone reviled her...they were the clashes of naked hate—Farrell) her tenants, who have to earn the money she spends abroad...revile her as a fugitive and an absentee—Shaw

Vituperate implies much violence in the censure and in the method of attack than does revile, but otherwise they are close synonyms (he vituperated from the pulpit the vices of the court—Froude) (the last image that crossed my mind was Sir James with his angry face and his trembling hands vituperating him—Archibald Marshall)

Ana reprehend, reprobe, censure, blame, *criticize: reproach, reprimand, *reprove, rebuke, admonish, chide: *execute, objurgate

scop vb *dip, bail, ladle, spoon, dish

scope *range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, sweep, orbit, horizon, ken, purview

Ana *expanses, amplitude, spread, stretch: *field, domain, sphere, territory, province: extent, area, *size

scorch vb *burn, char, sear, singe

Ana *wither, shrivel

scorn n disdain, contempt, despite (see under DESPISE)

Ana superciliousness, insolence, disdainfulness (see corresponding adjectives at PROUD): scoffing, flouting, jeering, gibing (see SCOFF): deriding or derision, ridicule or taunting, mocking or mockery (see corresponding verbs at RIDICULE)

scorn vb disdain, scoff, *despise, contempt

Ana repudiate, spurn, reject (see DECLINE vb): flout, scoff, jeer: deride: mock, taunt, *ridicule

Scotch, Scottish, Scots can all apply to what constitutes, or derives from Scotland or its people. Scotch is most widely used outside Scotland, especially in the spoken language (the entire Scotch people) the inconvenience of having nothing in England like the Scotch one-pound note—Todd (a schism in the Scotch Church—Justice Holmes) the overwhelming proportion being English, Scotch, or Irish in descent—Carnegie Mag.) a Scotch painter not all the Scottish names that survive today are truly Scotch in origin—Menchken Scottish has a more literary, less casual flavor and use (the zest, courage, and good humor of the nineteenth-century Scottish author are infectious—Bloom) she left for Edinburgh the following year to assume the Scottish crown—Bran & Commager (the Scottish Universities—Winant) Scottish literature Scots is used in the same way as Scottish (the names of Scots and English shipowners—Conrad) a Scots writer—H. M. Jones) except

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
that Scots is sometimes preferred in reference to law and in historical references to money (a pound Scots) In Scotland itself Scottish and Scots are often preferred to Scotch (a delegation of Scottish editors—The Scotsman) (Scottish cricket—The Scotsman) (the Scots community in New York—The Scotsman) (new Scots airlink—The Scotsman) but Scotch also is used (the signs confirmed my recollection that the Scotch Scotch are not ashamed of the word Scotch and do not go out about protesting that Scottish and Scots are preferable forms—Liebling) especially with regard to the products of Scotland (wool jersey . . . and Scotch tweeds are favorite fabrics—Women's Wear Daily)

Scottish, Scots adj •Scotch
scoundrel *villain, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, scam, rascallion, miscreant
*seek, search, hunt, ransack, rummage, comb, scour
villain, blackguard, knave, rascal, rogue, Grind implies a sharpening of the edge or point of a tool or weapon or the smoothing of a surface (as of glass) by friction; in both uses the sound made in the act of grinding is often stressed (I have ground the axe myself; do you but strike the blow—Shak.) (Grind lenses for eyeglasses) In extended use the word often implies a wearing down by friction and also often suggests a particularly harsh or rough method of gaining one's ends or of making one's way (laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law—Goldsmith) (we went aground—grinding, grinding, till the ship trembled in every timber—Martineau)

scour vb *seek, search, hunt, ransack, rummage, comb, ferret out
Ana investigate (see corresponding noun at INQUIRY): *scrutinize, inspect, examine: range, roam, rove, *wander
scout vb scorn, *despise, contemn, disdain
An Ana *criminal, felon, malefactor, culprit
scour vb *seek, search, hunt, ransack, rummage, comb, ferret out
An Ana investigate (see corresponding noun at INQUIRY): *scrutinize, inspect, examine: range, roam, rove, *wander

scrape vb Scrape, scratch, grate, rasp, grind are comparable when they mean to apply friction to something by rubbing it with or against a thing that is harsh, rough, or sharp. Scrape usually implies the removal of something from a surface with an edged instrument; the term then commonly suggests a purpose (as erasing, smoothing, or freeing from dirt, paint, skin, or peel). Additionally the term commonly implies the making of a distinctive and often unpleasant sound (a scrape the dishes before washing) (a scrape potatoes) (a scrape off paint) (a twig that scraped upon the very parchment of his soul as a lead pencil upon a slate—Powys) (the chairs were scraped along the floor—Anderson) Scratch differs from scrape in its common implication of less purposiveness in the agent and of definite damage to the thing that is scratched; it usually also suggests the use of a pointed rather than an edged instrument which gouges a line or furrow in a surface and seldom stresses the noise produced (a substance hard enough to scratch glass) (scraped by the thorns of a rose) (a scratch a mosquito bite) (this pen scratches) (his wooden plow scarcely more than scratched the surface of the earth—A. R. Williams) Grate usually stresses the harsh sound or the sensation of harshness made by rubbing something with or against a rough indented or cutting surface (as of a file); the term implies removal of material from a body in particles, and in itself as distinct from context suggests nothing about the aims or effects (as abrasion, wearing or rubbing away, or pulverization) (grate nutmeg) (grate cheese) Often grate implies little more than a harsh or creaking sound made by friction (a key grated in the lock) (till grates her keel upon the shallow sand—Byron) In extended use the term tends to be used in reference to things that irritate, exasperate, or harass with the implication that their effect is like the harsh sound or the sensation of harshness characteristic of a physical grating (an unctuous heartiness . . . which grated upon David's ear—Turnbull) Rasp usually implies a harsher or rougher and more disagreeable effect than either scrape or grate. It may suggest the use of or as if of a rough instrument (as a coarse file called a rasp) or of something equally effective or as trying to the nerves (thin a stick by rasping) (these rocks are known to have their angles rasped off, and to be fluted and scarred by the ice—Tyndall) (her hard, metallic voice had rasped the invalid's nerves—Carey) (when you laid a tight hold on your fiddletick . . . you could do nothing but rasp—Shaw) Scrape implies a skimming off, and to a lesser extent a fluting, of the surface (as of glass) by friction; in both uses the sound made in the act of scraping is often stressed (I have scraped the axe myself; do you but strike the blow—Shak.) (Grind lenses for eyeglasses) In extended use the word often implies a wearing down by friction and also often suggests a particularly harsh or rough method of gaining one's ends or of making one's way (laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law—Goldsmith) (we went aground—grinding, grinding, till the ship trembled in every timber—Martineau)

scrape n •predicament, dilemma, quandary, plight, fix, jam, pickle
An Ana *difficulty, vicissitude: perplexity, bewilderment, distraction (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE) (embarrassment, discomfiture (see corresponding verbs at EMBARRASS)

scrape vb Scrape, scratch, grate, rasp, grind
An Ana *ear, rend: *injure, damage, mar, impair, hurt: *deface, disfigure
scrape vb *discard, junk, cast, shed, molt, slough
scrap vb *scratch, scrape, grate, rasp, grind
An Ana *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard: *disguise, dissemble, cloak, mask, camouflage

scrape vb Scrape, scratch, grate, rasp, grind are comparable when they mean to apply friction to something by rubbing it with or against a thing that is harsh, rough, or sharp. Scrape usually implies the removal of something from a surface with an edged instrument; the term then commonly suggests a purpose (as erasing, smoothing, or freeing from dirt, paint, skin, or peel). Additionally the term commonly implies the making of a distinctive and often unpleasant sound (a scrape the dishes before washing) (a scrape potatoes) (a scrape off paint) (a twig that scraped upon the very parchment of his soul as a lead pencil upon a slate—Powys) (the chairs were scraped along the floor—Anderson) Scratch differs from scrape in its common implication of less purposiveness in the agent and of definite damage to the thing that is scratched; it usually also suggests the use of a pointed rather than an edged instrument which gouges a line or furrow in a surface and seldom stresses the noise produced (a substance hard enough to scratch glass) (scraped by the thorns of a rose) (a scratch a mosquito bite) (this pen scratches) (his wooden plow scarcely more than scratched the surface of the earth—A. R. Williams) Grate usually stresses the harsh sound or the sensation of harshness made by rubbing something with or against a rough indented or cutting surface (as of a file); the term implies removal of material from a body in particles, and in itself as distinct from context suggests nothing about the aims or effects (as abrasion, wearing or rubbing away, or pulverization) (grate nutmeg) (grate cheese) Often grate implies little more than a harsh or creaking sound made by friction (a key grated in the lock) (till grates her keel upon the shallow sand—Byron) In extended use the term tends to be used in reference to things that irritate, exasperate, or harass with the implication that their effect is like the harsh sound or the sensation of harshness characteristic of a physical grating (an unctuous heartiness . . . which grated upon David's ear—Turnbull) Rasp usually implies a harsher or rougher and more disagreeable effect than either scrape or grate. It may suggest the use of or as if of a rough instrument (as a coarse file called a rasp) or of something equally effective or as trying to the nerves (thin a stick by rasping) (these rocks are known to have their angles rasped off, and to be fluted and scarred by the ice—Tyndall) (her hard, metallic voice had rasped the invalid's nerves—Carey) (when you laid a tight hold on your fiddletick . . . you could do nothing but rasp—Shaw) Scrape implies a skimming off, and to a lesser extent a fluting, of the surface (as of glass) by friction; in both uses the sound made in the act of scraping is often stressed (I have scraped the axe myself; do you but strike the blow—Shak.) (Grind lenses for eyeglasses) In extended use the word often implies a wearing down by friction and also often suggests a particularly harsh or rough method of gaining one's ends or of making one's way (laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law—Goldsmith) (we went aground—grinding, grinding, till the ship trembled in every timber—Martineau)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
inspection, examination, and audit. Scrutinize and scrutiny imply close observation and attention to minute detail <scores of plain-dress detectives closely scrutinized the hidden guests as they arrived—Lucius Beebe> <living among the absurd magpie scrutinies of wife, children, colleagues, patients . . . most analysts are obliged to be more proper than proper—Mailer> Scan and scanning are usually employed in reference to something that is surveyed from point to point; the terms may imply careful observation or study but sometimes imply the opposite and suggest a cursory glancing from one point to another; thus, to scan the newspaper each morning may admit of either interpretation. Only a context can make the implication clear <the more one scans the later pages of Mark Twain's history the more one is forced to the conclusion that there was something gravely amiss with his inner life—Brooks> <scanned, with raised brows, yesterday's Jewish paper that he had already thoroughly read—Malamud> <a quick scanning of the items will help you—S. L. Payne> Inspect and inspection in general use often imply little more than a careful observation <he had perched himself upon the edge of the desk . . . and was absorbed in an unabashed inspection of her—Hervey> but in legal, military, governmental, and industrial use they imply a searching scrutiny for possible errors, defects, flaws, or shortcomings <every length of cloth is inspected before it leaves the factory> <the troops prepared for the daily inspection> <this report will not pass inspection> <freshly picked grapes are inspected and cleansed before delivery—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.> Examine (see also ASK 1) and examination imply a close scrutiny or investigation to determine the facts about a thing or the real nature, character, or condition of a thing or to test a thing's quality, validity, truth, or functioning <the critic refused to give an opinion before he had examined the painting closely> <the doctor sent him to the hospital for a thorough examination> <they examined the house from cellar to attic before deciding to purchase it> <could it be the intention of those who gave this power, to say that . . . a case arising under the constitution should be decided without examining the instrument under which it arises—John Marshall> <he began to . . . examine the speeches of its leaders, study its organization, reflect on its psychology and political techniques—Shirer> <examination of the bedroom has convinced me that it was possible for them to have escaped . . . as they said they did—Prewett> Audit, as verb or noun, implies a searching examination of accounts in order to determine their correctness <an annual audit of the tax books> <each bank is audited annually by a certified public accountant—Safety for Your Savings> In its extended sense audit often carries a suggestion of a final accounting <the general day of account and audit to be made at the throne of God—Udall> <when it comes to the audit before high heaven—Lowes> Ana *consider, study, contemplate, weigh: *analyze, resolve, dissect: penetrate, pierce, probe (see ENTER) scrutiny examination, scanning, inspection, audit (see SCRUTINIZE) Ana investigation, research, probe, *inquiry, inquisition: surveying or survey, observing or observation, viewing or view (see corresponding verbs at SEEN) scud skim, shoot, sail, *fly, dart, float scuffle vb *wrestle, tussle, grapple Ana fight, *contend: clash, conflict, collide, *bump sculpture, sculpt, sculp *carve, chisel, engrave, incise, etc Ana shape, fashion, form (see MAKE): depict, portray, *represent scum *foam, froth, spume, lather, suds, yeast Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
secret

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
plexing, mystifying (see PUZZLE vb): hidden, concealed, secreted, screened (see HIDE)

secure vb hide, conceal, screen, cache, bury, ensconce

Ana dissemble, cloak, mask, disguise, camouflage

secretive close, close-lipped, closemouthed, tight-lipped, silent, uncommunicative, taciturn, reticent, reserved

Ana cautious, circumspect, wary: restrained, inhibited (see RESTRAIN)

Con talkative, loquacious, garrulous, voluble, glib: candid, open, plain, frank

sect religion, denomination, cult, communion, faith, creed, persuasion, church

sectary 1 adherent, follower, disciple, partisan, henchman, satellite

Ana devotee, votary, addict

2 also sectarian heretic, schismatic, dissenter, nonconformist

Ana enthusiastic, zealous, fanatic, bigot

section n segment, section, division, part, portion, piece, sectary 1

secular worldly, mundane, earthly, terrestrial

Ant religious (as schools, journals, authorities): sacred (as music, drama): regular (as priests)

secure adj safe

Ana firm, solid: protected, shielded, guarded, safeguarded, defended (see DEFEND): certain, positive, sure: impregnable, unassailable, invulnerable, invincible

Ant precarious, dangerous

secure vb 1 Secure, anchor, moor, rivet can in all extended use mean to fasten or fix firmly or immovably. They are, however, not often interchangeable because of implications derived from their primary senses. One secures something that may get lost, may escape, or may permit invasion or intrusion if allowed to remain loose or to work loose; the word usually implies care or protection as the end of the action (secure doors and windows before retiring to keep out intruders) (replace the nut, and tighten it down to secure the capacitor to the panel—J. A. Stanley) (getting intelligence which... will secure your own countrymen against brutality and outrages—Kenneth Roberts) One anchors or moors something unstable or subject to tugging or pulling by external forces or influences to another thing strong enough to hold it down or in place or powerful enough to counterbalance or counteract the opposing forces (most classrooms had benches and desks lined up in rows and anchored to the floor—Mumford) (anchor the cables of a suspension bridge to towers at either end) (moored to the rock on two sides, the cabin stood firm—Tyndall) But moor, which in its primary sense implies a making fast between two anchors or two or more lines or cables, may in extended use suggest greater steadiness or an even balancing of forces that make for stability (her reticent childhood sweetheart... whose idea of the good life is anchored to his dream of... whose idea of the good life is anchored to his dream of... one joins things normally or actually separate from each other as closely together as though a rivet had been driven through them (fire riveted him to his chair) (why should I write this down, that's riveted, screwed to my memory—Shak) (the head of the state, in whose name he insisted that all his victories were won, to rivet the loyalty of the army to the civil administration—Buchan) (stood riveted to the earth... in the fascination of that dreaded gaze—Le Fanu)

Ana establish, set, settle, fix: fasten, attach, affix

2 ensure, insure, assure

Ana protect, defend, safeguard, guard, shield: preserve, conserve, save: guarantee, guaranty (see corresponding nouns at GUARANTEE): warrant, justify

3 procure, obtain, get, acquire, gain, win

Ana seize, take, grasp: reach, attain, achieve, gain: have, hold, own, possess

security surely, guaranty, guarantee, bond, bail

Ana pledge, earnest, token

sedate grave, staid, earnest, sober, serious, solemn, somber

Ana placid, calm, serene, tranquil; collected, composed, imperturbable (see COOL): decorous, seemly, proper

Ant flighty

sediment n deposit, precipitate, dregs, lees, grounds

sedition, treason are comparable when they mean an offense against a state to which or a sovereign to whom one owes allegiance. Sedition applies to conduct that is not manifested in an overt act but that incites commotion and resistance to lawful authority without in itself amounting to insurrection (sedition is... a matter of expressing opinions, not of committing acts—The Reporter) Treason applies to conduct that is manifested by an overt act or acts, is variously defined by various governments and at various times but typically has for its aim the violent overthrow of the government, the death of the sovereign, or betrayal to or aid and comfort of the enemy (one cannot commit treason simply by talking or conspiring against the government; he must actually do something, and there must be witnesses—Ogg & Ray) (sedition has come to be applied to practices which tend to disturb internal public tranquility by deed, word, or writing but which do not amount to treason and are not accompanied by or conducive to open violence—Chafee) (sedition... is traitorous behavior that falls short of treason because it does not actively levy war against the United States or give aid to an enemy of the United States. It stirs up resistance to law or encourages conduct that may become treason—Smelser & Kirwin) (a rebellion, revolt, revolution, uprising, insurrection, mutiny, putsch, coup: disaffection, alienation, estrangement (see corresponding verbs at ESTRANGE)

Con fidelity, allegiance, loyalty, fealty

seditious mutinous, rebellious, factious, insubordinate, contumacious

Ana traitorous, treacherous, perfidious, disloyal, faithless: disaffected, alienated (see ESTRANGE)

seduce tempt, entice, inveigle: lure, decoy

Ana mislead, beguile, delude: deceive: corrupt, debauch, deprave, pervert, debase: bewitch, captivate, allure

(see ATTRACT)

sedulous assiduous, diligent, industrious, busy

Ana persevering, persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE): untiring, unwearyed, indefatigable, tireless

see vb 1 See, behold, descry, espy, view, survey, contemplate, observe, notice, remark, note, perceive, discern can all mean to take cognizance of something by physical or sometimes mental vision. See, the most general of these terms, may be used to imply little more than the use of the organs of vision (he cannot see the crowd for he is blind) but more commonly it implies a recognition or
appreciation of what is before one's eyes (they can see a great deal in Paris, but nothing in an English meadow—Jefferies) (If the policeman saw him at all, he probably observed him with misgiving—Wolfe) (the look of one who has seen all, borne all, known all—Styron). The term may imply the exercise of other powers than the sense of sight, including a vivid imagination (I can see her plainly now, as she looked forty years ago) ("Methinks I see my father."). "Where, my lord?" "In my mind's eye, Horatio!—Shak.) or mental insight (he was the only one who saw the truth) or powers of inference (though he appeared calm, I could see he was inwardly agitated). Behold carries a stronger implication of a definite ocular impression and of distinct recognition than see; it also suggests looking at what is seen (we have sailed many weeks, we have sailed many days, (seven days to the week I allow), but a Snark, on the which we might lovingly gaze, we have never beheld till now—Lewis Carroll) (a whole tribe living in a craterlike valley, every member of which believes it would be death for him or her to behold the sea—Frazier). Descry and espy imply a seeing in spite of difficulties (as distance, darkness, or partial concealment). Descry often suggests an effort to discover or a looking out for someone or something (the grass was high in the meadow, and there was no describing her—George Eliot) (Sir Austin ascended to the roof . . . and described him hastening to the boathouse by the riverside—Meredith) but esp'y usually implies skill in detection (as of what is small, or not clearly within the range of vision, or is trying to escape detection) (the seamen espied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship—Swift) (flowers we esp'y beside the torrent growing; flowers that peep forth from many a cleft and chink—Wordsworth) View and survey, on the contrary, imply the seeing of what is spread before one or what one can examine steadily or in detail. Both terms as often imply mental consideration as a physical seeing or looking over. View usually implies or requires a statement of a particular way of looking at a thing or a particular purpose in considering it (view the panorama with delight) (viewed a piece of property that he thought of buying) (view a painting from various angles) (view the industry of the country, and see how it is affected by inequality of income—Shaw) (the effort is an interesting one if you view it in terms of the techniques of political symbolism—Lerner). Survey more often implies a detailed scrutiny or inspection by the eyes or the mind so that one has a picture or idea of something as a whole (the captain surveyed him from cap to waistcoat and from waistcoat to leggings for a few moments—Hardy) (he surveyed the room from the weathered blue jalousies to the frayed rush mats, from the inevitable spireders on the ceiling to the ants . . . over the floor—Hervey) (a man surveying Europe today discovers this strange anomaly: it is one great culture, yet it is at deadly issue with itself—Belloq) Contemplate (see also CONSIDER I) implies little more than a fixing of the eyes upon something, sometimes in abstraction, but more often in enjoyment or in reference to some end in view (he had a way of looking her over from beneath lowered lids, while he affected to be examining a glove-button or contemplating the tip of his shining boot—Wharton). Observe and notice both imply a heeding and not passing over; they commonly imply seeing but may suggest the use of another sense (he observed every detail in the arrangement) (did you notice the man who just passed us?) (he noticed a peculiar odor) Especially in scientific use observe may carry a stronger implication of directed attention (in order to get fresh light on this subject, I have observed my own children carefully—Russell) (keeping an ear pricked to observe the movements of the Viceroy and his group—Woolf) (things which are always about us . . . are the easiest to observe with accuracy—Grandgent). Notice often implies some definite reaction to what is seen or sometimes heard, felt, or sensed such as making a mental note of it or a remark about it or, if what is noticed is a person, recognizing him by a salute or a greeting (by Mrs. Hurst and Miss Bingley they were noticed only by a curtesy—Austen) (she didn't notice. She drove single-minded and unaware there was anyone next to her—Pynchon). Remark (see also REMARK) and note carry an even stronger implication than notice of registering mentally one's impression. But remark is more likely to suggest a judging or criticizing of what is noticed (a young lady was talking and laughing with two young gentlemen. I remarked their English accents and listened vaguely—Joyce) (I could not help remarking the position of her left arm—Quiller-Couch) and note to suggest a recording, sometimes by a mental note, but sometimes in writing or in speech (a certain ungraciousness, noted in later years by his nearest colleagues—Ellis) (he carried a map and noted every stream and every hill that we passed). Perceive carries a stronger implication of the use of the mind in observation than any of the preceding terms. The word basically implies apprehension or obtaining knowledge of a thing, not only through the sense of sight but through any of the senses. It is often used in place of see in the simple sense of that word, but since it always implies distinct recognition of what is seen, the words are sometimes used in contrast, especially by psychologists (an infant sees objects long before it is able to perceive them as definite persons or things) (when he drew nearer he perceived it to be a spring van, ordinary in shape, but singular in color—Hardy). In its richer meaning perceive suggests not only dependence on other senses than that of sight but also usually keen mental vision or special insight and penetration (dissuaded with every person who could not perceive . . . these obvious truths—Bennett) (his lightning dashes from image to image, so quick that we are unable at first to perceive the points of contact—Day Lewis). Discern, like descry, often implies little more than a making out of something by means of the eyes (at length he discerned, a long distance in front of him, a moving spot, which appeared to be a vehicle—Hardy) (sometimes we discern the city afar off—Benson). In its more distinctive use the term usually implies the powers of deeply perceiving and of distinguishing or discriminating what the senses perceive (ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?—Mt 16:3) (his grave eyes steadily discerned the good in men—Masefield) (he tried quickly to think of something else, lest with her uncanny intuition she discern the cloud of death in his mind—Buck). Ana * scrutinize, scan, examine, inspect: pierce, penetrate, probe (see enter): consider, study, contemplate 2 See, look, watch can all mean to perceive something by means of the eyes. See (see also seeI) stresses the reception of visual impressions (he is now able to see clearly) (have the power of seeing) Look stresses the directing of the eyes to something or the fixing of the eyes on something in order to see it (if you will only look, you will be able to see what I am doing) (he refused to look in the mirror the nurse gave him). Watch (see also TEND) implies a following of something with one's eyes, so as to observe every movement, every change, a sign of danger, or a favorable opportunity (watch for a while and tell us what you see) (spend the night watching a sick friend) (watching the clock as closely as a cat watches a mouse).
seek, search, scour, hunt, comb, ferret out, ransack, rummage are comparable when they mean to look for or go in quest of in the hope of finding. Seek has become widely extended in application and may take as its object either a person or a concrete thing or something intangible or abstract and may imply either a quest involves great effort or one that makes slight demands; the term is more often used in the written than the spoken language. They sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him—Lk 2:44-45 (seek the truth) A small sadistic streak that caused me to seek a more subtle and painful punishment for my victim—Dahl (wisdom must be sought for its own sake or we shall not find it—Inge) Search implies both effort and thoroughness. It differs from seek especially in taking as its object the place in which or the person on whom something is sought; it therefore connotes an investigating, an exploring, a penetrating scrutinizing, or a careful examining (search every section of the country for spies) Search the house from top to bottom for a lost ring I have searched every nook and cranny. Search all the persons present when the money disappeared (search his memory for a name) (the book was edited in a way no editor could ever have time or love to find; it was searched sentence by sentence, word for word—Mailer) Scour, which means in general to run over or to traverse swiftly especially in pursuit or in search, can be used more narrowly to mean to make an exhaustive search of a territory or of something comparable to a territory for a thing that must be found. Scour the coast for lurking submarines. Scour the neighborhood for the missing child. The next morning Archer scourred the town in vain for more yellow roses—Wharton. Scoured the coppices and woods and old quarries, so long as a blackberry was to be found—D. H. Lawrence. Hunt basically comes close to scour in its general sense for it implies a pursuit of and often a search for something, but especially game. In the extended sense in which the term is here considered it implies specifically a vigorous and, often, unavailing search for something as elusive as game (they hunted till darkness came on, but they found not a button, or feather, or mark—Lewis Carroll) Hunt evidence far and wide. I’ve hunted for the lost papers everywhere but I can’t find them. I’m… hunting up earlier quotations for recent words—Murray Comb implies methods of searching as painstaking or thoroughgoing as those involved in going through the hair with a fine comb. Comb the countryside for the escaped convicts. Comb the factories for more men for the army. The Pacific Ocean between San Francisco and Hawaii is being combed today by aircraft and shipping for signs of the two planes—Morning Post. Ferret out stresses the finding of something that is difficult to get at and usually suggests a vigorous, arduous, persistent and, often, tricky method of search. Ferret out a secret. One of the professor’s specialties being to ferret out captured… political commissars for execution—Shirer. I have ferreted out evidence—Dickens. Ransack and rummage imply a search usually of a limited area; both tend to stress the manner of going through what is examined and suggest a haphazard and often disorderly or heedless pulling about and turning over of miscellaneous items. Though the two are often interchangeable, ransack is especially appropriate when one wishes to stress careless haste, lack of regard for the rights of others, or improper motives on the part of the searcher, while rummage may be chosen when a more neutral word is needed or when lack of a definite object of search is to be implied; thus, a thoughtless child might ransack the refrigerator to make himself a snack and then go rummage through his toys after a lost ball; a thief ransacks a house in search of loot, but rummages through a drawer with no clear and specific notion of what he may find (pass a rainy day rummaging about in the attic) The men ransacked the thatched huts, rummaged among the pots, the fishing gear, the shell ornaments—M. S. Douglas (apparently unlimited search, such as ransacking parts of an office can never be justified—Paul Wilson) (ransacked his father’s shelves, dipped into a multitude of books—Macaulay) (stooped and deliberately rummaged in the dust at his feet, as if searching for the squirming threads of death it might contain—Wylie) (the impatience with which a community without tradition rummages through ways of life which other peoples, other cities have worked out for themselves slowly and painfully—Gordimer) Ana inquire, question, *ask, interrogate: pursue, chase, *follow, trail seem, look, appear can mean to be as stated in one’s view or judgment, but not necessarily in fact. Often they are used interchangeably with apparently no difference in meaning (he seems tired) (the students look eager) (the orchestra appeared ready to begin) But even in such phrases seems suggest an opinion based on subjective impressions and personal reaction rather than on objective signs (a tiny bubble in the middle of your back seems to grow all night, and by the crack of dawn has grown to boulder size—Boy Scout Handbook) (my other visits to Greece were over twenty years ago. How would it seem after such a long time, and seen in such a different way—Chubb) while look implies that the opinion is based on a general visual impression (her… lips looked parched and unnatural—Glasgow) Appear may convey the same implication as look but it sometimes suggests a distorted impression such as can be produced by an optical illusion, a restricted point of view, or another’s dissembling (his tongue… could make the worse appear the better reason—Milton) (the attempt has been made to make it appear that this conflict is not between religion and science, but between the latter and theology. This seems to me a cheap and worthless evasion—Cohen) Ana *infer, gather, judge, deduce, conclude seeming *apparent, illusory, *ostensible Ana *plausible, specious, credible: dissembling, disguising, masking, cloaking, camouflaging (see disguise) Seemly proper, nice, *decorous, decent Ana fitting, suitable, appropriate, meet (see fit): congruous, compatible, congenial, consistent, *consonant Ant unseemly seethe *boil, simmer, parboil, stew segment section, sector, division, *part, portion, piece, detail, member, fraction, fragment, parcel segregate vb *isolate, seclude, insulate, sequester Ana *separate, divide, part, sever: *detach, disengage: *choose, select, single seize *take, grasp, clutch, snatch, grab Ana *catch, capture, snare, ensnare, trap, entrap: appropriate, confiscate, usurp, *arrogate select adj Select, elect, picked, exclusive can mean marked by a superior character or quality which distinguishes the person, the thing, or the group so qualified from others (as in value, excellence, or favor). Select implies that the person or thing has been chosen with discrimination in preference to others of the same class or kind (the hotel caters to a select clientele) (the Milton of poetry is, in his own

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
words again, the man of "industrious and select reading"
—Arnold} Select is also often used, with little or no impli-
cation of choice or selection, in the sense of superior or
eXceptional (a select audience) (persecution of that sort
which bows down and crushes all but a very few select
spirits—Macaulay} Elect commonly implies careful or
discriminating selection and it carries a stronger implica-
tion than select of admission to some carefully restricted
or inner circle; sometimes it also suggests the award of
special privileges (that delicious phantom of being an
elect spirit . . . unlike the crowd—Kingsley) (Darwin was
one of those select persons in whose subconscious, if not
in their conscious, nature is implanted the realization that
"science is poetry"—Ellic). Picked, like select, may or
may not imply actual choice; the term commonly applies
to what is conspicuously superior or above the average
though it may suggest little more than the best available
(a picked team) (the candidates are all picked men)
(the picked moments of exaltation and vision which great
tragedy brings—Montague) Exclusive in its most general
sense implies a character in a thing that forces or inclines
it to rule out whatever is not congruous or congruous
with it or is its opposite or antithesis in constitution or
character (mutually exclusive colors when mixed in the
right proportions form a neutral gray) (exclusive con-
cepts—animal and vegetable, for instance—Bowen)
(didacticism and a sense of humor are mutually exclusive
qualities—Lowe) As applied especially to persons,
groups, or institutions exclusive implies tendencies or
rules which prevent free acceptance or admission of those
not conforming to imposed standards or not satisfying the
requirements of those who are fastidious, snobbish, or
highly critical (a weak, critical, fastidious creature, vain
of a little exclusive information or of an uncommon knack
in Latin verse—Eliot) (the exclusive caste system of a
rigid feudalism—Binyon)
Ana *choice, exquisite, rare, delicate, dainty, recherché:
superlative, surpassing, peerless, *supreme
Ant indiscriminate
select vb *choose, elect, prefer, opt, pick, cull, single
Ana *assort, sort, classify: discriminate, discern (see
corresponding adjectives at DISCERNMENT)
Ant reject —Con refuse, repudiate, spurn (see DE-
CLIN(vb))
selection *choice, preference, election, option, alternative
Ana choosing, culling, picking (see CHOOSE): discrimina-
tion, *discernment, insight, acumen
Ant rejection
self-abnegation *renunciation, abnegation, self-denial
Ana sacrificing or sacrifice, forbearance, forgoing,
eschewal (see corresponding verbs at FORGO): surrender-
ing or surrender, resignation, abandonment, relinquish-
ment (see corresponding verbs at RELINQUISH)
self-assertive assertive, *aggressive, pushing, pushy, mili-
tant
Ana obtrusive, intrusive, officious, meddlesome, *impert-
tinent: bold, audacious (see BRAVE): positive, certain,
*sure, cocksure
self-assurance assurance, *confidence, self-confidence,
aplomb, self-possession
Ana coolness, collectness, imperturbability (see corresponding
adjectives at COOL): composure, sangfroid,
*equanimity
Con diffidence, shyness, bashfulness, modesty (see corresponding
adjectives at SHY)
self-complacent *complacent, self-satisfied, smug, prig-
gish
Ana & Con see those at COMPLACENT
self-confidence *confidence, assurance, self-assurance,
self-possession, aplomb
Ana composure, *equanimity: sureness, sanguineness
(see corresponding adjectives at CONFIDENT)
self-denial self-abnegation, abnegation, *renunciation
Ana sacrificing or sacrifice, forbearance (see correspond-
ing verbs at FORGO): abstaining, refraining (see REFRAIN):
restraining or restraint, curbing or curb, checking or check
(see corresponding verbs at RESTRAINT)
self-esteem self-love, *conceit, egotism, egoism, amour
propre
Ana *pride, vanity: self-respect, self-regard, self-admira-
tion (see base words at REGARD n)
Ant self-distrust
self-love self-esteem, *conceit, egotism, egoism, amour
propre
Ana *pride, vanity, vainglory: complacency, self-com-
placency, smugness, prigishness (see corresponding
adjectives at COMPLACENT)
Ant self-forgetfulness
self-possession *confidence, self-confidence, assurance,
self-assurance, aplomb
Ana *equanimity, composure: coolness, collectness,
imperturbability, nonchalance (see corresponding ad-
jectives at COOL): poised, savoir faire, *tact
selfsame *same, very, identical, identic, equivalent, equal,
tantamount
Ana alike, *like, identical, uniform
Ant diverse
self-satisfied *complacent, self-complacent, smug,
priggish
Ana satisfied, content (see under SATISFY): conceited,
egogistic, egotistic (see corresponding nouns at CONCEIT)
semblance *appearance, look, aspect
Ana *likeness, similitude, resemblance, analogy, affinity:
*pose, affectation, air: *form, figure, shape
semianual *biannual, biennial
semipaternal eternal, *infinite, boundless, illimitable,
uncircumscribed
Ana *everlasting, endless, interminable, unceasing:
*immortal, deathless, undying: *lasting, perdurable
send, dispatch, forward, transmit, remit, route, ship are
comparable when they mean to cause to go or to be taken
from one place or person or condition to another. Send,
the most general term, carries a wide range of implications
and connotations and is capable of replacing any of the
remaining terms especially when joined with a suitable
modifying adverb. Basically it implies the action of an
agent or sometimes an agency or instrumentality that
initiates passage of one to another typically by ordering or
directing (sent a messenger to the bank) (if the body is
rotated in any dimension of space, certain definite and fixed
messages will be sent to the brain by the vestibular sense
—Armstrong) or by using force (send an arrow into a
target) (there can come a cloudburst, an inch or two or
two falling within an hour to wash out fields, send rivers
flooding, wreck houses—La Farge) or by employing some
available facility or inherent capacity or power (send a
letter by airmail) (the burning forest sent smoke over the
city) (diseases that rack the human frame and send
epidemics of sickness over great tracts of the earth's
surface—Swinton) Often the term carries special conno-
tations characteristic of particular idioms; thus, when
one sends a child to college, one makes it possible for him
to go by providing funds; when a teacher sends her pupils
back to their books after recess she leads them to shift
their focus from one activity (play) to another (study);
when a story sends its hearers into gales of laughter it
impels attention and alters mood; when something (as
music or a personality) sends one, it induces an intense
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
emotional response. Dispatch tends to suggest speed in sending and to heighten notions of specific destination or cause, though the use of a speedy means is as likely to be stated as implied (<the police chief dispatched several detectives to the scene of the murder> <two destroyers were dispatched to the aid of the sinking vessel> <dispatch word to them by radio> <a messenger was dispatched with a reprieve but failed to arrive before the soldier had been shot—Amer. Guide Series: Conn.>). Forward (see also advance) implies a sending on or forward especially of something that has been delayed or stopped before reaching the person to whom it is to be delivered (<the letter had been forwarded from his old address—J. D. Beresford> or, in commercial use, of something that has been asked for or ordered (<the goods ordered will be forwarded by parcel post>). Transmit (see also carry) fundamentally implies a sending or passing from one place, person, or point to another; it often emphasizes the means rather than the fact of sending (<the information can be most rapidly transmitted by radio> <the virus of yellow fever is transmitted by a mosquito> <prophets, who are . . . a vehicle through which to transmit a revelation—W. W. Howells>). Remit (see also excuse) especially in reference to money can mean merely to send (<profits, dividends, interest, rents and royalties may be remitted to any country—Mikesell>) but often implies a sending in response to a demand (<please remit the balance due on your account>). In more general and in legal use the term is likely to imply a sending or referring back (as for further action or consideration) (<where an appellate court . . . reverses an original sentence . . . and remits the record for appropriate action, the lower court may proceed to sentence the defendant anew in proper form and according to law—U. S. v. Keenan> (<there may be disputes whether . . . and each person has and observes his own color and sound sensa, just as he has and observes his own twinges, nausea and touch sense-data—A. C. Garnett>). A sense-data is by definition whatever appears to the senses and in so far as we confine ourselves to a description of our sense-data we cannot possibly be in error—Pap (<our sense organs must select certain predominant forms, if they are to make report of things and not of mere dissolving sensa—Langer>). Image (see also image 1) applies to a sensation that results in a mental representation of the thing seen, the sound heard, and the odor smelled and in the retention of that mental representation in the memory (<after I had looked long at it, and passed on, the image of that perfect flower remained . . . persistently in my mind—Hudson>). Image also refers to a mental representation that can be evoked in the mind in the absence of the thing represented; in this case, the term may apply to a mental representation that is in the memory as a result of previous sense experience or that is a construction of the imagination or fancy out of various bits of sense experience or as a result of a verbal description (when I recall London, Paris, Rome . . . the image that first presents itself is the earliest one—Grandgent>). A succession of efforts to call up before us veracious images of a bedroom, a bed, pillows, a lighted candle, a woman asleep, a man speaking to himself—Montague>).

sensation 1 Sensation, percep, sense-datum, sensum, image can denote the experience or process which is the result of the activity of a sense organ and its associated neural structures. Sensation (see also sensation 2), the most general of these terms, is applicable to a specific awareness (as of heat, pain, or odor) resulting from adequate stimuli (<sensation>). Sensory perception implies a stimulus from without or within the body, whether this awareness enters fully into consciousness or not; specifically it means an impression received by a sensory end organ (as the retina of the eye, the taste buds of the tongue, or the tactile corpuscles of the skin) or by a combination of such end organs (<the four basic taste sensations, sweet, sour, bitter, and salty> <gave himself up to the enjoyment of the sensations provided by a perfect spring day> <a reptile that appears . . . to squander more than two-thirds of its existence in a joyless stupor, and be lost to all sensation for months together—Gilbert White>). Percep, sense-datum, and sensum are technical terms especially of epistemology that are subject to widely varied interpretation, but that typically denote a strictly individual and personal neural event occurring centrally in response to sensory stimulation and constituting an immediate unanalyzable private object of sensation (<it makes for a neat little burlesque of the central debate between concept—the large, institutionalized idea, and percep—the irreducibly personal vision which must be coped with in its own terms—Rago>). Instead of an irregular mass of pink sensation mixed with blue and red and topped with brown, he recognizes his mother's face. These emerging organized groups of sensations which cluster together (and soon seem to belong together) and serve to indicate things in the physical environment are called percepts; these may be defined briefly as "sensations plus meaning"—that is, groups of sensations that have become organized into meaningful wholes or patterns. Thus every physical object represents a percept, or at least a potential one—Hunter Mead). Observation of physical objects is primarily the noticing of sense-data; and each person has and observes his own color and sound sensa, just as he has and observes his own twinges, nausea and touch sense-data—A. C. Garnett> (<a succession of efforts to call up before us veracious images of a bedroom, a bed, pillows, a lighted candle, a woman asleep, a man speaking to himself—Montague>).

sensations 2 Sensation, sense, feeling, sensibility are comparable when denoting the experience or process which is the result of the activity of a sense organ and its associated neural structures. Sensation (see also sensation 1), the most general of these terms, is applicable to a specific awareness (as of heat, pain, or odor) resulting from adequate stimuli (<sensation>). Sensory perception implies a stimulus from without or within the body, whether this awareness enters fully into consciousness or not; specifically it means an impression received by a sensory end organ (as the retina of the eye, the taste buds of the tongue, or the tactile corpuscles of the skin) or by a combination of such end organs (<the four basic taste sensations, sweet, sour, bitter, and salty> <gave himself up to the enjoyment of the sensations provided by a perfect spring day> <a reptile that appears . . . to squander more than two-thirds of its existence in a joyless stupor, and be lost to all sensation for months together—Gilbert White>). Percep, sense-datum, and sensum are technical terms especially of epistemology that are subject to widely varied interpretation, but that typically denote a strictly individual and personal neural event occurring centrally in response to sensory stimulation and constituting an immediate unanalyzable private object of sensation (<it makes for a neat little burlesque of the central debate between concept—the large, institutionalized idea, and percep—the irreducibly personal vision which must be coped with in its own terms—Rago>). Instead of an irregular mass of pink sensation mixed with blue and red and topped with brown, he recognizes his mother's face. These emerging organized groups of sensations which cluster together (and soon seem to belong together) and serve to indicate things in the physical environment are called percepts; these may be defined briefly as "sensations plus meaning"—that is, groups of sensations that have become organized into meaningful wholes or patterns. Thus every physical object represents a percept, or at least a potential one—Hunter Mead). Observation of physical objects is primarily the noticing of sense-data; and each person has and observes his own color and sound sensa, just as he has and observes his own twinges, nausea and touch sense-data—A. C. Garnett> (<a succession of efforts to call up before us veracious images of a bedroom, a bed, pillows, a lighted candle, a woman asleep, a man speaking to himself—Montague>).
reactions (as pleasure or pain or curiosity). It therefore may apply to responses to other than purely physical stimuli (the sensation of finding a command of no avail is to the mind what sitting down upon a suddenly withdrawn chair is to the body—Deland) (there are sensations you cannot describe. You may know what causes them but you cannot tell what portions of your mind they affect nor yet, possibly, what parts of your physical entity—F. M. Ford) Sense is applied specifically to any one of the perceptive powers associated with the sensory end organs (the sense of taste) (the sense of smell) or in the plural (occasionally in the singular) to the combined powers which enable a sentient being to establish relations between itself and what is external to itself (the sudden, violent shock almost took away my senses—Hudson) (my brain immediately stirred, my senses unusually quickened—Galsworthy) but it differs from sensation, when applied to the power or act of responding to stimuli, in suggesting a less corporeal and a more intellectual re-action and often a less objective stimulus. In fact its most emphatic implication in this sense is often that of intense awareness or of full consciousness (she had no sense at all of any word I said—W. H. Davies) (filled with a sense of pleasure so great that it constantly gave me pins and needles all along the lower parts of my legs—Dahl) (with a haze suspended all around them so that...their sense of direction and their sense of time were obscured—Cheever) (a deep sense of loss...a sense of loss and unbelief such as one might feel to discover suddenly that some great force in nature had ceased to operate—Wolfe)

Feeling (see also feeling 2; atmosphere 2) in its most specific meaning denotes the sense that has its end organs in the skin; usually it signifies the sense of touch (had no feeling in his fingertips) but often it is more inclusive and suggests other sensations (as heat, cold, or pressure) that are typically perceived through stimulation of the skin (a feeling of chill in the air) But feeling is also used to denote a response to a stimulus or a set of stimuli that is a combination of sensation, emotion, and a degree of thought (judged a situation by his feelings rather than by the facts) (you know her feelings about the vulgarity of these people) Often also, the term denotes not the response, but the power to respond in general or as a characteristic (he complains that she has no feeling) (the delicacy of his feeling makes him sensibly touched—Hume) In this latter sense feeling is often replaced by sensibility, especially when a keenly impressionable nature and unusually delicate powers of appreciation or its opposite are implied (the extreme sensibility to physical suffering which characterizes modern civilization—Inge) (she was a creature of palpitating sensibility, with feelings so delicate that they responded to every breath—Croters) Sometimes sentimental or affected responsiveness is suggested (the nerveless sentimentalist and dreamer, who spends his life in a weltering sea of sensibility—James)

Ana perceptibleness or perceptibility, tangibleness or tangibility, palpableness or palpability, ponderableness or ponderability (see corresponding adjectives at perceptible): reaction, action, behavior (see corresponding verbs at act): response, answer (see under answer vb)

sense n 1 *sensation, feeling, sensibility

Ana awareness, consciousness, cognizance (see corresponding adjectives at aware): perception, *discernment, discrimination, penetration

2 Sense, common sense, good sense, horse sense, gumption, judgment, wisdom can all mean the quality of mind or character which enables one to make intelligent choices or decisions or to reach intelligent conclusions. Sense, because of its numerous significations, is often, when this meaning is intended, called common sense, good sense, or horse sense. All four terms imply a capacity—usually a native capacity—for seeing things as they are and without illusion or emotional bias, for making practical choices or decisions that are sane, prudent, fair, and reasonable and that commend themselves to the normal or average good mind (when it came to taking care of myself, I had little to offer next to the practical sense of an illiterate sharecropper—Mailer) (Jane is a goose," said the doctor, irritably. "Maggy is the only one that has any sense in that family"—Deland) (the common sense of common men...has not been seriously affected by these still academic aberrations of our alleged wise men—Niebuhr) (women have often more of what is called good sense than men. They have fewer pretensions; are less implicated in theories; and judge of objects...more truly and naturally—Hazlitt) Gumption implies native wit or sound common sense often combined with initiative and drive (there isn’t a grain of intelligence in it. Nobody with more gumption than a grasshopper could go and sit and listen—D. H. Lawrence) (in practical talk, a man’s common sense means his good judgment, his freedom from eccentricity, his gumption—James) Judgment seldom applies to a native quality though it usually suggests a foundation in native good sense. But it also suggests intellectual qualities (as discernment of facts or conditions that are not obvious as well as knowledge of those that are ascertainable and an ability to comprehend the significance of those facts and conditions and to draw correct unbiased conclusions from them) which are the result of training, discipline, and experience (tis true that strength and bustle build up a firm. But judgment and knowledge are what keep it established—Hardy) (the ultimate test of true worth in pleasure, as in everything else, is the trained judgment of the good and sensible man—Dickinson) Wisdom is of all these terms the one of highest praise. It often suggests great soundness of judgment in practical affairs and unusual sagacity (common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom—Coleridge) but it is also capable of suggesting an ideal quality of mind or character that is the result of a trained judgment exercised not only in practical affairs but in philosophical speculations, of wide experience in life and thought, of great learning, and of deep understanding (for wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it—Prov 8:11) Wisdom is said to be the funded experience which man has gathered by living; but for so many harvests the crop is still a light one. Knowledge he has gained and power, but not goodness and understanding—Repliplier

Ana *prudence, foresight, discretion: understanding, comprehension, appreciation (see corresponding verbs at understand): intelligence, brain, wit (see mind) 3 *meaning, acceptance, signification, significance, import

Ana denotation, connotation (see under denote)

sense-datum sensum, percept, *sensation, image

sensibility feeling, sense, *sensation

Ana perception, *discernment, penetration, discrimination, insight: sensiteness, susceptibility (see corresponding adjectives at liable): emotion, *feeling, affection

sensible 1 *material, physical, corporeal, phenomenal, objective

Ant intelligible

2 *perceptible, palpable, tangible, appreciable, ponderable

Ana sensational, perceptual, imaginal (see corresponding nouns at sensation): obvious, patent, manifest, *evident: *carnal, fleshly, sensual

Ant insensible
sensible

3 *aware, conscious, cognizant, alive, awake

Ana perceive, noting, remarking, observing, seeing (see SEE): knowing, *intelligent: understanding, comprehending, appreciating (see UNDERSTAND): sensitive, susceptible (see LIABLE)

Ant insensible (or of or to) —Con impassible, insensitive, anesthetic (see INSENSIBLE)

4 prudent, sane, judicious, *wise, sage, sapient

Ana sagacious, perspicacious, astute, *shrewd: foresighted, discreet, provident (see under PRUDENCE): reasonable, *rational

Ant absurd, foolish, fatuous, asinine

sensitive 1 susceptible, subject, exposed, open, *liable, *susceptible (see LIABLE)

Ana impressed, influenced, affected (see AFFECT): pre-disposed, disposed, inclined (see INCLINE vb)

Ant insusceptible

2 *sentient, impressionable, responsive, susceptible

Ana alert, *watchful, vigilant, wide-awake: *sharp, keen, acute: *aware, conscious, cognizant, sensible, alive

sensual 1 *carnal, fleshly, animal

Ana *bodily, physical, corporeal,omatic: *coarse, gross, vulgar: lewd, lascivious, lustful, wanton (see LUCENTIOUS)

2 *sensuous, luxurious, voluptuous, sybaritic, epicurean

Ana see those at SENSUAL 1

sensum sense-datum, percept, *sensation, image

sensuous, sensual, luxurious, voluptuous, sybaritic, epicurean are comparable when they mean having to do with the gratification of the senses or providing pleasure by gratifying the senses. Both *sensual and sensual can imply reference to the sense organs and to perceptions based on the reactions of these organs and then come very close to *sensory in meaning, but more typically both apply to things of the senses as opposed to things of the spirit or intellect. In this use *sensual is more likely to imply gratification of the senses for the sake of the aesthetic pleasure or the delight in beauty of color, sound, or form that is induced while sensual (for fuller treatment see CARINAL) tends to imply the gratification of the senses or the indulgence of the appetites (as of gluttony and lust) as an end in itself. *Nobody can resist the Bay of Naples, or if he can, then all the simple and *sensual delights of this world must turn to bitterness and ashes in his mouth—Mackenzie

[*]. To fly the reeling faun, the great sunken tub, the warmth of sudsy water—Mackenzie

[2]. When Kenneth Mackenzie—Connolly

[3]. For his sake—Connolly

[4]. It was not inexorably condemned, as so many had feared at first, to be a vassal state in Hitler's unspeakable New Order—Shirer

[5]. It is often employed in curses, imprecations, or expressions of strong disapproval (I give thee sixpence! I will see thee damned first)—Canning

[6]. In general use, when it carries no implication, it is often employed in curses, imprecations, or expressions of strong disapproval (I give thee sixpence! I will see thee damned first)—Canning

sentence vb Sentence, condemn, damn, doom, proscribe can all mean to decree the fate or punishment of a person or sometimes a thing that has been adjudged guilty, unworthy, or unfit. Sentence is used in reference to the determination and pronouncement of punishment or penalty following an act of judging and an adverse verdict (was tried on the charge of inciting to riot and sentenced to thirty days in jail—E. S. Bates) (he tries and sentences them on their merits, in the swift summary way of boys, as good, bad, interesting, silly—Emerson) Condemn (see also CRITICIZE) implies both an adverse judgment and a sentence which carries with it a penalty (as forfeiture of one's freedom, one's rights, or one's life) (Napoleon was condemned to exile) (for condemned prisoners) (was not inexorably condemned, as so many had feared at first, to be a vassal state in Hitler's unspeakable New Order—Shirer) or, in the case of a thing, a forfeiture of its existence or of some status which has legally protected it from invasion; thus, to condemn an old building is legally to decree its destruction; to condemn a piece of property is to take it over for the uses of the state, on payment of its appraised value. Damn, akin to condemn, is not employed in modern law. In theological use it implies the condemnation of the soul to hell or to eternal punishment (he that believeth not shall be damned—Mk 16:16). In general use, when it carries no implication, it is often employed in curses, imprecations, or expressions of strong disapproval (I give thee sixpence! I will see thee damned first)—Canning

Otherwise it usually implies a verdict that is destructive or annihilating in its effects (if we fail, then we have damned every man to be the slave of fear—Baruch) Doom adds to condemn the implication of a punishment or penalty that cannot be evaded or escaped because imposed by an inexorable power (I am thy father's spirit, doomed for a certain term to walk the night—Shak.) (he does certain things that are very brave... he gambles that he can be terribly, tragically wrong, and therefore be doomed, you see, doomed to Hell—Mailer) This idea of fate or destiny is so strongly stressed in doom that in some cases the impli-
sententious sensitive, impressible, impressionable, responsive, sentient,

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

occasionally and regularly a readiness to be influenced, not only by a stronger power, but by a implies Morrison) to some specific influencing factor (as light, heat, or shock) which is abnormally or excessively reactive to only to a part of the body (as a section of skin or an organ) which is abnormally or excessively reactive to stimuli but to inanimate things (as a photographic film, sensitive Sometimes <the high vacuum tubes which constitute the sensitive brain of modern radio—Morrison> Impressive implies occasionally and impressively regularly a readiness to be influenced, not only by a stronger power, but by a power that succeeds in producing an impression. They do not imply, as sensitive usually does, a power to judge accurately and delicately; rather they suggest crudeness or immaturity or indifference to the quality of the thing that impresses (the mind impressive and soft with ease imbibes and copies what she hears and sees—Cowper) what he couldn’t think of was David submitting, during his most impressionable years, to the worst superstitions of Capitalism—Mary Austin> Responsive, which implies sensitiveness to stimuli in particular or in general, suggests in addition a readiness to respond or react in the way that is wanted. Since it usually occurs only in a good sense, it is likely to connote alertness, cooperativeness, and enthusiasm <we shall presumably find them most responsive to the language, literature, and history of their own country—Inge> she took up life, and became alert to the world again, responsive, like a ship in full sail, to every wind that blew—Rose Macaulay> Susceptible (see also LIABLE) suggests a fitness in disposition or in temperament to be affected by certain stimuli. Though it comes close to impressionable or responsive it more often implies weakness than does either of them, the weakness sometimes being stated but more frequently implied or suggested (as by the person considered or the circumstances attending) in France it is ... bad manners to be too susceptibility—Browell> she is susceptible to flattery he is very young and very susceptible to the charms of women his temper was not very susceptible of ... enthusiasm—Gibbon

sentiment 1 emotion, affection, *feeling, passion Ana thought, impression, notion, *idea: ideal, standard, exemplar (see MODEL) 2 *opinion, view, belief, conviction, persuasion Ana *truth, verity: conclusion, judgment (see under INFERN)
sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, soppy, mushy, slushy are comparable when they mean unduly or affectedly emotional. Sentimental usually suggests emotion that does not arise from genuine or natural feeling but is evoked by an external cause, by a particular mood, by an excess of sensibility, or for the sake of the thrill, or is merely an affectionation that is temperamental, the moment's fashion, or designed to achieve an end <sentimental songs> his sense of character is nil, and he is as pretentious as a rich whore, as sentimental as a lollipop—Mailer> a sentimental person, interested in pathetic novels and all unhappy attachments—Thackeray we are all for tooting on the sentimental flute in literature—Stevenson> he had an alert and a sentimental mind and worried about the health of Mr. Hiram's cart horse and ... the inmates of the Sailor's Home—Cheever> Romantic implies emotion that has little relation to things as they actually are, but is derived more from one's imagination of what they should be ideally or from one's conceptions of them as formed by literature, art, or daydreams the process of growing from romantic boyhood into cynical maturity—Shaw> its premise is romantic, if only because it assumes that every sparrow ... is a warbler, if not a nightingale—J. M. Brown> it has become the fashion to smile a little at romantic hopes for the world ... But it could be that it is precisely such dreams and visions that are needed—Edman> Mawkish, when it implies sentimentality, suggests a kind that creates loathing or disgust because of its insincerity, emotional excess, or other signs of weakness or futility <stale epithets, which, when I only seem to smell their mawkish proximity, produce in me a slight feeling of nausea—L. P. Smith> stories simpering with delight and mawkish with pathos—J. D. Hart's Maudlin stresses a lack of balance or self-restraint
that shows itself in emotional excess (as unrestrained tears and lamentations); usually also it suggests extreme or contemptible silliness (the mob became not only enthusiastic but maudlin—Disraeli) (seizing things that were inept, maudlin, unhinged, and knowing then that these very words must drive him on and on toward . . . more helpless depths of drunkenness—Styron) Soppy, mushy, and slushy come close to mawkish in their suggestion of distasteful and disgusting sentimentality. Soppy (chiefly in British use) often carries a strong suggestion of silliness in showing affection (they do not permit themselves to show much family affection, so who are we to object if they go soppy over a few four-footed friends?—Holmes) (a naturally sad but never soppy poet—Fraser) Mushy may suggest softness or wishy-washiness (Stuffy rolled over on her back and paddled the air hysterically, a hypocrite, trading shamelessly on her sex and the mushy hearts of humans—Panter-Downes) (you may . . . be a sharp, cynical sort of person; or you may be a nice, mushy, amiable, good-natured one—Shaw) Slushy applies chiefly to utterances or personalities that are so sentimental or emotionally confused as to seem senseless (slushy stories) (pander to everything that's shoddy and slushy and third-rate in human nature—Buchan)

Ana emotional, affectionate, feeling, passionate (see corresponding nouns at FEELING): affecting, *moving, pathetic, touching: affected, pretended, counterfeited, feigned, simulated (see AFFECT)

separate vb Separate, part, divide, sever, sundry, divorce can all mean to become or cause to become disunited or disjoined. Separate implies a putting or keeping apart; it may suggest a scattering or dispersion of units (forces that separate families) (separate the parts of a watch) or a removal of one from the other (separate a husband from his wife) (the business of government cannot and should not be separated from the day-to-day lives of the human beings who conduct it—T. E. Dewey) (separate the wheat from the chaff) (separated his feelings from his work) or the presence of an intervening thing or things (the Atlantic separates Europe from America) (a thousand miles separate the two branches of the family) ("What separates the men and the girls? A fence or something?" "Just foliage, dear, and upbringin'"—Wouk) Part usually suggests the separation of two persons or things in close union or association; often also it suggests a complete or final separation (as by death or violence) (if aught but death part thee and me—Ruth 1:17) (part two combatants) Divide commonly stresses the idea of parts, groups, or sections resulting from literal or figurative cutting, breaking, or branching (divide a pie into six pieces) (divide the government into the executive, legislative, and judicial branches) (he that will divide a minute into a thousand parts—Shak) Divide often, in addition, carries an implication of apportioning, distributing, or sharing (divide the candy among the children) (divide profits) (the grocer got along well with his assistant. They divided tasks and waited on alternate customers—Malamud) (divided his estate equitably among his heirs) Often divide is used in place of separate, especially when mutual antagonism or wide separation is connoted (united we stand, divided we fall) (the broad and deep gulf which . . . divides the living from the dead, the organic from the inorganic—Inge) (the suspicion which the Citizens' Committee predicted would divide neighbor from neighbor—Clinton) Sever adds the implication of violence by or as if by cutting and frequently applies to the separation of a part from the whole or of persons or things that are joined in affection, close affinity, or natural association (sever a branch from the trunk by one blow of the ax) (sever the head from the body) (severed from thee, can I survive?—Burns) (the hour is ill which severs those it should unite—Shelley) (finding herself severed from formal and religious education, she struggled with a sense of guilt—Hervey) Sunder often implies a violent rending or wrenching apart (even as a splitted bark, so sunder we—Shak) (the Romans sundered copper-bearing rock by alternately playing fire and water on it—New Yorker) (man's most significant personal relationship is sundered in an atmosphere of chicanery and buffoonery—Cohn) Divorce implies the separation of two or more things so closely associated that they interact upon each other or work well only in union with each other (its academic tendency to divorce form from matter—Day Lewty) (you cannot divorce accurate thought from accurate speech—Quiller-Couch) Divorce can specifically refer to the legal dissolution of a marriage, a use in which it contrasts with separate which implies a mutually agreed ending of cohabitation without actual legal termination of the marital state. Ana cleave, rend, split, rive (see TEAR): * estrange, alienate: dispense, dispel, * scatter: * detach, disengage

Ant combine

separate adj 1 * distinct, several, discrete Ana diverse, disparate, * different, divergent, various: * free, independent 2 * single, solitary, particular, unique, sole, lone Ana * special, especially, specific, individual: peculiar, distinctive (see CHARACTERISTIC): detached, disengaged (see DETACH)

sequel outcome, issue, * effect, result, consequence, upshot, aftereffect, aftermath, event Ana termination, * end; ending: conclusion, closing, finishing or finish (see corresponding verbs at close)

sequence series, * succession, progression, chain, train, string Ana ordering or order, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at ORDER)

sequent, sequential * consecutive, successive, serial

sequester vb * isolate, segregate, seclude, insulate Ana * separate, sever, sunder

serene tranquil, * calm, peaceful, placid, halcyon Ana * still, stilly, silent, noiseless, quiet: * cool, collected, composed: smooth, effortless, * easy Con disturbed, disquieted, agitated, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)

serial adj * consecutive, successive, sequent, sequential Ana following, ensuing, succeeding (see FOLLOW): continuous, * continual

series * succession, progression, sequence, chain, train, string serious, grave, solemn, solemner, sedate, staid, sober, earnest may be applied to persons, their looks, or their acts with the meaning not light or frivolous but actually or seemingly weighed down by deep thought, heavy cares, or purposive or important work. Serious implies absorption in work rather than in play, or concern for what matters rather than for what merely amuses (the features . . . were serious and almost sad under the austere responsibilities of infinite pity and power—Henry Adams) (there was no great warmth or fervor in those daily exercises, but rather a serious and decorous propriety—Stowe) Grave implies both seriousness and dignity but it usually implies also an expression or attitude that reflects the pressure of weighty interests or responsibilities (a grave voice which, falling word by word upon his consciousness, made him stir inside with . . . fear—Styron) (his air was grave and stately, and his manners were very formal—Austen) Grave is more likely than serious to be used when a mere

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
appearance is to be implied (loved to exaggerate, to
astonish people by making extravagant statements with the
gravest air—Hall) and it may be used of things with qualities
suggestive of human gravity (the richness and grave
dignity of its carved staircase and interior wood-
work—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) (my father’s many-
volumed edition of the Talmud . . . the look of those
tales—grave, wide, solid columns of text—Behrman)
Solemn usually heightens the suggestion of impressiveness
or awesomeness often implicit in grave (perhaps it was
natural . . . to mistake solemn dignity for sullenness—
Sher) (the solemn splendor of that most wonderful
poem, the story of Job—Quiller-Couch) (it was a solemn
moment, for these were the last words of Augustus to his
people—Buchan) Somber applies to a melancholy or
depressing gravity, completely lacking in color, light,
or cheer (the Scots, famed for somber Calvinism and its
intellectual theologizing, did not expect to warm to the
eloquent kind of religion—P. D. Whitney) Sedate
implies composure and decorous seriousness in character
or speech and often a conscious avoidance of lightness or
frivolity (good sense alone is a sedate and quiescent
quality—Johnson) (her habitual expression was sedate
and serious, a permanent reproof, as it were, to those
who were first attracted by the voluptuous quality of her ad-
mirable figure—Linklater) Staid implies a settled sedate-
ness, often a prim self-restraint, and an even stronger
negation of volatility or frivolity than sedate (the side
streets here are excessively maiden-lady-like . . . the
knockers have a very staid, serious, nay almost awful,
quietness about them—Keats) (the staid Roman citizen
was repelled by the wild dances and the frenzied peans—
Buchan) Sober sometimes stresses seriousness of purpose (if
our pupils are to devote sober attention to our in-
struction—Grandgent) but it more often suggests gravity
that proceeds from control over or subdual of one’s
emotions or passions (come, pensive Nun, devout and
pure, sober, steadfast, and demure—Milton) (this work
is certainly of more sober mien than most of its author’s
others. It is very long and very serious, and both these
qualities are certainly deliberate observances—Virgil
Thomson) Earnest implies seriousness of purpose as well
as sincerity and, often, zealousness and enthusiasm (an
earnest student) (and men are merry at their chores, and
children earnest at their play—Millay) (she set out on an
earnest and grim quest for the dollar—Wouk)
Ana austere, stern, *severe, ascetic: *thoughtful, re-
Ant frivolous, flighty, volatile (see corresponding nouns at LIGHTNESS)
sermon homily, *speech, address, oration, harangue,
talk, lecture
serpentine *winding, sinuous, tortuous, flexuous
Ana circuitous, roundabout, *indirect: *crooked, devous
service n *use, advantage, profit, account, avail
Ana usefulness, utility (see USE n): *worth, value:
helping or help, aiding or aid, assistance (see corresponding
verbs at HELP)
servile *subservient, menial, slavish, obsequious
Ana *mean, abject, ignoble: fawning, cringing, trudging,
cowering (see FAWN)
Ant authoritative
servitude, slavery, bondage agree in meaning the state of
submission to a master. Servitude may refer to the state
of a person, or of a class of persons, or of a race that is bound
to obey the will of a master, a lord, or a sovereign, and
lacks the freedom to determine his or their own acts, laws,
and conditions of living. The term is often vague or
rhetorical, sometimes implying lack of political freedom,
sometimes lack of liberty to do as one pleases (I am as
free as Nature first made man, ere the base laws of servitude began, when wild in woods the noble savage ran—Dryden) More specifically servitude denotes the
condition of one who must give service to a master and
perform labor for him, whether he has bound himself (see
BOUND adj) voluntarily or is a convicted sentenced to penal
servitude or a slave. Slavery implies subjection to a master
who is the owner of one’s person or who may treat one
as his property (taken by the insolent foe and sold to
slavery—Shak.) or entire loss of personal freedom and
subjugation to another (is life so dear, or peace so sweet,
as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?—
Henry) Bondage applies to the state of one bound as a
serf to the soil and sold with the land when conveyed to a
new owner: it can also apply to a state of subjection from
which there is no hope of escape except by breaking one’s
chains (what more oft, in nations grown corrupt, and by
their vices brought to servitude, than to love bondage
more than liberty—Milton)
set vb 1 Set, settle, fix, establish mean to cause someone
or something to be put securely in place. Set is the most
inclusive of these terms, sometimes implying placing in a
definite location, especially to serve some definite purpose
(set a light at each window) (set out trees) (set food
on the table) or to permanently fill some void (set a diamond
in a ring) or establish some limit (set a limit to discussion)
the law of God determines the laws of this world and sets
the bounds and the character of the institutions and activi-
ties of men—Donald Harrington) (the question of
whether human nature is set by heredity or can be changed
by environmental factors—Bauer) and sometimes imply-
ing a placing under orders (as in an occupation, a
situation, an office, or a sphere of life) or under conditions
where something or someone must perform an allotted
or prescribed function (set a boy to work) (set the maids
to cleaning house) (set proctors to watch the students)
or occasionally suggesting a prescribing or ordaining of
an object or objects on which one or one’s efforts, mind,
heart, or eyes concentrates (set the subject for a debate)
(set a goal for his efforts) (set his heart on winning a
prize) (set duty before pleasure) Settle comes close to
set but carries a much stronger implication of putting a
person or thing in a place or condition of stability, rest,
or repose and often a weaker implication of regulative
or dictatorial power (settle an invalid in an easy chair)
(settle themselves in their new home) (offered to escort
her to Paris and see her settled in a reasonably cheap
hotel—Wouk) (the tendency to settle standards on the
level of the “common man”—Edmund Wilson) Often
the word carries an implication of decisive quieting,
calming, or ordering of something that is disturbed, upset,
unstable, or fluctuating (settle a person’s stomach)
(settle his doubts) (the white of an egg will settle the
coffee) (everything’s settled now. You need not worry,
Reuben; there will be no fuss—Gibbons) (there’s nothing
will settle me but a bullet—Swift) Fix (see also ADJUST 1;
FASTEN) usually implies more stability and permanence
in position, condition, or character than set or even settle
(he resolution was already fixed—Buchan) (truth which the
scientist strives to catch and fix—Lowes) (his place in the
McCoy household had become fixed—Anderson) (what
I have most at heart is, that some method should be
thought of for ascertaining and fixing our language forever
—Swift) (the undifferentiated, inchoate religious sense
is thus intensified and fixed, to the great and lasting injury
of the spiritual life—Inge) Establish (see also FOUND)
stresses not so much the putting in place or the bringing
into existence as the becoming fixed, stable, or immovable.
**set**

although in some use both ideas are connoted (do not transplant a tree once it is established) (American sculptors ... whose reputation was already established — Wharton) (the child initiates new processes of thought and establishes new mental habits much more easily than the adult — Eliot) (the novel as I have described it has never really established itself in America — Trilling) (at the end of the first growing season, the grass was firmly established — Farmer's Weekly)

Ana *implant: *fasten, attach, fix, affix: *prescribe, assign, define

Con eradicating, deracinating, uproot (see EXTERMINATE): *abolish, annihilate, extinguish: displace, supplant, *replace

2 *coagulate, congeal, curdle, clot, jelly, jell

Ana *harden, solidify: *compact, consolidate, concentrate

set 1. Set, circle, coterie, clique can all denote a more or less carefully selected or exclusive group of persons having a common interest. Set applies to a comparatively large group, especially of society men and women bound together by common tastes (a solid citizen of the fast and fratic international set — Kenneth Fearing) (I was myself living in several sets that had no connection with one another — Maugham) (her college set had stayed rigidly in a zigzag path ... which they considered smart — Wouk) Circle implies a common center of the group (as a person or a cause that draws persons to him or it) or a common interest, activity, or occupation (the work of the younger writers ... has even penetrated into academic circles — Day Lewis) (like sex, the word segregation was not mentioned in the best circles — Lillian Smith) (she felt violently the gaps that death made in her circle — Pritchett) (an active figure in Madrid's literary and theatrical circles — Current Biog.) Coterie stresses the notion of selectness or of congeniality within the small circle; clique highlights the implication of an often selfish or arrogant exclusiveness (we three formed a little coterie within the household — Symonds) (the poetry of revolt is apt to become the poetry of a coterie — Lowes) (the best English society — mind, I don't call the London exclusive clique the best English society — Coleridge) (the corruption and debauchery of the homosexual clique — Shirley Jackson) (every hoodlum in every crack gang and clique who fancied himself with the blade — Mailer)

setting *background, environment, milieu, mise-en-scène, backdrop

settle 1 *set, fix, establish

Ana *secure, anchor, moor, rivet: *order, arrange

Ant unsettle

2 *calm, compose, quiet, quieten, still, lull, soothe, tranquilize

Ana placate, appease, *pacify, mollify, conciliate

Ant unsettle — Con *discompose, disquiet, disturb, perturb, agitate, upset

3 determine, *decide, rule, resolve

Ana *judge, adjudge, adjudicate: *close, end, conclude, terminate

sever *separate, sunder, part, divide, divorce

Ana rive, cleave, rend, split (see TEAR): *cut, hew, chop: *detach, disengage

several 1 *distinct, separate, discrete

Ana individual, particular, *special, especial

2 *many, sundry, various, divers, numerous, multifarious

Ana *single, separate, particular: detached, disengaged (see DETACH)

severally individually, respectively, *each, apiece

severe, stern, austere, ascetic can all mean given to or characterized by strict discipline and firm restraint.

Severe is applicable to persons and their looks, acts, thoughts, and utterances or to things (as laws, penalties, judgments, and styles) for which persons are responsible. In all these applications it implies rigorous standards of what is just, right, ethical, beautiful, or acceptable and unspiring or exacting adherence to them; it not only excludes every hint of laxity or indulgence but often suggests a preference for what is hard, plain, or meager (a severe teacher) (severe impartiality) (severe in dress) (these bleak and severe Sunday mornings, though they left me with a respect for the Bible, had the effect of antagonizing me against it — Edmund Wilson) Very often the word suggests harshness or even cruelty (a severe penalty) (severe discipline) (severe criticism) (a severe test of his endurance) It is then by extension referable also to things for which persons are not responsible but which similarly impose pain or acute discomfort (a severe attack of lumbago) (I do not think that she anticipated anything so severe as arsenic on her blackberries — Shirley Jackson) (a severe winter) Stern, though it often implies severity when applied to persons or their acts or words, stresses inflexibility or inexorability of temper; thus, a severe judge may appear kindly though dispassionately just, but a stern judge reveals no disposition to be mild or lenient; to be made of stern stuff is to have an unyielding will or an extraordinarily resolute character (he wanted to bang on his desk, arise magnificently, like a good confessor, being purposeful and stern — Styrone) In extended use stern is applied to what cannot be escaped or evaded (stern necessity) (the stern compulsion of facts — Buchan) or to what is harsh and forbidding in its appearance or in its external aspects (the stern and rockbound land ... on which his lot was cast — Faulkner) (a marble bath that made cleanliness a luxury instead of one of the sternest of the virtues, as it seemed at home — Shaw) Austere is chiefly applied to persons, their habits, their modes of life, the environments they create, or the works of art they produce; in these applications austere implies the absence of appealing qualities (as feeling, warmth, color, animation, and ornament) and therefore positively implies dispassionateness, coldness, reserve, or barrenness (my common conversation I do acknowledge austere, my behavior full of rigor — Browne) (secretly, these austere tyrants seized with delight upon so estimable an excuse for censuring a member of the set they deprecated — Mailer) Sometimes the word tends to add such connotations as restraint, self-denial, economy of means, and stark simplicity and becomes a term of praise rather than of depreciation (the austere dignity and simplicity of their existence — Pater) (mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty — a beauty cold and austere, like that of sculpture — Russell) (a landscape lightly strewn with snow, and rendered graciously austere by long, converging lines of leafless poplars — Wyile) Ascetic implies laborious and exacting spiritual training or discipline, self-denial, abstention from what is pleasurable, and even the seeking of what is painful or disagreeable (strong-willed and ascetic, he discovered in discipline the chief end for which the children of Adam are created — Parrington) (a people possessed of the epicurean rather than the ascetic ideal in morals — Brownell) The idea of discipline, especially by abstention from what is pleasurable or easy or self-indulgent for the sake of spiritual or intellectual ends may be emphasized (for science is ascetic. It is a discipline and a control of personal impulse that could arise only in a relatively mature civilization — Baker Brownell) (there was in him a real nobility, an even ascetic firmness and purity of

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
character—Ellis>

**Ana** exacting, oppressive, *onerous, burdensome:* rigid, rigorous, strict, stringent: *hard, difficult, arduous:* harsh, rugged, uneven, *rough*

**Ant** tolerant: tender—Con lenient, clement, *forbear*—merciful, indulgent: gentle, mild, *soft*

**shabby** 1 Shabby, dilapidated, dingy, faded, seedy, threadbare refer to the appearance of persons and of things and mean showing signs of wear and tear. Shabby applies to persons and places and suggests a lack of freshness or newness in those items that contribute to appearance; sometimes the term applies directly to the things, especially clothes, which so contribute. Poverty is often suggested as the cause of this run-down condition but various other causes (as neglect or indifference) may also be suggested 〈old Bart, shabby and inconspicuous, dunking pound cake with his dirty fingers—W. S. Burroughs〉 (villages ... with their shabby, unpainted shacks, dropping with decay—Brooks) 〈everything had been done to make the accused look as shabby as possible. They were outfitted in nondescript clothes—Shirer〉 〈the old house ... is too elegant for poor people, and too large; too shabby, in too shabby a neighborhood, for the rich—Tate〉

**Dilapidated** (compare dilapidate under ruin) implies a worse appearance than shabby, usually suggesting a broken-down or tumble-down condition resulting from neglectful lack of repairs or from careless abuse 〈a dilapidated fence with its gate hanging from one hinge〉 〈sat down in a dilapidated easy chair minus a cushion—Purdy〉 〈an old toy is so much better ...〉 The very fact that it was worn and dilapidated caused it to create a feeling of warmth—Henry Miller>

**Dingy** applies to what is no longer fresh or new in appearance and shows the effects of gradual soiling that dulls the colors or dims the brightness 〈out of his dingy retreat, dirty and uncomfortable, he would appear resplendent—Osbet Siviwell〉

**Faded** also implies lack of freshness but it connotes the loss of vigor or brightness that shows that a person or thing has passed its prime and is revealing signs of drooping and withering 〈her slightly stale and faded gush about Chopin and her memories of Paris in the spring—Edmund Wilson〉 〈she lives with her mother, a faded tired woman who played Lady Capulet—Wilde〉 〈her clothes were always the same and it is hard to remember what she wore. She seemed to sink into the faded anonymity of the old street—Tate〉 〈so many of the old friends are dead, and those who live are older and changed, and everything seems a bit faded and drab—H. L. Matthews〉

**Seedy** does not go so far as shabby in implying deterioration and lack of freshness but it does suggest some loss of those signs that marked a person or thing as strong or at the peak of value and usefulness 〈sordid squabbling with his landlady about the rent he owes on a seedy room—McCarter〉 〈an English setter, a bitch, and rather seedy now and smelly—Henry Miller〉 〈a table on which was a clutter of seedy Western souvenirs—a rusted, beat-up placer pan ... and the shellacked tail of a beaver—Stafford〉

**Seedy** is also used in reference to a person who feels himself not really sick but not up to the mark 〈we were all feeling seedy, and we were getting nervous about it—Jerome〉

**Threadbare** (see also TRITE) in its basic use implies such wear of fabric that all nap is worn away and the threads are visible 〈the curves of hips and breasts already discernible under the too short and often threadbare clothes—Metalious〉 but often this basic notion is lost and the emphasis is on the shabby state typical of or the fact of extreme grinding poverty 〈the only opportunity ... to find escape from the grim, drab, threadbare unpicturesque poverty of her inharmonious home—Dorothy Canfield〉 〈England, which has a threadbare Treasury—Sulzberger〉 〈finally got threadbare enough and hungry enough to overlook my scruples—O'Leary〉

**Ana** worn (see HAGGARD) dowdy, frowzy, *slatternly: shopworn, *trite: decrepit (see WEAK)

**Con** trim, trig, spick-and-span, *neat, tidy: *new, fresh, new-fashioned

2 *contemptible, despicable, pitiable, sorry, scummy, cheap, beggary

**Ana** *mean, sordid, ignoble: *base, low, vile

**shackle** vb fetter, clog, tramnel, *hamper, malacle, hog-tie

**Ana** restrain, curb, check, inhibit: *hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar: restrict, circumscribe, confine, *limit

**Con** disencumber, disembarrass, *extricate: release, liberate, *free

**shade** n 1 Shade, shadow, umbrage, umbra, penumbra, adumbration can mean the comparative darkness caused by something which intercepts rays of light. Shade carries no implication of a darkness that has a particular form or definite limit but the term often stresses protection from the glare, heat, or other effect of the light that is cut off 〈the forest, one vast mass of mingling shade—Shelley〉 〈chiaroscuro, by which light reveals [in paintings] the richness of shade and shade heightens the brightness of light—Ellis〉 〈the trees afforded shade and shelter—Cather〉 Shade usually applies to shade which preserves something of the form of the object which intercepts the light 〈it [the garden] ... has neither arbor, nor alcove, nor other shade, except the shadow of the house—Cowper〉

〈saw ... the shadow of some piece of pointed lace, in the Queen's shadow, vibrate on the walls—Tennyson〉 〈the shadowless winter, when it is all shade and therefore no shade—Jefferies〉 In extended use shade implies darkness or obscurity; shadow, insubstantiality or unreality 〈there no shade can last in that deep dawn behind the tomb—Tennyson〉 〈tis but the shadow of a wife you see, the name and not the thing—Shak〉

**Umbrage** (see also OFFENSE) applies chiefly to the shade cast by heavy foliage or trees, though sometimes it refers to the mass of trees or foliage which make for heavy shade 〈branches ... spreading their umbrage to the circumference of two hundred and seven feet—Strutt〉

〈the thrush sings in that umbrage—L. P. Smith〉 Its occasional extended use can draw meaning from either of these aspects and suggest, on the one hand, an indistinct indication, as if of something seen in deep shadow 〈the least umbrage of a reflection upon this accident—North〉 or, on the other, an overshadowing influence 〈to compete in the umbrage of big city ... wages and other costs he had to simplify his ... process—J. R. Malone〉

**Umbrage** and penumbra are largely astronomical and optical terms. Umbrase applies to the perfect or complete shadow that results from the complete or nearly complete eclipse, and penumbra to the imperfect or partly illuminated shadow which often surrounds the umbra. Umbrase rarely and penumbra are often used in extended senses, the former implying a complete overshadowing or eclipse, the latter denoting the marginal region or border between areas which are themselves clearly one thing or the other, or in which the exact differences between one thing or another are so obscure as not to be clearly discernible 〈his memory was eclipsed in the umbra of a more compelling personality—Cobby〉 〈physiology having rudely investigated its phenomena upon the same level as other biological processes, it [love] has been stripped of the mystical penumbra in whose shadow its transcendental value
seemed real, though hid—Krucho. (the great ordinances of the Constitution do not establish and divide fields of black and white. Even the more specific of them are found to terminate in a penumbra shading gradually from one extreme to the other—Justice Holmes) Adumbration applies to something that is so faint or obscure a figure, sketch, or outline of something which actually exists or is to come that it serves as a foreshadowing of it or a hinting at it (the lugubrious harmony of the spot with his domestic situation was too perfect for him, impatient of effects, scenes, and adumbrations—Hardy) (if the Parthenon has value, it is only as an adumbration of something higher than itself—Babbit) Ana darkness, dimness, obscurity (see corresponding adjectives at dark) *shelter, cover, retreat Con brightness, brilliancy, radiance, effulgence (see corresponding adjectives at bright) *glare, glow, blaze (see under blaze vb) 2 ghost, spirit, specter, *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, revenant 3 *blind, shutter 4 tint, *color, hue, tinge, tone 5 *gradation, nuance Ana distinction, difference (see dissimilarity) *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, dash, tinge 6 *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, tinge, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, tincture, streak Ana *trace, vestige: tint, tinge (see color) shadow n *shade, umbrage, umbra, penumbra, adumbration Ana *form, figure, shape, configuration, configuration: darkness, obscurity, dimness (see corresponding adjectives at dark) silhouette, contour, *outline shadow vb *suggest, adumbrate Ana *foretell, forecast, predict, prognosticate: *foresee, foreknow, divine Con *reveal, disclose, discover, divulge, tell shake vb 1 Shake, tremble, quake, totter, quiver, shiver, shudder, quaver, wobble, teeter, shimmy, dither are comparable when they mean to exhibit vibratory, waverling, or oscillating movement often as an evidence of instability. Shake, the ordinary and the comprehensive term, can apply to any such movement, often with a suggestion of roughness and irregularity (the earth itself seemed to shake beneath my feet—Hudson) (he shook with fear) (his body shook with laughter) tremble applies specifically to a slight, rapid shaking of the human body, especially when one is agitated or unnerved (as by fear, passion, cold, or fatigue) (she stood with her hand on the doorknob, her whole body trembling—Anderson) (she is so radiant in her pure beauty that the limbs of the young man tremble—Meredith) The term may apply also to things that shake in a manner suggestive of human trembling (not a breath of breeze even yet ruffled the water: but momentarily it trembled of its own accord, shattering the reflections—Richard Hughes) Quake may be used in place of tremble but it commonly carries a stronger implication of violent shaking or of extreme agitation (his name was a terror that made the dead quake in their graves—Ouida) (his accusing hand ... stiffly extended, quaking in mute condemnation—Terry Southern) Often the term suggests either an internal convulsion (as an earthquake or something suggestive of one) or an external event which rocks a person or thing to its foundations (the sounding of the clock in Venice Preserved makes the hearts of the whole audience quake—Addison) (I thought of the sounds that must be coming from those men, and at that thought my insides quaked; I thanked God we couldn’t hear them—Kenneth Roberts) Totter usually suggests great physical weakness (as that associated with infancy, extreme old age, or disease); it therefore often connotes a shaking that makes movement extremely difficult and uncertain or that forebodes a fall or collapse (the mast tottered before it fell) (the little calf that’s standing by the mother... totters when she licks it with her tongue—Frost) Quiver suggests a slight, very rapid shaking comparable to the vibration of the strings of a musical instrument; it differs from tremble chiefly in being more often applied to things (as pen leaves quiver in the slightest breeze) (it is not a dead mass of stone and metal, but a living thing, quivering and humming like a great ship at sea. A splendid piece of architecture—Higher) or in carrying a less necessary suggestion of fear or passion and a stronger implication of emotional tension (the little boy’s lips quivered as he tried not to cry) (I was quivering and tingling from head to foot—Kipling) (eagerness that made me quit—Thackeray) quiver—Roberts) (Seymour sat whimpering and quivering with panic and temper and discomfort—Davenport) Shiver and shudder usually imply a momentary or shortlived quivering, especially of the flesh. Shiver typically suggests the effect of cold (came into the house snowcovered and shivering) but it may apply to a similar quivering that results from an emotional or mental cause (as an anticipation, a premonition, a foreboding, or a vague fear) (such thoughts... may make you shiver at first—Montague) (he shivered with pleasure as he conceived robberies, assaults—murders if it had to be—Malamud) or to a sudden, often seeming, quivering of a thing (his heart shivered, as a ship shivers at the mountainous crash of the waters—Bennett) (when the first star shivers and the last wave pales—Flecker) Shudder usually suggests the effect of something horrible or revolting; physically it implies a sudden sharp quivering that for the moment affects the entire body or mass (the spotted shadow of the heaven tree shuddered and pulsed monstrously in scarce any wind—Faulkner) (I am afraid of it, she answered, shuddering—Dicksen) (it was one of those illnesses from which we turn away our eyes, shuddering—Delacl) (the chill of an age-old recognition shuddered my spine; a voice was sounding in the dimly lit air—Miller) Quaver sometimes implies irregular vibration or fluctuation, especially as an effect of something that disturbs (the breeze... set the flames of the streetlamps quavering—Stevenson) but often it stresses tremulousness especially in reference to voices and utterances affected by weakness or emotion (a reedy, quavering voice—Doyle) (dread returned, and the words quavered as she spoke them—Meredith) (the quavering, envenomed voice of... Scrooge—Styron) Wobble implies an unsteadiness that shows itself in tottering, or in a quivering characteristic of a mass of soft flesh or of a soft jelly, or in a shakiness characteristic of rickety furniture (this table wobbled) (bumping when she trots, and wobbling when she cantered—Whyte-Melville) French automobiles wobbling giddily along the road—Panter-Downes) (picked up his glass and half emptied it. His hand wobbled so that some of it ran down his chin—Charteris) Teeter implies an unsteadiness that reveals itself in seesawing motions (an inebrated man teetering as he stands) (stood on chairs and teetered on stepladders—Dos Passos) Shimmie suggests the fairly violent shaking of the body from the shoulders down which is characteristic of the dance of that name and, therefore, may suggest vibratory motions of an abnormal nature (all kinds of starlets get an opportunity to shimmie around for the edification of Pharaoh and his court—McCarten) (a lizard shimmied across her path—Miller) (I often see the
shallow

walls of my house shimming a bit—Lucas> (the shimming of unbalanced front wheels of an automobile) Dither implies a shaking or a hesitant vacillating movement often as a result of nervousness, confusion, or lack of purpose <dithering to his feet, he crept downstairs—Cronin> Ana oscillate, fluctuate, vibrate, waver, *swing, sway 2 Shake, agitate, rock, convulse can mean to cause to move to and fro or up and down with more or less violence. Shake, the most general of these words, in its specific senses usually retains this basic meaning <as there is a high wind blowing nearly all the time, the nests are continually shaken—Seago> but it seldom conveys merely this idea. Very often its meaning is narrowed but enriched by an implication of the particular intent or purpose of the movement; thus, to shake a rug implies an intent to dislodge dust; to shake a tree, to bring down its fruit; to shake a cocktail, to mix ingredients; to shake hands, to greet or to acknowledge an introduction; to shake one's fist, to threaten. Even in its extended use shake commonly implies movement, usually physical movement <he was visibly shaken by the news> <the exposure of unsuspected depravity in the highest circles shook the social fabric to its foundations—Lucius Beebe> <just one single example of real unreason is enough to shake our belief in everything—Theodore Sturgeon> Agitate usually carries a much stronger implication of tossing or of violent stirring than shake; it often also suggests a prolongation of the movement <a churn has a dasher for agitating cream> <the leaves on the trees were agitated as if by a high wind—Hudson> <brown water in the basin . . . slightly agitated by concentric ripples, as though someone had recently thrown a stone into it—James Helvick> When the recipient of the action is a person agitate connotes emotional disturbance or excitement <he started a discussion which has agitated thinkers ever since—Whitehead> <the physician interposes, frightens the family, agitates the patient to the utmost—Overstreet> Rock suggests a swinging or swaying motion; it tends to lose the implication of lulling derived from its earliest associations with the movement of a cradle and to emphasize those of upheaving, derived from the violent swaying (as of a ship in a storm or of the earth in an earthquake) <the wind rocked the house> <the entire city was convulsed by the explosion> <Tokyo rocks under the weight of our bombs—Truman> Often, especially in extended use, rock suggests, as shake does not, tottering and peril of falling <the stock market was rocked by the rumor of war> <constant insinuations finally rocked his faith in his friend> <the explosions that rocked the world today are nothing less than the stirring of the common man the world over—Hansen> Convulse often implies more violence in the motion than any of the others; it also commonly suggests a pulling to and fro or a wrenching or twisting (as of the body in a paroxysm or of the earth in seismic disturbances) <Lucetta . . . convulsed on the carpet in the paroxysms of an epileptic seizure—Hardy> <they were convulsed with laughter> <the ferment of change that has convulsed, distorted, and reshaped our twentieth-century world—A. E. Stevenson> Ana *move, drive, impel: flourish, brandish, *swing, wave: disturb, derange, unsettle, *disorder 3 *swing, wave, flourish, brandish, thrash shallow adj *superficial, cursory, uncritical Ana slim, slight, slender, *thin: trivial, trifling, *petty, paltry: empty, hollow, idle, *vain sham n *imposture, cheat, fake, humbug, fraud, deceit, deception, counterfeit Ana *pretense, pretension, make-believe: *trick, ruse, feint, whe, gambit, ploy A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
sharp, keen, acute can all mean having a fine point or edge, however, by an acute critical sense, a liking for research, and his genius for teaching—Starr—my very acute grandmother, who at eighty-eight is clear and definite in her political convictions—Current Bio. The acutest philosophers have succeeded in liberating themselves completely from the narrow prison of their age and country—Huxley—As applied to something perceptible through the senses sharp often suggests a disagreeably cutting or biting quality (sharp as vinegar) (a sharp voice) (a sharp flash) (a sharp wind) or it may emphasize distinctness or clearness of definition (a sharp outline) (sharp contrasts) had happened close on twenty years ago. Yet how short a time it seemed, so sharp was the impression of that night—Mackenzie—Keen, in contrast, may suggest a bracing, zestful, or piquant quality (the wind came keen with a tang of frost—Mosefield) (very keen is the savor of the roast beef that floats up—Benson) Acute, less common in this sense, may impute an intensely perceptible and often distasteful quality to what it qualifies (the stench was acute—Maier) (the sound rose to an almost painfully acute note) As applied to the senses themselves, all imply exceptional functional efficiency and choice is predicated on idiom; thus, sharp is used especially of sight and hearing, keen, of sight and smell, and acute, of hearing. As characterizing pleasures and pains, sharp suggests most definitely something that seems to cut or pierce, keen implies intensity, and acute implies poignantness (a sharp pain) (keen zest) (acute anguish) Ana *incisive, trenchant, cutting, biting: mordant, *caustic, scathing: piercing, penetrating, probing (see enter): tricky, cunning, artful, wily, guileful, *sly Ant dull: blunt shear vb shiver, *break, crack, burst, bust, snap Ana demolish, *destroy: *ruin, wreck: rend, slice, rive (see tear) shave vb *brush, graze, glance, skim Ana touch, contact (see corresponding nouns at contact): *escape, avoid shear vb Shear, poll, clip, trim, prune, lop, snip, crop are comparable when they mean to cut off something (as a piece, an excrement, or a limb). Shear is the most general word of this group; it usually implies the use of a sharp cutting instrument (as shears, a razor, or a sharp knife) and, as its result, a close and even or a clean cut through, or off, or away, or from something. The term may or may not imply injury and suggests improvement more often than destruction (a machine with blades strong enough to shear a steel bar at one stroke) (shear the fleece from sheep) (each year he sheared his sheep) (a shark's curved razor-like teeth shear cleanly through the bone—Heiser) Poll implies the cutting of the hair as closely as if shaved; in this sense the verb seldom takes the person as its object, but the part affected (monks with their hair poll'd) or that one (David parlor) (such a hair that he had not polled his head—Whiston) (monks with polled crowns) It sometimes refers to the cutting off of the top or head of trees (as willows), often in order to provide new growth suitable for basketry, but sometimes in order to encourage the throwing out of branches from below (there were some beautiful willows, and now the idiot Parson has polled them into wretched stumps—Morris) Clip suggests a cutting evenly or closely without any indication of how much or how little is cut off (clipped her little son's curls) (clipped the shrubs into elaborate forms) (clip an article from a newspaper) Trim (see also stabilize) always implies the removal of something unwanted or overlong by or as if by cutting or clipping in order to improve the appearance of a thing, or to ad-
just it to something, or to prepare it for a definite use

(trim a straggly hedge) (trimmed his hair and beard)
(trim the rough edges from a piece of cloth) (what was not trimmed from our pages by an editor's nudge was given away in the hagglings of publisher and author—Mailer) Prune implies a trimming of a plant (as a tree or shrub) by cutting out superfluous parts (as dead branches) not only to improve its shape but to promote its growth or bearing (prune the rosebushes in the garden) Consequently prune in broader use implies a cutting down or out or excision so as to remove useless or needless material (as in written matter) (prune a manuscript before sending it off to the printer) (a good personal library, like a tree, must be pruned occasionally to stay healthy—advt)

Lop implies a cutting off or away by or as if by an axe, especially of what is superfluous; typically it suggests pruning and the removal of dead or unnecessary branches or boughs, but it may suggest the similar removal of something that may be regarded as improperly associated or as an encumbrance, a nuisance, or an interference (superfluous branches we lop away, that bearing boughs may live—Shak) (Virginia, even after Maryland had been lopped off, remained a dominion of imperial extent—Morison) Snip, like clip, may imply the employment of scissors, but it may also suggest the use of sharp fingernails or of any other instrument by which a part may be pinched or cut off; it differs from clip in emphasizing suddenness and quickness in movement. It, therefore, often suggests a cutting off of a small piece at a time or a cutting into bits (snip off a loose thread) (snip the dead flowers from a plant) (the child, with its newfound toy, a pair of scissors, was snipping the newspaper into pieces) Crop, in most of its meanings, implies the cutting off of the top (as of a tree or grass), but when it emphasizes that implication, it usually suggests the cutting off of a piece at the top (as for identification or punishment) or a cutting extremely close (as of the hair) (the stiff-necked sectaries . . . who had been glad to stand in pillories and suffer their ears to be cropped rather than put bread in the mouths of priests—Brooks) (this hair . . . had been cropped by the prison barber—Teats)

Ana *cut, slit, slash, hew: split, rive, cleave (see tear)

shed vb *discard, cast, molt, slough, scrap, junk
Ana remove, shift, transfer (see move): reject, repudiate, Ana Ana

place of natural shelter (as a copse, thicket, or dense shelter Wouk) inside it, and you're less vulnerable—sanctuary in a deserted house) <our clubs are refuge—Seldes) Asylum stresses usually voluntary retreat from danger or annoyance and escape to a condition or place promising safety or security or peace. It often suggests remoteness, solitude, quiet, or, in religious use, conditions affording opportunities for prayer and meditation (a hermit's retreat) (ah, for some retreat deep in yonder shining Orient—Tennyson) (regard the hut as a retreat and a camp rather than a home—Canby) Refuge also suggests an attempt to escape whatever threatens one's peace, safety, or happiness, but it usually implies fleeing from an attack or from pursuers, or something (as a thought or emotion) that harasses like a pursuer (refuse refuge to political exiles) (the escaped convict found refuge in a deserted house) (our clubs are . . . not refuges for bored husbands and homeless bachelors—Brownell) (millions of people . . . feel . . . the secrecy of the voting booth is their last refuge—Selden) Asylum adds to refuge the implications of exemption from seizure or plundering and the finding of safety (as in the care of a protector or in a place outside the jurisdiction of the law) (the embezzler sought asylum in a country that had no extradition treaty) (during the war that followed, Britain gave asylum to many exiles from different lands—Victor Ross) Sanctuary stresses the sacredness of the place and its claim to reverence or inviolability; thus, a sanctuary for wildlife is an area which is exempt from intrusion by hunters and trappers and in which predators commonly are controlled so that the forms of life which are their prey may flourish (if thou beakest aught that can attain the honor of my house, by Saint George! not the altar itself shall be a sanctuary—Scott) (the most important single event . . . in our history is that it is our turn to be freedom's shield and sanctuary—A. E. Stevenson)

Ana protection, safeguarding or safeguard (see corresponding verbs at DEFEND): *harbor, haven, port

shelter vb *harbor, lodge, house, entertain, board
Ana *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard: *receive, accept, admit

shibboleth *catchword, byword, slogan

shied vb *protect, guard, safeguard, *defend
Ana preserve, conserve, *save: *harbor, shelter, lodge, house

shift vb *move, remove, transfer
Ana displace, *replace: *change, alter, vary: veer, *swerve, deviate

shift n 1 makeshift, expedient, *resource, resort, stopgap, substitute, surrogate
Ana *device, contrivance, contraption: ruse, *trick, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy, wile, feint, artifice
2 tour, trick, turn, *spell, stint, bout, go
Ana *change, alternation: allotment, assignment (see corresponding verbs at ALLOT)

shimmy vb *shake, tremble, quake, totter, quiver, shiver, shudder, quaver, wobble, teeter, dither

ship n *boat, vessel, craft

ship vb forward, transmit, remit, route, *send, dispatch

shipshape adj 1 *neat, tidy, trim, trig, snug, spick-and-span

shirk vb *dodge, parry, sidestep, duck, fence, malinger
Ana evade, elude, avoid, *escape: *recoil, shirk, quail, flinch

shiver vb *shatter, *break, crack, burst, bust, snap

shoal vb quiver, shudder, quaver, *shake, tremble, quake, totter, wobble, teeter, shimmery, dither

shoal n Shoal, bank, reef, bar can all mean a shallow place in a body of water. In ordinary use shoal is applied

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
to a shallow place, especially one that is difficult to navigate. <dangerous shoals in uncharted waters> Bank, often as the plural banks, is applied to one that is formed by a muddy, sandy, or gravelly elevation but is deep enough to make navigation safe for lighter craft (as fishing boats) <the Grand Bank, also called the Banks of Newfoundland, is a noted fishing ground> and reef, to one where rock lies dangerously close to the surface <the reef-bound shores of Bermuda> Technically shoal is applied to elevations which are not rocky and on which the water is not more than 6 fathoms deep, bank to a similar elevation rising from the continental shelf and usually having a broad flat top under deeper water, and reef to a rocky elevation on which the water at low tide is 6 fathoms or less in depth. Bar carries implications found in many senses (as of length, narrowness, and hindrance). It is applied to a ridge of sand or gravel piled up and often across or nearly across a river’s mouth or an entrance to a harbor and obstructing navigation.

**Shore**

Shore, coast, beach, strand, bank, littoral, foreshore

---

**Shoot**

Shoot, branch, bough, limb can mean one of the following:

- **Shoot** vb 1 *rush, dash, tear, charge
  - *brief
  - *concise, terse, laconic

- **branch**
  - *excellence, merit, virtue, perfection

- **bough**
  - *imperfection, deficiency, fault

- **limb**
  - *excellence, merit, virtue, perfection

---

**Shorten**

Shorten, curtail, abbreviate, abridge, retrench can all mean to reduce in extent, especially by cutting. Shorten commonly implies reduction in length or duration <shorten a road by eliminating curves> <to shorten a visit> It is also often used of apparent rather than actual length <they shortened the journey by telling stories> <if we really shorten your own young life would be to let him know how clever you are—Mary Fitt> <the vaccines will not even shorten the course of a cold—Fishbein> Curtail adds to shorten the implication of making cuts that impair completeness or cause deprivation <the interruption of curtailed his speech> <the outdoor ceremony was curtailed because of the storm> <curtailed rights> <emergency order drastically curtail the use of fuel—Current Biog.> Abbreviate implies reducing by omitting some normally present or following part; thus one abbreviates a word by cutting out or cutting off letters; one abbreviates a discussion by bringing it to a close sooner than planned or anticipated <their outing was abbreviated by a sudden downpour> <a stocky square-jawed man of great physical strength and energy, though of abbreviated intelligence—Shirer> Abridge expresses reduction in compass or scope rather than in length <I feel you do not fully comprehend the danger of abriding the liberties of the people—Lincoln> but it may imply the retention of all that is essential and the relative completeness of the result <abridge a dictionary> Retrench stresses reduction in extent or costs of something felt to be in excess <retrench expenses> <the lords are retrenching visibly, and are especially careful to avoid any form of ostentation—Nancy Mitford>

---

**shoepit**

*trite, hackneyed, stereotyped, threadbare

**shoepit**

wasted (see HAGGARD): attenuated, diluted, thinned (see THIN vb): antiquated, obsolete, archaic (see OLD)

**shore**

Shore, coast, beach, strand, bank, littoral, foreshore
shout

*presently, soon, directly

shout vb Shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, holler, whoop are comparable when they mean as verbs to make or utter a loud and penetrating sound that tends or is intended to attract attention and, as nouns, a sound or utterance of this character. All, when used in reference to human utterance, can apply to either meaningful speech or inarticulate cries. Shout ordinarily implies vocal utterance in an energetically raised voice intended to carry a considerable distance or to rise above conflicting sound; in itself and apart from context the term carries no information about the emotional or meaning content or the tonal quality of the sound (the peddler...shout their wares with a cry which is like the howl of a wolf—Gardner) (the geishas followed us, shouting insults in English, Japanese and pantomime—Mailer) (the lusty yells of the brown-shirted masses or the shouts of the Fuehrer blaring from the loudspeakers—Shirer) (the cuckoo shouts all day at nothing in leafy dells alone—Housman)

In its extended use shout stresses attention-gaining quality (the brassy, peremptory shout of the ship's siren sounded... urgent and startling—R. B. Robertson) (his conservatory in winter is a shout of warring geraniums, which fills his heart with joy—G. W. Johnson) Yell is used chiefly with reference to human utterance and implies not only loudness but sharpness and stridency of sound and usually either the uncontrolled expression of an emotion (as horror, fear, rage, or triumph) or an urgent attempt to attract attention (the two boys yelled with fear—Buck) (stood a waiting crowd that let out a tumultuous yell of greeting—Sandburg) (heard the boy yell for help)

In its extended use yell may apply to a sound suggesting a human yell (heard the lacerating yell of a scared bird shrill in his ears—Gibson) (the long, sunless winters, with their wild storms, their yelling gales—C. D. Roberts) or to an urgent appeal (they have exposed the flimsiness of satellite power, which—when the chips are down—must yell for Red Army help—Goldstein) Shriek implies a piercingly shrill sound or tone and, as applied to human utterance, suggests a strong emotional background (as of fear, horror, or anguish or less often of some pleasant or neutral emotion) (a case of goods from Paris to examine with little shrieks of excitement—Jesse) (the heavy booming of surf...could not drown the shriek of the tortured metal in her damaged forepart—Porteous) (this instant's hesitation seemed to fill him with a tremendous, fantastic contempt, and he damned them in shrieked sentences—Crane) (I threatened the three men with my revolver, but they shrieked for mercy and I did not fire—R. H. Davis) In extended use shriek, like shout, stresses attention-gaining quality (the slogans and hyperboles of boundless confidence. The advertising columns shrieked with them—F. L. Allen) (the shriek of red furnaces against the sky—Brand) Shrimp in its basic use differs little from shriek (how quick the crows come flapping with their screams—Vance) (she screamed and fainted and came to and screamed and fainted all over again—Bromfield) (screaming to God for death by drowning—Millay) and it may be similar in extended use (the growing industries of Utah are screaming for water—Time) (the papers carried screaming headlines—Lovett) but more often its extension refers to something of which the action or occurrence is accompanied by or suggestive of physical screaming (every one of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year—George Orwell) (while smoke-black freight...screaming to the west coast, screaming to the east, carry off a harvest, bring back a feast—Lindsay) (smells of concentration camps and the basements of secret police. There are screaming nerves in it—Plessisley) Screech implies a prolonged, typically inarticulate shriek that is conspicuously harsh or discordant or trying to the nerves (the groan...had changed to a screech like an electric butcher saw on bone—Wouk) (three overfed fish house cats were screeching at each other—Joseph Mitchell) (their ungeased wooden wheels screeching a cacophony that could be heard for miles—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.)

In extended uses it is closely comparable to such uses of scream (many photographers...congratulate themselves when they have almost blown you down with screeching hues alone—a bebop of electric blues, furious reds, and poison greens—Fortune) (the driver applied his brakes with a jerk, and the car screeched to a standstill—Bruce Marshall) Scream implies a sharp shrill sound that is not necessarily especially loud and that, if of human origin, is ordinarily less emotion-charged than a shriek, scream, or screech (the hulk of this man belied the squeal of his piping voice like a run-down wheel—Salomon) (on the stage the talk of Mr. Steinbeck's characters occasionally hits the ear with the effect of chalk squealing on a slate—Lardner) Often the term is used with specific reference to the natural cries of certain animals (the urgent squeals of a hungry pig) (rats squealing between the walls) Holler ordinarily refers to human utterance that in tone and volume is equivalent to shout (his holler and shout made the bobcat shiver—Warren) Often it implies a purpose (as of warning or attracting attention) (hollered again and again until the boy turned) or an expression (as of surprise or distress or anger) (let out a holler as the stone whizzed by his head)

In extended use the term stresses vehemence (as in expositulating or criticizing or demanding) (the correspondents holler so...because the legend of the profession demands that one must be objective in all things—Belden) (I didn't see he'd taken my line at first and when I did I put up a holler—Brace) (in spite of six rate increases in the last seven years, casualty companies are already getting ready to holler for more—Time) Whoop, like holler, usually refers to human utterance equivalent in quality to shout, but ordinarily it implies eagerness, enthusiasm, or enjoyment as a cause (made a man want to cry and whoop all at the same time—Kroy) In its varied extended uses it is likely to suggest exuberant, often noisy, vigor or vitality (whoops up a selling boom—Stegner) (whooped through on a voice vote a stopgap foreign aid appropriation bill—Current Biog.)

Ana *roar, bellow, bawl, howl

shout n yell, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, holler, whoop (see under SHOUT vb)

Ana bellow, vociferation, clamor, bawl, roar (see under ROAR vb)

shove vb *push, thrust, propel

Ana *force, constrain, oblige, compel, coerce: impel, drive. *move

show vb 1 Show, manifest, evidence, evince, demonstrate are comparable when they mean to reveal something outwardly by or as by a sign, or to serve to make something outwardly apparent or visible. Shows imply enabling others to see, but in this case what is revealed can only be inferred (as from acts, words, or looks) (he never shows what he thinks) (Tony...asked a question or two designed to show his intelligence—Archibald Marshall) (in this decision he showed his capacity for extreme boldness—Buchan) Slacksness among civilians
or display. He . . . looked me over as if I had been an analoguous words playing anomalous

The term sometimes means little more than to exhibit, shows, exhibits, or displays it consciously or unconsciously—which he puts forward prominently or openly, either with the express intention or with the result of attracting others’ attention or inspection. One shows something which he enables others to see or look at (as by putting it forward into view intentionally or inadvertently or by taking another where he may see it) <showed his tongue to the doctor> <show our new home to friends> <show the city to an out-of-town guest> <the picture purported to show the earth’s convexity—Martin Gardner> (I don’t think he ever showed his full powers—Lasky) One exhibits something which he puts forward prominently or openly, either with the express intention or with the result of attracting others’ attention or inspection <exhibit the museum’s collection of Whistler engravings> <exhibit articles made by children in school> (in many fashionable gown shops, garments are not exhibited but are shown only to prospective purchasers) <exhibit unreasonable fear> (if any crave redress of injustice, they should exhibit their petitions in the street—Shak) (he exhibited with peculiar pride two cream-colored mules—Cather) <a group of rectangular buildings, exhibiting the stark functionalism of a toy village—Marquand> One displays something when he spreads it out before the view of others or puts it in a position where it can be seen to advantage or with great clearness <the exhibition was criticized because many paintings were not properly displayed> <the male makes a play for the female . . . by strutting before her, displaying his accomplishments, his prowess, his charms—Edmund Wilson> One exposes something when he brings it out of hiding or concealment or from under cover and shows, exhibits, or displays it consciously or unconsciously. The term sometimes means little more than to exhibit or display <he . . . looked me over as if I had been exposed for sale—Conrad> <the tide was low and the mudbanks were exposed and reeking—Cheever> Often it means to reveal publicly something and especially something disagreeable that has been or should be concealed <afraid to expose his ignorance by asking questions> (it was my duty to leave no stone unturned to discover and expose the awful truth—Rose Macaulay) Frequently it carries the additional implication of unmasking (it was . . . his friends . . . that he attacks in this terrible story of the passing stranger who took such a vitriolic joy in exposing their pretensions and their hypocrisy—Brooks)

One parades something by displaying it ostentatiously or arrogantly <smugly parading his honesty> <I can’t believe that God wants the strong to parade their strength—Hellman> <he is a writer who does not raise his voice. He avoids emphasis. His finest phrases . . . are tucked away, not paraded—J. M. Brown> Sometimes the term implies not merely ostentation or arrogance but an intent to deceive or mislead <parades her love for her husband only because she actually did not love him—Parshley> <speaking with open contempt of mature persons who paraded their deference to the wishes of a father—Krutich>

One flaunts something when one parades it shamelessly, often boastfully, and offensively <they flaunt their conjugal felicity in one’s face—Wilde> <ye vaunted your fathomless power, and ye flaunted your iron pride—Kipling> <over this was an unbelievable flaunting of opulence—Hervey>

Ana *indicate, betoken, attest, bespeak, argue, prove: intimate, hint, *suggest

Ant disguise

Show n *exhibition, exhibit, exposition, fair

Showy, pretentious, ostentatious can mean making or presenting an outward display that is by implication greater than what is necessary or justifiable. Showy, the ordinary term, carries less definite implications than the other words. It implies an imposing, striking, or impressive appearance, but it often suggests cheapness, inferiority, or poor taste <showy brass ware—Shaw> <showy furniture> <showy decorations> or undue conspicuousness or gaudiness <a showy wallpaper design> <showy peonies> or overattention to superficial qualities <the showy talents, in which the present age prides itself—Newman> Pretentious (see also AMBITIOUS 2) suggests even less warrant for display, for it usually implies an appearance that is not justified by the thing’s actual value or actual cost or by the person’s actual worth, rank, performance, or capability; the term therefore implies a criticism of whatever is described <I’d rather you didn’t call me “sir” . . . it might give rise to the idea that I had asked you to . . . It might appear rather pretentious—Mackenzie> <his sense of character is nil, and he is as pretentious as a rich whore, as sentimental as a lollipop—Mailer> (a brilliant sham, which, like a badly built and pretentious house, looks poor and shabby after a few years—Cather)

Ostentatious stresses vainglorious display or parade but it does not necessarily imply either showiness or pretentiousness <ostentatious public charities—Wilde> <the ostentatious simplicity of their dress—Macaulay> <thought their cortège ostentatious . . . slaves marching ahead with drums, porters bearing food and . . . gifts, and an armed escort—Hervey>

Ana *gaudy, tawdry, garish, flashy, meretricious: splendid, gorgeous (see SPLENDID): opulent, sumptuous, *luxurious

Shrew scold, vixen, termagant, *virago, amazon

Shrewd, sagacious, perspicacious, astute can all mean acute in perception and sound in judgment, especially in reference to practical affairs. Shrewd implies native
cleverness, acumen, and an exceptional ability to see below the surface; it often also connotes hardheadedness
\(<\text{a shrewd bargain}\>\) \(<\text{a shrewd observer}\>\) \(<\text{a shrewd remark}\>\) \(<\text{the shrewd wisdom of an unlettered old woman}\>\) \(<\text{Pater}\>\) \(<\text{the hard mind of a shrewd small-town boy, the kind of boy who knows you have a real cigar only when you are the biggest man in town—\text{Mailer}}\>\) \(<\text{she had had a mania for buying and selling land, and was a shrewd judge of values—\text{Wolfe}}\>\) \(<\text{Sagacious}\>\) \(<\text{Perspicacious}\>\)

Perspicacious is usually applied to persons or their decisions, their judgments, and their methods of pursuing their ends; it stresses penetration, discernment, judiciousness, and often, farsightened \(<\text{the auctioneer, a small sagacious individual . . . , was directing his two blue-jowled assistants in the business of displaying to their best advantage the remaining pieces—\text{Wylie}}\>\) \(<\text{he left an estate of approximately $172,000, accumulated through sagacious investments—\text{Dillard}}\>\)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shun</td>
<td>avoid, evade, elude, escape, eschew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shudder</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shriek</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shrivel</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shrink</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shrill</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shy</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sic</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sick</td>
<td>adj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>side</td>
<td>vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sidereal</td>
<td>adj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sig inbound</th>
<th>sign vb</th>
<th>Sigh, sob, moan, groan are comparable as verbs vb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|[sigh, sob] |[moan, groan] |[sigh implies a deep audible respiration that is a usually involuntary expression of grief, intense longing, regret, discouragement, weariness, or boredom][sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, men were deceivers ever—Shak.][A sigh uttered from the fullness of the heart—Hazlitt][The stranger sometimes seemed to be under stress, sighed much and muttered inaudibly to himself—Malamud.][Sigh] implies a sound made by a convulsive catching of the breath when weeping or when both speaking and crying or when trying to restrain tears; the noun, however, more often refers solely to this sound and does not use the verb, which often implies accompanying tears and speech (“Ah!” It was a long, grieving sound, like a sigh—almost like a sob—Dickens)[The mother...][knelt by his side, and they prayed, and their joint sobs shook their bodies, but neither of them shed many tears—Meredith][She sobbed out her story (like a child sobbing itself to sleep) Moan] implies a low, prolonged, usually inarticulate sound, especially one that is indicative of intense suffering of mind or body (they are quick to hear the moans of immemorial grief—Blunden)[Polly moaned, overwhelmed with retrospective shame and embarrassment—Huxley][To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made—Shak.][The term, however, is often extended to sounds suggestive of pain, complaint, or murmuring (the moan of the wind) (the moan of doves in immemorial elms—Tennyson) (the rain and the wind splashed and gurgled and moaneded round the house—Kipling)[Groan] implies a heavier sound than moan and more often suggests an unbearable weight of suffering or a strong spirit of rebellionness to pain or discomfort (thy groans did make wolves howl—Shak.)(The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now—Rom 8:22)[Often however, in extended use the term carries no hint of suffering but implies noises made in strong disapproval or in pretended suffering (greet a speaker with groans or by something that moves or swings heavily (trees groaning in the wind) (the door upon its hinges groans—Keats)](The groan under the floorboard had changed to a scream—it shrieked)[Ana] [sigh out][moan, sob (see under sigh vb)Ana][sigh][regret, *sorrow, grief][sigh][look, view, glance, glimpse, peep, peekAna][sigh][prospect, outlook: vision, *revelation][sigh][blind, purblind][sigh][1 Sign, mark, token, badge, note, symptom can denote a sensible and usually visible indication by means of which something not outwardly apparent or obvious is made known or revealed. Sign is the most comprehensive of these terms, being referable to a symbol (see also CHARACTER 1) or a symbolic device or act (the mace is the sign of authority) (make the sign of the cross) or to a visible or sensible manifestation of a mood, a mental or physical state, or a quality of character (good manners are signs of good breeding) (they are gestures of exclusion—not snobbery, merely signs of a private life with all its unique standards—Fadiman). Suicide is the sign of failure, misery, and despair—Ellis) or to a trace or vestige of someone or something (the signs of her fate in a footprint here, a broken twig there, a trinket dropped by the way—Conrad) or to objective evidence that serves as a presage or foretoken (signs of an early spring) (there are signs that poetry is beginning to occupy itself again with the possibilities of sound—Day Lewis) (two men that night watched for a sign, listened for a wonder—Gwyn Jones) and concretely to a placard, board, tablet, or card that serves to identify, announce, or direct (watch for a road sign) (a brilliantly lighted bar sign) (did you see the sign announcing the new play?) (“for rent” signs in the dingy windows)[Mark (see also CHARACTER 1) may be preferred to sign when the distinguishing or revealing indication is thought of as something impressed upon a thing or inherently characteristic of it, often in contrast to something outwardly apparent or displayed (the bitter experience left its mark on him) (courtesy is the mark of a gentleman) (the distinguishing marks of Victorian poetry) (what, then, are the marks of culture and efficiency?—Suzallo) (the unrealized schemes of [the] past... have usually left their mark in the shape of some unfinished pier, half completed parade—Angus Wilson)[Concretely also mark is applied either (1) to some visible trace (as a scar or a stain or a track) left upon a thing (birthmark) (the marks of smallpox) (the high-water mark is observable on the pier's supports) (the marks of an army's passage) (they found not a button, or feather, or mark, by which they could tell that they stood on the ground where the Baker had met with the Snark—Lewis Carroll) or (2) to something that is affixed in order to distinguish, identify, or label a particular thing or to indicate its ownership (a trademark) (a laundry mark) Token (see also PLEDGE) can replace sign and also mark except in their specific concrete applications when the sensible indication serves as a proof of or is given as evidence of the actual existence of something that has no physical existence (how could he doubt her love when he had had so many tokens of her affection?) (the savages bore gifts as tokens of their desire for peace and friendship) (tokens tossed his way—an occasional salute, a “well done” for the prefigliths...)[sagas smile—were hoarded fervently—Pynchon)[Badge designates a piece of metal or a ribbon carrying an inscription or emblem and worn upon the person as a token of one’s membership in a society or as a sign of one’s office, employment, or function (a policeman’s badge) (each delegate wore a badge) (a gold key is the badge of Kappa Alpha) (in every use badge often is employed in place of sign, mark, or token when it is thought of in reference to a class, a group, a category of persons, or as a distinctive feature of their dress, their appearance, or their character (for suffering is the badge of all our tribe—Shak.) (essentially we were taught to regard culture as a veneer, a badge of class distinction—Malcolm Cowley) (the diplomat wearing his badge of office, the Homburg—Siler)[Note usually means a distinguishing or dominant mark or characteristic; it differs from mark, its closest synonym, in suggesting something emitted or given out by a thing, rather than something impressed upon that thing (a fertile oasis possesses a characteristic color scheme of its own...)[The fundamental note is struck by the palms—Huxley] (you walk on stage... and somehow you’re alive, and inside the part, and yet you’re projecting a peculiar note, your own—Wouk) (the note of sadness... which... poems were to find so much more to their taste than the note of gladness—Henry Adams) Note may be used in place of mark for a characteristic that seems to emanate from a thing that strikes one as true or authentic and therefore is the test of a similar thing’s truth, genuineness, or authoritativeness (the grand manner that is the note of great poetry)]

| samedi | 737 | sign |

**Ana** analogous words  **Ant** antonyms  **Con** contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page [1]
The image contains a page from a text discussing the meanings and uses of the word "signal". The text is a dictionary entry with definitions and usage examples. The page is paginated and numbered 738. The content is formatted in a structured manner, with definitions and examples provided in a clear and readable format. The text is written in English and is organized in a way that helps the reader understand the different meanings and connotations of the word "signal". The text is dense and requires attention to detail to fully grasp the nuances of the word's usage.
**simultaneous** synchronous, coincident, *contemporary, contemporaneous, coeval, coetaneous, concomitant, concurrent

**Ana** concurring, coinciding, agreeing (see **AGREE**)

**Con** *preceding, forgoing, antecedent, previous: following, succeeding, ensuing (see **FOLLOW**)

**sin** *offense, vice, crime, scandal

**Ana** transgression, trespass, *breach, violation: *error, lapse, slip: *fault, failing, frailty

**since** *because, for, as, inasmuch as, since

**conj**

**sin**

**Ana** insincere

**Ant**

**candid, open, *frank, plain: honest, honorable, straightforward, aboveboard, forthright

**Ant** insincere

**sinewy** *muscular, athletic, husky, brawny, burly

**Ana** robust, *healthy, sound: *strong, tough, tenacious, sturdy: nervous, *vigorous, energetic

**sing** vb *Sing, troll, carol, descant, warble, trill, hymn, chant, intone all mean to produce musical tones by or as if by means of the voice. Sing is the general term used of human beings and of animals and things that produce musical or sustained tones. In its primary application to human beings it usually implies utterance in words with musical inflections or modulations and often suggests such modulated utterance as an art to be practiced, studied, or learned <sing an aria> <sing the part of Faust> <sing a plaintive song> <she studied singing diligently but lacked the voice to profit from instruction> <grasshoppers chirping, and birds singing—Shaw> <the rigging sang in the wind> Troll usually suggests the use of full round tones in singing <while mountains were unloosing their hair to the music waterfalls trolled like bells for the wedding—Babette Deutsch> and is especially applicable to the hearty voices of jovial men raised in singing or the resounding celebration in song of great events or deeds <let us be jocund. Will you troll the catch you taught me but whiere?—Shak> <strange adventure that we’re trolling: modest maid and gallant groom—Gilbert> Carol suggests the voices of youthful, lively, or joyous singers, usually of persons, sometimes of birds; it may or may not suggest the singing of carols, but it often implies merriment or effortlessness and spontaneity <used to carol cheerfully in the morning, locked in the single bathroom—Canby> <a wren on a tree stump caroled clear—Masefield> Descant (see also **DISCOURSE**) implies part singing or, especially, the singing of a higher part in harmony with the plainsong of the tenor in a contrapuntal treatment. Descant often merely implies harmonious singing or singing in harmony with <they will . . . sing so sweetly, and withall descant it so finely and tunably—Topsell> <a device by which several singers appear to be descanting, when in fact only one is doing so—Grove’s Dict. of Music> Warble frequently implies singing in a soft and gentle voice but with various modulations (as turns and trills and quavers); often it means no more than to sing melodiously or with sweetness <warble his native woodnotes wild—Milton> <the skylark warbles high his trembling thrilling ecstasy—Gray> Trill basically means to sing with trills or vibrations (as by rapidly alternating two notes a degree apart) <trill like a canary> but it is often extended to refer to the making of sounds involving vibration without much thought of musical quality <with a shrill trilling from the countless leaves in between gusts of wind—Idriess> <rilled his soup into his mouth with a swift sucking vibration—The Use of English> <could hear the noise of a telephone trilling—James Heilvick> Hymn implies a lifting of the voice in some sort of worship or praise, especially of God <evening by evening, as they came to the setting sun, they hymned Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—Pusey> <the thrush concerting with the lark that hymned on high—Pollok> Chant may mean little more than sing, but often it is used specifically to imply the method of singing adopted by priests or choristers singing unmetrical verse where the emphasis is upon musical recitation of phrases, measured even tones, and a reverential spirit. Intone also comes very close to the specific sense of chant in meaning but sometimes carries a stronger connotation of reciting in sustained monotone <the Psalms were chanted> <the priest intoned the Gospel of the Mass> <I joined with choirs of monks, intoning their deep sonorous dirges—L. P. Smith> <they would take hands and ring-a-rosy about him, chanting at the tops of their voices, until good humor was restored—Mary Austin>

**singe** see, *burn, scorch, char

**single** adj 1 *unmarried, celibate, virgin, maiden

2 Single, sole, unique, lone, solitary, separate, particular can all mean one as distinguished from two or more or all others. Something single is not accompanied or supported by, or combined or united with, another <a single instance may be cited> <the strength of the lyric lies in
single

741

sinister

the complete statement of a single selected facet of experience—Day Lewis> (that was the greatest single thing that had ever happened to her. No one had ever looked at her and made a respectful gesture before—Theodore Sturgeon) Something sole is the only one that exists, that acts, that has power or relevance, or that is to be or should be considered (he is the sole heir) (this is his sole invention) (your conscience must be the sole judge in this case) (acquire the sole rights of publication) (his sole object was to study the form of his sitter's head in every detail—Alexander) (California is not the sole repository of political virtue in the United States—Armbister) Something unique (see also strange) may be the only one of its kind in existence (the medal is unique, for no duplicates were made) (of the world's geniuses he strikes me as being unique—Mailer) or it may stand alone because of its unusual character (the unique character of the English conquest of Britain—Malone) (they stand alone, unique, objects of supreme interest—Osborne) Something lone (see also alone) is not only single but also separated or isolated from others of its kind; the word often replaces single to note a point contrast (to sit beneath a slip lone beechen tree—Keats) (the ambitious Aaron Burr, who played a lone hand against the field—Parrington) (constitutes the lone industry of the community—Amer. Guide Series: Vts.) Something solitary (see also alone) stands by itself, either as the sole instance or as a unique thing (her world was the Church, in which she hoped that her solitary child would some day be a polished pillar—Buchan) (began to eat again fiercely, like a great strong animal, tackling the solitary meal of its day—O'Flaherty) Something separate (see also distinct 1) is not only single, but disconnected from or unconnected with any of the others in question (turning over in his thoughts every separate second of their hours together—Wharton) (group consciousness . . . makes the individual think lightly of his own separate interests—Cohen) Something particular (see also special; circumstantial; nice 1) is the single or numerically distinct instance, member, or example of the whole or the class considered or under consideration (a special provision for a known and particular territory—Taney) (Richard . . . replied that he had an engagement at a particular hour, up to which he was her servant—Meredith) (reality is a succession of concrete and particular situations—Huxley) Ana individual, particular, *special, especial, specific Ant accompanied; supported: conjugal single vb prefer, *choose, select, elect, opt, pick, cull Ana *take, seize, grasp: grab: accept, *receive, admit: *decide, determine, settle singular *strange, unique, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, outlandish, curious Ana *different, diverse, divergent, disparate: *exceptional: *abnormal, atypical, aberrant Con ordinary, *common, familiar: *usual, customary, habitual sinister, baleful, malign, malefic, maleficient all mean seriously threatening, portending, or promising evil or disaster, usually imminent or already initiated evil or disaster. Sinister is the most commonly employed of these words and the widest in its range of reference. It may be applied not only to something perceptible (a sinister cloud) (a sinister look) but to something imperceptible (a sinister influence) (a sinister intention). In either case sinister often expresses a judgment based on experience or on an interpretation of outward signs and implies on the part of the observer a resulting fear or apprehension of approaching evil or of lurking dangers; thus, a cloud is describable as sinister when it has the color, shape, or general character of one that the observer believes to precede a tornado; a person's influence may be interpreted as sinister when it is judged in the light of some of its visible effects (she was about half a mile from her residence when she beheld a sinister redness arising from a ravine a little way in advance—Hardy) (some of the customers did look sinister enough—scar-faced thugs in ragged caps—Wouk) (I did not wish him to know that I had suspected him of harboring any sinister designs—Hudson) Sinister is also applied to something that works or operates so covertly, insidiously, or obliquely that it is likely to find those whose well-being it threatens off guard (a sinister disease) (a sinister policy) (the sinister power exercised . . . by the combination in keeping rivals out of the business and ruining those who already were in—Justice Holmes) Baleful carries an even stronger suggestion of menace than sinister for it implies inevitable suffering, misery, or destruction; often it implies perverseness, noxiousness, or hellishness to the thing so described. It is applicable to something that works openly and without indirection (this dread power . . . can be made a giant help to humanity but science does not know how to prevent its baleful use—Baruch) as well as to something that works occultly or obliquely (deceit contrived by art and baleful sorcery—Shak.) (culling their potent herbs and baleful drugs—Milton) (the baleful power of fanaticisms and superstitions—Edmund Wilson) (the baleful horoscope of Abdallah had predicted the downfall of Granada—Prescott) Malign (see also malicious) carries over from its earliest sense a suggestion of an inherently evil or harmful tendency or disposition, even though the term in this sense is characteristically applied to inanimate things (as appearances, aspects, forces, or influences) rather than to persons (the eyes were no longer merely luminous points; they looked into his own with a meaning, a malign significance—Bierce) (believe that lions will only kill humans under a malign human influence—Wyatt) It also carries connotations (as of boding evil or disaster) derived from its reference in astrology to the aspects or the influences of the stars (a struggle between two forces, the one beneficent, the other malign—Bryce) (the spirit of competition, which, according to Rousseau, was one of the earliest of the malign fruits of awakening intelligence—Grandgent) (dense masses of smoke hung amid the darting snakes of fire, and a red malign light was on the neighboring leafage—Meredith) and occasionally suggests a force or power contributory to boded disaster (the prickly topic of symbolism, with its malign power to set the wise by the ears—Montague) Malefic and maleficient carry a stronger suggestion of balefulness than does malign, for both regularly imply not only a tendency toward but an active force productive of evil or disaster; thus, a malign influence bodes disaster; a malefic or maleficient influence is putting the threat of disaster into effect (the malefic arts of sorcery, witchcraft, and diabolism) (conjunctions for the expulsion of malefic demons—Norman Douglas) (Saturn . . . represents malefic force. Cold, hostile, merciless . . . he blights all that he gazes on—Evangeline Adams) (like everything that has outlived its usefulness nationalistic has changed from a beneficent force into a maleficient force—C. K. Street) (at times his maleficient power burst open the peak, sent fire through the jagged holes, and destroyed villages—Dickens) Ana *ominous, portentous, fateful, unpromising, insidious: *secret, covert, furtive, underhand, under-
handed: *malicious, malignant, malevolent, spiteful

sink vb *fall, drop, slump, subside

sinuous *winding, flexuous, serpentine, tortuous
Ana circuitous, roundabout, *indirect: *crooked, devious

sire vb beget, get, procreate, *generate, engender, breed, propagate, reproduce

site n *place, position, location, situation, spot, station
Ana *area, tract, region, zone: *field, territory, province; section, sector (see PART): *locality, district

situation 1 *place, position, location, site, spot, station
Ana *area, region, tract, zone: section, sector (see PART): *locality, district, vicinity, neighborhood
2 *state, condition, mode, posture, status
Ana *junction, pass, crisis, exigency, emergency: *predicament, plight, quandary, dilemma: case, *instance

size n Size, dimensions, area, extent, magnitude, volume

are here compared primarily as terms meaning the amount of space occupied or sometimes of time or energy used by a thing and determinable by measuring. Size usually refers to things having length, width, and depth or height; it need not imply accurate mathematical measurements but may suggest a mere estimate of these <the size of this box is 10 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 5 inches deep> <these trees are not the right size> <what is the size of the room?> <that exceptional mushroom, skull-like in its proportions and bold in size—Molier>

Size is also referable to things which cannot be measured in themselves, but can be computed in terms of the number of individuals which comprise them or the amount of space occupied by those individuals <the mere complexity and size of a modern state is against the identification of the man with the citizen—Dickinson> Since dimension means measurement in a single direction (as the line of length, or breadth, or depth) the plural dimensions, used collectively, is a close synonym of size: in contrast, however, it usually implies accurate measurements that are known or specified <the window frames must be exactly alike in dimensions> <the dimensions of the universe are not calculable> <the dimensions of the lot are 75 by 100 feet> <no reliable calipers exist long enough to stretch into the next century and measure the dimensions of greatness—Fadiman>

Area is referable only to things measurable in the two dimensions length and breadth. It is used of plane figures or of plane surfaces (as the ground, a floor, or an arena) and is computed in square measure <the estate is 200 acres in area> <the forest fire covered an area of ten square miles> <the area of a rectangle is computed by multiplying its length by its breadth> <the major areas of the world are in the throes of revolutionary social change—Geismar>

Extent is referable chiefly to things that are measured in one dimension; it may be the length or the breadth, but it is usually thought of as the length <the driveway's extent is 100 feet> <the wings of the airplane are 75 feet in extent> However it is often used as though it were the equivalent of area <the base- ment of St. Katherine's Dock House is vast in extent and confusing in its plan—Conrad> <the reports . . . constantly express amazement at the extent and severity of Russian attacks and counterattacks—Shirer>

The word is also referable to measured time or to space measured in terms of time; thus, the duration of a thing is the extent of its existence <few lives reach the extent of one hundred years> <Germany was . . . a nine days' march from north to south, and of incalculable extent from west to east—Buchan>

Magnitude, largely a mathematical and technical term, may be used in reference to size or two-dimensional extent <a queer little isolated point in time, with no magnitude, but only position—Rose Macaulay> It may be used also in reference to something measurable whose exact quantity, extent, or degree may be expressed in mathematical figures; thus, the magnitude of a star is indicated by a number that expresses its relative brightness <an alpha particle bearing a positive charge equal in magnitude to twice the electron charge—Darrow> <the magnitude of the structure as a whole and the massive nature of its details are never obtrusive—O. S. Nock>

Volume (see also BULK) is also a technical term; it is used in reference to something that can be measured or considered in terms of cubic measurements; thus, the volume of a solid cylinder is equal to the cubic measure of air it displaces, and that of a hollow one, to the cubic measure of its capacity; two objects that are equal in volume may differ greatly in weight; when a thing expands, it increases in volume <we could readily store a million times as many stars in the present volume of the system—B. J. Bok> <you may say that the waves . . . are not like real waves; but they move, they have force and volume—Binyon>

Ana amplitude, *expansive, spread, stretch: *bulk, mass, volume

skedaddle *scuttle, scurry, scamper, sprint

Ana flea, fly, *escape, decamp: retreat, *recede: withdraw, retire (see GO)
skeleton *structure, anatomy, framework

skepticism *uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, mistrust

sketch n 1 outline, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, plot, blueprint (see under SKETCH vb)
Ana design, plot, *plan, scheme, project: *chart, map
2 précis, aperçu, *compendium, syllabus, digest, pandect, survey

sketch vb Sketch, outline, diagram, delineate, draft, trace, plot, blueprint are comparable when they mean to present or to represent something by or as if by drawing its lines or its features. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns sketch, outline, diagram, delineation, draft, tracing, plot, blueprint. Sketch may imply a drawing, a painting, a model, or a verbal presentation (as in a description or exposition) of the main lines, features, or points with the result that a clear, often a vivid, but not a detailed impression or conception of the whole is given <then, in a calm historian's tone, he proceeded to sketch . . . some pictures of the corruption which was rife abroad—Joyce> <this lecture is a humble attempt to sketch out a metaphysics of natural science—Inge> <a sculptor's sketch of his design for a memorial> <in some of Miss Jewett's earlier books . . . one can find first sketches, first impressions, which later crystallized into almost flawless examples of literary art—Cather>

Outline (compare outline n 1) differs from sketch in suggesting emphasis upon the contours of a thing that is represented or the main points of a thing expounded and in implying more or less inattention to the details which fill up, amplify, or particularize; the term therefore usually implies a more rigid selection and greater economy in treatment and less consideration for qualities which give pleasure than sketch implies and, often, suggests a presentation of a thing as a simplified whole <outlining a plan for a future investigation—Conant> <the detailed study of history should be supplemented by brilliant outlines, even if they contained questionable generalizations—Russell> <the gist of these books was preserved in a series of small outlines—Southern>

Diagram implies presentation by means of a graphic design (as a mechanical drawing, a pattern showing arrangement and distribution of parts,
or a chart, map, or graph) of something which requires explanation rather than representation or portrayal. The nervous system (diagram) his route on the table—Cather (spread out on the table a number of maps and aerial photographs that diagrammed what the Authority is up to—Robert Rice (there was little or no desire to amend the comprehensive diagram of constitutional theory—Times Lit. Sup.) Delinate and delineation come close to describe and description and depict and depiction. Though they carry a strong implication of drawing a thing so as to show its lines or features with great distinctness, they tend to stress amplifying details and therefore often imply greater fullness or richness in treatment than the preceding words (his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials. He could delineate whatever he elected with technical skill—Jefferies) (the cult of beauty and the delineation of ugliness are not in natural opposition—Pound (he had a capacity for delineating emotions he had never felt—Edman) Draft, especially as a verb, implies accurate drawing to scale, especially of an architect's plan for a building to be constructed or of a design (as for a ship, a machine, or an engine) (young architects usually spend their first years in drafting plans rather than in designing buildings) The term may apply to the drawing up of a preliminary statement which when corrected, polished, and copied will serve as a final statement (draft me a proper letter to send him—Shaw) (I have three or four drafts of each essay or chapter that I have written, and ... all of them run to about twice the length of the finished piece—Geismar) (the legislature did pass a measure ... yet the controls were suggested—some insist drafted—by the industry itself—Armbister) Trace and tracing in their perhaps most common use refer to redrawing an existing design by following its lines as seen through a superimposed transparent sheet, but they can also apply when a precise and detailed pattern is to be formed by or as if by drawing. The terms are more likely to suggest accuracy in or as if in following or sometimes shakiness resulting from or as if from following a continuous line than they are to imply anything about the qualities of what is to be traced (trace an outline to be colored with crayons) (make a tracing of a diagram) (continuous blood pressure tracings have been recorded—Armstrong) (time was tracing purple reminders on his nose and cheeks—Costain) (Kurler swore, a palsied, tottering sound, and traced his name, a shaking, wandering line—Lowell) (with my eyes I traced the line of the horizon, thin and fine, straight around till I was come back to where I'd started from—Millay) (his fumbling brain had traced the braille of an enduring and bitter truth—Hervey) Plot is often used in place of diagram or draft or, less often, sketch when a map, chart, or graph rather than a design is implied; distinctively it throws emphasis upon the indicating of specific locations (as points, areas, sections, or objectives) so that their relation to each other or the whole is clear; thus, one who diagrammatically represents the condition of business during a given year by means of a graph is said to plot a graph or to make a plot of the course of business (plot the course of a hurricane) (plot ... the exact position of the ship—Heaton) Blueprint, from its common application to a photograph in white lines on blue paper of a draftsman's mechanical drawing or of an architect's plan, in extended use implies precise and detailed sketching or delineation; it suggests not the act of drawing or drawing up but the effect produced by what is drawn or drawn up (people engaged in the amusing and innocuous pastime of blueprinting a new social order—The Commonweal) (the political leaders of the two coun-

or a chart, map, or graph) of something which requires explanation rather than representation or portrayal. The nervous system (diagram) his route on the table—Cather (spread out on the table a number of maps and aerial photographs that diagrammed what the Authority is up to—Robert Rice (there was little or no desire to amend the comprehensive diagram of constitutional theory—Times Lit. Sup.) Delinate and delineation come close to describe and description and depict and depiction. Though they carry a strong implication of drawing a thing so as to show its lines or features with great distinctness, they tend to stress amplifying details and therefore often imply greater fullness or richness in treatment than the preceding words (his brush did its work with a steady and sure stroke that indicated command of his materials. He could delineate whatever he elected with technical skill—Jefferies) (the cult of beauty and the delineation of ugliness are not in natural opposition—Pound (he had a capacity for delineating emotions he had never felt—Edman) Draft, especially as a verb, implies accurate drawing to scale, especially of an architect's plan for a building to be constructed or of a design (as for a ship, a machine, or an engine) (young architects usually spend their first years in drafting plans rather than in designing buildings) The term may apply to the drawing up of a preliminary statement which when corrected, polished, and copied will serve as a final statement (draft me a proper letter to send him—Shaw) (I have three or four drafts of each essay or chapter that I have written, and ... all of them run to about twice the length of the finished piece—Geismar) (the legislature did pass a measure ... yet the controls were suggested—some insist drafted—by the industry itself—Armbister) Trace and tracing in their perhaps most common use refer to redrawing an existing design by following its lines as seen through a superimposed transparent sheet, but they can also apply when a precise and detailed pattern is to be formed by or as if by drawing. The terms are more likely to suggest accuracy in or as if in following or sometimes shakiness resulting from or as if from following a continuous line than they are to imply anything about the qualities of what is to be traced (trace an outline to be colored with crayons) (make a tracing of a diagram) (continuous blood pressure tracings have been recorded—Armstrong) (time was tracing purple reminders on his nose and cheeks—Costain) (Kurler swore, a palsied, tottering sound, and traced his name, a shaking, wandering line—Lowell) (with my eyes I traced the line of the horizon, thin and fine, straight around till I was come back to where I'd started from—Millay) (his fumbling brain had traced the braille of an enduring and bitter truth—Hervey) Plot is often used in place of diagram or draft or, less often, sketch when a map, chart, or graph rather than a design is implied; distinctively it throws emphasis upon the indicating of specific locations (as points, areas, sections, or objectives) so that their relation to each other or the whole is clear; thus, one who diagrammatically represents the condition of business during a given year by means of a graph is said to plot a graph or to make a plot of the course of business (plot ... the exact position of the ship—Heaton) Blueprint, from its common application to a photograph in white lines on blue paper of a draftsman's mechanical drawing or of an architect's plan, in extended use implies precise and detailed sketching or delineation; it suggests not the act of drawing or drawing up but the effect produced by what is drawn or drawn up (people engaged in the amusing and innocuous pastime of blueprinting a new social order—The Commonweal) (the political leaders of the two coun-

tries are guided by the same political blueprints—Bevan) Ana design, plot, plan, scheme, project (see under PLAN n): chart, map, graph (see under CHART n) skewbald *variegated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, dappled, freaked skid vb *slide, slip, glide, glissade, slither, coast, toboggan skill *art, cunning, craft, artifice Ana profiency, adeptness, expertness (see corresponding adjectives at PROFICIENT): efficiency, effectiveness (see corresponding adjectives at EFFECTIVE): *readiness, facility, dexterity, ease skilled skillful, *proficient, adept, expert, masterly Ana apt, ready, *quick, prompt: practiced, exercised, drilled (see PRACTICE vb): competent, qualified, *able, capable Ant unskilled skillful proficient, adept, expert, skilled, masterly Ana *dexterous, adroit, deft: efficient, *effective: *conversant, versed Ant unskillful—Con *awkward, clumsy, inept, mala-
droit, gauchy skim 1 float, *fly, dart, scud, shoot, sail 2 *brush, graze, glance, shave Ana *slide, glide, slip, slither: float, scud, shoot, sail, dart, *fly: *flit, hover skimpy scrimpy, exiguous, *meager, scanty, scant, spare, sparse skin n Skin, hide, pelt, rind, bark, peel can all denote an outer removable coat which adheres to and protects the inner tissues of a body or organism. Skin, the most general term, applies especially to the outer covering of animals, whether it is as delicate as the one which covers the human body or as tough as the one which covers a rhinoceros; it is used also of the outer coverings of various fruits, plants, and seeds especially when they are thin and tight (the skin of an apple) (the skin of an almond) Skin applies to this integument whether it covers the living organism or has been stripped from it. Hide applies to the tough skin of large animals (as the rhinoceros or the horse); in commercial use it is applied specifically to the raw or undressed skins of cattle, horses, and other large animals, sometimes in distinction from those of calves, sheep, and goats, which are commonly described merely as skins. Pelt is applied chiefly to the skin of an animal that is covered with hair, fur, or wool; in commerce it usually denotes an undressed skin of any of these animals and especially of a furred animal. It is applied also to the skin of a sheep or goat stripped of wool or hair and ready for tanning. Rind applies chiefly to the thick, tough, and often inelastic outer layer which covers certain fruits (as oranges and melons) or the stems and roots of some woody perennial plants (then usually called bark). The hardened skin on smoked meats (as bacon) and the hardened crust of molded cheeses are also called rinds. A skin or rind of a fruit or a portion of it that is or may be stripped free is called peel (slip on a banana peel) (can-
died orange peel) skiv vb Skin, decorticate, peel, pare, flay can mean to divest something of its skin or thin outer covering. Skin is the most general of these terms, being applicable to any animal as well as to any plant or plant part that is covered by or as if by a skin (skin calves slaughtered for the market) (do not skin, but wash the eggplants in iced water—Dione Lucas) (skin the bark off a birch tree) Decorticate is applicable when an outer layer (as of bark, fiber, or husk) is to be removed by stripping (obviated the necessity of fully decorticating the canna stalks—Edward Samuel) (the decorticated seeds are crushed and pressed—Riegel) Peel and pare are fre-
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

**skinny**

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

**Ant**

fleshy

**slant**

vb

Skip, bound, hop, curvet, lope, lollipop, ricochet can all mean to move or advance with successive springs or leaps. The first three words are commonly referable to persons or animals but they may be used in reference to inanimate things. Skip suggests quick, light, graceful movement and a continuous alternation of touching a surface and springing clear of it; often also when referred to living creatures it connotes sportiveness or excess of animal spirits (wanting as a child, skipping—Shak.)

Small yachts skipped here and there—Villiers

Bound (see also JUMP) implies longer and more vigorous springs than skip and carries a stronger suggestion of elasticity and buoyancy of spirit (like a roe I bounded o'er the mountains—Wordsworth)

I saw her bounding down the rocky slope like some wild, agile creature—Hudson

The ball struck the earth and bounded across the field—Dorothy Canfield

Curvet may suggest a leap of a horse in which he raises both forelegs at once and as they are in reference to children it suggests a jumping on one foot only (chalked out a hop-step) whereas a true hop suggests a less flowing or springy movement than hop and usually implies a gradual slant (a mountainous road)—Auchincloss

Curvet may be applied largely to persons often in threats or in descriptions of torture or of cruel punishment (as scourging) (he said he would flay the man alive if he again caught him prowling around) (they killed and flayed a number of slaves and captives—Cook)

Campaign pledge to ban the medieval practice of flaying unruled convicts—Time

The son and his mother flay one another with their words—Fowlie

Ricochet is referable almost exclusively to things which are thrown, shot, or cast. It suggests a skipping caused by a series of glancing rebounds after the object first strikes a surface (the smaller the angle, under which a shot is made to ricochet, the longer it will preserve its force and have effect—Spearman) (fretting as her husband ricocheted from job to job—E. W. Pike) Our minds ricochet from the race problem to the housing problem, from the problem of foreign trade to the problem of displaced persons—C. W. Ferguson

**squirmy**

n *encounter, brush

**Ana**

contest, conflict, combat, fight, affray, fray: engagement, action, battle

**skit**

*libel, squib, lampoon, pasquinade

**skulk**

*lurk, couch, slink, sneak

**Ana**

secret, *hide, conceal

**Con**

emerge, *appear, loom

**skyline**

profile, contour, *outline, silhouette

**slack**

adj 1 lax, remiss, *negligent, neglectful

**Ana**

lazy, indolent, slothful, faineant: *indifferent, unconcerned, detached, aloof: sluggish, *lethargic

**Con**

diligent, sedulous, industrious, *busy, assiduous: expeditious, quick, *fast

2 relaxed, loose, lax

**Ana**

weak, feeble, infirm: inert, supine, passive, *inactive: *slow, leisurely, laggard

**Con**

tight, taut, tense: *steady, constant, uniform, even, equable: *firm, hard

**slacken**

*delay, retard, slow, detain

**Ana**

abate, reduce, lessen, *decrease: *restrain, curb, check, inhibit: *moderate, temper, qualify

**Ant**

quicken

**slander**

n calumny, *detraction, backbiting, scandal

**Ana**

defamation, vilification, aspersion, traducing (see corresponding verbs at MALIGN): *abuse, vituperation, inventive, obloquy, scurrility

**slander**

vb defame, libel, calumniate, *malign, traduce, asperse, vilify

**Ana**

decry, depreciate, detract, derogate, disparage, belittle: *injure, damage, hurt: *attack, assail

**slang**

dialect, vernacular, patois, lingo, jargon, cant, argot

**slant**

vb Slant, slope, incline, lean are comparable when they mean to diverge or cause to diverge from a vertical or horizontal line. Slant carries the sharpest and clearest implication of such divergence of any of these terms but it carries no explicit implication of how great or how little the divergence is; consequently it is accepted generally as the comprehensive term implying a noticeable physical divergence (the Tibetans are of Mongol race, but their eyes slant less than those of the Japanese or Chinese—Harrier) (lines of gray, plunging tropic rain slanted across the whole world—Beebe)

One side of his body seemed to slant towards the other, he settled so much more heavily upon one foot—M. E. Freeman

Slope is often used interchangeably with slant, but it is especially likely to be chosen when the reference is to a surface like the side of an elevation (as a hill or a roof) and there is an intent to suggest a gradual divergence from a vertical or horizontal line; thus, "the ground slopes to the left" usually suggests a lack of steepness; "a sloping roof," unless qualified by such adverbs as sharply or steeply, usually implies a gradual slant (the road slopes downward from this point) (enjoyed their wide sloping lawns with the sprinklers idly turning—Auchincloss) (wooded valleys and rolling hills slope away to the horizon—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.)

Incline (see also INCLINE 2) carries a stronger implication of bending or tipping or of being bent or tipped; it is therefore
especially appropriate not only when human or similar agency is implied but when what is bent or tipped is an immaterial thing (as one’s will, one’s thoughts, or one’s intentions) <just as the twig is bent, the tree’s inclined—Pope> (inclined his head to the right > the garden terraces incline to the south) <there is another theory to which the late Professor Freeman inclined (if so sturdy a figure could be said to incline)—Quiller-Couch> Lean differs from incline in carrying either a stronger implication of a definite directing of the inclination by a human agent or by some shaping or molding force <the old man leaned the mast . . . against the wall—Hemingway> <olive trees leaning from the hillsides, twisted by the sun—Davenport> <without looking up at him she leaned towards him—Marsh> or of a resting or an intent to rest either literally or figuratively against a support <both items lean heavily on nostalgia, both bring happy memories of an era unfortunately ended—Cerf> <the others treated me gingerly, fearing to be classed as Bolsheviks by association. Naturally, I leaned toward those who leaned toward me—Dent> Ana veer, *swerve, deviate, diverge slant n *point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, angle Ana attitude, *position, stand: bias, prejudice, *predestination slap vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, slog, swat, clout, cuff, box slash vb slit, *cut, hew, chop, carve Ana rive, rend, cleave, split (see TEAR): penetrate, pierce, *enter slatternly, dowdy, frowzy, blowsy all mean deficient in neatness, freshness, or smartness, especially in dress or appearance. Slatternly stresses notions of slovenliness, untidiness, and sordidness <a small, slatternly looking craft, her hull and spars a dingy black, rigging all slack and bleached nearly white, and everything denoting an ill state of affairs aboard—Melville> <lived with them, in the slatternly apartment among the unwashed dishes in the sink and on the table, the odor of stale tobacco smoke, the dirty shirts and underwear piled in corners—Warren> Dowdy is likely to imply a complete lack of taste typically marked by a blend of something untidy, drab, or tawdry <her shoes were bought a long time ago and have no relation to the dress, and the belt of her dress has become untied and is hanging down. She looks clean and dowdy—Hellman> <surely . . . it was old-fashioned, dowdy, savored of moth-eaten furs, bugs, cameos and black-edged notepaper, to go ferreting into people’s pasts?—Woolf> <so dreadfully dowdy that she reminded one of a badly bound hymnbook—Wilde> Frowzy suggests a lazy lack of neatness, order, and cleanliness <a dummy, frowzy woman, clad in old dress and apron—Coutts> <theater packed, and just as dirty and frowzy as when I first entered it in the year 1903—Bennett> but frowzy also may apply to a natural and not unwholesome disorder <white spruce, and the frowzy, slender jack pine thrive on the high land—Rowlands> <a live oak, frowzy with dry Resurrection ferns that is the first rain startles to green life—M. S. Douglas> or it may suggest drab misery and squalor as an inevitable result of circumstances <a frowzy feeling, a mean, sleepy, stupid, fed-up, incomplete feeling—Jonas> <one may see women like this in poor districts are not quite anxious, not quite starved, but by circumstances reduced to a daily diet of frowzy economy—Swinnerton> <if a fully fed, presentably clothed, decently housed, fairly literate and cultivated and gently mannered family is not better than a half-starved, ragged, frowzy, overcrowded one, there is no meaning in words—Shaw> Blowsy implies dishervelment or disorder <her hair, so untidy, so blowsy—Austen> to which is often added a notion of crudity or coarseness or grossness <that blowsy hyoid of an America that existed when Grant was accounted a statesman and Longfellow an epic poet—Sinclair Lewis> <the pleasant but plebeian scent of Bouncing Bet, that somewhat blowsy pink of old English gardens—Peattie> Ana slovenly, unkempt, disheveled, sloppy, *slipshod Con *neat, tidy, trim, spick-and-span slaughter n *massacre, butchery, carnage, pogrom slavery *servitude, bondage slavish servile, menial, *subservient, obsequious Ana *mean, abject, ignoble, sordid: *tame, subdued, submissive: *miserable, wretched slay *kill, murder, assassinate, dispatch, execute sleazy *limp, flimsy, floppy, flaccid, flabby Ana *thin, tenuous, slight: *loose, slack sleek, slick, glossy, velvety, silken, silky, satiny are comparable when they mean having a smooth bright surface or appearance. sleek and slick are sometimes interchangeable with this meaning <dark slick leaves—Langley> <the sleek blue plums—Wylie> but more often sleek connotes a smoothness or brightness that is the result of close attention or is an indication, especially when the reference is to a person or animal, of being in excellent physical condition <let me have men about me that are fat: sleek-headed men and such as sleep o’ nights—Shak.> <a beautiful panther . . . so bright of eye, so sleek of coat—Thackeray> <the metal felt sleek and warm to his touch—Clioe> <a child’s mind thrills at the touch of fur because it is sleek—Montague> and it may also suggest a smoothness of finish resulting from overattention to or overrefinement in dress and appearance <curse me the sleek lords with their plumes and spurs—Lindsay> <something sleek about him, something that suggested a well-bred dog—Anderson> <the poise, assurance, and sophistication of all these sleek faces—Wolfe> Slick, by contrast, is more likely to apply when the intent is to suggest such an extreme of smoothness as to provide an unsafe or slippery surface <the grass was slick from the night’s dew, and the men slipped frequently—Mailer> In extended use slick is less likely than sleek to suggest desirable qualities and often carries more than a hint of contempt <as much a slick-surfaced commercial product as a serious piece of literary art—Gurko> <new hotels . . . so slick and shiny—Basso> <everything was to be slick, which was Marvin’s term of approbation; but not too slick, which was his abomination—Mary Austin> Glossy implies a surface that is exceedingly smooth and shining, whether by nature or by art <the glossy leaves of the beech tree> <downy peaches and the glossy plum—Dryden> <glossy as black rocks on a sunny day cased in ice—Dorothy Wordsworth> Velvety implies the extreme softness associated with the surface or appearance of velvet. The word is often used of things as they appeal to the sense of touch or of sight or of both <a velvety skin> <a velvety flower> <a land of velvety meadows and lush gardens—Mumford> <the velvety flanks of the cattle—Glasgow> but it is also applicable to sounds that caress the ear or to tastes or odors that are delightfully bland <even her high notes are velvety> <the boy reading in his queer, velvety bass voice—Galsworthy> Silken implies the smoothness and luster as well as the softness of silk <silken hair> <to what green altar . . . lead’st thou that heifer lowing at the skies, and all her silken flanks with garlands dressed—Keats> <the lazy movement of their bodies beneath their silken doekskins—O’Meara> The term is used in reference both to things that appeal to other senses than those of touch or sight and to imma-

*neat, tidy, trim, spick-and-span

**Antonyms:**

- slatternly
- dowdy
- frowzy
- blowsy

**Con:**

- neat
- tidy
- trim
- spick-and-span

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
terial things that are softly soothing and pleasant to the spirit or mind. A silken sonority of the strings—Virgil Thomson | silken words Silky is sometimes used in place of silken | fingers, silky and soft—Watts-Dunton | blue, silky October days—Glover | his eyes between his | silky lashes gone soft—Boyle | but when the reference is to persons or their voices, manners, or productions it, more often than silken, suggests an ingratiating or a speckish quality. | put his talent for writing silky satire to most profitable unliterary uses—Derwent May | Tchaikovsky's Meditation was no silky sipper of tone, but something that glowed inside—Cassidy | there have been many able varmints since, but none quite as silly or loathsome—Perelman | Satiny applies to | what is not only soft but smooth and shining | the satiny petals of a flower | beautiful women with satiny backs were moving through the crowd—Wolfe | Ana | *bright, lustrous, brilliant: smooth, even (see level). |

sleep vb | Sleep, slumber, drowse, doze, nap, catnap, snooze | mean to take rest by a suspension of consciousness. Sleep, the usual term, implies ordinarily the periodical repose of this sort in which men and animals recuperate their powers after activity, but it may imply such repose indulged in temporarily or at odd times.<br>

The young baby | sleep | most of the time | he sleeps | fitfully | they slept soundly all night | slept away his fatigue | sleep off the effects of an opiate | doped to make him sleep<br>

away | the hours of travel—Erviné | Sleep can also refer to a condition (as dormanty, indolence, or death) felt to resemble true sleep | the restless enmity of the Angevin never slept—Freeman | beneath those rugged elms . . the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep—Gray | Slumber implies sleeping but it has acquired connotations that usually distinguish it from sleep.<br>

When applied to persons it usually means a sleeping quietly and easily | covered the sleeper with a blanket and the girl slumbered | peacefully to Buffalo—LaCassitt | hush, my dear, lie still and slumber! holy angels guard thy bed!—Watts<br>

In extended use it is likely to connote the repose of death and inactivity and suggest prolonged heavy sleep | that I may slumber in eternal sleep—Shak. | this New England of ours slumbered from the dawn of creation until the beginning of the seventeenth century—Coolidge | Drowse suggests a dull heavy condition of body and mind when one is falling asleep or is half asleep | sit drowsing by the fire | it is idle to pretend that a man lectures as well if half his audience are drowsing—Whitehead | In extension it implies a sluggishness that makes something move or act slowly.<br>

The villages that once drowsed in the sun about the placid center squares—Theodore White | Doze carries somewhat the same implications as drowse but the term often suggests a falling asleep, unintentionally or naturally, and does not emphasize a previous drowsy condition; often it suggests a falling asleep for a brief period or a drifting in and out of sleep, and it may imply a state of bewilderment when suddenly awakened | he had just dozed off when the explosion occurred | the sun drowsing on crooked streets, old men dozing in the parks—Green Peyton | I have been dozing over a stupid book—Sheridan | she dozed off for a moment or two, and then she got up and began . . washing her hands—Goudge | Nap basically implies a taking of a short light sleep, especially in the daytime; in extended use it commonly implies an opposition to watch or be on the alert and does not necessarily suggest the taking of a nap but merely a relaxation of care or activity (as in preventing, protecting, or detecting) | while I nodded, nearly napping—Poré | the Tory party is organized now; they will not catch us napping again—Disraeli<br>

Catnap implies a frequent taking of brief refreshing naps, usually at odd intervals fitted between one's periods of activity | stays in top form by catnapping whenever he has a spare moment—Time | Snooze, a somewhat casual or slangy term, may be used in place of nap and others of the preceding terms but without any emphasis on their distinctive or figurative connotations | snooze by the fire | the smaller, quieter resorts, where snoozing in a deck chair on the beach, salon orchestras and ornamental gardens are emphasized—Kenneth Young | Ana | rest, repose, relax (see corresponding nouns at rest). |

sleepy, drowsy, somnolent, slumberous mean affected by a desire to sleep or inducing such a desire. Sleepy, the ordinary term of this group, applies not only to persons but to things that suggest a resemblance to persons who show a readiness to fall asleep | away, you rogue, away! I am sleepy—Shak. | a sleepy town | the quiet, sleepy railroad station—Anderson | The term also applies to conditions or to things which incline one to sleep or to dozing or dreaming | the yellowhammer trills his sleepy song in the noonday heat—L. P. Smith | Drowsy differs from sleepy in carrying a stronger implication of the heaviness or loginess associated with sleepiness than of the actual need of rest | become drowsy after a heavy dinner | when the sun could burn through the leaves of the trees | Mrs. Barkley would grow drowsy . . and go off to take a nap—Deland | When applied to things rather than to persons, drowsy connotes more obviously than sleepy a soporific power | not poppy, nor mandragora, nor all the drowsy syrups of the world, shall ever medicine thee to that sweet sleep which thou owestst yesterday—Shak. | drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds—Gray | the leisurely swishing of the water to leeward was like a drowsy comment on her progress—Conrad | Somnolent may be used in place of drowsy; usually, however, it connotes the sluggishness or inertness characteristic of one who is sleepy or drowsy or the capacity for inducing this rather than the actual impulse to sleep or doze | a somnolent want of interest—De Quincey | Eustacia waited, her somnolent manner covering her inner heat and agitation—Hardy | the somnolent pages of a three-volume novel | Slumberous is often used in the sense of sleepy or drowsy or somnolent; occasionally it carries a distinctive connotation in which it usually suggests quiescence or the repose of latent powers | I . . . heard the mountain's slumberous voice—Shelley | Eustacia's manner was as a rule of a slumberous sort, her passions being of the massive rather than the vivacious kind—Hardy | Ana | *lethargic, sluggish, comatose | slender *thin, slim, slight, tenuous, rare | Ana | *lean, spare, lanky, skinny: flimsy, flaccid, flabby, *limp; trivial, trifling, *petty, paltry, puny | slick adj 1 *slick, glossy, velvety, silken, satiny, silky<br>

Ana | finished, *consummate: flawless, *impeccable, faultless: shallow, *superficial | 2 *fusile, oily, uncouth, oleaginous, soapy | Ana | bland, smooth, diplomatic, political, *suave, urbane: specious, *plausible | slide vb | Slide, slip, glide, skid, glissade, slither, coast, toboggan can mean to move along easily and smoothly over or as if over a surface. Slide usually implies accelerating motion and a continuous contact with a smooth and slippery surface; it is used normally in reference to persons and to moving things (as vehicles) (boys like to slide down banisters) | the foot slides o'er the ice that you should break—Shak. | when it's quiet you can slide in there in a skiff—Gardner | but also, especially in extended use, with reference to things which pass rapidly
before one because of one's own swift and easy motion
(a house after house slide by as we neared the city) or
which move easily, unobtrusively, or gradually from one
place or condition to another (prose that slides into
poetry) (shadows slid along the huge wooden tables—
Sinclair Lewis) (slide one's hand into another's pocket)
(it was inevitable that existentialism should slide out of
men's minds—Cousins) Slide carries a stronger impli-
cation than slide of a frictionless and unobstructed sur-
face but a weaker suggestion of continued contact; it
typically suggests involuntary rather than voluntary sliding,
only often definitely implying a loss of footing and a fall
slide on the ice (he had hurt his elbow through dropping
his stick and slipping downstairs—Bennett) (half-slipped,
half-slid down toward the wide level ribbon that marked
the frozen Schuykill—Mason) When only swift, easy
motion is implied, slide heightens the emphasis upon quiet-
ness, stealth, or skillfulness (while we were talking, he
slipped from the house) Things adrift to slide that pass
quickly or without notice (as from one's grasp, one's con-
trol, one's memory, or one's observation) (the book
slipped from her feeble hands) (the details have slipped
from his mind) (it leaves us without our being aware
that it is slipping away—J. M. Brown) (a father can't
make offhand remarks to a 4-year-old and have them
gently slip into oblivion—McNulty) or as a result of one's
negligence or inattention (the bus slipped by while they
were engrossed in conversation) (the tool slipped and
cut his hand) (he slips into occasional inaccuracies—
Anthony Boucher) Glide comes closer to slide than to
slip in its stress upon such continued smooth, easy,
usually silent motion as is characteristic of some dances,
but it may or may not imply uninterrupted contact with
a surface and, apart from its context, it seldom carries
any suggestion of danger (they glide, like phantoms,
into the wide hall—Keats) (even the swallows, the rest-
less swallows, glided in an effortless way through the
busy air—Jefferies) (two monsterlike cameras on trucks
that glided backwards and forwards—Edmund Wilson)
A glide over these interesting items to dwell at some
length on two men, now dead—Henry Miller A
often, like slide and, to a lesser extent, slip, glide is used in
reference to things that apparently move because the
observer is moving (the landmark marks have failed, the
fogbank slides unheeded—Kipling) (soft fell the splash
of the oars . . . softly the banks glided by—Meredith)
Skid is employed especially in regard to wheeled vehicles
the tires of which on an icy, wet, or dusty road fail to
achieve a velocity of 25,000 mph—A. C. Clarke) (swal-
loows were coasting in and out the smashed mill roof—
Bartlett) and often suggests an easy drifting (the country
seems in a mood to coast along—U. S. News and World
Report) while toboggan is likely to stress a building up
of momentum and a resulting wild speed in a usually un-
controllable downward movement (three depth charges,
each weighing 400 pounds, broke loose and tobogganed
wildly on the main deck—Bigart) (could it be possible
that man, who fondly called himself Homo sapiens, was
tobogganing into another self-destructive war while the
wounds of the last were still throbbing—Pinckney). The
Chinese dollar, which, amid all the speculating, had been
tobogganing steadily—Vanya Oakes

adj tenuous, rare, *thin, slender, slim
Ana *imperceptible, imponderable, impalpable, intangi-
ble, insensible, inappreciable: trifling, trivial, puny,
*petty, paltry; minute, diminutive, wee, little, *small

vb *neglect, ignore, overlook, disregard, omit, forget

Ana scorn, disdain, contemn, *despise: flout, *scorn

vb derogatory, depreciatory, deprecative, disparag-
ing, pejorative

Ana contemptuous, disdainful, scornful, despicable (see
corresponding nouns under DESPISE vb)

slim *thin, slender, slight, tenuous, rare
Ana *lean, spare, skinny, scrawny; *meager, exiguous,
chubby (of persons)

slip *heave, hoist, *lift, raise: impel, drive (see MOVE):
propel, shove, thrust, *push

vb *hang, suspend, dangle

Ana heave, hoist, *lift, raise: impel, drive (see MOVE):
propel, shove, thrust, *push

slip vb *hang, suspend, dangle

Ana heave, hoist, *lift, raise: impel, drive (see MOVE):
propel, shove, thrust, *push

Ana accident, *chance: inadvertence, carelessness, heed-
lessness (see corresponding adjectives at CARELESS):
*fault, failing, foible, frailty, vice

slipshod adj Slipsloped, slovenly, unkempt, disheveled, sloppy
are comparable when applied to persons and their appear-
ance or to their mental and manual processes, perfor-
mances, or products, and mean manifesting conspicuous

Ana analogous words

Ant antonyms

Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
negligence or carelessness. *slipshod implies an easygoing tolerance of details that are inaccurate, incongruous, or lacking in precision, or careless indifference to the niceties of technique or to qualities that make for perfection (as thoroughness, soundness, and fastidiousness) *slipshod style *slipshod piece of carpentry *slipshod performance of a symphony *slipshod observer . . . he had a positive distaste for exactitude—*Peattie *had the conscientious craftsman's contempt for *slipshod work—*Spaeth Slowly, a stronger term than *slipshod, implies laziness and disorderliness which is evident throughout and is not merely a matter of detail. The term may be used of a person or his appearance and imply diametrical opposition to *neat or tidy *slovely housekeeper *this person showed marks of habitual neglect; his dress was *slovely—*George Eliot *the beatnik is *slovely—to strike a pose against the middle class you must roll their compulsion to be neat—*Mailer or it may be applied to processes, technique, or workmanship without significant change in value *slovely thinking *the *slovely manner in which the dinner was served—*Conrad *a tendency to think that a fine idea excuses *slovely workmanship—*Lowell *unkept is applied usually to something that requires to be kept in order if a favorable impression is to be produced. It implies extreme negligence amounting to neglect *unkept hair *an unkept garden *add to this *unkept, untended, this grammatically archaical Russian tongue the jargon of German Marxism: no simile can cope with the situation—*Edmund Wilson *most of the shops . . . had become pettifogging little holes, *unkept, shabby, poor—*Bennett *disheveled is more likely to describe a temporary state of ruffled disorder or disarray following intense effort (as in doing something or coping with some emergency) *she hoped she appeared calm. She was conscious of a *disheveled appearance—*Hervey or in extended application a lack of normal planned orderliness (as of concept or development) *a *disheveled movie that charges futilely about—*McCarten *slapmy implies a general effect of looseness and of spilling over. When applied to a person or his appearance it usually suggests loose, ill-fitting, unpresseured garments, but it often also carries connotations of slovenliness *his *slapmy appearance at breakfast offended her *her hair was thin and tied in a *slapmy knot at the back of her not too clean neck—*Metalious *when applied to ideas or their expression, style, or manners or to a work or its workmanship, the word usually suggests a lack of control and precision or of confinement within proper limits, manifested in incoherency, emotional excess, or formlessness *it is a *slapmy bit of reporting, poorly organized, loaded with pointless personal details—*Sugrue *ana *negligent, neglectful, slack, lax, remiss: *careless, heedless, inadvertent: *indifferent, unconcerned: *slatternly, dowdy, frowzy, blowzy *con *precise, accurate, exact, *correct: fastidious, finicky, *nice *slit *vb *slash, *cut, hew, chop, carve *slither *vb *slide, slip, glide, skid, glissade, coast, toboggan *slog *vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, swat, clout, slap, cuff, box *slogan *vb *catchword, byword, shibboleth *ana *vb *phrase, expression, locution, idiom *slope *vb *slant, incline, lean *slippy *adj *deviate, diverge, veer, *swerve *ana *adj *negligent, neglectful, slack, remiss, lax; mawkish, maudlin, soppy, slushy *see *sentimental: *slatternly, dowdy, frowzy, blowzy *con *adj *careful, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious: fastidious, finicky, *nice *slothful *indolent, faineant, *lazy *ana *vb *discard, cast, shed, melt, scrap, junk *slovenly *vb *slipshod, unkempt, disheveled, *sloppy 

**A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.**
available boat or the second—Waugh〉〈took leisurely leave, with kisses all around, of a half dozen young men—K. A. Porter〉

**Ant** fast
slow vb slacken, *delay, retard, detain
**Ana** *moderate, temper, qualify: reduce, abate, de-crease, lessen
**Ant** speed —*Con* accelerate, quicken, hasten, hurry (see speed vb)
slug vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, slog, slap, clout, slap, cuff, box
**Sluggish** *lethargic, torpid, comatose
**Sluice** *fall, drop, sink, subside
**Slug** vb *plunge, dive, pitch: sag, flag, drop
**Slumber** vb *sleep, drowse, nap, catnap, snooze
**Ana** relax, rest, repose (see corresponding nouns at REST)
**Slumberous** *sleepy, drowsy, somnolent
**Slew** vb *pour, stream, gush
**Small** *little, diminutive, petite, wee, tiny, teeny, weeny, minute, microscopic, miniature
crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, wily, guileful, artful are comparable when they mean having or showing a disposition to attain one's ends by devious or indirect means. Sly implies a lack of candor which shows itself in secretiveness, in suggestiveness rather than in frankness, in underhandedness, or in furtiveness or duplicity in one's dealings with others 〈with knowing leer and words of sly import—Irving〉〈because the state is hostile, writers have become sly, circumspect and disingenuous—Philip Toynbee〉 More often than the remaining words, sly is used with weakened force to imply a lightly arch or roguish quality 〈he was pretentious, earnest, full of sly humor—Rollo Brown〉 Cunning (see also CLEVER 2) stresses the use of intelligence in overreaching or circumventing; nevertheless, it often suggests sly inventiveness rather than a high-grade mentality, and a perverted sense of morality 〈every man wishes to be wise, and they who cannot be wise are almost always cunning—Johnson〉 〈all gods are cruel, bitter, and to be bribed, but women-gods are mean and cunning as well—Bottomley〉 〈the fellow's eyes were now sly and cunning as a cat's, now hard and black as basalt—Wolfé〉 Crafty also implies a use of intelligence but it usually suggests a higher order of mentality than cunning: that of one capable of devising stratagems and adroit in deception 〈he disappointeth the devices of the cuntry, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise—Job 5:12〉〈as a crafty envoy does his country's business by dint of flirting and conviviality—Montague〉 〈crafty senior tacitician for the Republicans and a man with an astonishing record of maintaining political control of his country—Michener〉 Tricky usually suggests unscrupulousness and chicanery in dealings with others; in general it connotes shiftiness and unreliability rather than skill in deception or in maneuvering 〈here was Woman, with a capital W, tricky and awful, inconsistent as the weather—Styron〉〈he avoided the mean and tricky: he was always an honorable foe—W. C. Ford〉 Foxy implies shrewdness in dodging discovery or in practicing deceptions so that one may follow one's own devices or achieve one's own ends; it usually connotes experience and is rarely applied to the young or to novices 〈where one was legitimate—and a foxy play—the other was a snide trick—Lieb〉〈this time the lecherous Alsatian uses a foxy gambit to achieve his ends—Perelman〉〈a foxy old man〉 Insidious suggests a lying in wait or a gradual-ness of effect or approach and applies especially to devises and carefully masked underhandedness 〈an insidious tempter〉〈persuaded that these people . . . are all part of an insidious conspiracy to undermine the world as he knows it—Edmund Wilson〉〈that form of bias which is most insidious, precisely because it pretends to be unbiassed—Moebly〉 Wily and guileful stress an attempt to ensnare or entrap; they usually imply treacherous astuteness or sagacity and a lack of scruples regarding the means to one's end 〈nor trust in the guileful heart and the murder-loving hand—Morriss〉〈shun the insidious arts that Rome provides, less dreading from her frown than from her wily praise—Wordsworth〉〈the headmaster, wily, had not confiscated these articles; he had merely informed the parents concerned—Bennett〉 Artful implies insinuating or alluring indirectness of dealing; it usually also connotes sophistication or coquetry or clever designs 〈being artful, she cajoled him with honeymouthed flattery until his suspicion was quieted—John Bennett〉 (oddly enough, they stayed sober. The artful Henry had told them that all the wine in Panama was poisoned—Chidsey〉

**Ana** furtive, clandestine, stealthy, covert (see SECRET): devious, oblique, *crooked: astute, *shrewd

**Smack** n 1 *taste, flavor, savor, tang, relish
2 *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

small, little, diminutive, petite, wee, tiny, teeny, weeny, minute, microscopic, miniature
crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, wily, guileful, artful are comparable when they mean having or showing a disposition to attain one's ends by devious or indirect means. Sly implies a lack of candor which shows itself in secretiveness, in suggestiveness rather than in frankness, in underhandedness, or in furtiveness or duplicity in one's dealings with others 〈with knowing leer and words of sly import—Irving〉〈because the state is hostile, writers have become sly, circumspect and disingenuous—Philip Toynbee〉 More often than the remaining words, sly is used with weakened force to imply a lightly arch or roguish quality 〈he was pretentious, earnest, full of sly humor—Rollo Brown〉 Cunning (see also CLEVER 2) stresses the use of intelligence in overreaching or circumventing; nevertheless, it often suggests sly inventiveness rather than a high-grade mentality, and a perverted sense of morality 〈every man wishes to be wise, and they who cannot be wise are almost always cunning—Johnson〉 〈all gods are cruel, bitter, and to be bribed, but women-gods are mean and cunning as well—Bottomley〉 〈the fellow's eyes were now sly and cunning as a cat's, now hard and black as basalt—Wolfé〉 Crafty also implies a use of intelligence but it usually suggests a higher order of mentality than cunning: that of one capable of devising stratagems and adroit in deception 〈he disappointeth the devices of the cuntry, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise—Job 5:12〉〈as a crafty envoy does his country's business by dint of flirting and conviviality—Montague〉 〈crafty senior tacitician for the Republicans and a man with an astonishing record of maintaining political control of his country—Michener〉 Tricky usually suggests unscrupulousness and chicanery in dealings with others; in general it connotes shiftiness and unreliability rather than skill in deception or in maneuvering 〈here was Woman, with a capital W, tricky and awful, inconsistent as the weather—Styron〉〈he avoided the mean and tricky: he was always an honorable foe—W. C. Ford〉 Foxy implies shrewdness in dodging discovery or in practicing deceptions so that one may follow one's own devices or achieve one's own ends; it usually connotes experience and is rarely applied to the young or to novices 〈where one was legitimate—and a foxy play—the other was a snide trick—Lieb〉〈this time the lecherous Alsatian uses a foxy gambit to achieve his ends—Perelman〉〈a foxy
when the context carries a note of tenderness, pathos, or affection (our little house) (the air turned cold . . . so that the littlest kids cried from cold as much as from grief—Grau) (her pathetic little smile) (sleep, my little one—Tennyson) Diminutive not only carries a stronger implication of divergence from a normal or usual size or scale than small or little, but it often carries the meaning of extremely or even abnormally small or little (the bedrooms are small but the parlor is diminutive) (in so hot a climate peach trees will produce only diminutive fruits in very small quantities) (the horses are so diminutive that they might be, with propriety, said to be Lilliputian—Cowper) (a diminutive financial wizard, who looked like a Kewpie doll—J. D. Hart) Petite is the usual term to describe a trim, well-shaped woman or girl of diminutive size (a bit incongruous that such a petite woman should write such huge tomes—Fisher) Wee is found especially in dialectal use in place of small or little (a wee lad) (a wee drop of whisky) or in more general use as an equivalent of diminutive (a little wee face, with a little yellow beard—Shak.) (the one to the bachelor uncle . . . was sweetly girlish, and just a wee bit arch—Gibbon) Tiny goes further than diminutive or wee in suggesting extreme littleness or a smallness out of proportion to most things of its kind or in comparison with all other things (they were prominent eyes yellowed with tiny red veins—Avram Davidson) (the behavior of the invisible, intangible, inconceivably tiny electrons and atoms—Darrow) (tiny, Swiss-made replicas . . . each . . . about the size of a small, oblong wristwatch—Terr Ey Setter) Teeny and weeny, found chiefly in childish or playful use, occur also in paired or reduplicated forms (as teeny-weeny and teeny-tiny) (one day this teeny-tiny woman put on her teeny-tiny bonnet and went out of her teeny-tiny house to take a teeny-tiny walk—Fairy Tale) (he gave a weeny, weeny yawn—Wiggin) Minute means extremely small on an absolute scale, usually a microscopic or near-microscopic scale (a minute animalcule) (minute grains of sand) (ants that marched their minute columns over the floor—Hervey) (the tremendous forces imprisoned in minute particles of matter—Inge) Microscopic applies to what is so minute that it is literally observable only under a microscope (microscopic organisms) or is of a comparable minuteness in its class (no matter how microscopic his wage, he forced himself to save a dollar or two a year—Irving Stone) (the lady of the dreadnought class with a leash on the microscopic Chihuahua—Cross) Miniature applies to what is complete in itself but is built, drawn, or made on a very small scale (in circus parades, Tom Thumb and his menage rode together in a miniature red coach, drawn by two small ponies—Green Peyton) (it was one of the miniature Italian cities . . . all compact and complete, on the top of a mountain—L. P. Smith) (we may thus picture an atom as a miniature solar system—Eddington) Ana *petty, puny, paltry, trifling, trivial Ant large—Con big, great (see LARGEST): vast, huge, immense, enormous smaller *less, lesser, fewer

small-town *insular, provincial, parochial, local Ana narrow, narrow-minded, *illiberal, intolerant, hide-bound, bigoted: circumscribed, limited, confined, restricted (see LIMIT vb) Ant cosmopolitan smart 1 bright, knowing, quick-witted, *intelligent, clever, alert Ana *sharp, keen, acute: *quick, ready, prompt, apt: *shrewd, astute, perspicacious Ant dull (of mind)

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


smell, scent, odor, aroma all denote a property of a thing that makes it perceptible to the olfactory sense. Smell not only is the most general of these terms but tends to be the most colorless. It is the appropriate word when merely the sensation is indicated and no hint of its source, quality, or character is necessary (our horses . . . often reared up and snorted violently at smells which we could not perceive—Landor) (the smells of these offices—the smell of dental preparations, floor oil, spitoons and coal gas—Cheever) It is also the preferred term when accompanied by explicitly qualifying words or phrases (the rank smell of weeds—Shak.) (the rented coarse black gown . . . gave out a musty smell, as though it had been lying long disused—Wouk) (a smell of marigold and jasmine stronger than even the reek of the dust—Kipling) and occasionally, even when unqualified, it implies offensiveness (traced the smell to a stopped-up drain) (Cobden was much upset when he saw the middle classes leaving the smells of the . . . towns for the scents of the countryside—Lewis & Maude) Scent tends to call attention to the physical basis of the sense of smell and is particularly appropriate when the emphasis is on the emanations or exhalations from an external object which reach the olfactory receptors rather than on the impression produced in the olfactory centers of the brain (the scent of the first wood fire upon the ken October air—Pater) (if the air was void of sound, it was full of scent—Galsworthy) (the heavy scent of damp, funereal flowers—Millay) (presently a scent came with it, dank and pervasive. It was the must of the forest—Hervey) but scent can apply specifically to emanations evidencing the passing of a body (as an animal) and may suggest a high level of sensory efficiency in a perceiver (the dog caught the scent of a rabbit) or from its use as a synonym of perfume the term may suggest a pleasant quality (the rich, vital scents of the plowed ground—Glasgow) Odor is oftentimes indistinguishable from scent, for it too can be thought of as something diffused and as something by means of which external objects are identified by the sense of smell. But the words are not always interchangeable, for odor usually implies abundance of effluvia and therefore does not suggest, as scent often does, the need of a delicate or highly sensitive sense of smell (the odors of the kitchen clung to her clothes) (he smelled her perfume, a sweet pungent odor, intimately coquettish—Styron) (gave off a kind of sweetish rich animal-vegetable odor, such as one associates with the tropics—Purdy) For these reasons odor usually implies general perceptibility and is the normal word in scientific use especially when the classification or description of types is attempted (science, while recognizing the potency of our sense of smell, has not yet satisfactorily classified and catalogued the many varieties of odors that we recognize—Morrison) Aroma usually adds to odor the implication of a penetrating, pervasive, or, sometimes, a pungent quality; it need not imply delicacy or fragrance, but it seldom connotes unpleasantness, and it often suggests something to be savored, with the result that it is used of things that appeal both to the sense of smell and taste or by extension to one's aesthetic sense (the fresh river smell, rank and a little rotten, and spiced among these odors was the sultry aroma of strong boiling coffee—Wolfe) (an atmosphere, impalpable as a
smidgen verb *particle, bit, mote, whit, atom, iota, jot, tittle

smile verb *Smile, grin, simper, smirk

smirk verb *smirks, grin, Simper, Graves)

smog verb *smog, simper, grin, smile (see under SMILE

smoother verb *suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, choke, strangle, throttle

smug self-complacent, self-satisfied, priggish, *complacent

smother self-respecting, self-esteeming, self-admiring (see base words under REGARD n): pharisaical, sanctimonious, hypocrical (see under HYPOCRISY)

smuggled, bootleg, contraband are comparable in meaning transported in defiance of the law but each has implications and applications not shared with the others. Smuggled applies to what is taken out of or brought into an area (as a nation or district) clandestinely, especially to avoid payment of taxes or duties or to contravene the law <smuggled diamonds> (the same route that the pirates used in taking their smuggled goods to market—Amer. Guide Series: La.) In extended use it may stress deftly evasive action or surreptitious procedure <make use of local knowledge and smuggled information to sow alarm among Communist officials—Economist> (to the ordinary beholder there seem to be so many smuggled assumptions in the literature of social science—R. M. Weaver) Bootleg denotes a material thing (as liquor) made in or imported into a country or district and offered for sale or distribution in defiance of its prohibition in that country or of legal restrictions (as by rationing or licensing) on its use <bootleg whiskey> The term can imply fraud, deceit, and often secrecy or concealment; thus, bootleg wiring is done by one who is not a legally qualified electrician and who may disregard safety requirements; bootleg prizefighting is conducted without legal sanction and often with disregard of the welfare of fighters or patrons (Congress arbitrarily said, "We know better than unions what is good for employees."). . . Today several thousand employers and several million employees are operating under bootleg agreements in flagrant violation of the statute—A. E. Stevenson> Contraband applies to something of which the importation or exportation is declared illegal by law, proclamation, or treaty. Often the term is perfectly interchangeable with smuggled <waterfront resorts were notorious as smuggling centers . . . contraband cargoes were carried aboard motorboats and dories—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.> or it may nearly replace bootleg <Benzedrine . . . has been extremely common as a contraband item for introduction into prisons and correctional institutions—Maurer & Vogel> but it alone is specifically applied to something of which the exportation to beligerents is expressly prohibited and which, therefore, is liable to seizure (eventually Great Britain was seizing as contraband almost everything sent to Germany and to the neutral states on Germany's borders—Roehm et al)

snag noun *obstacle, obstruction, impediment, bar

snarl verb *jerk, twitch, yank

Analogous words

Antonyms

Contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
snare vb ensnare, trap, entrap, bag, *catch, capture
Ana *lure, entice, inveigle, tempt, seduce, decoy
snarl n *confusion, disorder, chaos, disarray, jumble, clutter, muddle
Ana complexity, complication, intricateness or intricacy (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLEX): *difficulty, hardship
snarl vb *bark, bay, howl, growl, yelp, yap
snatch vb grasp, grab, clutch, seize, *take
Ana *catch, capture: *pull, drag, draw
sneak vb slink, skulk, *lurk
snee vb *scoff, jeer, gird, flout, gibe, flare
Ana deride, taunt, mock, *ridicule: scout, *despise, scorn, disdain
snip vb *shear, clip, trim, prune, lop, crop
Ana *cut, slit, slash, chop: *bite
snitch vb *shear, poll, clip, trim, prune, lop, crop
Ana *cut, slit, slash, chop: *bite
so therefore, hence, consequently, then, accordingly
snooze vb *sleep, slumber, drowse, doze, nap, catnap
snug 1 trim, trig, shipsheep, *neat, tidy, spill-and-span
Ana compact, *close: *orderly, methodical, systematic
2 *comfortable, cozy, easy, restful
Ana *safe, secure: *familiar, intimate, close: sheltered, harbored (see HARBOR vb)
so *therefore, hence, consequently, then, accordingly
soak vb Soak, saturate, drench, steep, impregnate, sop, waterlog can mean to permeate or be permeated with or as if with water. Soak suggests immersion in a liquid so that the substance absorbs the moisture and usually becomes thoroughly wetted, softened, or dissolved; soak a sponge in water; the blotter soaked up the spilled ink; the world was all sobbed, waterlogged (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLEX): *difficulty, hardship
sob vb moan, groan, *sigh
Ana weep, wail, *cry, blubber
sob n moan, groan, sigh (see under SIGH vb)
Ana weeping, wailing, crying, blubbering (see CRY vb)
sober 1 Sober, temperate, continent, unimpassioned can mean having or manifesting self-control or the mastery of one's emotions, passions, or appetites. Sober basically describes moderation in the use of food and drink and often specifically implies freedom from intoxication; this implication is often found with another (as of habitual abstention from intoxicating liquors or merely of not being drunk at the time in question) (he is, by reputation, a sober man) (Gilda, a drink comra, squealed on Cabot Wright. Later, sober, she denied her own story —Purdy) In more general application sober implies a cool head, composure especially under strain or excitement, and freedom from passion, prejudice, fear, or any unreasonable excess (sound, sober advice) (a man of sober judgment) (his bearing was sober, his comments courteous—Wouk) (a sober book, written without hysteria or excitement—A. T. Steele) Temperate (see also MODERATE) implies control over the expression of one's feelings, passions, appetites, or desires or the restrained exercise of one's rights, powers, or privileges, with the result that one never exceeds the bounds of what is right or proper (in what temperate language Horace clothes his maxims ... not a flourish! Not a gesture! —Repple) He was a scholar and a stoic; what temperate virtues he owned had been hard won—Styron) Continent (compare continence under TEMPERANCE) carries a stronger implication of deliberate restraint placed upon of the essence of one thing so that it becomes part and parcel of the other; thus, one steeps tea leaves in boiling water in order to make the beverage tea. In extended use the acquisition of the qualities of one thing by a process suggestive of such steeping is often implied (epistles . . . steeped in the phraseology of the Greek mysteries —Inge) (language simple and sensuous and steeped in the picturesque imagery of what they saw and felt —Lowes) but often the term means little more than to envelop with or as if with the quality (as color or light) shied from or emanated by something else (her tall spars and rigging steeped in a bath of red-gold—Conrad) (the world was all steeped in sunshine—D. H. Lawrence)
Impregnate (see also PERMEATE) commonly carries a suggestion of soaking in something other than water; it implies the interpenetration of one thing by another until the former is everywhere imbued with the latter; impregnate rubber with sulphur) (when the mind was, as it were, strongly impregnated with the Johnsonian ether—Boswell) (this poem, everywhere impregnated with original excellence—Wordsworth) Sop usually applies to food soaked in meat juices or wine; sop bread in gravy); serve cake sopped in sherry and covered with a soft custard) but it may apply also to something (as soil) that is heavily soaked with liquid; sopping wet clothes) sоп plants with too much water)
Waterlog suggests a thorough soaking or drenching that makes a thing either useless or too heavy and sodden (as for floating or cultivating) (a waterlogged rowboat) (soil waterlogged by lack of proper drainage)
Ana *dip, immerse, submerge: *permeate, pervade, penetrate
soak n *drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, sot, toper, tosspot, tippler
soapy slick, *fulsome, oily, unctuous, oleaginous
soar *rise, arise, ascend, mount, tower, rocket, levitate, surging
Ana *fly, dart, shoot: aspire, *aim
sog vb moan, groan, *sigh
Ana weep, wail, *cry, blubber
sog n moan, groan, sigh (see under SIGH vb)
Ana weeping, wailing, crying, blubbering (see CRY vb)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
oneself, upon one's feelings seeking expression, or upon one's desires, especially sexual desires, seeking satisfaction. "my past life hath been as continent, as chaste, as true, as I am now unhappy—Shak." their strength is the strength of men geographically beyond temptation: the poverty of Arabia made them simple, continent, enduring—T. E. Lawrence. Not a subject of irregular and interrupted impulses of virtue, but a continent, persisting, immovable person—Emerson. Unimpassioned so stresses the absence of heat, ardor, or fervor that it often connotes lack of feeling and, therefore, coldness, stiffness, or hardness of heart. When love is not involved in a union, any differences are likely to settle into . . . unimpassioned enmity—Hervey. He was tired, excited, on fire, and Deborah seemed so unimpassioned—Webb. But it often implies a subduing of feeling or passion by rationality (the unimpassioned administration of disciplinary measures) (his manner resembled their manner, reserved, logical, unimpassioned, and intelligent—W. C. Ford).

Analogue words

She became a gregarious creature—Cowper. Impelled by gregarious instincts, Peter followed the crowd—H. G. Wells. He used the gregarious bustle goes on as a matter of routine. Streets intersect, shops advertise, homes have party walls, and fellow citizens depend upon the same water supply; but there is no cooperation between human beings—Joyce. Or a living contiguously rather than an active participation in the life of an integrated society (the ordinary gregarious human life, led by us in contact with others and in the stress of our normal pursuits—Powyss). Many solitary insects are gregarious, that is, they share certain common needs or react in the same way to certain external stimuli so that dense populations assemble locally—O. W. Richards. It is at least plausible that the domestication of animals—which are almost exclusively gregarious animals—is based on the relation of the hunter to the wild herd (Franz Boas). The remaining terms describe partial aspects of being social. Cooperative implies the existence of common ends which serve as the objectives of a group, a community, or society at large and of the need of mutual assistance in the attainment of those ends; the term therefore usually suggests shared effort, helpfulness, and a willingness to work for the welfare or well-being of the entire group (leadership of a cooperative rather than of a competitive type—Sellars). Capacity for cooperative industrial effort—Mumford. With regard to a young English statesman, we want to know two things mainly—his intrinsic value, and his capacity—Pall Mall Gazette. If we are to develop a cooperative foreign policy, we shall have to learn to consult continuously with other nations—Dean. Convivial is applied chiefly to persons, groups, or activities that manifest enjoyment of the company of others especially in festive joviality and eating and drinking (at the insistence of a convivial uncle . . . she permits herself to drink three glasses of champagne—Edmund Wilson). Has a convivial temperament . . . gets on a first-name basis quickly—Dwight Macdonald. Dinners convivial

Antonyms

Analogue words

She became a gregarious creature—Cowper. Impelled by gregarious instincts, Peter followed the crowd—H. G. Wells. He used the gregarious bustle goes on as a matter of routine. Streets intersect, shops advertise, homes have party walls, and fellow citizens depend upon the same water supply; but there is no cooperation between human beings—Joyce. Or a living contiguously rather than an active participation in the life of an integrated society (the ordinary gregarious human life, led by us in contact with others and in the stress of our normal pursuits—Powyss). Many solitary insects are gregarious, that is, they share certain common needs or react in the same way to certain external stimuli so that dense populations assemble locally—O. W. Richards. It is at least plausible that the domestication of animals—which are almost exclusively gregarious animals—is based on the relation of the hunter to the wild herd (Franz Boas). The remaining terms describe partial aspects of being social. Cooperative implies the existence of common ends which serve as the objectives of a group, a community, or society at large and of the need of mutual assistance in the attainment of those ends; the term therefore usually suggests shared effort, helpfulness, and a willingness to work for the welfare or well-being of the entire group (leadership of a cooperative rather than of a competitive type—Sellars). Capacity for cooperative industrial effort—Mumford. With regard to a young English statesman, we want to know two things mainly—his intrinsic value, and his capacity—Pall Mall Gazette. If we are to develop a cooperative foreign policy, we shall have to learn to consult continuously with other nations—Dean. Convivial is applied chiefly to persons, groups, or activities that manifest enjoyment of the company of others especially in festive joviality and eating and drinking (at the insistence of a convivial uncle . . . she permits herself to drink three glasses of champagne—Edmund Wilson). Has a convivial temperament . . . gets on a first-name basis quickly—Dwight Macdonald. Dinners convivial

Contrasted words

Analogue words

She became a gregarious creature—Cowper. Impelled by gregarious instincts, Peter followed the crowd—H. G. Wells. He used the gregarious bustle goes on as a matter of routine. Streets intersect, shops advertise, homes have party walls, and fellow citizens depend upon the same water supply; but there is no cooperation between human beings—Joyce. Or a living contiguously rather than an active participation in the life of an integrated society (the ordinary gregarious human life, led by us in contact with others and in the stress of our normal pursuits—Powyss). Many solitary insects are gregarious, that is, they share certain common needs or react in the same way to certain external stimuli so that dense populations assemble locally—O. W. Richards. It is at least plausible that the domestication of animals—which are almost exclusively gregarious animals—is based on the relation of the hunter to the wild herd (Franz Boas). The remaining terms describe partial aspects of being social. Cooperative implies the existence of common ends which serve as the objectives of a group, a community, or society at large and of the need of mutual assistance in the attainment of those ends; the term therefore usually suggests shared effort, helpfulness, and a willingness to work for the welfare or well-being of the entire group (leadership of a cooperative rather than of a competitive type—Sellars). Capacity for cooperative industrial effort—Mumford. With regard to a young English statesman, we want to know two things mainly—his intrinsic value, and his capacity—Pall Mall Gazette. If we are to develop a cooperative foreign policy, we shall have to learn to consult continuously with other nations—Dean. Convivial is applied chiefly to persons, groups, or activities that manifest enjoyment of the company of others especially in festive joviality and eating and drinking (at the insistence of a convivial uncle . . . she permits herself to drink three glasses of champagne—Edmund Wilson). Has a convivial temperament . . . gets on a first-name basis quickly—Dwight Macdonald. Dinners convivial

See also explanatory notes facing page 1.
and political—Shelley) (she was a somewhat somber
together. More companionable . . .
the large crawling, running insects—crickets,
and it is often applied to
as soft or suave, that are felt to convey
such a quality (they [swans] paddle in the cold companionable
stream or climb the air—Yeats) (the book is above all companionable,
and has an insinuation of appeal
that no other work quite possesses—More) Hospitable
usually implies a disposition to receive and to entertain
not only one's friends but especially strangers; it there-
for its more positive and generous more than any of the preceding terms (it was no small joy to these
west-movers . . . to find this hospitable, talkative man who
was everywhere bustling about, trying to be of service
to them—Röważq) (your criticism, so hospitable to
ideas, so inoffensive in judging right from wrong—Quiller-
Couch)

Ana *gracious, cordial, sociable, genial, affable: *amicable,
neighboring, friendly

Ant unsocial, antisocial, asocial

society 1 elite, *aristocracy, nobility, gentry, county
2 *association, order, club

soft adj Soft, bland, mild, gentle, smooth, lenient, balmy
are applied to things with respect to the sensations
they evoke or the impressions they produce and mean
pleasantly agreeable because devoid of all harshness or
roughness. Soft is applied chiefly to what soothes, calms,
or induces a sensation of delicate quiet (as sweet as
balm, as soft as air, as gentle—Shak.) (a soft answer turneth away wrath—Prov 15:1) (ever, against eating
cares, lap me in soft Lydian airs—Milton) (to feel forever
its soft fall and swell—Keats) This positive connotation
is often apparent in the use of soft even when its major
implication is the absence or the subdued quality
(as pungency, vividity, intensity, or force); thus, a
soft fragrance is lacking in richness but is quietly agreeable
and not overpowering; a soft color is lacking in vividness,
but it is mellow rather than dull; a soft voice though lacking
in resonance is not faint or feeble but is pleasingly flat
and without harshness or stridency (the far shore of the
river's mouth was just soft dusk—Galsworthy) (the
soft shock of wizened apples falling from an old tree—
Millay) (listen to Yuriko's voice as it floated, breathlike
and soft, through the frail partitions—Mailer) Bland
(see also suave) may be interchangeable with soft, but
it generally suggests smoothness and suavity and stresses
the absence of whatever might disturb, excite, stimulate,
or irritate; thus, foods and beverages which are not un-
pleasant to the taste yet tend toward the insipid or are
lacking in pungency, tang, or richness of flavor or ingre-
dients may be described as bland; a bland climate not
only is free from extremes but is neither stimulating nor
depressing (bland fruits such as bananas) (the doctor
prescribed a bland diet) (there was an unusual softness
to the dark air and the bland starlight and an unusual
density to the darkness—Cheever) (the whole shabby
performance . . . the bland reassurances instead of the
difficult chores—Michener) (full, clear, with some-
thing bland and suave, each note floated through the
air like a globe of silver—Cather) Both mild and gentle
stress moderation; they are applied chiefly to things that
are not, as they might be or often are, harsh, rough, strong,
violet, unduly stimulating, or irritating and are therefore
pleasant or agreeable by contrast (a mild cigar) (mild
weather) (a man of mild and simple character who

. . . had shown no interest in anything at all except his
collection of modern paintings—Dahl) (a gentle breeze)
(a gentle heat) However, both words are capable of
connoting positively pleasurable sensations, mild often
being applied to what induces a feeling of quiet measured
beauty or of serenity and gentle to what evokes a mood
of placidity or tranquillity, or a sense of restrained power
or force (a mild,rosy spring evening in which blackbirds
sang on the budding boughs of the elms—Gibbons)
(some did shed a clear mild beam like Hesperus, while the
sea yet glows with fading sunlight—Shelley) (O gentle
sleep, nature's soft nurse—Shak.) (he was gentle, waiting
for whatever he awaited with a grace she respected—
Malamud) (she had a gentle face, and her eyes were
fired with compassion—Theodore Sturgeon) Smooth
(see also easy, level) in most of its senses suggests
the absence or removal of all unevennesses or obstacles
(as to use or enjoyment); often it comes close to mild
in stressing the pleasant quality of what might be harsh
or irritating, but unlike mild and bland it rarely if ever
hinds at weakness or insipidity. Distinctively it may
approach mellow (which see under nature) and suggest
qualities of excellence that come with time (as through
ripening or aging) or are the result of careful and skilled
handling that eliminates all harshness (a smooth whiskey)
(dancing every night to the island's smoothest orchestra
—N. Y. Times) In reference to persons or their works
and accomplishments (as in the arts) smooth may carry
further the notion of care and skill in handling and suggest
a polished finish stemming from experienced knowledge-
ability or craftsmanship (Gotfried's style is urbanbe and
smooth and full of understatement, but the story he tells
is one of wild passion—Artz) (behind the smooth perfor-
ance of choir, organ and minister were hours of prepa-
ration and careful timing—Dawson & Wilson) (they
themselves were smooth in manner, and they saw to it
that in their presence life had no rough edges—Webb)
or, in a less complimentary sense, a slick sophistication
or meretricious attractiveness (he may be an authentic
worker-wonder, but he's also a smooth customer—
Gilman) (a smooth little blonde glides out of the bedroom
—Time) (a smooth wolf who has a highly polished tech-
nique in sidestepping marriage—Tilden) Lenient (see also forbearing) is applicable chiefly to things that
are grateful to the senses or to the mind because they exert
an emollient, relaxing, softening, or assuasive influence
(earthly sounds, though sweet and well combined, and
lenient as soft opiates to the mind—Cowper) (in the
lenient hush, strong torpid rhythms somehow flowed—
E. P. O'Donnel) (I poured her a lenient rum and water
—Morley) Balm also implies a soothing influence on
the senses or mind, but beyond this it suggests refresh-
ment and sometimes exhilaration. Coupled with one or another
of these implications there is also frequently a suggestion
of fragrance, especially the aromatic fragrance of balm-
producing trees (all balm from the groves of Tahiti,
came an indolent air—Melville) (a lovely soft spring
morning at the end of March, and unusually balmly for the
time of year—Butler d. 1902) (in the balmy atmos-
phere of that second victory she basks today—Fishwick)
Ana moderate, tempered (see moderate vb): smooth,
effortless, *easy; velvety, silken, *sleek, slick: serene,
tranquil, *calm, placid, peaceful

Ant hard: stern—*Con *rough, harsh, uneven, rugged:
*intense, vehement, fierce, violent

soil, dirty, sullty, tarnish, foul, befoul, smirch, besmirch,
grimne, begrime can all mean to make or become unclean.
Soil basically implies fundamental defilement or pollution
(as of the mind or spirit) (why war soils and disregarding

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An
asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
whatever it touches, I cannot say—Kenneth Roberts

<making that room our Chapter, our one mind where all that this world soiled should be refined—Masefield>

but in much of its use it applies to a making or becoming superficially and literally unclean (as by spotting or staining or smudging) <dressed in gray shirt and trousers appropriately soiled and wrinkled from a day's work—MacInnes>

In this sense the word is very close to the corresponding sense of dirty, which is slightly stronger in its implication of uncleanness and especially of disagreeable uncleanness; thus, "to soil one's clothes" may merely imply that the freshness of a clean or new thing is lost, but "to dirty one's clothes" usually implies some activity which has plainly left its unclean traces upon the garments.

In its extended use, too, dirty tends to stress the unpleasant effect and typically suggests a making squalid or nasty of something that in itself is normal, wholesome, or clean (their religion took most of the rural whites' pleasures away from them, dirtying sex and the human body until it was a nasty thing—Lillian Smith) <a burlesque which diries the idea of chivalry—Canby>

Sully implies the staining or soiling of something that is pure, fresh, limpid, or innocent <they would not sully their fingers when eating human flesh—Elisofon>

It is used more often in reference to immaterial or spiritual than to physical soiling (if it is bounderish to traduce one's host, it is an even worse breach of etiquette to sully one's own nest—Guérard) <those sins of the body which smear and sully, debase and degrade, destroy and ruin, condemn to the deepest pits of Hell—Farrell>

A merciless massacre sullied the fame of his earlier exploits—J. R. Green

Tarnish basically implies the dulling or dimming of the luster of a thing by chemical action (as of air, dust, or dirt) <silver tarnished by the sulfur in egg yolks> In extended use it suggests a dimming rather than a total sullying of something of value <with similar scandals . . . it is not surprising that the image of state government is woefully tarnished—Armbrister> <her tawdry, shoddy, garish looks are now not complimentary>

Foul and the intensive form befoul stress a making filthy or nasty and apply either to a material or an immaterial thing. They often suggest pollution or defiling by some-thing highly offensive or disagreeable <earth was scarred by mining pits and railway tracks; air was fouled and darkened by factory soot—J. D. Hart> <it is senseless to fouls our municipal personnel with unproved charges of general corruption—Moses>

<having befouled their own minds for hire, they made their living by befouling the minds of others—Anderson> <Milton was . . . virtuous after befouling himself; once smeared with the sluggish filth of an evil woman, he had finally been won over—Styrong>

Smirch and the intensive form besmirch may emphasize a discoloring by or as by soot, smoke, or mud; usually they come close to sully in implying a destruction of immaculateness <now, with the singular ratio-
cination of the politician besmirched, he sought to go before the electorate and be washed whitier than snow by their votes—S. H. Adams>

<the parson's well-practiced and spellbinding condemnation of the besmirching, degrading, befouling, hideous, and bestial sins of the flesh—Farrell> but they seldom carry as clear an implication of an effect on real virtue or purity as they do of a darkening or blacking of appearance, reputation, honor, or good name <their infamy spreads abroad, smirching the whole class to which they belong—Jefferies> <as black-hearted a brigand as ever smirched a page of Highland history—Joseph>

<her reputation ... was not smirched by gossip, for she was known to love her husband and to be virtuous—Bowers>

Grime and the more usual begrime intensify the meaning of dirty and typically suggest deeply imbedded dirt often accumulated over a prolonged period <a rudely cut inscription grimed with dust of many a year—Henry Phillips>

<she was always filthy, her legs grimed, her hair bedraggled, her face anything but clean—W. C. Williams> <wearing a dress that virtually swept the street; that would in fact actually sweep it from time to time, battering and begriming the hem—F. L. Allen> <they had stood, begrimed with train smoke—Stafford>

sojourn vb *reside, lodge, stay, put up, stop, live, dwell

solace vb *comfort, console

Ana *relieve, assuage, mitigate, allay, alleviate, lighten: gladdened, rejoice, delight, *please, gratify

sole adj *single, unique, solitary, lone, separate, particular

Ana *alone; *only; exclusive, picked, *select

solecism *anachronism

solemn 1 *ceremonial, ceremonious, formal, conventional

Ana liturgical, ritualistic (see corresponding nouns at FORM): *full, complete, plenary: imposing, august, majestic, magnificent (see GRAND)

2 *serious, grave, somber, sedate, earnest, staid, sober

Ana impressive, *moving: sublime, superb (see SPLEN-DID): ostentatious (see SHOWY)

solemnize celebrate, observe, *keep, commemorate

solict 1 *ask, request

Ana *resort, refer, apply, go, turn: *beg, entreat, beseech, implore, supplicate

2 *invite, bid, court, woo

Ana important, adjure (see BEG): *demand, claim, exact: evoke, elicit, extract, extort, *educate

solicitor *lawyer, attorney, counselor, barrister, counsel, advocate

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

Ana apprehensive, *fearful, afraid: agitated, disturbed, disquieted, upset (see DISCOMPOSE): uneasy, fidgety, jittery (see IMPATIENT)

Ant unmindful; negligent

solicitude *care, concern, anxiety, worry

Ana misgiving, *apprehension, foreboding, presentiment: compunction, *qualm, scruple: *fear, alarm, consterna-

tion, dismay

Ant negligence: unmindfulness

solid *firm, hard

Ana compact, *close, dense: consolidated, concentrated, compacted (see COMPACT vb)

Ant fluid, liquid

solidarity *unity, union, integrity

Ana consolidation, concentration, unification (see corresponding verbs at COMPACT): cooperation, concurrence, combination (see corresponding verbs at UNITE)

solidify *harden, indurate, petrify, cake

Ana *compact, consolidate, concentrate: condense, *contract, compress: *congeal, coagulate, set, clot, jelly, jell

solitary 1 *alone, lonely, lonesome, lone, forlorn, lorn, desolate

Ana isolated, secluded (see corresponding nouns at SOLITUDE): retired, withdrawn (see GO): forsaken, deserted, abandoned (see ABANDON)

2 *single, sole, unique, lone, separate, particular

Ana alone, *only

solitude, isolation, alienation, seclusion mean the state of one that is alone. Solitude applies not only to a physical condition where there are no others of one's kind with whom one can associate <this man [the lighthouse keeper>

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
solve, resolve, unfold, unravel, decipher can all mean to make clear or apparent or intelligible what is obscure or incomprehensible. Solve is the most general in meaning and suggestion in this group; it implies the finding of a satisfactory answer or solution, usually to something of at least moderate difficulty. The term may refer to communities and to things as well as to individuals, it often suggests a cutting off physically rather than such a frame of mind as loneliness or depression. The solemn isolation of a man against the sea and sky, the Joel Chandler Harris—Stevenson—axiomatic that the artist and man of letters ought not to work in cloistered isolation, removed from public affairs—Quiller-Couch—we are exposed to isolation imposed on us from the outside by unfriendly powers—Ascoli—many words and phrases have no significance in isolation but contribute to the significance only of whole sentences—Russell. Alienation stresses estrangement and lack or loss of adjustment either between the individual and his environment and especially his social or intellectual environment so that he is in fact isolated even when physically surrounded by multitudes of his kind. Alienation can mean estrangement from society or estrangement from self through society. The delinquent is estranged but so, too, is the organization man—Harold Rosenberg—or sometimes between the creator and his creation; his alienation seems more fully acknowledged and extreme than ever before—Times Lit. Sup. Seclusion implies a shutting away or a keeping apart of oneself or another so that one is either inaccessible to others or accessible only under difficult conditions. The term may connote a condition (as confinement in an asylum or prison or withdrawal from the world or from human companionship) that makes contact difficult or repels the efforts of others to establish contact. The seclusion of her life was such that she would hardly be likely to learn the news except through a special messenger—Hardy—the time would come when she could no longer live in seclusion, she must go into the world again—Stafford—even in the seclusion of the convent, Sister had heard the rumors. 

Alienation stresses estrangement and lack or loss of adjustment either between the individual and his environment and especially his social or intellectual environment so that he is in fact isolated even when physically surrounded by multitudes of his kind 

Alienation . . . can mean estrangement from society or estrangement from self through society. The delinquent is estranged but so, too, is the organization man—Harold Rosenberg—or sometimes between the creator and his creation; his alienation seems more fully acknowledged and extreme than ever before—Times Lit. Sup. Seclusion implies a shutting away or a keeping apart of oneself or another so that one is either inaccessible to others or accessible only under difficult conditions. The term may connote a condition (as confinement in an asylum or prison or withdrawal from the world or from human companionship) that makes contact difficult or repels the efforts of others to establish contact. The seclusion of her life was such that she would hardly be likely to learn the news except through a special messenger—Hardy—the time would come when she could no longer live in seclusion, she must go into the world again—Stafford—even in the seclusion of the convent, Sister had heard the rumors.

Solve, resolve, unfold, unravel, decipher can all mean to make clear or apparent or intelligible what is obscure or incomprehensible. Solve is the most general in meaning and suggestion in this group; it implies the finding of a satisfactory answer or solution, usually to something of at least moderate difficulty. The term may refer to communities and to things as well as to individuals, it often suggests a cutting off physically rather than such a frame of mind as loneliness or depression. The solemn isolation of a man against the sea and sky—Stevenson—axiomatic that the artist and man of letters ought not to work in cloistered isolation, removed from public affairs—Quiller-Couch—we are exposed to isolation imposed on us from the outside by unfriendly powers—Ascoli—many words and phrases have no significance in isolation but contribute to the significance only of whole sentences—Russell. Alienation stresses estrangement and lack or loss of adjustment either between the individual and his environment and especially his social or intellectual environment so that he is in fact isolated even when physically surrounded by multitudes of his kind; alienation . . . can mean estrangement from society or estrangement from self through society. The delinquent is estranged but so, too, is the organization man—Harold Rosenberg—or sometimes between the creator and his creation; his alienation seems more fully acknowledged and extreme than ever before—Times Lit. Sup. Seclusion implies a shutting away or a keeping apart of oneself or another so that one is either inaccessible to others or accessible only under difficult conditions. The term may connote a condition (as confinement in an asylum or prison or withdrawal from the world or from human companionship) that makes contact difficult or repels the efforts of others to establish contact. The seclusion of her life was such that she would hardly be likely to learn the news except through a special messenger—Hardy—the time would come when she could no longer live in seclusion, she must go into the world again—Stafford—even in the seclusion of the convent, Sister had heard the rumors.

Solve, resolve, unfold, unravel, decipher can all mean to make clear or apparent or intelligible what is obscure or incomprehensible. Solve is the most general in meaning and suggestion in this group; it implies the finding of a satisfactory answer or solution, usually to something of at least moderate difficulty. The term may refer to communities and to things as well as to individuals, it often suggests a cutting off physically rather than such a frame of mind as loneliness or depression. The solemn isolation of a man against the sea and sky—Stevenson—axiomatic that the artist and man of letters ought not to work in cloistered isolation, removed from public affairs—Quiller-Couch—we are exposed to isolation imposed on us from the outside by unfriendly powers—Ascoli—many words and phrases have no significance in isolation but contribute to the significance only of whole sentences—Russell. Alienation stresses estrangement and lack or loss of adjustment either between the individual and his environment and especially his social or intellectual environment so that he is in fact isolated even when physically surrounded by multitudes of his kind; alienation . . . can mean estrangement from society or estrangement from self through society. The delinquent is estranged but so, too, is the organization man—Harold Rosenberg—or sometimes between the creator and his creation; his alienation seems more fully acknowledged and extreme than ever before—Times Lit. Sup. Seclusion implies a shutting away or a keeping apart of oneself or another so that one is either inaccessible to others or accessible only under difficult conditions. The term may connote a condition (as confinement in an asylum or prison or withdrawal from the world or from human companionship) that makes contact difficult or repels the efforts of others to establish contact. The seclusion of her life was such that she would hardly be likely to learn the news except through a special messenger—Hardy—the time would come when she could no longer live in seclusion, she must go into the world again—Stafford—even in the seclusion of the convent, Sister had heard the rumors.

Solve, resolve, unfold, unravel, decipher can all mean to make clear or apparent or intelligible what is obscure or incomprehensible. Solve is the most general in meaning and suggestion in this group; it implies the finding of a satisfactory answer or solution, usually to something of at least moderate difficulty. The term may refer to communities and to things as well as to individuals, it often suggests a cutting off physically rather than such a frame of mind as loneliness or depression. The solemn isolation of a man against the sea and sky—Stevenson—axiomatic that the artist and man of letters ought not to work in cloistered isolation, removed from public affairs—Quiller-Couch—we are exposed to isolation imposed on us from the outside by unfriendly powers—Ascoli—many words and phrases have no significance in isolation but contribute to the significance only of whole sentences—Russell. Alienation stresses estrangement and lack or loss of adjustment either between the individual and his environment and especially his social or intellectual environment so that he is in fact isolated even when physically surrounded by multitudes of his kind; alienation . . . can mean estrangement from society or estrangement from self through society. The delinquent is estranged but so, too, is the organization man—Harold Rosenberg—or sometimes between the creator and his creation; his alienation seems more fully acknowledged and extreme than ever before—Times Lit. Sup. Seclusion implies a shutting away or a keeping apart of oneself or another so that one is either inaccessible to others or accessible only under difficult conditions. The term may connote a condition (as confinement in an asylum or prison or withdrawal from the world or from human companionship) that makes contact difficult or repels the efforts of others to establish contact. The seclusion of her life was such that she would hardly be likely to learn the news except through a special messenger—Hardy—the time would come when she could no longer live in seclusion, she must go into the world again—Stafford—even in the seclusion of the convent, Sister had heard the rumors.
artificiality of manner, overrefinement, and absence of enthusiasm as the price paid for experience that brings knowledge of men and their ways (the Negro . . . could rarely afford the sophisticated inhibitions of civilization, and so he kept for his survival the art of the primitive, he lived in the enormous present—Mailer) From another point of view it implies a type of mentality marked by distinction, urbanity, cleverness, together with an indifference to all that is simple or banal in life (she didn’t want to ride on the roller coaster and he guessed that her ideas of pleasure were more sophisticated—Cheever) From still another it may imply a cultivation that enables a man to rise above the ordinary or usual (the lack of a body of sophisticated and civilized public opinion, independent of plutocratic control and superior to the infantine philosophies of the mob—Mencken) photographs realistic enough to catch the quality of the milieu which produced Pope John, surely the world’s simplest and most sophisticated of men—Casey) Worldly-wise and worldly imply a wisdom gained by attention to the things and ways of the world. Often they stress alienation from true spiritual interests and, as a result, devotion to aims that will make one happy in this world, typically suggesting a concentration upon material ends or aims or upon a wealth of worldly experience (we apply the term “worldly-wise” to a man who skillfully chooses the best means to the end of ambition; but we should not call such a man “wise” without qualification—Sidgewick) (religion has been leading man toward a nobler vision, a better day, a higher hope, and a fuller life. The church, on the other hand, has been worldly, obscurantist, arrogant and predatory—Pfeffer) Blasé implies a lack of responsiveness to things which have once been a joy or delight. It usually suggests satiety, but also it tends to suggest such real or affected overexperience and overcultivation as leads to disdain for all that arouses the average person’s interest (the blasé indifference of both the authorities and the people to the war was like cold water . . . on my spirits—Belden) (I was going through a period of adolescent awfulness in which I was trying to appear pale, interesting, and world-weary (the popular term . . . was “blasé”), and incapable of any real enthusiasm—Skinner) Disillusioned implies having had experiences that have completely destroyed a person’s illusions, with resulting hopelessness; it applies to a person who from experience is no longer capable of enthusiasm or of idealistic motives and who has grown not only realistic but scornful of the sentimental, the visionary, the emotional (in a few years the young [newspaper] man will become a cynic, appraising the world and his fellows with disillusioned eyes, even with bitterness—Walker) (the world, grown disillusioned and afraid, has neglected the one source that answers every problem, fills every need—Oursler) Ana cultivated, cultured (see corresponding nouns at culture): intellectualized (see corresponding adjective at mental): knowing, brilliant, *intelligent, clever, alert Ant unsophisticated —Con *natural, simple, ingenuous, naïve, artless: crude, uncouth, callow, raw (see rude) sophistry *fallacy, sophism, casuistry Ana plausibility, speciousness (see corresponding adjectives at plausible): equivocation, *ambiguity, tergiversation: evading or evasion, avoiding or avoidance (see corresponding verbs at escape) soppiness *sentimental, romantic, mawkish, maudlin, mushy, slushy sorcery *magic, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, alchemy, thaumaturgy sordid *mean, ignoble, abject Ana *mercenary, venal: squalid, foul, filthy, nasty, *dirty: *contemptible, despicable, sorry, scurvy, cheap, beggarly, shabby sorrow n Sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak, anguish, woe, regret, though not close synonyms, share the idea of distress of mind. Sorrow is the most general term, implying a sense of loss or of guilt (when you depart from me, sorrow abides and happiness takes his leave—Shak.) (virginity she thought she had parted without sorrow, yet was surprised by torments of conscience—Malamud) Grief denotes intense emotional suffering or poignant sorrow especially for some real and definite cause (compare grieve) (a stifled, drowsy, unimpassioned grief, which finds no natural outlet—Coleridge) (I have lain in prison . . . Out of my nature has come wild despair; an abandonment to grief that was piteous even to look at; terrible and impotent rage; bitterness and scorn—Wilde) but grief may also denote a more mundane distress of mind that is representative of the distress and trials of day-to-day life or often of a particular situation in life (he had a thankless job which gave him all of the grief of running a war and none of the glory—Time) Heartache is used especially of persistent and deep sorrow that is slow to heal but that often gives little or no outward indication (the heartaches of a would-be author) (the heartache of a hunted race—Zangwill) (the dumb heartaches of those days—Churchill) Heartbreak can imply a yet deeper and more crushing grief (the sorrow and the heartbreak which . . . abide in the homes of so many of our neighbors—Truman) Anguish implies a distress of mind that is exorcising or torturing almost beyond bearing (anguish so great that human nature is driven by it from cover to cover, seeking refuge and finding none—Rose Macaulay) (a mild perturbation . . . about as like real anguish as three little eruptions on your arm are like confluent smallpox—Montague) (then came another sob, more violent than the first—a strangled gasp of anguish—Rölaag) Woe implies a deep or incon solable misery or distress usually induced by grief (the suffering people whose woes he has not alleviated—W. P. Webb) (outcast from God . . . condemned to waste eternal days in woe—Milton) Regret seldom implies a sorrow that shows itself in tears or sobs or moans; usually it connotes such pain of mind as deep disappointment, fruitless longing, heartache, or spiritual anguish; consequently the term is applicable within a wide range that begins with the disappointment one feels, sometimes sincerely but sometimes merely as suggested by the language required by convention, in declining an invitation and ends with the pangs of remorse for something done or left undone or of hopelessness repining for what can never be restored (with a sigh that might have been either of regret or relief—Wharton) (in moments of regret we recognize that some of our judgments have been mistaken—Cohen) (that expression of mildly cynical regret and acceptance that one often notices in people who have seen much of life, and experienced its hard and seamy side—Wolfe) Ana mourning, grieving (see grieve): *distress, suffering, misery, agony: melancholy, dejection, *sadness, depression Ant joy sorrow vb mourn, *grieve Ana *cry, weep, wail, keen: sob, moan, groan (see sigh vb) sorry pitiable, *contemptible, despicable, scurvy, cheap, beggarly, shabby Ana *mean, ignoble, sordid, abject: *miserable, wretched: palpity, *petty, trifling, trivial
sort \*type, kind, stripe, kidney, ilk, description, nature, character

sort vb \*assort, classify, pigeonhole

\*An\* arrange, methodize, systematize, \*order: \*cull, pick, \*choose, select

\*sort\* *drunkard, inebriate, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, soak, toper, tosspot, tippler

\*soul\* 1 \*mind, intellect, psyche, brain, intelligence, wit

\*Ana\* powers, faculties, functions (see singular nouns at \*POWER\*)

2 \*soul, spirit\* can both denote an immaterial entity that is held to be distinguishable from and felt as superior to the body with which it is associated during the life of the individual and that in most religious beliefs is regarded as immortal, surviving the death of the body. \*soul\* (see also \*MIND 2\*) may be preferred when the emphasis is upon the thing considered as an entity having specific functions, responsibilities, aspects, or destiny, while \*spirit\* (see also \*COURAGE, APPARITION\*) may be preferred when the stress is upon the quality, the constitution, the movement, or the activity of that entity \*hoped to save his soul\* \*will to sell his soul\* \*pray for the souls of the dead\* \*do the right thing for your soul's sake\* \*come close to God in spirit\* \*a man fervent in spirit\* \*the spirit\* indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak—Mor 26:41 \*Soul, body, mind, sense here intermingle and in the extended meanings derived from that sense, usually suggests a relation to or a connection with a body or with a physical or material entity to which it gives life or power; \*spirit\* in both its restricted and extended senses suggests an opposition or even an antithesis to what is physical, corporeal, or material and often a repugnance to the latter \*it often takes a war to lay bare the soul of a people\* \*obey the spirit rather than the letter of a law\* \*Gibbon's magnificent saying, that the Greek language gave a soul to the objects of sense and a body to the abstractions of metaphysics—Quiller-Couch\* \*those who believe in the reality of a world of the spirit—the poet, the artist, the mystic—are at one in believing that there are other domains than that of physics—Jeans\* \*Spirit only, and not soul, is used of incorporeal beings (as angels or devils) \*I can call spirits from the vastly deep—Shak.\*

\*Ant\* body

\*sound\* adj 1 \*healthy, wholesome, robust, hale, well

\*Ana\* \*vigorou\*, lively, nervous, energetic, strenuous: \*strong, sturdy, stalwart, stout: intact, whole, entire, \*perfect

2 \*valid, cogent, convincing, compelling, telling

\*Ana\* \*impeccable, flawless, faultless, errorless: \*correct, exact, precise, accurate: \*rational, reasonable

\*Ant\* fallacious

\*sound\* n \*Sound, noise\ both mean a sensation or effect produced by the stimulation of the auditory receptors of the ear and the auditory centers of the brain. \*Sound\ is the general term applicable to anything that is heard regardless of its loudness or softness, its pleasantness or unpleasantness, or its meaningfulness or meaninglessness \*he waited a good half hour after the last sounds of the departing enemy came down the wind—Mason\* \*it is impossible, words being what they are, to read the sound without reading the sense at the same time—Mac-Leish\* \*heard a sound, rather shrill and tentative, swell into hoarse, high clamor, and suddenly die out—Galsworthy\* \*approximates a laugh formed by . . . squeezing guttural sounds out of the throat—Pynchon\* \*Noise basically applies to confused sounds emanating from many persons and usually suggests a clamor made by mingled outcries or shouts; in more general use, it may apply to a disagreeably loud or harsh sound, whatever its source

\*souvenir\* 1 \*remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake

\*the terrific noise of an explosion\* \*a noise like that from just one stringy throat must be an impossibility, and yet, there it was—Theodore Sturgeon\* \*dense jungle, restless with the shrill noise of wild life—Shipton\* \*he could not endure the noise of the machine shop\* \*the hell of distracting noises made by the carts, the cabs, the carriages—Mallock\* \*Although the connotations of unpleasantness and discordance typically distinguish noise from sound, noise may sometimes be applied to a sound that merely engages the attention \*still the sails made on a pleasant noise till noon, a noise like of a hidden brook—Coleridge\* \*the wetted earth gave out a cool delicious fragrance; there was a noise of birds—Huxley\* \*Ant silence

\*sound\* n \*strait, channel, passage, narrows

\*sound\* vb \*fathom, plumb

\*soupçon\* suspicion, suggestion, \*touch, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

\*sour, acid, acidulous, tart, dry\ mean having a taste devoid of sweetness. All but \*dry\ suggest the taste of lemons, vinegar, or of most unripe fruits. \*Sour and acid\ are often interchangeable, but \*sour\ is more likely to be chosen to describe something that through fermentation has lost its natural sweet or neutral taste or, sometimes, smell \*sour milk\* \*sour wine\ and the term may additionally suggest a spoiled or rancid state \*sour garbage\ \*Acid, on the other hand, is appropriately used to describe something having a sharp sweetness in its natural state usually due to the presence of chemical acids \*acid fruits\* \*acid drinks\* \*Acidulous and tart\ are applied, as a rule, to things which may be described as \*acid, acidulous\ implying a modest degree of acidity and tart, a sharp but often agreeable acidulousness or, sometimes, acidity \*some mineral waters are pleasantly acidulous\* \*most cooks prefer tart\* \*for pies and puddings\* \*Dry\ is usually applied to wines which, although without any sweetness, are bland and therefore neither definitely acid nor definitely sour.

In their extended senses \*sour\ applies especially to what is crabbed or morose \*a man with a prim \*sour\* mouth and an expression of eternal disapproval—Dahl\* \*and acidulous and tart\ to what is characterized by asperity, pungency, or sharpness \*tart temper never mellowes with age—Irving\* \*what has been dull and dead in your years is now tart to the taste—Mailer\* \*said in acidulous jest that in Congress the South takes a recurrent and unending revenge in behalf of the long-dead Lee—W. S. White\* \*Acid, partly by allusion to the corrosive powers of some acids, is likely to describe what is biting or caustic \*his wit became acid; his letters are filled with caustic comment to sharpen the temper of those on the fighting line—Parrington\* \*while dry\* may suggest matter-of-fact impersonal presentation of what is humorous, ironic, or sarcastic \*there seemed to be a faint tinge of appeal in his eyes, presentation of what is humorous, ironic, or sarcastic—Mallock\* \*dry\* instead of \*sour\* is now jest \*it often takes a war to lay bare the soul of a people—Shipton\*

\*sour\* \*acid, partly by allusion to the corrosive powers of some acids, is likely to describe what is biting or caustic—Dahl\* \*and acidulous and tart\ to what is characterized by asperity, pungency, or sharpness—Mallock\* \*what has been dull and dead in your years is now tart to the taste—Mailer\*

\*Ant\* silence

\*sour\* adj

\*Ant\* termination: outcome

\*souffle\* \*dip,immerse, submerge, duck, dunk

\*Ana\* \*soak, steep, saturate, impregnate

\*souvenir\* 1 \*remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, token, keepsake

\*A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.\*
sparing, recollection, memory, reminiscence

sparing adj 1 *dominant, predominant, paramount, preponderant, preponderating
*supreme, transcendent, surpassing: absolute, ultimate
2 independent, *free, autonomous, autarchic, autarkic
highest, loftiest (see positive adjectives at HIGH): *chief, principal, foremost: governing, ruling (see GOVERN):
commanding, directing (see COMMAND vb)
sovereignty independence, freedom, autonomy, autarky, autarchy (see under FREE adj)
supreme, transcendent, surpassing: absolute, ultimate

spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked,*spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple,
implies great length and breadth and, sometimes, height;
primarily, it is applied to things that have bounds or walls

spacious, commodious, capacious, ample are comparable when they mean larger in extent than the average. Spacious
implies large size, breadth and, sometimes, height;
spacious times of great Elizabeth—Tennyson

spacious rooms
spacious gardens
the whole interior . . . a dim, spacious, fragrant place, afloat with golden lights—Pater

spare adj 1 extra, *superfluous, surplus, supernumerary
*excessive, immoderate, exorbitant, inordinate
lean, lank, lanky, skinny, scrawny, gaunt, rawboned, angular

meager, excessive, abundant, prodigal, extravagant

fat, fleshy, obese, portly, plump

mean, ignoble, low, base

meager, ignoble, mean, contemptible

slothful, indolent

bickering, quarrel, wrangle, altercate,

bicker, squabble, quarrel, wrangle, altercate,

profuse

profuse

flash, gleam, glance, glint, glitter, glisten,

glitter

spate

spat

sparing, frugal, thrifty
profuse

Sparing, frugal, thrifty, economical can all mean exercising or manifesting careful and unwasteful use of one's money, goods, and resources. Sparing connotes abstinence or restraint <sparing in the expenditure of money> <sparing in giving praise> he was lavish of encouragement, sparing of negation—S. H. Adams
he had always been a sparing eater of plain foods but now he ate heartily—Buck

Frugal suggests the absence of all luxury and lavishness especially in food and ways of living and dress; positively it implies simplicity, temperance, and, often, content<Roman life was a frugal thing, sparing in food, temperate in drink, modest in clothing, cleanly in habit—Buchan> <the cost of the war was appalling to his frugal mind—Forester> he likes frugal fighters. Every kind of serious trouble a fighter can get into, he says, has its origin in the disbursement of currency—Liebling
Thrift implies industry, good management, and prosperity as well as frugality <lived in affluence for half a century; but memories of her early straits had made her excessively thrifty—Wharton> <her sober, thrifty, industrious life, concentrated upon moneymaking—Mumford> <the difference between a miserly man who hoards money out of avarice and a thrifty man who saves money out of prudence—Empson>
Economical often is used interchangeably with thrifty when the sparing use of money and goods is emphasized <an economical housekeeper> However the word often implies more than saving, for its chief implication is prudent management or use to the best advantage, without waste, and it is therefore far more widely applicable than thrifty, which refers only to persons or their expenditures <the verse, which nowhere bursts into a flame of poetry, is yet economical and tidy, and formed to extract all the dramatic value possible from the situation—T. S. Eliot> (historically, sea power is the most mobile and therefore the most economical form of military force—Time> <he applied his skill to the economical use of words, the brief but vivid description—Fellows>
meager, ignoble, mean, contemptible

meager, ignoble, mean, contemptible

mean, ignoble, low, base

bicker, squabble, quarrel, wrangle, altercate,

bicker, squabble, quarrel, wrangle, altercate,

miserly, avaricious, niggardly

miserly, avaricious, niggardly

mean, ignoble, low, base

mean, ignoble, low, base

dispute, controversy, argument: contention, difference, variance, *discord

dispute, argument, agitation, debate (see DISCUSS): differ, disagree

agree, concur, coincide

*profuse, prodigious, prodigal, extravagant

profuse, prodigious, prodigal, extravagant

*excessive, lavish, prodigious, extravagant

excessive, lavish, prodigious, extravagant

alone, solitary, single

alone, solitary, single

alone, solitary, single

alone, solitary, single

alone, solitary, single

alone, solitary, single
special

*flow, stream, current; *succession, progression, series

spatter

*spot, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

bespatter, asperse, splash (see sprinkle)

spattered

spotted, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

spay

castrate, *sterilize, emasculate, alter, mutilate, geld, cauponize

speak, talk, converse can all mean to articulate words so as to express one's thoughts. Speak is, in general, the broad term and may refer to utterances of any kind, however coherent or however broken or disconnected, and with or without reference to a hearer or hearers (not able to speak above a whisper) (I shall speak to him about it) (let him speak for the organization) (most of the material in this book was spoken before it was printed, as may perhaps be inferred from the style—Davis) (she repeated them, angered . . . but once the words were spoken she was sorry—McCullers) (the Bellman looked scared, and was almost too frightened to speak—Lewis Carroll) Talk, on the other hand, usually implies an auditor or auditors and connected colloquy or discourse (he left the room because he did not care to talk) (we talk in the bosom of our family in a way different from that in which we discourse on state occasions—Lowes) (she talked and talked and talked, yet it seemed to Marjorie that she could never hear enough of this girl's worldly wisdom—Wouk) But speak is also used of relatively weighty or formal speech (often public speech), and talk, of what is more or less empty or frivolous (a fool may talk, but a wise man speaks—Ben Jonson) (a good old man, sir; he will be talking—Shak.) (yet there happened in my time one noble speaker who was full of gravity in his speaking . . . . No man ever spoke more neatly, more pressly, more weightily, or suffered less emptiness, less idleness, in what he uttered—Ben Jonson) Converse implies an interchange in talk of thoughts and opinions (in the press conference the President can converse with the public rather than preach to it—Cater) (don't ever remember hearing my parents converse, and they never even chatted. My father would expound on law with the public rather than preach to it—Ben Jonson) (if the whole of nature is purposive, it is not likely that any of the following can be differentiated) (groups of especial rank) but in more general use it tends to stress unicity and to imply a relation to one thing or one individual as distinguished from all others that can be felt to fall into a category with that one (whether the specific freedoms we know and cherish . . . can be maintained—Sidney Hook) (make it possible for the imaginative talent to develop along those lines that reward with specific fruition—Hudson Review) (the binding of some ions is highly specific with respect to the protein involved—Cannan & Levy) However, specific also may mean no more than explicitly mentioned, or called into or brought forward for consideration (if such injuries . . . result in any of the following specific losses—insurance policy) (would be glad to hear of specific cases of scholars having difficulty with either passports or visas—ACLS Newsletter) (interested in any specific field only for its contribution to a view of the world as a totality—Cohen) In this last sense of specific particular is sometimes preferred on the ground that the term is clearly opposed to general and that it is a close synonym of single (for fuller treatment see single). The differences between the two words in this sense are not easily discoverable, but specific seems to be chosen more often when the ideas of specification or of illustration are involved, and particular, when the distinctness of the thing as an individual is to be suggested; thus, one gives a specific illustration to indicate a word's normal use but describes the particular uses of the word (in this connection, one of Don Quixote's adventures deserves particular mention—Muggeridge) (we get a sense for particular beauties of nature, rather than a sense for Nature herself—Binyon) Particular is often used also in the sense of special and especial (some half-dozen particular friends—Dickens) (the Debussy selection was the particular gem of the evening—Watt) In logic particular is opposed to universal and applies to matters (as propositions, judgments, and conceptions) which have reference to a single member or to some members of a class rather than to all; thus, "some men are highly intelligent" is a particular proposition, but "all men make mistakes" is a universal proposition. Often, in less technical use, particular implies an opposition to general as well as to universal (one is apt to amplify a particular judgment into a general opinion—Mackenzie) (we shall venture beyond the particular book in search of qualities that group books together—Woolf) Individual unequivocally im-

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
plies reference to one of the class or group as clearly distinguished from all the others (the aspect of every individual stone or brick—Conrad) (one could hardly maintain the courage to be individual, to speak with one’s own voice—Mailer) (it was not the magnitude or multiplicity of burdens that created martyrs and saints; it was the individual capacity to bear suffering—Hervey)

**Ana** distinctive, peculiar, individual, *characteristic:*
*exceptional: uncommon, occasional, rare (see infrequent)*

**Con** *common, ordinary, familiar: *usual, customary, habitual

**species** cash, currency, *money, legal tender, coin, coinage

**specious** specimen example, sample, illustration, *instance, case

**specific** adj 1 *special, especial, particular, individual

**Ant** generic
2 definite, *explicit, express, categorical

**Ana** designating, naming (see designate): *clear, lucid, perspicuous: precise, exact (see correct adj)

**Ant** vague

**specific n.** remedy, cure, medicine, medicament, medication, physic

**specify** *mention, name, instance

**Ana** cite, *quote: stipulate (see corresponding noun under condition)

**specimen** example, sample, illustration, *instance, case

**species** plural, believable, colorable, credible

**Ana** vain, nugatory, empty, hollow, idle: delusory, delusive, *misleading, deceptive: deceitful, dishonest, untruthful, mendacious, lying

**speculate vb** *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, spangle, bespangle

**speculated** spotted, spattered, sprinkled, motled, flecked, stippled, marbled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

**spectator, observer, beholder, look-on, onlooker, witness, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer** are comparable when they mean one who sees or looks upon something. Spectator can be used precisely in place of spectator broadly to denote one who regards himself or is felt to be wholly apart from and in no manner identified with what he sees and what he sees is stressed (the onlookers, not the participants, see most of the game) looks-on often see what familiarity obscures for the participants—Moberly

they dropped, panting, while the onlookers repeated that it was a shame and somebody ought to stop them—Davis

**Witness** specifically denotes one who has firsthand knowledge and therefore is competent to give testimony (no person shall be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act—U. S. Constitution) The term sometimes applies to a person who knows because he has seen (standing there, I was witness of a little incident that seemed to escape the rest—Quiller-Couch) but since witness does not necessarily imply seeing, eyewitness is often preferred as more explicitly implying actual sight (there were no eyewitnesses of the collision) (incontrovertible evidence, with occasional corroboration from the eyewitness accounts of the few survivors—Shirer)

Bystander primarily denotes one who stands by when something is happening; sometimes it carries the implication of onlooker (the policeman took the names of all the bystanders) (men have been haunted recurrently by the question “Am I my brother’s keeper?” . . . It is what makes being a bystander more and more impossible—Rothman) but at other times it suggests little more than presence at a place (difficult for each member of the society really to participate . . . . He begins to be an onlooker at most of it, then a bystander, and may end up with indifference to the welfare of his society—Kroeber) (a bystander was injured by the explosion) Kibitzer specifically applies to one who watches a card game by looking over the shoulders of the players and who may annoy them by offering advice; in extended use the word denotes an onlooker who meddles or makes unwelcome suggestions.

**specter spirit, ghost, *apparition, phantasm, phantom, wraith, shade, revenant

**speculate reason, reflect, *think, cogitate, deliberate

**speculative 1** contemplative, meditative, *thoughtful, reflective, pensive

**speech** 1 *language, tongue, dialect, idiom
speechless *dumb, mute, inarticulate

speech n 1 *haste, hurry, expedition, dispatch
Ana *celerity, legerity, alacrity: fleetness, rapidity, swiftness, quickness (see corresponding adjectives at fast): velocity, pace, headway (see speed)

2 Speed, velocity, momentum, impetus, pace, headway are comparable but not all mutually synonymous terms that basically apply to motion through space. Speed (see also haste n) denotes rate of motion, a value computable by dividing the distance covered by the time taken (a car that covers 300 miles in 5 hours has an average speed of 50 miles an hour.) Velocity denotes the speed of something that is directed along a given path. Ordinarily velocity suggests rate of motion in a straight line (linear velocity) or in an arc or circle (angular velocity) (the velocity of a bullet) (the velocity of a skier) (velocity of a wind) (velocity of light) (a body rotating about a fixed axis with a constant angular velocity) Momentum in general or casual use may take the place of speed or velocity, but in technical use it denotes not rate of motion but quantity of motion, a value determinable by multiplying the mass of a moving body by its velocity (falling stone gathers momentum) (the momentum of an iron ball rolling down an inclined plane is greater than that of a cork ball of the same diameter rolling with the same velocity) (as photons are always in motion, we may also speak of the momentum of a photon, much as we speak of the momentum of a motorcar—Jeans) Impetus (see also stimulus) is a popular rather than technical synonym of momentum. In practice it is a closer synonym of impulse in the sense of the effect of an impelling force, for it regularly carries an implication of a rushing upon or an onset, with the result that it usually suggests great momentum or implies a powerful driving force as the cause of such momentum (whether the steam ... retains sufficient impetus to carry it to our shores—T. H. Huxley) (the circulating blood receives a new impetus from the contraction of the ventricles of the heart) Pace belongs here not as a technical term but as a term in general use to denote the speed of or as if of one (as a person or horse) going afoot (he set the pace for his companions on the hike) (the pace was too slow for the rest of the party) Pace often finds extended use in describing such things as activities, progress, or rate of production (keep pace with the times) (the factories were asked to increase their pace) (in New York he had moved on from speed to speed and from height to height, keeping pace with all the most magnificent developments in the furious city—Wolfe) Headway basically applies to motion forward and in this sense is used chiefly in reference to ships (he started the screw turning until the African Queen was just making headway against the current—Forester) However it frequently denotes rate of movement ahead and then is used in reference not only to ships but to whatever is capable of advancing or making progress (our mutual security program had suffered a year of lost headway—Barnett) (the independent movements of nominalism and German mysticism made great headway—Thilly)

speed vb Speed, accelerate, quicken, hasten, hurry, precipitate can mean to go or make go fast or faster. Speed emphasizes rapidity of motion or progress; as a transitive verb it suggests an increase in tempo; as an intransitive verb, a high degree of swiftness (speed up an engine) (speed up the work in a factory) (the bullet speed through the air) (arrested for speeding) (the stoutest of the boatmen seized the staff out of turn and hurrying through the air) (arrested for speeding) (the stoutest of the boatmen seized the staff out of turn and hurrying through the air)

speed n 1 *haste, hurry, expedition, dispatch
Ana *celerity, legerity, alacrity: fleetness, rapidity, swiftness, quickness (see corresponding adjectives at fast): velocity, pace, headway (see speed)

2 Speed, velocity, momentum, impetus, pace, headway are comparable but not all mutually synonymous terms that basically apply to motion through space. Speed (see also haste n) denotes rate of motion, a value computable by dividing the distance covered by the time taken (a car that covers 300 miles in 5 hours has an average speed of 50 miles an hour). Velocity denotes the speed of something that is directed along a given path. Ordinarily velocity suggests rate of motion in a straight line (linear velocity) or in an arc or circle (angular velocity) (the velocity of a bullet) (the velocity of a skier) (velocity of a wind) (velocity of light) (a body rotating about a fixed axis with a constant angular velocity) Momentum in general or casual use may take the place of speed or velocity, but in technical use it denotes not rate of motion but quantity of motion, a value determinable by multiplying the mass of a moving body by its velocity (falling stone gathers momentum) (the momentum of an iron ball rolling down an inclined plane is greater than that of a cork ball of the same diameter rolling with the same velocity) (as photons are always in motion, we may also speak of the momentum of a photon, much as we speak of the momentum of a motorcar—Jeans) Impetus (see also stimulus) is a popular rather than technical synonym of momentum. In practice it is a closer synonym of impulse in the sense of the effect of an impelling force, for it regularly carries an implication of a rushing upon or an onset, with the result that it usually suggests great momentum or implies a powerful driving force as the cause of such momentum (whether the steam ... retains sufficient impetus to carry it to our shores—T. H. Huxley) (the circulating blood receives a new impetus from the contraction of the ventricles of the heart) Pace belongs here not as a technical term but as a term in general use to denote the speed of or as if of one (as a person or horse) going afoot (he set the pace for his companions on the hike) (the pace was too slow for the rest of the party) Pace often finds extended use in describing such things as activities, progress, or rate of production (keep pace with the times) (the factories were asked to increase their pace) (in New York he had moved on from speed to speed and from height to height, keeping pace with all the most magnificent developments in the furious city—Wolfe) Headway basically applies to motion forward and in this sense is used chiefly in reference to ships (he started the screw turning until the African Queen was just making headway against the current—Forester) However it frequently denotes rate of movement ahead and then is used in reference not only to ships but to whatever is capable of advancing or making progress (our mutual security program had suffered a year of lost headway—Barnett) (the independent movements of nominalism and German mysticism made great headway—Thilly)

speed vb Speed, accelerate, quicken, hasten, hurry, precipitate can mean to go or make go fast or faster. Speed emphasizes rapidity of motion or progress; as a transitive verb it suggests an increase in tempo; as an intransitive verb, a high degree of swiftness (speed up an engine) (speed up the work in a factory) (the bullet speed through the air) (arrested for speeding) (the stoutest of the boatmen seized the staff out of turn and hurrying through the air) (arrested for speeding) (the stoutest of the boatmen seized the staff out of turn and hurrying through the air)

speed n 1 *haste, hurry, expedition, dispatch
Ana *celerity, legerity, alacrity: fleetness, rapidity, swiftness, quickness (see corresponding adjectives at fast): velocity, pace, headway (see speed)

2 Speed, velocity, momentum, impetus, pace, headway are comparable but not all mutually synonymous terms that basically apply to motion through space. Speed (see also haste n) denotes rate of motion, a value computable by dividing the distance covered by the time taken (a car that covers 300 miles in 5 hours has an average speed of 50 miles an hour). Velocity denotes the speed of something that is directed along a given path. Ordinarily velocity suggests rate of motion in a straight line (linear velocity) or in an arc or circle (angular velocity) (the velocity of a bullet) (the velocity of a skier) (velocity of a wind) (velocity of light) (a body rotating about a fixed axis with a constant angular velocity) Momentum in general or casual use may take the place of speed or velocity, but in technical use it denotes not rate of motion but quantity of motion, a value determinable by multiplying the mass of a moving body by its velocity (falling stone gathers momentum) (the momentum of an iron ball rolling down an inclined plane is greater than that of a cork ball of the same diameter rolling with the same velocity) (as photons are always in motion, we may also speak of the momentum of a photon, much as we speak of the momentum of a motorcar—Jeans) Impetus (see also stimulus) is a popular rather than technical synonym of momentum. In practice it is a closer synonym of impulse in the sense of the effect of an impelling force, for it regularly carries an implication of a rushing upon or an onset, with the result that it usually suggests great momentum or implies a powerful driving force as the cause of such momentum (whether the steam ... retains sufficient impetus to carry it to our shores—T. H. Huxley) (the circulating blood receives a new impetus from the contraction of the ventricles of the heart) Pace belongs here not as a technical term but as a term in general use to denote the speed of or as if of one (as a person or horse) going afoot (he set the pace for his companions on the hike) (the pace was too slow for the rest of the party) Pace often finds extended use in describing such things as activities, progress, or rate of production (keep pace with the times) (the factories were asked to increase their pace) (in New York he had moved on from speed to speed and from height to height, keeping pace with all the most magnificent developments in the furious city—Wolfe) Headway basically applies to motion forward and in this sense is used chiefly in reference to ships (he started the screw turning until the African Queen was just making headway against the current—Forester) However it frequently denotes rate of movement ahead and then is used in reference not only to ships but to whatever is capable of advancing or making progress (our mutual security program had suffered a year of lost headway—Barnett) (the independent movements of nominalism and German mysticism made great headway—Thilly)
spell
speedy expeditious, quick, swift, fleet, rapid, *fast, 
Ana
speedy expeditious, quick, swift, fleet, rapid, *fast, 
Ana
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or 
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or 
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or 
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or 
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or 
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or 
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 
of the preceding terms, in general suggests an activity or

Ant
dilatory
of drinking, of work, or of exercise), but in every case it 

Ana
brisk, nimble, *agile: prompt, *quick, ready

Ant
dilatory

spell n Spell, shift, tour, trick, turn, stint, bout, go can mean 

Ana
brisk, nimble, *agile: prompt, *quick, ready

Ant
dilatory

Spent, spendthrift, prodigal, profligate, waster, wastrel are
comparable when they denote a person who dissipates his resources foolishly and wastefully. All are more or less pejorative terms but they may differ significantly in emphasis and application. *Spent* and *prodigal* are the most nearly neutral terms and in themselves, as apart from context, carry little suggestion of moral obliquity; they are, however, the members of the group with specific legal applications and are generally applicable when the basic notion is one of unwise and wasteful expenditure usually of material resources (as wages, wealth, or property). *Spent* stresses lack of prudence in spending and usually implies imbalance between income and outgo rather than lavishness (to *spendthrift* there is only one limit to their fortune,—that of time; and a *spendthrift* with only a few crowns is the Emperor of Rome until they are spent—Stevenson) (a *spendthrift* is a man ... that they shall be mere mechanisms in working hours 

**Word List**

- sphere: field, domain, province, territory, bailiwick
- spew: *belch, burp, vomit, disgorge, regurgitate, throw up

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
led into wild shooting frays by a high-spirited girl—
Anthony Boucher} <too high-spirited to be passive in-
stuments in his hand—William Robertson} <they were
high-spirited, perhaps a little insolent as well as reckless
—Ellis} Mettlesome differs little from high-spirited ex-
cept in its tendency to stress fearlessness and vigor more
than restiveness <he found himself immediately at grips
with one of the watch, a mettlesome fellow who fought
like a wildcat—Costain} <his occasional scarcities are no
more than a high-spirited gaiety and his quarrels no
more frequent or violent than might be normal in any
mettlesome youngster—Edgar Johnson} Spunky often
implies qualities similar to those suggested by high-spirited
and mettlesome but it carries a stronger implication
of quickness in taking fire and of an incapacity for being
downright or daunted; also, the term is often applied
to unlooked-for courage in persons or animals <she was
under five feet and weighed less than ninety pounds,
but he would have had an armful of spunky vitality—
Thurber} <one of the great subjects for biography is that
spunky, crotchety, illiterate, and wonderfully gifted maker
of things, Henry Ford—Gill} Fiery, peppery, and gingery
are used as synonyms of the preceding terms when one
prefers a more concrete term. Fiery, suggesting the heat
of flame or fire, implies impetuosity, passionateness,
or sometimes irascibility in addition to spiritedness <a
fiery soul, which, working out its way, fretted the pygmy
body to decay—Dryden} <a fiery, tortured spirit, aiming
at something greater than could be conceived by anything
that was bound up with the flesh—Maugham} <the
fiery thinker who flattened a generation with the hail of
his words—Tracy} Peppery adds to spirited suggestions
of a hotness or pungency characteristic of pepper and
often distinctively connotes asperity or excitability <a
peppery response} <Master Rickey is a peppery young
man. Love and war come as natural to him as bread and
butter—Meredith} <as he makes clear in peppery foot-
notes and caustic asides, he has aimed at an absolute
precision of factual detail—Kazin} Gingery carries a
heightened suggestion of a zest, spiciness, or snap asso-
ciated with ginger <in gingery good health at 55—News-
week} <he learned the high quick gingery ways of
thoroughbreds—Masefield}

**Analogous Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Antonym</th>
<th>Ant</th>
<th>Con</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td>Spiritless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contrasted Words**

- Malevolence, ill will
- Animosity, antipathy, animus, rancor, antagonism (see Enmity)
- Venom, poison, vindictiveness, revengefulness, vengeance (see corresponding adjectives at Vindictive)
- Splendid, resplendent, gorgeous, glorious, sublime, superb
- Malice, malevolence, ill will
- Antagonism, antipathy, animus, rancor, antagonism (see Enmity)
- Venom, poison, vindictiveness, revengefulness, vengeance (see corresponding adjectives at Vindictive)
- Splendid, resplendent, gorgeous, glorious, sublime, superb

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
surpassing, transcending or transcendent (see corresponding verbs at *EXCEED*)

**splenetic** *irascible, choleric, testy, touchy, cranky, cross AnA morose, *sullen, glum, gloomy: *irritable, querulous, peevish, snappish: captious, carping, caviling (see *CRITICAL*)

**split** vb *rend, cleave, rive, rip, *tear AnA *separate, part, divide, sever: *cut, chop, hew

**split** n *break, break, schism, rent, rupture, rift AnA *crack, cleft, fissure: estrangement, alienation (see corresponding verbs at *ESTRANGLE*): schism, heresy (see corresponding nouns at *HEREGETIC*)

**split second** *instant, moment, second, minute, flash, jiffy, twinkling

**spoil** n *Spoil, plunder, booty, prize, loot, swag can mean something of value that is taken from another by force or craft. Spoil applies to the movable property of a defeated enemy, which by the custom of old-time warfare belongs to the victor and of which he strips a captured city or place (*fire the palace, the fort, and the keep—leave to the foe no spoil at all*—*Kipling*) With changes in methods and customs of warfare spoil, and especially its plural spoils, tends to be applied not only to property or land taken over by conquering forces in actual warfare or demanded by them from the conquered as a condition of making peace but also to whatever by custom and often unethical custom belongs to a victor whether in warlike endeavor or more peaceful pursuits; thus, in political use spoils applies chiefly to appointive public offices and their emoluments which the successful party in an election regards as its peculiar property to be bestowed as its leaders wish. But spoil may also apply to something gained by skill or effort (*the spoils of a conservative industrial life—*Brooks) or sometimes acquired as casually as if by looting (*the car filled with country spoils*) (*brought back all sorts of frivolous spoils from her trip*)

Plunder implies open violence (as of marauders) and is a more inclusive term than spoil because not restricted to warfare; it consistently implies robbery, whether as incidental to war or as dissociated from it and is applicable to what has been seized not only by spoilers, pillagers, and sackers but by such ruffians as bandits, brigands, and highwaymen (*often the pirates were glad to accept money instead of plunder, and ransom for the slaves—*Forester) (*a useless compiler, who fills letters and sermons with the plunder of the ancients and Holy Writ—H. O. Taylor*)

**Booty** like plunder, is applicable to martial spoils as well as to what is seized by or as if by robbery or theft (*birds like the berries. They gather them, fly to top branches where they can be on the lookout for danger, and eat their booty—*Dorrance*) (*a cat springing on an oriole and marching proudly off with her golden booty projectting . . . from her mouth—*Brooks*)

In international law booty is technically used in distinction from *prize, booty referring to spoils taken on land, and prize, to spoils captured on the high seas or in the territorial waters of the enemy (*finished, but never published, a Latin treatise on the right of seizing prizes at sea—*Barr*)

**Loot** may be used in place of *plunder, booty, or spoils* when a highly derogatory or condemnable term is desired (*thrown into the conflict by a hope of sharing in the loot of the Church—*Bellow*) (*they believed that the revolution which they had fought by brawling in the streets would bring them loot and good jobs—*Shirer*)

The term is also applied specifically to the plunder of those who rob the dead or helpless victims of a catastrophe or who steal anything left of value in the ruins of buildings wholly or partly destroyed (as by fire, flood, earthquake, or violent storm) (*prowlers among the ruins in search of loot*) In more general use the term is applicable to gains felt as ill-gotten (*corrupt officers enriched by the loot of years*) Swag is also often used in place of *loot or plunder especially to imply a collection or sackful of valuables gathered by or as if by thieves (*asserted that the swag from . . . graft was kept hidden . . . in a metal box buried in the backyard—F. L. Allen*) (*certain the great swag of doubloons was there—if he could only find it—*Dobie*)

**Ana** *theft, robbery, larceny, burglary: acquisitions, acqurements (see singular nouns at AcQuireMENT*)

**spoil** vb 1 *injure, harm, hurt, damage, impair, mar AnA *ruin, wreck: *destroy, demolish Con preserve, conserve, *save: amend, redress, remedy (see correct vb)

2 *endulge, pamper, humor, baby, mollycoddle AnA *injure, harm, hurt, damage: favor, accommodate, *oblige: *debase, deprave, vitiate, debauch

3 *decay, decompose, rot, putrefy, disintegrate, crumble AnA corrupt, vitiate (see DEBASE): *ruin, wreck: impair, harm, *injure

**spoliator** despoil, *ravage, devastate, waste, sack, pilage AnA *rob, plunder, rifle, loot: defraud, swindle, *cheat

**sponte** *parasite, sycophant, favorite, toady, lickspittle, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech

**sponsor** n Sponsor, patron, surety, guarantor, backer, angel are comparable when they denote a person who in a greater or less degree accepts responsibility for another person or for a particular venture or undertaking. Sponsor usually implies public acceptance of a responsibility and a definite engagement to perform what is promised; the word implies making a pledge in behalf of another and thereby accepting responsibility for its fulfillment; thus, the sponsor of an infant in baptism makes the promises in the child's name and pledges himself to be responsible for the child's religious training if the latter is deprived of his natural guardians. In a wider sense sponsor suggests assumption of the role of promoter or supporter and may imply acceptance of any degree of responsibility from one that is complete (*it is my way, when I have finished a book, to let it drop with a resigned shrug . . . The charm it once possessed for me, its sponsor, has long since vanished—Thomas Mann) to that which is indirect or remote and often purely economic (*the major sponsors of scientific research, governments and business corporations—*Flew*) (*for every person whose passage was paid to Virginia, the sponsor received fifty acres of land—Smelser & Kirwin*)

**Patron** stresses the acceptance of the relation as a protector or benefactor especially in return for service, honors, or devotion; it often implies the obligation to assist, support, or defend; thus, a patron of an artist or of a poet is a wealthy or influential person who makes him a protégé presumably in return for honors paid him: the patron of an institution, a cause, or a charity is one whose generous and regular contributions to its support are publicly recognized. Surety and guarantor imply answerability for another's debt or performance of duty in case of default because of prior acceptance of responsibility. Backer, less specific in denotation than the other terms, is used chiefly in relation to enterprises (as of sports, politics, and the theater); it often implies the giving of financial support, sometimes merely moral support or encouragement, but it carries no implication that responsibility for debts is assumed. *The success of a publication is the success of its editors, and not of its business managers and its backers—*Hendrick

**Angel** is a somewhat derogatory or contemptuous term for a financial backer, especially of a theatrical enterprise. AnA supporter or support, upholder, champion, advoca-
spontaneity abandon, *unconstraint

Analogous words

Ana spontaneousness, instinctiveness, impulsiveness (see corresponding adjectives at SPONTANEOUS): extemporaneous, offhandedness, unpremeditated (see corresponding adjectives at EXTEMPORANEOUS): naturalness, simplicity, unsophisticated, naïveté, ingenuousness (see corresponding adjectives at NATURAL)

Impulsive, instinctive, automatic, mechanical in application to persons or their movements, acts, and utterances mean acting or activated without apparent thought or deliberation. Spontaneous can describe whatever is not affected or effected by an external or internal compulsion of the will and comes about so naturally that it seems unpremeditated as well as unprompted (a spontaneous burst of applause) (a spontaneous expression of feeling) (the spontaneous wish to learn, which every normal child possesses) should be the driving-force in education—Russell (the Witticisms are never planted: they are spontaneous and over in a flash, like the quick striking of a match—Edmund Wilson) Impulsive applies to someone or something acted upon suddenly and impetuously under the stress of the feeling or spirit of the moment and seeming to be involuntary and forced by emotion rather than voluntary and natural (an impulsive act of generosity) (my heart, impulsive and wayward—Longfellow) (he made an impulsive gesture, and opened his lips; but he dared not speak—Deland) (to promote the carefree, impulsive purchasing of new items—Packard) Instinctive implies the guiding influence of instinct and a native and unreasoned prompting to actions characteristic of the species and presumably contributing to its life and well-being; when referred to human beings, the term is applied to actions, movements, or feelings which are instantaneous, unwilled, and often unconscious (as reflex movements, habitual actions, or automatic, mechanical) apply to what at least to outward appearances seems to engage neither the mind nor the emotions and to suggest the operation of a machine. But automatic, like instinctive, stresses promptness in the response. It differs from instinctive, however, in implying adaptability to changing circumstances and readiness to react or to respond immediately and unvaryingly each time a given situation or stimulus recurs (the response of a well-trained soldier to commands are automatic) (he pulled the hall door open, and he held it, in automatic and habitual caution, scarcely ajar—Boyle) (in fact, voting is so nearly automatic that a cynic might ask why we have election campaigns at all—Bliven b.1889) Mechanical, on the other hand, stresses the lifeless and, often, the perfunctory character of the response. It does not, as automatic often does, suggest perfect discipline; rather, it suggests a mind dulled by repetition of the act, motion, or operation and capable only of routine performance (he would deal you out facts in a dry mechanical way as if reading them in a book—Hudson) (engaged in futile and mechanical lovelmaking, compulsive drinking, and considerations of suicide—Aldridge)

Ana *extemporaneous, extempore, impromptu, improvised, offhand, unpremeditated: *natural, simple, ingenious, unsophisticated 2 *automatic

Sports

Wb ladle, dish, *dip, bail, scoop

Sporadic occasional, rare, scarce, *infrequent, uncommon

Ana scattered, dispersed (see SCATTER): sparse, exiguous, *meager

Sport vb *play, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol

Ana divert, *amuse, recreate, entertain: *skip, bound, hop

Sport n 1 play, disport, frolic, rollick, romp, gambol (see under PLAY vb)

Ana amusement, diversion, recreation, entertainment (see under AMUSE): merriment, jollity (see corresponding adjectives at MERRY)

2 *fun, jest, game, play

Ana *mirth, gle, hilarity, jollity

In plural form Sports athletics, games

Sportive *playful, frolicsome, roguish, waggish, impish, mischievous

Ana blithe, *merry, jocund, jovial, jolly: mirthful, gleeful, hilarious (see corresponding nouns at MIRTH)

Spot n *place, position, location, situation, site, station

Ana *locality, district, neighborhood, vicinity: region

*area, tract, belt, zone: section, sector (see Part)

Spot vb Spot, spatter, sprinkles, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle can mean to cover or to mark or to become covered or marked with spots or streaks. The same distinctions in implications or connotations are found in their participial adjectives (often used as simple adjectives) spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled. Spot usually suggests either accident or a result of nature. When accident or carelessness is suggested, a staining or smirching is often connoted (spot a dress with mud) (spot a cloth with iodine) (the book was spotted with grease) (spotted her stockings in the rain) but, when the agency of art or nature is suggested, some design is usually implied that decorates, covers, or distinguishes; this use occurs mainly in the participial adjective (spotted muslin) (no spotted pony is ever pure Shetland—Riker) (a spotted leopard) (a spotted orchid) Spatter (see also Sprinkle) essentially implies a dispersing or scattering in fragments; in general it presupposes an action (as of boiling grease, of dashing rain, or of a person washing) that causes something to fly out in drops or bits upon something or someone (do not get the lard too hot, for it will spatter all over you) (spray from one of the hoses spattered over the longshoremen—Pizer) (his every good fortune spattered others with misfortune—Malamud) (do ye wait for the spattered shrapnel ere ye learn how a gun is laid?—Kipling) Sprinkle (see also Sprinkle) implies an effect of or as if of scattering a liquid in small drops; the term may emphasize the numbers or frequency of tiny spots or the thin streaking of larger ones (his ill-fitting clothes were usually sprinkled with cigarette ashes—Lubel) (the massed rows of black skullcaps and white prayer shawls, sprinkled here and there with the frilly hats . . . . of women—Wouk) (a heavily wooded section, sprinkled with small lakes—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) Mottle stresses an irregular spotting (as in streaks of color, of light, or of clouds) (overhead the still blue is scarcely flecked by a cloud—Black) (one hillside is flecked by a herd of black goats—Edmund Wilson) (immature birds . . . recognizable by their dark, flecked
plume—E. A. Armstrong> Stipple basically refers to a technique in engraving, painting, or drawing in which dots or short touches rather than lines are used, especially to depict masses or to indicate shadows. The term is often extended to other things that suggest this technique or its effect (accidentally juggled his arm in such wise as to stipple ink over the coat—Perelman) (sunlight that fell through the trees and stippled the sidewalks—Basso) (the quail that spills out of the stippled corn to windy air—Southerly) (a play stippled alternately with tenderness and dynamite—Nathan) Marble comes close to motile, but it is specifically used when by intent or by nature the irregularly streaked effect of variegated marble is reproduced (for the endpapers we use handmade paper marbled by hand—Notes on The Art of Bookbinding) (well-marbled beef) (his uneven eyes, one blind, marbled and sunken in his skull—Malcolm Cowley) Speckle suggests a covering with small and often crowded spots (as of color); the term is sometimes used with a suggestion of the cause or nature of the marks (a few drops of unenthusiastic rain ... speckled the shoulders of his coat—Charteris) (his arms were speckled from wrists to biceps with the punctures of a hypodermic needle—Kohler) (bright stars speckled the sky—Mansfield) Spangle and harmless suggest a thick strewing with tiny sparkling bits (as of shiny metal) or with something giving a similar effect (an evening sheath ... spangled with black sequins—Lois Long) (the spangled palaces of sin and fancy dancing in the false West of the movies—Steinbeck) (grass ... all bespangled with dewdrops—Cowper) (a cold perspiration bespangled his brow—Gilbert) Ana splash, bespatter, besprinkle, asperse (see SPINKLE): *soil, sully, dirty, smirch, besmirch: variegate, checker, dapple, freak (see corresponding adjectives at variegated)

spotted spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

sprain n *strain

sprain vb strain (see under strain n)

spread vb Spread, circulate, disseminate, diffuse, propagate, radiate can all mean to extend or cause to extend over an area or space. Spread basically implies a drawing or stretching out to the limit (spread a net) (spread a cloth on the ground) (the bird spreads its wings) (spread a sail) and in the sense here considered emphasizes distribution or dispersion (as by stirring or scattering or being strewed or scattered) over an extent of space that may be large or small or incalculable or calculable (spread fertilizer over a field) (this troublesome weed has spread over a large section of the country) Often it suggests an applying in or a taking the form of a thin layer (spread butter on bread) (the paint spreads thinly and evenly) (the clouds shifted, spread against the sky ... and enveloped everything below—Styron) or a making or becoming more prevalent or more widely known or felt (don't go on spreading that nonsense—Rose Macaulay) (the heretic should be crushed before his heresy can spread—Fitzroy Maclean) (news of us might spread far beyond that town—Shipton) Circulate may imply in its primary and largely technical use a continuous or repeated movement over the same course from starting point to starting point (the blood circulates from the heart through the arteries and veins back to the heart again) (steam circulating through a heating system) In its more general applications the term tends to stress a moving about or a causing to move about freely and continuously, often to the more or less complete loss of the notion of going over the same course again and again (the seats were being filled up rapidly and a pleasant noise circulated in the auditorium—Joyce) (the satire, circulating in manuscript copies, had a great local vogue—Lucas) (all of us circulating ominously, and incognito, throughout the city, sizing up elevator operators—Salinger) Disseminate implies much the same as spread when that word suggests distribution here and there (disseminate information) (the London ladies were indignant, and naturally they started disseminating a vast amount of fruity gossip about the new Lady Turton—Dahl) (in those days the Boy Scout movement was already in existence, but it had still to disseminate sound views about knot-tying among the rising generation—H. G. Wells) Diffuse suggests a spreading throughout a space; it is applied primarily to things (as sound, light, odor, or vapor) that in moving permeate the medium through which they move and in its extended sense to things (as education, knowledge, fame, and spirit) that have or are felt to have a similar pervasive quality in their dissemination (the colors of the sky are due to minute particles diffused through the atmosphere—Tyndall) (it would surely be hard to find any country ... where instruction is more widely diffused—Ellis) (a State in which power is concentrated will ... be more bellicose than one in which power is diffused—Russell) (the so-called "correct speech" is being diffused to the mass of the populace through migration, mass education, and mass communication media—Amer. Sociological Review) Propagate (see also generate; compare propaganda under publicity) implies extension for the sake of increase (as of believers or members or of activity or operation) (propagate the faith) (propagate a false rumor) (I am bound by my own definition of criticism: a disinterested endeavor to learn and propagate the best that is known and thought in the world—Arnold) (extraordinary plebeians who rise sharply ... and so propagate the delusion that all other plebeians would do the same thing if they had the chance—Mencken) Radiate implies a spreading from a center outward in or as if in rays; in general use it is often applied to the spreading of something material or immaterial from a fixed center (soul-searching Freedom! here assume thy stand, and radiate hence to every distant land—Barlow) (her face ... was still pretty, even with the web of little wrinkles that radiated from the corners of her eyes—Basso) (a superb self-confidence radiated from him, as it does from any healthy animal—Gibbons) but in its common technical use the term is largely restricted in reference to diffusion in the form of rays (as of heat or light) (the sun radiates both light and heat)

Ana *distribute, dispense, deal: *scatter, dissipate

spread n *expansile, amplitude, stretch

 Ana extent, area, magnitude, *size: *range, reach, scope, compass

sprightly *lively, animated, vivacious, gay

Ana *active, live, dynamic: *agile, nimble, brisk, spry: *merry, blithe, jocund

spring vb 1 Spring, arise, rise, originate, derive, flow, issue, emanate, proceed, stem can mean to come up or out of something into existence. Spring stresses sudden or surprising emergence especially after a period of concealment or hidden existence or preparation (plants spring from seed) (thoughts that sprang up in his mind) (he had not chosen his course. It had sprung from a necessity of his nature—Brooks) (freedom of the mind, the basic freedom from which all other freedoms spring—Davis) Arise emphasizes the fact of coming into existence or into notice more than the conditions attending the event; often it conveys no clear suggestion of a prior state (a rumor arose and was widely circulated) (after Alfred no rival native

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
house arose to dispute the throne with Alfred's heirs—Malone.

When used with from, however, it usually implies a causal connection between what is the object of the preposition and what is the subject of the verb; in such cases it is synonymous with result, though it neither loses nor obscures its primary implication of coming into existence mistakes often arise from ignorance the mischief arose from careless gossip the depression, the shock arising from what had happened abovestairs, left him almost at once—Bromfield.

Sometimes, when the context suggests a cause, the from phrase is omitted where there is continued discontent, trouble is certain to arise the right never existed, and the question whether it has been surrendered cannot arise—John Marshall.

Rise and arise (see also under rise 2) are often used interchangeably, but usage usually favors arise except where, in addition to the implication of beginning, there is either in the word or the context a strong suggestion of ascent new nations rise only to fall mighty forces rise from small beginnings.

The Gothic cathedrals rose in England in the first half of the thirteenth century—Saunders. Great regimes rose based upon the irrational and negative in man's nature—Straiton.

Origin suggests a definite source or starting point which may be specified or located (the theory of evolution did not originate with Darwin) the fire originated in the base ment the newspaper, originated . . . in France, was introduced in the United States in 1910—Mott.

Its founding originated in the Puritans' conviction that learning was essential for godliness—Murdock.

Derive also suggests a source; usually it does not imply, as originate implies, actual inception but presupposes a prior existence in another form or in another person or thing and connotes descent (as by inheritance, endowment, transference, or deduction) the power of the executive derives from the people our thoughts often derive from our wishes the principle of symmetry derives, I suppose, from contemplation of the human form—Binyon.

Much of our thinking about the rights and duties of the citizen derives directly from Greco-Roman thought—Higher.

Flow, issue, emanate in common imply a passing from one thing to another, the former being the source from which the latter is derived. All of these words are colored by their basic meanings. Flow suggests passage like water, easily as if from a spring or abundantly as if from a reservoir praise and remonstrance flowed Gibbons.

Issue most frequently suggests emergence into existence, as if from a womb how far Arnold is responsible for the birth of Humanism would be difficult to say; we can at least say that it issues very naturally from his doctrine—T. S. Eliot. If the naturalist's logic rests on wind, and the ologinous sentences flowed easily from her pen Gibbons.

Emanate is used largely in reference to immaterial constructions (as a law, a principle, a power, or a system of thought); it connotes the passage of something impalpable or invisible and suggests a less obvious causal connection between the source and the thing derived than flow or issue but the house . . . was Carrie's and it was from her issue . . . was Gibbons.

Flowage suggests passage like water, easily as if from a spring or abundantly as if from a reservoir praise and remonstrance flowed Gibbons.

Issue most frequently suggests emergence into existence, as if from a womb how far Arnold is responsible for the birth of Humanism would be difficult to say; we can at least say that it issues very naturally from his doctrine—T. S. Eliot. If the naturalist's logic rests on wind, and the ologinous sentences flowed easily from her pen Gibbons.

Emanate is used largely in reference to immaterial constructions (as a law, a principle, a power, or a system of thought); it connotes the passage of something impalpable or invisible and suggests a less obvious causal connection between the source and the thing derived than flow or issue but the house . . . was Carrie's and it was from her issue . . . was Gibbons.

spring n

1. motive, impulse, incentive, inducement, spur, goad
2. origin, source, root, inception: cause, determinant, antecedent: stimulus, stimulant, excitant, incitement, impetus

springy

elastic, resilient, flexible, supple

spring

yielding, submitting (see yield: recoiling, rebounding (see rebound)

sprinkle

spot, spatter, mottle, fleck, stipple, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

sprinkled

spotted, spattered, mottled, flecked, stippled, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under spot vb)

sprint

scuttle, scurry, scamper, skedaddle

spry

agile, brisk, nimble

spring

rush, dash, charge, shoot, tear: speed, hurry, hasten: dart, fly, scud

spry

agile, brisk, nimble

squabble

quarrel, wrangle, altercate, bicker, spat, tiff

spurn

urge, egg, exhort, good, prod, prick, sic

spur

goad, spring, motive, impulse, incentive, inducement

spur

stimulus, stimulant, excitant, incitement, impetus: activation, actuation, motivation (see corresponding verbs at activate): cause, determinant: provoking or provocation, exciting or excitement (see corresponding verbs at provoke)

spur

urge, egg, exhort, good, prod, prick, sic

squalid

alternative words

squalid

Analogue words

squalid

Antonyms

squalid

Contrasted words

squalid

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
squad-770

squad-770

squadney vb *waste, dissipate, fritter, consume

squeal vb * agree, conform, accord, harmonize, correspond, tally, jibe

square vb * agree, conform, accord, harmonize, correspond, tally, jibe

squash vb * crush, smash, bruise, macerate

squat adj * stocky, thickset, thick, chunky, stubby, dumpy

Ant: lanky

squeal vb * shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, holler, whoop

Ant: cry, wail

squeamish adj finicky, finicking, finical, particular, fussy, persnickety, persnickety, fastidious, *nice, *dainty

squish vb * hypercritical, *critical, faultfinding, caviling, captious, carping

quiver vb * press, squeeze, jam, crowd: * compact, concentrate, consolidate

squirm * writhe, agonize

stabilize, steady, poise, balance, ballast, trim are comparable when they mean to maintain or cause to maintain position or equilibrium. Despite their agreement in basic meaning they vary widely in their implications and in their range of application and are seldom interchangeable.

Stabilize is used chiefly in reference to something which is fluctuating or is subject to fluctuation and which requires either external aids or regulation. *Greek was an infant state, without stabilizing traditions or profound culture—Durant* *serve the whole nation by policies designed to stabilize the economy—Eisenhower* *the tendency of science is necessarily to stabilize terms, to freeze them into strict denotations—Cleanth Brooks* *a gyroscope for stabilizing an airplane* *steady is used chiefly in reference to something which is losing its customary or necessary stability or equilibrium and is demonstrating instability (as by rocking, shaking, fluttering, or tipping)* *steady a table by putting a piece of wood under one of its legs* *eds steadied trays of instruments against bomb concussions—Alcide* *drew a deep breath and steadied himself with an effort of will—Huxley* *Poise is used chiefly in reference to something that maintains its equilibrium perfectly under adverse conditions or in opposition to external forces (as gravity); it implies a proper balancing of a boat or ship so that it sits well on the water or fulfills any of the conditions that make for steadiness in sailing* *they could be trimmed on an even keel... like scales, in which the weight on one side must be counterpoised by a weight in the other—Jefferies* *Ana regulate, *adjust, fix: *set, settle, establish

stable adj * lasting, durable, perdurable, permanent, perpetual

Ana enduring, persisting, abiding (see continue): *secure, *safe: *steady, constant: staunch, steadfast, resolute (see faithful)

Ant: unstable: changeable

stack vb * heap, pile, mass, bank, shock, cock (see under heap vb)

Ant: heap

stagger vb * reel, whirl, totter

Ant: sway, wavering, fluctuate (see swing): *stumble, lurch, blunder, flounder

staid sedate, grave, *serious, somber, sober, earnest

Ant: decorous, decent, seemly: * cool, collected, composed: smug, priggish, self-complacent, *complacent

Ant: jaunty

stain n * stigma, blot, brand

Ant: blemish, defect, flaw: mark, * sign, token: * disgrace, dishonor

stake *bet, wager, pot, ante

stalemate n * draw, tie, deadlock, standoff

starvart * strong, stout, sturdy, tough, tenacious


Ant: jaunty

stammer vb Stammer, stutter both mean to speak in a faltering, hesitating, or stumbling manner. Stammer usually implies a proximate cause (as fear, embarrassment, or a sudden shock) which deprives one for the time being of control over his vocal organs and inhibits his power to speak straightforwardly; the word can suggest a blocking in which one either cannot form sounds or a slow con-
fused articulation or an involuntary repetition of sounds or words (the eloquent tongue forgot its office. Cicero stammered, blundered, and sat down—Froude) ("Why—why—" stammered the youth struggling with his talking tongue—Crane) Stutter usually stresses the involuntary repetition of sounds, especially of consonantal or syllabic sounds. It is less likely than stammer to imply a proximate cause and typically, especially in medical use, implies a constitutional defect (as a nervous affliction or a speech defect) which results in a habitual and persistent speech problem (no two persons stutter alike . . . a stutterer who stumbles over the initial of "Peter" may have no trouble with any other p in . . . "Peter Piper's peppers"—Scripture) (this gentleman has . . . a small natural infirmity; he stutters a little—Foote) In nontechnical use the terms are often used interchangeably especially in their extended senses, in which both terms are freely employed either in reference to a fluctuating repetitive sound or to something that halts or progresses by fits and starts like the speech of a stammerer or stutterer (<climbed into his Ford and stuttered down the hill—Steinbeck> (her pen sometimes stammers with the intensity of the emotion that she controlled—Woolf) (<a brilliant idea stands still and stuttering—Pritchett>)

**Stamp**

*mark, brand, label, tag, ticket*

**Standard, criterion, gauge, yardstick, touchstone** can apply to a simple device by which authenticity or value may be determined and especially to an authentic or superior instance of a class of things by comparison with which another thing may be judged authentic or superior (<consistency is a touchstone by which the basic doctrine can often be distinguished from the propaganda line—L. C. Stevens> (a Marxist critic using economic determinants, social perspectives, and class consciousness as his touchstones—Glicksberg) (<the chief touchstone to folklore is the manner in which it is transmitted: one man tells another, one man shows another—Emrich>)

**Ana** norm, median, par, mean, *average: rule, *law: *principle, fundamental, axiom: *model, pattern, exemplar

*ideal, beau ideal, *model, pattern, exemplar, example, mirror*

**Stand-in** *substitute, supply, understudy, double, locum tenens, alternate, pinch hitter

**Standoff** n *draw, tie, stalemate, deadlock

**Standpoint** *point of view, viewpoint, angle, slant*

**Standard** *position, attitude

**Stanza** *verse

**Stare** vb *gaze, gape, glare, peer, gloat

**Stark** *stiff, rigid, inflexible, tense, wooden

**Standard** n 1 *flag, ensign, banner, color, streamer, pennant, pendant, pennon, jack

2 **Standard, criterion, gauge, yardstick, touchstone** can all mean a measure by which one judges a thing as authentic, good, or adequate or the degree to which it is authentic, good, or adequate. **Standard** applies to an authoritative rule, principle, or measure used to determine the quantity, weight, or extent or especially the value, quality, level, or degree of a thing (each generation . . . has its own ideals and its own standards of judgment—Crothers) (<the ideal of general cultivation has been one of the standards in education—Eliot> (the building . . . by all the standards of St. Botolph's . . . would be condemned as expensive, pretentious, noisy and unsafe—Cheever)

**Criterion** denotes the thing, whether formulated into a rule or principle or not, by appeal to which one arrives at or confirms a given judgment (as of value, quality, fitness, or correctness) (<the sole criterion of the truth of illusion is its inner congruity—Lowes> (<the size of sunspots is a meaningless criterion in predicting the havoc which may occur to radio transmission—Dawes> (<no exact criterion for a just and fruitful apportionment of the surplus wealth—Hobson>) (<these laws . . . did establish useful criteria of conduct—Handlin>) **Gauge**, concretely a standard measure or scale or an instrument for measuring something that fluctuates (as in size or height), can in extension apply to a standard measure whether tangible or not (<a piece of 1/8 inch thickness fiber or wood makes a convenient gauge in setting brush holders—Mill & Factory> (<the inarticulate, whose ferocity was a gauge of the injustices they had suffered—Bruce Marshall>) (<the degree of public acceptance of the opinions of leaders is the ultimate gauge of the importance and validity of those opinions—Rafferty>) **Yardstick**, basically a measuring stick a yard long and subdivided into inches and fractions of inches, is often extended to standards or criteria especially for something intangible or immaterial (<no absolute or universal yardstick about what constitutes a frustration—Kardiner>) (<the consumption of petroleum products, an accurate yardstick of economic growth—The Lamp>) **Touchstone** can apply to a simple device by which authenticity or value may be determined and especially to an authentic or superior instance of a class of things by comparison with which another thing may be judged authentic or superior (<consistency is a touchstone by which the basic doctrine can often be distinguished from the propaganda line—L. C. Stevens> (a Marxist critic using economic determinants, social perspectives, and class consciousness as his touchstones—Glicksberg) (<the chief touchstone to folklore is the manner in which it is transmitted: one man tells another, one man shows another—Emrich>)

**Ana** see those at **Standard 2**

**Stand-in** *substitute, supply, understudy, double, locum tenens, alternate, pinch hitter

**Standoff** n *draw, tie, stalemate, deadlock

**Standpoint** *point of view, viewpoint, angle, slant

**Ana** stand, *position, attitude

**Stanza** *verse

**Stare** vb *gaze, gape, glare, peer, gloat

**Stark** *stiff, rigid, inflexible, tense, wooden

**Ana** settled, established, fixed, set (see set vb)

**Con** *elastic, resilient, springy, flexible, supple: fluid, liquid

**Starry**, stellar, astral, sidereal can mean of, referring to, or suggestive of a star or group of stars. **Starry** is the ordinary nontechnical term, capable of being used in reference to stars of various kinds (as the celestial bodies known as stars or the geometrical figure with five, six, or more points that is the conventionalized star) (<a starry night> (<a starry banner> (<a starry eyes> (here are the skies, the planets seven, and all the starry train—Housman>) (<a starry towers of Babylon Noah's freshest never reached—Yeats>) **Stellar** has the same range of reference as **starry**, but, since the connotations of the words are not the same, they are rarely interchangeable; **starry** gathers its connotations (as of brilliancy, remoteness, and beauty) chiefly from the appearance of the celestial stars to the ordinary observer; **stellar** derives its suggestions chiefly from astrological lore of the stars as influencing all things and as shaping human destinies or from astronomical knowledge of the constitution, arrangement, and classification of stars; thus, one tends to speak of a **stellar**, rather than a **starry**, influence or aspect; of a **stellar**, rather than **starry**, eclipse or nebula (<these soft fires . . . shed down their stellar virtue on all kinds that grow on Earth—Milton>) (<Kapteyn worked nearly alone in the field of stellar astronomy—G. H. Gray>) **Stellar** is also used more often than **starry** of theatrical or cinematic stars (<stellar roles in operas and musical festivals—Current Bio>) and it alone is freely used to imply outstanding quality or position in other relations (<a dependable working staff, and a stellar panel of consultants—Hartwell>) (<he just wasn't a stellar naval officer in the eyes of his subordinates—Lois & Don Thorburn>) **Astral** is in much of its use a technical term in theosophy and similar cults, and in more general use it is likely to bear connotations of spirituality, mysticism, and remoteness from the fleshly that derive largely from mythological
and other conceptions of the stars as the abode of celestial spirits or of supersensible beings whose nature and constitution are rarer and finer than those of earthly human beings. <enchantments that unlock a crystal cage; an alphabet with astral fire seasoned—Wylie> <an astral thinker with disturbing, visionary thoughts of helping the whole world—Newsweek> <an astral myth> a state of mind which may resemble that of a soul in its astral body looking back upon its corporeal one—Beebe> Sidereal is sometimes interchangeable with the other terms <walls of interlocked magnolias, sidereal with white, fragrant blossoms—Nat'l Geog. Mag.> <I felt that he was an Intelligence which had borrowed form and substance in deference to the requirements of sidereal politeness—Henry Miller> but distinctively it is used in opposition to solar, especially as applied to periods of time measured by the rotation of the earth with reference to a given star; thus, the sidereal day, determined by reference to Aries, is 3 minutes and 59.91 seconds shorter, as measured in solar time, than the mean solar day.

start vb *begin, commence, initiate, inaugurate

Ana institute, *found, establish, organize: *enter, penetrate: originate, proceed, *spring

startle scare, alarm, terrify, terrorize, *frighten, fright, startle

Ana *surprise, astonish, astound: rouse, arouse, *stir: electrify, *thril

state n State, condition, mode, situation, posture, status can all mean the way in which a person or thing manifests his or its existence or the circumstances under which he or it exists or by which he or it is given a definite character. State may be used so generally that it denotes merely a form of existence which has little or no relation to material being (as in space or time or as substance) but is purely immaterial and typically mental or spiritual. <Dante's Inferno> reminds us that Hell is not a place but a state—T. S. Eliot> The term may also be used specifically to name the combination of circumstances affecting a person or thing at a given time or the sum of the relations, qualities, or characteristics involved in his or its existence at the time under consideration. <Aries fifty years happily in the state of marriage> <the present state of industry> <the historian . . . visited Alexandria during the reign of this king. He was disgusted with its state—Farrington> <parents have probably gone too far in one direction and nature's reacting, trying to get back to the state of equilibrium—Huxley> Condition is interchangeable with state only when the effect or influence of present circumstances on actual or concrete existence is implied <the present condition of the country> it is a condition which confronts us, not a theory—Cleveland> It regularly carries a stronger implication than state of a relation to the causes or circumstances which produced or are producing the effect and a weaker suggestion of the duration of that effect; also, condition may be used in the plural in the sense of combination of circumstances and of qualities or characteristics, as state may not <his physical condition improved with rest and sufficient exercise> <under the best conditions, a voyage is one of the severest tests to try a man—Emerson> <I probably had been hoping . . . the book would not change my life too much. I wished at that time to protect a modest condition—Mailer> <there is no possible method of compelling a child to feel sympathy or affection; the only possible method is to observe the conditions under which these feelings arise spontaneously, and then endeavor to produce the conditions—Russell> This suggestion of a relation to an external cause or causes is often so strong that the word frequently denotes a circumstance that serves as a causative influence or prerequisite rather than a combination of circumstances that form a state of being (see under condition 1) Mode (see also method; fashion 2) is basically a philosophical term; typically it implies an opposition to the underlying reality which can be known only from its external manifestations (as color, form, and texture), and it usually applies to the combination of characters by which substance is manifested in a particular individual or instance <no mode . . . can exist except as the mode or modification of a substance; the substance is the abiding principle, the mode is transitory. The particular mode . . . is but a temporal expression of the substance—Thilly> <nearly all [painters] use color as a mode of form. They design in color, that is in colored shapes—Clive Bell> In somewhat less restricted use the term can apply to something that expresses or exemplifies a typical form or value of a larger class; thus, the mathematical mode is the most frequent value in a statistical array; the mode of a rock is its specific mineral composition as distinguished from the norm of its kind <Rousse's mode unit is the smallest isolated item pertaining to a prehistoric manufacture . . . This mode, or attribute, is a concept many archeologists work with in pottery classification—Willey> Situation applies to a state or condition that represents a combination of definite concrete circumstances, often such a conjunction of particular circumstances that the whole has a peculiarly interesting character; more than state or condition, situation implies an arrangement of these circumstances not only with reference to each other but also with respect to the character or circumstances of the persons involved so as to make for a particular resulting condition (as of difficulty or advantage, embarrassment or elation, or uncertainty or security) <such views of life were to some extent the natural byproducts of her situation upon her nature—Hardy> <there was a dizzy succession of events and of constantly changing situations for a politician to watch—Shirer> <that slender, unrugged erectness, and the fine carriage of head, which always made him seem master of the situation—Cather> The term is also applied to a comparably striking and interesting combination of events in a narrative, especially one whose outcome involves uncertainty or suspense <one knows the situation in fiction—the desperate girl appealing out of her misery to the Christian priest for help. So many women have this touch of melodrama, this sense of a situation—Rose Macaulay> <a master of plot and situation, of those elements of drama which are most essential to melodrama—T. S. Eliot> Posture (see also posture 1) may be used in the sense of condition when that represents a state into which one is forced by need of preparation for something to come <put a warship in a posture of defense> <Christ insisted upon a certain . . . posture of the soul as proper to man's reception of this revelation—Liddon> <Spanish chansons have no solemnity: . . . which doesn't preclude a general devout posture of mind—Santayana> The term is often a closer synonym of situation than of condition <a virgin of thirty-two, already lapsing, though naturally attractive and sprightly, into the mental posture of old maidhood—Follett> <production which will permit us to maintain both a strong economy and a strong military posture—Truman> Status may indicate an individual's state or condition as determined with some definiteness for legal administrative purposes or by social or economic considerations <the change in the status of the Negro, under the Thirteenth Amendment, from three fifths of a person to a whole person in computing state apportionment—C. L. Thompson> <a married woman's status was determined entirely by that of her husband—Ogg & Ray>

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
state 773 steady

§the job which a person is supposed to do . . . is what Linton and others call his role. The position which he occupies on the social ladder, as a result of his general practice of leading or following, supervising or being supervised, in the totality of his activities, is his status—Coon

§the social sciences have been, since their institution, jealous of their status as science—R. M. Weaver

§the city’s status as a tourist attraction—Sargeant!

Sometimes the term specifically denotes a superior state or condition and then implies elevated rank in a hierarchy <make him feel a man of status in the community—Beaglehole> <the status seekers . . . continually straining to surround themselves with visible evidence of the superior rank they are claiming—Packard> <because she could not accept less than twenty pounds a week without loss of status and got it but barely, she was doomed to remain an amateur—Yeats> Even in uses in which it comes close to the specific aspect of state or the corresponding aspect of condition, status tends to retain some suggestion of a hierarchical relation and correspondingly, of comparison; thus, one might comment “his mental state, or condition, is a cause for concern” as a simple declaration, but “his mental status is unsatisfactory” implies comparison <established the bank’s status as an independent international organization—Collier’s Yr. Bk.> <Keynes regards the rate of interest and the marginal efficiency of capital as possessing something like the status of independent variables—Feuer> <a quiet German-American farming community, a status it managed to maintain for nearly two decades—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.>


state vb 1 *say, utter, tell

2 report, *relate, rehearse, recite, recount, narrate, describe

Ana expound, *explain, elucidate, interpret: *assert, affirm, declare, profess

stately magnificent, imposing, majestic, august, *grand, noble, grandiose

Ana princely, regal, royal, *kingly, imperial: *splendid, glorious, superb, sublime: sumptuous, opulent, *luxurious

statesman *politician, politician

station n 1 *place, position, location, situation, site, spot

Ana *locality, district, vicinity, neighborhood: region, *area, zone, belt, tract

2 *habitat, biotype, range

statue *image, effigy, icon, portrait, photograph, mask

stature *quality, caliber

Ana capacity, *ability: competence, qualification (see corresponding adjectives at ABLE)

status situation, posture, condition, *state, mode

statute 1 ordinance, regulation, *law, rule, precept, canon

2 *bill, act, law

staunch *faithful, loyal, true, constant, steadfast, resolute

Ana trusty, trustworthy, *reliable, dependable, tried: stout, *strong, tough, tenacious, sturdy, stalwart

Con *inconstant, fickle, mercurial, unstable, capricious

stay vb 1 Stay, remain, wait, abide, tarry, linger can mean to continue to be in one place for a noticeable time.

Stay, the most general of these terms, stresses continuance in a place or sometimes in a specified condition; it often specifically connotes the status of visitor or guest <they could not decide whether to stay or to go> <they went for tea and stayed for dinner> <staying a while at the Joneses, he could quietly insinuate . . . hilarious things about the Joneses when he weekended with the Browns—Theodore Sturgeon> Remain is often used interchangeably with stay but distinctively means to stay behind or to be left after others have gone <few remained in the building after the alarm was given> <a little verse my all that shall remain—Gray> <she remembered her decision to send the young people of the village into the woods. There would have been many more casualties had they remained—Linklater> Wait implies a staying in expectation or in readiness <at his request no one waited for him at the pier> <the taxi waited while they were shopping> <the lights in the window had a leering, waiting look, like that on the faces of old pimps who sit in the cafés—Gibbons>

Abide implies prolonged staying or remaining after at length and usually connotes either stable residence or patient waiting for an outcome <she hated the change; she felt like one banished; but here she was forced to abide—Hardy> Tarry implies staying when it is time to depart or to proceed <do not tarry if you wish to catch the noon train> <some children like to tarry on the way to school> (the celebrated trade winds . . . ceased to blow, and over the island a horrid stillness tarried—Stafford)

Linger, like tarry, usually implies outstaying one’s appointed or allotted time; frequently, however, it also implies either deliberate delay or disinclination to depart (strange, that now she was released she should linger by him—Meredith> <she shouldn’t have come to the hotel suite. She shouldn’t have lingered—this was fatal—after the others had left—Wouk> <after the guests had tarried long over their tea and had done with their jokes, the woman still lingered—Buck>

Ana *delay, procrastinate, lag, loiter: *arrest, check, interrupt: *continue, persist

2 sojourn, lodge, put up, stop, *reside, live, dwell

3 *defer, postpone, suspend, intermit

stay vb *base, found, ground, bottom, rest

steadfast staunch, resolute, constant, true, *faithful, loyal

Ana settled, established, set, fixed (see set vb): *steady, constant: stable, durable, perdurable, *lasting: enduring, persisting, abiding (see continue)

Ant capricious

steady adj Steady, uniform, even, equable, constant are comparable when they mean neither markedly varying nor variable but much the same throughout its course or extent. Steady is the most widely applicable of these terms; in general it suggests regularity and lack of deviation, especially in movement, but it may imply such fixity in position as to be immovable or unshakable <steady as a rock> (a steady pole) or such consistency in character or conduct as to be perfectly reliable <a steady workman> (maybe she’d marry the first nice and good steady fellow with a steady job who’d be a steady provider—Farrell)

When movement, motion, or direction is implied, the term may connote lack of fluctuation (a steady market) <steady prices> (a steady flame) (you can’t make millions on books, but it’s a steady respectable business—Buck) or lack of nervousness with hinged knees and steady hand to dress wounds—Whitman> (a steady voice) or a constant uninterrupted flow or pursuit (a steady stream) (a steady rain) (steady work)

Uniform stresses the sameness or likeness of the elements, parts, units, or instances that comprise a whole (as an aggregate, a series, a combination of instances, a course, or a texture) (the cells of the human organism are not uniform in structure and function) (the progress of civilization is not wholly a uniform drift towards better things—Whitehead) <one of the most fundamental social interests is that law shall be uniform and impartial—Cardozo> <the
steady vb *stabilize, poise, balance, ballast, trim
Con *shake, rock, agitate, convulse

steal, pilfer, filch, lurk, lift, pinch, snitch, swipe, cop are comparable when they mean to take another's possession without right and without his knowledge or permission. Steal, the commonest and most general of the group, can refer to any act of taking without right, although it suggests strongly a furtiveness or secrecy in the act (steal a pocketbook) (steal jewels) (steal a kiss) (steal a glance at someone) Pilfer suggests stealing in small amounts or with cautious stealth and often bit by bit (the pantry mouse that pilfers our food—Gustafson et al) (the ladies of unexceptionable position who are caught pilfering furs in shops—L. P. Smith) (pilfer the secret files of the foreign office—Morgenthau) Filch is close to pilfer but may suggest more strongly the use of active though surreptitious means, especially quick snatching (in pursuit of a thief who had filched an overcoat—McKenzie Porter) (a lot of fellows were too hungry to wait, and so some of the rations were filched—Autry) (a bulky, dark youth in spectacles ... filching biscuits from a large tin—Sayers) Purloin usually shifts the stress onto the idea of removal or making away with for one's own use, often becoming generalized to include such acts as plundering or plagiarism (had purloined $386,920 from the New York reality management firm for which he worked, then absconded—Time) (had added theft to her other sin, and having found your watch in your bedroom had purloined it—Butler d. 1902) (to quote him is not to purloin—Dryden) Lift, when it does not mean specifically to steal by surreptitiously taking from counters or displays in stores, is used frequently in spoken English in the sense of purloin (women shoplifters often work in gangs of three. The act as shields while the third does the lifting—The Irish Times) (lift money from the cash register—imitators who lifted everything except the shirt off his back—F. S. Fitzgerald) Pinch, swipe, snitch, and cop are virtually interchangeable with filch. Pinch and swipe are often used in place of steal to suggest an act more morally reprehensive (loot having been pinched by him from the British ship Mary Dyer—Sydney Bulletin) or sometimes more dashing (well-dressed crooks really did steal the Gold Cup at Ascot ... drove up in a handsome car ... and pinched the cup out of the Royal Enclosure—J. D. Carr) (the bloke who pinched my photographs—Richard Llewelyn) and occasionally to suggest a petty meanness (hovering outside the dying butcher's bedroom waiting to ... pop in and swipe the old man's private notebooks—Time) Snitch possibly stresses more the removal by quick, furtive snatching (while he was bathing, somebody snitched his uniform—Widehouse) (snitched people's ideas without telling them—Sayers) Cop usually lays stress upon quick, often spur-of-the-moment filching or purloining (some woman put on a dinner gown, mingled with guests, copped fifty thousand bucks in jewelry—Gardner) (ran home and copped a piece of beefsteak from his old lady—Farrell) Ana *rob, plunder, rifle, loot, burglarize

stealthy *secret, covert, furtive, clandestine, surreptitious, underhand, handkerchief
Ana *sly, cunning, crafty, artful, tricky, wily: sneaking, slinking, skulking (see lurk)

steel vb *encourage, inspirit, hearten, embolden, cheer, nerve

Ana fortify, reinforce, invigorate, *strengthen: determine, resolve (see decide)
Con *unnerve, enervate, emasculate, unman: sap, undermine, *weaken, enfeebles: *discourage, dishearten, dispirit, deject

steep adj. Steep, abrupt, precipitous, sheer mean having an incline approaching the perpendicular. The words are here arranged in ascending order of degree of perpendicularity. Steep implies so sharp a slope or pitch that ascent or descent is difficult (a military road, which rises ... by an acclivity not dangerously steep, but sufficiently laborious—Johnson) (the trail ... then struck up the side of the mountain, growing steeper every foot of the way—Quillian) Abrupt adds to steep the suggestion of a sharper pitch or angle of ascent or descent and usually of a sudden break in a level (high abrupt banks in places become hanging cliffs with a drop of 100 feet or more—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.) Precipitous suggests extreme steepness and an abruptness like that of a precipice (a precipitous height) (a deep gorge, with precipitous, volcanic walls which no man could scale—London) Sheer implies precipitousness approaching the perpendicular and showing no break in its line (sheer cliffs that fell from the summit to the plain, more than a thousand feet—Caithery

Ana elevated, lifted, raised (see lift): lofty, *high

steep vb *soak, saturate, impregnate, drench, sop, waterlog (see steep)

steer vb *guide, lead, pilot, engineer

Ana *conduct, direct, manage, control: *govern, rule

stellar *starry, sidereal, astral

stem vb proceed, issue, emanate, derive, flow, originate, *spring, arise, rise

stentorian *loud, earsplitting, hoarse, drench, sop, waterlog (see steep)

sterile vb *soak, saturate, impregnate, drench, sop, waterlog

sterile, barren, impotent, unfruitful, infertile mean not
having or not manifesting the power to produce offspring or to bear literal or figurative fruit. Sterilize, opposed to fertilize, in its basic application to living things implies an inability to reproduce (sterile hyphae that protect the fruiting body of a fungus) (a sterile marriage) (the workers among ants and bees are sterile) (the attempt will be made to distinguish between those who are childless from choice and those who are sterile—Jour. of Heredity) But sterile is widely extendible to things that might reasonably be expected to be fruitful but that in fact are not so; thus, poor worthless land in which plants will not grow is described as sterile; minds deficient in ideas are sterile; funds left in a safe-deposit box and drawing no interest are sterile; whatever offers no return (as of pleasure, profit, value, or use) is sterile (beneath his fun lurked the sterile bitterness of the still young man who has tried and given up—Wharton) (his unsatisfactory relations with women; and his impulses toward a sterile and infantile perversity—Edmund Wilson) Barren (see also bare 1) applies especially to a female who has borne no offspring or who is or is believed to be incapable of bearing any (a barren heifer) (she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren—Lk 1:36) In extended use the term can imply a lack of return or profit (a barren conquest which brought him no special repute—Buchan) Impotent (see also powerless) applies to the male and implies a lack of the ability to copulate and a corresponding inability to reproduce his kind (a pink Sulton with his pale harem maidens and a yellow blob of eunuch lolling impotent in the background—Marchie) Only rarely is the term in this sense used of other than the male animal, and in such use it approaches the aspect of impotent discriminated at powerless (whole groups of animals and plants are rendered impotent by the unnatural conditions—Darwin) Unfruitful is sometimes used in place of barren not only as applied to the female but as applied to land, vegetation, or efforts which bear no fruit (an unfruitful tree) (unfruitful soil) (this unsavory and unfruitful piece of research—Cater) Infertile is often interchanged with sterile (an infertile egg) (infertile matings) but it is as likely to imply deficiency as absence of fertility and is appropriately used when a relative rather than an absolute sterility is to be implied (the infertile grazings of those hills—H. Fraser) (an infertile strain of beef cattle) (has our history shown that liberty is so unfruitful a thing) (Chenery) (animals and plants, when removed from their natural conditions, are often rendered in some degree infertile—Darwin) Ana *bare, barren, bald, naked; arid, *dry: *meager, exiguous: empty, hollow, nugatory, *vain Ant fertile: exuberant—Con bearing, yielding, producing, turning out (see bear): fecund, fruitful, prolific (see fertile)

sterilize 1 Sterilize, castrate, spay, emasculate, alter, mutilate, geld, caaponize mean to make incapable of producing offspring. Sterilize, the most general of these terms, is applicable to both human beings and animals and is used whether the end is attained accidentally (as by undue exposure to X rays which kill germ cells) or deliberately (as by a surgical operation which prevents the germ cells from reaching the site where fertilization can occur or by removal of the gonads). Sterilize often suggests a legalized procedure undertaken to prevent the reproduction of undesirables (as imbeciles and habitual criminals); the term does not imply physical disfigurement and does not in itself necessarily imply interference with the capacity for copulation. Castrate, a narrower term than sterilize, means to deprive of the testes, the male reproductive glands. It is used of both human beings and animals and usually implies a surgical procedure and a loss of libido as well as of procreative power. By extension castrate may also mean to deprive of the ovaries, the female reproductive glands, and therefore is often used in place of spay, the specific term for this operation. Emasculate is often preferred to castrate when the reference is to human males and especially when there is the intent to stress the loss of virile or masculine qualities. Alter may replace castrate especially in reference to domestic pets and when an ambiguous or euphemistic term is appropriate. Mutilate (see also MAIM) is sometimes substituted for castrate especially when the intent is to convey strongly the idea of physical disfigurement or violence or when a euphemism is desired. Geld, meaning to castrate, is used chiefly in reference to domestic animals, especially the horse, and caaponize, also meaning to castrate, most commonly has reference to the male domestic fowl, but both are sometimes used contemptuously of human beings. Ant fertilize

2 Sterilize, disinfect, sanitize, fumigate can mean to subject to a process or treatment for the destruction of living organisms, especially microorganisms. Sterilize suggests drastic methods (as the application of intense heat, boiling, or the use of strong chemicals) with the intent of destroying all microorganisms whether they are disease-producing or not. The term usually suggests means taken to avoid infection. Disinfect also suggests vigorous methods (as exposure to strong sunlight and fresh air, thorough washing, and the use of special chemicals) with the intent of destroying all infective agents; the term usually suggests an intent to free from germs something that is known or feared to be infected. Sanitize, which basically means to make sanitary, is often preferred by public health officials when the reference is to preventive measures affecting the health of a community (as the treatment of drinking water or the cleansing of food processing facilities) and when neither sterilize (because it suggests complete destruction of microorganisms and often implies taking of measures too drastic for general use) nor disinfect (because it suggests the actual presence of disease germs) exactly fits their needs or makes clear their intention. Fumigate is associated with these terms only because fumigation was once the usual method of disinfection; it implies the use of fumes (as smoke or gas) that are destructive not only of microorganisms but of such pests as cockroaches, beetles, and bedbugs. stern adj *severe, austere, ascetic Ana strict, *rigid, rigorous, stringent: *grim, implacable, unrelenting: *inflexible, inexorable: disciplined, trained, schooled (see teach) Ant soft: lenient stertorous *loud, stentorian, earsplitting, hoarse, raucous, strident Ana harsh, *rough stick vb *boil, seethe, simmer, parboil stick 1 Stick, adhere, cohere, cling, cleave can mean to come to be or become closely, firmly, or indissolubly attached. Stick implies attachment by affixing; one thing or a person sticks to another, or things or persons stick together when they are literally or figuratively glued together and can be separated only by tearing or forcing apart (the stamp stickers to the envelope) (by sticking together they gained their objective) (marriage . . . was nothing more than a token that a couple intended to stick to each other—F. M. Ford) (whether . . . there will be anyone more than a token that a couple intended to stick to him—
stickle

Davis) (I'm the celestial drudge... and I stick to my work till I drop at it—Gilbert) When referred to things, adhere is interchangeable with stick (the mud adhered to their shoes). It is narrower in idiomatic range than stick but is the usual term when the attachment results from growth of parts normally distinct or separate (abdominal tissues sometimes adhere after an operation). When referred to persons, adhere usually implies deliberate or voluntary acceptance (as of the creed of a church, the platform of a political party, or the doctrines of a philosopher) (he believes passionately that India will adhere to her traditional democracy if it can be made to work—Jerome Ellison) (he liked a certain order in his life; when he had made a plan he adhered to it—Sackville-West) (the then current fashion, which royal ladies have adhered to ever since—Rose Macaulay) Cohere takes for its subject a collective singular or a plural noun that names things that stick together to produce a mass, a body, or a unified whole (the dry ingredients of a cake cohere only when liquid is added) (did not the whole composition cohere, were its unity broken, it would not be one picture or one quartet—Edman) (passing his hand over his cool forehead, he closed his eyes. The sounds cohered as in delirium—Stafford) But occasionally when the notion of producing a unified whole is to be stressed cohere may replace stick or adhere (the necessity that he shall conform, that he shall cohere—T. S. Eliot) (with weariness, anger, and disappointment I passed out and fell with my heavy musket... to the floor. Arms and the man did not cohere—Lovett) Cling usually implies attachment by hanging on (as by the arms, by roots, or by tendrils) and may suggest, often strongly, a need of support in one that clings (cling to a capsized boat) (the vine clings to the wall) (a man whose breeches clung to his bony legs as if he'd been wading waist-high in a river—Kenneth Roberts) In its extended use cling may add to the suggestion of need of support one of dependence (she clung to her father and mother even after her marriage) but at other times it suggests tenacity in holding on to something possessed, believed, or used (cling to the superstitions described cannot be bent or flexed without breaking it (an airship with a rigid hull) (a bridge supported by a series of rigid masonry arches) (a rigid crosspiece) Inflexible (for extended sense see INFLEXIBLE 2) differs from rigid only in suggesting a lack of limberness or an incapacity for being bent rather than a texture or consistency that resists bending or deforming. Consequently it is often used when a less precise term is needed and merely an approach to rigidity is suggested (an inflexible metal) (snakes... with portions of their bodies still numb and inflexible, waiting for the sun to thaw them out—Thoreau) Tense (see also TIGHT 1) occurs especially in reference to bodily structures (as muscles, fibers, or membranes) that are stretched so tight, or so strained by effort or excitement, that they have lost their elasticity or flexibility either for the time being or permanently (tense arteries) (tense nerves) (with muscles as tense as those of a tiger about to spring) (only his tense movements, the rather rigid way he held himself, the habitual drumming of his fingers, were in any way abnormal—Wouk) Stark usually suggests a stiffness that is associated with loss of life, warmth, power, vitality, or fluidity and therefore often also connotes desolation, barrenness, death, or present valuelessness; frequently it is accompanied by stiff or rigid (many a nobleman lies stark and stiff—Shak.) (cut flowers before they actually die... stretch themselves out with a palpable jerk, stark and rigid—Powys) (here all the surfaces remained stark and unyielding, thin and sharp—Santayana) (rats... danced comically before they died, and lay in the scuppers stark and ruffled—Sinclair Lewis) Often stark is merely an intensive (often an adverb) meaning little more than such as is stated or described without qualification (rich men who were once stark poor—Brinig) (he stood in stark terror) (they... wrote stark nonsense—Quiller-Couch) Wooden

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
stiff-necked suggests not only the hardness and inflexibility of wood but its dryness and its lack of suppleness and plasticity; consequently the term suggests not only stiffness and lack of life and grace but often clumsiness or deadness or heaviness of spirit (Kim took a few paces in a stiff wooden style—Kipling) (the courtroom scene was . . . prosy, wooden, and lifeless—Elmer Rice) (she appears wooden, remote, often addicted to incredible posturings—Rothman.)

Ana tough, tenacious, *strong, stout: *firm, hard, solid: formal, conventional, ceremonious (see CEREMONIAL): frigid, *cold, cool: difficult, •hard, arduous

Ant relaxed: supple

stiff-necked *obstinate, stubborn, mulish, dogged, pertinacious, pigheaded, bullheaded

stile *suffocate, asphyxiate, smother, choke, strangle, throttle

stigma, brand, blot, stain can denote a mark of shame left on a name, reputation, or character. Stigma, though often implying dishonesty or public shame, usually applies to a mark or a charge or judgment that is fastened upon a person or thing or is attached to it so as to discredit it and cause it to be generally disapproved or condemned (curmudgeonly inability to praise others which has ever been the stigma by which we may recognize the ungenrous—Partridge) (they can attach a social stigma to the relief by taking away the pauper's vote—Shaw)

Brand carries stronger implications of disgrace and infamy than stigma; it often suggests impossibility of removal, permanent social ostracism, and public condemnation (for the sorrow and the shame, the brand on me and mine, I'll pay you back in leaping flame—Kipling) (it may mean nothing very much to you, but . . . those words carry the ultimate, ignominious brand of incompetency and failure—Sayers) (segregation, however "equal" the physical facilities, does put the brand of inferiority on Negro pupils in the schools—N. Y. Times.)

Blot and stain imply a blemish that diminishes the honor of a name or a reputation or that sullies one's reputation for purity or virtue but does not bring either name or reputation into utter disrepute (thou noteless blot on a remembered name—Shelley) (there are blot's on the chronicle, moments of the petulance . . . and the unhappy record of the meaningless and aimless slighting of General de Gaulle. But these are minor blemishes—Anthony West) (to have loved one peerless, without stain—Tennyson) (England will have a nasty stain on her flag if she sees this man go down without a hand lifted to save him—Parker)

Ana *disgrace, dishonor, opprobrium, odium, shame: contamination, tainting or taint, defilement, pollution (see corresponding verbs at CONTAMINATE)

still adj. Still, stilly, quiet, silent, noiseless can all mean making no stir or noise. Still applies to what is motionless or at rest, often with the further implication of hush or absence of sound; sometimes one implication is stressed, sometimes the other, and sometimes both (ha! no more moving? still as the grave—Shak.) (the crowd remained still, quietly stumped, and with a shaky reverence—Styron) (that chair, when you arose and passed out of the room, rocked silently a while ere it again was still—Millet.)

Stilly emphasizes the absence of sounds, but it usually implies also the absence of stir or motion (oft, in the stillly night, ere Slumber's chain has bound me—Thomas Moore) (the rigidly quaint forms stretched out, with crossed arms upon their stillly hearts, in everlastingly undreaming rest—Melville) (a mad rush of heavy feet went past his door, to speed over the stillly house—O'Casey) Quiet, like still, may imply absence of perceptible motion or sound or of both, but it carries stronger suggestions of lack of excitement, agitation, or turbulence, and of tranquility, serenity, restfulness, or repose (through the green evening quiet in the sun—Keats) (the happy stillness of dawn . . . the quiet morning air—Meredith) (a quiet town filled with people who lived quiet lives and thought quiet thoughts—Anderson) (all the impetuous restlessness of her girlhood had left her and she had bloomed into a quiet half-indolent calm—Buck)

Silent and noiseless differ from the other words of this group in being frequently applied to motion, movement, or stir that is unaccompanied by sound. Silent usually carries more positive suggestions of stillness or quietness (the Earth . . . from West her silent course advance[s]—Milton) (three mountaintops, three silent pinnacles of aged snow—Tennyson) whereas noiseless usually connotes absence of commotion or of sounds of activity or movement (along the cool sequestered vale of life they kept the noiseless tenor of their way—Gray) (this quiet sail is as a noiseless wing to waft me from distraction—Byron) (i looked out on a thoroughly crowded with traffic, but yet a noiseless one—Fairchild)

Ana *calm, tranquil, serene, placid, peaceful: restful, *comfortable

Ant stirring: noisy

still vb *calm, compose, quiet, quieten, lull, soothe, settle, tranquilize

Ana allay, assuage, alleviate, *relieve: *pacify, placate, mollify, appease: silence (see corresponding adjective at STILL)

Ant agitate

stilly *still, quiet, silent, noiseless

Ana *soft, gentle, mild, bland: placid, peaceful, *calm, tranquil, serene

Con agitated, disturbed (see DISCOMPOSE)

stimulant *stimulus, excitant, incitement, impetus

Ana provocation, excitement, stimulation, quickening, galvanizing (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): incentive, spur, goad, *motive

Ant anesthetic: anodyne

stimulate excite, *provoke, quicken, pique, galvanize

Ana *quicken, animate, enliven, vivify: activate, energize, vitalize: arouse, arouse, *stir, rally, awaken, awaken

Ana unnerve: deaden

stimulus, stimulant, excitant, incitement, impetus can all mean an agent that arouses a person or a lower organism or a particular organ or tissue to activity. Only the first three words have definite and common technical use. Stimulus, in this use chiefly a physiological or psychological term, applies basically to something (as a change in temperature, light, sound, or pressure) that occurs in the internal or external environment of an organism, is perceived by sense organs, and if sufficiently intense induces a neural or equivalent (as tropistic) response (any physical energy that acts upon a receptor of a living organism. A stimulus causes a reaction in an organism, but not necessarily a response (a reaction of a muscle or gland)—Charles Morris) (so long as a system recognizes stimuli, and reacts to them with fitting responses, it exercises control. And it may then remain intact and functioning, despite stresses which would otherwise upset its internal coordination—Weizs) Stimulant, typically a medical term, applies chiefly to a chemical substance and especially to a medicament that does or is intended to vitalize bodily activity, either generally or in respect to a particular system or organ or function (tea, coffee, and cocoa are true stimulants to the heart, nervous system, and kidneys; coffee is more stimulating to the brain, cocoa to the kidneys, while tea occupies a happy position between the two, being mildly stimulating to most of our
bodily functions—Ukers. *drugs which speed up cell activity are called stimulants—Clemens et al.* Alcohol produces a false sense of well-being and efficiency, but actually it is a depressant rather than a stimulant—T. L. Engle

Excitant can come very close to stimulant in some of its uses; thus, one may speak of a substance as a stimulant or an excitant of intestinal motility. But distinctly excitant can apply to either a sought or an unwanted reaction and it can imply, as stimulant often but stimulant rarely does, either the initiating or the vitalizing of a process or activity (these amines, being excitants of the central nervous system, increase intellectual and motor activity, produce insomnia, nervousness, and tremors and have the property of antagonizing mild drug depression—Thienes) (a great many allergists believed that pine pollen contained little or no excitant of allergy. That is to say, the element within the pollen which stimulates antibody production was absent in pine pollen—Swartz).

In their more general use these three terms are seldom as clearly differentiable as in their basic use. Stimulus and stimulant are usually interchangeably applicable to whatever exerts an impelling or invigorating effect (as on a process, an activity, or a mind) (whenever an idea loses its immediate felt quality, it ceases to be an idea and becomes, like an algebraic symbol, a mere stimulus to execute an operation without the need of thinking—Dewey) (to borrow from commercial banks increases the money supply and is a business stimulus—F. M. Knight) (the colonial-development money is the extra stimulus to generate development faster than would otherwise be possible—Lewis) but excitant, here too, is more likely to suggest an initiating (we hold that ethical statements are expressions and excitants of feeling which do not necessarily involve any assertions—Ayer) and it is applicable when unwanted or undesirable ends result (the desire to gain vast and lucrative readership and audiences is the major excitant to the excesses of which so many are aware—Newsweek) incitement applies to something that moves or impels usually a course of action; the term tends to emphasize an urgent or pressing intended to drive one into moving or acting quickly rather than the result attained (to issue a solemn public condemnation and warning that this attack against the Jewish people is an incitement to massacre—The Nation) (energies slumbering in him which the incitements of the day do not call forth—James) (nor could all the incitements of its master induce the beast again to move forward—Galsworthy) impetus (see also SPEED) usually stresses the stimulation of an increase in the momentum of activity already initiated (what also gave an unusual impetus to the mind of men at this period was the discovery of the New World—Hazlitt) in estimating the social importance of this movement, we must be careful to discount the temporary . . . impetus it received from the economic slump of this period—Day Lewis) But the term sometimes applies also to a stimulus that initiates action (it is the impetus that I ask of you: the will to try—Quiller-Couch) Ana spur, goad, incentive, *motive, inducement: ex- citement, piqing, provocation (see corresponding verbs at PROVOKE): irritation, nettling (see corresponding verbs at IRRITATE)

stingy, close, closefisted, tight, tightfisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheeseparing, penny-pinching can mean unwilling or manifesting unwillingness to share one's goods with others or to give to another a part of one's possessions. Stingy implies mainly a lack of generosity; the term is applicable whenever there is a suggestion of a mean or illiberal spirit (if I want anything, he says that it cannot be afforded. I never thought before that he was stingy, but I am sure now that he must be a miser at heart—Trollope. *stingy at heart, Cabot, refusing to plunk down what they were asking for movies and plays, began browsing in a . . . public library—Purdy*) Close and closefisted and tight and tightfisted usually imply stinginess of nature, but they also ordinarily suggest the power to keep a tight grip upon whatever one has acquired (closefisted in all his expenditures) (men and women who are closefisted and make a gift do not want their next week's mail loaded with appeals—William Lawrence) (he wasn't as tight as you . . . but he was a little bit close. So the bargain hung fire—Hammett) (must be eagle-眼 and tightfisted about these expenditures—A. E. Stevenson) Niggardly implies the character of one who is so stingy and so closefisted that he grudgingly gives the smallest portion or amount possible; the term may refer not only to the giving or spending of money or the giving of material goods but to the provision of what would add to the comfort, happiness, or well-being of oneself or of others (as poor and niggardly as it would be to set down no more meat than your company will be sure to eat up—Swift) (this niggardly allowance for rent and food) (they were not niggardly, these tramps, and he who had money did not hesitate to share it among the rest—Maugham) (literature is so lavish with wealth and titles . . . the real world is so niggardly of these things—Huxley)

Parsimonious stresses frugality, but it suggests also niggardliness; because of this double connotation the term usually suggests not a virtue but a fault or, often, a vice (a lonely bachelor life in caring for his property and in adding to it by parsimonious living—Long) Penurious adds to parsimonious the suggestion of a niggardliness so great as to give the appearance of extreme poverty or of excessive closefistedness (a grudging master . . . a penurious niggard of his wealth—Milton) (I had a rich uncle . . . a penurious accumulating curmudgeon—Irving) Misery implies penuriousness but it stresses obsessive avariciousness as the motive (her expenditure was parsimonious and even miserly—J. R. Green) (a miserly man who hoards money out of avarice—Emerson) Cheese- paring and penny-pinching suggest frugality and parsimoniousness carried to the extreme (the cheeseparing guardians of the city's finances) (a campaign of administrative cheeseparing—Alan) (a penny-pinching appropriation for relief)

Ana *mean, sordid, ignoble: scrumpy, skimpy, *meager: *offensive, repulsive, revolting

Ant generous—Con *liberal, bountiful, bounteous, openhanded, munificent: *profuse, lavish, prodigal

stinking *malodorous, fetid, noisome, putrid, rank, rancid,usty, musty

Ana foul, filthy, nasty, *dirty: *offensive, repulsive, revolting

stint n *task, duty, assignment, job, chore

Ana quantity, amount (see SUM): allotment, apportionment (see corresponding verbs at ALLOT): prescribing or prescription, assigning (see corresponding verbs at PRESCRIBE): sharing or share, participation (see corresponding verbs at SHARE)

2 *spell, bout, shift, tour, trick, turn, go

stipend *wage or wages, salary, fee, emolument, pay, hire

Ana remuneration, compensation, recompensing or re-compense (see corresponding verbs at PAY)

stipple vb *spot, spatter, sprinkle, mottle, fleck, marble, speckle, spangle, bespangle

stippled spotted, spattered, sprinkled, mottled, flecked, marbled, speckled, spangled, bespangled (see under

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**stipulation** *condition, terms, provision, proviso, reservation, strings*

**Ana** specification (see corresponding verb at MENTION); restriction, circumscription (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT)

**stir** vb Stir, rouse, arouse, awaken, wake, rally can all mean to cause to shift from quiescence or torpor into activity. Stir, often followed by up, usually presupposes excitement to activity by something which disturbs or agitates and so brings to the surface or into outward expression what is latent or dormant (a dreamy, faraway look came into Mr. Bohlen's eyes, and he smiled. Then he stirred himself and began leafing through the plans). If the ... teacher longs to stir the sluggish mind of one of her scholars, she must first find out what the sluggishness is due to—Eliot (she wants stirring up. She's got into a rut—Bennett). Sometimes the word suggests the evoking of rebellion or revolt (movements that begin by stirring up hostility against a group of people—Dewey). More often it implies the evocation of profound, agitating, but usually agreeable, emotion (peace has no drums and trumpets to stir the pulse—Love-man) (men lacking an arm or leg stirred universal pity—Wecter). Rouse, arouse, awaken, waken all presuppose a state of rest or repose, often of that of sleep. Rouse derives its implications from its application to the starting of game from coverts or lairs by the cries of hunters or by beating of bushes and often suggests incitement to activity by startling, frightening, or upsetting. In addition it commonly implies intense or vigorous activity and often ensuing commotion or turbulence (every tent awoke, by that commotion or turbulence <every tent <every tent Arouse, though frequently used interchangeably with rouse, roused spoken words which deriving his attention—rally after—<that tree always Laski (had and heard the lion—awakened his strength rallied).<the new force stirred Mailery pelling influence <now I had to guard against arousing <peace has no drums and trumpets to stir the pulse—Love-man) (men lacking an arm or leg stirred universal pity—Wecter). Rouse, arouse, awaken, waken all presuppose a state of rest or repose, often of that of sleep. Rouse derives its implications from its application to the starting of game from coverts or lairs by the cries of hunters or by beating of bushes and often suggests incitement to activity by startling, frightening, or upsetting. In addition it commonly implies intense or vigorous activity and often ensuing commotion or turbulence (every tent roused by that clamor dread—Shelley) (roused out of sleep by a heavy pounding on the door—Wechsberg) (Antony ... had spoken words which roused the mob to fury—Buchan). Arouse, though frequently used interchangeably with rouse, tends to be weaker in its implications and often means little more than to start into activity and conveys no hint of what follows; thus, a noise in the night arouses a sleeping soldier if he merely wakes up into consciousness of it, but it rouses him when he also makes determined efforts to trace its source or hastily arms himself; a fear may be aroused and immediately dispelled; passions are roused when they are so stirred up that they exert a compelling influence (now I had to guard against arousing the emotions of others—Mallor). (the new force stirred and aroused the people—Anderson). Awaken and waken, like arouse, frequently imply an ending of sleep; in extended use they are employed chiefly in reference to mental or spiritual powers or faculties which need only the proper stimulation to be called forth into activity or to be elicited (waken love) (the conscience of the nation was awakened) (her eyes brightened, her features appeared gradually to awaken, and life flowed back into her face—Farrell) (had wakened and heard the lion—Hemingway) (waken to the point about seven minutes after—Laski) (that tree always awakened pleasant memories, recalling a garden in the south of France—Cather). Rally (see also RIDICULE) presupposes a diffusion of forces or a lack of concentration that promotes lethargy or inertia; it therefore implies a gathering together that stirs up or arouses (he rallied his strength for a final blow—Prescott) (as if his memory were impaired ... [he] made an effort to rally his attention—Dickens) (they stirred and rallied a divided, defeated people—Shirer).

**Ana** analogous words *excite, *provoke, stimulate, quicken, galvanize: *incite, foment, instigate: activate, energize, *vitalize: *move, drive, impel, actuate

**Ana** antonyms *condition, terms, provision, proviso, reservation, strings*

**Con** contrasted words *motion, movement, move, locomotion*
Dumpy may suggest short, lumpish gracelessness of body. stumpy, stumpy girls with their rather coarse features, big buttocks and heavy breasts—Koestler.

**Stoic**

*dull, humdrum, dreary, monotonous, pedestrian* 

*heavy, weighty, ponderous: *irksome, tedious, wearisome, tiresome, boring: *flabby, straitlaced, prudish* (see PRIM)

**Stoicism**

impassivity, phlegm, apathy, stoic (see IMPASSIVE)

*impassive, phlegmatic, apathetic

detached, aloof, indifferent, unconcerned: imper-

*heavy, weighty, ponderous: *irksome, tedious, un-

Turbo, condescend, deign can mean to descend

stoop

vb

impassivity, phlegm, apathy, stoic (see

stolidity

(Ant)

adroit (sense 2)

**Stolidity**

impassivity, phlegm, apathy, stoicism (see

**Stolid**

*dull, blunt, obtuse: *stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass,

dumb: *heavy, ponderous: passive, supine, inert, *in-

inactive

(Ant)

adroit (sense 2)

**Story**

1 *account, report, chronicle, version

makeshift, shift, expedient, *resource, resort,

storm

vb

bom bard, assault, assail, *attack

story

1 *account, report, chronicle, version

*history, chronicle, annals: relation, rehearsing,

recital, recounting (see corresponding verbs at RELATE)

*history, chronicle, annals: relation, rehearsing,

recital, recounting (see corresponding verbs at RELATE)

**Stooges**

vb

Stoop, condescend, deign can mean to descend

stoop

vb

impassivity, phlegm, apathy, stoic (see

stolidity

(Ant)

adroit (sense 2)

**Stolidity**

impassivity, phlegm, apathy, stoicism (see

**Stolid**

*dull, blunt, obtuse: *stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass,

dumb: *heavy, ponderous: passive, supine, inert, *in-

inactive

(Ant)

adroit (sense 2)

**Story**

1 *account, report, chronicle, version

*history, chronicle, annals: relation, rehearsing,

recital, recounting (see corresponding verbs at RELATE)

*account, report, chronicle, version

*history, chronicle, annals: relation, rehearsing,

recital, recounting (see corresponding verbs at RELATE)
stout

Malamud> The short story and a newspaper story may treat of but one incident. Narrative in its common use is more often factual than imaginative (his part of the book is impeccable; the narrative is a pleasure to read and the material of great interest—Geographical Jour.> (histori- cal narrative) > (a narrative of discovery) As a literary composition narrative usually suggests a plot or causally connected series of motivated incidents; thus, a chronicle or a diary is not ordinarily called a narrative (at this point he spun into the narrative a little yarn which he had fabricated last night in bed—Rötvaaq) Tale suggests, in consequence of its historical connection with oral telling, a more leisurely and more loosely organized recital, characteristically treating legendary or imaginary happen- ings, often those of ancient times, and may be in verse (Oriental tales) (folktales) (tales of the court of King Arthur) (tales based on folklore, legends of great men and small—Mahler) Anecdoté, retaining something of its original sense of an unpublished item, applies to a brief story of a single detachable incident of curious or humorous interest, often illustrative of a truth or principle or of the character or foibles of a notable person (an anecdote of Lincoln's boyhood) during the meal he entertained them with anecdotes of his travels—Meredith (an occasional anecdote, given as an example of the indignities she was made to suffer—Sackville-West)

Yarn often suggests a rambling and rather dubious tale of exciting adventure, marvelous or incredible, ingenious or fanciful, and not always reaching a clear-cut outcome (without motive a story is not a novel, but only a yarn—Caine) (the uncle . . . would arrive from Australia once every few years bringing no gifts but his wonderful yarns. As far as Victoria remembered, he'd never repeated him- or fanciful, and not always reaching a clear-cut outcome

A 1 * strong, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious adj

forthright, aboveboard when applied to a forward course of action) answer)

Ana narration, description (see corresponding verbs at relate): > fiction, fable, fabrication 3*lie, falsehood, untruth, fib, misrepresentation

stout adj 1 *strong, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious

Ana *brave, bold, intrepid, valiant, valorous: indomi- table, > invincible: resolute, staunch, steadfast (see FAITHFUL): > vigorous, energetic, lusty

2 *fleshy, fat, portly, corpulent, obese, plump, rotund, chubby

Ana thick, thickset, >stocky: burly, brawny, husky, >muscular

Ant cadaverous —Con >lean, lank, lanky, spare, angular, rawboned, skinny, scrawny

straightforward, forthright, aboveboard when applied to persons, their actions, or their methods mean honest and open. Something straightforward is consistently direct and free from deviations or evasiveness (a straightforward course of action) (a straightforward answer) (he is a man; with clear, straightforward ideas, a frank, noble presence—Disraeli) Something forthright has directness like that of a thrust, or goes straight to the point without swerving or hesitating (a forthright appeal for votes) (thought that this must be the true air of success: no conceit or obvious triumph, but a forthright glance, a confident smile, a new erectness in the shoulders—Woolf) Something aboveboard is free from all traces of deception or duplicity. Aboveboard is chiefly used predi- catively and applies more often to actions or methods than to persons (one whose life had been so well-ordered, balanced, and aboveboard—Galsworthy) (the peace of mind that comes from being completely honest and aboveboard—Haupt) Straightforward, forthright, and aboveboard are also used adverbially with the same im- plications and connotations as their adjecitval forms.

Ana honest, >upright, honorable, just: >fair, equitable, impartial: candid, >frank, open, plain

Ant devious: indirect

strain n 1 *variety, subspecies, race, breed, cultivar, clone, stock

2 *streak, vein, >touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash

strain vb 1 sprain (see under strain n)

2 * demur, scruple, balk, jib, shy, boogle, stickle, stick

strain n 1 * stress, pressure, tension

2 Strain, sprain as nouns can mean an injury to a part of the body through overstretching and as verbs to cause or to suffer such an injury to a part of the body. Strain, the more general and less technical term, usually implies an injury to a body part or organ or to muscles as a result of overuse, overexercise, or overexertion or of over- effort (in an attempt to regain one's balance or to lift too heavy an object); the injury may range from a slight soreness or stiffness to a disabling damage; thus, eyesstrain is a condition of the eye or of the muscles of the eye in- volving pain and fatigue such as occurs in those who do close work with their eyes or in those who suffer from uncorrected defects of vision; charley horse is a familiar term for a stiffness resulting from muscular strain in the arm or leg (as of an athlete) he strained his back while trying to avoid a fall on a slippery sidewalk. But strain may specifically apply to an injury resulting from a wrench or twist and involving overstretching of muscles and liga- ments and is then nearly interchangeable with, though typi- cally suggesting less severe injury than, sprain which de- finitely implies an injury to a joint, usually as a result of a wrenching, with stretching or tearing of its ligaments, damage to the synovial membrane, swelling and pain, and disablement of the joint; thus, one may strain or sprain an ankle by a sudden slip that wrenches it (crippled by a sprain of the hip)

strained >forced, labored, farfetched

Ana tense, taut, >tight: >artificial, factitious: unnatural (see IRREGULAR): > stiff, rigid, inflexible, wooden

strait n 1 Strait, sound, channel, passage, narrows can all denote a long and comparatively narrow stretch of water connecting two larger bodies. Strait, often as the plural straits with either singular or plural construction, denotes a relatively short and very narrow waterway (the Strait of Dover connecting the English Channel and the North Sea) (the Straits of Gibraltar connecting the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea) Sound applies to a longer and more extensive waterway than a strait; the term is often applied to a long passage of water be- tween the mainland and an island or group of islands and therefore at each end opening into the same ocean or sea or arms of the same ocean or sea (Long Island Sound lying between the Connecticut shore and the north shore of Long Island opening at both ends into the Gulf of Mexico) Channel is less frequent than strait or sound as a tech- nical term in the sense here considered, but when it is so used it denotes a relatively large sound (The English Channel between southeastern England and the north coast of France) (the Mozambique Channel between the coast of southeastern Africa and Mozambique Island) Passage is practically synonymous with channel, denoting a connecting body of water wider than a strait (Mona Passage between the islands of Hispaniola and Puerto Rico) Narrows designates a strait or a contracted part of a body of water; it is especially used of the necklike part of a bottle-shaped harbor (the Narrows of New York harbor) 781

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

2 pass, exigency, pinch, emergency, *juncture, contin-


gency, crisis

*difficulty, hardship, vicissitude, rigor: perplexity, bewildernent, mystification (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE): plight, *predication, fix, quandary

straitlaced *prim, priggish, prissy, prudish, puritanical, stuffy

*narrow, narrow-minded, hidebound, intolerant (see ILLIBERAL): *rigid, rigorous, strict

Ant
libertine

strang *shore, coast, beach, bank, littoral, foreshore

*unique, singular, peculiar, eccentric, erratic, odd, queer, quaint, outlandish, curious can mean vary-

ing from what is ordinary, usual, and to be expected.

Strange, the most comprehensive of these terms, suggests unfamiliarity; it may apply to what is foreign, unnatural, inexplicable, or new <some strange and potent élan was released in Cabot shortly after the second treatment >

. . . He bloomed, as so few men do—Purdy <to most of us the art of China and Japan, however much it may attract and impress, is strange—Binyon <the people in the streets have their usual air, tranquil and indolent.

No curiosity, no emotion in their faces. A strange people! —Edmund Wilson>

Singul al distinctively implies differ-

ence from every other instance of its kind and therefore stresses individuality <a distinguished and singular excellence—Mencken >

<the taxi driver had lugged the parcel . . . for the woman, and then—proving himself a singular example of his species—had broken a ten-


dollar bill for her—Kahn > Often, however, the word suggests strangeness that puzzles one or piques one's curiosity (I experienced a singular sensation on reading the first sentence . . . There are sensations you cannot describe—F. M. Ford >

*his singular that even within the sight of the high towers of Antioch you could lose your way—Shelley >

Unique implies not only singularity but the fact of being unparalleled without suggesting, as singular does, a strange or baffling character or quality <personality always contains something unique—Justice Holmes >

> he has the almost unique distinction of having made speeches which were both effective when delivered and also models of literary eloquence—Inge >

The majestic, the enduring novels treat of subjects which are rarely unique—Elizabeth Bowen>

Peculiar (see also CHARACTERISTIC) implies marked or conspicuous dis-


tinctiveness in character or quality <this difference arises . . . from the peculiar character of the Government of the United States—Taney>

<the peculiar etiquette attached to elevators was rigidly observed by members of both households—Bemelman >

<only subtle and delicate minds . . . catch the characteristic aroma, the peculiar perfume—Brownell >

Often peculiar is employed where one of the succeeding terms (as eccentric or queer) might well be used <he is growing very peculiar >

<made little effort to remember the day; with its peculiar quality of dementia it seemed not a commonplace and civilized social event but a nightmare—Styron >

Eccentric implies divergence from the beaten track; erratic adds to eccentric a stronger implication of caprice and unpredictability <an eccentric preference for beginning his dinner . . . in the late afternoon—Cather >

<i the house had grown, reflecting the eccentric turns of Justina mind—Cheever >

<the workings of his mind were erratic >

this towering but erratic genius . . . who combined in his tempestuous character so many of the best and the worst qualities of the German—Shirer >

Odd stresses a departure from the usual, the normal, or the regular; it sometimes suggests an element of the fantastic; queer even more strongly implies eccentricity and often suggests that the thing so qualified is dubious or questionable <great men whose odd habits it would have been glorious piety to endure—George Eliot >

<the oddest sense of being herself invisible; unseen; unknown—Woolf >

<Alice was not much surprised at this, she was getting so well used to queer things happening—Lewis Carroll >

<completely out of control . . . her voice had become louder and her smile queerer—Wouk> Quaint implies pleasant or especially old-fashioned oddness; outlandish, uncouth or bizarre oddness <a quaint village, full of half-

		timbered houses >

<to post-Freudian ears, this kind of language seems touching quaint and ingenious—Huxley >

(an outlandish custom) <he wore the prophet's robe with a difference. He never let it look outlandish—Montague >

<he introduced outlandish or unbelievable people and situations into his work; that is, . . . fantasy was not a mode of escape but a device of satire—FitZell >

Curious usually implies extraordinary oddness or a sin-


gularity that invites close attention, study, or inquiry.

When the word is employed as an equivalent of one or another of the foregoing words it tends to retain to a greater or less degree the notion of extraordinariness and it often suggests that the thing so described merits notice or investigation <a curious sickening smell >

<curious bits of folklore >

<curious customs and habits of speech surviving from an earlier age >

<my only guiding principle has been that the examples should be curious, striking and even, in certain cases, extravagant—Huxley >

<a curious sensation, sitting only a yard away from this man who fifty years before had made me so miserable that I had once contemplated suicide—Dohly >

<loneliness, far from being a rare and curious circumstance—Wolfe >

*abnormal, atypical, aberrant: *fantastic, bizarre, grotesque: surprising, astonishing, amazing, flabber-

gasting (see SURPRISE)

Ant
familiar

stranger, foreigner, alien, outlander, outsider, immigrant, émigré can all designate a person who comes into a com-

munity from the outside and is not recognized as a member of that community. This is the primary denotation of some of the words, but the secondary sense of the others, especially the last three. Stranger and foreigner may both apply to one who comes from another country or some-

times from another section as a resident or visitor. They have somewhat different implications, however, stranger stressing the person's unfamiliarity with the language and customs and foreigner the fact that he speaks a dif-

ferent language, follows different customs, or bears alleg-


cience to another government <the time came when I was the observant foreigner, examining education in France. To tell the truth, I was not a stranger to it, having lived in France as a child and again as a youth—Grandgent >

Alien emphasizes allegiance to another sovereign or government and is often opposed to citizen; thus, one may be called a foreigner after naturalization, but not with accuracy an alien. In extended use alien can imply either exclusion from full privileges of or inability to identify oneself with a group <the older I grow, the more of an alien I find myself in the world; I cannot get used to it, cannot believe that it is real—L. P. Smith >

<he is anesthet-

ic to their theological and political enthusiasms. He finds himself an alien at their feasts of soul—Mencken >

Outlander, in its general sense, is preferred to foreigner only for a literary or rhetorical reason or because it carries the implications of outlandish <to this vast matriarchal blackness he had returned, bringing a bride, an outlander—Hervey >

<his neighbors were . . . outlanders of that particular type to which . . . his own fastidiousness found the greatest objection—Tarkington >

Outsider usually

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
implies nonmembership in a group, clique, or caste largely because of essential differences in origin, interests, backgrounds, customs, and manners (was the only outsider in a company of which every member was privy to the origin, developments, and existing state of its complications—Sackville-West) Immigrant and émigré are often used of foreigners who are residents and no longer aliens. Immigrant usually is applied to a foreigner who has come voluntarily, typically in search of a better means of earning a living or a more satisfying way of life; émigré implies that the foreigner is a fugitive or refugee from his native land or, in a weaker sense, that he has left his abiding place rather than dissatisfaction than from a strong hope for a better future (Hemingway, whom the young émigrés to Montparnasse . . . had hailed as a major prophet of the emptiness of everything—F. L. Allen)

strangle vb *suffocate, asphyxiate, stifile, smother, choke, throttle

stratagem *trick, ruse, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, strangle

strategic tactical, logistic (see under STRATEGY)

strategy, tactics, logistics as used in relation to warfare are not always clearly distinguished. Strategy is the art or science involved in the direction of the forces at his disposal by the commander in chief of a belligerent nation or by those assisting him. The term usually implies the planning of major operations intended to gain the objectives of the war, and often, but not necessarily, connotes the effective presence of these officers at home or behind the lines. Tactics is the art or science of handling forces in the field or in action; the term implies not only the presence of the enemy as affecting the disposition or maneuvering of troops, ships, planes, and matériel but the direction of a commanding officer upon the scene (the theater of war is the province of strategy, the field of battle is the province of tactics—Hamley) Logistics is the art or science of military supply and transportation; the term usually implies both planning and implementation and covers such varied matters as design and development, acquisition, stockpiling, shipping and distribution, upkeep, and ultimate evacuation and disposition of matériel; acquisition, preparation, assignment, distribution, and physical care of personnel; preparation, operation, upkeep, and disposal of facilities; and provision of services. Broadly logistics constitutes the theory and practice of military housekeeping (generals and admirals and their staffs plan campaigns. That is strategy. They fight battles and these combat operations are known as tactics. A third element determines the success or failure of strategy and tactics. This is called logistics. A large part of an army, a fleet, or an air force, and nearly the entire civilian population today play a role in logistics. What they accomplish in producing and distributing the resources needed to implement strategy and tactics controls the outcome of war—Donald Armstrong)

The same differences in meaning are also found in strategic, tactical, and logistic (or logistical) as referred to the conduct of a war (strategic air war now being conducted so effectively upon German cities and factories by the Royal Air force and the United States 8th air force will in due time be supplemented or in part substituted by tactical air operations on which our ground forces will depend to cover advances of troops and to devastate the huge fortifications erected by the Nazis in northern France, Belgium and along the northern coast of the continent—David Lawrence) (the outstanding military lesson of this campaign was the calculated application of air power . . . in the most intimate tactical and logistical union with ground forces—MacArthur)

straw vb *strew, scatter, sow, broadcast

stray vb *wander, roam, ramble, rove, range, prowl, gad, gallivant, traipse, meander

streak n strain, vein, *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupcon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash

stream n *flow, current, flood, tide, flux

stream vb *pour, gush, sluice

Ana flow, issue, emanate, proceed (see SPRING): flood, deluge, inundate (see corresponding nouns at FLOOD)

streamer pennant, pendant, pennon, banner, *flag, ensign, standard, color

strength *power, force, might, energy, puissance

Ana stoutness, stubborness, toughness, tenaciousness (see corresponding adjectives at STRONG): soundness, healthiness (see corresponding adjectives at HEALTHY): *possessions, means, resources, assets

strengthen, invigorate, fortify, energize, reinforce can mean to make strong or stronger. Strengthen is the most general term, applicable not only to persons or their physical, mental, or moral condition but also to things material or immaterial (as a structure, a system, an aggregation, or an influence); the word can connote increase either in force, energy, vigor, and power of resistance, or in intensity, authority, or effectiveness (their friendship strengthened as they grew older) (exercise is necessary to strengthen the body) (opposition will only strengthen their belief) (his case was greatly strengthened by the newly discovered evidence) (the handle of the tool had been bound by ordinary picture wire, apparently to strengthen a fracture in the wood—Hynd) (impulses to submission strengthened by habits of obedience bred in the past—Dewey) (after a period of hoarse whispering, her voice changes its tone and strengthens—Hearn)

Invigorate is commonly used in reference to living things or of some power or activity of a living thing and is sometimes extended to things that have powers suggestive of life; it implies an increase in vigor or vitality or active or effective strength or force (their minds and bodies were invigorated by exercise—Gibbon) (the series of Midwestern novels that followed shocked and invigorated American thought—S. R. L.) (the general run of Canadians are invigorated when our athletes win recognition—Charles Cooper) (invigorating sea breezes) Fortify, which primarily means to strengthen a town or city by defensive structures, in a more general sense means to strengthen against attack or stress of any sort (a certain uneasiness had come upon her, and even fortified by food she could not bring herself to go—Boyle) (fortified himself with a stiff drink) (I have been fortified in my belief, the utterances of this Court from the time of Chief Justice Taney to the present day—Justice Holmes) (set up on a pedestal, fortified by the strongest bulwark in executive acts, those principles which we would abandon at our peril—Vannevar Bush) (the old-fashioned polemical sermon followed, fortified with texts and garnished with quotations in Greek—Brooks) Energize implies a strengthening in the form of supplying the active power for working or for being ready for work and, therefore, is used of whatever can be roused into strong activity or infused with a desire to act (the office of Inspector General was greatly improved, and energized, during
the first administration of Mr. Pitt—Chalmers} \( \langle \text{as between husband and wife, hers was definitely the stronger spirit. She was more highly energized, more industrious, more ambitious—S. H. Adams} \rangle \)

\( \langle \text{he energized the Garden-Suburb ethos with a certain original talent and the vigor of a prolonged adolescence—Leavis} \rangle \)

\( \text{Reinforce implies the making of what is weak stronger or of what is strong still stronger by or as if by an addition that stiffens and supports, and thereby adds effectiveness, powers of resistance, cogency, or durability} \langle \text{reinforce concrete by embedding steel bars or mesh in it} \rangle \langle \text{reinforce an argument by additional evidence} \rangle \langle \text{reinforce a stocking at heel and toe} \rangle \langle \text{the stimulus given by his dialectics to their keen and eager minds was supplemented and reinforced by the appeal to their admiration and love of his sweet and virile personality—Dickinson} \rangle \langle \text{Maria's distrust returned, reinforced by resentment. Yet she said nothing—Hervey} \rangle \langle \text{experience in Brazil seems to show that in mixed marriages the black element, if not reinforced, is absorbed by the white within a few generations—William Tate} \rangle \)

\( \text{Ana} \) embolden, steel, nerve, *encourage, inspirit, hearten, cheer: *vitalize, activize: galvanize, quicken, stimulate (see PROVOKE): *intensify, heighten, aggravate

\( \text{Ant} \) weaken —Con enfeeble, debilitate, sap, undermine, cripple, disable (see WEAKEN): *discourage, dishearten, dispirit, deject: *unnerve, enervate, unmanned, emasculate

\( \text{strenuous energetic, *vigor, lusty, nervous} \)

\( \text{Ana} \) virile, manful, manly (see MALE): dynamic, live, active, operative: *spirited, high-spirited, mettlesome: vehement, *intense, fierce, violent

\( \text{stress} \ ) \text{n} \ 1 \text{stress, strain, pressure, tension are comparable terms when they apply to the action or effect of force exerted within or upon a thing. Stress and strain are} \text{the comparative terms of this group and are sometimes used interchangeably} \langle \text{put stresses and strains on parts of the body that were not constructed to bear that burden—Fishbein} \rangle \langle \text{if sufficiently large stresses are applied to any crystal, it remains at least partly deformed when the stresses are removed—Seitz} \rangle \langle \text{the wrench is an instrument for exerting a twisting strain, as in turning bolts and nuts—Burghardt & Axelrod} \rangle \langle \text{by a powerful strain upon the reins, raising his horse's forefeet from the ground—De Quincey} \rangle \langle \text{the breakup due to tremendous strains experienced in bad weather have time and again proven the fatal power of squalls over dirigibles—Corey Ford} \rangle \langle \text{a story . . . attacking tuberculars for coming to San Antonio and scattering their deadly germs about this innocent city—Green Peyton} \rangle \langle \text{Sow basically implies the stressing of seeds where they will sprout and develop} \langle \text{surrounding fields have been sown . . . with squash, pumpkin, and maize—Science} \rangle \langle \text{or in its extended use the stressing of something comparable to seed that can be disseminated (as throughout a group, a community, or an organization} \langle \text{an} \langle \text{sow discord among the club members} \rangle \langle \text{an} \langle \text{seed of reason and understanding throughout the world—A. E. Stevenson} \rangle \langle \text{Broadcast (see also DECLARE) implies a scattering widely or in all directions} \langle \text{it is best to broadcast very fine seed} \rangle \langle \text{early in April, just before a rain begins, broadcast 3 pounds of white clover seed—H. S. Pearson} \rangle \langle \text{Ana} \langle \text{spread, disseminate: disperse, dissipate (see SCATTER} \rangle \langle \text{strict stringent, *rigid, rigorous} \)

\( \text{Ana} \) stern, *severe, austere, ascetic: *inflexible, inexorable: exacting, oppressive, *onerous, burdensome

\( \text{Ant} \) lax: loose: lenient, indulgent

\( \text{stricture} \ ) \text{n} \ *animadversion, aspersion, reflection

\( \text{Ana} \) criticism, censuring or censure, condemnation, denouncing or denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

\( \text{Ant} \) commendation

\( \text{strident} \ ) \text{adj} \ *loud, stentorian, ear-splitting, hoarse, raucous, stertorous

\( \text{Ana} \) harsh, *rough: resounding, *resonant

\( \text{2} \) blatant, clamorous, *vociferous, boisterous, obstreperous

\( \text{Ana} \) harsh, uneven, *rough

\( \text{strive} \ ) \text{vb} \ *discord, conflict, contention, dissension, difference, variance

\( \text{Ana} \) combat, conflict, fight, affray, fray (see CONTEST): dispute, controversy, *argument: *brawl, broil, fracas: altercation, wrangle, *quarrel, squabble

\( \text{Ant} \) peace: accord

\( \text{strike} \ ) \text{vb} \ *\text{Strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, slog, swat, clout, slap, cuff, box are comparable when they mean to come or bring into contact with or as if with a sharp blow. Strike, hit, and smite are the more general terms. Strike, the most general of the words, may indicate the motion of aiming or dealing the blow, the motion prior to contact with the hand, fist, instrument, weapon, or missile (strike at the enemy and miss) \langle \text{strike out at random} \rangle \langle \text{It may to cause elongation of an elastic body or to the stress resulting from the elongation of such a body} \langle \text{a steel bar can safely bear a pull or tension of 16,000 lb. for each square inch of its cross-section—Samuel Slade & Louis Margolis} \rangle \langle \text{2} \rangle \langle \text{emphasis, accent, accentuation} \)

\( \text{stretch} \ ) \text{n} \ *\text{expansion, amplitude, spread}

\( \text{Ana} \) area, tract, region: extent, magnitude, *size

\( \text{strew, straw, scatter, sow, broadcast} \) can mean to throw loosely or at intervals. Strew and the less common straw usually imply a spreading at intervals, but the intervals may be so fine as not to be obvious or so great that each thing may be separately identified \langle \text{ground strewn with leaves} \rangle \langle \text{strew a path with gravel} \rangle \langle \text{as he sits in the armchair, the Sunday papers are strewn around him—Mailer} \rangle \langle \text{he looked . . . over the great mesa-strewn plain far below—Cather} \rangle \langle \text{petty ordinances . . . of no more weight than dandelion fluff strowed by the wind—Clement Wood} \rangle \langle \text{the tent of night in tatters strews the sky-pavilioned land—Housman} \rangle \langle \text{Scatter (see also SCATTER) implies a separation of parts or pieces, but it distinctively implies a throwing that lets the things fall where they will} \langle \text{scatter pennies} \rangle \langle \text{scatter bread crumbs} \rangle \langle \text{no railroad scatters its soot over the neat white frame houses—Corey Ford} \rangle \langle \text{a story . . . attacking tuberculars for coming to San Antonio and scattering their deadly germs about this innocent city—Green Peyton} \rangle \langle \text{Sow basically implies the stressing of seeds where they will sprout and develop} \langle \text{surrounding fields have been sown . . . with squash, pumpkin, and maize—Science} \rangle \langle \text{or in its extended use the stressing of something comparable to seed that can be disseminated (as throughout a group, a community, or an organization} \langle \text{an} \langle \text{sow discord among the club members} \rangle \langle \text{an} \langle \text{seed of reason and understanding throughout the world—A. E. Stevenson} \rangle \langle \text{Broadcast (see also DECLARE) implies a scattering widely or in all directions} \langle \text{it is best to broadcast very fine seed} \rangle \langle \text{early in April, just before a rain begins, broadcast 3 pounds of white clover seed—H. S. Pearson} \rangle \langle \text{Ana} \langle \text{spread, disseminate: disperse, dissipate (see SCATTER} \rangle \langle \text{strict stringent, *rigid, rigorous} \)

\( \text{Ana} \) stern, *severe, austere, ascetic: *inflexible, inexorable: exacting, oppressive, *onerous, burdensome

\( \text{Ant} \) lax: loose: lenient, indulgent

\( \text{stricture} \ ) \text{n} \ *animadversion, aspersion, reflection

\( \text{Ana} \) criticism, censuring or censure, condemnation, denouncing or denunciation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE)

\( \text{Ant} \) commendation

\( \text{strident} \ ) \text{adj} \ *loud, stentorian, ear-splitting, hoarse, raucous, stertorous

\( \text{Ana} \) harsh, *rough: resounding, *resonant

\( \text{2} \) blatant, clamorous, *vociferous, boisterous, obstreperous

\( \text{Ana} \) harsh, uneven, *rough

\( \text{strive} \ ) \text{vb} \ *discord, conflict, contention, dissension, difference, variance

\( \text{Ana} \) combat, conflict, fight, affray, fray (see CONTEST): dispute, controversy, *argument: *brawl, broil, fracas: alteration, wrangle, *quarrel, squabble

\( \text{Ant} \) peace: accord

\( \text{strike} \ ) \text{vb} \ *\text{Strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, slog, swat, clout, slap, cuff, box are comparable when they mean to come or bring into contact with or as if with a sharp blow. Strike, hit, and smite are the more general terms. Strike, the most general of the words, may indicate the motion of aiming or dealing the blow, the motion prior to contact with the hand, fist, instrument, weapon, or missile (strike at the enemy and miss) \langle \text{strike out at random} \rangle \langle \text{It may}
indicate various types of contact from a light, often stroking contact (the light breeze struck the ship on the north side) to a forcible collision or blasting contact (the car struck a post and overturned) (the lightning struck the house) (strike a man down with a heavy blow) (the enemy struck with full force) It may suggest several types of physical or emotional effect or impression (strike someone dead) (strike a line on paper) (strike out a name from a list) (to be struck by the beauty of the scenery) (grief-stricken) (consciousness-stricken) or it may be used to indicate any of the types of contact suggested by the other words in this group. Hit, although it is used in most of the situations in which strike occurs, emphasizes more than the latter the physical or figurative contact with or impact upon an object, usually one aimed at; it tends to stress forcefulness (hit a child on the wrist) (the shell hit the tank and tore through the side) (the dinner-bell . . . hit him hard—H. G. Wells) (hit the right road home) (hit the winning number in a lottery) Smite, likely to appear in rhetorical or bookish contexts, commonly stresses the injuriousness or destructiveness of the contact and often suggests a motivation of anger or desire for vengeance (with the hammer she smote Sisera, she smote off his head—Judg 5:26) (conscious-smitten) (smitten with grief) Punch, slug, slog, swat, and clout are generally used to suggest the giving of various kinds of usually sharp or heavy blows. Punch suggests a quick blow with or as if with the fist (would handcuff everybody rather than face the risk of having their noses punched by somebody—Shaw) Slug emphasizes the heaviness of the impact and may suggest a certain viciousness in the delivery of the blow (was attacked by an assault suspect, who slammed him with a 5-ft. iron pipe—Time) Slog emphasizes the heavy and typically haphazard quality of the blows (“Slog them on the head with your club . . . .” shouted Tammers. And as the twisted knot of men reeled conveniently towards me I did what execution I could—Strand Mag.) and in sports (as cricket or golf) it may stress power as opposed to finesse (hayfields fringed the very putting greens . . . and a man had to slog and slog again before he got out of them—Bernard Darwin) Swat suggests a forceful, slapping blow, usually with an instrument (as a bat, weapon, or flyswatter) (in off moments he would swat the regiments of cockroaches—de Kruif) (swat flies) (swat a baseball out of the ball park) Clout suggests a heavy careless blow (as with the hand or fist) (a shoe clouted his skull and inflicted a fracture—McCrack) (they clout our heads the moment our conclusions differ from theirs—Shaw) Slap, cuff, and box all denote blows of varying force with the open hand. Slap is the most general and indicates a sharp, stinging blow with or as if with the palm of the hand (slap a person in the face) (slapped the coverlet angrily—Kenneth Roberts) Cuff suggests a blow often forcible enough to dizzy or throw off balance and often deal with the back of the hand (it was pointed out . . . that children could be hurried and delayed, cuffed or bribed, into becoming adults—Mead) (I swear I'll cuff you, if you strike again—Shaker) Box suggests the delivery of an openhanded blow but is ordinarily limited to one against the ears (the mother boxed her child's ears in a fit of temper) Ana *beat, pummel, buffet, pound, baste, belabor, thrash 2 impress, touch, influence, *affect, sway striking arresting, signal, salient, conspicuous, outstanding, *noticeable, remarkable, prominent Ana *effective, effectual, efficacious: telling, convincing, compelling, cogent (see valid): forcible, forceful, *powerful: impressive, *moving string n 1 *succession, progression, series, sequence, chain, train 2 in plural form strings *condition, stipulation, terms, proviso, proviso, reservation stringent strict, *rigid, rigorous Ana *severe, austere, stern: limiting, restricting, circumscribing, confining (see limit vb): restraining, curbing (see restrain vb): exacting, oppressive, *onerous strip vb Strip, divest, denude, bare, dismantle can mean to deprive a person or thing of what clothes, furnishes, or invests him or it. Strip stresses a pulling or tearing off rather than a laying bare, though the latter implication is frequent; it often connotes more or less violent action or complete deprivation (strip the bark from a tree) (he was quickly stripped of his clothes) (where pasturing cattle stripped the ground) (once start stripping poetry of what you imagine are inessentials and you will find . . . the anatomy is made visible but the life will have gone—Day Lewis) (I had stripped a few of my habits, seconal and benzodrine at any rate, but I was . . . tense and brain-deadened—Mailer) Divest, in contrast to strip, does not suggest violence; it usually implies a taking away of what a person or thing has been clothed or equipped with especially as a sign of power, rank, influence, or prestige (divesting capitalists of further increments of power—Cohen) Therefore it often connotes an undoing or a dispossessing or a degrading (divest an officer of all authority) (naturalism divests life, whether physical or spiritual, of all that separates it from the inanimate and inorganic—Inge) (the king is thus divested of his kingship and now becomes merely a corpse—Frazer) Denude implies a stripping or divesting, but distinctively it implies a resulting bareness or nakedness (striped of its vines and denuded of its shrubbery, the house would probably have been ugly enough—Cather) (a ghostly lunar rainbow—the spectrum cleansed and denuded of all the garish colors of day—Beebe) (modern agriculture . . . denudes the land of the protective cover and food that wild creatures need—G. S. Perry) Bare, although it suggests a removal of what covers or clothes, seldom carries implications of violent or complete stripping; it is chiefly used in idiomatic phrases which imply more than the mere act; thus, to bare one's head is to take off one's hat usually as a sign of respect or reverence; to bare one's sword is to unsheathe it and to have it ready for action; to bare one's heart to another is to reveal feelings one has concealed; to bare the secrets of the grave is to disclose, often as a result of a discovery of documents, something which had been known only to persons now dead (no hidden secrets are bare in this biography—Lubell) (bare her teeth at the audience with comic ferocity—Wouk) Dismantle is used chiefly with reference to the act of stripping a house, a building, a ship, or a complex installation (as of machinery) of its entire equipment and furnishings (dismantle a factory) (the cottage itself was built of old stones from the long dismantled Priory—Hardy) (hurriedly dismantled a second bomb that he had brought along—Shirer) Ana despoil, spoliate, devastate, waste, *ravage: rifle, loot, plunder, *rob Ant furnish: invest
stripe

786

strong

a surface referred to and the sections bordering upon it (each white petal had a stripe of red) (gray cloth with alternate stripes of blue and red) (when one or more strips of braid have been sewn on a soldier's sleeve to indicate his rank or his length of service, they are called stripes). If actual separation is not implied stripe may be employed when the difference between the portion of surface referred to and its neighboring portions is a matter of use, ownership, or physical character (the stripe between sidewalk and curb belongs to the city) (each man on relief was allotted a strip of land for raising vegetables). However stripe may be used in such cases in preference to strip when the division is made evident by a contrast in appearance (narrow stripes of ice separated from each other by parallel moraines—Tyndall) (stripes of cultivated land in various shades of green). Band (see also bond 1) may mean either a strip or stripe but often also connotes either an encircling with or without a suggestion of confining or uniting or a horizontal position rather than the vertical position so often connoted by stripe (the lower parts of the sleeves and of the skirt were adorned with bands of blue silk) (bands of colored light in the sky at dawn) (at closer range, the mountain showed three bands, the lowest green, the middle gray, and the highest white). Ribbon designates concretely a length of narrow woven material with selvage edges, usually one that is fine and firm in texture and is used for ornamental bands, ties, and bows. In extended use ribbon is often used in place of stripe when the strips are very long, very narrow, and very thin and when the material is flexible enough to appear like ribbon or to be handled like ribbon (steel ribbon for use in springs) (ribbons of red, green, and gold paper for tying Christmas packages) (the sails were torn by the hurricane into ribbons) (the road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor—Noyes). Fillet, which basically denotes a narrow strip of ornamental material (as a band of ribbon for restraining the hair or a narrow molding or beading that forms the inner part of a picture frame), is often extended to various things that have no inherent ornamental quality and are otherwise describable as strips, ribbons, or bands (as a metal strip or ribbon from which coins are punched, a very thin molding, one of certain bands of white matter in the brain, or a long narrow piece of meat or fish without bone).

stripe

n 1 *strip, band, ribbon, fillet
2 charcter, description, nature, *type, kind, sort, kidney, ilk

strive struggle, endeavor, *attempt, essay, try
Ana work, labor, toil, travel (see corresponding nouns at work): *contend, fight

striving n struggle, endeavor, essay, attempt, try (see under attempt vb)
Ana *work, labor, toil, travel: contending (see contend): *contest, conflict, combat, fight
stroll vb *saunter, amble

strong, stout, sturdy, stalwart, tough, tenacious can all mean having or manifesting great power or force (as in acting or resisting). Strong, the most inclusive of these terms, fundamentally implies the possession of great physical power and may connotate such varied causes as sound health or physical size and vigor or soundness of construction and substance (a strong constitution) (the hammock is not strong enough to bear the weight of two persons) (a strong foundation) (his hands were large. They looked neither strong nor competent—Salinger) but in extended use it may apply to groups whose force is dependent upon numbers, organization, or discipline (a strong army) (a strong majority forced a wavering minority along the road of rectitude—Replier) or to a spiritual or mental power or faculty that acts with force and vigor (a strong mind) (a strong will) (a strong critical instinct) or to some very potent or powerful thing (strong liquor) (a strong poison) (a strong current) (a strong battery) (the memorandum was couched in strong language and the Russians replied to it . . . with equally stern words—Shirer) or to something (as color or light or emotion or sentiment) that is particularly intense or violent (a strong purple) (the strong light of the setting sun) (strong love) (a strong attachment) (the impulse to fight is something so strong, so deep-seated, so uncontrollable by . . . reason—Edmund Wilson) Stout (see also Fleshy) carries a stronger implication than does strong of an ability to resist aggression or destructive forces or of an ability to endure hard use, severe pain, or great temptation without giving way. When applied to persons, it often suggests resolution, doggedness, or fearlessness (a stouter champion never handled sword—Shak.) (and let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travel . . . to impart our courage unto our sons—Roosevelt). When applied to things, stout usually also suggests solid, substantial construction (a stout cane) (a stout ship) or a texture that resists stress or strain (a stout canvas) (a stout paper) (their feet were protected by stout boots—Mason). In fact the term is generally applicable when the suggestion of power to resist or endure is more emphatic than that of a power to do or to effect. Sturdy implies qualities in inanimate as well as in animate things that suggest the possession of rugged health; the term carries no suggestion of powers derived from such qualities as size, intensity, or vehemence but connotes rather an inner strength typically derived from healthy vigorous growth, close solid construction, or a determined spirit that gives it staying power and stoutness (the little fellow has sturdy legs) (was a sturdy, handsome, high-colored woman—Van Doren) (it is the sturdiest of creepers, facing the ferocious winds of the hills, the tremendous rains that blow up from the sea, and bitter frost—Jefferies). Our people are . . . conspicuous for a sturdy independence—Inge) Stalwart usually implies strength derived from what is so deeply established or firmly rooted that it is unassailable or impregnable or is completely dependable (William Law . . . was a stalwart Churchman, and showed no sympathy with the sectaries—Inge) (Dryden brings his stalwart common sense to bear upon the problem, and clarifies the issue—Lowes). What is best in our society will have to be saved by the advocates of some older and more stalwart system of thought—Kirk) When applied to persons with reference to their physique or prowess, stalwart regularly suggests great strength, but it often throws the emphasis upon heroic build or largeness of frame (a stalwart man, limbed like the old heroic breeds—J. R. Lowell) Tough suggests the strength that comes from a texture or a spirit that is firm and unyielding and effectively resists attempts to pierce, destroy, or overcome; it stresses hardiness rather than vigor, resistant elasticity or wiriness rather than hardness or solidity, or a capacity for yielding that is just sufficient to increase rather than to destroy a person's or thing's strength or stoutness (a tough membrane) (a tough opposition) (tough resistance) (any type who reached the age of six, was a pint of iron man, so tough, so ferocious, so sharp in the teeth that the wildest alley cat would have surrendered a freshly caught rat rather than contest the meal—Mailer) (physically fragile, she was spiritually tough—Sackville-West). Tenacious comes very close to tough in its most general implications, but it places greater emphasis upon
retentiveness of what has been gained or of adherence to a support, position, or idea; it carries a strong suggestion of holding on, of adhesiveness, or of maintaining strength or position in spite of all opposing forces that would dislodge, dispossess, thwart, or weaken. He had always held with tenacious devotion to one of the ancient traditions of his race—Wolfe. He seemed to hold on to life by a single thread only, but that single thread was very tenacious—Arnold.

When applied to material things and especially to substances it may suggest a powerful clinging quality and extraordinary resistance to forces that tend to effect separation or pulling apart (tenacious mud).

Tenacity, tenacious

Bold and tenacious as the bamboo shooting up through the hard ground of winter—Binyon.

When applied to persons it suggests a stubborn hold upon something (as a possession or an opinion) that defies the efforts of others to break. (If the sale it is possession is probable as tenacious of their rights as any one else—Lucas.)

Ant.


Intense, fierce, exquisite, violent.

Stronghold

Citedel, fort, fortress, fastness.

Framework

For the house) Skeleton is frequently used in the building trades for a rigid framework, especially one made of steel; it is often used in place of structure, design, outline in reference to literary constructions, sometimes to imply that the design is carefully developed and its parts definitely articulated (the skeleton of his argument is now finished) but more often, probably, to indicate a sketchy conception of the whole which serves as a starting point (he has the skeleton of his plot in mind).

In either case it is usually further implied that the writing out in literary form and the elaboration of atmosphere,

details, characters remain to be accomplished.

Anna integration, articulation, concatenation (see under integrate): organization, arrangement (see corresponding verbs at order): system, organism, scheme, complex

Struggle

Strive, endeavor, essay, attempt, try

Anna: contend, fight: compete, vie, rival, emulate: toil, labor, work, travel (see corresponding nouns at work)

Struggle

Striving, endeavor, essay, attempt, try (see under attempt vb)

Anna: toil, labor, work, travel: contest, conflict, fight, affirm, fray: contending (see contend)

Stout

Strut, swagger, bristle, bridle can all mean to assume an air of dignity or importance. Strut implies a pompous or theatrical affectation of dignity, especially as shown in one's gait or by one's bearing in movement (a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage—Shak.). (Dr. Goldsmith... went... strutting away and calling to me with an air of superiority—Boswell.)

Swagger implies ostentation, a conviction of one's superiority, and, often, an insolent or overbearing gait or manner (scarcely designed to set foot to ground, but swaggered like a lord about his hall—Dryden). (What a swaggering puppy must he take me for—Goldsmith.)

Bristle implies an aggressive manifestation sometimes of anger or of zeal but often of an emotion or desire that causes one to display conspicuously one's sense of dignity or importance (all the time he stuck close to her, bristling with a small boy's pride of her—D. H. Lawrence). (The bourgeoisie, bristling with prejudices and social snobberies—Rose Macaulay.)

Bridle usually suggests awareness of a threat to one's dignity or state and a reaction (as of hostility, protest, scorn, or resentment) typically expressed by a lofty manner with a tossing up of one's head and a drawing in of one's chin (by her bridling up I perceived she expected to be treated hereafter not as Jenny Distaff, but Mrs. Tranquillus—Trollel) in everything that poses, prances, bridles, struts, bedizens, and plumes itself—Ward.) (Military commanders who had bridled against... interference—Time)

Anna: expose, exhibit, flaunt, parade (see show vb)

Con: cringe, cower, fawn, truckle: grovel (see wallow)

Stubborn

Obstinate, dogged, pertinacious, mulish, stiff-necked, pigheaded, bullheaded

Anna: rebellious, contumacious, insubordinate: intractable, recalcitrant, refractory (see unruly): obdurate, adamant, inexorable, inflexible

Con: pliable,pliant, adaptable (see plastic): tractable, amenable (see obedient)

Stubby

* Stocky, thickset, thick, chunky, squat, dumpy

Studied

* Deliberate, considered, advised, premeditated, designed

Anna: thoughtful, considerate, attentive: intentional, voluntary, willing, willful

Con: spontaneous, impulsive, instinctive

Study

Concentration, application, attention

Anna: consideration, contemplation, weighing (see corresponding verbs at consider): reflection, thought, speculation (see corresponding verbs at think): pondering, musing, meditation, rumination (see corresponding verbs at ponder)

Study

Con: consider, contemplate, weigh, excogitate

Anna: scrutinize, examine, inspect: ponder, muse, meditate: think, reflect, reason, speculate

Stuff

* Matter, substance, material

Anna: constituent, ingredient, component, element: item, detail, particular

Stuff

* Pack, crowd, cram, ram, tamp

Anna: distend, expand, swell: squeeze, jam, press:

Anna: analogous words

Ant: antonyms

Con: contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, flounder, lumber, galumph, lollop, bumble can mean to move unsteadily, clumsily, or with defective equilibrium (as in walking, in doing, or in proceeding). Stumble, trip, blunder, lurch, and flounder as applied to physical movement or gait usually suggest a departure from the normal and imply some extraneous influence to be responsible for such departure. Stumble characteristically implies striking an obstacle or impediment which hinders free movement or direct progress and therefore usually suggests a fall or a check or a cause of embarrassment or perplexity (the horse stumbled over a stone and threw its rider) (he found himself running from tree to tree . . . stumbling wildly towards the cleared ground—Caldwell) (his thought staggers, and reels, and stumbles—Martin Gardner) (the classic instance of the second-rate man who is offered a first-rate destiny, and who, in stumbling after it, loses his way in the world—Buchan) Occasionally stumble implies nothing more than accidental discovery or a coming upon without design (she tried to rationalize his death as we will, stumbling onto such conclusions as that it was time for him to go; he was meant to die young—Cheever) Trip definitely implies a loss of footing or of something comparable to a loss of footing, often on account of the interposition of an unseen obstacle; therefore in extended use trip often connotes a falling into a trap, a lapsing in speech, or making a wrong move (his plump hands wavering uncertainly away from his body as he tripped, and caught up and tripped, trying desperately not to fall behind the men running—Mailer) (how I rejoiced when I found an author tripping—Tyn dall) (his tongue tripped over the word) (any military man familiar with firearms could trip you up, and if you were found out, you'd be hanged—Kenneth Roberts) Blunder stresses awkward confusion in movement or in proceeding that may suggest blindness, aimlessness, clumsiness, ignorance, or a failure to perceive where one is going or what is to be accomplished (unsteady on his feet and taken completely by surprise, he blundered headlong through the open doorway . . . and fell sprawling—Isherwood) (there was the constant danger of blundering into a house at a time when it was being ransacked by the Gestapo—Valtin) (the van . . . blundered away down the cart track like a drunken bee—Jan Struther) (各种 blundering attempts were made at alliance between various branches of thought—T. S. Eliot) Lurch suggests the heavy, ungracefully rolling or swaying movement of a ship in a storm or of a drunken man; when applied more generally to persons, it usually implies loss of muscular control or extreme clumsiness (the distraught and frightened man . . . raised himself on his hands and lurched forward—Anderson) (sometimes, down the trough of darkness formed by the path under the hedges, men came lurching home—D. H. Lawrence) (the conductor . . . lurched through the car asking for tickets—Styr on) Flounder stresses stumbling, struggling, or sprawling rather than rolling and usually implies an effort to proceed when one is out of one's element (as a fish out of water or a horse in the mire) or when one does not know the road or the way (went swiftly into the forest, leaping with sure feet over logs and brush. Pilon floundered behind him—Steinbeck) (they floundered on foot some eight miles—Cathcart) (in its extended use flounder usually implies the confusion of mind and the uncertainty of one who is completely muddled or at a loss but nevertheless proceeds (individuals who can't get a foothold in life, who flounder about in bewildered desperation—Deutsch) (nature has been floundering along for a great many millions of years to get things as they are—Furnas) Lumber, galumph, lollup, and bumble by contrast with the foregoing terms tend to suggest clumsiness, irregularity, or heaviness as a natural or usual manner of movement or gait. Lumber implies a ponderousness or clumsiness in movement (as of one heavily burdened or of great weight) (the jeep, opening its siren at a column of Quartermaster's trucks that lumbered along half a mile ahead, summoned them with stentorian wails to move over—Coozens) (a veritable mountain of a man, [he] deeply resented the attention he invariably attracted when he lumbered down a Manhattan thoroughfare—Cerf) In extended use it implies comparable ponderousness or clumsiness in proceeding or accomplishing (wide spread exaggeration with the union leadership and at the lumbering slowness of the machinery of negotiation—New Statesman) (where so many other historical novels lumber along beneath their load of conscientious detail, Mr. Graves's imagination is invariably stimulated by what he finds—Strong) Galumph adds to lumber the suggestion of a thumping, bumping, weighty gait (Frankie lived by day beside the ceaseless, dumping shuffle of the three-legged elephant which was the laundry's sheet-rolling machine. When he piled onto his narrow pad in the long dim-lit dorm at night and turned his face to the white-washed wall, the three-legged elephant of the mangle roller followed, galumphing, through dreams—Algren) (doors banged, voices rose shrilly, several pairs of feet galumphed down the passage—Monica Stirling) The notion of thumping or of heavy, lurching irregularity is often prominent in extended use (I was sweating in the cool air, my heart galumphing as I stood up—MacHug h) (the morning are enlivened by the spectacle of high-ranking naval and Air Force officers, who will be horse- borne in the procession, uneasily galumphing along the bridle path on their mounts—Panter-Downes) but sometimes it retains an earlier implication of gaily clumsy prancing (to a country that liked to think of its leaders as . . . mad but never without their dignity, Low brought the manhandling democratic touch. He made rank and office commonplace, turned politics into a galumphing merry-go-round—Pritchett) Lollop is more likely to suggest bounding irregularity than clumsiness or heaviness (elves lolloped in long grass—Patrick White) (the lioness . . . started to charge and seemed to come on in great bounds. She appeared to be lolloping along with a lot of up-and-down motion—F. G. Stewart) (an interurban trolley line (which terrified me the way it went lolloping around curves)—Palmer) (the breeze went lolloping along the corridors, blowing the blinds out—Woolf) Bumble suggests a blundering, haphazard progress (the hot auditorium where the June bugs bumbled foolishly against the window screens—Stafford) (the plane . . . hit the ground, her tail wheel exploded, and she came leaping like a grasshopper up the runway on a flat tail wheel . . . She bumped and bumbled up to the line—Steinbeck) and, especially in its extended use, may carry more than a suggestion of floundering and blundering (this novel describes a whole small town as it bumbles its way towards an acceptable life under conditions it never made—Graham Bates) (so long as we continue pursuing so shortsighted and blind a policy, so long, I believe, will we bumble and stumble into error—Cherin) "stagger, totter, *reel: *plunge, pitch, dive: falter, *hesitate, waver, vacillate: chance, *venture: encounter, *meet, confront A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
**stupid**

stupid adj **Stupid, slow, dull, dense, crass, dumb** are comparable when they mean conspicuously lacking in intelligence or power to absorb ideas or impressions or exhibiting such a lack. **Stupid** can apply to a sluggish slow-witted lack of intelligence, typically congenital or habitual, or it can apply to a usually more or less transitory benumbed or dazed state of mind that is typically the result of drunkenness, shock, or illness; although the term seldom is applied to the insane or the imbecile, it often also suggests senselessness.

---

**stylish**

**Stylish** is close to being simultaneously its exiles, queer ducks and catalyts—Vierock** (the new business buildings in the City of London represent British philistinism in its most crass and shortsighted form—Mumford**). He represented him as a crass and stupid person who had fallen through luck into flowing prosperity—Malamud**. Dumb (see also DUMB 1) is a term of contempt that may be used in place of any of the preceding terms especially when obtuseness and inarticulateness are also implied. How dumb do you think people are? Or how obtuse are you, actually?—Wouk**.

---

**analogous words**


**Ant** intelligent

**stupor** torpor, torpidity, lassitude, *lathargy, languor

Ana phlegm, impassivity, stolidity (see under IMPASSIVE): inertness or inertia, passivity, supineness, inactivity, idleness (see corresponding adjectives at INACTIVE): insensibility, anesthesia (see corresponding adjectives at INSENSIBLE)

**sturdy** stout, *strong, stalwart, tough, tenacious

Ana sound, robust, *healthy: *vigorous, energetic, lusty: dogged, pertinacious (see OBSTINATE)

**stuffy**

---

**stupendous** tremendous, prodigious, monumental, *monstrous

Ana enormous, immense, *huge, vast, colossal: gigantic:

---

**Dense** implies a quality of dullness of delicate mental processes (as analysis, discrimination, and evaluation) or impervious to refined or spiritual ideas. It may imply qualities (as obtuseness or stolidity) that reveal lack of perception, sensitiveness, or subtlety (a woman may be a fool, a sleepy fool, an agitated fool, a too awfully noxious fool, and she may even be simply stupid. But she is never dense—Conrad** never offered to take me over the house, though I gave her the broadest hints. She's very dense—Clive Arden**. Crass suggests a gross unfeeling quality that makes the mind incapable of delicate mental processes (as analysis, discrimination, and evaluation) or impervious to refined or spiritual ideas (crass ignorance) (those dedicated guardians of man's aspiration who somehow redeem their crass society by being simultaneously its exiles, queer ducks and catalysts—Vierock** (the new business buildings in the City of London represent British philistinism in its most crass and shortsighted form—Mumford**). He represented him as a crass and stupid person who had fallen through luck into flowing prosperity—Malamud**. Dumb (see also DUMB 1) is a term of contempt that may be used in place of any of the preceding terms especially when obtuseness and inarticulateness are also implied. How dumb do you think people are? Or how obtuse are you, actually?—Wouk**.

---

**taste, zest, gusto, relish: *form, convention, usage, convenance**

2 *fashion, mode, vogue, fad, rage, craze, dernier cri, cry

Ana modishness, smartness, chinciness, stylishness, fashionableness (see corresponding adjectives at STYLISH)

3 *name, designation, title, denomination, appellation

**style**

**Stylish** is often interchangeable with **fashionable** (a fashionable address in the new part of the city) (recently it has been more **stylish** to assume that the author of a story is a complete victim and tool, either of his purse and social position or of his parents' neuroses and theories about child-raising—Smart** (a former college classmate of mine. . . . he had been a high wheel under the elms, a miracle of scholarship and coordination, and classified, in the jargon then **stylish**, as a snake, or suave operator—Perelman**). She has restored delight . . . to poetry, has written her poems with the completest possible clarity (here you will find no **stylist** obscurantism, so dear to the avant-garde—Charles Jackson**). **Fashionable** is often interchangeable with **smart, chic, chic, fancy, dressing** can mean conforming to the choice and usage of those who set the vogue (as persons of wealth and taste or often the avant-garde). **Stylish** is likely to stress currency and, correspondingly, transitoriness (a **style** in the new part of the city) (recently it has been more **stylish** to assume that the author of a story is a complete victim and tool, either of his purse and social position or of his parents' neuroses and theories about child-raising—Smart** (a former college classmate of mine. . . . he had been a high wheel under the elms, a miracle of scholarship and coordination, and classified, in the jargon then **stylish**, as a snake, or suave operator—Perelman**). She has restored delight . . . to poetry, has written her poems with the completest possible clarity (here you will find no **stylist** obscurantism, so dear to the avant-garde—Charles Jackson**). **Fashionable** is often interchangeable with **smart, chic, chic, dressing** can mean conforming to the choice and usage of those who set the vogue (as persons of wealth and taste or often the avant-garde). **Stylish** is likely to stress currency and, correspondingly, transitoriness (a **style** in the new part of the city) (recently it has been more **stylish** to assume that the author of a story is a complete victim and tool, either of his purse and social position or of his parents' neuroses and theories about child-raising—Smart** (a former college classmate of mine. . . . he had been a high wheel under the elms, a miracle of scholarship and coordination, and classified, in the jargon then **stylish**, as a snake, or suave operator—Perelman**). She has restored delight . . . to poetry, has written her poems with the completest possible clarity (here you will find no **stylist** obscurantism, so dear to the avant-garde—Charles Jackson**).
or fashionable rather than one beyond this point (he was handsome, he was rich, he was a sportsman and he was good company. . . . he had been long established as one of the smartest men in London—Maughan) (her college set had stayed rigidly in a zigzag path through the town, traversing a few hotel bars, nightclubs, and eating places which they considered smart—Wouk) (black is often used in smart, sophisticated interiors—Hazel & Julius Rockow) Chic is sometimes used simply as an equivalent to modish or smart (the good corporation wife does not make her friends uncomfortable by clothes too blatantly chic—Whyte) or even of fashionable (whether or not he (the artist) liked it, he became chic—Harper's) However it may not imply conformity to the latest style so much as an effectiveness in style which suggests the exercise of a knack or skill and the achievement of distinction (the natural elegance which enables her to look chic in camouflage parachute's overalls—Edmond Taylor) (decided to put her culinary tricks into book form for other women who want to whip up a chic meal—Butcher) (achieved so great a virtuosity that now he not only can do anything but does everything, fluctuating between a wistful religiosity and a chic diablerie—Untermeyer) Dashing applies to people or to things which they wear or use; it implies not only stylishness or, more often, modishness but a bold, shining quality that enables one to cut a figure in any group or assemblage (you're willing to be a dashing knight, but you also want to be a careful knight—Gardner) (he was a tall, handsome, dashing chap . . . whose magnificent disregard for money cut a wide swath in the social life of the town—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.) (a pair of dashing young brokers)

**Ana** *new, novel, new-fashioned, newfangled, modernistic:* showy, ostentatious, pretentious

**Suave, urbane, diplomatic, bland, smooth, politic** as applied to persons, their demeanor, and their utterances can mean conspicuously and ingratiatingly tactful and well-mannered. These words at times can convey so strong a suggestion of insincerity or of a surface manner that their distinctive implications are obscured. It is chiefly in their nonderogatory use that essential differences in meaning are apparent. Suave suggests qualities that are or have the appearance of being acquired through discipline and training and that encourage or are intended to encourage easy and frictionless intercourse with others. Negatively, it suggests the absence of everything that may offend or repel; positively, it suggests such qualities as affability without fulsomeness, politeness without stiffness, and persuasiveness without evident desire to force one's opinion on others (what gentle, suave, courteous tones!—Jackson) (a slight disturbance of his ordinary suave and well-bred equanimity—Lyttton) (they could be as suave in advancing their bromides as we could be gauche in establishing our originalities—J. M. Brown) Urbane implies a high degree of cultivation, poise, and wide social experience; it also commonly suggests an ingrained or inbred courtesy which makes for pleasant and agreeable intercourse among all kinds of men regardless of size or social or intellectual standing (writes with fluent charm, in the easy, urbane, richly allusive manner of an Oxford and Cambridge savant—Wecht) (men of delicate fancy, urbane instinct and aristocratic manner—in brief, superior men—in brief, gentry—Menckcn) Since urbanity and an ability to deal with difficult or ticklish situations with great tact are theoretically the qualities of the typical diplomat, the adjective diplomatic, when used in reference to nondiplomats, carries these implications, often adding in addition a hint of artfulness in gaining one's own ends (Gabrielle's busy, active, diplomatic managing of the party—E. E. Hale) (the diplomatic manner . . . of a government official whose career depended on politeness to his equals and deference to his superiors—MacInnes) (I have grown to believe that the one thing worth aiming at is simplicity of heart and life; that one's relations with others should be direct and not diplomatic—Benson) Bland is negative as well as positive in its implications, for it usually implies the absence of irritating qualities as strongly as it suggests serenity, mildness, and gentility. Nevertheless, in spite of this vagueness, the term often carries a hint of benignity or the appearance of it and usually directly implies an ingratiating pleasantness (his manners were gentle, complying, and bland—Goldsmith) (he's simply a distinguished-looking old cleric with a sweet smile and a white tie: he's just honorable and bland and as cold as ice—Santayana) (most of the time he sat behind a look of bland absorption, now and then permitting himself an inscrutable smile—Hervy) Smooth differs from bland chiefly in being more positive in its implications and in being more consistently derogatory. Sometimes it stresses suavity, often an assumed suavity (the words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart—Ps 55:21) At other times it carries even a stronger implication of tactfulness and craft than diplomatic (I was not even my parents' son in 1928 but a devilishly smooth imposter, awaiting their slightest blunder . . . to assert my true identity—Salinger) (the sales talk of our government for the second one was a smooth and professional job—Edmund Wilson) Politic (see also EXPEDIENT) when applied to persons implies both shrewdness and tact; the term usually suggests the ability to gain one's ends or to avoid friction through ingratiating means or diplomatic methods. It varies considerably, however, in its implication of artfulness, sometimes connoting cunning or craft and sometimes little more than just the right degree of suavity (I . . . am an attendant lord . . . deferential, glad to be of use, politic, cautious, and meticulous—T. S. Eliot) (the mayors and corporations as a rule guided their cities through difficult times with politic shrewdness—Edwin Benson) Ana *gracious, cordial, affable, genial, sociable: courteous, courtly, polite* (see CIVIL): fuscous, unctuous, slick

**Ant** bluff

**subdue** subjugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, beat, lick* Ana control, manage, direct (see CONDUCT vb): discipline, *punish, correct: foil, thwart, circumvent, *frustrate: suppress, repress

**Ant** awaken (sense 2), waken

**subdued** *tame, submissive* Ana meek, *humble, modest, lowly: timid, timorous: docile, tractable, amenable (see OBEDIENT)

**Ant** intense: barbaric (of taste): bizarre (of effects): effervescent (of character and temperament)

**subject** n 1 citizen, national

**Ant** sovereign

**Ant** objective, matter, subject matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motive, motif, leitmotiv can mean the basic idea or the principal object of thought or attention in a discourse or artistic composition. Subject is the most widely applicable as well as the least definite in denotation of these words; it implies merely some restriction in one's field of choice and a governing principle determining the selection of one's material and demanding some concentration in the treatment of it (as in a discourse or work of art) (what is the subject of his painting?) (your subject is too comprehensive to be treated adequately in so short an article) (it was the first of the . . . major mistakes in World War II and became a subject of violent controversy
subject

—Shirer> Matter and the more usual subject matter are often used as close synonyms of subject (Chail, Son of God, Saviour of men! Thy name shall be the copious matter of my song—Milton) <Mr. Lytton Strachey . . . chose, as subject matter of a book, four people of whom the world had heard little but good—Repliер> As often, however, these terms refer not to the idea, object, or situation selected for treatment but to a restricted field or range of material from which one selects the specific subject he intends to treat <Alexander's Bridge was my first novel, and it does not deal with the kind of subject matter in which I now find myself most at home—Cather> Argument (see also reason, argument 2) can denote the subject, especially the carefully delimited subject, for a particular discourse (as a poem or a part of a poem) that is planned in advance of execution <the argument of the book is as simple as you could wish for—Paris> The word sometimes implies explicit statement of the leading idea or a summarizing of its development <Pope prefaced each epistle of his Essay on Man with an argument of it> Topic applies to a subject, usually of general interest, chosen because of its possibilities for individual or original treatment or for discussion by different persons holding diverse views <the students were asked to write an essay on one of the assigned topics> <I can't remember in a prolonged conversation what topic's been covered and what hasn't—Purdy> Text can mean a verse or passage, usually from Scripture, chosen as providing or suggesting a subject for a sermon or similar discourse <the excellency of this text is that it will suit any sermon; and of this sermon, that it will suit any text—Sterne> In extended use it is often applied to whatever suggests itself as a good starting point for a discourse the subject of which is yet to be defined or which lacks a definite subject <my text for this chapter is . . . any good daily newspaper—La Barre> Theme denotes a subject which one selects for literary or artistic treatment; it is applicable to something (as an idea, proposition, text, melodic phrase, or mood) which a writer, composer, or artist proposes to develop (as in a poem), to elaborate upon (as in a movement of a symphony), or to illustrate (as in a mural or series of murals) or which can be detected in a completed work as the dominant object of his concern <tools are my theme, let satire be my song—Byron> <waterfalls are from very early times a favorite theme for the painter—Binyon> Theme does not necessarily suggest a clearer definition than subject or topic, but, in distinction from them, it invites comparison with the treatment and calls attention to the quality, the form, the design, or the execution of the completed work; thus, an overworked theme implies a lack of freshness in the thought or design; a compelling theme suggests force and enthusiasm in its treatment <to produce a mighty book you must choose a mighty theme—Melville> Motive and motif are restricted in reference to works of art to those in which design or treatment is the dominant feature of the design and is repeated at appropriate intervals <the chief motif of the design is the peacock or peacock metaphor defended by decorative artists> <don't speak. Don't think. This is, of course, a familiar refrain . . . . . . It is the motif of the great dark stories of the 1930's—Geismar> Leitmotiv designates a specific melodic phrase that is associated with a particular person, mood, or situation (as in an opera) and that is repeated each time this person, mood, or situation reappears. The word has considerable extended use and is often applied to an insistent or recurrent idea that becomes the dominant theme of an author or of a work <"Fate went its way uncompromisingly to the terrible end." This is the leitmotiv of this interesting, dignified apologia of one of Austria's Elder Statesmen—S. R. L.> subject adj 1 dependent, *subordinate, secondary, tributary, collateral
Ana *subservient, servile, slavish: conditional, contingent, *dependent, relative
Ant sovereign, dominant
2 *liable, open, exposed, prone, susceptible, sensitive
Ana *apt, likely, liable
Ant exempt
subject matter *subject, matter, argument, topic, text, theme, motive, motif, leitmotiv
subjoin *add, append, annex, superadd
Ana attach, affix, *fasten: unite, conjoin, combine
Con *detach, disengage: separate, part, sever
subjugate subdue, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, root, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, beat, lick
Ana circumvent, outwit, foil, thwart, *frustrate: compel, coerce, *force
sublime glorious, *splendid, superb, resplendent, gorgeous
Ana transcendent, transcendental, ideal, *abstract: divine, spiritual, sacred, *holy: majestic, august, noble, stately (see grand)
sublunary *earthy, terrestrial, earthy, mundane, worldly
submerge immerse, duck, *dip, sourse, dumb
Ana *soak, saturate, drench, impregnate
submission *surrender, capitulation
Ana yielding, submitting, succumbing, bowing, caving in (see yield): compliance, acquiescence, resignation (see under compliant)
Ant resistance
submissive *tame, subdued
Ana docile, tractable, amenable, biddable, *obedient: meek, lowly, *humble: subservient, servile, slavish, menial
Ant rebellious
submit *yield, capitulate, succumb, relent, defer, bow, cave
Ana surrender, abandon, resign, *relinquish: abide, endure, suffer, *bear
Ant resist, withstand
subordinate adj Subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, tributary, collateral are comparable when they mean placed in or belonging to a class, rank, or status lower than the highest or the first in importance or power. Subordinate applies to a person or thing that is lower than another in some such essential respect as by being under his or its authority <all officers of an independent army below the rank of general are subordinate officers> <Montholon, up to that moment subordinate to the Grand Marshal, was entrusted with the management of the Emperor's household—Maurois> or by having a less important or less conspicuous place, position, or status in the scheme of a whole than some other member, part, or element <the relation of dominating to subordinate features —Binyon> <ceremony is subordinate in the scheme of life as color is in a painting—Ellis> by loss of independence and reduction to a lower or inferior position; not that time considered as a subordinate and inferior class of beings . . . . . . subjugated by the dominant race—Taney> <it does tell us . . . why a complex of beliefs is dominant at one time and subordinate at another—Howe> Secon-
dary differs from subordinate mainly in suggesting a much narrower range of difference, for it implies a position

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

**subscribe** agree, acquiesce, *assent, consent, acceed

**Ana** concur, coincide, *agree: *approve, endorse, sanction: *promise, pledge, covenant

**Ant** boggle

**subservient** 1 *auxiliary, subsidiary, contributory, ancillary, adjuvant, accessory

2 **Subservient, servile, slavish, menial, obsequious** can mean showing or characterized by extreme compliance or abject obedience. **Subservient** (see also **auxiliary**) applies directly or indirectly to those who occupy a subordinate or dependent condition or who manifest the state of mind of one in such a position; the term stresses subordination and may connote cringing or truckling editors and journalists who express opinions in print that are opposed to the interests of the rich are dismissed and replaced by **subservient** ones—**Shaw** (a certainty that she would always worship him and be nice and **subservient**—**Farrell**). **Servile** suggests a lowly status and a mean or cringing submissiveness **(servile labors)** (mean, servile compliance—**Burns** (in no country . . . did the clergy become by tradition so completely servile to the political authority—**Shirer**) (they are not loyal, they are only **servile**—**Shaw**). **Slavish** suggests the status or attitude of a slave and typically implies an abject or debased servility unbecoming to a free man **(a slavish yes-man to the party bosses—S. H. Adams)**. **Oriental literature . . . is based on a servile acceptance by the pupil of the authority of the master—**Cohen** (she also became increasingly assiduous in her servilist attentions, until . . . one would almost have thought that her duty toward him was her very life—**Wolfe**). Both **servile and slavish** are used of unduly close dependence upon an original or model **(it is the business of art to imitate nature, but not with a servile pencil—**Goldsmith**). **(a slavish devotion to tradition)**. **Menial** in its typical extended reference applies to occupations requiring no special skill or intellectual attainment or ranked low in economic or social status and stresses the humbleness and degradation of or like that of one bound to such an occupation **(niggers were inedicable and would therefore always be menial—**Mayer**). **(competing against a mass of unemployed, they accepted the most menial and worst paid jobs—**Handlin**) (encouraged to rise from the menial and mechanical operations of his craft—**Mumford**). **(most menial of stations in that aristocratic old Boston world—**Parrington**). **Obsequious** may apply to persons who are actual inferiors or to the words, actions, or manners by which they reveal their sense of inferiority in the presence of their superiors **(a duteous and knee-crooking knave . . . doting on his own obsequious bondage—**Shak.**). **(be civil, but not obsequious—**Meredith**). The word may imply a servile, often a sycophantic, attitude **(brutal and arrogant when winning, they are bootlicking and servilely obsequious when losing—**Cohn**) (on the second Saturday evening after he got his new position, the tobacconist, a rather obsequious man, called him Mr. Hall—**Anderson**) or extreme attentiveness in service or to the niceties of service **(following him out, with brutal and arrogant when winning, they are bootlicking and servilely obsequious when losing—**Cohn**). The word may imply a servile, often a sycophantic, attitude **(brutal and arrogant when winning, they are bootlicking and servilely obsequious when losing—**Cohn**) (on the second Saturday evening after he got his new position, the tobacconist, a rather obsequious man, called him Mr. Hall—**Anderson**) or extreme attentiveness in service or to the niceties of service **(following him out, with obsequious politeness—**Dickens**). **Ana** fawning, cringing, truckling, cowering (see **fawn**); *compliant, acquiescent, resigned: *mean, ignoble, abject

**Ant** domineering; overbearing

**subside** 1 *fall, drop, sink, slump

**Ana** sag, flag. *droop, wilt: shrink, *contract, constrict

2 *abate, wane, ebb

**Ana** dwindle, diminish, *decrease

---

**or a importance that is just below what may be described as primary, main, chief, or leading (what they actually believe is of secondary consequence; the main thing is what they say—**Mencken**). The valuation of an object is thus secondary to the apprehension of it—**Alexander**. Each stage of the climb from valley to intermediate shoulders and crags, to a secondary and thence to the highest point—**W. O. Douglas**. In reference to order of development or derivation secondary is opposed to original or first and carries no necessary implication of inferiority in importance **(the secondary meaning of a word)**. His primary tools, the fundamental cutting tools with which he makes his secondary tools—**R. W. Murray**. **Dependent** (see also **dependent** 1) implies subordination to someone or something, but it also connotes the position or the status of one that hangs on, leans on, or relies on the other for support or for the provision of what is lacking in itself; thus, a dependent clause in a sentence is not completely intelligible apart from the main clause; a dependent child is not old enough to support himself and therefore must rely upon his parents or guardians. In its commonest use dependent implies a loss, through subjugation or through weakness, of one’s independence; it therefore frequently stresses powerlessness or debasement more than subordination **(England, long dependent and degraded)**, was again a power of the first rank—**Mackauly**. **Maggie is not dependent on Honora—she could get a better job tomorrow—**Cheever**. **Subject** definitely implies subordination to a dominant power but never carries, as **subordinate** sometimes carries, an implication of relative importance within a scheme of the whole; it often tends to suggest loss of those powers which imply a degree of freedom, responsibility, self-discipline, and self-sufficiency. **(a subject race)** aristocracy is out of date, and **subject** populations will no longer obey even the most wise and virtuous rulers—**Russell**. **Tributary** basically applies to peoples, races, or nations that have been conquered and made subject to another people, race, or nation and that are forced to pay tribute to their conquerors, but in more general use it is often interchangeable with **subject** **(no conquering race ever lived or could live . . . among the tributary streams of the Mississippi river)**. **(the lane, receiving two tributary lanes from who should say what remote hamlets, widened out with this accession—**Mackenzie**). **Collateral** implies a being side by side, but it suggests not equivalence in value but subordination of one through or as if through an indirect relation to or a loose connection with the other; thus, a collateral cause of a war, though by implication operative at the same time as the most important or primary cause, is subordinate to the latter; a collateral issue is not the main issue; a collateral descendant is not a direct or lineal descendant but one in a different line (as of a brother or sister) **the union had engaged successfully in many collateral activities such as banking and cooperative housing—**Soule. **(the limiting of inquiry to the immediate, with total disregard of the collateral or circumstantial events—**Poe**). **Ana** *auxiliary, subsidiary, subservient, contributory, adjuvant: *accidental, incidental, fortuitous

**Ant** chief, leading; dominant

**subordinate** 1 *inferior, underling

**Ant** chief—**Con** head, master, leader (see **chief**)

---

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
subsidiary 793 succeed

subsidiary  *auxiliary, contributory, subservient, ancillary, adjuvant, accessory
subsidy  grant, subvention, *appropriation
subsist  exist, live, *be
substantiation  *living, livelihood, sustenance, maintenance, support, keep, bread, bread and butter
subspecies  *variety, race, breed, cultivar, strain, clone, stock

substance 1 Substance, purport, gist, burden, core, pith
can denote the inner significance or central meaning of something written or said. Substance implies the essence of what has been said or written devoid of details and elaborations; the term is used especially when such an essence is repeated for the sake of others, but it may be used also of what characterizes a discourse and gives it body as distinguished from the frills or rhetorical froth that give it finish <give the substance of a speech>
<the substance of a scientific paper is incorporated into the general stock of knowledge; but the paper itself is doomed to oblivion—Huxley> <to strip her lines of all ornament, of all effective appeal, in order to contemplate better the substance of her poem—Fits> Purport lays the stress upon purpose or intent but when used of written or spoken discourse it applies to what is intended to be conveyed or imparted and so actually refers to the central meaning. It is often interchangeable with substance but always with the implication of the speaker's or writer's purpose <the...purport of his letter was to inform them that Mr. Wickham had resolved on quitting the militia—Austen> <he has received just sufficient education to make him understand half the purport of the orders he receives—Kipling> Gist refers to the material part (as of a question, an argument, or a discourse); it is the substance there of reduced to its lowest terms <the gist of the thing grows, at each stage of the progress, terser, more pungent, more crystal clear—Montague> <within an hour the Voice of America had begun translating the gist of the decision into thirty-four languages—Beverly Smith> Burden implies the part most insisted upon or most often repeated and usually means the main topic or theme <the burden of his conversation was that there was no escape "of no kind whatever"—Kipling> <that desire to hear lost laughter which is the burden of every century's lament—Reppie> Core can apply to various things that give the effect of being whatever remains after the outer or superficial part is stripped off, in application to what is written or said it emphasizes the centrality of the meaning and the relative unimportance of the other aspects <the true center of the book is its core of irony, insight into the contrast between illusion and reality in a narrower and more expressive term <there is substance which gives a discourse its concentrated force, vigor, or vitality and is, therefore, a narrower and more expressive term <there is pith in this essay> <such counsels, rather than the systematic doctrine...contain the pith of what he has to say—J. M. Cameron>

Ana  *center, nucleus, heart, core, focus: *principle, fundamental: foundation, *base, groundwork
2 *matter, material, stuff
substantial  *massive, massy, bulky, monumental
Ant  airy, ethereal
substantiate  verify, corroborate, *confirm, authenticate, validate
Ana  *prove, demonstrate, *try, test
substitute n 1 surrogae, *resource, resort, expedient, shift, makeshift, stopgap
Ana  *device, contrivance, contraption: duplicate, copy, *reproduction
2 Substitute, supply, locum tenens, alternate, understudy, double, stand-in, pinch hitter designate a person who performs or is prepared to perform the duties of another during the latter's absence or incapacitation. Substitute is the general term interchangeable with any of the others; specifically it is often applied to a teacher not appointed to a full-time position but held in reserve for service when needed. A supply is a clergyman who substitutes for the regular preacher. A locum tenens is often a substitute for a professional man with a practice or clientele which needs to be cared for while he is away for a length of time; the term is used especially with respect to physicians and clergymen. An alternate is one appointed or elected to take the place of another (as a delegate to a convention, a holder of a fellowship, the winner of an award, or a juror) if the latter should be incapacitated or disqualified. An understudy is a reserve actor or actress prepared to take the part of a regular actor or actress on short notice. A double is a person sufficiently like another to be able to substitute for him in public and especially an anonymous actor or actress in motion pictures who substitutes in shots or scenes where the required action is considered too risky or onerous for the regular player. A stand-in in motion pictures is one whose chief duty is to substitute for a star during the preparation (as in arranging lighting) for actual shooting of scenes. A pinch hitter is a baseball player sent in to bat to replace a weak hitter when a hit is particularly needed or, by extension, a person who substitutes for another in an emergency; the term may connote competence or ability to rise to the demands of the situation but is frequently a more graphic equivalent of substitute.

subsume  *include, comprehend, embrace, involve, imply
Ant  logical, analytical
subterfuge  penetrat ing, piercing, probing (see ENTER): *deep, profound: abstruse, *recondite
Ant  dense (in mind): blunt (in speech)
subtract  *deduct
Ant  add
subvention  grant, *appropriation, subsidy
subvert  *overturn, overthrow, capsiz e, upset
Ana  *ruin, wreck: *destroy, demolish: corrupt, pervert, deprave, *debase
Ant  uphold, sustain

succeed 1 *follow, ensue, supervene
Ana  displace, supplant, *replace, supersede
Ant  precede
2 Succeed, prosper, thrive, flourish can mean to attain or to be attaining a desired end. Succeed (see also FOLLOW) implies little more than this. Both persons and things succeed when they are effective in gaining their purposes or ends, in particular or in general; the term implies an antithesis or the increase of health, of wealth, or of well-being <prosper in business> <Milenka was soon succeeding in disturbing the boy with his absurd proposal—Dahl> <the revolt against the tyranny of mathematics and physics is justified by the fact that these sciences have not succeeded in explaining the phenomena of life—Inge> Prosper carries an implication of continued or long-continuing success; it usually also suggests increasing success. Only through the context is it clear whether the success is in the continuation or the increase of health, of wealth, or of well-being <prosper in business> <Milenka was soon prospering. His coat came in soft and shining; his purr cleared, and his eyes lost the milkiness that had clouded them—
succession, progression, series, sequence, chain, train,

Suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, choke, strangle,
sufferance *permission, leave
suffocating, alternating (see rotate)
sudden hasty, precipitate, headlong, abrupt, impetuous
suffer *bear, endure, abide, tolerate, stand, brook

succession, progression, series, sequence, chain, train,

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
throttle can all mean to interrupt the normal course of breathing. Suffocate commonly refers to conditions in which breathing is impossible through lack of available oxygen or through presence of noxious or poisonous gas. Prisoners suffocated in the underground dungeon. Suffocate also refers to situations in which breathing is impossible because mouth and nose are covered. Suffocating under the mud and earth which had fallen over his head. Asphyxiate is likely to refer to situations in which death comes through poisonous gases in the air or through lack of sufficient oxygen. Asphyxiated by the chlorane gas in the cell. Stifle is appropriately used to refer to situations in which breathing is difficult or impossible through lack of adequate fresh air and, often, presence of heat. Closing a hatch to stop a fire and the destruction of a cargo was justified even if it was known that doing so would stifle a man below. Smother is likely to be used in situations in which the supply of oxygen is inadequate for life; it often suggests a deadening pall of smoke, dust, or impurity in the air. Smothered by the dust after the explosion. A smell of soot which smothered the scent of wisteria and iris. Smother also refers to situations in which the mouth and nose were covered so that one cannot breathe. To stop breathing was a convention of a cargo was justified even if it was known that doing so would stifle a man below. Strangle usually suggests external compression of the windpipe, or irritation, but it is more likely to indicate fatality or quite serious condition. Strangled with a cushion. Throttle can all mean to interrupt the normal course of breathing. Suffocate, franchise, vote, ballot mean the right, use of the vote. The citizens' means of getting the kind of government they want. Among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the cost. Suffuse – infuse, imbue, ingrain, inoculate, leaven. Introduce, interpose, interject; impregnate, penetrate, pervade (see PERMEATE) suggest – imply, hint, intimate, insinuate can all mean to convey an idea or the thought of something by indirect means. Suggest emphasizes a putting into the mind as the result of an association of ideas, an awakening of a desire, or an initiating of a train of thought. Hint, the momentary or fleeting. The hint of a word or phrase is likely to be used in situations in which the supply of oxygen is inadequate for life; it often suggests a deadening pall of smoke, dust, or impurity in the air. Suggest also refers to situations in which breathing is difficult or impossible through lack of adequate fresh air and, often, presence of heat. Suggest implies some method of secret ballot, which specifically implies some method of secret voting, is likely to be used when the emphasis is on the power to vote freely, effectively, and without coercion, on the expressed will of the majority, or on the ethical use of the vote. Suggests another when it brings to mind something that is not objectively present, immediately apparent, or directly represented. The thing

795 suggest

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
suggestion 796

that suggests may be an outward sign which prompts an inference (a certain well-to-do air about the man suggested that he was not poor for his degree—Hardy) It may be a symbol, which calls to mind whatever it conventionally represents (the fleur-de-lis suggests the royal power of France) It may be a fragment which evokes an image of a whole or a concrete detail that gives an inkling of something abstract or incapable of representation (the curve of the greyhound is not only the line of beauty, but a line which suggests motion—Jeffries) It may be a word or a phrase that calls up a train of associations and reveals more than it actually denotes (phrases flat and precise on the surface yet suggesting mystery below—Day Lewis) (the business of words in prose is primarily to state; in poetry, not only to state, but also (and sometimes primarily) to suggest—Lowes) One thing adumbrates another when the former faintly or darkly or sketchily suggests the latter. Adumbrate seldom takes a material object and is especially appropriate for use with one that is or is felt as beyond the present level or sometimes the reach of human comprehension or imagination (the Soviet demands, flatly presented or delicately adumbrated at Potsdam—Mosely) (this concept is adumbrated, but not yet distinctly conceived—Lowie) (both in the vastness and the richness of the visible universe the invisible God is adumbrated—Isaac Taylor) When one thing shows shadows (or shadows foreshadow) another thing, it represents that thing obscurely (as by a symbol or other indirect means). Sometimes the word comes close to prefigure or foreshadow, but as a rule precedence is not implied (to the Chinese painters this world of nature seemed a more effective way of shadowing forth the manifold moods of man than by representing human figures animated by these moods—Binyon)

sullen

suggestion *touch, suspicion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

suit *prayer, plea, petition, appeal

Ana entreaty, importuning or importunity, imploring, supplication (see corresponding verbs at beg): asking, requesting or request, soliciting or solicitation (see corresponding verbs at ask)

2 Suit, lawsuit, action, cause, case are all used to designate legal proceedings instituted for the sake of demanding justice or enforcing a right. Though often used interchangeably in the sense of lawsuit, they may have certain differences in their connotations and their applications. Suit stresses the attempt of a complainant through litigation to gain an end (as redress for a wrong, recognition of a claim, or the enforcement of law); it therefore may be used of the proceedings from the time of formal application through the prosecution (win a suit) (withdraw a suit) (a suit in equity) Lawsuit can add to suit the implication of actual trial in court and often that of judicial decision; it may therefore refer to the entire proceedings (the lawsuit of Brown versus Jones ended in victory for the defendant) Action comes very close to suit, but it is relatively colorless and throws the emphasis on actual proceedings rather than on petition (bring an action in Circuit Court) In technical legal use, however, it is a proceeding in a court of law which is distinguished from a suit in equity and which has for its end the ascertainment of facts. If the complainant’s position is found correct in such an action, an appropriate legal remedy may then be applied. Cause emphasizes the grounds on which one institutes a suit; consequently, like suit, it implies the plaintiff’s point of view, but it suggests even more strongly his sense of the justice of his demand (the customary arts of the pleader, the appeal to the sympathies of the public . . . he rejected as unworthy of himself and of his cause—Dickinson) Case, like cause, may imply rather the grounds of action than the actual proceedings but, unlike cause, may view or present these grounds from either or both points of view (the plaintiff has a good case) (the defendant’s attorney stated his case) However case often is applied to the entire proceedings in a lawsuit including the judicial decision (one of the famous cases in legal history) (a study of historic capital cases)

suitable *fit, meet, proper, appropriate, fitting, apt, happy, felicitous

Ana *decorous, decent, seemly, proper, nice: advisable, *expedient, politic: *due, rightful, condign

suitly surly, morose, glut, *sullen, crabbed, saturnine, dour, gloomy

Ana cranky, cross, testy, touchy (see irascible): peevish, petulant, fretful, querulous, *irritable

sullen, glut, morose, surly, sulky, crabbed, saturnine, dour, gloomy can mean governed by or showing, especially in one’s aspect, a forbidding or disagreeable mood or disposition. One is sullen who is, often by disposition, gloomy, silent, and ill-humored and who refuses to be sociable, cooperative, or responsive (Sheridan was generally very dull in society, and sat sullen and silent—Scott) (he made them go back to the fields immediately after supper and work until midnight. They went in sullen silence—Anderson) (the frolicking quarrals, and always, always, the bitter sullen face of the boy brooding over his work—Dahl) One is glut who is dizzily silent either because of low spirits or depressing circumstances (we have of course good reason to look glut and little reason to laugh . . . now deprived of most of the things that make for gaiety and high spirits—Maiz) (the two of you . . . surging there as glut as a pair of saints in hell—Deasey) One is morose who is aesthetically sour or bitter and inclined to gloominess (a morose ill-conditioned, ill-natured person—South) (should there be any cold-blooded and morose mortals who really dislike this book—Boswell) One is sullen who adds chillleness or gruffness of speech and manner to sullenness or moroseness (he indulged his moods. If he were surly, he did not bother to hide it; if he were aggressive, he would swear at her—Mailer) (“Sam, put it out of your mind,” I snapped in a rather surly rebuff—Michener) (the somewhat surly goodness, the hard and unattractive pieties into which she cannot really enter—Pater) One is surly who manifests displeasure, discontent, or resentment by giving way childishly to a fit of peevish sullenness (though he had come in sulky unwillingness, he was impressed by the supper—Sinclair Lewis) (we were a precious pair: I sulky and obstinate, she changeable and hot-tempered—Shaw) One is crabbed who is actually or seemingly ill-natured, harsh, and forbidding. The term often refers to one’s aspect and manner of speaking and usually implies a sour or morose disposition or a settled crossness (divine Philosophy! Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools suppose—Milton) (the querulous, exacting father could not help . . . exasperating the children whom, in his own crabb’d way, he yet genuinely loved—Woolf) One is saturnine who presents a heavy, forbidding, taciturn gloom (driven to saturnine and scornful silence by Gerald’s godless conversation—Wylie) (Sheridan’s humor, or rather wit, was always saturnine, and sometimes savage; he never laughed—Byron) but saturnine may come close to sardonic (which see under SARCASM) and then suggests less a depressing heaviness and gloom than . . . a kind of misanthropic skepticism that is often at least superficially attractive (novels . . . in which evil is personified by saturnine persons who
own yachts and look good in evening dress—Anthony West) (he felt worldly and saturnine like a character in a movie—Cheever) One is dour who gives a sometimes superficial effect of severity, obstinacy, and grim bitterness of disposition (though the Filipino seldom smiled, he was by no means dour. Kindliness was one of his most charming traits—Heiser) he was silent, gloomy and dour, frequently irritable, unfriendly—C. W. M. Hart) One is gloomy who is so depressed by events or conditions or so oppressed by melancholy that all signs of cheerfulness or optimism are obscured, so that he appears sullen, glum, or dour as well as low-spirited (take a gloomy view of world conditions) (when she is gloomy she makes everyone unhappy) he was constitutionally gloomy, a congenital pessimist who always saw the doleful side of any situation—White) Ana lowering, glowering, frowning, scowling (see FROWN): spiteful, malevolent, *malicious, malign: *cynical, pessimistic sully *soil, dirty, tarnish, foul, befoul, smirch, besmirch, grime, begrime Ana *spot, spatter, sprinkle: defile, pollute, taint, *con-

**sum n** Sum, amount, number, aggregate, total, whole, quantity denote a result obtained by putting or taking together all in a given group or mass. Sum denotes the result of simple addition, usually of figures, sometimes of particulars {four is the sum of two and two} Amount denotes the result reached by combining all the sums or weights or measures that form a whole {the amount of his purchases} {the amount of cotton raised in one year} Number, with its strong suggestion of enumerating, is usually applied to a countable aggregate of persons or things and is clearly distinct from amount, which ordinarily applies to things in bulk or mass; thus, one may pick a large number of apples to make a large amount of applesauce. Aggregate denotes the result reached by counting and considering together all the distinct individuals or particulars in a group or collection (though his errors are individually insignificant, their aggregate is so large as to destroy confidence in his accuracy) (it is not true that a social force or effort is the mere aggregate of individual forces and efforts—Hobson) Total and whole suggest the completeness or inclusiveness of the result; total often further implies magnitude in the result, and whole, unity in what is summed up (a grand total of ten millions) {the whole is the sum of its parts} Quantity in general use is employed chiefly of things which are measured in bulk, even though they can be counted (a quantity of apples) In technical and scientific use quantity is not limited to an aggregate or bulk but may be used of anything that is measurable in extent, duration, volume, magnitude, intensity, or value (spatial quantity) {the quantity of a vowel} {electrical quantities} {quantity of heat} {quantity of work performed by a machine) sum vb *add, total, tot, cast, figure, foot Ana compute, *calculate, estimate, reckon: *count, enumerate, number summary adj pithy, copious, *concise, terse, succinct, laconic Ana *brief, short: *quick, prompt, ready, apt: compacted or compact, concentrated (see COMPACT vb) Ant circumstantial summative *cumulative, accumulative, additive summit, peak, pinnacle, climax, apex, acme, culmination, meridian, zenith, apogee can mean the highest point attained or attainable. Summit is applied to what represents the topmost level attainable by effort or to what is the highest in its type or kind of attainable things (this scaleless monster, eight or nine feet long, sprawling in the shade by the side of the mud pools . . . was the summit of labyrin- thodont evolution—Swinton) (the Bar’s outstanding figure by acclaim . . . in the fullness of his powers and at the summit of his fame—Lustgarten) Peak usually implies a point rather than a level {the peak of enthusiasm) It is frequently applied to something that is or can be represented in a graph; used absolutely it designates the highest point reached in a course or during a stated or implied length of time {security prices reached new peaks this year) (his vocal control was at its peak when he did the recording—Paul Hume) Pinnacle is applied chiefly to what has reached a dizzy and, often, insecure height (the word theater means different things to different groups. To some its very pinnacle is South Pacific, which is despised by the aesthetes—Miller) (a pinnacle of happiness—Brooks) (never achieved the pinnacle of public life, the presidency, when lesser men did—Severad) Climax implies a scale of ascending values; it is applied to the highest point in force, in intensity, in interest, or in impressiveness in an ascending movement or series. The word often suggests an end or close (reserve your strongest argument for the climax of your speech) (the quarrel had been only the climax of a long period of increasing strain—Davis) (the Marxist version of history, according to which the seeming harmonies of our society would blow up in a catastrophic climax—Niebuhr) Apex is applied to the highest or culminating point (as in time or of accomplishment) to which everything in a career, a system of thought, or a cultural development ascends and in which everything is concentrated (if terrestrial culture were a pyramid, at the apex (where the power is) would sit a blind man, for . . . only by blinding ourselves, bit by bit, may we rise above our fellows—Theodore Sturgeon) (the British people, who looked upon the king as the apex of their national and social aspirations—Bolitho) the argument is that Wordsworth’s economic, political, religious, and “sexual” unorthodoxies dawned gradually, reaching an apex about 1793—Carlos Baker) Acme is applied to what embodies or represents the perfection or pure essence of a thing (Sir Philip Sidney was the acme of courtesy) (to say “mother” instead of “mother” seems to many the acme of romance—Wilde) (seemed to consider this the very acme of humor, for he fairly hooted at us—R. H. Davis) Culmination can denote an apex that is the outcome of a movement, a growth, a development, or a progress and that represents its natural end or attained objective (this joint effort of church and crown . . . found its culmination under Henry VIII, when the nobles were definitely conquered by the crown and the Reformation by the church—Brownell) (the recent use of the atomic bomb . . . is the culmination of years of Herculean effort—Stimson) but often culmination suggests a coming to a head or issue rather than to a high point (war is a culmination of evils, a sudden attack on the very existence of the body politic—Roosevelt) (the Reformation . . . was . . . the culmination of a long agitation for national independence in religious matters—Inge) Meridian is applied to the prime or period of fullest development or vigor in a life (as of a person, a race, or an institution); it connotes not only prior ascent but ensuing decline (I have touched the highest point of all my greatness: and, from that full meridian of my glory, I haste now to my setting—Shak.) (the past eighteen years have constituted one of the great historical meridians of the presidency—Rossiter)Zenith adds to meridian the implications of luster and distinction (he had reached the zenith of his powers) (classical studies reached their zenith in the twelfth century—H. O. Taylor) Apogee, like meridian, is applied to the highest point (as in a course, a career, or a
movement), but it seldom connotes being at the prime or height of glory (the French Revolution reached its apo
gee in the Reign of Terror) (a manly man whose deeply
burned, granular face reached an apogee of redness in
his beard—Hervey)

summon, summons, call, cite, convocate, convene, muster
mean to demand the presence of persons or, by extension,
things. Summon implies the exercise of authority or of
power; it usually suggests a mandate, an imperative order
or bidding, or urgency (the king summoned his privy
councilors to the palace) (summoned his secretary
(summon a person to appear in court) I summon your
Grace to his Majesty's parliament—Shak.) (a confiding,
playful little animal, whom one alternately trained to do
tricks and then summoned to jump snuffling upon one's
knee—Dickens) (she could summon tears and de-
lights an one summons servants—H. G. Wells) Summons,
sometimes interchangeable with summon, usually implies
the actual serving with a legal writ to appear in court.

Call is often used in place of summon, especially when less
formality is implied or the imperativeness of the bidding is
not stressed, or when actual shouting is suggested (call
men to arms) (call witnesses to court) (call a servant
(the president called congress together for an extra ses-
sion) (I can call spirits from the vasty deep—Shak.)

Often, however, there is a suggestion of an impulse of
God, of Nature, or of necessity (the young man felt that
he was called to the ministry) (America is called to great-
ness—A. E. Stevenson) (he felt called upon to speak
Cite (see also ADDUCE) may occasionally replace summon
or summons, especially in legal use (Andrew was cited
to appear and testify—W. B. Parker) (he hath cited me to
Rome, for heresy—Tennyson) Convocate implies a sum-
mons to assemble, especially for legislative or deliberative
purposes (the king convoked parliament) (the Italian
government convoked great congresses of physicists and
engineers—Darrow) (he convoked the chiefs of the three
armed services . . . and laid down the law—Shirer)

Convene is related to convocate somewhat as call is to
summon; it is weaker in its suggestions of the exercise
of authority and of imperativeness, but otherwise it is often
not distinguishable (convene the students in the school
auditorium) (the Senate was convened by the tribunes—
Froude) (the court-martial, perhaps fortunately, was
never convened—Powell) Muster implies the summoning
of an army or other body of troops or of a ship's company
(as for military action, inspection, parade, or exercise).
In extended use: a term in the assembling of a number of
things that form a collection or a group in order that they
may be exhibited, displayed, or utilized as a whole (a
daw that had a mind to be sparkish, tricked himself up with
all the gay feathers he could muster together—L'Estrange)
before the residents could muster a fighting force, the
marauders had filled their boats with plunder and were
gone—Laird) Muster is used in place of summon with
such objects as courage or strength, especially when the
context implies the previous dissipation of the quality
mentioned (at length you have mustered heart to visit the
old place—Dickens)

Ana *different, disparate, diverse, divergent: *distinct,
separate: individual, distinctive, peculiar (see character-
istic)

superadd annex, append, subjoin, *add

Ana *fasten, attach, affix

superannuated *aged, old, elderly

superb *splendid, resplendent, glorious, gorgeous,
sublime

Ana superlative, transcendent, surpassing, *supreme:
sumptuous, *luxurious, opulent: imposing, stately, ma-
jestic, magnificent, *grand

superfluous disdainful, overbearing, arrogant, haughty,
*proud, lordly, insolent

Ana vain, vainglorious (see under PRIDE): contemptu-
sious, scornful (see corresponding nouns under DESPISE
vb)

supererogatory, gratuitous, uncalled-for, wanton are
comparable when they mean given or done freely and
without compulsion or provocation or without warrant
or justification. Supererogatory basically implies a giving
above or beyond what is required or is laid down in the
laws or rules; the word then suggests a devotion or
loyalty that is not satisfied merely with the doing of
what is required and that finds expression in the perfor-
mance of additional labors, works, or services beyond
those expected or demanded (the supererogatory services
of representatives in Congress) In other usage the term
is definitely deprecative in that it implies not a giving
freely over and above what is required but a giving or
adding of what is not needed or wanted and is therefore
an embarrassment or encumbrance (for a mind like his,
education seemed supererogatory. Training would only
have destroyed his natural aptitudes—Huxley) (the vir-
ual unity of language, laws, general race-ideas would
seem to render protection of frontiers supererogatory
—Angell) Gratuitous may apply to a giving voluntarily
without expectation of recompense, reward, or compen-
sation (the gratuitous education provided by the public
schools of the United States) but it often stresses a giving
without provocation of something disagreeable, offensive,
troublesome, or painful (a gratuitous insult) (a gratuitous
. . . imposition of labor—Mann) Gratuitous often means
little more than uncalled-for, which suggests not only a
lack of provocation but a lack of need or justification
and therefore implies impertinence or absurdity, often
logical absurdity (the gratuitous assumption that the new
must surpass the old—Grandgent) (uncalled-for inter-
fERENCE) (uncalled-for advice) Wanton (see also LICEN-
tious) also implies want of provocation, but it stresses
capriciousness and the absence of a motive except reckless
sportiveness or arbitrariness or pure malice (a wanton
attack) (wanton destruction) (the wanton horrors of
her bloody play—Shelley) (believing the deed [the
burning of a haystack] to have been unprovoked and
wanton—Meredith) (tyranny consists in the wanton
and improper use of strength by the stronger—Bryce)

Ana *free, independent, autonomous: *excessive,
extraordinary, extreme, exorbitant: *superfluous, supernumerary,
extra, spare

superficial, shallow, cursory, uncritical can mean lacking in
depth, solidity, and comprehensiveness. Superficial applies
chiefly to persons, their minds, their emotions, their attai-
ments, or their utterances or writings, but it is also applica-
tible to things (as circumstances, factors, conditions, or
qualities). The term usually implies a concern with surface
aspects or obvious features or an avoidance of all but these
aspects or features (he had time for no more than a superfi-
cial examination of the report) (multiple superficial
wounds of the left and right thigh . . . Profound wounds of
right knee—Hemingway) (the tendency . . . of prose drama
superfluity

is to emphasize the ephemeral and superficial; if we want to get at the permanent and universal we tend to express ourselves in verse—T. S. Eliot

Often the term is definitely deprecative and adds implications of unpleasing qualities (as pretense, ostentation, slightness, lack of thoroughness, insignificance, or insincerity) (the lecture was very superfluous) (our political theory is hopelessly sophomoric and superfluous—Mencken) (its treatment of what is one of the important themes of our day seems generally too slick and superficial to be taken seriously—Merle Miller)

Shallow regularly implies a lack of depth (a shallow stream) (shallow breathing) and when applied to persons, their knowledge, their reasoning, or their emotions, is almost invariably derogatory and differs little from superfluous used derogatorily except in its freedom from implication of outward show or of apparent but not genuine significance (do you suppose this eternal shallow cynicism of yours has any real bearing on a nature like hers?—Shaw) (he continued to prop up this utterly muddled man, this confused and shallow "philosopher," as the intellectual mentor of the Nazi movement—Sherman)

People who are proprietors, sharers, shallow and callous egoists . . . are not capable of so noble and selfish a feeling as love—Salisbury

Cursory stresses a lack of thoroughness or of care for details rather than a concentration on the obvious; it often also suggests haste and casualness (even from a cursory reading of the book, I judge that it is a very fine piece of work) (knowing the nature of women, your cursory observations might prove to be more exacting . . . than my own—Terry Southern)

The coffeehouse must not be dismissed with a cursory mention—Macaulay (as they worked, they cursed us—not with a common cursory curse, but with long, carefully thought-out, comprehensive curses—Jerome)

Uncritical implies a superficiality or shallowness unbecoming to a critic or sound judge, whether of literature or art (I would not have you so uncritical in your reading of the book, Miss Pole) (she was at first uncritical, she believed everything—Audrey Barker)

I would not have you so uncritical as to blame the Church or its clergy for what happened—Quiller-Couch

Ant radical (sense 1)

superfluity *excess, surplus, surplusage, overlap

Analogous words: Ana analoguous words

Antonyms: Ana analogous words

Contrasted words: Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1

superhuman

preternatural, miraculous, supranatural, supernatural

Ant inferior

superimpose *overlay, superpose, appliqué

superior adj *better, preferable

superfluous, surplus, supernumerary, extra, spare all

describe what is above or beyond what is needed or indispensable. Superfluous implies a superabundance or excess that requires elimination or pruning (many people . . . found themselves superfluous and, in their turn, were compelled to emigrate—Handlin) (artists . . . not tempted, as are those who work direct from nature, to transcribe superfluous detail because it happens to be before their eyes—Binyon) all sometimes the term either loses its implication of richness of supply or places no emphasis on that idea and comes to mean little more than nonessential or dispensable, if circumstances require its sacrifice (art, music, literature, and the like—in short . . . superfluous things—Sherman) (gradually the heat, the exertion had consumed all superfluous energy—Hervey) or unnecessary, useless, or needless (authority, like a good educator, ought to aim at making itself superfluous—Inge)

Surplus applies to what remains over when what is needed or required for all present purposes has been used (there will be no surplus wheat this year) (each year the surplus funds of the institution were invested) (the task of inducing those with surplus land to part with it voluntarily to the landless—Masani) (transporting its troops to Manchuria, giving it surplus airplanes—Richard Watts)

Supernumerary implies something added to a number that is normal, adequate, or prescribed; it need not necessarily suggest that there is no need or no use for what is added, though in reference to a physical condition it often implies a departure from the normal (extra ribs, as well as other supernumerary internal parts—Science News Letter) (a supernumerary member of a cast used for mob scenes) (offered the supernumerary position of inspector general—Roucek)

Extra is often used in place of supernumerary (buy a few extra Christmas presents in case someone has been forgotten) (was looking at Kitty as if she had suddenly sprouted an extra head—Rolf's) but it may also apply to an addition not in number but in amount (he was subjected to extra work as acting chairman of the House Committee—C. H. Lincoln) or in price (there is an extra charge for coffee) (Spare is often used in place of surplus but it carries a stronger suggestion of being held for future use, often a special use (a spare suit of clothes) (the spare room is the guest room) (a pouch for carrying tobacco, tinder, and spare arrow-poison—Huntingford) (carry a spare tire for an automobile) or of not having any demands on it for a particular use (he never has any spare cash) (bring along a little spare time, too, and some extra patience, to work these fast . . . streams of New England—Corey Ford) or of being easily spared (have you a spare cigarette on you?)

Ana *superoerogatory, gratuitous, uncalled-for, wanton: *profuse, lavish, prodigal, exuberant: *excessive, inordinate, extravagant, extreme

supernatural, preternatural, miraculous, superhuman

Preternatural

potent, psichical, powerful, forcible, forceful: Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, gigantic (see huge)

supernatural

*powerful, forcible, forceful: Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, gigantic (see huge)

superimpose *overlay, superpose, appliqué

superior adj *better, preferable

superlative adj *supreme, transcendent, surpassing, peerless, incomparable, preeminent

Ana *consummate, finished, accomplished: *splendid, glorious, sublime, superb

supernatural, superhuman, preternatural, miraculous

superhuman are overlapping rather than strictly synonymous terms whose meanings all involve a contrast with what is natural or, sometimes, normal or predictable. All, with the possible exception of the uncommon supernatural, are used hyperbolically to mean exceeding usual or likely human standards and then are generally equivalent to such terms as extraordinary, exceptional, or wonderful; thus, in an emergency a man may exhibit supernatural strength; one may show preternatural awareness of small sounds when alone at night; a scholar may decipher a manuscript with supernatural accuracy; a player may win against odds by a supernatural effort. Supernatural stresses deviation from the natural that is felt as above or beyond what is observable and capable of being experienced by ordinary means; in much of its use it suggests spirituality and implies a relation to God or to divine powers (a supernatural religion) (the gods in Homer do exert supernatural effects; for when Zeus nods, all Olympus shakes—Nass) (medieval theologians who did so much to establish and define the terminology of Christianity spoke of man's supernatural life, the life of the soul above the natural life of the body—M. W. Baldwin) (the belief in a supernatural power, in God, was natural to him who felt that he could plow and plant, but that only God made his work produce grain and fruit—
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
senses and in the range of their applicability. **Support** suggests the presence of a foundation or base and is applicable in diverse uses with the general meaning or suggestion of carrying from or as if from below, of maintaining or holding up the weight or pressure of, and of forestalling sinking or falling back, or sometimes, merely, of enduring the difficulties or rigors of without yielding and without undue distress (pillars supporting the balcony) (he supports the greater muscular tension involved with less evident fatigue—Brownell) (<support the Constitution>) (found the Roman winter ... too poignant for his anatomy to support without pain—Wylie) **Sustain** may center attention on the fact of constantly holding up or of maintaining undiminished (<sustain the weight of office>) (found it difficult to sustain an interest in their talk—Douglas) or it may more specifically imply an upholding by aiding or backing up (for nine years, Napoleon has been sustained by the people of France with a unanimity such as the United States never knew—Augecheek) or by supplying the physical or mental nutriments needed for strength (his intellectual interest is great enough to sustain the reader through the analytical labyrinths we must search together—Hunter Mead). **Prop** may imply a weakness, a tendency to fall, sink, or recede, or a need for strengthening or reinforcing on the part of the thing being treated (propping up the table with a packing case) (trying to prop up the decaying structures of last-century imperialism—G. L. Kirk) (<the plot, a slim tale of vengeance, is psychologically shallow and propped up by unpardonable coincidences—Anthony Boucher>) **Bolster** blends the suggestions of sustain and prop: it may suggest a supporting comparable to that afforded an invalid by pillows (bolster up the falling fortunes of the East India Company—Parrington) (bolster the diminishing lumber trade within the next 75 years—Amer. Guide Series: N. J.) (assign some extra instruments to bolster the choir's volume of sound—P. H. Lang). **Buttress** tends to suggest strengthening, reinforcing, or stabilizing, sometimes massive, at a stress point in the manner of an architectural buttress (combat business slumps and to buttress the economy so that danger of another depression will be reduced to a minimum—Newsweek) (a code of laws buttressed by divine sanctions which should be unshakable—Farrington) (<the popular success formula is buttressed by evidence from the careers of an impressive minority—R. B. Morris>). **Brace** may suggest supporting or strengthening so that the thing treated is made firm, unyielding, or rigid against pressure (brace the shelf with an angle iron) (then he braced himself against a giant oak on his front lawn and experienced a savage kind of exaltation as the elements raged around him—Cerf) (the shoring up of a tottering political system, which is precisely the problem that we face in trying to brace the western democracies—G. W. Peck). **Farrington) (<the popular success formula is buttressed by evidence from the careers of an impressive minority—R. B. Morris>) **Brace** may suggest supporting or strengthening so that the thing treated is made firm, unyielding, or rigid against pressure (brace the shelf with an angle iron) (then he braced himself against a giant oak on his front lawn and experienced a savage kind of exaltation as the elements raged around him—Cerf) (the shoring up of a tottering political system, which is precisely the problem that we face in trying to brace the western democracies—G. W. Peck). **Ant** analogous words | **Ana** analogous words | **Con** contrasted words | See also explanatory notes facing page
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

**suppositious**

1. **suppositious**, **suppositious** *supposed, reputed, putative, purported, conjectural, hypothetical*

---

**suppress**

1. **suppress** *crush, quell, extinguish, quench, quash*

---

**supremacy**, **ascendancy**

*denote the position of being first (as in rank, power, or influence). Supremacy implies superiority over all others (as in utility, in quality, in efficiency, in desirability, or in prestige) (in the Sahara, the automobile has begun to challenge the supremacy of the camel—Huxley) *the British concept of the supremacy of the home... was so deep and so great that not even the Crown could enter the home—Wayne Morse* (last summer American atomic supremacy gave place to something like atomic equality between "the two great colossi"—New Statesman) Ascendancy may or may not imply supremacy, but it always involves the idea of domination or of autocratic power (an idea has ascendancy over his imagination when it has the latter completely under its sway) *the whole system of oppression and cruelty by which dominant casts seek to retain their ascendancy—Russell* (a speaker can get an ascendancy over the House, if he has a strong personality and the...
ability to regain the thread of his speech—Woodrow Wyatt) (the rays of the gas lamps, feeble at first in their struggle with the dying day, had now at length gained ascendancy—Poe)

**Ana** preeminence, transcendence, superlativeness, peerlessness, incomparability (see corresponding adjectives at **supreme**): *power, authority, dominion, control, sway

**supreme** adj Supreme, superlative, transcendent, surpassing, preeminent, peerless, incomparable can all mean highest in a scale of values. All of these words may be interchangeable when used rhetorically or bombastically with the resulting loss in definiteness, but all are capable of discriminative use in which they carry distinctive implications and connotations. Supreme is applicable to what is not only the highest in rank, power, or quality but has no equals in that status, all others of the same class or kind being inferior in varying degrees (the **Supreme Court of the United States**; Shakespeare is generally regarded as the **supreme** dramatic poet) (I did not detect in his playing the fire and dash that I look for in the work of a **supreme** virtuoso—Sargeant) (he smiled again with an air of **supreme** contentment—"It's the first time I've ever done what I wanted to do"—Bromfield)

**Superlative** is applicable to whatever, by comparison with all other things of the same kind or with all other manifestations of the same quality, admits of no superior especially in commendatory qualities, for **superlative** may admit equals but it excludes superiors (the **superlative** genius of Goethe) (his **superlative** rudeness) (what makes him a great artist is a high fervor of spirit, which produces a **superlative**, instead of a comparative, clarity of vision—Galsworthy) (there is a smaller proportion than usual of superior books and a minuscule number of **superlative** ones—Kinkead) (enhanced with a **superlative** commentary . . . it is commendable in all respects—McCarten)

**Transcendent** and **surpassing** are applicable to whatever goes beyond everything else of its kind or in its quality; both can connote an exceeding even of the superlative, but **transcendent** suggests realization of the ideal, and **surpassing** suggests almost inconceivable attainment (the **transcendent** acting of Duse) (Cleopatra's reputation for **transcendent** beauty) (his **surpassing** skill in surgery) (the geometric pattern is of a **surpassing** intricacy—Rover) (his) native gifts are perhaps not of a **transcendent** kind; they have their roots in a quality of mind that ought to be as frequent as it is modest—Trilling

**Preeminent** is applicable to what goes beyond all others in achieving distinction or eminence; it implies both superlativeness and uniqueness within the limits indicated, but it seldom carries a suggestion of direct supremacy or transcendency (the **preeminent** general in that war; the **preeminent** film of the year) (the **preeminent** example of magnanimity) (although this is not the case in practice, the number of others—J. D. Adams) (another) **Peerless** and **incomparable** both imply the absence of equals but, commonly, **peerless** connotes the absence of superiors and **incomparable** connotes the impossibility of being equalized; while both normally refer to commendatory qualities, **incomparable** is also freely referable to qualities that merit condemnation (a **peerless** performance of Hamlet) (Philip Sidney, called the **peerless** one of his age—Quiller-Couch) (the **incomparable** twofold vision with which he has drawn this interior with its two youthful figures—Binyon) (nothing—simply nothing at all—transcends a cat's **incomparable** insincerity—Theodore Sturgeon) (peerless among women; perfect in beauty, perfect in courtliness—H. O. Taylor)

**Ana** *chief, foremost, leading, capital: predominant, *dominant, paramount, sovereign

**sure** 1 assured, *confident, sanguine, presumptuous

**Ana** relying, trusting, depending, counting, banking (see RELY): inerrant, unerring, *infallible: *safe, secure

2 **Sure**, **certain**, **positive**, **cocksure** mean having or showing no doubt. **Sure** and **certain** are often interchangeable. But **sure** frequently emphasizes the mere subjective state of assurance; **certain** often suggests more strongly a conviction that is based on definite grounds or on indubitable evidence ("I know my hour is come." "Not so, my lord.") ("Nay, I am sure it is"—Shak.) (be out of hope, of question, of doubt; be certain—Shak.) (in the library he too seemed surer of himself—though once they were on their way home he became almost remote, strangely watchful—Malamud) (they were sure and certain, forever wrong, but always confident. They had no hesitation, they confessed no ignorance or error—Wolfe)

**Positive** often suggests overconfidence or dogmatism, but it implies conviction or full confidence in the rightness or correctness of one's statement or conclusion (an assertive **positive** man . . . had his own notion of what a young man should be—Anderson) (so much more positive than most of his customers, and he impressed his own convictions on them so determinedly, that he had his own way—Scudder) (an easy and elegant skepticism was the attitude expected of an educated adult: anything might be discussed, but it was a trifle vulgar to reach very **positive** conclusions—Russell). **Cocksure** tends to carry a strong implication of presumption or overconfidence in positiveness (certitude is not the test of certainty. We have been *cocksure* of many things that were not so—Justice Holmes) (people . . . regarded as brash to the point of arrogance, *cocksure* to the verge of folly—MacLeish)

**Ana** decisive, *decided: self-assured, assured, self-confident (see corresponding nouns at CONFIDENCE): dogmatic, doctrinaire, oracular (see DICTATORIAL)

**Ant** unsure

**sSurety** 1 security, bond, *guarantee, guaranty, bail

**Ana** *pledge, earnest, token, hostage, pawn

2 guarantor, *sponsor, backer, patron, angel

**surfet** vb *satiate, sate, cloy, pall, glut, gorge

**Ant** whet

**surge** vb *rise, arise, ascend, mount, soar, tower, rocket, levitate

**sSurely** morose, glum, *sullen, crabbed, sulky, saturnine, dour, gloomy

**Ana** *rude, ungracious, ill-mannered, discourteous: boorish, churlish (see under BOOR): snappish, wapish, fractions, *irritable

**Ant** amiable —*Con* *gracious, cordial, affable, genial

**surmise** vb *conjecture, guess

**Ana** *infer, gather, judge, deduce, conclude: *think, conceive, fancy, imagine: *consider, regard, deem

**surmise** n *conjecture, guess (see under CONJECTURE vb)

**Ant** inference, deduction, conclusion (see under INFERENCE): *hypothetical, theory

**surmount** overcome, overthrow, rout, *conquer, vanquish, defeat, subdue, subjugate, reduce, beat, lick

**Ana** surpass, transcend, outdo, outstrip, excel, *exceed

**surpass** transcend, excel, outdo, outstrip, *exceed

**Ana** surmount, overcome, beat (see CONQUER)

**surpassing** transcendent, **supreme**, superlative, preeminent, peerless, incomparable

**Ana** excelling, outdoing, outstripping (see EXCEED): *consummated, finished, accomplished

**surplus** n *excess, superfluity, surplussage, overplus

**Ana** *remainder, residue, residuum

**Ant** deficiency

**surplus** adj *superfluous, supernumerary, extra, spare
**surplusage** 804

**Con** *needful, necessary, requisite, indispensable, essential*

**surplusage** surplus, superfluity, overplus, excess

**Ana & Ant** see those at **surplus n**

**surprise** vb 1 Surprise, waylay, ambush are comparable when they mean to attack unawares. Surprise is in military as well as in general use. As a technical term it implies strategy in the disposition and movement of troops and equipment and secrecy in the operations; it need not suggest that the attack has been successful (an army suddenly attacked within the lines which it had reckoned upon to ward off its enemy is in a military sense surprised—Maurice) <R.A.F. bombers surprised a large invasion training exercise and inflicted heavy losses—Shirer>

In more general use one may surprise a person or something he is concealing by coming on him when he is off guard (housemaids must vanish silently if surprised at their tasks—Sackville-West) <high instincts before which our mortal nature did tremble like a guilty thing surprised—Wordsworth>

Waylay commonly suggests a lying in wait on a road or highway. Sometimes it implies concealment by the roadside and an often evil intent to disturb or interfere with (by robbery or assault) he was waylaid on his way from the bank <I am waylaid by Beauty> <Oh, savage Beauty, suffer me to pass—Millay>

Sometimes it carries no suggestion of hostility or evil intent but implies intercepting a person in his progress and detaining him (unable any longer to bear not seeing her, he waylaid her in the street. She would not speak to him, but he insisted on speaking to her—Maugham> <riding in the park . . . Carola beheld her intended galloping furiously down the Row, and left her sister Clementina’s side to waylay him—Meredith>

Ambush tends to evoke the image of would-be attackers concealed in a thicket; it is often used in reference to guerrilla warfare (his body was brought after he had been ambushed by Indians on nearby Wolf Run—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) but it can be extended to other situations in which one is caught as if by an ambush (see ambush n) <the same kind of feeling ambushed me a few weeks ago—Jan Struther> <the woman clasped her hands together; the butterfly sleeves fluttered as though ambushed—Harriet La Barre>

**Ana** *catch, capture; *take, seize, grasp, grab

2 Surprise, astonish, astound, amaze, flabbergast can mean to impress one forcibly because unexpected or startling or unusual. Surprise can mean to come upon another suddenly and with startling effect, or, more broadly, it can apply to an unexpected or unanticipated development that tends to arouse some degree of surprise, amazement, or wonder; both senses imply a lack of preparation or a reversal of what is anticipated (her friends planned to surprise her on her birthday with a gift) <apt not only to surprise but it can be extended to other situations in which one is caught as if by an ambush>

Astonish can imply a dazing or silencing <it is the part of men to fear and tremble, when the most mighty gods by tokens send such dreadful heralds to astonish us—Shak.> or it may mean to surprise so greatly as to seem incredible (while still an undergraduate . . . he had astonished the scientific world by his acceleration of the metamorphosis of the tadpole—Mackenzie) <the former corporal showed an astonishing grasp of military strategy and tactics—Shirer>

Sometimes it implies so great a difference between what one believes possible and what one discovers to be true that one can find no precedent for it; thus, a piece of news surprises one when it is unexpected; it astonishes when one finds it hard to believe; it astounds when one cannot account for it by any previous knowledge or experience; the successful laying of the Atlantic cable astounded every body, while its later breaks astonished no one, but after it was finally in operation, many said that no future human invention could surprise them <astounded his congregation by putting up for sale a mulatto slave girl—Amer. Guide Series: N.Y. City>

Flabbergast is a picturesque and often hyperbolical synonym of astonish or amaze; it suggests vividly the physical signs of a sudden dumbfounding (a delightful letter . . . that flabbergasted me as usual with your critical knowledge—Justice Holmes) <some off-the-cuff retort that will excite the reporters but flabbergast the President’s aides—Carter>

Surrander vb abandon, resign, relinquish, yield, leave, cede, waive

*abdicate, renounce; *forgo, forbear, sacrifice, eschew: submit, capitulate, succumb (see yield): *commit, consign, confide, entrust

Surrender n Surrander, submission, capitulation denote the act of yielding up one’s person, one’s forces, or one’s possessions to another person or power. Surrander usually implies a state of war and present domination by a victor or by an admittedly stronger power; in addition it often also implies the immediate cessation of fighting (the commander replied that no terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender could be accepted) Submission often implies surrender (as of an army, its supplies, and its fortifications), but it stresses the acknowledgment of the power or authority of another and often suggests loss of independence; it is used especially of those who rebel or of those whose weak condition leaves them at the mercy of a stronger power or subject to its threats. Unlike surrender, submission often implies not a previous state of war but a threat of disastrous warfare (submission, Dauphin! ‘tis a mere French word; we English warriors wont not what it means—Shak.) <declaring my submission to your arms—Browning>

**Capitalization** also implies surrender, but it suggests a conditional one on terms agreed upon between the parties or the commanders of the forces concerned (in Greece to offer earth and water was the sign of capitulation—Newman) <after Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Buckner . . . negotiated terms of capitulation . . . for the trans-Mississippi armies—Coulter>

Surreptitious underhand, underhanded, secret, covert, stealthy, furtive, clandestine

Ana sneaking, slinking, skulking, lurking (see lurk) hidden, concealed, screened (see hide)

Surrogate substitute, shift, makeshift, expedient, resource, resource, stopgap

**Surrond** et, enircle, circle, encompass, compass, hem, gird, girdle, ring can mean to close in or as if in a ring about something. Surround is a general term without specific connotations; it implies enclosure as if by a circle or a ring (the town was once surrounded by a wall) <a crowd surrounded the victim of the accident> <the ships

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
are surrounded by a veil of smoke> whole divisions were frequently overrun or surrounded and cut to pieces when a timely withdrawal would have saved them—Shirer> Often the term denotes not a literal enclosure but something which forms the circumstances, the environment, or the border of something >surrounded by luxury> pleasant white-haired widow surrounded by many potted plants—Cheever> those mental and moral barriers with which the average Englishman surrounds himself—Bagot> Environ also implies enclosure as if by a circle or a ring, but it often differs somewhat from surround in carrying a clearer implication of the permanent or continuing existence of what surrounds; thus, “a nation environed by foes” does not clearly imply as immediate danger as “an army surrounded by foes” does, but the former does suggest a persistent or ever-present danger in a way that the latter cannot. The difference is often slight but usually perceptible the passions and motives of the savage world which underlies as well as environ civilization—Howells> persuading the doubter that our human spirits are environed by other and vaster spiritual powers—Whitey> there are old buildings still—but they are usually overshadowed by an environing swarm of new stucco—H. L. Davis> Enircle is not quite the equal of surround though very like it in meaning and often interchangeable> H. L. Davis> is not quite the equal of surround, encircle, and hem in a girdle of mist will ring the slopes, while the heights rise clear in the upper air—W. C. Smith> a septuagenarian whose few sad last grey hairs, ringing an otherwise completely bald head—The Irish Digest> in a wreath encircles the brow of Apollo> the close which encircles the venerable cathedral—Macaulay> its frame residences—many of them aged—circle a small business district—Amer. Guide Series: Texas> Also, encircle and circle may denote to proceed in a circle about something, a meaning unknown to surround> circled the house in his search> as a hungry wolf might have encircled> . . . the firelit camp of a hunter—Anderson> at this speed, 186,000 miles per second, it would take us only about one seventh of a second to circle the earth—B. J. Bok> Encumbrass suggests something that closes in or shuts off a place or person; it often also suggests a motive (as protection or survival)> Herveyy> of to surround or encircle is expressed and the idea of a strong or insuperable barrier is implied >girded thee, though thou hast not known me—Isa 45:5> like to his island, girt in with the ocean—Shak> with a girl that he cannot wish to break—Cowper> shut up as in a crumbling tomb, girt round with blackness as a solid wall—Tennyson> Girdle, on the other hand, tends to imply an encirclement suggestive of a belt or sash or constituting a zone> great coastal plain which girdles the United States—Morgan> and seldom connotes a tight or confining quality in what encircles> the whole harbor looks like Coleridge’s Xanadu, the walls and towers girdled round with radiance—Atkinson> Ring carries a vivid picture of formation in a ring, but beyond this it has no particular implication. It is frequently chosen as a picturesque word in the senses of surround, encircle, and hem in a girdle of mist will ring the slopes, while the heights rise clear in the upper air—W. C. Smith> a septuagenarian whose few sad last grey hairs, ringing an otherwise completely bald head—The Irish Digest> An endure, *continue, persist, last: withstand, *resist, fight

**suspended**

1 sensitive, subject, exposed, prone, *liable, open

An inclined, disposed, predisposed (see incline vb)> alive, awake, sensible, conscious (see aware)

Ant immune

2 *sentient, sensitive, impressionable, responsive

An affected, impressed, touched, influenced, swayed (see affect)> alive, awake, sensible, conscious (see aware)

Con resisting, withholding (see resist)> frustrating, thwarting, baffling (see frustrate)

**suspend**

1 disbar, shut out, *exclude, eliminate, debar, blackball, rule out

An *eject, dismiss, oust: banish, exile, ostracize

2 stay, intermit, postpone, *defer

An *arrest, check, interrupt: stop, cease, discontinue: *delay, detain, retard

3 *hang, sling, dangle

An *poise, balance, steady, *stabilize

**suspended, pendent, pendulous**

can mean hanging from or remaining in place as if hanging from a support. Suspended may imply attachment from a point or points above so that a thing swings freely or is held steady in its proper place or position >suspended from his neck was a medalion—R. H. Brown> silver chains are a set of metal tubes suspended from a frame and struck by wooden mallets—McConathy et al> a suspended ceiling> it may suggest a being poised or a being upheld (as by buoyancy) they neither float nor fly, they are suspended—Jefferies> *water free from suspended silt> Penduent usually describes something which hangs downward from a support or from one point of attachment; it seldom carries any further implication and so is applicable both to what is motionless and to what swings or moves or is in danger of falling> a trailing creeper with curving leaf and twining plant
tendril, and *pendent bud and blossom—Hudson> the-smokehouse, its sooty rafters jeweled with fat hams like eardrops and *pendent strips of cured middling meat—Cobb> *Pendulous adds to *pendent the specific implication of swaying or swinging, sometimes carrying a suggestion of actual floating in space (a *pendulous nest) (breasts . . . grown flabby and *pendulous with many children—Buck> *steep cliffs . . . hung with *pendulous vines, swinging blossoms in the south—Melville> so blend the turrets and shadows there that all seems *pendulous in air—Poe>

**suspicion**

1 mistrust, *uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosity, skepticism

Ana* misgiving, foreboding, presentiment, *apprehension: distrust, mistrust (see under DISTRUST vb)
2 *touch, suggestion, soupçon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

**sustain**

1 *support, prop, bolster, buttress, brace

Ana* continue, persist, endure, abide: uphold, back (see SUPPORT): prove, demonstrate

**subvert**

2 *experience, undergo, suffer

Ana* receive, accept, take: endure, *bear, stand, brook: *meet, encounter, face, confront

**suspending**

1 nourishment, nutriment, *food, aliment, sustenance

2 *experience, undergo, suffer

Ana* absorb, imbibe, assimilate

**swallow**

*eat, ingest, devour, consume

Ana* receive, accept, take: believe, credit (see corresponding nouns at BELIEF): *absorb, imbibe, assimilate

**swallow**

vb *eat, ingest, devour, consume

Ana* receive, accept, take: believe, credit (see corresponding nouns at BELIEF): *absorb, imbibe, assimilate

**swarm**

vb *team, abound, overflow

Ana* beat, pound, pummel, baste, belabour

**sweat**

vb *strike, hit, smite, punch, slug, slog, clout, slap, cuff, box

Ana* beat, pound, pummel, baste, belabour

**sweat**

vb *swing, oscillate, fluctuate, pendulate, vibrate, waver, undulate

Ana* shake, rock, agitate, convulse

2 influence, impress, strike, touch, *affect

Ana control, direct, manage, *conduct: rule, *govern: bias, *incline, dispose, predispose

**sway**

vb *dominion, control, command, *power, authority

Ana* supremacy, ascendency: *range, reach, scope, sweep: spread, stretch, amplitude, *expanseness

**swearing**

vb blasphemy, profanity, cursing

Ana* range, gamut, reach, radius, compass, scope, orbit, horizon, ken, purview

**sweep**

vb *expansiveness, amplitude, spread

Ana* expansiveness, amplitude, spread

**weeping**

vb *indiscriminate, wholesale

Ana promiscuous, heterogeneous, motley, *miscellaneous

**sweet**

engaging, winning, winsome, dulcet are comparable when they are applied to persons or things with respect to the sensations they evoke or the impressions they produce and mean distinctly pleasing or charming because devoid of all that irritates, annoys, or embitters. Sweet when extended beyond its primary application to one of the basic taste sensations, whether to things that produce other sensory impressions or to persons or things that induce emotional or intellectual response, is ordinarily a term of mild general approbation for what pleases, attracts, or charms without stirring deeply or arousing a profound response (what a sweet little cottage) (twilight, sweet with the smell of lilac and freshly turned earth—Corey Ford> *flower motifs and emblems, all printed in sweet colors—Rosner> has been very sweet. He wants to help, but of course there’s nothing he can do—Auchincloss> but in this as its primary application sweet may also imply an excess of what in more moderate quantity is pleasing and then comes close to surfeiting or cloying (compare SATIATE) (the flaw in her book is the sweet side, the Pollyanna note, that fatal emphasis on the happy ending—Rosemary Benét> Engaging and winning come very close to one another, both implying a power to attract favorable attention and strongly suggesting a power to please or delight; engaging, however, more often stresses the power of a thing to attract such attention, whereas winning usually emphasizes the power of a person to please or delight (an engaging story) (an engaging manner) (she has winning ways) (a winning smile) (affectionate, cheerful, happy, his sweet and engaging personality drew all men’s love—H. O. Taylor> simple as a child, with his gentle, winning voice and grave smile—Brooks> Winsome is chiefly applied to persons or to their attractions; the term is somewhat more inclusive in meaning than the others, for it usually implies an engaging quality, a cheerful disposition, pleasing though not striking looks, and often a childlike quality (tears came to his eyes as he remembered her childlike look, and winsome fanatic ways—Wildie) Dulcet suggests an appealing and soothing quality whether to the senses (as of some, especially musical, sounds) or to the feelings or emotions (the voice was . . . dulcet as the hum of heavy honeybees amid orange blossoms—Wouk> could not . . . expect such dulcet weather to last—Sackville-West> (the classic, dulcet, but difficult art of architecture—R. W. Kennedy>

Ana* pleasant, pleasing, agreeable, gratifying, grateful, welcome: delicious, delectable, luscious, *delightful: lovely, fair, *beautiful: ineffable (see UNUTTERABLE)

Ant sour: bitter

**swell**

vb *expand, amplify, distend, inflate, dilate

Ana* expand, amplify, distend, inflate, dilate

2 *contract, condense, compress, constrict

Ana* shrink —Con *contract, condense, compress, constrict

**swerve**

, veer, deviate, depart, digress, diverge mean to turn aside from a straight line or a defined course. Swerve may refer to a turning aside, usually somewhat abruptly, by a person or material thing (at that point the road swerved to the left) (the great roots of a tree swerved upward out of the design—Binyon) or it may suggest a mental, moral, or spiritual turning aside (had never swerved from what she conceived to be her duty—A. J. Kennedy> (if I be false, or swerve a hair from truth—Kennedy) <if I be false, or swerve a hair from truth—Kennedy> <our affections and passions put frequently a bias . . . so strong on our judgments as to make them swerve from the direction of right reason—Bolingbroke>

Veer is frequently used in reference to a change in the course of a wind or of a ship; often it suggests either a frequent turning this way or that or a series of turnings in the same direction, especially of the wind in a clockwise direction (the wind veered to the east) (the ship) plunged and tacked and veered—Cleridger> (the wind had veered round, and the Aurora was now able to lay up clear of the island of Martimento—Marryat>)

In extended use the term commonly implies a change or series of changes of direction or course under an external influence comparable to the wind (his thought, veering and tacking as the winds blew—Parrington>) or a turning aside for a tactical reason (as to avoid an undue influence) (the plan has worked. . . .

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
swift 807  

the state . . . has not only veered away from bankruptcy; it has also improved its services—Armbister) Deviate implies a turning aside from a customary, chosen, allotted, or prescribed course (finding it no easy matter to make my way without constantly deviating to this side or that from the course I wished to keep—Hudson) It is commonly used in reference to persons, or their minds, their morals, and their actions, with the suggestion of a swerving from a norm or standard or from a right or lawful procedure or course (when the aesthetic sense deviates from its proper ends to burden itself with moral intentions . . . it ceases to realize morality—Ellis) (had told him the story many times and . . . never deviated in the telling—Costain) (from a fundamental sincerity he could not deviate—T. S. Eliot) The next three words of this group usually imply a turning aside from a literal or figurative way (as a path, course, track, or standard) which still continues. Depart stresses the turning away from and leaving an old path, a customary course, or an accepted type or standard; it may further imply a forsaking of the antiquated, conventional, or traditional (books) which depart widely from the usual type—Grandgenet) or a deviation from what is right, true, or normal (forced by circumstance to depart from the principles of his own logic—W. P. Webb) Digress commonly implies a departure from the subject of one's discourse that may be voluntary and made with the intent to return (let me digress for a few minutes to indicate the possible results of this condition) or involuntary and the result of an inability to think coherently or to stick to the point to be developed (I shall not pursue these points further for fear of digressing too far from my main theme—Spilsbury) Diverge is sometimes used in the sense of depart (let them [professors] diverge in the slightest from what is the current official doctrine, and they are turned out of their chairs—Mencken) but more typically it suggests a separation of a main, old, or original course or path into two or more courses or paths that lead away from each other (they proceeded along the road together till . . . their paths diverged—Hardy) (two roads diverging like the branches of a Y—Bellloc) Ana *turn, divert, deflect, shear, avert: *curve, bend swift *fast, rapid, fleet, quick, speedy, hasty, expeditious Ana *easy, effortless, smooth, facile: headlong, *precipitate, sudden swimming adj *giddy, dizzy, vertiginous, dazzled Ana reeling, whirling, tottering (see reel): swaying, wavering, fluctuating (see swing) swindle vb *cheat, overreach, cozen, defraud Ana *dupe, gull, bamboozle, hoodwink, trick: *steal, pilfer, purloin, filch swing vb 1 Swing, wave, flourish, brandish, shake, thrash are comparable when they mean to wield or to handle something so that it moves alternately backward and forward or upward and downward or around and around. Swing often implies regular oscillations (impassable, swinging hands with their escorts . . . they dawdled up the hill toward the college— Faulkner) (he spun the type-writer around, and tested the action of the bell several times) swinging the carriage back and forth—Bliven b. 1916) It may also imply an essentially continuous erratic movement (swung a pail over his head) Wave distinctly implies undulating or fluttering motions without rhythmic regularity (wave a flag) (wave a handkerchief) and usually additionally implies, according to the nature of the thing waved and the way in which it is waved, a specific intent or purpose (as of signaling, ordering, displaying an emotion, or greeting) (then grave Clarissa graceful waved her fan; silence ensued—Pope) (waved my arm to warn them off—Tennyson) (you cannot wave a wand over the country and say ‘Let there be Socialism’: at least nothing will happen if you do—Shaw) Flourish implies ostentation, triumph, or bravado in waving something held in the hand (as a weapon, a stick, or a rod) (with their swords flourished as if to fight—Wordsworth) (he walked with a gay spring . . . flourishing his cane—Bennett) (Painless flourished the forceps, planted himself square in front of his patient, heaved a moment, and triumphantly held up in full view an undoubted tooth—S. E. White) Brandish stresses menace or threat as flourish seldom does; it otherwise suggests some what similar motions (I shall brandish my sword before them—Ezek 32:10) (he brandishes his pliant length of whip, resounding oft—Cowper) (the . . . speech was a curious mélange of olive branches and brandished fists—Frey) Shake (see also shake 2) can come very close to wave or flourish (with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river—Isa 11:15) (shaking her fingers playfully in the direction of the vehicle—Thackeray) but like brandish it commonly suggests a menacing or threatening or warning intent (people passing by . . . shake their fists and curse—Housman) (‘Take heed, Oliver! take heed!’ said the old man, shaking his right hand before him in a warning manner—Dickens) Thrash (see also beat 1) implies a noisy vigorous swinging suggestive of the motions of a flail in threshing grain (thrashing his arms to keep warm) (thrashed his legs in swarming) (on a blanket on the nursery floor and watched him proudly while he thrashed his sturdy arms and legs—Davenport) Ana parade, flaut, display, exhibit (see show vb) 2 Swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate, pendulate, waver, undulate mean to move to and fro, back and forth, or up and down. Swing (see also swing 1) implies movement in an arc of something attached only at one side or at one end (as by being suspended, hinged, or pivoted); apart from the context the term conveys no definite implication of whether the movement is induced or is automatic, whether it is occasional or constant, or whether it is rhythmical and regular or intermittent and irregular (the red amaryllises . . . swung in heavy clusters—Stark Young) (the door swung open) (suddenly Gil's head swung sharply to the right—Mason) (a pendulum sways with great regularity) Sway implies a slow swinging motion, especially in a flexible or unsteady object that yields to lack of support or to pressure from one side or another (to hear the swaying of the branches of the giant pine—Binyon) (she stood up; she seemed to sway a little as she stood—Mary Austin) (caravans of camels, swaying with their padded feet across the desert—L. P. Smith) Oscillate implies a swinging motion of or as if of something suspended so that it moves through a regular arc; the term usually implies a movement from one side or place or from one condition, attitude, or position to another, with more or less regularity (hurricanes frequently move along an irregular path that oscillates about the relatively straight or smooth curved path that the storm was supposed to follow . . . before the 1940's—R. C. Gentry & R. H. Simpson) (Bohemianism has continuously oscillated between the poles of escape and revolt—Levin) (American attitudes oscillate between such poles as withdrawal and intervention, optimism and pessimism, idealism and cynicism—Bundy) Vibrate is sometimes used in the sense of oscillate (the double complex pendulum, when it vibrates in one plane—Encyc. Brit.) but it more typically implies rapid periodic oscillations usually over an arc of small amplitude and may suggest the rapid pulsations of the string of a musical instrument (as the piano or violin) when touched by a hammer or bow or
the rapid beating of some wings (as of a hawkmoth or hummingbird) you know that if you strike a note of music, all the octave notes will vibrate—Manning (ultrasonic waves vibrate so fast they can’t be heard by the human ear—Boyd Wright). In a more extended sense vibrate may imply a trembling, a quavering, or a throbbing suggestive of the movements of musical strings when an instrument is being played (on summer evenings when the air vibrated with the song of insects—Anderson) (nerve and bone of that poor man’s body vibrated to those words—Stowe). Fluctuate occasionally implies a tossing up and down restlessly like the waves of the sea or like something floating on such waves, but is chiefly used in an extended sense implying constant irregular alternations suggestive of the movement of waves (stock prices that fluctuate from day to day) (the old unquiet breast, which neither death nor rest, nor ever feels the fiery glow that whirs the spirit from itself away, but fluctuates to and fro—Arnold) (causes the respiration, pulse, and blood pressure of the test subject to fluctuate widely from the normal—Armstrong) (there are about seven hundred and fifty of them . . . but the number fluctuates rapidly with the demands of the situation—Hahn). Pendulate, a somewhat uncommon word, is a near synonym of oscillate in implying a swinging between two extremes, but it often comes close to fluctuate in its strong suggestion of constant change (the ill-starred scoundrel pendulates between Heaven and Earth—Carlyle) (he pendulated between extremes, between adding to his poetic masterpieces and to his notorious “Don Juan list”—Cournos) (saw the Colonel pendulating between Perkins’ room and Pinchot’s room. He would toddle out of one room . . . and enter another—White). Waver (see also hesitate) carries a stronger implication of unsteadiness or of uncertainty in swinging than does sway or oscillate (banners and pennons wavering with the wind—Bermers) (he needed assurance, his plump hands wavered uncertainly away from his body—Mailer) (a great misery spoke from the hold. It wavered eerily about the fringes of her consciousness (Hervey). Undulate is more often used than fluctuate when a wavelike motion is implied; especially in its extended use it seldom suggests violent changes, but rather the continuous rolling or rippling that is associated with the steady flow of waves (the ripe corn under the undulating waves—Shelley) (the . . . flame . . . made the jades undulate like green pools—Lowell) (the great serpent drew back like a flash, and turning, undulated slowly away—Beebe). Ana *turn, spin, whirl, wheel, revolve, rotate, gyrate: *shake, tremble, quiver, quav e, quake 3 wield, manipulate, *handle, ply Ana control, manage, direct, *conduct swipe vb *steal, pilfer, filch, purloin, lift, pinch, snatch, cop swirl vb circle, spin, twirl, whirl, wheel, eddy, *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, pirouette sybaritic *sensuous, sensual, luxurious, voluptuous, epicurean sycophant * parasite, favorite, toady, licksplitte, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech, sponge, spenger Ana blandisher, cajoler, wheedler (see corresponding verbs at coax): fawner, truckler (see corresponding verbs at fawn) syllabus * compendium, digest, pandect, survey, sketch, précis, aperçu Ana conspectus, synopsis, epitome, *abridgment, brief, abstract symbol 1 Symbol, emblem, attribute, type can all denote a perceptible thing that stands for or suggests something invisible or intangible. Symbol and emblem are often used interchangeably but they can be so used as to convey clearly distinguishable notions. Symbol is applicable to whatever serves as an outward sign of something spiritual or immaterial; thus, the cross is to Christians the symbol of salvation because of its connection with the Crucifixion; the circle, in medieval thought, was the symbol of eternity because it, like eternity, has neither beginning nor end. This close and natural connection between the symbol and what it makes visible or partly intelligible is not always so strongly implied; it may be a traditional, conventional, or even an arbitrary association of one thing with another that is suggested (a king’s crown is the symbol of his sovereignty and his scepter the symbol of his authority) (upstairs suites and private dining rooms whose symbol became a hot bird and a cold bottle served by a graying waiter in sideboards—Lucius Beebe) (a flock of sheep is not the symbol of a free people—New Republic). Emblem, as distinguished from symbol, implies representation of an abstraction or use in representation; it is applicable chiefly to a pictorial device or a representation of an object or a combination of objects (as on a shield, a banner, or a flag) intended to serve as an arbitrary or chosen symbol of the character or history of one (as a family, a nation, a royal line, or an office) that has adopted it; thus, the spread eagle, the usual emblem of the United States, is found in its coat of arms and on some of its coins and postage stamps; the emblem of Turkey, a crescent and a star, appears on its flag (the emblem of the school is a dolphin, token of the marine source of the founder’s wealth—Thorogood) (remembering this flower . . . as the feminine emblem of the big college football games—Edmund Wilson). Emblem is also applied to what is technically known in painting and sculpture as an attribute, some object that is conventionally associated with the representation either of a character (as a Greek divinity or a Christian saint) or of a personified abstraction, and is the means by which the character or abstraction is identified; thus, in fine art the balance is the emblem, or attribute, of Justice; the turning wheel, of Fortune; the club, of Hercules; and the spiked wheel, of St. Catherine of Alexandria (Saint Helena is always painted with a cross beside her, or holding one, as a reminder that it was she who found the original cross. In this instance the cross is an attribute, not a symbol—G. W. Benson). Type, especially in theological use, is applied to a person or thing that prefigures or foreshadows someone or something to come and that stands therefore as his or its type until the reality appears. In theology, biblical interpretation, and religious poetry, it usually also implies a divine dispensation whereby the spiritual or immaterial reality is prefigured by a living person, event, experience, or the like; thus, in medieval religious poetry Jerusalem is the type of heaven (the heavenly Jerusalem); in allegorical interpretation of Scriptures, the paschal lamb is the type of Christ, the victim on the Cross (spiritual wisdom . . . is unchanging and eternal; it is communicated to us in types and shadows dim—in symbols—till we grow up into the power of understanding it—Inge) (concludes that the whole of the Old Testament is one great prophecy, one great type of what was to come—Maas). Ana * sign, mark, token, badge: device, motif, design, *figure, pattern 2 *character, sign, mark Ana * device, contrivance: diagram, delineation, outline, sketch (see under sketch vb) symbolism * allegory symmetry, proportion, balance, harmony are comparable chiefly as used in the arts of design and decoration to
sympathetic

mean a quality which gives aesthetic pleasure and which depends upon the proper relating of details and parts to each other (as in magnitude, or arrangement) and to the consequent effect produced by the whole. Symmetry implies a median line or an axis on either side of which the details correspond (as in size, form, and placing). Often it implies such mathematical precision especially in arrangement of elements or parts as is observable in the corresponding halves of a perfect crystal, in a geometrically regular star, or in the conventionalized leaf or flower of decorative design (symmetry is the keynote of most formal gardens) (the symmetry of a Greek temple) (abandoned the decent gown for a short coat or jacket and displayed the symmetry of their legs—Trevelyan) but, in its stress of mechanical precision, symmetry may sometimes suggest an arid sterile quality, lacking in true artistic expression (symmetry is a condition of perfect but inert balance; it will be entirely useless in a composition—Taubes) Proportion implies a grace or beauty, independent of a thing's actual magnitude, duration, or intensity, that stems from the measured fitness of every one of its details and the consequent perfection of the whole (we care for size, but inartistically; we care nothing for proportion, which is what makes size count—Brownell) (an impressive structure of Greek design, notable for its beauty of proportion and simplicity of detail—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.) Balance is sometimes employed as an equivalent of symmetry, but it can be used distinctively to imply equality of values rather than repetition of details or parts and a massing of different things (as light and shade, sharply contrasted colors, or figures and background) so that each one tends to offset the other or to reduce the other's emphasis without loss of significance on either side. Balance implies as its aesthetic object an inducing of a pleasant satisfaction in the thing's quiet beauty or of a delight in the unified yet varied effect of the whole (it is a similar principle of unsymmetrical balance which the Taoist artists sought in design. Space therefore, empty space, becomes a positive factor, no longer something not filled and left over, but something exerting an attractive power to the eye, and balancing the attractive power of forms and masses—Binyon) (every good statue is marked by a certain air of repose; every fine picture exists in a state of stable equilibrium brought about by the balance of its masses—Krutch) (balance is a subtler quality than symmetry. Symmetry means repetition . . . Balance, which is a free, almost irregular extension of the concept of symmetry, implies, unlike symmetry, the element of risk—Charles Johnson) Harmony, when used specifically in reference to the arts of design and decoration, retains as its leading principle as its aim the same idea as is involved in its general sense (see harmony). Often it implies a certain interrelation of details and their fusion into an agreeable whole. However it often denotes specifically the aesthetic impression produced by something which manifests symmetry, proportion, or balance, or these qualities in combination (a coloring harmony obtained by the aid of a long experience in the effects of light on translucent surfaces—Henry Adams) (we hear harmonious tones; but . . . the pleasure they give us . . . [is] the pleasure of their relational form which makes us attribute to them and their physical combination a quality which we call harmony—Alexander) (choosing with care and with a good eye for harmony the shoes, socks, necktie he would wear—Wolfe)

sympathetic

809

sympathy

correspondent (see corresponding verbs at agree) 2 *tender, compassionate, warm, warmhearted, responsive

Ana kindly, *kind, benign, benignant: understanding, appreciating, comprehending (see understand)

Ant unsympathetic

sympathy 1 *attraction, affinity

Ana reciprocity, correspondence (see corresponding adjectives at reciprocal): *harmony, consonance, accord, concord

Ant antipathy

2 Sympathy, pity, compassion, commiseration, condolence, ruth, empathy are comparable though often not interchangeable when they mean a feeling for the suffering or distress of another. Sympathy is the most general term, ranging in meaning from friendly interest or agreement in taste or opinion to emotional identification, often accompanied by deep tenderness (sympathy with my desire to increase my . . . knowledge—Fairchild) (sympathies were . . . with the Roman Stoics—Ellis) (satire had its roots not in hatred but in sympathy—Perry) Pity has the strongest emotional connotation; the emotion may be one of tenderness, love, or respect induced by the magnitude of another's suffering or of fellowship with the sufferer (pity is the feeling which arrests the mind in the presence of whatsoever is grave and constant in human sufferings and unites it with the human sufferer—Joyce) (pity that made you cry . . . not for this person or that person who is suffering, but . . . for the very nature of things. . . . out of pity comes the balm which heals—Saroyan) Pity sometimes may suggest a tinge of contempt for one who is inferior whether because of suffering or from inherent weakness; there is also a frequent suggestion that the effect if not the purpose of pity is to keep the object in a weak or inferior state (pity for the man who could think of nothing better—T. S. Eliot) (the parents of a crippled child should give him understanding and challenge rather than pity) Compassion, which originally meant fellowship in suffering between equals, has come to denote imaginative or emotional sharing of the distress or misfortune of another or others who are considered or treated as equals; it implies tenderness and understanding as well as an urgent desire to aid and spare (one of his neighbor women cooked a chicken and brought it in to him out of pure compassion—Cather) (with understanding, with compassion (so different from pity) she shows the sordid impact . . . on the lives of the natives—Campion) (when Jesus came in his gentleness with his divine gift, for vicarious feeling, but the feeling need not be one of sorrow; thus empathy. . . . out of pure compassion—Albright) Commiseration and condolence agree in placing the emphasis on expression of a feeling for another's affliction, rather than on the feeling itself. Commiseration denotes a spontaneous and vocal expression, often one made in public or by a crowd (there was a murmur of commiseration as Charles Darnay crossed the room . . . the soft and compassionate voices of women—Dickens) Condolence denotes a formal expression of sympathy especially for the loss of a relative through death and refers strictly to an observance of etiquette without an implication as to the underlying feeling (a condolence call) (they received many condolences) Ruth denotes softening of a stern or indifferent disposition (look homeward, Angel, now, and melt with ruth—Milton)

Empathy, of all the terms here discussed, has the least emotional content; it describes a gift, often a cultivated gift, for vicarious feeling, but the feeling need not be one of sorrow; thus empathy is often used as a synonym for...
tact, equipment, apparatus, machinery, paraphernalia, silent, uncommunicative, reserved, reticent, list, catalog, schedule, register, roll, roster, table

system 1 System, scheme, network, complex, organism, economy can mean an organized integrated whole made up of diverse but interrelated and interdependent parts. System usually implies that the component units of an aggregate exist and operate in unison or concord according to a coherent plan for smooth functioning (the digestive system) {amid a system where the classic principles of capitalism still work successfully—Laski} {comprehend all experience in a closed system—Inge} {it does not form an independent system, like the universe: it exists as an element in human culture—Mumford} Scheme may replace system but tends to stress an overall design for the interrelation of components, often a design carefully calculated or planned detail (the cheerful, sanguine, courageous scheme of life, which was in part natural to her and in part slowly built up—Ellis) {four complex system, presenting the rare and difficult scheme of one general government, whose action extended over the whole—John Marshall} {the Newtonian scheme of the universe does not banish God from the universe—Times Lit. Sup.} but sometimes scheme may carry a suggestion of irony or depreciation that is absent from system (see also PLAN).

Network suggests a system with interconnection or intercrossing at salient points sometimes involved but susceptible to analysis or control (a network of abandoned narrow-gage logging roads penetrates the wooded areas—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) {even the lowest savages live in a social world characterized by a complex network of traditionally conserved habits, usages, and attitudes—Sapir} Complex stresses an elaborate interweaving, interconnection and interrelationship of components difficult to trace {for these ancestors of ours, in one half of their thoughts and acts, were still guided by a complex of intellectual, ethical and social assumptions of which only medieval scholars can today comprehend the true purport—Trevelyan} {this complex of conditions which taxes the terms upon which human beings associate and live together is summed up in the word culture—Dewey} {modern science, with infinite effort, has discovered and announced that man is a bewildering complex of energies—Henry Adams} Organism basically applies to systems having life, but it is sometimes extended to systems felt as analogous to biological systems (as in capacity for growth and development) {not because of an interest in the individual himself as a matured and single organism of ideas but in his assumed typicality for the community as a whole—Sapir} {the Church grew, like any other organism, by responding to its environment—Inge} Economy implies a system concerned with needs and their regulation and fulfillment by individual, species, household, business, or government {the plantation economy, with its base in slavery, was not conducive to the growth of industrial enterprise—Amer. Guide Series: N. C.} {the principle may operate successfully in the close economy of a good family, or even within a small religious community—Hobson}

Ant chaos 2 *method, mode, manner, way, fashion

Ana *plan, project, scheme, design: procedure, *process, proceeding

systematic *orderly, methodical, regular

Ana systematized, organized, ordered, arranged (see ORDER vb): *logical, analytical

systematize organize, methodize, *order, arrange, marshal

Ana *adjust, regulate, fix

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
barring or upsetting situations (mental poise . . . a balance of mind and temper that neither challenged nor avoided notice, nor admitted question of superiority or inferiority—Henry Adams) (would look into his eyes, the reserve, the statuesque poise all going to pieces—Styron) Savoir faire may stress worldly or social experience and a knowledge of what is the proper thing to say or do or of how to act under all circumstances (the inexperience and want of savoir faire in high matters of diplomacy of the Emperor and his ministers—Greville) But it as often suggests a seemingly intuitive ability to act appropriately and with the utmost ease and tact rather than one based on breadth of experience (the alcoholic usually has memories of occasions when liquor seemed to sharpen his wits, polish his manners and infuse him with savoir faire—Seliger)  

*Ana diplomatism or diplomacy, politeness or policy, savoir, urbangity (see corresponding adjectives at SUAVE): *courtesy, amenity, gallantry  

*Ant awkwardness  

tactical strategic, logistic (see under STRATEGY)  

tactics *strategy, logistics  

tag n mark, brand, stamp, label, ticket (see under MARK vb)  

tag vb 1 *mark, brand, stamp, label, ticket  

2 *follow, pursue, chase, trail, tail  

tail vb *follow, pursue, chase, trail, tag  

taint vb *contaminate, pollute, defile  

*Ana *debase, deprave, corrupt, vitiate: spoil, decompose, rot, putrefy, *decay: imbue, inoculate, *infuse  

take 1 *Take, seize, grasp, clutch, snatch, grab are comparable when they mean to get hold of by or as if by reaching out through or by hand. Take is not only the most general but also the only colorless term in this group. In ordinary use, especially with reference to physical things, it may imply nothing more than a movement of the hand to get hold of something (take the lamp from the table) (take meat from a platter) or it may imply, with reference not only to physical but to immaterial or intangible things, numerous and often difficult operations by means of which one gets possession of or control over something (take a city) Between these two extremes take may imply, in innumerable idiomatic applications, a very wide range of methods of getting hold of something or possessing it in some way; thus, one takes a prize by winning it in a competition; one takes a cottage by renting it; one takes the temperature of a room by observing the thermometer (take a bath) (take the air) (take a rest)  

take vb 2 *follow, pursue, chase, trail, tail  

Seize usually suggests a sudden and forcible getting or taking or getting hold of, and it therefore is interchangeable with take only when emphasis is placed upon these qualities (the hungry children seized the food that was offered them) (the policeman seized the thief in the act of escaping) (the fort was seized before its defenders had time to repel the assault) (seizing between his teeth the cartilaginous of the trainer's ear—Shaw) In extended use, especially when the thing seized or the thing seizing is something immaterial or intangible, the term usually suggests a catching of something fleeting or elusive (seize an opportunity) (seize the attention of the crowd) or the capture of something by force and, usually, surprise (seize the throne) (the Breton seized more than he could hold; the Norman took less than he would have liked—Henry Adams) or the ready understanding of something difficult to apprehend or analyze (the character of Louis XIII is difficult to seize, for it comprised qualities hardly ever combined in one man—Bellocco) Grasp basically implies a laying hold of with the hands, teeth, or claws so as to hold firmly (thy hand is made to grasp a palmer's staff—Shak.) In extended use the term implies a comparable ability to comprehend fully or adequately something difficult to comprehend either inherently or by reason of circumstances (understood the words I heard, but couldn't seem to grasp their meaning—Kenneth Roberts) (the evil of the corruption and falsification of law, religion, education, and public opinion is so enormous that the minds of ordinary people are unable to grasp it—Shaw) Clutch in its basic use implies more haste, more avidity, more urgency, and often less success in getting hold of the thing desired than grasp (I . . . clutched desperately at the twigs as I fell—Hudson) Only when success is clearly indicated is a tight hold or a clenching suggested (I gave him all the money in my possession . . . Gunga Dass clutched the coins, and hid them at once in his ragged loincloth—Kipling) (he clutched Father Joseph's hand with a grip surprisingly strong—Cather) In extended use the term usually suggests a mental or emotional grasping at or seizing that is comparable to a physical clutching (they clutched childishly at straws of optimism—Wouk) (can you never like things without clutching them as if you wanted to pull the heart out of them?—D. H. Lawrence) Snatch carries the strongest implication of a sudden, hurried movement, but it seldom carries as strong a suggestion of the use of force as does its closest synonym, seize; rather, it often implies stealth (snatch a purse) (snatch a kiss) or promptness in rescuing (snatch a child from the flames) (snatched from the jaws of death) or rudeness or roughness (snatched the book from her hand) Consequently in extended use one snatches only what one can get by chance, surreptitiously, or by prompt action (snatch a free moment for writing a letter) (youngsters snatching at fun while they chased the dream of a happy marriage—Wouk) Grab commonly implies more rudeness or roughness than snatch, and it also usually implies as much force or violence as seize; distinctively it often suggests vulgarity and indifference to the rights of others or to the standards of the community, or a more or less open unscrupulousness in getting what one wants for oneself (grab all the meat from the platter) (grabbed his hat and ran) (grab power) (Hitler had been helpless to prevent the Russians from grabbing the Baltic States—Shirer)  

*Ana *have, hold, own, possess: *catch, capture: confiscate, appropriate, preempt (see ARROGATE)  

2 *receive, accept, admit  

*Ana *acquiess, accede, *assent, consent, subscribe  

3 *bring, fetch  

*Ana *carry, convey, bear  

tale *story, narrative, anecdote, yarn  

*Ana *fiction, fable: *myth, legend, saga  

talent genius, *gift, faculty, aptitude, knack, bent, turn  

capacity, *ability, capability: *art, skill, craft, cunning: endowment (see corresponding verb at DOWER)  

talismans *fetish, charm, amulet  

talk vb *speak, converse  

*Ana *discuss, dispute, argue: *discourse, expatiate, dilate, descant: *chat, chatter, prate  

talk n *speech, address, oration, harangue, lecture, sermon, homily  

talkative, loquacious, garrulous, voluble, glib are comparable chiefly as applied to persons and their moods and as meaning given to talk or talking. The same distinctions in implications and connotations are also seen in their corresponding nouns talkativeness, loquacity or loquaciousness, garrulity or garrulness, volubility or volubleness, and glibness. Talkative and talkativeness, the least explicit of these terms, may imply nothing more than a readiness to engage in talk, or they may suggest fluency and ease in talking or a disposition to enjoy conversation (a talkative boy learns French sooner in France than a silent
boy—Sydney Smith} <he was talkative, he had a natural curiosity—Styron> {among them they noticed a beautiful, slim, talkative old man, with bright black eyes and snow-white hair—L. P. Smith}> Tame, subdued, submissive are comparable when tame tally loquacity, garrulity, volubility, glibness (see *high, lofty A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.AsyncResultSubmit
thump of many feet} <the thumping of a big drum} <the thump of a boat against the pier} <everybody's heart was thumping as hard as possible—Thackeray} Thud places more emphasis upon the sound made than upon the action which produces it and carries a less strong suggestion of repetition; also, it more often suggests the sound made by something falling and striking than by something being struck; otherwise it differs only by suggesting a flatter or hollower and less resonant sound than thump <the dull thud of a heavy body striking the floor} <a bullet thudded into the wall above me—Hubert Wales

**Analogous Words**

---

**Tartarean**

"infernal, chthonian, Hadean, stygian, hellish" tarnish

vb *stay, remain, wait, abide, linger
duty, assignment, job, stint, chore are comparable
task, duty, assignment, job, stint, chore are comparable

---

**Tardy adj**

Tardy, late, behindhand, overdue can all designate persons or things that do not arrive or take place at the time set, the time due, or the expected and usual time. Tardy implies a lack of promptness or punctuality or a coming or happening or doing after the proper or appointed moment; it need not imply slowness in movement but may suggest rather a being delayed in starting or beginning <ten years is a long time for a courtship, and she summons courage to spur her tardy swain—Seamus Kelly} <the tardier indicators of business activity have finally begun to turn down—Fortune} Late implies an opposition to early and usually connotes a failure to come or take place at the time due because of procrastination, slowness of movement or growth, or the interference of obstacles; it is applied especially to persons or to things that are governed by a schedule <be late for work} <you are too late to get your dinner} <the train is very late today} <spring is very late this year} Behindhand usually applies either directly or indirectly to persons who are in arrears (as in the payment of debts or in the fulfillment of obligations) or who are slower than normal (as in mental progress, in the acceptance of fashions, or in taking action) <behindhand in the payment of his rent} <a whole class who were behindhand with their lessons—Hawthorne} <Spain, usually so behindhand in matters of art, displayed expressionists . . . even nonobjectivists—Gómez Sició

**Overdue** is applied to things that are affected by a person's being, or less often to a person that is, markedly late or behindhand; thus, a person is behindhand in the payment of his rent, but the rent is overdue when such a situation occurs; a ship is overdue when it is seriously or conspicuously behind its scheduled time of arrival <her gallant was now more than an hour overdue—Barclay} <a peremptory demand} . . . for the settlement of an account long overdue—Norris} Overdue also may refer to something that might logically or suitably have appeared or occurred a long time before <colonies that are overdue for liberation—Landman} <the valuable work . . . received long overdue recognition—Kuney

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Taste n**

1 Taste, flavor, savor, tang, relish, smack can all mean the property of a substance which makes it perceptible to the gustatory sense. Taste not only is the most inclusive of these terms but it gives no suggestion of a specific character or quality <dislike the taste of olives} <the fundamental tastes are acid, sweet, bitter, and salt} Flavor applies to the property of a thing which is recognized by the cooperation of the olfactory and gustatory and to some extent tactile senses. The term therefore usually denotes the combination of tastes and smells perceived when eating or drinking a thing. Usually, also, it suggests the blend of tastes and odors and textures that give a substance a distinctive or peculiar character <this peach has a particularly fine flavor} <the flavor of a fine tea has been described as "a bouquet which can be tasted"} Savor stresses sensitiveness of palate or of nose and may refer to the odor of something cooking as well as to the flavor of something eaten <caught the rich savor of roasting meat as they passed the window} <sipping slowly to enjoy the full savor of the wine} Tang applies chiefly to a sharp penetrating savor <tang of a salt breeze} or odor; it usually implies a live, pungent quality <prefer apples with a tang} <the tang of dry champagne} <the tang of a salt breeze} Relish and smack are comparatively rare in this sense; relish (see also TASTE 2) comes close to savor and usually suggests enjoyment of the taste <I have no notion of the relish of wine—Hume} <my first endeavor must be to distinguish the true taste of fruits, refine my palate, and establish a just relish in the kind—Shaftesbury} Smack comes close to flavor but applies usually to one that is added to or is different from the typical flavor of a substance {ale with a burnt musty smack} <a good smack of pepper in this stew

In extended use these words usually call up one or more suggestions from their basic senses. Taste usually denotes a strong impression or a heightened sense of the quality of

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---

**Analogous Words**

---
something (the book leaves a bad taste in the mouth) (the first taste of sudden death and destruction from the skies—Shirer) Flavor implies a predominant or distinctive and pervasive quality (imparted an un wonted lachrymose flavor to his tone—Purdy) (the passing hour's supporting joys have lost the keen-edged flavor—Meredith) Flavor, in fine, is the spirit of the dramatist projected into his work—Galsworthy) Savor differs from flavor largely in suggesting a stimulating or enlivening character or quality that, like salt, spice, or other seasoning, gives life or pungency to a thing (an odd blend of bitter naturalism and quiet humor...). gives it a savor quite its own—Anthony Boucher) (no one treats me like a child now, and the savor has gone out of my life—Ellis) Tang, relish, and smack come still closer to their basic senses (the language has a tang of Shakespeare—Gray) (Yankeeisms... which a salt sea flavor has its own peculiar tang in it—J. R. Lowell) (the full flavor, the whole relish of delight—Beecher) (your lordship... hath yet some smack of age in you, some relish of the saltiness of time—Shak.) (the Saxon names of places, with the pleasant, wholesome smack of the soil in them—Arnold)

2. Taste, palate, relish, gusto, zest are comparable when they mean a liking for or an enjoyment of something because of qualities that give the sense of taste a pleasurable sensation or that produce comparable pleasant mental or aesthetic impressions. Taste (see also TASTE 1) may imply a liking that is either natural or acquired; the term is often used to designate a deep-seated or ingrained longing for something that lies behind one's predilection for it, one's bent to it, one's aptitude for it, or a predisposition to enjoy one thing more than another (cultivate a taste for olives; he had no taste for the study of law; she had a taste for melancholy—for the smell of orange rinds and woodsmoke—that was extraordinary—Cheever) More often taste refers to a liking that is based upon an understanding of peculiar excellences, especially aesthetic excellences, and that gives one a more or less discerning appreciation of a thing's beauty or perfection (as of form, design, and color) or grace and dignity and consequently greater enjoyment of it (a connoisseur, possessing above all things an exquisite taste—Dahl) (all tastes are legitimate, and it is not necessary to account for them—Virgil Thomson) (without any technical knowledge she had acquired a good taste in music—Ellis) In this sense taste is often so close to another sense of taste, namely, the power of discriminating aesthetic judgment, that the two meanings tend to overlap. In the first case, however, taste is not an abstraction but a concrete thing referable to an individual or a group of individuals (we have our tastes in painting as in confectionery. Some of us prefer Tinto retto to Rembrandt, as we do chocolate to coconut—Brownell) In the latter sense taste is an abstraction used commonly without reference to individuals. In general it implies a capacity for discerning true excellence and the setting up of standards whereby all may be taught to appreciate the excellence they discern; sometimes it denotes the body of standards so set up (you do have talent, but you're pitifully ignorant of the first principles of taste—Wouk) Palate may imply either the literal physical sensation or sense of taste (a wine taster must have a discriminating palate) (people who considered cider was just like champagne. It was a matter of palate—Hilton) or a corresponding intellectual reaction and then suggest pleasure afforded the mind (in the midst of such beauty... one's body is all one tingling palate—Muir) had no philosophy, but things distressed his palate, and two of those things were International propaganda and the Organized State—Yeats) Relish often suggests a more distinct or a more exciting flavor in the thing that evokes enjoyment or liking; but especially it tends to imply a keener or more personal gratification than taste (a man of... a quick relish for pleasure—Macaulay) (seemed to speak all his words with an immense wet-licked relish, as though they tasted good on the tongue—Dahl) (the artist's brain] can go further and build up, always with a passionate relish for what it is producing—Montague)

Gusto can imply either the hearty relish with which one sometimes may attack a meal, execute a piece of work, or go about the performance of an act (as a task or duty), or a quality in the thing which is executed or in the act which is performed that indicates vital or enthusiastic interest, keen delight, and intense imaginative or emotional energy (the doing of it of ambitious politicians... succumbing with glee and gusto to the temptations of power—Huxley) (this dramatic sense... gives Rostand's characters Cyran at least—a gusto which is uncommon on the modern stage—T. S. Eliot) Zest, like gusto, applies either to the spirit in which one approaches something one likes to do, make, or encounter or the quality imparted to the thing done, made, or envisioned as a result of this spirit. In contrast with gusto it suggests eagerness, avidity, or a perception of a thing's piquancy or peculiar flavor rather than a hearty appetite indicative of abounding energy (the Elizabethan theater had its cause in an ardent zest for life and living—Arnold) (his robustiousness, his zest for malicious humor—Hervey)

A *predilection, prepossession, partiality: appreciation, understanding, comprehension (see corresponding verbs at UNDERSTAND): inclination, disposition, predisposition (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE): *discernment, discrimination, penetration, insight, acumen

Ant antipathy tasty savory, sapid, *palatable, appetizing, toothsome, flavorful, relishing

Ant bland tat vb *weave, knit, crochet, braid, plait
tattle *gossip, blab

Ana divulge, disclose, betray, *reveal
taunt vb mock, deride, *ridicule, twit, rally

Ana * scoff, jeer, gib, flout: affront, insult, *offend, outrage: scorn, disdain, scout (see DESPISE): chaff, *banter
taut *tight, tense
tautology *verbiage, redundancy, pleonasm, circumlocution, periphrasis
tawdry *gaudy, garish, flashy, meretricious

Ana * showy, pretentious: vulgar, gross, *coarse: flamboyant, *ornate, florid
tax vb *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, weight, load, lade, charge, saddle

teach, instruct, educate, train, discipline, school are comparable when they mean to cause to acquire knowledge or skill. Teach implies a direct showing to another with the intent that he will learn; it usually suggests the imparting of information, but in addition it often also connotes the giving of help that will assist the learner in mastering such difficulties as are involved in putting the new knowledge to use or in making it a part of his mental or physical equipment (teaching the young to read) (teach arithmetic) taught the boys how to swim) (that same prayer does teach us all to render the deeds of mercy—Shak) Instruct stresses the furnishing, especially the methodical furnishing, of necessary knowledge or skill to someone else (schoolmasters will I keep within my house, fit to instruct) her youth—Shak) (he is wise who can instruct us and assist us in the business of daily virtuous living—Carlyle) Educate, although it implies or presupposes teaching or instruction as the means, stresses the intention
or the result, the bringing out or development of qualities or capacities latent in the individual or regarded as essential to his position in life (schools that educate boys for the ministry) (in my eyes the question is not what to teach, but how to educate—Kingsley) *educate* the masses into becoming fit for self-government—*Huxley* *Train*, even when it is used as a close synonym of educate, almost invariably suggests a distinct end or aim which guides teachers and instructors; it implies, therefore, such subjection of the pupil as will form him or fit him for the state in view (universities exist . . . on the one hand, to *train* men and women for certain professions—*Russell* *Train* is especially employed in reference to the instruction of persons or sometimes animals who must be physically in excellent condition, mentally proficient, or quickly responsive to orders for a given occupation or kind of work (*train* a dog to point game) (*troops . . . equipped and trained* to fight in the bitter cold and the deep snow—*Shirer*) *Discipline*, even more than *train*, implies subordination to a master or subjection to control, often self-control (*he consciously seeks to *discipline* himself in fine thinking and right living—*Ellis*) *feeling . . . the rush of old years to *split* his head, he thought long since *disciplined* from him—*Buck*) *School* is sometimes interchangeable with *educate* (*some of them have been schooled* at Eton and Harrow—*Shaw*) or with teach or instruct (*schooled by* my guide, it was not difficult to realize the scene—*S. C. Hall*) but it is more often used in the sense of *train* or *discipline*, frequently with the added implication of learning to endure what is hard to bear (*that I can bear. I can *school* myself to worse than that—*Wilde*) *Discipline* from old jealousy he had thought long since been full of work, he bowed greetings—*Wolfe*) *teach,* *instruct* implies sub-*train,* *discipline,* *inculcate,* *implant*. *teach,* even *educate—Kingsley* (*educate* or to be rich having been *teach* to *discipline* men and women for certain professions—*Russell*). *Train* implies greater violence than *rend* (*the black volume of clouds . . . Joel* *garments—*) *interpret* the implication of a lacerating effect or adds that of impart, *communicate:* *practice,* drill, exercise: *Ana* *G.* *and vanity had been asunder by flashes of lightning—*Irving* your heart, and not your *rend* (*in power, he bowed greetings—*Wolfe*) *analogous words* *Ant* *contrasted words* *See also explanatory notes facing page 1

**torn** vb *Tear* *rip*, *rend*, *split*, *cleave*, *rive* can all mean to separate forcibly one part of a continuous material or substance from another, or one object from another with which it is closely and firmly associated. *Tear* implies pulling apart or away by or as if by main force; it often suggests jagged rough edges or laceration (*tore* his coat on a nail) (*tore* a piece of paper lengthwise) (*he took hold of it with his powerful hands and tore it out by the roots—*Anderson*) *flood tore a . . . gorge through the township—*Amer. Guide Series: Vt.*) (*grief tears her heart*—*Rip* usually implies a forcible pulling or breaking apart typically along a line or juncture (as a seam, a joint, or a connection) (*Macduff was from his mother’s womb untimely ripped—*Shak.*) *rip* the shingles from a roof)—*Rend* implies greater violence than *torn* and either heightens the implication of a lacerating effect or adds that of severing or snipping (*rend* your heart, and not your garments—*Joel 2:13*) (*the black volume of clouds . . . rent asunder by flashes of lightning—*Irving*) (*his pride and vanity had been rent* by her ultimate rejection—*H. G. Wells*) *Split* implies a cutting or breaking apart in a continuous, straight, and usually lengthwise direction or in the direction of grain or layers (*split a log with a wedge*) (*great rocks split by an earthquake*) In extended use the term implies force or intensity sufficient to split something (*split* their sides with laughter) (*pain that seemed about to *split* his head; I felt sorrow *split* my heart, if ever I did hate thee—*Shak.*) (*ear-splitting outcries*—*Cleave*, a somewhat rhetorical word, may come close to *split*, but more often it conveys the notion of laying open by or as by a stroke of an edged weapon (*struck the final blow, *cleaving* the Archbishop’s skull—*Lucas*) (*his acumen *cleave* clean to the heart of a piece of writing—*Mandelbaum*) *Rive* is elevated for *split* (*blunt wedges *rive* hard knots—*Shak.*) (*all thoughts to *rive* the heart are here, and all are vain—*Housman*) *Ana* *slit*, *slash*, *cut*: *pull*, *drag*, damage, *injure, impair* *2* *rush*, dash, shoot, charge *Ana* *speed*, hasten, hurry: dart, *fly*, scud *tease* *tantalize*, pester, plague, harass, harry, *worry, annoy* *Ana* *bait*, badger, sector, chivy: importune, adjure, *beg: fret, chafe, gall* (see ABRADE) *tedious* *irksome, tiresome, wearisome, boring* *Ana* burdensome, *onerous, oppressive: fatiguing, exhausting, fagging, jading (see *Tire vb*): *slow, dilatory, deliberate* *Ant* *exciting* *tedium*, *boredom*, *ennui*, *doldrums* are comparable when they denote a state of dissatisfaction and weariness. *Tedium* suggests a repression of energy for lack of a proper or adequate outlet, and dullness or lowness of spirits resulting from irksome inactivity or from the irksome monotony of one’s pursuits or surroundings (*incessant recurrence without variety breeds tedium—*Lowes*) (*able boys and girls will go through endless tedium . . . to acquire some coveted knowledge or skill—*Russell*) *work* adds to tedium suggestions of listlessness, dreaminess, and unrest resulting either from a lack of interest in one’s pursuits or surroundings or from the fact that they pall or fail to excite interest (*I suppose I shall go on “existing” till the *boredom* of it becomes too great—*J. R. Green*) (*wealthy indolent women . . . who got up at noon and spent the rest of the day trying to relieve their *boredom—*Dahl*) *Ennui* stresses profound dissatisfaction, discontent, or weariness of spirit; usually it suggests physical depression, languor, or lassitude as well as boredom (*that ennui, that terrible taedium vitae, that comes on those to whom life denies nothing—*Wilde*) (*the inexhaustible power and activity of his mind leave him no leisure for *ennui—*Arnold*) *Doldrums* applies to a phase or period of depression that in persons may be marked by listlessness, despondency, and flagging energy (*Lotharioism* is simple monogamy’s *doldrums* multiplied, and with thrice monogamy’s duties—*Nathan*) or in more general applications (as to economic activity) may be marked by inactivity and dullness. *Ana* *irksomeness, tediousness, tiresomeness, wearisomeness* (see corresponding adjectives at *irksome*): melancholy, dumps, blues, gloom (see *sadness*) *teem, abound, swarm, overflow* can all mean to be plentifully supplied (with) or to be rich (in). Though they are often interchangeable, each of these words may carry distinctive implications. *Teem* implies productivity or fecundity (*the rivers teem with fish*) (*his mind teems with strange forms of life—*Shirer) sometimes it suggests glutting (*the market overflows with goods*) *overflow* in its extended sense adds to *abound* an implication of exceeding capacity (*he overflows with good nature*) Sometimes it suggests glutting (*the market overflows with goods*) *Ana* *bear*, produce, yield, turn out: *generate, engender*, breed, propagate; multiply, augment, *increase* *teeny* tiny, little, diminutive, *small, petite, wee, weeny,*
temper vb *shake, tremble, quaver, shiver, shudder, quaver, wobble, shimmerv, dither

tell vb 1 *count, enumerate, number 2 *say, utter, state

divulge, discover, *reveal, disclose, betray

Ana impart, *communicate: *relate, rehearse, recite, recount: *inform, acquaint, apprise

 telling compelling, convincing, cogent, sound, *valid

Ana forceful, forcible, *powerful, potent: *effective, effectual, efficacious: *conclusive, decisive, determinative, definitive

temperosity, audacity, hardihood, effrontery, nerve, cheek, gall are comparable when they mean conspicuous or flagrant boldness (as in speech, behavior, or action). Temerity usually implies contempt of danger and consequent rashness: often it suggests, especially when a proposal or project is under discussion, a failure to estimate one's chances of success (impetuously brushed aside the legalistic twaddle of the lawyers . . . and they frowned on such temerity—Bowers) 

*tenth-rate critics and compiler, for whom the violent shock to the public taste would be a temerity not to be risked—Arnold

Audacity implies either a bold and open disregard of the restraints imposed by prudence, convention, decorum, or authority or undue presumption in making advances (he had committed the supreme audacity of looking into her soul—Sackville-West) 

*the moral audacity, the sense of spiritual freedom, that one gets from certain scenes in the Gospels—Edmund Wilson

Hardihood stresses firmness of purpose and often additionally implies considered defiance (as of conventions or decorum). It may be used without deprecatory intent, but it is frequently employed as a term of contempt almost equivalent to insolence or impudence (no historian or astronomer will have the hardihood to maintain that he commands this God's-eye view—Toynbee) 

*the reviewers . . . were staggered by my hardihood in offering a woman of forty as a subject of serious interest to the public—Bennett

Effrontery is definitely derogatory; it is used in place of any of the corresponding adjectives at PRECIPITATE: impertinence, offensiveness (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING): restraining, curbing, checking (see RESTRAIN)

temperate 1 *moderate

Ana mild, gentle, lenient, *soft: *steady, even, equable, constant: restrained, curbed, checked (see RESTRAIN)

Ant intemperate: inordinate

2 *sober, continent, unimpassioned

Ana *sparing, frugal, economical: abstaining, refinishing, forbearance (see REFRAIN): dispassionate, just, equable, *fair

temporal *profane, secular, lay

Ana *material, objective, physical, corporeal

Ant spiritual

temporary, provisional, ad interim, acting, supply can all be applied to a person holding a post for a limited time, to the post held by that person, or to his appointment. Temporariness or, at least, it suggests self-restraint in sexual indulgence. Sometimes it implies chastity or complete abstinence; often, when referred to husband and wife, it implies avoidance of undue indulgence (chastity is either abstinence or continence. Abstinence is that of virgins or widows; continence, of married persons—Taylor)

Ana forgoing, forbearing or forbearance, sacrificing or sacrifice, eschewal (see corresponding verbs at FORGO): frugality, sparingness, thriftiness (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING): restraining, curbing, checking (see RESTRAIN)

temperate 1 *moderate


Ant intensify

temper n 1 *mood, humor, vein

Ana mettle, spirit (see COURAGE): emotion, *feeling, affection, passion: attitude, *position, stand

2 *disposition, temperment, complexion, character, personality, individuality

Ana *state, condition, posture, situation: *quality, property, attribute

temperament *disposition, temper, complexion, character, personality, individuality

Ana *mind, soul: nature, kind, *type

temperance, sobriety, abstinence, abstemiousness, continence can all mean self-restraint in the gratification of appetites or passions. In its more general sense temperance implies simple habitual moderation and the exercise of judgment (temperance in eating and drinking) (exaggeration, exaltation, the fanatic spirit, are extremely rare. Temperance is the almost universal rule in speech, demeanor, taste, and habits—Brownell) But temperance may be used specifically in reference to the use of intoxicating beverages and then tends to imply not merely moderation but abstinence; thus, a temperance hotel is one where no intoxicating liquors are sold or served. Sobriety, like temperance, suggests avoidance of excess not only in drinking (what would be sobriety for a billiard marker would be ruinous drunkenness for a . . . billiard player—Shaw) but also in thought or action. Often it connotes the idea of seriousness or of avoidance of ostentation (sobriety in dress) (admired him for his cleanliness, sobriety and industry—Cheever).

Abstinence implies voluntary deprivation (the Cynic preached abstinence from all common ambitions, rank, possessions, power, the things which clog man's feet—Buchan) (the man who had made a virtue of abstinence secretly regrets, when he grows old, the discretions of his youth—Abel)

Abstemiousness and its much commoner adjective abstemious suggest habitual self-restraint, moderation, or frugality especially in eating or drinking (the most abstemious of men . . . he held old-fashioned and rather puritanical views—Woolf) Continence emphasizes self-restraint in regard to one's impulses or desires (he knew what to say, so he knows also when to leave off, a continence which is practiced by few writers—Dryden)

In its specific sense it stresses self-restraint in sexual indulgence. Sometimes it implies chastity or complete abstinence; often, when referred to husband and wife, it implies avoidance of undue indulgence (chastity is either abstinence or continence. Abstinence is that of virgins or widows; continence, of married persons—Taylor)

Ana forgoing, forbearing or forbearance, sacrificing or sacrifice, eschewal (see corresponding verbs at FORGO): frugality, sparingness, thriftiness (see corresponding adjectives at SPARING): restraining, curbing, checking (see RESTRAIN)

temperate 1 *moderate

Ana mild, gentle, lenient, *soft: *steady, even, equable, constant: restrained, curbed, checked (see RESTRAIN)

Ant intemperate: inordinate

2 *sober, continent, unimpassioned

Ana *sparing, frugal, economical: abstaining, refinishing, forbearance (see REFRAIN): dispassionate, just, equable, *fair

temporal *profane, secular, lay

Ana *material, objective, physical, corporeal

Ant spiritual

temporary, provisional, ad interim, acting, supply can all be applied to a person holding a post for a limited time, to the post held by that person, or to his appointment. Temporariness merely implies that the post is not held on tenure but may be terminated at the will of those having the appointive power. It is interchangeable with many of the other words but is not so explicit (a temporary position)
tempt 817
tendancy

Analogous words: Ana: analogous words

Antonyms: Ana: *defend, protect, shield, guard, safeguard: *nurse, nurture, foster, cherish, cultivate

tendency, trend, drift, tenor can mean a movement or course having a particular direction and character or the direction and character which such a movement or course takes. Tendency usually implies an inherent or acquired inclination in a person or thing that causes him or it to move in a definite direction so long as no one or nothing interferes. Often, when used in reference to persons, the word means little more than leaning, propensity, or disposition (a growing tendency to disastrously underestimate the potential strength of the United States—Shirer) (he worked to destroy the tendency to dreams in himself—Anderson) More often, especially when used in reference to groups or communities or their activities or the course or direction they take with or without consciousness or intent, the term implies a driving force behind the direction or course taken and an insusceptibility to its being controlled or changed (gave the King a policy at once plausible and insidious, temporizing and yet thick with tendency—Hackett) (the whole tendency of evolution is towards a diminishing birthrate—Ellis) (the tendencies which Lycurgus had endeavored to repress by external regulation reasserted themselves—Dickinson) Trend is used primarily in reference to something that follows an irregular or winding course and denotes the general direction maintained in spite of these irregularities (jagged ranges of mountains with a north and south trend) In its extended use trend may differ from tendency in implying a direction subject to change through the interposition of a sufficiently strong force or agency, in implying a course taken at a given time by something subject to change and fluctuation, or in implying the general direction followed by a changing or fluctuating thing throughout its entire course or within given limits of space or of time (the current trends toward intolerance and the garrison state—Mower) (Aristotle, the most balanced of all the Greek thinkers and the best exponent of the normal trend of their ideas—Dickinson) Drift may apply to a tendency whose direction or course is determined by such external influences as a wind or the movement of flowing water or a fashion or a state of feeling (the drift of public opinion went steadily against him—Parrington) ( stoutly opposed the drift toward national prohibition and equal suffrage—Sam Acheson) but it may apply also to the direction or course taken by something (as speech, writing, or teaching) that has a meaning, a purpose, or an objective which is not definitely stated or made clear but which is inferable; in this sense the word is scarcely distinguishable from intention, purport, or import (for the drift of the Maker is dark, an Isis hid by a veil—Tennyson) (write it down . . . and then maybe I can get the drift of it—Stafford) (I see the whole drift of your argument—Goldsmith) Tenor is a very close synonym of drift in this latter sense but it more often refers to utterances or documents and carries a much stronger implication of clearness of meaning or purport (the general tenor . . . of the talks—Bernard Smith) Both in this sense and in its more common sense of a course or movement having a particular clearly observable direction tenor carries a strong implication of continuity in that course and of absence of fluctuation in its direction; therefore it frequently suggests unaltered, often unalterable, procedure (along the cool sequestered vale of life they kept the noiseless tenor of their way—Gray) (the village . . . was away from the main road and the tenor of its simple agricultural economy had not been disturbed—Gogarty) (even a foible is forgiven so long as it ruffles not the calm tenor of respectability—Gogarty)

Contrasted words: Con (as speech, writing, or teaching) that has a meaning, a purpose, or an objective which is not definitely stated or made clear but which is inferable; in this sense the word is scarcely distinguishable from intention, purport, or import (for the drift of the Maker is dark, an Isis hid by a veil—Tennyson) (write it down . . . and then maybe I can get the drift of it—Stafford) (I see the whole drift of your argument—Goldsmith) Tenor is a very close synonym of drift in this latter sense but it more often refers to utterances or documents and carries a much stronger implication of clearness of meaning or purport (the general tenor . . . of the talks—Bernard Smith) Both in this sense and in its more common sense of a course or movement having a particular clearly observable direction tenor carries a strong implication of continuity in that course and of absence of fluctuation in its direction; therefore it frequently suggests unaltered, often unalterable, procedure (along the cool sequestered vale of life they kept the noiseless tenor of their way—Gray) (the village . . . was away from the main road and the tenor of its simple agricultural economy had not been disturbed—Gogarty) (even a foible is forgiven so long as it ruffles not the calm tenor of respectability—Gogarty)

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
tender

*leaning, propensity, penchant, proclivity: inclination, disposition, predisposition (see corresponding verbs at INcline): bent, turn, genius, aptitude (see GIFT)

Tender, compassionate, sympathetic, warm, warmhearted, responsive are comparable when they mean expressing or expressive of feeling that reveals affectionate interest in another especially in his joys, sorrows, or welfare. Tender implies a sensitiveness to influences that awaken gentle emotions (as love, affection, pity, or kindness) and often a capacity for expressing such emotions with a delicacy and gentleness that are especially grateful to the person concerned. His mother was very tender with him... she saw the effort it was costing—D. H. Lawrence. The inflections of their voices, when they were talking to each other very privately, were often tender, and these sudden surprising tendernesses secretly thrilled both of them—Bennett. Compassionate implies a temperament or a disposition that is either easily moved by the sufferings or hardships of another or is quick to show pity with tenderness or mercy. Not cold and blaming... but an older and wiser brother—very compassionate—Sinclair Lewis. To wax compassionate over a bird, and remain hard as flint, is possible only to humanity—Reppplier. Sympathetic is a more comprehensive term than compassionate; it implies a temperament or a disposition that enables one to enter into the life of another and share his sorrows, his joys, his interests, his antipathies, and his ways of thinking and feeling and to give that other the impression that he is not alone or that he is being fairly and justly understood. Thus a tête-à-tête with a man of similar tastes, who is just and yet sympathetic, critical yet appreciative... is a high intellectual pleasure—Benson. Though some considered her arrogant and forbidding, I found her personality sympathetic—Edmund Wilson. Sympathetic is also applicable to attitudes or treatments that reveal a capacity for appraising or treating men and their experiences with great fairness and understanding. A penetrating and profoundly sympathetic portrayal of the shifting, fluctuating impulses of a woman yielding both against and with her will—Lowes. Warm implies a capacity for feeling and expressing love, affection, or interest with depth, ardor, or fervency; it suggests less softness of feeling or compassion than tender, but more heartiness, cordiality, or force. A perfect gentleman, unaffected, warm, and obliging—Austen. We common people are all one way or the other—warm or cold, passionate or frigid—Hardy. A wave of genial friendliness flowed from the warm silly hearts of Britons towards the conquered foe—Rose Macaulay. Warmhearted differs little from warm in meaning, but it usually carries a stronger implication of generosity, unselshness, and, often, compassionativeness. She is warmhearted, impulsive, kind, and independent—Kaplan. His portrait of the metropolis is warmhearted and accurate—Bracker. Responsive differs from the preceding terms in usually suggesting sensitiveness to another's display of tenderliness, compassion, sympathy, or warmth and a capacity for responding to that emotion; it stresses impressionableness and suggests a reaction, rather than a taking of the initiative. Rushed to Moscow as the new British ambassador in the hope of striking a more responsive chord among the Bolsheviks—Shirer. She took up life, and became alert to the world again, responsive, like a ship in full sail, to every wind that blew—Rose Macaulay. Ana gentle, lenient, mild, *soft: humane, benevolent, *charitable, altruistic: *pitiful, piteous

Ant: callous, severe

An offer, proffer, present, prefer

Ana propose, purpose, design (see INTEND): *suggest, intimate

tender n: overture, approach, advance, bid

tenet: doctrine, dogma

Ana belief, conviction, persuasion, view (see OPINION): *principle, fundamental, axiom

tenor: drift, trend, *tendency

Ana movement, motion, move: procedure, proceeding (see PROCESS): *meaning, significance, import

tense adj: *tight, taut

Ana strained (see corresponding noun at strain): nervous, unequipped, uneasy, jittery (see IMPATIENT)

Ant slack

2 *stiff, rigid, inflexible, stark, wooden

Ana tough, tenacious, stout (see STRONG): *firm, hard

Ant expansive—Con: *loose, relaxed, lax, slack: *limp, flaccid, flabby

tension 1: *stress, strain, pressure

2 equilibrium, equipoise, *balance, poise

tentative: *provisional

Ana: *temporary, ad interim, acting: testing, trying, demonstrating, proving (see PROVE)

Ant definitive

tenuous: *thin, rare, slender, slim, slight

Ana: ethereal, aerial, *airy

Ant dense

tergiversation: ambiguity, evincing, double entendre

term 1: *end, confine, bound, *limit

2: *word, vocable

3 in plural form terms: *condition, stipulation, provision, proviso, reservation, strings

Ana: restriction, limit (see corresponding verbs at LIMIT): requisite, prerequisite, *requirement

termagant: *virago, scold, shrew, vixen, amazon

terminal adj: final, concluding, *last, latest, eventual, ultimate

Ana closing, ending, terminating, concluding (see CLOSE)

Ant initial

terminate end, *close, conclude, finish, complete

Ana: abolish, extinguish, abate: *stop, cease, discontinue

termination end, ending, terminus

Ana result, issue, outcome (see EFFECT): concluding or conclusion, completion, closing or close (see corresponding verbs at close)

Ant: inception, source

terminus: *end, termination, ending

Ant starting point—Con: beginning, commencement, start (see corresponding verbs at BEGIN)

terrestrial *earthly, earthly, mundane, worldly, sublunary

Ant celestial

terrible: terrific, frightful, dreadful, *fearful, awful, horrid, horrific, shocking, appalling

Ana frightening, alarming, startling (see FRIGHTEN): agitating, upsetting, disturbing, perturbing (see DISCOMPOSE)

terrific: terrific, frightful, dreadful, *fearful, horrible, horrific, awful, shocking, appalling

Ana frightening, alarming, terrorizing (see FRIGHTEN): agitating, upsetting, disquieting (see DISCOMPOSE)

terrify *frighten, fright, scare, alarm, terrorize, startle

Ana agitate, upset, perturb, disquiet (see DISCOMPOSE): dismay, appall, horrifying, daunt: cow, *intimidate, browbeat, bull scrape

Con: *calm, compose, soothe, tranquilize

territory domain, province, *field, sphere, bailiwick

Ana region, tract, *area, zone, belt: limits, confines, bounds (see singular nouns at LIMIT)

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

Ana apprehensiveness, fearfulness (see corresponding
adjectives at FEARFUL: agitation, disquiet, perturbation, upsetting or upset (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): appalling, daunting, dismaying (see DISEASE)

terrorize terrify, *frighten, fright, alarm, scare, startle, affray, affright
Ant *intimate, cow, buldoze, browbeat: coerce, compel, *force: drive, impel, *move: agitate, upset (see DISCOMPOSE)
tense *concise, succinct, laconic, summary, pithy, com-pendious
Ant *brief, short: compact, *close: *expressive, sententious, meaningful: *incisive, crisp, clear-cut
test n trial, proof, demonstration (see under PROVE)
Ant examination, inspection, scrutiny (see under SCRUTINIZE): verification, substantiation, corroboration, confirmation (see corresponding verbs at CONFIRM)
test vb try, *prove, demonstrate
Ant essay (see ATTEMPT vb): examine, inspect, *scrutinize: verify, substantiate, *confirm
testimonial n recommendation, *credential, character, reference
Ant *compliment, commendation (see corresponding verb at CONDA-MEND): approval, endorsement (see corresponding verbs at APPROVE)
testimony *evidence, deposition, affidavit
Ant trial, test, proof, demonstration (see under PROVE): witnessing or witness, attesting or attestation, certifying or certification, vouching for (see corresponding verbs at CERTIFY)
testy *irascible, choleric, splenetic, touchy, cranky, cross
Ant *irritable, peevish, snappish, waspish: hasty, sudden, impetuous (see PRECIPITATE): captious, carping, caviling, faultfinding (see CRITICAL)
text topic, argument, theme, *subject, matter, subject matter, motive, motif, leitmotiv
thalsassic *aquatic, marine, oceanic, neritic, pelagic, abyssal
thankful *grateful
Ant appreciating or appreciative, valuing, prizing, cherishing, treating (see corresponding verbs at APPRECIATE): satisfied, content (see under SATISFY)
Ant thankless
thaumaturgy *magic, sorcery, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, alchemy
thaw vb melt, *liquefy, deliquesce, fuse
Ant freeze
theatrical adj *dramatic, dramaturgic, melodramatic, histrionic
Ant *artificial, factitious: formal, conventional, *ceremonial, ceremonious: affecting, pretending, assuming, simulating, feigning (see ASSUME): *showy, pretentious, ostentatious
theft, larceny, robbery, burglary mean the act or crime of stealing, though they have differences in legal application. The same differences in implications and applications are observable in the agent nouns thief, larcener or larcenist, robber, burglar, denoting one who steals. Theft and theft are the most general and the least technical of these terms; they imply the taking and removing of another's property usually by stealth or without his knowledge and always without his consent. The terms are often so broad that they may include reference to any taking of another's property without his consent (as by pilfering, purloining, swindling, embezzling, or plagiarizing) (the theft of a purse) (the theft of the city's money by grafters) (a thief removed his watch from his pocket) Larceny and the less common agent nouns larcener and larcenist are legal terms implying direct theft but excluding such specialized forms as swindling, embezzlement, and plagiarizing. The terms connote an unlawful or felonious act, a removal of another's property from the place where it belongs, and complete possession, even for a moment, by the thief (the shoplifter was not apprehended until she had left the store, so that there would be proof of larceny) (the maid was found guilty of larceny) Grand larceny and petty larceny are common in ordinary use as indicating respectively a theft of an appreciable amount and a theft of a negligible amount.

Robbery and robber in their precise legal use imply the taking of another's property from his person or in his presence by means of violence or intimidation (highway robbery) (the paymaster was attacked and the payroll money was seized by armed robbers) Burglary and burglar in legal use imply a breaking and entering with an intent to commit a felony, usually that of larceny or robbery. In the laws of different states and nations the detailed specifications of the crime, for example, the time of occurrence (nighttime often being stipulated) or the actual commission of the felony, may or may not be considered material to the charge (the burglary of their home was committed during their absence for the evening) (she lived in constant fear of burglars)

theme 1 text, topic, argument, *subject, matter, subject matter, motive, motif, leitmotiv
2 composition, paper, *essay, article
then *therefore, hence, consequently, accordingly, so

theorem *principle, axiom, fundamental, law

theoretical, speculative, academic can be applied to minds, types of reasoning or philosophizing, or branches of learning as meaning concerned principally with abstractions and theories, sometimes at the expense of practical basis or application. Theoretical in its most usual and nonderogatory sense applies to branches of learning (as sciences) which deal with the inferences drawn from observed facts and from the results of experiments and with the laws or theories that explain them (the distinguishing feature of theoretical science is the anticipation of facts from experience—George von Wright)

In this sense the term is often opposed to applied, which describes branches of learning which have to do with the putting of such laws and theories into use (as in mechanics, in industry, or in social reform) (theoretical versus applied chemistry) (theoretical ethics) (a purely theoretical definition would be that a person is emotionally sensitive when many stimuli produce emotions in him—Russell) But theoretical often implies a divorce from actuality or reality that makes one unable to see things as they are and usually makes him see them only in the terms of preexistent ideas or theories. In this sense it is opposed to practical (seems compelled to establish that . . . the book does have great practical importance in spite of its predominantly theoretical character—M.G. Whitey) (things that had seemed drearily theoretical, dry, axiomatic, platitudinal, showed themselves to be great generalizations from a torrent of human effort and mortal endeavor—Benson) Speculative (see also THOUGHTFUL 1) may go further than theoretical in suggesting a deep interest in theorizing or in forming theories or hypotheses and often additionally implies a daring use of the imagination (the rights of man . . . were theories or hypotheses and often additionally implies a daring use of the imagination—George von Wright)

In this sense it is opposed to practical (seems compelled to establish that . . . the book does have great practical importance in spite of its predominantly theoretical character—M.G. Whitey) (things that had seemed drearily theoretical, dry, axiomatic, platitudinal, showed themselves to be great generalizations from a torrent of human effort and mortal endeavor—Benson) Speculative (see also THOUGHTFUL 1) may go further than theoretical in suggesting a deep interest in theorizing or in forming theories or hypotheses and often additionally implies a daring use of the imagination (the rights of man . . . were theories or hypotheses and often additionally implies a daring use of the imagination—George von Wright)
theory 820

thin

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

general referable not only to measure in width or amount but also to quantity or quality and agree in meaning not broad, not thick, not abundant, nor dense. Thin basically implies comparatively little extension between two surfaces of a thing (a thin layer of cement) (a thin stratum of rock) (a thin coin) or the comparatively small diameter of a cylindrical or nearly cylindrical thing in proportion to its height or length (a thin body) (the thin trunk of a tree) (thin wire) In its extended senses the term usually implies the lack of the flesh or substance that fills out a thing to its normal or usual extent and gives it fullness, richness, substantiality, compactness, or density (a thin face) (thin wine) (a thin argument) (a thin forest) (thin hair) (thin, pebbly earth, which was merely the rock pulverized by weather—Cather) (like the air of a mountaintop—thin, but pure and bracing—Inge) (would make a sound as thin and sweet as trees in country lanes—Millay) Slender, as applied to the bodies of men and of animals, implies leanness or sparseness without any suggestion of gauntness or lankiness and usually carries a distinct connotation of gracefulness and of good proportions (a slender girl) (a slender dog) (slender white hands—Anderson) Slender is preferred to thin in describing things of narrow extension when the thinness is an element of beauty and gracefulness of line (a slender vase) (the slender legs of a Sheraton chair) (the pure slender lines of water falling from the abrupt wooden crag—Binyon) In its extended use slender is often employed with little distinction from thin, but it is often preferred when quantity or amount rather than quality is stressed (a few attempts had been made . . . with slender success—Maccoulay) (packed up her slender belongings—Kipling) (with slender forces he had to face the formidable Sextus—Buchan) (such a vision [of life] as might come as the result of few or slender experiences—T. S. Eliot) Slim differs little from slender when applied to the figures of persons or animals; it may sometimes suggest fragility or gauntness rather than grace, and lack of flesh rather than excellent proportions. In its extended senses, however, slim usually carries a clearer implication of meagerness or scantiness than slender, which, though it suggests smallness in amount or quantity, implies less commonly than slim a falling short of adequacy or sufficiency; thus, slim resources are by suggestion more meager than slender resources (he has a slim chance of recovery) (this hopes for success are slim) (there was a slim attendance at the meeting) Slight through most of its variations in meaning carries a more obvious implication of smallness than of thinness; when applied to persons, it seldom suggests height or length, as slender usually does or slim sometimes does (a slight, middle-aged man) When applied to things, it is often derogatory and usually implies a failure to come up to a level of what is commensurate, adequate, or significant (a slight and transient fancy—Arnold) (a slight difference) (his success was slight) (there is . . . ground to recognize a slight intellectual superiority in the upper social class—Ellis) he liked the folksong, because it was a slight thing, born of immediate impulse—Huxley) Tenuous basically implies extreme thinness or even absence of perceptible thickness; the term is literally applicable to things (as lines, cords, or wires) of great length or height and of minute diameter (the most tenuous of threads) (as tenuous as the filament of a spider's web) or to fabrics and textiles which are exceedingly sheer or gauzy (tenuous fabrics such as tulle and chiffon) In its extended senses tenuous often describes something which covers an expanse but lacks density, compactness, or solidity (some [stars] are extremely dense and compact, others extremely
thin vb Thin, attenuate, extenuate, dilute, rarefy. Thin is analogous words (see also INFREQUENT, CHOICE) is applied chiefly to gases and especially to air (he was high... nearly slump ing in the rare air—Coombs) In its uncommon extended use it suggests tenacity or sometimes extreme exaltation or elevation (reared in the rarest air of German intellectualism—Time) (if we try to express almost any poems of his in prose, we find it impossible; its rare spirit evaporates in the process—Day Lewis) Ana *lean, spare, lank, lanky, gaunt; *meager, exiguous, scanty; cadaverous, pinched, wasted, *haggard: attenuated, extenuated, diluted (see thin vb) Ant thick

think 1 matter, concern, business; *affair 2 Thing, object, article are comprehensive terms applicable to whatever is apprehended as having actual, distinct, and demonstrable existence. They vary, however, in their range of application. Thing is the term of widest reference. In its most inclusive sense it need not imply direct knowledge through the senses but is equally applicable to something so known and to something the existence of which is inferred from its signs or its effects; thus, one thinks of the state, the church, literature, and the law as things rather than as ideas or abstractions; a friend's affection is as real a thing as his house or his hand; one distinguishes a word from the thing it names (name the things that are on this table) (wanted to do the right thing) (a blind person recognizes things through such qualities as shape, texture, smell, taste, and sound) In somewhat more restricted use thing can denote specifically an entity having existence in space or time and distinguished from one consisting only in thought (virtue is not a thing but an attribute of a thing) or in still more restricted use an inanimate entity and especially a material possession as distinguished from living beings and especially persons (more interested in things than in human beings) Often the word is used idiomatically to mention without specifically identifying an item that cannot or need not be further identified or whose nature is implicit in the context; thus, in "be sure to wear warm things," clothing is implied; in "bring in the tea things," the necessary collection of dishes, implements, and foods is implied (what's that thing in your hand?) Occasionally thing may be used in reference to persons when contempt is expressed or derogation intended (do you call that thing a man?) Object has for its primary implications externality to the mind or existence outside the observer. In philosophic and scientific use it is applied to something that is put before one as an entity capable of being seen, observed, or contemplated (a thinker may make an abstraction, such as love, art, or justice, an object of thought) (modern physicists are concentrating on the atom as an object of study) This basic implication of object is its chief distinction from thing when either word is used to denote something that can be perceived by one or more of the senses. For object in this, its ordinary sense, is applied chiefly to what has body and usually substance and shape (he groped his way in the darkness with hands outstretched to detect any objects in his path) (in the glare of the torch they saw moving objects in the distance) Article is the most limited in its range of application, being used chiefly of objects that are thought of as members of a group, kind, or class (meat is an important article of food) (articles of furniture) (a chair is an article of furniture) (articles of apparel) Ana *item, detail, particular

thin 821 think
stress on the process than upon the results of thinking; it is often used to suggest the appearance or the atmosphere of profound but not necessarily productive thinking (still cogitating and looking for an explanation in the fire—Dickens) Mrs. Berry had not cogitated long ere she pronounced distinctly and without a shadow of dubiosity: “My opinion is . . .”—Meredith Reflect usually implies a turning of one’s thoughts back upon or back to something that exists, has occurred, or needs reexamining; it implies quiet, unhurried, and serious consideration or study (stood reflecting on the circumstances of the preceding hours—Hardy) all the most important things in his life, [he] sometimes reflected, had been determined by chance—Cather began to . . . study its organization, reflect on its psychology and political techniques and ponder the results—Shirer Reason implies consecutive logical thought, beginning with a postulate, a premise, or definite data or evidence and proceeding through inferences drawn from these to a conclusion or judgment (since, where all is uncertain, we must reason from what is probable of human nature—Quiller-Couch) no man as near death as I was feeling, could, I reasoned, be absorbed by such trifles—Lucas Speculate implies the processes of reasoning but stresses either the uncertainty of the premises or the incompleteness of the data and therefore usually imputes a hypothetical or theoretical character to the conclusions reached (the two women speculated with deep anxiety whether or not little Pamela had died of exposure—Cheever) it is interesting to speculate whether it is not a misfortune that two of the greatest masters of diction in our language, Milton and Dryden, triumph with a dazzling disregard of the soul—T. S. Eliot Deliberate suggests slow and careful thought or reasoning and fair consideration of various aspects in an attempt to reach a conclusion often on a matter of public interest (lawmakers . . . can—and do—spend huge amounts of time deliberating matters of absolute insignificance—Armbister) please you, deliberate a day or two—Shak. the future relations of the two countries could now be deliberated on with a hope of settlement—Froude Ana ponder, meditate, muse, ruminate: infer, deduce, conclude, judge

thirst vb hunger, pine, yearn, *long, hanker
Ana covet, crave, *desire, wish, want

though, although, albeit introduce subordinate clauses stating something that is or may be true in spite of what is asserted in the main clause. Though, the most widely used of these words, can introduce a clause that states an established fact or one that offers only a supposition, either a hypothesis or an admission of possibility or probability (though philosophy was Bede’s chief interest and concern, he by no means stopped there—Malone) remembered a great deal of classical literature, badly taught though it was—Higher (let us not defer our trip, though it rain tomorrow) Although, which is freely interchangeable with though, is often preferred when it introduces an assertion of fact and when the subordinate clause precedes the main clause (although they worked hard . . . their movements seemed painfully slow—Forester) (although the war was still on, the diamond trade began to show signs of recovery—Hahn) Albeit is especially appropriate when the idea of admitting something that seems a contradiction is stressed (a worthy fellow, albeit he comes on angry purpose now—Shak.) (passages of moving, albeit restrained, eloquence—N. Y. Herald Tribune Book Rev.)

thought *idea, concept, conception, notion, impression
Ana opinion, view, sentiment, belief, conviction, persuasion
thoughtful

1 Thoughtful, reflective, speculative, contemplative, meditative, pensive can be applied to persons or their moods, attitudes, expressions, and utterances as meaning characterized by or showing the power to engage in thought, especially in concentrated thinking. Thoughtful may imply either the act of thinking concentratedly or the disposition to apply oneself to the careful and serious consideration of problems or questions at issue (he has a shrewd rather than a thoughtful face) (Marlowe—not excepting Shakespeare or Chapman, the most thoughtful and philosophical mind, though immature, among the Elizabethan dramatists—T. S. Eliot) (a thoughtful book on a serious subject—Selzer) Reflective differs from thoughtful in its stronger implication of orderly processes of thought, such as analysis and logical reasoning, and in its suggestion of a definite aim, such as the understanding of a thing's nature or of its relation to other things or the reaching of a definite conclusion (men of reflective and analytical habit, eager to rationalize its [plutocracy's] instincts and to bring it into some sort of relationship to the main streams of human thought—Mencken) Speculative implies a tendency or inclination to think about things of which direct knowledge is either impossible or so limited that any conclusions are bound to be uncertain (economics is regarded by many persons as a speculative science) (speculative writing about the state—Frankfurter) Hence the term often implies theorizing or conjecturing without consideration of the evidence or with little attention to the evidence (about a thousand practical and positive topics the Frenchman, who speaks from experience and examination, finds our views speculative and immature—Browning) (the philosophical background of Chinese culture has always tended to create reflective rather than speculative thinkers—Hart) Contemplative carries a stronger implication than the other words of an attention fixed on the object of one's thoughts; it may imply as its object something perceivable by the senses or something abstract yet comprehensible by the mind, or it may suggest a habit of mind (a contemplative thinker, withdrawn from active life—Theodore Spencer) (practical curiosity becomes contemplative and examines things for their own sake when . . . man . . . having arrived at the stage of ideas and thought, applies them to the data presented by sensible experience—Alexander) (the contemplative life which is concerned with human feeling and thought and beauty—Ruskin) Meditative, except in religious use, where it comes very close to contemplative, usually implies a tendency to ponder or muse over something without necessarily implying any such intellectual purpose as understanding a thing or reaching a conclusion regarding it. The term therefore often comes close to thoughtful, though it usually implies some consecutive reasoning and sometimes suggests pleasure rather than seriousness in the exercise of thought (indulge in many a meditative walk) (a meditative temperament) (sympathies . . . that steal upon the meditative mind, and grow with thought—Wordsworth) Pensive is not always clearly distinguishable from meditative, though at times it carries a stronger suggestion of dreaminess, of wistfulness, or of melancholy (for oft, when on my couch I lie in vacant or in pensive mood—Wordsworth) (silent and pensive, idle, restless, slow—Byron) Ana *serious, earnest, grave, sober: engrossed, absorbed, intent: *abstracted, preoccupied

2 Thoughtful, considerate, attentive are applied to persons and their acts in the sense of being mindful of the comfort or happiness of others. Thoughtful usually implies unselfish concern for others or the capacity for anticipating another's needs (in his thoughtful wish of escorting them through the streets of the rough, riotous town—Gaskell) Considerate stresses concern for the feelings of others or thoughtfulness in preventing or in relieving pain, suffering, or distress (the French poor people are very considerate where they see suffering—Meredith) (too courteous and considerate to make stubborn subordinates bend properly to his will—Nevins & Commager) Attentive emphasizes continuous thoughtfulness or implies repeated acts of kindness or courtesy (Emmy had always been good and attentive to him. It was she who ministered to his comforts—Thackeray) (I was never more surprised than by his behavior to us. It was more than civil; it was really attentive—Austen) Ana solicitious, concerned, careful, anxious (see under CARE): courteous, polite, gallant, chivalrous (see CIVIL)

Ant thoughtless*careless, heedless, inadvertent

Ana rash, reckless, foolhardy (see ADVENTUROUS): *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof: lax, remiss, *negligent

Ant thoughtful

thoughtless

1. *beat, pound, pummel, buffet, baste, belabor

2. 2 flourish, brandish, shake, *swing, wave

Ana wield, manipulate, swing, ply, *handle

threadbare

1. *shabby, dilapidated, dingy, faded, seedy

Ana damaged, injured, impaired (see INJURE): worn (see HAGGARD)

2. shopworn, *trite, hackneyed, stereotyped

Ana antiquated, obsolete, archaic (see OLD): exhausted, depleted, drained, impoverished (see DEPLETE)

threaten, menace both mean to announce or forecast (as by word or look) an impending or probable infliction (as an evil or an injury). Threaten basically implies an attempt to dissuade or influence by promising punishment or the infliction of reprisals upon those who disobey an injunction or perform acts objectionable to the speaker (the magistrates . . . solicited, commanded, threatened, urged—Milton) (another form of lying, which is extremely bad for the young, is to threaten punishments you do not mean to inflict—Russell) However the term has been so extended in its meaning that it is often used with reference to things (as events, conditions, or symptoms) which presage or otherwise indicate something, and typically something dire or disturbing, to be about to or likely to happen (overcasts skies that threaten rain) (lived on the margin of survival, constantly threatened by famine and disease—Geddes) (without invoking the rule of strict construction I think that "so near as to obstruct" means to near as actually to obstruct—and not merely near enough to threaten a possible obstruction—Justice Holmes) Menace is a somewhat more literary term than threaten, and it carries a much weaker implication of an attempt to dissuade or influence and a much stronger suggestion of an alarming or a definitely hostile character or aspect (conditions that menace our liberty) (is it not experience which renders a dog apprehensive of pain, when you menace him?—Locke) (the devastating weapons which are at present being developed may menace every part of the world—Attlee) Ana *intimidate, bulldoze, cow, browbeat, portend, presage, augur (see FORETELL): *warn, forewarn, caution

thrift* economical, *sparing, frugal

Ana provident, prudent, foresighted (see under PRUDENT): saving, preserving, conserving (see SAVE)

Ant wasteful

thrill vb Thrill, electrify, enthuse are comparable when they mean to fill with emotions that stir or excite physically...
thrive

and mentally or to be stirred by such emotions. Thrill suggests pervasion by emotions that set one atingle or aquiver (as with pleasure, horror, or excitement); commonly it implies an agreeable sensation even when the exciting cause is potentially distressing or painful (a thrilling detective story) by carefully copying what other people did, she would manage to get through . . . this thrilled sense of a storm or a flower . . . ?—Montague

Electrify differs from thrill in suggesting effects comparable to those produced by an electric current that shocks rather than stuns; it implies a sudden, startling, and violent stimulation by a power that for the time being holds one obedient to its will or under its sway (the blue-eyed girl whose silverly tones and immense vitality had electrified audiences—Tomkins) she was not eating anything, she was using up all her vitality to electrify these heavy loads into speech—Cather

Enthuse can be used effectively in respect to an arousing of enthusiasm in someone or an experiencing of enthusiasm about something (Lubicov, enthused by the music of his native land, beat his baton with more and more zest—Brambrick) as a dogmatic theologian, the Bishop did not enthuse himself and he did not understand other people's enthusiasms—Frank O'Connor

the War Dance [among Indians] was a ceremony to arouse the community and enthuse the warriors—Wissler

An

excite, stimulate, galvanize, quicken (see PROVOKE): 
stir, arouse, rouse, rally: penetrate, probe, (see PROBE): quiver, tremble, shiver (see SHAKE)

thrive

* succeed, prosper, flourish

An

*a increase, augment, multiply, enlarge

Ant

languish

throb

vb

* beat, pulsate, pulse, palpitate

throb

n

*b heartbeat, pulse, palpitation (see under PULSE)

throe

*pain, ache, pang, twinge, stitch

throng

n

crowd, press, crush, mob, rout, horde

Ana

* multitude, army, host, legion: assembly, congregation, gathering, collection (see under GATHER)

throttle

vb

*suffocate, asphyxiate, stifle, smother, choke, *pulsate, pulse, palpitate

through

*by, with

throw, cast, fling, hurl, pitch, toss, sling can all mean to cause to move swiftly forward, sideways, upward, or downward by a propulsive movement (as of the arm) or by means of a propelling instrument or agency. Throw, the general word, is often interchangeable with the others; basically it implies a distinctive propelling motion of the bent arm and wrist, but in practice it is applicable in respect to almost any propulsive action (people who live in glass houses should not throw stones) (the fire engine throws a long stream of water) (this gun throws a huge shell) (throw off his coat) (the skeptic cannot throw an object if his own feet are in the air—Inge) Cast is sometimes interchangeable with throw, but it typically is used when what is thrown is light (cast a net) (cast dice) and is either directly aimed (cast his line in angling) or scattered more or less carefully (cast seed) or is thrown only in a figurative sense (cast a black look) Fling implies more violence and less control in propulsion than either of the preceding words; it often implies a force gained from strong emotion (as anger, contempt, or enthusiasm) (then he loathed his own beauty, and, flinging the mirror on the floor, crushed it into silver splinters beneath his heel)—Wilde (the opening pages irritated him . . . in the end, in exasperation, he flung them aside—Malamud) hurl stresses driving and im

petuous force that makes for speed and distance in throwing (him the Almighty Power hurled headlong flaming from the ethereal sky—Milton) Pitch sometimes means no more than to throw lightly or carelessly (could take up a sack of grain and with ease pitch it over a packsaddle—Zane Grey) (when you get your new outfit, pitch out that dress—Ethel Wilson) but distinctively it means no more than any of the preceding words stresses a sense of direction and a definite target in throwing (pitch horseshoes) (pitching hay onto the high load) (pitching matchbooks at a crack . . . was the favorite sport—James Jones) possible . . . to run up to their enemy's lines and roll, bowl, or pitch their grenades among the legs of their opponents—Wintringham) Toss implies light, careless, or more or less aimless throwing (he . . . tossed me some pieces of money—Dickens) (she rested on a log and tossed the fresh chips—Frost) (toss a coin to decide who should go) The term often also suggests a throwing to and fro or up and down (an hour's play in tossing a ball) (they . . . discussed a doubt and tossed it to and fro—Tennyson)

Sling suggests propelling with a sweeping or swinging motion, usually with force and suddenness (grabbed the boy's collar and slung him against the wall)

An

drive, impel (see MOVE vb): propel, thrust, shove, *push: heave, raise, *lift, boost

throwback

*reversion, atavism

throw up

*belch, burp, vomit, disgorge, regurgitate, spew

thrust

vb

*push, shove, propel

An

* throw, cast, fling: drive, impel, *move: enter, penetrate, pierce

thud

vb

thump, knock, rap, *tap

An

hit, *strike, smite: pound, *beat

thud

n

thump, knock, rap, tap (see under TAP vb)

An

slumping, falling (see FALL)

thud

vb

thump, knock, rap, *tap

An

hit, *strike, smite: pound, *beat

thud

n

thump, knock, rap, tap (see under TAP vb)

An

pounding, beating, pummeling (see BEAT vb)

thwart

foil, *frustrate, baffle, balk, circumvent, outwit

An

hinder, impede, obstruct, block, bar: defeat, overcome, surmount (see CONQUER): check, curb, *restrain: *prevent, forestall, anticipate

ticket

n

mark, brand, stamp, label, tag (see under MARK vb)

ticket

vb

*mark, brand, stamp, label, tag

An

affix, attach, *fasten: append, *add

tickle

*please, regale, gratify, delight, rejoice, gladden

An

divert, *amuse, entertain: *thrill, electrify

tide

n

flood, *flow, stream, current, flux

tidings

*news, intelligence, advice

tidy

*nat, trim, trug, gravid, snip, shipshape, spick-and-span

An

*orderly, methodical, systematic

Ant

untidy — Con *slipshod, slovenly, sloppy, unkempt, disheveled

tie

n

* bond, band

2 *draw, stalemate, deadlock, standoff

An

equality, equivalence (see corresponding adjectives at SAME)

tie

vb

Tie, bind both mean to make fast or secure. They are often used interchangeably without marked loss, but since in both their primary and extended senses they carry fundamentally distinct connotations, greater precision in their use is often possible. Tie basically implies the use of a cord or rope to attach one thing that may wander or move to another that is stable (I'll tie them [our horses] in the wood—Shak.) Bind, on the other hand, implies the use of a band or bond (see BOND n) to attach two or more things so that they are held firmly together or brought into union (gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles—Mt: 13:30) (bind a sprained

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
ankle) <a fillet binds her hair—Poole> <bind a person hand and foot> In extended use, especially when what is tied or bound is a person, both terms imply a deprivation of liberty and an imposed restraint. Tie, however, specifically suggests a being held down by something stronger than oneself and an inability to get away or free oneself <tied to a job> <tied to an unsympathetic wife> Bind, on the other hand, either suggests a being held together in a close union, for the sake of strength or mutual support <the common danger bound all classes together> <and vows of faith each to the other bind—Shelley> or a being held down by such a bond, as a pledge, a compact, a duty, or an obligation, or by a bond of blood, marriage, or friendship <and vows, that bind the will, in silence made—Wordsworth> <"Are you engaged?" . . . "There's someone . . . We don't want to spoil things by having anything definite and binding"—Gibbons>

**Ana** *fasten, attach: *secure, rivet, anchor, moor: *join, connect, link
**Ant** *unite

**tier** *line, row, rank, file, echelon

**tiff** *spat, bicker, quarrel, squabble, wrangle, altercate

vb **tiff**

n *fasten, attach: *secure, rivet, anchor, moor: *join, connect, link

**Ant** *unite

**tight** 1 Tight, taut, tense are comparable chiefly in their tightness or tautness that involves severe physical or, more rarely, psychological strain, tense may be preferred <a cat crouched for a spring, with muscles tense> <help him to unbend his too tense thought—Arnold> <just as a bicycle chain may be too tight, so may one's carefulness and conscientiousness be so tense as to hinder the running of one's mind—James> <the rat was crouching, very tense, sensing extreme danger, but not yet frightened—Dahl>

**Ana** strict, stringent (see RIGID): *close, compact: contracted, compressed, condensed, shrunken (see CONTRACT vb): snug, shipshape (see NEAT)

**Ant** loose 2 also tightfisted *stingy, close, closefisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheese-picking, penny-pinning

**tired** *mean, ignoble, sordid, abject

3 tipsy, intoxicated, *drunk, drunken, inebriated

**tightfisted** *stingy, close, closefisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheese-picking, penny-pinning

**Ant** *loose

**time** n *opportunity, occasion, chance, break

**Ana** *juncture, contingency, emergency, exigency

**Ant** indefinitely

**timely** well-timed, opportune, *seasonable, pat

**Ana** appropriate, fitting, meet, proper, suitable (see FIT): fortunate, *lucky, happy, providential

**Ant** indefinitely

**timetable** *program, schedule, agenda

**timid, timorous** both mean so fearful and apprehensive as to hesitate or hold back. Timid stresses lack of courage and dashing and usually implies extreme cautiousness and fearfulness of change or of venturing into the unknown or uncertain <a timid investor> (timid as a deer) *timid about making decisions* <a timid person would rather remain miserable than do anything unusual—Russell> Timorous stresses domination by fears and apprehensions; it implies a temporary or habitual frame of mind which causes one to shrink from an action or activity which requires independence, decision, or self-assertiveness and suggests terror rather than extreme caution <Murray, the most timorous, as Byron called him, of all God's book-sellers—Scott> (in another moment she seemed to have descended from her womanly eminence to helpless and timorous girlhood—Wharton) *timorous and fearful of challenge—Mencken*

**Ana** *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: *cautious, circumspect, calculating, wary, chary

**Con** *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, bold, audacious

**timorous** *timid

**Ana** *fearful, apprehensive, afraid: *cautious, circumspect, calculating, wary, chary

**Ant** indefinitely

**tincture** n *touch, suggestion, tinge, suspicion, soupçon, shade, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

**tinct** n 1 tint, shade, hue, *color, tone

2 tinture, *touch, suggestion, shade, suspicion, soupçon, smack, spice, dash, vein, strain, streak

**Ant** assured

**tire** *stingy, close, closefisted, niggardly, parsimonious, penurious, miserly, cheese-picking, penny-pinning

**tips** intoxicated, inebriated, *drunk, drunken, tight

**tirade** *tirade, diatribe, jeremiad, philippic* can all mean a violent, often long-winded, and usually denunciatory speech or writing. Tirade implies a swift emission of heated language, sometimes critical, sometimes abusive, but usually long-continued and directed against persons or things that the speaker or writer believes worthy of castigation <screaming a tirade of protest and rage—Davenport> The King . . . had . . . to impose silence on the tirades which were delivered from the University pulpit—J. R. Green> **Diatribe** carries a stronger implica-
tion of bitterness and, often, of long-windedness than tire (a rambling, bitter diatribe on the wrongs and sufferings of the laborers—Kingsley) (a diatribe in some . . . paper which neglected to mention what I had said, it merely indicated that it had been awful—Mailer) Jeremiad stresses the implication of dolefuless or lugubriousness, but it usually applies to a diatribe in that strain (a jeremiad against a civilization that values knowledge above wisdom—Durrell) Philippic applies to an oration or harangue, oration, *speech: invective, vituperation, *abuse: denunciation, censure, condemnation (see corresponding verbs at CRITICIZE).

Ant eulogy
tire vb Tire, weary, fatigued, exhaust, jade, fag, tucker can all mean to make or in some cases to become disequilibrated or unable to continue because of loss of strength or endurance. Tire is the general and ordinary word and usually implies the draining of one's strength or patience; it may suggest such causes as overexertion, long continuance at a task, boredom, or a sense of futility and usually it requires textual amplification to indicate the cause and the degree of the effect (it tiring me to death to read how many ways the warrior is like the moon, or the sun, or a rock, or a lion, or the ocean—Walpole) (music that gentilier on the spirit lies, than tired eyelids upon tired eyes—Tennyson)

* spoke exclusively from the larynx, as if he were altogether too tired to put any diaphragm breath into his words—Salinger)

(we shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire—Sir Winston Churchill!) Weary as often suggests an incapacity for enduring more of the same thing or an unwillingness to continue one's effort or one's interest as a depletion of that strength or that interest (the others would never raise their eyes while this happened, as men too well aware of the futility of their fellows' attempts and wearied with their useless repetition—Kipling) (cak, I am worn out—I am wearied out—it is too much—I am but flesh and blood, and I must sleep—Milly) (I have only one prayer—that I weary of you before you tire of me—Mailer) (wearied of her husband's infidelities, and could not bear them any more—Rose Masefield)

Fatigue is stronger than tire and implies great lassitude brought on by overstrain or undue effort. It usually implies an incapacity for further strain or effort without damaging effects (I rested . . . in a shrubbery, in my enfeebled condition, too fatigued to push on—H. G. Wells) (she flung herself upon a sofa, protesting . . . that she was fatigued to death—Burney)

Exhaust (see also DEPLETE) heightens fatigue's implications of drained strength or a worn-out condition of mind or of body (she is too exhausted to sleep) (exhausted and addled by the frustration of their failures—Mailer) Jade implies weariness or fatigue that makes one lose all freshness, spirit, animation, or interest and become dull and languid. The term seldom carries as a clear suggestion of physical or mental overexertion as fatigue and often implies satey even more clearly than weary: it is especially useful when the implication of overindulgence in something or the overworking of a particular sense or faculty is to be conveyed (to minds jaded with debauches of overemphasis it does contrive to give a thrill—Montague) (to the jaded . . . eye it is all dead and common . . . flatness and disgust—James) Fag implies work until one droops with weariness or fatigue (I worked . . . at correcting manuscript, which fags me excessively—Scott) (with a gap for breath said, "Lord, what a run. I'm fagged to death"—Masefield) Tucker closely approaches fatigue or exhaust in meaning but sometimes carries the additional suggestion of loss of breath (too tuckered to finish a job—Leavitt) (seemed tuckered out from listening to long speeches—Dorothy Canfield)

Ana irk, vex, *anno, bother: *deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish, bankrupt

tireless *indefatigable, wearless, untriring, unwearying, unwearied, unflagging

Ana assiduous, sedulous, diligent, industrious, *busy: energetic, strenuous, *vigorous

tiresome *irksome, wearisome, tedious, boring

Ana oppressive, burdensome, *onorous, exacting: fatiguing, exhausting, jading, fagging (see TIRE vb): arduous, *hard, difficult

titanic *huge, vast, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, giganticol, colossal, gargantuan, Herculean, cyclopean, Brobdingnagian

title n 1 *claim, pretension, pretense

Ana *right, privilege, prerogative, birthright: *reason, ground, argument, proof: *due, desert, merit

2 *name, designation, denomination, appellation, style

titillate *particle, bit, mite, smidgen, whit, atom, iota, jot

toady n *parasite, sycophant, favorite, licksplitter, bootlicker, hanger-on, leech, sponge, sponge

toady vb *fawn, truckle, cringe, cower

Ana *follow, tag, trail, tail: blandish, cajole, wheedle (see COAX)

toboggan vb coast, *slide, slip, glide, skid, glissade, slither

tocin *alarm, alert

Ana signal, *sign

toil vb labor, *work, travail, drudgery, grind

Ana *effort, exertion, pains, trouble: employment, occupation, calling, pursuit, business (see WORK)

Ant leisure

token 1 *sign, mark, symptom, badge, note

Ana *symbol, emblem, attribute: *evidence, testimony: indication, proving or proof, betokening (see corresponding verbs at INDICATE)

2 *pledge, earnest, pawn, hostage

Ana *guarantee, guaranty, security, surety

3 *remembrance, remembrancer, reminder, memorial, memento, keepsake, souvenir

Ana *gift, present, favor

tolerance forbearance, leniency, indulgence, clemency, mercifulness (see under FORBEARING)

Ana *mercy, charity, grace, lenity: *patience, long-suffering, longanimity

Ant intolerance: loathing

tolerant *forbearing, lenient, indulgent, clement, merciful

Ana *charitable, benevolent, humane: forgiving, excusing, condoning (see EXCUSE vb)

Ant intolerant: severe

tolerantly *forbearingly, clemently, mercifully, leniently, indulgently (see under FORBEARING)

tolerate endure, abide, *bear, suffer, stand, brook

Ana accept, receive: submit, yield, bow, succumb

tone *color, hue, shade, tint, tinge

tongue *language, dialect, speech, idiom

tongue-lash vb upbraid, rate, berate, *scold, jaw, bawl, chew out, wig, rail, revile, vituperate

too *also, likewise, besides, moreover, furthermore

Ant *implement, instrument, appliance, utensil

Ana *device, contrivance, contraption, gadget: *machine, mechanism, apparatus: *mean, instrument, instrumentality, agent, agency

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

Theoretically the mouthpiece of the people. Practically an authoritarian state is so organized that the final determining authority is its head. Practically, it implies toleration of but one political party, the Fascists to power in 1922, became an authoritarian state; Germany, with the election of Hitler as Chancellor in 1933, became a totalitarian state.

Authoritarian

state.

Totalitarian

implies a type of governmental organization in which the government may be distributed for practical purposes, theoretically the mouthpiece of the people. Practically an authoritarian state is so organized that the final determining authority is its head. Practically, it implies toleration of but one political party, the Fascists to power in 1922, became an authoritarian state; Germany, with the election of Hitler as Chancellor in 1933, became a totalitarian state.

Totalitarian

often extends its control over the economic and cultural life of the people; thus, Italy, with the rise of Mussolini in democratic countries) in the people or in a representative body. No matter how the various powers vested in the government may be distributed for practical purposes, an authoritarian state is so organized that the final and determining authority is its head. Practically an authoritarian government, though professing political power, all political power is ultimately concentrated in the hands of an individual head (as a sovereign, a leader, or a dictator) and not (as in democratic countries) in the people or in a representative body. No matter how the various powers vested in the government may be distributed for practical purposes, an authoritarian state is so organized that the final and determining authority is its head. Practically an authoritarian government, though professing political power, often extends its control over the economic and cultural life of the people; thus, Italy, with the rise of Mussolini and the Fascists to power in 1922, became an authoritarian state; Germany, with the election of Hitler as Chancellor in 1933, became a totalitarian state.

Touch

vb 1 Touch, feel, palpate, handle, paw can all mean to lay the hand or fingers or an equally sensitive part of the body upon so as to get or produce a sensation often in examination or exploration. Touch usually stresses the act which leads to or produces the sensation or the resulting knowledge, but it does not invariably imply the act of placing a bodily part in contact with the object considered for it may suggest the use of an instrument which induces a specific sensation or produces another sensation (as of sounds heard) if you touch the baby he will awaken) or it may suggest an immaterial contact (it is essential that the College be strengthened in its enduring task of touching creatively the lives of those many who will study here—N. M. Pusey) Feel stresses the sensation induced or produced; usually it suggests a sensation on the part of the person touching but may connote a sensation on the part of the one touched (come near ... that I may feel thee, my son—Gen 27:21) the natural philosopher concerned himself with almost anything that he could see or hear or feel—Darrow) that all the saints and mystics say about the irradiation of the whole personality by the felt presence of the Holy Spirit—Inge Although touch and feel often connote examination or exploration, they do not throw the emphasis on that end; on the other hand, palpate (as well as the noun palpation), especially in medical use, stresses the feeling of the surface of a body, usually a human body, as a means of discovering the condition of organs that cannot be seen the doctor palpated the swollen mass and said no bone was broken) examine the condition of the abdominal organs by palpation having probed and prodded and palpated that tortured flesh until it was as familiar as his own—Styron Handle (see also handle, treat) implies a laying of the hands or fingers upon so as to get the feel of a thing, or a taking up into the hands so as to determine its qualities (as of weight, condition, or finish) by the sense of touch she insists upon handling cloth before she buys it handle this fur and feel its term is often used when the action is clumsy or offensive the inspectors pawing through his papers, consulting dusty books of regulations—W. S. Burroughs kept trying to kiss and hug and paw her Wouky

Ana

examine, inspect, scrutinize: investigate (see corresponding noun at inquiry) *affect, influence, impress, strike, sway

Ana

arouse, *stir: excite, stimulate, quicken (see provoke): *injure, harm, damage, hurt, impair

3 approach, rival, *match, equal

Touch

vb 2 *touch, tremble, quake, quaver, quiver, shiver, shudder, wobble, teeter, shimmy, dither

Ana

rock, agitate, *shake, convulse: sway, *swing, fluctuate, oscillate, waver

2 *reel, stagger, whirl

Ana

*stumble, lurch, blunder, flounder, trip

Touch

vb 1 Touch, feel, palpate, handle, paw can all mean to lay the hand or fingers or an equally sensitive part of the body upon so as to get or produce a sensation often in examination or exploration. Touch usually stresses the act which leads to or produces the sensation or the resulting knowledge, but it does not invariably imply the act of placing a bodily part in contact with the object considered for it may suggest the use of an instrument which induces a specific sensation or produces another sensation (as of sounds heard) if you touch the baby he will awaken) or it may suggest an immaterial contact (it is essential that the College be strengthened in its enduring task of touching creatively the lives of those many who will study here—N. M. Pusey) Feel stresses the sensation induced or produced; usually it suggests a sensation on the part of the person touching but may connote a sensation on the part of the one touched (come near ... that I may feel thee, my son—Gen 27:21) the natural philosopher concerned himself with almost anything that he could see or hear or feel—Darrow) that all the saints and mystics say about the irradiation of the whole personality by the felt presence of the Holy Spirit—Inge Although touch and feel often connote examination or exploration, they do not throw the emphasis on that end; on the other hand, palpate (as well as the noun palpation), especially in medical use, stresses the feeling of the surface of a body, usually a human body, as a means of discovering the condition of organs that cannot be seen the doctor palpated the swollen mass and said no bone was broken) examine the condition of the abdominal organs by palpation having probed and prodded and palpated that tortured flesh until it was as familiar as his own—Styron Handle (see also handle, treat) implies a laying of the hands or fingers upon so as to get the feel of a thing, or a taking up into the hands so as to determine its qualities (as of weight, condition, or finish) by the sense of touch she insists upon handling cloth before she buys it handle this fur and feel its term is often used when the action is clumsy or offensive the inspectors pawing through his papers, consulting dusty books of regulations—W. S. Burroughs kept trying to kiss and hug and paw her Wouky

Ana

examine, inspect, scrutinize: investigate (see corresponding noun at inquiry) *affect, influence, impress, strike, sway

Ana

arouse, *stir: excite, stimulate, quicken (see provoke): *injure, harm, damage, hurt, impair

3 approach, rival, *match, equal

Touch

vb 2 *touch, tremble, quake, quaver, quiver, shiver, shudder, wobble, teeter, shimmy, dither

Ana

rock, agitate, *shake, convulse: sway, *swing, fluctuate, oscillate, waver

2 *reel, stagger, whirl

Ana

*stumble, lurch, blunder, flounder, trip
contact with another, but in general it implies little more than an appreciable trace (in the air was a touch of frost—Galsworthy) (he was a very active lad, fair-haired, with a touch of the Dane or Norwegian about him—D. H. Lawrence) (occasionally the wrinkled serenity of her face became a touch grim—Styron) 

Suggestion implies an outward sign that is just enough to give one a hint or an inkling of the presence or existence of something he voice conveyed a suggestion of fear) (the taste of the fowl delicately dominant over the tart suggestion of Burgundy—Wouk) 

Suspicion and soupçon differ little from suggestion, but they tend to imply a fainter trace requiring more delicate perception or evoking less certainty (tea with a suspicion of brandy) (add a soupçon of red pepper) (just a suspicion . . . of saturnine or sarcastic humor—A. W. Ward) (a soupçon of army rank had slipped . . . insistently into his voice—Salinger) 

Tincture, tinge, and shade are terms used primarily in describing color. Tincture and tinge usually imply an admixture with something that gives the thing affected a faint cast or an appearance suggestive of a lightly suffused coloring (what he said had plausibility and perhaps a tincture of sincerity—Hackett) (both young men were Whigs of a radical tincture—Current History) (a subjective tinge entered into the nineteenth-century description of nature—Jeans) (eyes that . . . had some tinge of the oriental—Edmund Wilson) 

Shade implies enough of a trace to suggest the smallest possible degree of some quality; it usually derives its implications from the meaning of shade as a gradation in the darkening of a color (he smiled; in that smile there was a shade of patronage—Galsworthy) (eyes that were too small and a shade too close together—Dahl) (the distinction between French plums and stewed prunes is . . . not to be overlooked by those sensitive to these nice shades—Sackville-West) 

Smack, spice, and dash are used primarily in relation to the stimulation of the sense of taste. Smack suggests a trace which is pronounced enough or decided enough for one to savor it (the Saxon names of places, with the pleasant, wholesome smack of the soil in them—Arnold) 

Spice and dash suggest a slight admixture or infusion, especially such as gives zest, relish, or pungency (there was a spice of obstinacy about Miss Dale—Trollope) (a king of England should have a spice of the devil in his composition—Smollett) (he is a man with a dash of genius in him—Arnold) (his ancestry was chiefly English, with some Scotch and a dash of both French and Dutch—Kellogg) 

Vein, strain, and streak all suggest linearity and imply continuity though not necessarily evident continuity to the thing, usually a quality or condition, so designated. Vein applies to a trace that runs through a personality, a work, or a movement in the manner of a vein so that it lies below or within the substance or character of the thing as a whole and occasionally shows on the surface or crops out (in Swift he discovered an inimitable vein of irony—Johnson) (he had always had a vein of childish obstinacy—M. E. Freeman) 

Strain and streak can both denote a distinctive characteristic that runs through and modifies the whole of which it is a part (throughout the speech . . . ran a curious strain, as though he himself were dazed at the fix he had got himself into—Shirer) (They are used especially of a personal characteristic that is clearly distinguishable from or even contrasts sharply with the rest of one's qualities (a strain of eccentricity, amounting in some cases almost to insanity—L. P. Smith) (the streak of extreme stubbornness . . . was both his strength and his misfortune—Galbraith) (a streak of Indian blood in him—Long) 

Adj *trace, vestige: contamination, pollution, defilement, tainting (see corresponding verbs at CONTAMINATE): *impression, impress, imprint, stamp, print 

Touching affecting, *moving, impressive, poignant, pathetic 

Ana *tender, responsive, sympathetic, compassionate: *pitiful, piteous, pitiable 

Touchstone criterion, *standard, gauge, yardstick 

Ana test, proof, trial, demonstration (see under PROVE) 

Touchy *irascible, choleric, splenetic, testy, cranky, cross 

Ana *irritable, fractious, snappish, waspish, peevish: captious, caviling, faultfinding, carping (see CRITICAL) 

Ant imperturbable 

Tough tenacious, stout, sturdy, *strong, stalwart 

Ana resisting or resistant, withstand, opposing (see corresponding verbs at RESIST): *firm, hard: intractable, refractory, recalci- 

trant, headstrong (see UNRULY): dogged, pertinacious, *obstinate, stubborn 

Ant fragile 

tour n 1 shift, trick, turn, *spell, stint, bout, go 2 *journey, voyage, trip, cruise, expedition, jaunt, excursions, pilgrimage 

tow vb tug, haul, hale, *pull, draw, drag 

tower vb mount, ascend, soar, rocket, *rise, arise, levitate, surge 

toxic *poisonous, venomous, virulent, mephitic, pestilential, mesiasmic, mesiasmatic, miasmal 

Toxin *poison, venom, virus, bile 

toy vb *trifle, dally, flirt, coquet 

Ana *play, sport, disport, frolic: fondle, *caress, pet, cosset, cuddle, dandle 

Trace n Trace, vestige, track can all mean a visible or otherwise sensible sign left by something that has passed or has taken place. Trace basically applies to a line (as of footprints) or a rut made by someone or something that has passed (follow the traces of a deer through the snow) (the clear trace of a sleigh) (when the hounds of spring are on winter's traces—Swinburne) (The term is often extended to suggest a mark, whether material or immaterial, that is evidence of something that has happened or has influenced a person or thing (the child carefully removed the traces of jam from his mouth) (would tell him they had detected in the book some slight traces of a talent which . . . could be schooled to produce, in time, a publishable book—Wolfe) (the stimulation of violent emotions may leave permanent traces on the mind—Inge) 

Vestige may be preferred to trace when the reference is to something that remains or still exists to give evidence of or testimony to the existence of something in the past; it often applies to remains (as a fragment, a remnant, or a relic) that constitutes a tangible or sensible reminder of what has gone before (of this ancient custom no vestige remained—Gibbon) (the vestiges of some knowledge of Latin still appear . . . in his sentences—The Nation) (some embryonic organs neither disappear nor take on permanent function, but rather persist throughout life as vestiges—Arey) (a remote outpost, with only a vestige of its former commerce in livestock—P. E. James) 

Track has come to be used more often than trace in the sense of a line of perceptible marks, especially in hunting, where it also may mean the scent followed by the hounds, and in geology, where it usually means a line of fossilized footprints (the hounds are on the track of the fox) (the track of a dinosaur) (he could just discern the marks made by the little feet on the virgin snow, and he followed their track to the furze bushes—George Eliot) 

Ana *sign, mark, token 

Trace vb *sketch, outline, diagram, delineate, draft, plot, blueprint 

Ana copy, duplicate, reproduce (see corresponding nouns at reproduction): map, chart, graph (see under chart n)
track n *trace, vestige

trade n 1 Trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession are general terms which designate a pursuit followed as an occupation or means of livelihood and requiring technical knowledge and skill. Trade is applied chiefly to pursuits involving skilled manual or mechanical labor and the management of machinery or tools (the trade of a carpenter) a blacksmith's trade. He is a plumber by trade. Craft is not always clearly distinguished from trade, but it tends to be used of those pursuits that involve not only manual or mechanical labor but allow more or less freedom for the exercise of taste, skill, and ingenuity; many of the crafts were once or are still carried on independently in the small shop or home; thus, weaving, tailoring, and goldsmithing are often spoken of as crafts; the village shoemaker practised a craft, but the laster in a modern shoe factory follows a trade. Handicraft implies handwork and usually suggests dexterity in manipulation of instruments or of materials; in comparison with craft it tends to imply more definite independence from machinery and it more often applies to an activity carried on for other than purely economic reasons; thus, basket-making, embroidery, lacemaking, and bookbinding are handicrafts when carried out with the use of simple hand tools whether the products are primarily a source of livelihood or not. Art as applied to an occupation (compare art 1) implies the use of knowledge and skill by the practitioner and often comes very close to craft in such phrases as the manual arts, industrial arts, household arts, practical arts. But art, when unqualified, usually designates one of the creative pursuits (as painting or sculpture) that, whether practised as an occupation or an avocation, involve an elaborate technique, great skill, definite ends to be achieved, and the possession and exercise of highly personal creative judgment and taste. Further, art is so freely applicable to the general principles or underlying system of rules, methods, and procedures on which a trade or craft, or a creative pursuit, or a branch of learning or doing, or an aspect of human affairs is based, that it is often difficult, apart from the context, to determine whether the word denotes a pursuit or a technique (the art of navigation) the art of interior decorating (dancing as an art, a profession, an amusement—Ellis) the art of self-defense—Shaw. Literature is an art and therefore not to be pondered over, but practiced—Quiller-Couch. Profession is, in general, applied only to a pursuit that requires prolonged study and training before one is ready to follow it as a means of livelihood; the term also often implies that one has undergone tests of one's fitness and has won a degree or has given proof of one's qualifications and has been licensed to practice; it often also implies devotion to an end other than that of personal profit or the earning of a livelihood (law, medicine, architecture, and teaching are profession).
transfiguration transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification (see under TRANSFORM)

**transfiguration**

**transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transmogrify**

An *exalt, magnify: heighten, enhance, "intensify* transfiguration transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification (see under TRANSFORM)

**transfiguration**

**transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transmogrify** can all mean to turn or change one thing into another or a different thing or from one form into another and different form. In general, the same differences in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification, transfiguration. Transform may imply a mere changing of outward form or appearance (a Hunter senior *transformed* into a bride floating in a white brilliant mist, on the arm of an awkward trapped-looking young man—Wouk) (the placid sunshine... seems to have been transformed in a moment into impenetrable angry fire—Pater) or it may imply a basic changing of character, nature, or function (electrical energy into light) (to Samarcand... we owe the task of transforming linen into paper—Newman) (the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation—Russell) (too much organization transforms men and women into automatas—Huxley). Metamorphose may add implications not often present in transform such as that of a supernaturally or magically induced change (men were by the force of that herb *metamorphosed* into swine—Steele) or of a fundamental change in structure and habits that characterizes the development of some forms of animal life (the caterpillar is a larva which finally *metamorphoses* into a butterfly or moth) or of a transformation specifically induced by chemical or physical agencies (rocks *metamorphosed* by heat). In more general use the term carries a much stronger implication than transform of an abrupt, startling, or violent change (the little song... later *metamorphosed* into one of the noblest chorales—P. L. Miller) (a convention of maidenly modesty has *metamorphosed* many a fine woman into an embittered, disillusioned old maid—Kyne) (if you deny man his intelligence, you *metamorphose* him into a machine). Transmute usually suggests a fundamental change, especially one involving a metamorphosis of a lower element or thing into a higher one (a simple romantic narrative transmuted by sheer glor or beauty into a prose poem—Galsworthy) (Shakespeare, too, was occupied with the struggle—which alone constitutes life for a poet—to *transmute* his personal and private agones into something rich and strange, something universal and impersonal—T. S. Eliot) (in order to transmogrify can all mean to turn or change one thing into another or a different thing or from one form into another and different form. In general, the same differences in implications and connotations are observable in the corresponding nouns transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification, transfiguration. Transform may imply a mere changing of outward form or appearance (a Hunter senior *transformed* into a bride floating in a white brilliant mist, on the arm of an awkward trapped-looking young man—Wouk) (the placid sunshine... seems to have been transformed in a moment into impenetrable angry fire—Pater) or it may imply a basic changing of character, nature, or function (electrical energy into light) (to Samarcand... we owe the task of transforming linen into paper—Newman) (the task of transforming a heterogeneous selection of mankind into a homogeneous nation—Russell) (too much organization transforms men and women into automatas—Huxley). Metamorphose may add implications not often present in transform such as that of a supernaturally or magically induced change (men were by the force of that herb *metamorphosed* into swine—Steele) or of a fundamental change in structure and habits that characterizes the development of some forms of animal life (the caterpillar is a larva which finally *metamorphoses* into a butterfly or moth) or of a transformation specifically induced by chemical or physical agencies (rocks *metamorphosed* by heat). In more general use the term carries a much stronger implication than transform of an abrupt, startling, or violent change (the little song... later *metamorphosed* into one of the noblest chorales—P. L. Miller) (a convention of maidenly modesty has *metamorphosed* many a fine woman into an embittered, disillusioned old maid—Kyne) (if you deny man his intelligence, you *metamorphose* him into a machine). Transmute usually suggests a fundamental change, especially one involving a metamorphosis of a lower element or thing into a higher one (a simple romantic narrative transmuted by sheer glor or beauty into a prose poem—Galsworthy) (Shakespeare, too, was occupied with the struggle—which alone constitutes life for a poet—to *transmute* his personal and private agones into something rich and strange, something universal and impersonal—T. S. Eliot) (in order to transmute energy to higher and more subtle levels one must first conserve it—Henry Miller) (Convert carries a slighter suggestion of change in kind, nature, or structure than the preceding terms but a stronger one of such changes in details or properties as fit something for a given use or function or for a new use or function (*convert iron into steel*) (nature *converts* the fallen trunks of trees into coal) (having conducted their lame guest to a room in the Georgian corridor hastily *converted* to a bedroom—Galsworthy) (every possible industry was *converted* to produce war goods—Morris Sayre) (that a new seam of richest material has been opened up and that poets are learning how to *convert* that raw material to their own uses—Day Lewis) Transmogrify implies a thorough-going metamorphosis that is often grotesque, bewildering, or even preposterous (see Social life and Glee sit down, all joyous and unthinking, till, quite transmogrified, they're grown Debauchery and Drinking—Burns) (wondering how the caricatured capitalism of his forebears can be transmogrified into a harmonious... way of life—Current Biol.) (the classical heroes and heroines were transmogrified by medieval knights and ladies—Lowes) Transfigure is often interchangeable with transform or metamorphose (her face was transfigured by uncontrollable passion—Bennett) but more typically it suggests an exaltation or glorification of the outward appearance (Jesus... was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun—Mt 17:1-2) (if she be guilty, 'twill transform her to manifest deformity... if innocent, she will become transfigured into an angel—Shelley) (the moment when good verse... is transfigured into a thing that takes the breath away—Day Lewis) *Ana* *change, alter, modify, vary* transformation metamorphosis, transmutation, conversion, transmogrification, transfiguration (see under TRANSFORM)

**transfiguration**

**transient**

*change, alteration, modification, variation (see under CHANGE vb): evolution, *development* transgression trespass, violation, infraction, *breach, infringement, contravention

**transfiguration**

**transient adj** Transient, transitory, passing, ephemeral, momentary, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, short-lived are comparable when they mean lasting or staying only for a short time. Transient and transitory are often used as if they were interchangeable; but transient more frequently applies to what is actually short in its duration or stay (the summer hotel does not take transient guests) (transient sorrows—Wordsworth) (an ancient folk tradition whose transient resting-place was the Bronx—Geismar) and transitory, like its close synonym passing, to what is by its nature or essence bound to change, pass, or come to an end sooner or later (objects of sense... are transitory and ephemeral—Thilly) (wise men will apply their remedies to... the causes of evil which are permanent, not to... the transitory modes in which they appear—Burke) (a passing fancy) (the confounding of the Passing with the Permanent—Austin) Ephemeral may imply existence for only a day (ephemeral insects) (ephemeral flowers) In extended use, it implies marked shortness of life or of duration (as of influence or appeal) (jazz is perishable, ephemeral, elusive—Ballett) Momentary implies duration for a moment or a similar very short time (a momentary irritation—Hardy) Fugitive and fleeting apply to what passes swiftly, and is gone; but fugitive carries a stronger implication of the difficulty of catching or fixing (oh joy!... that nature yet remembers what was so fleeting—Austin)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
transitory 831 trap

gitive!—Wordsworth) \(\textit{both crucifix and river . . . offered contentment and poignant, fugitive hints of another world—Styron}\) and fleeting, of the impossibility of holding back or restraining from flight \(\textit{a calm and studious expression, but touched with a curious, fleeting light of triumph—Styron}\) \(\textit{a fleeting wisdom told her that . . . one does not love another for his good character—Hervey}\) Evansean
t implies momentariness, but it stresses quick and complete vanishing, and it usually connotes a delicate, fragile, or airy quality \(\textit{Evanescent visitsations of thought and feeling . . . arising unforeseen and departing unbidden—Shelley}\) \(\text{all was unstable; quivering as leaves, evanescent as lightning—Hardy}\) \(\text{it is poetry of the most evanescent type, so tenuous in thought and feeling that only the most \textit{exquisite\} dict can justify its perpetuation in cold print—Grant
dge}\) Short-lived implies extreme brevity of life or existence often of what might be expected to last or live longer \(\textit{Short-lived fame}\) \(\textit{their satisfaction was short-lived}\) \(\textit{trade unions have pressed their demands regardless of the fact that sellers’ market conditions would be short-lived—The Scotsman}\) \(\text{Ant} \textit{perpetual — Con} \textit{*lasting, permanent, perdurable, stable, durable}\)

transitory \*transient, passing, ephemeral, momentary, fugitive, fleeting, evanescent, short-lived \(\text{Ant} \textit{everlasting}; \textit{perpetual}\)

translation, version, paraphrase, metaphor can all denote a restating in intelligible language of the meaning or sense of a passage or work or the passage or work that is the product of such a restatement. Translation implies a turning from one language into another \(\text{English translations of the Bible}\) \(\text{a literal translation}\) \(\text{translation is an art that involves the re-creation of a work in another language, for readers with a different background—Malcolm Cowley} \textit{Version} (see also ACCOUNT 2) may be used in place of \textit{translation} especially to imply a rendering that adheres rather to the spirit than to a literal translating of the original \(\text{the year 1632 saw a complete version of the Aeneid by Vicars—Conington} \textit{but often it is used to denote one of the translations of a given work, and especially of the Bible (the Authorized or King James Version) (the Douay Version} is used by English-speaking Roman Catholics) \textit{Paraphrase} may apply to a very free translation the purpose of which is to present the meaning rather than the phrasing of a passage or work \textit{a translation must be a paraphrase} to be readable—FitzGerald\)

It may apply also to an imitation with enough changes to obscure its indebtedness to an original in another tongue \(\text{[Latin] plays which were not paraphrases from the Greek—Buchan}\) Commonly, however, the term denotes a free, amplified, and often, interpretable rendering of the sense of a difficult passage in the same language \(\text{write a paraphrase of Milton’s Lycidas}\) \(\text{paraphrases of the Psalms in the Authorized Version}\) \textit{Metaphrase} is occasionally used by learned writers to denote a translation that is almost slavishly faithful to the original \(\text{is often called a \textit{literal translation}}\) to distinguish it from a \textit{paraphrase}\) or free translation \(\text{the way I have taken [in a translation of the Aeneid] is not so straight as \textit{metaphrase}, nor so loose as \textit{paraphrase—Dryden}\}

translucent lucid, pellucid, diaphanous, limpid, \*clear, transparent \(\text{Ana} \textit{luminous, radiant, brilliant, effulgent, \*bright: iridescent, opalescent, \*prismatic}\)

transmit 1 forward, remit, route, ship, \*send, dispatch 2 \*carry, bear, convey, transport \(\text{Ana} \textit{move, remove, shift, transfer: \*communicate, impart: propagate, breed, engender, \*generate transmogrification transformation, metamorphosis, trans-

mutation, conversion, transfiguration (see under TRANS-FORM) \textit{transmogrify} \*transform, metamorphose, transmute, convert, transfigure \textit{transmutation} transformation, metamorphosis, conversion, transmogrification, transfiguration (see under TRANS-FORM) \textit{transmute} \*transform, metamorphose, convert, transmogrify, transfigure \textit{transparent} \*clear, lucid, pellucid, diaphanous, translucent, limpid \(\text{Ant} \textit{opaque — Con} \textit{*turbid, muddy, roily transpire \*happen, occur, chance, befall, betide transport vb 1 \*carry, bear, convey, transway} \(\text{Ana} \textit{*move, move, shift, transfer: \*bring, fetch, take 2 Transport, ravish, enrapture, entrance can all mean to carry away by strong and usually pleasurable emotion. Transport need not suggest that the transporting emotion is joy or delight: it may be an emotion (as rage, amazement, fear, or wonder) strong enough to exceed ordinary limits; usually, the term implies excessive agitation or excitement (the test of greatness in a work of art is . . . that it transports us—Read} \textit{transported with rage}\)

Ravish can imply a seizure by emotion and in this use is typically an emphatic term for a being filled with joy or delight \(\text{his eye was ravished by a thin sunshine of daffodils spread over a meadow—Clementine Dane}\) \(\text{a sound of angelic chimes infinitely ravishing to my senses—Sabatini}\) \(\text{I was given my first taste of music in the high sense, and never, surely, could a youth from a small country town have been more ravished by such an experience—Hall}\) \textit{Enrapture} basically implies a putting into a state of rapture and typically suggests an intense, even ecstatic, delight, often in one of the arts \(\text{he is enrapturing us with his extraordinary powers to make us see and feel beauty—Weltly}\) \(\text{he may never achieve a full understanding of the medium of the art that enraptures him—Tassovin}\) But sometimes \textit{enrapture} stresses the bemusing aspect of rapture and then tends to suggest a bedazzling and often a suppressing of the powers of clear thinking \(\text{gives him a weary skepticism before the 

enraptured claims—Schlesinger b. 1917}\) \(\text{[his] personality simply has not enraptured the voters—Rowland Evans & Robert Novak} \textit{Entrance} implies a throwing into a state of mind resembling a trance; it usually suggests simply has not entranced into a state of mind resembling a trance; it usually suggests 

entranced with this reverent gesture . . . her tentative approval of her cousin settled into awed respect—Baily y \textit{he felt his head whirl. Her complete abandon was entrances—Buck}\) \textit{the beauty of the land entranced them—Ballyl} \(\text{Ana} \textit{quicken, stimulate, excite, \*provoke: agitate, upset, perturb (see DISCOMPOSE): \*lift, elevate 3 deport, \*banish, exile, expatriate, ostracize, extradite \textit{Ana} \textit{expel, \*ject, oust transport n \*ecstasy, rapture \(\text{Ana} \textit{enthusiasm, \*passion, fervor, ardor: \*inspiration, fury, frenzy: bliss, beatitude, blessedness, felicity, \*happiness} \textit{transpose} \*reverse, invert \(\text{Ana} \textit{exchange, interchange: transfer, shift (see MOVE) trap n \*lure, bait, decoy, snare \(\text{Ana} \textit{stratagem, ruse, \*trick, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, wile, feint: \*ambush, ambuscade: intrigue, machination, \*plot, conspiracy trap vb \*entrap, snare, ensnare, bag, \*catch, capture \textit{Ana} \textit{seize, \*take, clutch, grasp: betray, beguile, delude (see DECEIVE) \n
Ana} \textit{analogous words} \textit{Ant} \textit{antonyms} \textit{Con} \textit{contrasted words} See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
she calls their privacy—Basso—

Ana *intrude, obtrude, interlope, butt in: interfere, intervene, interpose

**trial** 1 test, proof, demonstration (see under PROVE)

Ana inspection, examination, scanning, scrutiny (see under SCRUTINIZE): *process, proceeding, procedure

2 **Trial, tribulation, affliction, visitation, cross** are comparable when they denote suffering, misery, or unhappiness regarded as an infliction which cannot be escaped or avoided. **Trial** implies a trying (as of one's endurance, patience, self-control, courage, or power to resist temptation). The word is applicable not only to distressing situations or conditions but to persons or things that cause distress or annoyance (the trials and tribulations of traveling over desert—T. D. Clark) he has always been a trial to his parents (hotels are a trial of both spirit and flesh—Peffer) **Tribulation**, when not completely interchangeable with trial, heightens the emphasis on the suffering or anguish involved in trial (out of this time of trial and tribulation will be born a new freedom and glory for all mankind—Sir Winston Churchill) and often connotes divinely permitted suffering as a test of virtue (the just shall . . . after all their tribulations long, see golden days—Milton) **Affliction** stresses the implication of imposed suffering that challenges one's powers of endurance; the term need not suggest a relation between suffering and deserts (if severe afflictions borne with patience merit the reward of peace, peace ye deserve—Wordsworth) the dark and senseless afflictions of a night—in—Kenneth Roberts) **Visitation** heightens the implications of affliction by stressing the severity of suffering and by suggesting an ordeal; distinctively it often connotes retribution or retributive justice (many people regarded the disastrous flood as a visitation) woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation—Jer 1:27) **Cross** in its applications closely parallels trial and tribulation but it may differ from them in its implications of suffering accepted and borne for the sake of a larger, unselfish good rather than as a test of character (leaving her . . . solemnly elate at the recognition of the cross on which she must agonize for the happiness of some other soul—Deland) the word often directly alludes to the words of Jesus to the rich young man: “Come, take up the cross, and follow me” as recorded in the Gospel according to Mark, or to his own carrying of the cross to the place of his crucifixion.

Ana *distress, suffering, misery, agony: *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe, heartbreak: *misfortune, adversity: *difficulty, hardship, vicissitude, rigor

**tribulation** **trial, affliction, visitation, cross**

Ana oppression, persecution, wrongdoing or wrong (see corresponding verbs at wrong): *sorrow, grief, anguish, woe: *distress, suffering, misery, agony

Ant consolatory

**tributary** adj *subordinate, secondary, dependent, subject, inferior, collateral

Ana conquered, vanquished, subjugated, subdued (see conqueror): *auxiliary, subsidiary, ancillary, adjuvant, contributory

**tribute** n *encomium, eulogy, panegyric, citation

**trick** n 1 Trick, ruse, stratagem, maneuver, gambit, ploy, artifice, wile, feint are comparable when they mean an act or an expedient whereby one seeks to gain one’s ends by indirectness and ingenuity and often by cunning. **Trick** implies cheating or deceiving and often evil intention (tricks and devices to conceal evasions and violations of ethical principles—Wagner) she could not be entirely sure that . . . he was not after all merely using a trick to get rid of her—Bennett) The word may, however, imply nothing more than roguishness or playfulness and be used to designate an antic, a prank, a practical joke, or a harmless hoax (the brothers often pull one another’s legs on their sisters) the tricks of the clowns in a circus

It may also be applied to a dexterous device or contrivance that pleases, persuades, deludes, or evokes surprise or wonder (an auctioneer who knows all the tricks of his trade) the illusion in the theater is often accomplished by tricks of lighting (that idle trick of making words jingle which men of Nuflo’s class in my country so greatly admire—Hudson) **Ruse** implies an attempt to give a false impression (as by diverting others’ attention from one’s real purposes or by making what is untrue seem true) her “falling” through the glass skyscraper . . . must be construed by him as a form of reckless intrepidity, the hardened ruse of a dyed-in-the-wool newspaper woman—Purdy) a favorite ruse of the opium smugglers was to insert a hypodermic needle into an egg, withdraw carefully all the albumen and then refill the cavity with opium—Heiser) **Stratagem**, though commonly applied to a ruse by which an advantage is gained over an enemy (as by outwitting or surprising him), is not restricted to military operations; in extended use it implies a clear objective such as entrapping or circumventing and a more or less elaborate plan for achieving one’s end (on our guard against the stratagems of evil rhetoric—R. M. Weaver) some women . . . are driven to every possible trick and stratagem to entrap some man into marriage—Shaw) M. Weaver usually suggests tactics or handling and employing of troops or ships for the accomplishment of definite ends. In extended use it commonly implies adroit or dexterous manipulation of persons or things (the Longbourn party were the last of all the company to depart, and, by a maneuver of Mrs. Bennet, had to wait for their carriage a quarter of an hour after everybody else was gone—Austen) It may, however, be applied to a single strategic move comparable to one in a game of chess (unless indeed, all her talk of flight had been a blind, and her departure no more than a maneuver—Wharton) **Gambit** in chess denotes an opening that risks a pawn or minor piece to gain an advantage in position; in extended use it can apply to a device that is intended or serves to launch a conversation (opened, safely as I thought, with the gambit of inquiring whether present conditions were satisfactory—Jeremy Potter) he could not, if he had pondered conversational gambits for an hour, have hit on a more successful one—Day Lewis) always carried turtle eggs in his pockets and bounced them on bars as a conversational gambit—Bergen Evans) Perhaps more often the advantage-gaining aspect of the basic meaning of gambit is stressed, and the term is applied to a trick or tactic designed to gain its user a competitive advantage often by harassing or embarrassing an opponent (from the Russian point of view it is no mere diplomatic gambit to keep Germany weak and disunited: it is a doctrine of defense—Harold Nicolson) if a stranger just ahead drops a rose, don’t take it, unless opening gambit of the oldest trick in the world—Aldor) to avoid the multitude of taxes and assessments, the standard gambit of the peasant was to “dress poor” and “talk poor”—Idzerda) nobody could be sure whether his anti-market talk was real, or simply a Gaullist gambit designed to enhance the French bargaining position—Scheingold) **Ploy** carries a suggestion of finesse and often of roguishness and can come very close to the last-mentioned value of gambit (this summer’s ploy in the game of oneupmanship, is to holiday in Europe without doing the great museums. . . little out-of-the-way museums and provincial churches are admissible. But to
score special points one must visit really distinguished colle-
ctions in private houses—Genauer (perhaps the most
collected in modern money at annual meetings is im-
portant ideas on how the business should be run—Wall
Street Jour. or it can be used of an individual maneu-
ver in the development of a gambit (subplots or in-
dividual maneuvers of a gambit are usually referred to as
plays—Stephan Potter) However in their common con-
joined use gambit and play are seldom distinguishable
(demonstrates his Gamesmanship technique for inducing
embarrassment and discomfort, and offers plays and
gambits for use against such rivals as fishing companions,
wine experts, and fellow club members—New Yorker)
among the plays and gambits the President may have used
in the process were the White House breakfast... the
fireside chat... the press conference... the dangled
patronage—Rossiter) Artifice suggests the employment
of devices or contrivances; it usually connotes ingenuity,
but it need not connot an intent to deceive or overreach
(by the artifices by which friends endeavor to spare one
another’s feelings—Shaw) (he was witnessing a remark-
able performance? No! show of artifice... but a genuine
creative effort—Hervey) Wile usually suggests an attempt
to entrap or ensnare by allurements or by false and
deceptive appearances; it may connote slyness and im-
posture, but it often suggests coquetry or an attempt to
calm (the Devil was helping him and made him sly and
foxier than the fox with all the wiles, and the cunning,
and the craftiness—Fareley) (he was no longer a mild old man
to be worked on by the wiles of engaging youth, but a
stern-spoken person in high authority—Archibald Mar-
shall) Feint basically applies to a thrust (as of a rapier or a fist) seemingly directed at one part of an opponent’s
body but actually designed to divert his attention and his
guards away from the part at which it is really aimed. In
extended use the term commonly implies the employment
of a stratagem or maneuver which distracts attention from
one’s actual intention until it is accomplished (I love to
think the leaving us was just a feint—Browning) (smiled
a little embarrassedly at his colleague who, whether in
feint or truth, was too occupied to take a part—Terry
Southern) (believed the dropping of parachutists was
merely an Allied feint to cover their main landings—Shirer)
Ana *imposture, deceit, deception, counterfeit, humbug, fake, cheat, fraud; *fun, jest, sport, game, play
2 turn, tour, shift, *spell, stint, bout, go
trick vb gull, befoul, hoax, *dupe, hoodwink, bamboozle
Ana *deceive, delude, beguile, mislead: outwit, circum-
vent (see FRUSTRATE): cajole, wheedle, blandish, *coax
trickery *deception, double-dealing, chicanery, chicaner, fraud
Ana, *deceit, dissimulation, guile, cunning, duplicity:
*imposture, cheat, fraud, sham, fake, humbug, counterfeit
tricky crafty, foxy, insidious, cunning, *sly, wily, guileful, artful
Ana *crocked, devious, oblique: deceptive, delusive,
*misleading, delusory: deceitful, dishonest
tried *reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty
Ana staunch, steadfast, constant, *faithful: proved, demonstrated, tested (see PROVE)
trifle, toy, daily, flirt, coquet can all mean to deal with a
person or thing without seriousness, earnestness, close
attention, or purpose. Trifle, the most comprehensive
term of the group, may be used interchangeably with any
of the others, implying any of such varied attitudes as
playfulness, unconcern, indulgent contempt, or light
amorosity (dabbled in poetry, delivered ironical orton-
does... trifled with some of the radical doctrines then
current—Lerner) (knows when to be serious and when to
trifle, and he has a sure tact which enables him to
trifle with gracefulness and to be serious with effect—Newman)
she began to trifle with plans of retirement, of playing
in Paris, of taking a theatre in London, and other whims
—Shaw) Toy implies a dealing with a person or thing
in a way that keeps one pleasantly occupied but does not
engage one’s full attention or evoke serious intention
(since Plutarch, innumerable hands have toyed with his
historical biography, but not until our time has it become
perfected as an art form—Mandel) (he lapsed into be-
om observer of life, toying on the margin of women
and politics—Lowenthal) (there is evidence that Au-
gustus, like Julius, toyed with the idea of giving the
Assemblies greater power and making them representa-
tive of the whole body of citizens in Italy—Buchan)
Daily stresses indulgence in something (as thoughts or
plans) as a pastime or amusement rather than as leading
to something definite or serious; it usually retains some
hint of deliberate dawdling, the notion predominant in anoth-
er’s senses (dallied with him, and liked him well enough,
but there was a certain glittering catch on her horizon—
Kathleen Fitzpatrick) Poetry... is not a mere exercise in
fancy, not a dallying with pretty little nothings—
Kilby (for so, to interpose a little ease, let our frail
thoughts dally with false surmise—Milton) Flirt, which
in several of its senses implies quick Jerky movement,
in this extended use stresses vagrancy and superficiality
of interest, attention, or liking and often a tendency to
pass heedlessly from one person or concern to another
(German leaders were flirting with the idea of a deal
with Russia—Time) (the bright young people flirting
with new isms—O’Hearon) (afraid to have either war or
peace with the enemy, we flirt with both prospects—
Ascoli) Coquet primarily refers to a trifling in love,
such as is characteristic of a flirtatious woman (she
coquettied with the solid husbands of her friends, and
with the two or three bachelors of the town—Dorothy
Parker) but it is also used in reference to things which catch one’s
interest but with which one will not come fairly to terms
(there were none of those external indications of Christ-
mas which are so frequent at “good” Jewish houses...Mrs. Henry Goldenst did not countenance these coquet-
tings with Christianity—Zangwill)
Ana palter, fib, equivocate, prevaricate, *lie: waver,
vacillate, falter, *hesitate: dawdle (see DELAY)
trifling trivial, *petty, puny, paltry, measly, picayunish,
trite, trite
triumph

once effective idea or expression in writing or art or a dramatic plot, lacking the power to evoke attention or interest because it lacks freshness. Trie applies to something spoiled by too long familiarity with it and suggests commonplaceness or total lack of power to impress (the foregoing remarks doubtless sound 

triumph

trite

tromp

troubadour

trouble

truce

Analogous words

Antonyms

Con contradicted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
cease-fire permanent—*U. N. Bulletin*) but more often it implies a cessation of hostilities for an indefinite period of time with the warring parties, typically in a state of military readiness, remaining in the positions they held at the time hostilities ceased or withdrawing a short distance to create a demilitarized zone and without the implication of a permanent peaceful settlement (the fighting should be stopped by an armistice agreement. A cease-fire leaving opposing forces where they now are would be unsatisfactory—*Tillman Durdin*) (press for a reduction in the military strength of the parties holding the cease-fire line—*U. N. Background Papers*) Cease-fire may additionally suggest the intercession of a neutral party in securing the cessation of hostilities (had two weeks in which to persuade Nationalists and Communists to quit shooting at each other before sitting down together; he arranged a cease-fire just 30 minutes before the conference began—*Time*) (cease-fire arrangements by the United Nations—*Landis*) and in supervising its observance (contribute contingents to the United Nations for...the supervision of agreed cease-fires—*Munro*) Armistice (in full, general armistice) basically applies to a formal agreement at the highest level for the laying down of arms and a suspension of military operations; though it does not ordinarily suggest a permanent state, it does commonly imply one that persists either indefinitely or until termination of hostilities by a peace treaty (can armistice is a written agreement, usually between the highest authorities of the warring powers, which suspends military operations for a definite or indefinite period of time....A General Armistice is broader in scope, embodying both military and political principles and usually precedes peace negotiations—*Coast Artillery Jour.*) (no treaty followed the armistice, which was never more than an imperfect cease-fire—*Liebling*) But sometimes armistice (in full, local armistice) applies to a merely local or temporary suspension and is then indistinguishable from truce in a similar sense (an armistice is an agreement for the general cessation of active hostilities between two or more belligerents. Distinguished from general armistices are arrangements for a short-term or partial suspension of arms called local armistice or truce which may be made between commanders in the field, for a variety of purposes such as burying the dead. General armistices are made by commanders in chief, usually pursuant to political decision of the governments concerned. An armistice does not put an end to the state of war—*Gross*) In its occasional extended use armistice usually stresses the temporariness and uncertainty of the state (he had learned to live in the land and had established an uneasy armistice between himself and the hostility of rocks and elements—*Mowat*) Peace (compare peaceable and peaceful under Pacific) can denote a state of mutual concord between governments or more specifically the state resulting from the termination of hostilities (if ever there is to be a peace which is not an armistice, men must learn to live at least as well as they now know how to die—*J. M. Brown*) (today there is a truce in Korea. After 3 years of hostilities, we are now in the first year of an armed peace—*Eisenhower*) or it can apply to an agreement by which such a state is attained (the purpose of some overtures, it could be foreseen, would be to test out Allied solidarity by offering a tempting separate peace to one or the other—*Feis*) (the severely punitive peace...which the Allies attempted to impose upon Turkey—*Kennan*) Unlike the other terms to truce imputes permanence or an intention of permanence to the state of or the agreement for suspension of hostilities (Adler says flatterly that there can be no peace between sovereign states; at best there can be nothing more than an uneasy "truce," a period of jockeying and diplomatic cheating preliminary to the next outbreak of armed conflict—*Time*)

trust 1 *faithful, loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute*

trust 2 *real, actual*

Ana genuine, *authentic, veritable, bona fide: exact, precise, *correct, right: typical, natural, *regular*

trust 


truism *commonplace, platitudinous, bromide, cliché*

truckle *fawn, toady, cringe, cower*

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

try

trustworthy

truth, veracity, verity, verisimilitude

try vb 1 test, *prove, demonstrate
Ana *judge, adjudge, adjudicate: inspect, examine, * scrutinize
2 afflict, torment, torture, rack
Ana *worry, harass, harry, plague, pester; *trouble, distress; irk, vex, bother, *annoy
3 attempt, endeavor, essay, struggle
Ana *aim, aspire: *intend, mean, propose, purpose, design

turbid

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
turbulence, but a superb artist—J. D. Adams—(the muddy and slow-moving plot has something to do with spying and counterspying—H. H. Holmes) Roily describes something which is turbid and agitated (where the roily Monongahela meets the clear Allegheny—Weed) (the human rubble...washed up by the roily wake of the war—Woodburn)

Ana obscure, *dark, murky: *dirty, foul, nasty

Turbulence *commotion, agitation, tumult, turmoil, commotion, confusion, convolution, upheaval

Ana *din, uproar, babel, pandemonium: agitation, perturbation, disturbance (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE)

Turgid tumid, *inflated, flattened

Ana expanded, distended, amplified, swollen (see expand): magniloquent, grandiloquent, *rhetorical, bombastic

Tumult *commotion, agitation, tumult, turbulence, commotion, convolution, upheaval

Ana agitation, disquiet, disturbance, perturbation (see corresponding verbs at DISCOMPOSE): restlessness, nervousness, uneasiness, jitteriness (see corresponding adjectives at IMPATIENT)

Turn vb 1 Turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, twirl, whirl, wheel, eddy, swirl, pirouette can all mean to go or move or cause to go or move in a circle. Turn is a general rather colorless word implying movement in circle after circle or in a single full circle or through an arc of a circle. It is interchangeable with most of the other terms in their less specific uses (a wheel turning on its axle) (turned to speak to his friend) Revolve may suggest regular circular motion on an orbit around something exterior to the item in question (the earth revolves around the sun) It may refer to the dependence of the less important, the secondary, on something cardinal or pivotal which resolves or determines (though local questions, such as the State Bank and state aid to railroads, gave rise to sharp contests, politics usually revolved around national questions—A. B. Moore) (everything in that house revolved upon Aunt Mary—Deland) Rotate is likely to suggest a circular motion on an interior axis within the thing under consideration which may be not moving otherwise (the earth rotates on its axis while it revolves in its orbit) Gyrate may suggest the regularity of revolve, but it is more likely to be used to indicate a fluctuating or swinging back and forth which describes circular or spiral patterns (stocks gyrated dizzyly on uncertainty over the foreign situation—Wall Street Jour.) (a low cloud of dust raised by the dog gyrating madly about—Conrad) Circle basically applies to a movement around in a more or less circular pattern, but it can also be used with reference to a lack of straight directness in a winding course (a flock of black ibises circled high overhead wheeling endlessly on the ascending air currents—Dillon Ripley) (the essayist's license to circle and meander—Wood) or, specifically, to a curved or arched course followed in avoiding something (the soldiers were circling homewards in high spirits at a safe distance from the war area—Walm) Spin implies rapid sustained rotation on an inner axis or fast circling around an exterior point (he who but ventures into the outer circle of the whirlpool is spinning, ere he has time for thought, in its dizzy vortex—Bayard Taylor) Twirl can add to the ideas of spin those of dexterity, lightness, or easy grace (this book...I toss in the air, and catch again, and twirl about—Browning) Whirl stresses force, power, speed, and impetus of rotary or circular motion (and collections of opaque particles whirled to shore by the eddies—Bartram) (the withered leaves had gathered violence in pursuit, and were whirling after her like a bevy of witches—Glasgow) Wheel may suggest either going in a circular or twisted course or turning on an arc or curve to a new course (a familiar sight is the turkey vulture wheeling against the skies to the north—Amer. Guide Series: Ariz.) (she had crossed the threshold to the porch, when, wheeling abruptly, she went back into the hall—Glasgow) Eddy suggests the circular movement, sometimes fast, sometimes slow, of an eddy; it may be used in situations involving direction, futility, or collision from main currents (as the smoke slowly eddied away—Crane) (the dead leaves which edded slowly down through the windless calm—West) (waves of friends and reporters eddied through the... . . . apartment—Time) Swirl suggests more rapidity, flow, or graceful attractiveness than eddy (further than ever comet flared or vagrant star dust swirled—Kipling) (the black water was running like a millrace and raising a turbulent coil as it swirled and tossed over the ugly heads of jutting rocks—Costain) (her dark hair swirled about her face—Helen Howe) Pirouette suggests the light graceful turning of a ballet dancer (ashes pirouetted down, coquetting with young beeches—Tennyson)

Ana *swing, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate, pendulate, undulate

2 Turn, divert, deflect, avert, shear are comparable when they mean to change or cause to change course or direction. Turn is the most comprehensive of these words and the widest in its range of application. It may be used in reference to any change in course or direction of something movable, no matter how small or how large an arc is traversed, but it usually requires qualification (here the river turns slightly to the north) (the turn of the car just in time to avoid a collision) (the force of the impact turned the boat completely around) It may also be used in reference to something (as things that show a drift, a bent, or a tendency or persons or things that can respond to an influence) which follows a figurative course or proceeds in a definite direction (turn the conversation to livelier topics) (turn public opinion against a person) (turn an enemy into a friend) (even the younger men had turned against me—Yeats) (in his need his thoughts turned to the sea which had given him so much...congenial solitude—Conrad) Divert may be preferred to turn when there is an implication of an imposed change in an existent or a natural course or direction (divert a river by providing a new channel) (the unfounded belief that a lightning rod is capable of diverting lightning from a building it is about to strike) (the machinery of our economic life has been diverted from peace to war—Attlee) When used in reference to a person's concerns (as thoughts, interests, attention, or intentions) it often presupposes mental concentration, fixity of attention, or resoluteness of purpose; therefore, when an attempt to alter the situation (as by distracting, dissuading, or sidetracking) is to be suggested, divert is the appropriate word (hard to divert his attention when he is engrossed in study) (had I spoke with her, I could have well diverted her interests—Shak) (could France or Rome divert our brave designs, with all their brandies or with all their wines?—Pope) Deflect, in contrast to divert, implies a turning (as by bouncing, refracting, or ricocheting) from a straight course or a fixed direction (deflect a ray of light by passing it through a prism) (deflect a magnetic needle) In its more usual usage it is a reference to thoughts, purposes, or interests that pursue a rigid or clearly defined course or direction; consequently the word sometimes connotes deviation or aberration (he underwent all those things— but none of them deflected his purpose—Bellow) (after
type n 1 *symbol, emblem, attribute
Ana *sign, mark, token: intimation, suggestion (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST 1): adumbration, shadowing (see corresponding verbs at SUGGEST 2)
Ant antitype
2 Type, kind, sort, stripe, kidney, ilk, description, nature, character are comparable when they denote a number of individuals thought of as a group or class because of one or more shared and distinctive characteristics. Type may suggest strong, clearly marked, or obvious similarities throughout the items included so that the distinctiveness of the group that they form cannot be overlooked (the landforms are related to these rock types—Trueman) (that most dangerous type of critic: the critic with a mind which is naturally of the creative order—T. S. Eliot)
Kind in most uses is likely to be very indefinite and involve any criterion of classification whatever (each kind of mental or bodily activity—Spencer) (their soil yields treasures of every kind—Buck) (the kind of fear here treated of is purely spiritual—Lamb) but it may suggest criteria of grouping dependent natural, intrinsic characteristics (Sinic philosophers conceived yin and yang as two different kinds of matter . . . yin symbolized water and yang fire—Tsaybee) Sort is often a close synonym of kind (the sort of culture I am trying to define—Powys) and may be used in situations having a suggestion of disparagement (the sort of journals put out by the learned societies—New Republic) (Victorianism of a meaner and baser sort—Millett) (what sort of idiots have you got around here?—Long) Type, kind, and sort are usually interchangeable and are used most of the time without attention to special connotations. Stripe and kidney are used mostly of people rather than things; the first may suggest political attitude or affiliation, the second persuasion, disposition, or social level (all Fascists are not of one mind, one stripe—Helmans) (economic dogmatists of whatever stripe—Atlantic) (the crown representative and comptroller, were political appointees; and like many men of that kidney had never done a fair share of the work—Morison) Ilk may suggest grouping on the basis of status, attitude, or temperament (no matter if . . . your ancestors spoke only to Cabots and their ilk—Walker) (one great composer is worth twenty of your ilk—Bella & Samuel Spewack) Description, nature, and character are close synonyms of type and kind mostly in phrases beginning with of. Description may suggest a grouping in which all salient details of description or definition are involved; nature may suggest inherent, essential characteristics rather than superficial, ostensibly, or tentative ones; and character may stress distinctive or individualizing criteria rather than not of this description. They are sometimes resorted to . . . with a single view to commerce—John Marshall) (the few hitherto known phenomena of a similar nature—Amer. Jour. of Science) (until the invention of printing advertising was necessarily of this primitive character—Presbrey)
Ana exemplar, example, *model, pattern
typhoon *whirlwind, cyclone, hurricane, tornado, waterspout, twister
typical *regular, natural, normal
Ana generic, general, *universal, common: specific (see SPECIAL)
Ant atypical: distinctive
tyrannical, tyrannous despotistic, arbitrary, *absolute, autocratic
Ana *dictatorial, authoritarian, magisterial: *totalitarian, authoritarian: domineering, imperious, *masterful
tyro *amateur, dilettante, dabbler
Ana *novice, apprentice, probationer, neophyte

Ana analogous words  Ant antonyms  Con contrasted words  See also explanatory notes facing page 1
ubiquitous  *omnipresent
ugly, hideous, ill-favored, unsightly are comparable when they mean contrary to what is beautiful or pleasing especially to the sight. Ugly is the comprehensive term which may apply not only to what is distasteful to the sight but also to the hearing or occasionally to another sense or to whatever gives rise to repulsion, repugnance, dread, or extreme moral distaste in the mind (acres of ugly wooden tenement houses line the drab streets—Amer. Guide Series: Mass.)  *these evenings . . . ended up in a welter of ugly words, tears, misunderstandings—Styron  *it is essential to sweep away in art all that is . . . fundamentally ugly, whether by being, at the one end, distastefully pretty, or, at the other, hopelessly crude—Ellis  *how eager we are to reveal all sorts of . . . ugly secrets about ourselves—Mailer  *life in the moment . . . seemed ugly and brutal—Anderson  *hideous carries an even stronger implication of the personal impression produced by something ugly by stressing the suggestions of induced horror or loathing; it may on occasion be applied to something which, without regard to any surface ugliness, arouses intense personal distaste <an altogether hideous room—expense but cheesy—Salinger  *the papers of the students dismayed me as a hideous revelation of the abysses of noneducation that are possible in the United States—Edmund Wilson  *ill-favored applies especially to the features or to the general aspect or appearance of a person or sometimes an animal that may be described as ugly; the word emphasizes the unpleasing or disagreeable character, so far as the eyes are concerned, but seldom suggests marked distaste, repugnance, or dread <an ill-favored thing, sir, but mine own—Shak.  *a scrappy, ill-favored little girl, always untidily dressed—Mead  *unsightly usually refers to things, especially material things, upon which the eye dwells with no pleasure; it often is used in place of ugly when a connotation of distaste is not strongly marked <their unsightly hovels were not visible from his melancholy old house on the hill—Deland  *an unsightly swamp and dump grounds—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.  *A  *plain, homely: grotesque, bizarre (see FANTASTIC)  Ant beautiful —Con fair, lovely, handsome, pretty, comely, good-looking (see BEAUTIFUL)

ultimate  *1 last, latest, final, terminal, concluding, eventual  *2 Ultimate, absolute, categorical, despite great differences in implications, mean in common so fundamental as to represent the extreme limit of actual or possible knowledge. Something ultimate represents the utmost limit attained or attainable either by analysis or by synthesis <that lofty musing on the ultimate nature of things—Huxley  *the fugue was considered the ultimate vehicle for profound musical expression—Wier  *something absolute (see also PURE 1; ABSOLUTE 2) has the character of being above all imperfection because it is not derived but original, not partial but complete, not subject to qualification because unlimited, and not dependent on anything else because self-sufficient. What is absolute has, as a rule, ideal existence and implies an opposite in actuality lacking the marks of absoluteness <absolute reality as opposed to reality as known—(absolute, as opposed to human, justice) <truth . . . is no absolute thing, but always relative—Galsworthy  *Luther . . . was led to set up the text of the Bible as a sort of visible absolute, a true and perfect touchstone in matters religious—(absolute, as opposed to opinions)—Babbitt>

Babbit> Something categorical (see also explicit) is so fundamental that human reason cannot go beyond it in a search for generality or universality and has therefore an affirmative, undeniable character; thus, the categorical concepts or the categories as they are often called, are the few concepts (as quantity, quality, and relation) to which all human knowledge can be reduced, inasmuch as no more general conceptions can be found to include them.

ululate  *roar, bellow, blast, bluster, bawl, vociferate, clamor, howl  Ant wail, keen, weep, *cry: bewail, lament (see DEPLORE)

ululation  *see under ululate at ROAR vb

umbra  penumbra, *shade, shadow, umbrage, adumbration  Ant 1 shadow, *shade, umbra, penumbra, adumbration  *2 offense, resentment, pique, dudgeon, huff

Ana  *annoyance, vexation, irking (see corresponding verbs at ANNOY): irritation, exasperation, provocation, nettling (see corresponding verbs at IRRITATE): indignation, rage, fury, wrath, *anger, ire

umpire  n referee, *judge, arbiter, arbitrator

unaffected  artless, *natural, simple, ingenuous, naïve, unsophisticated

unafraid  fearless, dauntless, undaunted, bold, intrepid, audacious, *brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, doughty  Ant *cool, composed, imperturbable: *confident, assured, sure

Ant afraid —Con *fearful, apprehensive: *timid, timorous

unassailable  impregnable, inexpugnable, invulnerable, *invincible, unconquerable, indomitable

Ana  stou, sturdy, tenacious, tough, *strong, stalwart

unavoidable  *inevitable, ineluctable, inescapable, unescapable

Ana  certain, positive, *sure

unbecoming  *indecorous, improper, unsuited, indecent, indecent

Ana  unfitting, inappropriate, unsuitable (see UNFIT): inept, *awkward, maladroit, gauche, clumsy

unbelieving, disbelief, incredulity are comparable when they mean the attitude or state of mind of one who does not believe. Unbelieving stresses the lack or absence of belief especially in respect to something (as religious revelation) above and beyond one’s personal experience or capacity <a sense of loss and unbelief such as one might feel to discover suddenly that some great force in nature had ceased to operate—Wolfe> (if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out . . . Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief—MK 9:23-24) Disbelief implies a positive rejection of what is stated or asserted <a disbelief in ghosts and witches was one of the most prominent characteristics of skepticism in the seventeenth century—Lecky> (a disbelief in aristocracy, he never perceived the implications of his disbelief where education was concerned—Russell) >comprenhension flooded Maria’s mind, followed by a sort of stupefying disbelief—Hervey>

Incredulity implies indisposition to believe —Hervey>

Unbelief stresses the lack or absence of belief especially in respect to something (as religious revelation) above and beyond one’s personal experience or capacity <a sense of loss and unbelief such as one might feel to discover suddenly that some great force in nature had ceased to operate—Wolfe> (if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out . . . Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief—MK 9:23-24) Disbelief implies a positive rejection of what is stated or asserted <a disbelief in ghosts and witches was one of the most prominent characteristics of skepticism in the seventeenth century—Lecky> (a disbelief in aristocracy, he never perceived the implications of his disbelief where education was concerned—Russell) >comprenhension flooded Maria’s mind, followed by a sort of stupefying disbelief—Hervey>

Incredulity implies indisposition to believe —Hervey>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unbeliever</th>
<th>Unconstraint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>credibility</strong>—Terry Southern</td>
<td><strong>841</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analogous Words</strong></td>
<td><strong>Antonyms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>uncertainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosities, skepticism</em></td>
<td><em>belief</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unbeliever</strong></td>
<td>*freethinker, <em>atheist, agnostic, infidel, deist</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unbiased</strong></td>
<td><em>impartial, dispassionate,</em> <em>fair, just, equitable,</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Uncalled-for** | *neutral, uninterested,* *detached,* *aloof* (see **Indifferent**)

**Ant**

- **Biased**
- **Burden**—Free, release, liberate
- **Uncanny**—Weird, eerie
- **Uncer-
  tainty, doubt, dubiety, dubiosities, skepticism, suspic-  
  ion, mistrust**
- **Uncolored, objective**
- **Uncolored, unctuous, unctuous, unwholesome, un-  
 เมตรial, eternal**
- **Uncivil**—Civil, *polite, courteous, graceful, gracious*
- **Uncircumscribed**—Boundless, illimitable, *infinite, semi-  
  eternal, eternal**
- **Uncivil**—Rude, ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, *un-
  civil*
- **Uncivil**—Free and uninhibited expression of one's thoughts or  
  feelings or the quality of mood or style resulting from a  
  companionable, cooperative, *so-
  -congenial —
- **Uncivil**—Sor- 
  ant, taciturn, reticent, reserved,
- **Uncommon**—Infrequent, scarce, rare, occasional, sporadic
- **Uncommon**—Strange, singular, unique: *exceptional: choice, exquisite*
- **Uncommon**—Communicative—Silent, taciturn, reticent, reserved, secretive, close, close-lipped, closemouthed, tight-lipped
- **Uncommon**—Concerned—*Indifferent, incurious, aloof, detached, uninterested, disinterested*
- **Uncommon**—Genial—Unsympathetic, incompatible, *inconsonant, inconsistent, incongruous, discordant, disrepectant*
- **Uncommon**—Genial—Antipathetic, unsympathetic, averse: *repugnant, repellent, abhorrent, obnoxious*
- **Uncommon**—Genial—*Companionable, cooperative, *soc- 
  ial: pleasing, *pleasant, agreeable*
- **Uncommon**—Genial—*Invincible, indomitable, impregnable, impugnable, unassailable, invulnerable*
- **Uncommon**—Genial—*Conquerable*
- **Uncommon**—Genial—*Unconstraining, abandon, spontaneity can all denote the free and uninhibited expression of one's thoughts or feelings or the quality of mood or style resulting from a free yielding to impulse. *Unconstraint* is the most general term and may be used in place of either of the others, though it is less positive in its implication* *the old red blood and stainless gentility of great poets will be proved by their unconstraint—Whitman* | *Abandon adds to unconstraint the implication either of entire loss of self-control* *weep with abandon* or of the absence or impotence of any influence hampering free, full, or natural expression of feeling* *had the fire and abandon that alone*
can arouse audiences to fever-pitch—Copland\(^\rangle\) \(<\)jazz is the passion of movement, excitement, abandon, sex—Overstreet\> Spontaneity suggests an unstudied naturalness and agreeable freshness of expression or manner; sometimes it connotes lack of deliberation and obedience to the impulse of the moment (Keats' letters . . . have a deceptive spontaneity which invites the mind to pass over them . . . without pausing to penetrate below the surface—Murry\> \n
Ana spontaneity, impulsiveness, instinctiveness (see corresponding adjectives at SPONTANEOUS): naturalness, simplicity, unsophistication, ingenuousness, naïveté (see corresponding adjectives at NATURAL) uncouth *rough, rude, crude, raw, callow, green Ana *awkward, clumsy, gauche uncrirical *superficial, shallow, cursory Ant critical —Con discerning, discriminating, penetrating (see corresponding nouns at DISCERNMENT): comprehending, understanding, appreciating (see UNDERSTAND) unctuous *foulsm, oily, oleaginous, slick, soapy Ana bland, politic, smooth, diplomatic (see SUAVE): obsequious (see SUBSERVIENT) Ant brusque undaunted *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, valorous, dauntless, doughty, bold, audacious Ana resolute, staunch, steadfast (see FAITHFUL): *confident, assured, sure Ana afraid —Con *fearful, apprehensive: cowed, brow-beaten, bullied (see INTIMIDATE) under *below, beneath, underneath undergo *experience, sustain, suffer Ana *bear, endure, abide, tolerate: accept, *receive: Ant *fearful, apprehensive: cowed, brow-beaten, bullied (see INTIMIDATE) underling n *inferior, subordinate Ant leader, master underlying basic, *fundamental, basal, radical Ana *essential, cardinal, vital, fundamental: requisite, indispensable, necessary, *needful undermine *weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, sap, crip-ple, disable Ana *ruin, wreck: *injure, damage, impair: thwart, foil, *frustrate Ant reinforce underneath *below, under, beneath understand, comprehend, appreciate mean to have a clear idea or conception or full and exact knowledge of something. Understand and comprehend both imply an obtaining of a mental grasp of something and in much of their use are freely interchangeable (“You begin to comprehend me, do you?” cried he . . . “Oh! Yes—I understand you perfectly”—Austen) \(<\)the artist, it seemed . . . had thoughts so subtle that the average man could comprehend them no more than a morgel could understand the moon he bayed at—Wolfè\> But understand may stress the fact of attained grasp, and comprehend may stress the process by which it is attained; thus, one understands a decision when he knows what it involves even though he fails to comprehend the reasoning process on which it was based; a person may understand a foreign language without comprehending exactly how he learned it \(\langle\)for well on a thousand years there have been universities in the Western world; to understand the present institutions, we must therefore comprehend something of their history—Conant\> Sometimes the difference is more subtle, for understand can imply the power to receive and register a clear and exact impression, and comprehend can imply the mental act of grasping clearly and fully; thus, the concept of infinity can be understood theoretically though scarcely comprehended as a verity \(<\)in order fully to understand America, it is helpful to have some grasp of the origins, culture and problems of the racial and religious groups which are gradually being fused into one people—Current History\> \(<\)the average layman—or Congressman—\> is deemed unable to comprehend the mystic intricacies and intrigues of foreign affairs—Kennedy\> \(<\)felt in Russia the presence of elements he could not understand and never would understand, and . . . some of our official representatives said they shared with him this feeling of bafflement—Edmund Wilson\> \(<\)being unuttered in local history . . . in no way detached from my sense of enjoyment, nor lessened my ability to comprehend the real beauty of all that surrounded me— Carrithers\> Appreciate (see also APPRECIATE 2) implies a just judgment or the estimation of a thing's true or exact value; therefore the word is used in reference to persons or things which may be misjudged (as by underestimating or overestimating or by undervaluing or overvaluing) \(\langle\)you are of an age now to appreciate his character—Meredith\> \(<\)the public opinion which thus magnifies patriotism into a religion is a force of which it is difficult to appreciate . . . the strength—Brownell\> \(<\)a new type of State Department man with a most aggressive determination to see, to know and to appreciate all of his command —Michener\> Ana conceive, realize, envision, envisage (see THINK): interpret, elucidate, construe (see EXPLAIN): penetrate, pierce, probe (see ENTER) understanding 1 *reason, intuition Ana comprehension, apprehension (see under APPREHEND): *discernment, discrimination, insight, penetration 2 *agreement, accord understudy n *substitute, supply, locum tenens, alternate, pinch hitter, double, stand-in undulate waver, *swing, sway, oscillate, vibrate, fluctuate, pendulate Ana *pulsate, pulse, beat, throb, palpitate undying *immortal, deathless, unfading Ana *everlasting, endless, unceasing, interminable unearth *discover, ascertain, determine, learn Ana *dig, delve: expose, exhibit, *show: *reveal, disclose, discover uneasy *impatient, nervous, uneasy, restless, restive, fidgety, jumpy, jittery Ana anxious, worried, solicitous, concerned, careful (see under CARE): disturbed, perturbed, agitation, disquieted (see DISCOMPOSE) uneducated *ignorant, illiterate, unlettered, untaught, untutored, unlearned Ana *rude, crude, rough, raw, callow, green, uncouth Ant educated unerring *infallible, inerrable, inerror Ant *reliable, dependable, trustworthy: exact, accurate, precise, *correct unescapable *inevitable, ineluctable, inescapable, unavoidable Ana 1 Ant see those at INESCAPABLE uneven *rough, harsh, rugged, scabrous Ant even —Con *level, flat, plane, smooth: equable, even, uniform, *steady, constant unfading *immortal, deathless, undying

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
unfailing, everlasting, endless: lasting, enduring, perpetual
unfeigned: sincere, wholehearted, whole-souled, heartfelt, hearty
Ana genuine, veritable, bona fide, *authentic: *natural, simple, naive: *spontaneous, impulsive
unfit, unsuitable, improper, inappropriate, unfitting, inapt, unhappy, inflictious are comparable when they mean not right with respect to what is required or expected under the circumstances or demanded by the end, use, or function in view. Except for this denial of rightness, the terms otherwise correspond in applications and in implications to the affirmative adjectives as discriminated at fit. Ant fit —Con adaptable, pliable, malliable (see plastic): *able, capable, competent, qualified
unfitting inappropriate, improper, unsuitable, *unfit, inapt, unhappy, inflictious
Ana unbecoming, unseemly, *indecorous
Ant fitting
unflagging unweared, unwearying, tireless, untiring, *indetachable, wearless
Ana persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE): *steady, constant
Con indolent, faineant, slothful, *lazy
unflappable *cool, composed, collected, unruffled, *unperturbable, nonchalance
unfold 1 Unfold, evolve, develop, elaborate, perfect can all mean to cause something to emerge from a state where its potentialities are not apparent or not realized into a state where they are apparent or fully realized. Unfold suggests usually a natural process by which is unveiled or disclosed the true character, the real beauty or ugliness, or the significance or insignificance of someone or something (the bud unfolds itself into the flower) (I see thy beauty gradually unfold, daily and hourly, more and more—Tennyson) they were theater people, and the unfolding of a new creative work was a solemnity—Wouk) Evolve implies an unfolding or unrolling itself gradually and in orderly process; the term is particularly applicable when the slowness of the process and the complications involved in it are to be suggested (the Protozoa . . . evolved the types that were transitional to higher animals—Miner) (societies are evolved in structure and function as in growth—Spencer) (life has evolved according to a Creator's plan—Marquand) However evolve is often used with weakened emphasis on the implications of slowness and complexity to imply specifically the production of a result (as an idea, a theory, or an aesthetic effect) from within or as if from within (twilight combined with the scenery of Egdon Heath to evolve a thing majestic without severity, impressive without showiness—Hardy) (this novel and intensely exacting technique, evolved . . . by the critical genius of a few . . . Frenchmen and of Henry James—Montague) Develop (see also mature) implies a passing through several stages and stresses the coming out or unfolding of latent possibilities in a thing, whether by a natural process or through human means (compare development) (there were different ideas of how the paper should develop. They wanted it to be successful; I wanted it to be outrageous—Mailer) (shorter than his wife—a jolly pink-faced man with a quietness that might have been developed to complements his noise—Cheever) (he first conceives, then perfects his design, as a mere instrument in hands divine—Cowper) (a new determination to complete and perfect his plant-setting machine had taken possession of him—Anderson) Ana *show, manifest, evidence, evince, demonstrate: exhibit, display, expose (see show) 2 *solve, resolve, unravel, decipher
unformed *formless, shapeless
Ant formed —Con *definite, definitive: developed, matured (see mature): fashioned, fabricated, manufactured, made (see make)
unfortunate *unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, calamitous, luckless, hapless
Ana baleful, malefic, *sinister: *miserable, wretched: unhappy, inflictious (see unfit)
Ant fortunate —Con *lucky, providential, happy: auspicious, propitious, *favorable
unfounded *baseless, groundless, unwarranted
Ana *false, wrong: *misleading, deceptive: mendacious, *dishonest: untruthful
unfruitful barren, *sterile, infertile, impotent
Ant fruitful, prolific —Con *fertile, fecund
ungodly *irreligious, godless, unreligious, nonreligious
Ana wicked, evil, ill, *bad: reprobate, *abandoned, profane: impious, blasphemous, profane
ungovernable *unruly, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong
Ana *contrary, perverse, froward, wayward: contumacious, *insubordinate, rebellious, factious
Ant governable: docile —Con submissive, subdued, *tame: tractable, amenable, *obedient
ungraceful *rude, ill-mannered, impolite, discourteous, uncivil
Ana churlish, boorish (see under boor): brusque, gruff, blunt, curt (see bluff)
Ant gracious
unhappy inflictious, inapt, unsuitable, improper, inappropriate, unfitting, *unfit
Ant happy
uniform adj 1 *like, alike, similar, analogous, comparable, akin, parallel, identical
Ana *same, equivalent, equal
Ant various
2 *steady, constant, even, equitable
Ana consistent, *consonant, compatible: regular, *orderly
Ant multiform
unify consolidate, concentrate, *compact
Ana *integrate, articulate, concatenate: organize, systematize (see order vb): *unite, combine, conjoin
Ant unimpassioned *sober, temperate, continent
Ana *cool, composed, collected, unperturbable: *calm, serene, placid, tranquil: *impassive, stolid, stoic, phlegmatic
Ant impassioned
uninterested *indifferent, unconcerned, incurious, aloof, detached, disinterested
union *unity, solidarity, integrity

See also explanatory notes facing page 1
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
menical applies to situations involving people throughout the whole world or all people in groups or divisions as indicated, often in religious contexts (the incorporation of all the broken fragments of the former Iranian and Arabic societies into the wholly different structure of a Western World which has grown into an ecumenical “Great Society” —Toynbee) Catholic may stress an attitude involved, as well as a fact, in the including, comprehending, or appreciating of all or many peoples, places, or periods (he was a catholic nature lover. The tropics, the desert, the tundra, the glaciers and the prairies all found a place in his heart —Peattie) Cosmopolitan may imply an understanding and appreciation of other lands, sections, nations, or cities coming about through personal experience in traveling or living elsewhere; it often contrasts with provincial (one of the most entertaining and most cosmopolitan of novelists. Born in Tuscany, he was educated in New England, England, Germany, and Italy, became interested in Sanskrit, edited a newspaper in India—Van Doren)

Ana *earthly, terrestrial, worldly, mundane: *whole, entire, all, total

2 Universal, general, generic, common are comparable when they mean characteristic of, belonging or relating to, comprehending, or affecting all or the whole. Universal as used chiefly in logic and philosophy implies reference to each one of a whole (as a class, a category, or a genus) without exception; thus, “all men are animals” is a universal affirmative proposition, and “no man is omniscient” is a universal negative proposition; color is a universal attribute of visible objects, but chroma is not a universal attribute of visible objects, but chroma is not a characteristic of, belonging or relating to, or appreciating of all or many peoples, places, or periods (he was a catholic nature lover. The tropics, the desert, the tundra, the glaciers and the prairies all found a place in his heart —Peattie)

General can imply reference to all, either of a precisely definable group (as a class, type, or species) (ladies, a general welcome from his grace salutes ye all—Shak) (these first assemblies were general, with all freemen bound to attend—Amer. Guide Series: Md.) or of a more or less loosely or casually combined or associated number of items. In contrast to universal, general tends to be used with less precise boundaries and often implies no more than reference to nearly all or to most of the group (ethylene has come into general but not yet universal favor with surgeons—Morrison) (the ideal of general cultivation has been one of the standards in education — Eliot) But when used with respect to words, language, ideas, or notions, general tends to suggest lack of precision in use or signification (some rather weak cases must fall within any law which is couched in general words—Justice Holmes) Generic is often used in place of general when a term implying reference to every member of a genus or often of a clearly defined scientific or logical category and the exclusion of all other individuals is needed; thus, a general likeness between two insects may be a likeness that is merely observable, whereas a generic likeness is one that offers proof that they belong to the same genus or that enables a student to assign a hitherto unknown insect to its proper category; the use of words is a general characteristic of writing but the use of meter is a generic characteristic of poetry (there is no such thing as a generic “Asian mind” —R. A. Smith) (the notion has always had a generic habit of reaching out to the extremes of literary expression—Schorer) (absolute generic unity would obtain if there were one sumnum genus under which all things without exception could be eventually subsumed—James) Common (see also common 3; reciprocal 1) differs from general in implying participation, use, or a sharing by all members of the class, group, or community of persons or, less often, of things under consideration (a thing . . . practiced for two hundred years by common consent—Justice Holmes) (crowds . . . swept along by a common animating impulse —Binyon) (our common tongue —Lowes)

Ant particular

universe cosmos, macrocosm, *earth, world
unkeempt slovenly, sloppy, *slipshod, disheveled
unlawful, illegal, illegitimate, illicit are comparable when they mean contrary to, prohibited by, or not in accordance with law or the law. Otherwise than this negation in character, the words in general carry the same differences in implications and connotations as the affirmative adjectives discriminated at lawful. But there are a few recognizable differences. Illegitimate tends to be more narrowly used than legitimate; its most common application is to children born out of wedlock or to a relation which leads to such a result (the illegitimate son of the Duke) (their union was illegitimate) but it is occasionally referred to something that is not proper according to the rules (as of logic) or to the authorities or to precedent (your inference is illegitimate) (it is illegitimate to suppose a chasm between the brute facts of physical nature . . . and the most abstract principles—Alexander) (I am far from thinking, with some modern theoretic purists, that it is illegitimate in painting to play on the power of association—Binyon) Illicit is used much more widely than illegitimate; it may imply a lack of conformity to the provisions of a law intended to regulate the performance, the carrying on, or the execution of something that comes under the law of state or of church (illicit liquor traffic) (an illicit marriage according to the Church may still be a legal marriage from the point of view of the State) but it is also applied to something that is obtained, done, or maintained unlawfully, illegally, or illegitimately (most persons . . . have long believed that happiness, being as they suspect somehow illicit at best, must have its locus beyond ourselves, beyond this world—Edman) (the tradition that illicit love affairs are at once vicious and delightful—Shaw) (the . . . monk who loved Virgil had to study him with an illicit candle—Quiller-Couch)

Ant iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious (see vicious)
Ant lawful —Con *due, rightful, condign
unlearned *ignorant, illiterate, unlettered, uneducated, untaught, untutored
Ant crude, *rude, rough, raw, callow, green, uncouth
unlettered illiterate, *ignorant, uneducated, untaught, untutored, unlearned
unlikeliness *dissimilarity, difference, divergence, divergency, distinction
Ant diversity, *variety: disparity, variosity (see corresponding adjectives at different): discrepancy, discordance, incongruousness, incompatibility, inconsistency, inconsonance (see corresponding adjectives at inconsonant)
Ant likeness

unlucky, disastrous, ill-starred, ill-fated, unfortunate, calamitous, luckless, hapless can all mean having, meeting, or promising an outcome that is distinctly unfavorable (as hopes, plans, or well-being). Unlucky implies that in spite of efforts or merits one meets with bad luck, often chronically, or that a specific occasion or action will be or has proved to be unfavorable especially in its outcome or consequences (the child who is born on an unlucky day—Kardiner) (the loss of over $200,000 in an
unman 846 unnerve

**unlucky** coffee speculation—H. G. Pearson *it was the unluckiest step we ever made to admit him into the bosom of our family—Lyttelton* Disastrous and ill-starred both carry the astrological implication that the stars are adverse to the person or thing in question and both suggest a more or less dire fate for him or it *(the intrepid but ill-starred General . . . met with an airplane accident . . . and was burned to death—Peers)* Though disastrous and ill-starred often imply a calamitous result as inevitable *(in his fury made sudden decisions which would prove utterly disastrous to the fortunes of the Third Reich—Shirer)* *(the period and the region that produced Burr's ill-starred conspiracy—H. E. Davis)* disastrous is not infrequently used in a much weakened sense without a hint of inevitability or, often, an implication of consequences more serious than that of a turning of the tables upon one or the other of the participants or contenders *(a . . . denial of poetic possibilities . . . is liable to disastrous refutation by a triumphant instance of the "poetizing" . . . of that very word—Lowes)* Ill-starred, on the other hand, is close to ill-fated in meaning in that both imply an evil and unavoidable destiny awaiting a person or an action *(the holiday was ill-starred from the outset, and a series of minor catastrophes culminated in a blowout on a lonely road—Cerf)* *(the ill-fated attempt to collect the old war debts—Soule)* *(served as a wagoner with General Bradock's ill-fated army—J. M. Brown)* Unfortunate, though often interchangeable with unlucky, carries a much weaker implication of the intervention of chance *(had an unfortunate day at the races)* and a much stronger suggestion of misfortune, misery, unhappiness, or desolation, often to the extent of eliminating all suggestions of luck or of chance; occasionally it means nothing much more than regrettable or disastrous in its weakened sense *(a most unfortunate family)* *(an unfortunate choice of words)* *(expecting some unfortunate woman to instruct simultaneously a crowd of fiftyurchins of all degrees of ignorance—Grandgent)* Calamitous, which is used of events rather than persons, resembles unfortunate in its frequent elimination of all suggestion of luck or chance and in sometimes meaning little more than regrettable or upsetting *(mother was afraid to leave the house in case something calamitous would happen, so we had a little extra time for dressing—Molly Weir)* but it, like the noun calamity *(which see under disaster)* often suggests dire misery or the utmost of woeful distress typically stemming from some grave and extraordinary event *(in that calamitous year over 1532 a total of 277,952 foreclosures forced people out of their homes—O'Brien)* *(men naturally admire Hannibal though the success of his cause might have been calamitous to the progress of civilization—Cohen)* *(there was more news than ever before, practically all of it calamitous—Catton)* Luckless and helpless are more or less rhetorical terms implying that the person or thing so described has or reveals less than average good luck or good fortune (as in his undertakings or in their outcome); usually these words mean nothing more than unhappier, miserable, or wretched *(she had disobeyed—and at the wrong time. Ah, the horrible, chancy, luckless wrong time—Styron)* *(helpless beings caught in the grip of forces we can do little about—Whyte)* *(the other victims . . . met an even more helpless fate—E. S. Bates)* Ana *inexpert, awkward: distressing, troubling (see trouble):* *(sinister, malign, baleful)* Ant *lucky—Con auspicious, propitious, favorable, benign: fortunate, happy, providential (see lucky)* unman *unnerve, emasculate, enervate* Ana *sap, undermine, weaken, enfeeble, debilitate: abase, degrade: deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish, bankrupt Unmarried, single, celibate, virgin, maiden are comparable as adjectives when they mean not united in bonds of marriage. Unmarried merely states the fact; it is usually applied to those who have not yet married, and in law, it is applicable to a person who has been divorced and has not remarried and, sometimes, to one who has been widowed *(an unmarried woman)* *(he said he would remain unmarried)* *(the question of being both unchaste and unmarried apparently never arises—Marcuse)* Single is applied to those who are not yet married but is commonly used of those who remain unmarried through life *(housing problems of single men and women)* *(has to take anything she can get in the way of a husband rather than face penury as a single woman—Shaw)* Celibate may be applied to the state of one having no expectation of marrying and it is especially applicable to that of one who is bound by a solemn vow to abstain from taking a mate. It is used chiefly of priests, monks, and nuns, of others who have dedicated their lives to religion, or of men or women who have accepted a way of life incompatible with having a spouse, or of children *(the masses of [Orthodox]]* believers preferred to confess to the celibate holy men . . . in the distant monastery—Burks) *(the dandy must be celibate, cloisteral; is, indeed, but a monk with a mirror for beads and breviary—an anchorite, mortifying his soul that his body may be perfect—Beerbohm)* Virgin tends to stress a pure unsullied state of chastity. It usually applies to the unmarried but it may also be referred to the married when the marital relation has not been consummated, usually on grounds of choice *(Saint Ursula and her virgin companions)* *(the young chief could not be told . . . for he was married, and the secret could be given only to a virgin youth—Corlett)* Maiden holds much the same implications as virgin, but it often differs in its heightened implication of not having married and in its subdued suggestion of purity and freedom from sexual intercourse *(he has two maiden sisters)* *(his mind partly on a slit-skirted maiden cyclist—Birney)* Unmatured *immature, unripe, unmellow* Ant *matured—Con* *mature, adult, grown-up* Unmellow *immature, unripe, unmellow* Ant *mellow, mellowed—Con* *developed, ripened, matured (see mature vb)* Unmindful *forgetful, oblivious* Ant *heedless, thoughtless, careless, inadvertent: negligent, neglectful, remiss* Ant *mindful: solicitous—Con* *careful, concerned, anxious, worried (see under care): thoughtful, considerate, attentive* Unmitigated *outright, out-and-out, aarrant* Ant *moral, immoral, amoral, nonmoral* Unnatural *abnormal, aberrant, atypical: monstrous, prodigious: fantastic, grotesque, bizarre* Ant *natural* Unnerve, enervate, unman, emasculate can all mean to deprive of strength or vigor and of the capacity for endurance, overcoming difficulties, or making progress. Unnerve implies marked loss of courage, steadiness, and self-control or of power to act or fight usually as a result of some calamity or sudden shock *(government was unnerved, confounded, and in a manner suspended—Burke)* *(that beloved name Arnold)—Converted—Hesitantly, unnerved and bewildered—Styron)* *(the narcotic and unnerving property of these stimulants has been thoroughly established—Day Lewis)* Enervate implies a more gradual physical or moral weakening or dissipation of one's strength until one is too feeble
to make effort; usually the term implies a weakening of moral fiber under the influence of such debilitating factors as luxury, indolence, or effeminacy. Those unhappy people whose tender minds a long course of felicity has enervated—Bolingbroke. Plato asserts that a life of drudgery disfigures the body and... enervates the soul—Dickinson. Unman implies loss of manly fortitude or spirit; it often suggests a shameful reduction to tears, tremors, extreme timidity, or other state regarded as womanish. What, quite unmaned in folly?... Fie, for shame!—Shak. The strangeness of the night... the dead man they had left in the field had unsettled them all and had unmaned at least one of them—Cheever. Emasculate (see also sterilize 1) implies a loss of essential or effective power especially by the removal of something (as a factor or a condition) which has made for strength (as of a person, a group, or a law). (Hellenism... was not destroyed, though it was emasculated, by the loss of political freedom—Inge. Many states emasculate such civil rights statutes as exist—Swindler.

Unoffending

* Harmless, innocuous, innocent, inoffensive

Unpremeditated

* Extemporaneous, extemore, unpremeditated

Unravel

* Solve, resolve, unfold, decipher

Unreasonable

* Irrational

Unrelenting

* Grim, implacable, relentless, merciless

Unreligious

* Irreligious, ungodly, godless, nonreligious

Unremitting

* Constant, incessant, continual, continuous, perpetual, perennial

Unripe

* Immature, unseasoned, unwholesome

Unruffled

* Calm, placid, peaceful, serene, tranquil: poised, balanced (see stabilize)

Unruled

* Ungovernable, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, willful, headstrong are comparable when they mean not submissive to government or control. Unruled stresses a lack of discipline or an incapacity for discipline; in addition it often connotes such qualities as turbulence, disorderliness, waywardness, or obstreperousness. Whatever my unruly tongue may say—J. R. Green. The unruly passions—T. S. Eliot. She cleared the land, dug ditches and dammed unruly streams—Amer. Guide Series: Ariz. Ungovernable implies either an incapacity for or an escape from guidance or control. When applied directly or indirectly to persons, it usually suggests either no previous submission to restrictions or a state of having thrown off previous restrictions. The fiercest and most ungovernable part of the... population—Macaulay or the loss of all power to control oneself or to be controlled by others. He fell into an ungovernable rage. When used in reference to things, it usually suggests their incapacity for human direction or control. That... ungovernable wonder the wind—Hawthorne. Genius was as valuable and as unpredictable, perhaps as ungovernable, as the waves of the sea—Buck. Intractable and refractory both imply resistance to all attempts to bring under one's control, management, or direction. When applied to persons, intractable suggests a disposition to resist guidance or control. An intractable child... a flux absolutely necessary in dealing with moral elements—Stevenson. Recalcitrant carries an even stronger implication of active and violent resistance or of obstinate refusal to things than refractory..., and... recalcitrant feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents... resistance indicated by manifest disobedience, open protest, or rebelliousness. It becomes my duty to struggle against my refractory feelings—Burney. There is no use in making the refractory child feel guilty; it is much more to the purpose to make him feel that he is missing pleasures which the others are enjoying—Russell or, when the reference is to an inanimate thing, a degree of intractability that offers especially great resistance or presents...
unseemly

asocial, antisocial, nonsocial are comparable

*ugly, hideous, ill-favored

unsightly

unsettle

unutterable


A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
cause of some elusive quality (as etherealness, spirituality, or ideality <i>ineffable tenderness</i> <i>the eyes remained distant and serious, as if bent on some ineffable vision</i> <i>Wharton</i> <i>{to explore the delicate involutions of consciousness, the microscopically sensuous and all but ineffable frissons of mental becoming—Mailer</i> <i>who shall say that in this silence, in this hovering wan light, in this air bereft of wings, and of all scent save freshness, there is less of the ineffable, less of that before which words are dumb</i> <i>Galsworthy</i> <i>Indescribable and indefinable may imply to the thing a quality or sometimes the lack of any quality or to the would-be describer or definier a deficiency (as of perceptiveness, understanding, or language) that makes precise description, definition, narration, or explanation impossible</i> <i>Wharton</i> <i>{I keep being conscious of some subtle smell</i> <i>'It's not exactly a smell, either! It's more than that. It's a taste in the mouth and a strange indescribable feeling through every pore of the body</i> <i>Powys</i> <i>{an indescribable horror</i> <i>'I myself could hardly put it into words. But the effect it has upon me</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>warranted</i> <i>baseless, groundless, unfounded</i> <i>Ana</i> <i>unauthorized, unaccredited (see corresponding affirmative verbs at AUTHORIZE)</i> <i>unapproved, unsanctioned (see corresponding affirmative verbs at APPROVE)</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>warranted</i> <i>unworned</i> <i>indefatigable, tireless, weariless, untiring, unwearying, unflagging</i> <i>Ana</i> <i>persevering, persisting or persistent (see corresponding verbs at PERSEVERE)</i> <i>unceasing, interminable (see EVERLASTING)</i> <i>constant, steady</i> <i>unwearying</i> <i>indefatigable, tireless, weariless, untiring, unwearied, unflagging</i> <i>Ana</i> <i>see those at UNTIRING</i> <i>unwholesome, morbid, sickly, diseased, pathological apply to what is unhealthy or unhealthful in any of various ways</i> <i>Unwholesome is applicable not only to what is not healthy or healthful physically and mentally but also to what is morally corruptive</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>upright</i> <i>upright</i> <i>honest, just, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable are comparable when they are applied to men or their acts and words and mean having or exhibiting a strict regard for what is morally right</i> <i>upright implies manifest rectitude and an uncompromising adherence to high moral principles</i> <i>upright implies a recognition of and strict adherence to solid virtues (as truthfulness, candor, respect for others’ possessions, sincerity, and fairness)</i> <i>upright is a good word, comprises a good many things—all the straight principles</i> <i>upright</i> <i>{to put it to a violent death</i> <i>Etherege</i> <i>Pathological is applied to physical, mental, and moral conditions which have their origin in disease or which constitute gross deviations from the usual, expected, or normal, and, by implication, the wholesome</i> <i>enormously sensitive and resilient, almost pathological in his appetite for activity</i> <i>Mencken</i> <i>{the beguiling Alice-world of pathological curves, some of which bound a small finite area and yet are infinite in length, while others entirely fill squares, cubes, and hypercubes, and some cross themselves at all points</i> <i>Gidge</i> <i>{this irrational age, governed by absolute violence and pathological hate</i> <i>Mumford</i> <i>Ana</i> <i>detrimental, deleterious, noxious, poisonous, baneful, toxic, poisonous, baneful, hurtful, harmful, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY)</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>wholesome</i> <i>{healthy, salubrious, salutary, hygienic</i> <i>upright</i> <i>honest, just, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable are comparable when they are applied to men or their acts and words and mean having or exhibiting a strict regard for what is morally right</i> <i>upright implies manifest rectitude and an uncompromising adherence to high moral principles</i> <i>upright implies a recognition of and strict adherence to solid virtues (as truthfulness, candor, respect for others’ possessions, sincerity, and fairness)</i> <i>upright</i> <i>{to put it to a violent death</i> <i>Etherege</i> <i>Pathological is applied to physical, mental, and moral conditions which have their origin in disease or which constitute gross deviations from the usual, expected, or normal, and, by implication, the wholesome</i> <i>enormously sensitive and resilient, almost pathological in his appetite for activity</i> <i>Mencken</i> <i>{the beguiling Alice-world of pathological curves, some of which bound a small finite area and yet are infinite in length, while others entirely fill squares, cubes, and hypercubes, and some cross themselves at all points</i> <i>Gidge</i> <i>{this irrational age, governed by absolute violence and pathological hate</i> <i>Mumford</i> <i>Ana</i> <i>detrimental, deleterious, noxious, poisonous, baneful, toxic, poisonous, baneful, hurtful, harmful, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY)</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>wholesome</i> <i>{healthy, salubrious, salutary, hygienic</i> <i>upright</i> <i>honest, just, conscientious, scrupulous, honorable are comparable when they are applied to men or their acts and words and mean having or exhibiting a strict regard for what is morally right</i> <i>upright implies manifest rectitude and an uncompromising adherence to high moral principles</i> <i>upright implies a recognition of and strict adherence to solid virtues (as truthfulness, candor, respect for others’ possessions, sincerity, and fairness)</i> <i>upright</i> <i>{to put it to a violent death</i> <i>Etherege</i> <i>Pathological is applied to physical, mental, and moral conditions which have their origin in disease or which constitute gross deviations from the usual, expected, or normal, and, by implication, the wholesome</i> <i>enormously sensitive and resilient, almost pathological in his appetite for activity</i> <i>Mencken</i> <i>{the beguiling Alice-world of pathological curves, some of which bound a small finite area and yet are infinite in length, while others entirely fill squares, cubes, and hypercubes, and some cross themselves at all points</i> <i>Gidge</i> <i>{this irrational age, governed by absolute violence and pathological hate</i> <i>Mumford</i> <i>Ana</i> <i>detrimental, deleterious, noxious, poisonous, baneful, toxic, poisonous, baneful, hurtful, harmful, mischievous (see corresponding nouns at INJURY)</i> <i>Ant</i> <i>wholesome</i> <i>{healthy, salubrious, salutary, hygienic</i>
eighteenth century supposed—Huxley—Conscientious and scrupulous both imply an active moral sense which governs all one's actions. Conscientious stresses painstaking efforts to follow that guide at all costs, especially in one's observance of the moral law or in the performance of one's duty (his whole character ... was far too sternly conscientious to allow of any suspicion being cast upon his rectitude—A. W. Ward) <conscientious and incorruptible and right-minded, a young man born to worry—Styron> Scrupulous (see also CAREFUL 2), on the other hand, implies either anxiety in obeying strictly the dictates of conscience or meticulous attention to the morality of the details of conduct as well as to the morality of one's ends (Sebastian was scrupulous, and certain accepted conventions had forced him to satisfy his conscience—Sackville-West) Honorable (see also HONORABLE 1) implies the guidance of a high sense of honor or of a sense of what one should do in obedience not only to the dictates of conscience but to the demands made by social position or office, by the code of his profession, or by the esteem in which he is held (Leopold's defenders ... believed that he had done the right and honorable thing in sharing the fate of his soldiers and of the Belgian people—Shirer) <did this vile world show many such as thee, thou perfect, just, and honorable man—Shelley>

Ana *moral, ethical, virtuous, righteous: *fair, equitable, impartial: *straightforward, aboveboard

uprising *rebellion, revolution, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, putsch, coup

Ana fight, combat, conflict, fray (see CONTEST): strife, contention, dissension (see DISCORD): aggression, *attack

uproar *din, pandemonium, hullabaloo, babel, hubbub, clamor, racket


uproot eradicate, deracinate, extirpate, *exterminate, wipe

Ana *abolish, extinguish, annihilate, abate: supplant, displace, *replace, supersede: subvert, overthrow, *over-turn: *destroy, demolish

Ant establish: inseminate

upset vb 1 *overturn, capsize, overthrow, subvert

Ana invert, *reverse: bend (see CURVE vb)

2 agitate, perturb, disturb, disquiet, *discompose, fluster, flurry

Ana wilder, distract, confound (see PUZZLE vb): discomfit, rattle, faze, *embarrass: *unnerve, unman

upshot outcome, issue, result, consequence, *effect, after-effect, aftermath, event, sequel

Ana *end, termination, ending: climax, culmination (see SUMMIT): concluding or conclusion, finishing or finish, completion (see corresponding verbs at CLOSE)

urbane *suave, smooth, diplomatic, bland, politic

Ana courteous, polite, courtly, *civil: poised, balanced (see STABILIZE): cultured, cultivated, refined (see corresponding nouns at CULTURE)

Ant rude: clownish, bucolic

urge vb Urge, egg, exhort, goad, spur, prod, prick, sic me to press or impel to action, effort, or speed. Urge implies the exertion of influence or pressure either from something or someone external or from something within (as the conscience or the heart); specifically it suggests an inciting or stimulating to or toward a definite end (as greater speed or a prescribed course or objective) often against the inclinations or habits of the one urged (the crowd urged on their favorites with shouts of encouragement) <his conscience urged him to battle for the cause> <with remarkable speed the four guests ... saddled their mules and urged them across the plain—Cather> <his new young life, so strong and imperious, was urged towards something else—D. H. Lawrence> Egg usually presupposes a hesitant, inert, or lagging will and usually suggests an encouraging or even an abetting (schemers and flatterers would egg him on—Thackeray) <she egged me to borrow the money—Kipling> Exhort may suggest the arts of a preacher or orator inciting men to good or better lives or actions and usually implies a fervor or zeal characteristic of a preacher in stimulating through admonition, encouragement, or pleading (William exhorted his friend to confess, and not to hide his sin any longer—George Elliot) <he may probably be exhorted to "do well in his examination"—Inge> Goad basically denotes the use of a pointed rod in driving cattle and carries in its extended use a strong implication of something that irritates or inflames and drives one on in spite of inclinations or habit of yielding to other desires or motives <many of them ... had been goaded by petty persecution into a temper fit for desperate enterprise—Macaulay> <man's inquisitive nature has goaded him on to look deeply into these matters—Morrison> Spur basically applies to a spiked device attached to the heels of a rider and used to urge on a lagging horse; it is likely to suggest in its extended use a superior impulse that makes up for the weakness or reluctance of one's nature or will <love will not be spurred to what it loathes—Shak> <he is ... spurred on by yearnings after an unsearchable delight—Symonds> <reproaches too, whose power may spur me on ... to honorable toil—Wordsworth> Prod implies a being driven or forced into action as if by means of a stick or goad and may suggest a thrust or a push and an compelling against one's will <the excitement of trying ... to prod them into action—J. R. Green> <Indians grew hungry and hatred of the white man prodded them into open hostilities—Julian Dana> Prick comes close to spur in implying an influence from something sharp-pointed or irritating that serves to urge or drive (rely on their animal instinct and developed reflexes to prick them into awareness when danger threatened—Majdalany) <pricked on by knightly spur of female eyes—J. R. Lowell> Sic basically means to urge on a dog to chase or attack someone; with persons it often implies exhorting or goading to attack or worry <a civilized nation siced on the Barbary whelps to tear the peaceful passersby—Spear>

Ana impel, drive, actuate, *move: stimulate, excite, quicken, *provoke

urge n *desire, lust, passion, appetite

Ana *motive, spring, spur, goad, incentive: longing, yearning, pining (see LONG): craving, coveting, desiring (see DESIRE vb)

urgent *pressing, imperative, crying, importunate, insistent, exigent, instant

Ana compelling, driving (see MOVE): constraining, compelling, obliging (see FORCE vb)

usage 1 practice, custom, use, *habit, habitude, wont

Ana *method, mode, manner, way, fashion: procedure, proceeding, *process: guiding or leading, lead (see corresponding verbs at GUIDE): *choice, preference

2 *form, convention, convenance

Ana formality, ceremony, *form

use n 1 Use, service, advantage, profit, account, avail can all mean a useful or valuable end, result, or purpose. Use stresses either employment for some purpose or end of practical value <turn every scrap of material to use> or the practical value of the end promoted or attained <the findings in the investigation were of little use> <sweet are the uses of adversity—Shak> Servile, though often
interchangeable with *use*, is especially appropriate when the reference is to persons or animals or their work or actions (the horse was unfit for *service*—Scott) (render a *service* to a friend) *Service* often implies that the result of one's act or works is beneficial (I have done the state some *service*, and they know't—Shak.) *Advantage* adds to *use* the implication of improvement or enhancement (as in value or position) (he uses every penny to *advantage*) (her beauty proved to be of great *advantage* to her in her stage career) (Constance had never before seen him to such heroic *advantage*—Bennett) (true Wit is Nature to *advantage* dressed—Pope) *Profit* distinctively implies reward or the rewarding character of what is attained, and often implies pecuniary gain (the student worked hard but to no *profit*) (he found moral *profit* also in this self-study; for how, he asked, can we correct our vices if we do not know them—L. P. Smith) (coal and steel interests were merging with mutual *profit*—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) *Account* is used chiefly in fixed phrases (turn his musical talent to *account*) (of little *account*) It is sometimes interchangeable with *use*, *advantage*, or *profit*, but distinctively it suggests calculable value (a book that turns to *account* the conclusions of other recent German theorists—Babbitt) Sometimes it is nearly equivalent to *importance* (our family . . . whose honor is of so much *account* to both of us—Dickens) *Avail* so strongly suggests effectualness or effectiveness in the end attained that the negative idiomatic phrases in which it is often found are equivalent to *ineffectual* or *ineffectually* (<the search was of no *avail*) (he labored unceasingly without *avail* to move the rock) (he studied hard but to no *avail*)

**Ana benefit, profit (see corresponding verbs at BENEFIT):**

value. *worth:* *function*, office, duty: *purpose*, *intention*, object

2 Use, *usefulness*, *utility* are comparable when they mean the character or the quality of serving or of being able to serve an end or purpose. Use (see also USE 1; *HABIT*) is the most general or least explicit of these terms; it usually implies little more than suitability for employment for some purpose stated or implied (our gymnasium . . . is of excellent *use*, and all my girls exercise in it—Meredith) (she said she would have saved the pieces had they been of any *use*) *Usefulness*, on the other hand, is employed chiefly with reference to definite concrete things that serve or are capable of serving a practical purpose (demonstrated the *usefulness* of his device) (her [the cat's] sacred character was in no wise impaired by her *usefulness*—Repliplier) (libraries have moved into that wider area of *usefulness* which today makes them one of the most effective instruments for ensuring a democratic way of life—Collier's Yr. Bk.) *Utility*, which comes very close to *usefulness*, may be preferred in technical, economic, and philosophical speech or writing, where it is often regarded as a property that can be measured or altered (as in quantity or quality) or that can be viewed as an abstraction (the extent to which the price of motorcars per unit of *utility* has fallen—Schumpeter) (in economics production is simply the creation of *utility* . . . adding some kind of *utility* to raw material then this will satisfy consumers' *wants*—Goodman & Moore) (universities exist for two purposes; on the one hand, to train men and women for certain professions; on the other hand, to pursue learning and research without regard to immediate *utility*—Russell)

**Ana applicability, relevance, pertinence (see corresponding adjectives at RELEVANT):** suitability, fitness, appropriateness (see corresponding adjectives at FIT) 3 wont, practice, usage, custom, *habit*, *habituate*

**Ana *form*, usage: rite, ceremony, formality (see FORM n)**

**use vb** Use, employ, utilize, apply, avail can all mean to deal with something so as to give it a practical value or to make it serviceable to oneself or others. One uses a thing, or a person when regarded as a passive object, as a means or instrument to the accomplishment of a purpose or as an aid to the attainment of an end; the thing may be concrete (use a hoe in cultivating) (use a dictionary to build up his vocabulary) (use a person as a tool) or it may be abstract (use patience in dealing with children) (use discretion in investing money) (the way to learn to use words is to read some good literature often and carefully—Russell) (his sense of being used rose suddenly above the treacherous sympathy he had begun to feel for her—Tarkington) One employs a person or thing that is idle, inactive, or not in use, when he puts him or it to work or finds a profitable use for him or it (she had . . . employed her leisure in reading every book that came in her way—Shaw) (the student crammed full of knowledge which he cannot employ—Grandgent) (craftsmen were finding in the new land raw materials on which they could employ all their artistry—Amer. Guide Series: Pa.) Although *use* and *employ* are often interchanged, there can be a perceptible difference in meaning: wherever the idea of serving as the means or instrument is uppermost, *use* is likely to be preferred; wherever the idea of engaging or selecting, of keeping occupied or busy, or of turning to account is uppermost, *employ* is the desirable and often the necessary choice; thus, a writer uses words effectively who knows what ones he should employ in a given context; a teacher often uses his pupils as monitors when he should keep them employed in study. One utilizes something when he finds a profitable use for it or discovers how to employ it for a practical purpose (he even tried to figure out a way to utilize the small limbs cut from the tops of the trees—Anderson) (charged against him that he utilized his military office for private gain—R. G. Adams) One applies something when he brings it into contact or into relation with something else where it will prove its useful-ness or acquire practical value. This suggestion of making a connection or bringing into contact is strong in all senses of *apply* (see also DIRECT, RESORT); in the present sense it can not only affect the construction but can even obscure the implication of usefulness; thus, one uses a mustard plaster to relieve a chest pain, but one applies a mustard plaster to the chest. The same implication distinguishes *apply* from the other words when the idea of usefulness is stressed; thus, one who knows how to *employ* words reveals his ability to select those words that express his exact meaning, no more and no less, but one who knows how to *apply* words reveals his ability to use them relevantly, that is, in reference to the things or ideas with which they are idiomatically associated (<foreigners learning English find difficulty in applying certain words and phrases (as evening dress and nightdress, tool and instrument, or bad and naughty) our own word *virtue* is *applied* only to moral qualities; but the Greek word which we so translate should properly be rendered "excellence," and includes a reference to the body as well as to the soul—Dickinson) The implication of a useful or definite end is strongest in *apply* when the word carries the further suggestion of relating what is general or theoretical to what is particular or concrete, for some such practical purpose as identification (we can discover if this fabric is woven by applying specific tests) or clarification of a problem (before forming an opinion, the judges must know what laws *apply* to the particular case) or invention (<most modern inventions and discoveries are the result of a fresh outlook in applying the laws of physics and chemistry>) (the law does all that
usefulness

is needed when it does all that it can, indicates a policy, applies it to all within the lines, and seeks to bring within the lines all similarly situated—Justice Holmes

<It is a test which we may apply to all figure painters—a test which will often discover the secret of unsatisfactory design—if we ask whether the figures are really occupied by what they are doing—Binyon>

One avails (oneself of) something or someone that is at hand or is offered by using it or him to one's own benefit or advantage <far from resenting such tutelage I am only too glad to avail myself of it—Shaw>

(takes us . . . into the consciousness of his characters, and in order to do so, he has availed himself of methods of which Flaubert never dreamed—Edmund Wilson>

Vagabond

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
he moves about in search of work, especially seasonal work, or whether he lives by begging and thievery (whoever, not being under seventeen, a blind person or a person asking charity within his own town, roves about from place to place begging, or living without labor or visible means of support, shall be deemed a tramp—General Laws of the Commonwealth of Mass.) (a distinct class of these gentlemen tramps, young men no longer young, who wouldn't settle down, who disliked society and the genteel conventions—Santayana) Bum basically applies to a lazy, idle, and often drunken, good-for-nothing, who will not work but habitually sponges on others (dwells in a black-and-white world where a guy is either your pal or probably a bum—Hal Boyle) (the local ne'er-do-well, the traditional village bum) But bum, especially when qualified, may denote one who wanders in pursuit of a particular occupation or activity (fruit bums who follow the harvests north) (a ski bum) Hobo is often distinguished from tramp, sometimes in terms of willingness to work, sometimes in terms of methods of travel, the tramp being then taken as one who typically tramps the roads, the hobo as one who typically rides surreptitiously on freight trains. A common application of hobo is to the migratory worker who roves about following such seasonal occupations as harvesting and crop picking. Hoboes are traveling workers, tramps are traveling shirkers and bums are stationary shirkers—Cleveland Plain Dealer (in Western parlance a hobo is not a tramp. A hobo is a migratory laborer, who carries his blankets on his back, looking for work—World's Work) Ana wanderer, roamer, rover (see corresponding verbs at WANDER) vagary *caprice, freak, fancy, whim, whimsy, conceit, vain 1 Vain, nugatory is trifling, puny, petty, paltry: delusive, delusory, mis-leading 3 Proud, vainglorious (see under PRIDE n) Ana self-satisfied, self-complacent, complacent, prig-gish, smug: conceited, egoistic, egotistic (see corre-sponding nouns at CONCEIT) Con *humble, meek, modest: diffident, *shy, hashful vainglorious proud, vain (see under PRIDE n) Ana arrogant, haughty, supercilious, disdainful, insolent, *proud: boasting or boastful, bragging, vaunting, gas-conading (see corresponding verbs at BOAST) vainglory *pride, vanity Ana pomp, *display, parade: flaunting, parading, ex-hibition (see corresponding verbs at SHOW): rhapsody, rodomontade, rant, *bombast valiant *brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valorous, dauntless, undaunted, daunted, bold, audacious Ana stout, *sturdy, tenacious, stalwart (see STRONG): indomitable, unconquerable, *invincible Ant timid: dastardly valid, sound, cogent, convincing, compelling, telling can all be applied directly or indirectly to arguments, reasons, principles, or processes of thought or to their presentation and mean having or manifesting the power to impress themselves on others as right and well-grounded. Valid and sound both imply that the power is inherent in the rationality or logicality of the thought apart from its presentation. Something is valid against which no objections can be maintained, because it conforms strictly to the law or regulations (as of the state or the church) or bold a valid title to a piece of property (a valid ordina-tion) or because it is supported or justified by facts and correct reasoning (a valid argument) <valid evidence> (universally valid principles—Inge) or, less often, because it is fully in accordance with claims
validate

or promises made for it and is entirely effectual or efficacious\(^1\) (a valid method of testing intelligence) \(\langle\text{these folkways remain valid for anybody who gets soluble from them—Wouk}\rangle\) A person or a thing is sound that is free from error or fault in its or its processes of thought and that avoids fallacies, insufficient evidence, hasty conclusions, or superficiality. The term not only suggests flawlessness in reasoning but solidity in the grounds upon which this reasoning is based \(\langle\text{a sound thinker}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{his assurance that he had never used an argument which he did not believe to be sound—Inge}\rangle\) (to admit . . . that reason cannot extend into the religious sphere is absolutely sound so long as we realize that reason has a coordinate right to lay down the rules in its own sphere of intelligence—Ellis) Something cogent or convincing or compelling commands mental assent. But cogent tends to stress a power or force resident in the argument or reasoning that makes it conclusive, convincing suggests a power to overcome doubt, opposition, or reluctance to accept, and compelling calls particular attention to the substantial nature of the objective evidence \(\langle\text{the remarks of Gibson on universities and their degrees are still . . . cogent—Aldington}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{there are other ways of making a thing . . . convincing . . . besides merely appealing to one's logic and sense of fact—Babbitt}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{so expressed, the argument does not sound strongly convincing: but it is really cogent, and the conclusion is sound—Darrow}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{though his logic is often unconvincing, his documentation is always compelling—Mueller}\rangle\) Something telling produces at once the desired effect; frequently the term implies the compelling of assent but it seldom directly suggests soundness or cogency though, in general, it does not deny the existence of these qualities \(\langle\text{the first speaker for the affirmative used far more telling arguments than the second speaker}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{every point made by the prosecuting attorney was telling}\rangle\) The term is often applied to words, phrases, tones of expression, or rhetorical methods which convince, persuade, or win admiration and support because of their pertinency, their suitability, or their forcibleness \(\langle\text{a telling illustration of what Darwin unintentionally did to the minds of his disciples—Shaw}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{such telling effects of contrast as the Japanese [artists] produced by an empty space—Binyon}\rangle\) \(\text{Ana}\) *conclusive, determinative, definitive, decisive: *effective, effectual: legal, *lawful, licit: *logical, analytical, subtle \(\text{Ant}\) fallacious, sophistical

valid*ate* \*confirm, authenticate, substantiate, verify, corroborate \(\text{Ana}\) *certify, attest, witness, vouch \(\text{Ant}\) invalidate

valo*r \*heroism, prowess, gallantry \(\text{Ana}\) *courage, mettle, tenacity, spirit, resolution: indomitableness, unconquerableness, invincibility (see corresponding adjectives at invincible): *fortitude, guts, sand, backbone

valu*rous \*brave, courageous, unafraid, fearless, intrepid, valiant, dauntless, undaunted, doughty, bold, audacious \(\text{Ana}\) venturesome, daring (see ADVENTUROUS): stout, sturdy, tenacious, stalwart, tough, *strong

valu*a*ble \*precious, invaluable, priceless, *costly, expensive, dear \(\text{Ana}\) estimated, appraised, evaluated (see ESTIMATE): valued, appreciated, prized, treasured (see APPRECIATE): esteemed, admired, respected (see corresponding verbs under REGARD \(n\))

valu*e \*price, charge, cost, expense: *importance, consequence, significance, weight: *use, usefulness, utility

\(\text{value vb}\) 1 *estimate, appraise, evaluate, rate, assess, assay \(\text{Ana}\) *calculate, compute, reckon: *judge, adjudge, adjudicate

2 prize, treasure, *appreciate, cherish

\(\text{Ana}\) esteem, respect, admire (see under REGARD \(n\)): love, enjoy (see LIKE): *revere, reverence, venerate

vanish, evanesce, evaporate, disappear, fade can all mean to pass from view or out of existence. Vanish implies a complete, often mysterious, and usually sudden passing; it commonly suggests absence of all trace or of any clue that would permit following until found \(\langle\text{no facts on the mother's disappearance. Died in childbirth, ran off with someone, committed suicide: some way of vanishing painful enough to keep Sidney from ever referring to it—Pynchon}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{all those emotions of fear and abhorrence . . . vanished instantly from my mind—Hudson}\rangle\) \(\text{Addison complained that in his time the very appearances of Christianity had vanished—Huxley}\) Evanesce differs from vanish in its greater stress on the process (as effacement or dissipation) by which a thing passes from visibility or thought; sometimes the term distinctly suggests a gradual process \(\langle\text{1 touch a scarf and it falls into air and light and seems to evanesce—Goyen}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{the sun-streaming clarity of cheekered beach parasols, of friendly boys digging castles in the sand, faded in outline, evanesced from the bright precision of reality to vagueness of storm and sand—Joseph Bennett}\rangle\) Evaporate suggests a vanishing as silently and inconspicuously as water does into vapor \(\langle\text{because of future expenses already mandated by the legislature, that surplus will evaporate soon—Armbrister}\rangle\) The term is often used in respect to tenuous qualities, but it may be employed to describe stealthy or prudent or sudden departures or withdrawals of persons \(\langle\text{people whose faith, so tenuous anyway, had evaporated upon the threatening winds of a “cosmic cataclysm”—Styron}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{looking at the high gray-green grass. A man could evaporate in that stuff in a second—R. O. Bowen}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{if we try to express almost any poem of his in prose, we find it impossible; its rare spirit evaporates in the process—Day Lewis}\rangle\) Disappear stresses only the passing from sight or thought; the passing implied may be sudden or gradual, permanent or temporary, but such suggestions are mostly contextual and not in the word \(\langle\text{the traditional view, that the world was made up of a vertical scale of creatures, gradually disappeared—S. F. Mason}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{some say, let us go back to Palestine, else Judaism will disappear—Cohen}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{seldom have other writers been able to disappear from their narrative as completely as Faulkner does—Robert Humphrey}\rangle\) \(\text{Fade},\) often with out or away, implies a gradual diminution in clearness and distinctness until the thing becomes invisible \(\langle\text{the ship gradually faded from sight}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{all other certainties had faded or eroded away in growing up—Wouk}\rangle\) \(\langle\text{this story seems to have faded out of the popular mind—Norman Douglas}\rangle\) \(\text{Ana}\) *escape, flee, fly: dispel, disperse, dissipate, *scatter \(\text{Ant}\) appear: loom

vani*ty \*pride, vainglory \(\text{Ana}\) self-esteem, self-love, *conceit, egotism, egoism, amour propre: complacency, self-complacency, self-satisfaction, smugness, priggishness (see corresponding adjectives at COMPLACENT): show, ostentation, pretense (see corresponding adjectives at showy)

vanquish \*conquer, defeat, beat, lick, subdue, subjugate, reduce, overcome, surmount, overthrow, rout \(\text{Ana}\) *frustrate, foil, outwit, circumvent: *overturn, subvert \(\text{Con}\) surrender, submit, capitulate (see corresponding nouns at SURRENDER): *yield, succumb

vanqu*isher \*victor, conqueror, winner, champion

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
vapid | variety
---|---
*insipid, flat, jejune, banal, wishy-washy, inane* | 
*soft, bland, gentle, mild: *tame, subdued, submissive: mawkish, maudlin, soppy, slushy, mushy, *sentimental* *

**Con** racy, spicy, *pungent, piquant: trenchant, crisp, *incisive: *expressive, significant, pregnant, meaningful *

**variable** adj *changeable, protean, changeful, mutable*

*fitful, spasmodic: fickle, mercurial, unstable, *inconstant, capricious: mobile, *movable*

**Ant** constant: equable

**variance** *discord, contention, dissension, difference, strife, conflict*

**Ant** difference, diversity, divergency, disparateness (see corresponding adjectives at DIFFERENT): separation, division, severing, sundering (see corresponding verbs at SEPARATE): incongruousness, uncongeniality, incompatibility, discordance, discrepancy (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSONANT)

**variation** change, alteration, modification (see under CHANGE vb)

*Ant* variety, diversity: difference, divergence, divergency, *dissimilarity: deviation, deflection, aberration*

**vargiagated, parti-colored, motley, checkered, checked, pied, piebald, skewbald, dappled, freaked** car all mean having a pattern involving different colors or shades of color. *Vargiagated* implies variation in the color (as of a single piece, object, or specimen) without indication of what colors or what forms—spots, streaks, blotches—are involved (disliked the *vargiagated* hues of the buildings—they reminded him of the garish brilliance in the lower town—Norman Douglas) *Particolored* implies the presence of two or more colors but stresses not so much the presence of different colors as their clear demarcation and distinct presentation. *Motley* in most uses is likely to suggest presence of colors of very noticeable diversity in a chance, haphazard, or very capricious arrangement (birds of *motley* colors and varied cries—Chesterston) (the *motley* dress of a court jester)

**Checkered** indicates a regular alternation of rectangular shapes different in color or shade like a checkboarder, especially an alternation between black and white or dark and light (the *checkered* fabric of Constable's pictures, their deep undertones overlaid with variegated passages of crumbling impasto and strewn with particles of white light—Ironsid) *Checked* indicates much the same thing but is admissible in situations where figures are less certainly rectangular; it is common in reference to fabrics (a gambler's *checked* vest) *Pied* suggests patches, blotches, or spots of color on a contrasting background and especially the white on black of a magpie's plumage. *Piebald* suggests similar coloration, especially in reference to the markings of a horse or dog, and *skewbald* implies an arrangement of spots and background involving white and some color other than black (piebald strictly means spotted white and black and skewbald white and any color but black—Simpson) *Dappled* describes a marking with small spots, patches, or specks of color or shade differing from that of the background (it lay dappled with sun and shade, still, clear, and irresistible—Ertz) *Freaked* may suggest bold streaks of contrasting color (tall bare fells, capped and freaked with snow—Brophy) (the woods were freaked and pied with fresh transparent leaves and flowers—Wylie)

*Ant* flecked, stippled, marbled, mottled, spattered, spotted (see under SPOT vb)

**variety** 1 Variety, diversity are comparable when they are used in reference to a group, class, or complex whole and denote the state or quality of being composed of different parts, elements, or individuals. *Variety* may imply that the things which differ, whether they are fundamentally similar or completely dissimilar, are related because they contribute to the same end or play a part in the formation of the same whole (his *variety* is to be praised . . . what is distressing . . . is his style—Mailer) (most workers would prefer some *variety* in their work, but they cannot get it—Hobson) *Diversity*, though often used interchangeably with *variety*, distinctively stresses the marked difference or divergence of the individuals, parts, or elements, and seldom suggests even a class or categorical likeness (the practical reduction of human *diversity* to subhuman uniformity, of freedom to servitude—Huxley) (the moral and intellectual explosion needed . . . to reestablish tolerance of qualitative *diversity* and intellectual freedom as the true basis of democracy—Julian Huxley) (the great *diversity* among human beings)

*Ant* *dissimilarity, unlikeness, difference, divergence, divergency: multifariousness, variousness (see corresponding adjectives at MANY): miscellaneousness or miscellany, heterogeneousness or heterogeneity, assort edness or assortment (see corresponding adjectives at MISCELLANEOUS)

2 Variety, subspecies, race, breed, cultivar, strain, clone, stock are comparable when they mean a group of related plants or animals narrower in scope than a species. These terms tend to be variable in application and subject to confusing overlap in use, but all can carry distinctive implications. Variety stresses deviation from a type; historically, it denotes an infraspecific category differing from the typical form of the species in characters that are too trivial or too inconsistent to justify its separation as a distinct species. In modern use it is appropriately selected when it is desirable to call attention to such deviation without making any specific taxonomic suggestion or it may be used specifically of any such divergent group developed under human control (as by selective breeding, hybridization, and cultivation) (an early *variety* of peach) (developing new *varieties* to meet special conditions)

**Subspecies**, which stresses subordinate status, is primarily a taxonomic term applicable to a morphologically distinguishable subdivision of a species that is geographically isolated but physiologically capable of interbreeding with other comparable subdivisions of the same species. *Race* stresses common ancestry and differentiation based on readily discernible hereditary characters (a *race* of albino mice) As applied to the human species (*Homo sapiens*), *race* is a highly controversial term that basically denotes any of the primary subdivisions of recent man historically native to distinct parts of the world and distinguished by relatively fixed characters in physical type (as skin color, hair form, and skull shape) (the Caucasoid *race* (the Mongoloid *race* (in more general use *race* may apply to either large or small groups within a species. Though often used as if interchangeable *race* and *variety* are not exactly correspondent; while they sometimes agree, they more often overlap in their reference, for *race* emphasizes a common descent, while *variety* stresses divergence from a type. *Breed* can refer to a group within a species of animals or occasionally of plants the members of which presumably share a common ancestry and are visibly similar in most characters. More specifically *breed* refers to such a group (as Jersey cattle or beagle dogs) that has been developed under human control chiefly through selective breeding and the fixing of desired qualities. *Cultivar* applies specifically to a race or breed of plants originated (as by selection or hybridization) under cultivation. *Strain*, like *variety*, stresses difference, but it is more likely to be used of subdivisions of subdivisions (as subspecies, or especially breeds or varieties) than, as *variety* typically is, of
primary subdivisions of the species. It is especially applicable when the distinguishing character is a physiological quality (as vigor, or yield, or virulence); the term may imply human control as a means of gaining this result (as through crossing or inbreeding) or it may imply chance variation (the appearance of virulent and antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains) or controlled conditions (an improved strain of Golden Bantam corn) (superior milking strains have been developed in most dual-purpose breeds of cattle). Clone is the most precisely delimited term of this set; it denotes all the individuals that constitute the asexually produced progeny of a single parent and are therefore genetically identical. Though applicable to organisms (as bacteria and protozoans) that reproduce asexually in nature, it is used typically of economic plants that are propagated by such means as dividing, budding, or grafting and in such use may come close to variety, race, or strain; thus, one can speak of the Baldwin variety of apple or the Baldwin clone. Stock places emphasis upon community of origin and genetically close relationship in the group but its range of reference is not clearly defined. Often also it carries over from other senses of the word the notion of being a source or original (culled out a vigorous stock from which he selected several clones) (the several stocks developed by inbreeding were crossed to gain hybrid vigor).

various 1 different, diverse, divergent, disparate

Ana *distinct, separate: distinctive, peculiar, individual (see characteristic): varying, changing (see change vb)

Ant uniform: cognate

2 many, several, sundry, divers, numerous, multifarious

Ana *miscellaneous, heterogeneous, assorted

Con *same, identical, equivalent: equal: similar, alike, *like

vary 1 change, alter, modify

Ana deviate, diverge, digress, depart (see swerve): transform, metamorphose, convert

2 differ, disagree, dissent

Ana deviate, diverge, digress, depart (see swerve): separate, divide, part

vast *huge, immense, enormous, elephantine, mammoth, giant, gigantic, gigantean, colossal, gargantuian, Herculean, cyclopean, titanic, Brobdignagian

Ana stupendous, tremendous, prodigious, monstrous: large, big, great: spacious, capacious

vault vb *jump, leap, spring, bound

Ana surmount (see conquer): mount, ascend, rise, soar

vault n jump, leap, spring, bound (see under jump vb)

Ana surmounting (see conquer): rising, mounting, ascending, soaring (see rise)

vaunt vb *boast, brag, crow, gasconade

Ana parade, flaunt, exhibit, display, *show: magnify, aggrandize, *exalt

veer *swerve, deviate, depart, digress, diverge

Ana shift, transfer, *move: turn, divert, deflect, sheer

vehement *intense, fierce, exquisite, violent

Ana forcible, forceful, *powerful, potent: fervid, fervorous, impassioned, passionate, ardent: furious, frantic, wild, rabid, delirious

vehicle *mean, instrument, instrumentation, agent, agency, medium, organ, channel

veil vb *cover, overspread, envelop, wrap, shroud

Ana mask, cloak, camouflage, *disguise: conceal, *hide, secrete, screen

vein 1 *fond, humor, temper

Ana *disposition, temper, complexion, temperament

2 strain, streak, *touch, suggestion, suspicion, soupspoon, tincture, tinge, shade, smack, spice, dash

velocity *speed, momentum, impetus, pace, headway

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
for the cause of freedom—\textit{you have deeply ventured; but all must do so who would greatly win}—\textbf{Byron}\textbf{.} But \textit{venture} is often used in a weakened sense to mean little more than \textit{dare} or, sometimes, \textit{attempt} (\textit{imagine the fate of a university don of 1860, or 1870, or 1880, or even 1890 who had ventured to commend Leaves of Grass to the young gentlemen—Mencken}) (\textit{this class fellows were all rather gnomily polite to him, and one or two ventured awkward words of condolence—Archibald Marshall})

\textbf{Hazard} usually implies the putting of something to the chance of losing it; the term suggests more uncertainty or precariousness than \textit{venture} and less hope of a favorable outcome and is often used in place of \textit{venture} because of this implication (\textit{men that hazard all do it in hope of fair advantages—Shak.}) (\textit{his own possessions, safety, life, he would have hazarded for Lucie and her child, without a moment's demur—Dickens}) (Like \textit{venture}, \textit{hazard} is also often used in a much weaker sense but it comes closer to \textit{dare} than to \textit{attempt} (\textit{sometimes as he hunted he got a glimpse of the giraffe moving through the bush, but was never near enough to hazard a shot—Cloete}) (\textit{no Elizabethan dramatist offers greater temptation: to the scholar, to hazard conjecture of fact; and to the critic, to hazard conjecture of significance—T. S. Eliot})

\textit{Risk} carries a still stronger implication of exposure to real dangers and of taking actual chances (\textit{Captain Cook had sailed straight through the middle of the group, not risking a landing because of the fierce aspect of the natives—Heiser}) (\textbf{Chance} may suggest a trusting to luck and a sometimes irresponsible disregarding of the risks involved in an action or procedure (\textit{decided to withdraw from Kentucky rather than chance defeat in enemy territory—Hay}) (\textit{I'll chance it, if it kills me—Jeopardize} carries further the implication of exposure to dangers; it implies not only that they are a constant threat but that the odds in one's favor are equally or even unfavorably balanced with those against one (\textit{found it difficult to steer a course that should not jeopardize either his loyalty or his honesty—Sidney Lee}) (\textit{no traveler from abroad, however fair-minded, could tell the truth about us without jeopardizing his life, liberty, and reputation—Brooks})

\textbf{Endanger} and \textbf{imperil} both stress exposure to dangers or perils, and do not in themselves throw emphasis upon a taking of chances. \textbf{Imperil} may imply more certainty or more imminence to the predicted risk than \textbf{endanger} but the two words are often used interchangeably without significant loss (\textit{not so great a wind as to endanger us—Defoe}) (\textit{condemned the abolitionists as agitators who actually endangered the cause of freedom—Cole}) (\textit{a jungle of aggressive power politics which impairs internal reconstruction, the healing of the wounds of war, and the creation of the political apparatus necessary for one world—Mark Starr}) (\textit{new technical processes and devices litter the countryside with waste and refuse, contaminate water and air, imperil wildlife and man and endanger the balance of nature itself—Kennedy})

\textbf{venturesome} *adventurous, daring, daredevil, rash, reckless, foolhardy

\textbf{Ana} bold, audacious, intrepid, *brave: stout, sturdy, stalwart (see STRONG)

\textbf{Con} *timid, timorous: *fearful, apprehensive, afraid

\textbf{veracity} *truth, verity, verisimilitude

\textbf{Ana} integrity, probity, *honesty, honor

\textbf{verb} *oral

\textbf{verbiage, redundancy, tautology, pleonasm, circumlocution, periphrasis} are comparable when they denote a fault of style or a form or mode of expression involving the use of too many words. \textbf{Verbiage} may imply delight in words for their own sake (as for their sound, their color, or their suggestions) and overindulgence in their use for these reasons; the term, however, often suggests a pointless or habitual wordiness that tends to make what is written dull, meaningless, obscure, or unduly heavy reading (\textit{his concise and well-informed speeches were welcomed amid the common verbiage of debate—Buchan}) (\textit{the almost luscious richness of Aunt Phoebe's imagination, her florid verbiage, her note of sensuous defiance—H. G. Wells})

\textbf{Redundancy} does not in general carry the implications of expansiveness, floridity, or heaviness so often apparent in \textit{verbiage}; but the term sometimes implies the use of more words than are required by idiom or syntax and so suggests a fault of style (\textit{redundancies result ... when the writer fails to perceive the scope of a word—Wesley}) (\textit{the . . . florid redundancy of Italian prose—Ellis}) (\textbf{Tautology} is needless or useless repetition of the same idea in different words (\textit{he cautioned his students to beware of such tautologies as "visible to the eye" and "audible to the ear"}) (\textbf{Pleonasm} implies the use of syntactically unnecessary words as in "the man he said." Sometimes pleonastic expressions are acceptable means of emphasis and are thought of as figures of speech (\textit{it is a pleonasm, a figure usual in Scripture, by a multiplicity of expressions to signify one notable thing—South})

\textbf{Circumlocution} and \textbf{periphrasis} denote a roundabout or indirect way of saying a thing (\textit{the gift of the pamphleteer, who cuts through academic circumlocution—Dean}) (\textit{this was not however a question to be asked point-blank, and I could not think of any effective circumlocution—Conrad}) (\textit{one of those anomalous practitioners in lower departments of the law who . . . deny themselves all indulgence in the luxury of too delicate a conscience (a periphrasis which might be abridged considerably)—De Quincey}) (\textit{"The answer is in the negative" is a periphrasis for "no"—Time})

\textbf{Ana} wordiness, verboseness, proximity, diffuseness (see corresponding adjectives at \textbf{WORDY})

\textbf{verbal} *wordy, prolix, diffuse, redundant

\textbf{Ana} grandiloquent, magnoquilous, flowery, bombastic (see \textbf{Rhetorical}: loquacious, voluble, glib, garrulous, *talkative

\textbf{Ant} laconic —\textbf{Con} *concise, terse, succinct: compact, *close

\textbf{verge} \textit{n edge, rim, brim, brink, *border, margin

\textbf{Ana} bound, *limit, end, confine: *circumference, perimeter, compass

\textbf{verify} corroborate, substantiate, *confirm, authenticate, validate

\textbf{Ana} *prove, test, try, demonstrate: *certify, attest, witness, vouch: establish, settle (see \textit{set vb})

\textbf{verisimilitude} *truth, veracity, verity

\textbf{Ana} agreement, accordance, harmonizing or harmony, correspondence (see corresponding verbs at \textit{agree}); *like-\textit{ness, similitude, resemblance

\textbf{veritable} *authentic, genuine, bona fide

\textbf{Ana} actual, *real, true

\textbf{Ant} factitious

\textbf{verity} *truth, veracity, verisimilitude

\textbf{verисучк} *dial ect, patois, lingua, jargon, cant, argot, slang

\textbf{versatile, many-sided, all-around} can all mean marked by or showing skill or ability or capacity or usefulness of many different kinds. When applied to persons, \textbf{versatile} stresses aptitude and facility in many different activities requiring skill or ability, especially the ability to turn with no diminution in skill from one activity to another without a hitch; applied to things, it stresses their multiple and diverse qualities, uses, or possibilities (\textit{a versatile student}) (\textit{the most versatile soprano now active—Kolodin}) (\textit{versatile interests}) (\textit{a versatile combat weapon}) (\textit{a versatile building material})

\textbf{Many-sided} applied to persons stresses
breadth or diversity of interests or accomplishments; applied to things, their diversity of aspects, attributes, or uses

A *many-sided* scholar and citizen

A *many-sided* and truly civilized life—Trevelyan

A *many-sided* personality

A *many-sided* agreement—Manchester Guardian

All-around implies completeness or symmetry in development, either general or within a single activity with many phases; the term need not imply special or great attainments but rather a general ability to do oneself credit; when applied to things, it implies an analogous general usefulness

Many observers have called him the best all-around reporter in the country—Walker

The all-around adaptability and quality of our men—Vosseller

An accomplished, finished, *consume* ready, apt, *quick* prompt

**verse 1**

Verse both mean a unit of metrical writing. Verse is both wider and more varied in its popular usage since it can denote a single line of such writing, such writing as a class, or, along with stanza, a group of lines forming a division of a poem and typically following a fixed metrical and sometimes rhythmical pattern. Verse may also specifically denote the part of a song preceding the refrain or chorus or a comparable part of an anthem or hymn. But in technical use and in discussion of prosody verse is restricted to the single line of metrical writing and stanza is regularly employed for the group of lines that forms a division of a poem.

2 *paragraph, article, clause, plunk, count

versed *conversant

A *learned, erudite: informed, acquainted* (see information): intimate, *familiar

versifier *poet, rhymer, poetaster, bard, minstrel, troubadour

**version 1**

A *transliteration, paraphrase, metaphrase

2 *account, report, story, chronicle

vertebrae *spine, backbone, back, chine

vertex *apex

vertical, perpendicular, plumb can mean situated at right angles to the plane of the horizon or extending from that plane at such an angle. Vertical suggests a relation to the vertex or topmost point (see apex 1); it is used most often when the thing so described actually extends upward from the plane of the horizon or from its base or support in such a direction that if its direction line were produced, it would reach the zenith (vertical threads in a tapestry) (a vertical piston) (walls not quite vertical) Vertical is, of these terms, the most frequently applied to abstractions and the most common in extended use (the vertical organization of society) Perpendicular differs from vertical in being normally applied to things that extend upward or downward from the horizontal or both upward and downward; thus, one looks up or down the perpendicular face of a cliff (a perpendicular fall of water) Consequently, perpendicular is used more often than vertical to suggest little more than precipituousness or extreme steepness or stiffness and straightness of line (a perpendicular descent) (a stiff perpendicular old maid—Milford) Plumb is largely a builder's term used particularly in judging the exact verticality or perpendicularity of something by its conformity to the direction of a plumb line (the wall was plumb)

Ant horizontal

vertiginous *giddy, dizzy, swimming, dazzled

Annoy, fret, gall (see ABRADE): irritate, exasperate, nettle, provoke

Ant please, regale

A *capricious, appease, mollify, propitiate

Vivacity, animation, liveliness (see corresponding adjectives at lively): buoyancy, resiliency, elasticity (see corresponding adjectives at elastic)

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
means extremely or flagrantly wicked (the nefarious neglect of their aged parents) (race prejudice is most nefarious on its polluter levels—Clurman) Flagitious and infamous both imply shameful and scandalous badness or wickedness, but the former is somewhat less rhetorical and more closely descriptive than the latter (in the beginning, the common law applied only to acts that all men, everywhere, admitted were flagitious—G. W. Johnson) (forced and flagitious bombast—T. S. Eliot) (else, perhaps, I might have been entangled among deeds, which, now, as infamous, I should abhor—Wordsworth) (Alice ... would have scoured at infamous any suggestion that her parent was more selfish than saintly—Shaw) Corrupt (see also DEBASE 1) may be applied to persons in an official capacity or to their acts, then implying a loss or lack of moral integrity or probity that makes one accessible to bribes or other inducements to go contrary to sworn duties or obligations (control of municipal government in ... many ... American cities had fallen into the clutches of corrupt political machines—Armbrister) (bent only on turning each to his own personal advantage the now corrupt machinery of administration and law—Dickinson) or the term may be more generally applied, and then suggests degradation or depravity (those moral wilderesses of civilized life which the Square automatically condemns as delinquent or evil or immature or morbid or self-destructive or corrupt—Mailer) (humanity they knew to be corrupt and incompetent—Henry Adams) Degenerate stresses a descent and deterioration from a presumed original or earlier high type or condition to one that is very low in the scale morally, intellectually, physically, or artistically. However it additionally carries so strong an implication of corruption, and so often suggests extreme viciousness that it is generally used to describe what is especially reprehensible and offensive from the historical point of view or in comparison to other members of its class or other instances of the type (preferred to prop up an effete and degenerate dynasty rather than face a vigorous reformed China—G. F. Hudson) (what he has to say is inspired by revolt against the degenerate practice of his times—Binyon) (we are solemnly warned that in the hands of modern writers language has fallen into a morbid state. It has become degenerate—Ellis) Ana debased, depraved, debauched, perverted (see under DEBASE): dissolute, profligate, *abandoned, reprobate: lewd, lascivious, wanton, lecherous, libidinous (see LICENTIOUS)

Ant virtuous

vicissitude 1 *change, alteration, mutation, permutation Ana turning, rotation, revolving or revolution (see corresponding verbs at TURN); reversal, transposition (see corresponding verbs at REVERSE): *succession, progression, sequence, series: *variety, diversity

2 *difficulty, hardship, rigor Ana *misfortune, mischance, adversity: *trial, tribulation, affliction

victim, prey, quarry denote a person or animal killed or injured for the ends of the one who kills or injures. Victim primarily applies to a living creature, usually an animal, sometimes a person, that is killed and offered as a sacrifice to a divinity; in more general use it applies to one who has been destroyed, ruined, seriously injured, or badly treated by some ruthless person or impersonal power before which he has been helpless (the victims of a pestilence) (spent much time in the back of the grocery, complaining of his poverty as if it were a new invention and he its first victim—Hudson) (was the girl born to be a victim; to be always disliked and crushed as if she were too fine for the world?—Conrad) (all are victims of circumstances; all have had characters warped in infancy and intelligence stunted at school—Russell) Prey applies to animals hunted and killed for food by more powerful carnivorous animals (the hungry family flew like vultures on their prey—Johnson) In extended sense prey applies to a victim of something that seizes or captures or falls in a manner suggestive of the action of a predatory animal (Hitler, having taken his plunge, and with such reckless bravado, now suddenly was prey to doubts—Shirer) (people who make solemn talk about art and are the natural prey of the artists of Punch—Montague) Quarry is predominantly a hunting term referable to a victim of the chase, especially one taken with hounds or hawks; it may be applied to the animal as pursued as well as the animal as taken after pursuit (the startled quarry bounds again, as fast the gallant greyhounds strain—Scott) In extended use quarry usually applies to a person or thing determined upon as a victim and vigorously and relentlessly pursued (you think you are the pursuer and she the pursued. ... Fool: it is you who are the pursued, the marked-down quarry, the destined prey—Shaw) (sometimes a man has to stalk his quarry with great caution, waiting patiently for the right moment to reveal himself—Dahl)

victor, winner, conqueror, champion, vanquisher can all denote one who gains the mastery in a contest, conflict, or competition. Victor, the more literary term, and winner, the ordinary term, usually stress the fact of defeating one's opponents; additionally victor can connote a triumph or a glorious proof of one's powers. The terms are applicable when the test is one of strength, strategy, skill, or endurance (the winner in the oratorical contest) (he who battles on her [Justice's] side, God, though he were ten times slain, crowns him victor glorified, victor over death and pain—Emerson) (life is a contest between people in which the victor generally recuperates quickly and the loser takes long to mend—Mailer) (he undoubtedly was going to be a very rich man. So her boss said. And her boss picked winners—Donn Byrne) Conqueror stresses the defeat and subjugation of an enemy or opposing force; the term is seldom used appropriately in respect to friendly games or competitions where winner is the regular term, for it usually presupposes a warlike struggle or an attempt to crush by getting the upper hand (England never did, nor never shall, lie at the proud foot of a conqueror—Shak.) (there was also in it ... a note of the triumphant conqueror, the defier of the world—Shirer) Champion applies to the one who gains the acknowledged supremacy through a contest or in a field of competition (as in an athletic contest or in a given sport). The term does not apply to a winner of any test, but only of a test in which one meets all of those of highest rank in the field or meets the one who holds the title of champion or one who challenges one's own right to hold that title (the heavyweight champion of the world) (he could end up being champion for a while. But I doubt if he could hold the title in a strong field—Mailer) Vanquisher is often used in place of conqueror and, often ironically or somewhat hyperbolically, in place of victor or winner, when there is an intent to imply an overpowering or an overwhelming or crushing defeat (but I shall rise victorious, and subdue my vanquisher—Milton) (realized that gold is not always the vanquisher of every obstacle—Cable)

victory, conquest, triumph can mean the result achieved by one who gains the mastery in a contest or struggle. Victory and conquest in their basic use carry the same implications and suggestions as the corresponding agent nouns (see VICTOR) (“Victory,” said Nelson, “is not a name strong enough for such a scene”; he called it a conquest—Southey) In their common extended use, victory
vigor, vim, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, vigilant

rival, compete, emulate

point of view, standpoint, angle, slant

survey, contemplate, observe, note, remark, no-
vb

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

Ana

vigor implies a strength that proceeds from a fundamental soundness or robustiousness or a display of energy or vigor and exhibits no signs of a depletion of the powers thing is vigorous that has or manifests active strength or vigor as a youth half his age > a
capable and women, as 
can all denote a quality of force, forcefulness, or energy.

Vigor implies a strength that proceeds from a fundamental soundness or robustiousness or a display of energy or vigor and exhibits no signs of a depletion of the powers thing is vigorous that has or manifests active strength or vigor as a youth half his age > a

vigorous, energetic, strenuous, lusty, nervous can all mean having or manifesting great vitality and force. A person or thing is vigorous that has or manifests active strength or force and exhibits no signs of a depletion of the powers associated with freshness or robustness of body or mind seemed as vigorous as a youth half his age > a vigorous, fast-growing tree > the vigorous mother of a large family > a vigorous argument —Edmund Wilson > Kate was a bold, vigorous thinker —Anderson

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

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

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

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

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

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

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
West> (received by bustling male assistants very energetic and rapid—Bennett) (a less energetic expulsion of air from the lungs—Grandgent) A person that is strenuous is continuously and zealously energetic, while a thing that is strenuous makes constant demands on one's vigor, energy, and zeal; in both cases the term implies no flagging of ardor or no avoidance of the arduous (to hustle and to be strenuous ... seem to be prominent American virtues—Cohen) (strenuous liberty—Milton) (the spirit of our religion calls for strenuous opposition to the current principles and practice of the world—Inge) A person or thing is lusty that exhibits exuberant vigor or energy (therefore my age is as a lusty winter, frosty, but kindly—Shak.) (Pet Gurney was a lusty cock turned sixty-three, but bright and vital—Masefield) (a lusty appetite) A thing (as a quality, a style, or an utterance) is nervous that conveys a feeling of continuing often forceful activity such as results from mental vigor and energy (the nervous alertness of youthful brains, and the stamina of youthful bodies—Amer. Guide Series: Mich.) (Tyndale's own diction was singularly simple, energetic, nervous, and yet restrained—Lowes) (his rhythm has a pulsating and nervous vitality—Collet)

Ana virile, manly, manful (see MALE): * muscular, athletic, sinewy, husky: stout, sturdy, stalwart, *strong, tough Ant languorous: lethargic

vile * base, low

Ana depraved, corrupted, perverted, debased, debauched (see under DEBASE): * coarse, vulgar, obscene, gross: foul, filthy, nasty, * dirty: * mean, abject, sordid: * offensive, repulsive, revolting, loathsome

vilify *malign, traduce, asperse, calumniate, defame, slander, libel

Ana * abuse, outrage, mistreat, misuse: assail, * attack: revile, vituperate, berate (see SCOLD)

Ant eulogize

villain * vicious, iniquitous, nefarious, flagitious, infamous, corrupt, degenerate

Ana debased, deprived, perverted (see under DEBASE): atrocious, * outrageous, heinous: dissolute, profligate, * abandoned

vim * vigor, spirit, dash, esprit, verve, punch, élan, drive

Ana force, strength, * power, energy

vindicate 1 justify, defend, * maintain, assert

Ana * support, uphold, advocate 2 exonerate, * exculpate, absolve, acquit

Ana * disprove, refute, confute: * defend, protect, shield, guard

Ant calumniate

vindictive, revengeful, vengeful are close synonyms often used interchangeably to mean showing or motivated by a desire for vengeance. Distinctively vindictive tends to stress this reaction as inherent in the nature of the individual and, therefore, is especially applicable when no specific motivating grievance exists (there was nothing vindictive in his nature; but, if revenge came his way, it might as well be good—Stevenson) The term can imply a persistent emotion or a tendency to seek revenge for real or fancied wrongs or slights, sometimes with implacable malevolence, sometimes with spiteful malice (a vindictive man will look for occasions of resentment—James Martinque) (this zeal ... was mingled with a vindictive hatred of the Puritans, which did him little honor either as a statesman or as a Christian—Macaulay) (it is not true that suffering ennobles the character; happiness does that sometimes, but suffering, for the most part, makes men petty and vindictive—Maughan) but occasionally it implies no more than a punitive or retributive intent (a vindictive purpose, a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and vindictive purpose,—a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and vindictive purpose,—a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and vindictive purpose,—a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and vindictive purpose,—a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and vindictive purpose,—a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and vindictive purpose,—a purpose to punish you for your suspicion—Cowper) (the prison sentence handed down by a court that was more puzzled than vindictive was mild—Purdy) (the punishments in Dante's Inferno, though seldom devoid of a certain horrible appropriateness, are essentially vindictive in their nature. Retributive punishment is the essential of medieval justice—Cohen) Revengeful and vengeful are more likely to suggest the state of one specifically provoked to action and truculently ready to seek revenge (no creature is so revengeful as a proud man who has humbled himself in vain—Macaulay) (such a close farmer, as to grudge almost the seed to the ground, whereupon revengeful Nature grudged him the crops which she granted to more liberal husbandmen—Thackeray) (knowing that by one word—Yes or Forgive or Love—she might have ... released all of the false and
violence

*intense, vehement, fierce, exquisite

Virago, amazon, termagant, scold, shrew, vixen can all mean a woman of pugnacious temperament. Virago and amazon are often interchangeable; both tend to suggest physical vigor and size and often a masculine quality of mind or interests (viragoes with red faces, thick necks, and tousled lint-colored hair screamed at all present to come and have a shy at the wooden figures—Lynd) (*an amazon of a woman appeared suddenly in the doorway. She was well over six feet and well over two hundred pounds—Nancy Rutledge) (*a few daring amazons of the horsey set—Dos Passos) and both may apply to a woman engaged in typically masculine pursuits and especially fighting (*their leader was a fiery little Mexican virago scarcely out of her teens—Green Peyton) (*Charles XII of Sweden had a bearded female grenadier in his army, a reputedly beautiful amazon—Joseph Mitchell) (*the warrior maiden Marfisa, a true virago and amazon—R. A. Hall) (*Distinctively virago can imply fierceness of temper and a domineering nature (*sometimes she abjures her femininity, she hesitates between chastity, homosexuality, and an aggressive virago attitude—Parshley) (*certain viragoes, who made life a burden to the brothers—G. W. Johnson) while amazon is more likely to suggest physical strength and size and often a masculine quality of mind or interests (amazons with red faces, thick necks, and tousled lint-colored hair) (*the prime minister is virtually the ruler of his country) (*their father’s request is virtually a command) (*the British contended that the American colonies were virtually represented) Practically implies a difference between what is enough for practical purposes or from the point of view of use, value, or effectiveness and what satisfies the requirements formally or absolutely (baldly spotted fruit is practically worthless) (*a road is practically finished when traffic can pass over it freely and without interruptions) Morally implies a difference between what satisfies one’s judgment and what is required for proof by law or by logic (*the jurors were morally certain of the defendant’s guilt, but owing to a lack of evidence, they were compelled to render a verdict of “not guilty” (*When morally qualifies words such as “impossible,” it occurs in a statement of a conviction and is slightly less positive than “absolutely” (*it is morally impossible to accomplish more under the circumstances) Virtue (*goodness, morality, rectitude

Ana honor, *honesty, integrity, probity: *fidelity, piety, fealty, loyalty: righteousness, nobility, virtuousness (see corresponding adjectives at moral)

Ant vice

2 *excellence, merit, perfection

Ana *worth, value: effectiveness, efficacy, effectualness (see corresponding adjectives at effective): strength, might, *power, force

Virtuoso *expert, adept, artist, artiste, wizard

Virtuous *moral, ethical, righteous, noble

Ana pure, *chaste, modest, decent: *upright, just, honorable

Ant vicious

Virulent *poisonous, venomous, toxic, mephitic, pestilential, pestilential, miasmatic, miasmatical

Ana *deadly, mortal, fatal, lethal: *narcissistic, noxious, baneful, deleterious, malignant, malign (see malicious)

Virus 1 *poison, venom, toxin, bane

2 *germ, microbe, bacterium, bacillus

Visage *face, countenance, physiognomy, mug, puss

Vision 1 *revelation, prophecy, apocalypse

2 *fancy, fantasy, phantasy, phantasm, dream, dreamland, nightmare

Anna illusion, *delusion, hallucination, mirage: *imagination, fancy, fantasy

Visionary adj *imaginative, fanciful, fantastic, chimerical, quixotic


Visit n Visit, visitation, call are comparable when they mean a coming to stay with another, usually for a brief time, as a courtesy, an act of friendship, or a business or professional duty. Visit applies not only to such a stay with
another (pay a visit to a friend) (a physician's bill for visits) (a welfare worker's visit) but also, to a more protracted stay as a house guest or in a place where one goes for rest, entertainment, or sightseeing (a week's visit in a friend's summer home) (off for a visit to Washington) (plan a visit to Europe) Visit (see also TRIAL 2) is chiefly employed in reference to a formal or official visit (as to a church, a college, or a ship) made by one in authority (as an ecclesiastical superior, a school superintendent, or a medical inspector) (parochial visitations of a bishop) (a visitation and search of a merchant ship can be made only by an authorized official) The term may also be used of something that visits one, often by or as if by the will of a superior power (the gentle visitations of calm thought—Shelley) or that is visited upon one and that is usually regarded as an affliction (an illness, a maiming accident or some other visitation of blind fate—Conrad) Call applies only to a brief visit, such as one makes upon a person who is not a friend, but with whom one has social or official relations (a society woman must give a portion of her time to formal calls) or by a person in quest of business or of a business order (the morning call of the grocer's boy) The term, however, may be used in place of visit for a short social visit. 

Visitant *visitor, guest, caller

Visitation 1 *visit, call
2 *trial, tribulation, affliction, cross
Ana *misfortune, mischance, adversity: calamity, catastrophe, *disaster: hardship, vicissitude (see DIFFICULTY)

Visitor, visitant, guest, caller mean one who visits another

Visitant is chiefly employed in reference to a formal or official visit (as to a church, a college, or a ship) made by one in authority (as an ecclesiastical superior, a school superintendent, or a medical inspector) (parochial visitations of a bishop) (a visitation and search of a merchant ship can be made only by an authorized official) The term may also be used of something that visits one, often by or as if by the will of a superior power (the gentle visitations of calm thought—Shelley) or that is visited upon one and that is usually regarded as an affliction (an illness, a maiming accident or some other visitation of blind fate—Conrad) Call applies only to a brief visit, such as one makes upon a person who is not a friend, but with whom one has social or official relations (a society woman must give a portion of her time to formal calls) or by a person in quest of business or of a business order (the morning call of the grocer's boy) The term, however, may be used in place of visit for a short social visit. 

Visitant *visitor, guest, caller

Visitation 1 *visit, call
2 *trial, tribulation, affliction, cross
Ana *misfortune, mischance, adversity: calamity, catastrophe, *disaster: hardship, vicissitude (see DIFFICULTY)

Visitor, visitant, guest, caller mean one who visits another

Visitant is chiefly employed in reference to a formal or official visit (as to a church, a college, or a ship) made by one in authority (as an ecclesiastical superior, a school superintendent, or a medical inspector) (parochial visitations of a bishop) (a visitation and search of a merchant ship can be made only by an authorized official) The term may also be used of something that visits one, often by or as if by the will of a superior power (the gentle visitations of calm thought—Shelley) or that is visited upon one and that is usually regarded as an affliction (an illness, a maiming accident or some other visitation of blind fate—Conrad) Call applies only to a brief visit, such as one makes upon a person who is not a friend, but with whom one has social or official relations (a society woman must give a portion of her time to formal calls) or by a person in quest of business or of a business order (the morning call of the grocer's boy) The term, however, may be used in place of visit for a short social visit. 

Visitant *visitor, guest, caller

Visitation 1 *visit, call
2 *trial, tribulation, affliction, cross
Ana *misfortune, mischance, adversity: calamity, catastrophe, *disaster: hardship, vicissitude (see DIFFICULTY)

Visitor, visitant, guest, caller mean one who visits another
vivify *quicken, animate, enliven
Anna *vitalize, energize, activate: *renew, restore, re-
refresh: *stir, rouse, arouse: stimulate, galvanize, excite
(see PROVOKE)
vixen shrew, scold, termagnant, *virago, amazon
vocabulary *language, phraseology, diction, phrasing,
*word, term
vocal 1 Vocal, articulate, oral can all mean uttered by the
voice or having to do with utterance. Vocal implies the use
of voice, but not necessarily of speech or language; thus,
vocal sounds are sounds produced by a creature that has
vocal organs; vocal music is contrasted with instrumental
music because the musical tones are produced by the voice
rather than by a musical instrument. Articulate implies
the use of distinct intelligible language; thus, speech is the
uttering of articulate sounds; articulate cries are those
that are expressed in meaningful words rather than in
meaningless sounds <Constance nodded her head in
thorough agreement. She did not trouble to go into articu-
late apologies—Bennett> Oral implies the use of the
voice rather than the hand (as in writing or typing) in
communicating (as thoughts, wishes, orders, questions, or
answers) <an oral examination> <an oral command> <the
oral transmission of tradition>
2 Vocal, articulate, fluent, eloquent, voluble, glib can mean
being able to express oneself clearly or easily, or showing
such ability. Vocal usually implies ready responsiveness
to an occasion for expression or free and usually forceful,
insistent, or emphatic voicing of one's ideas or feelings
<earth's millions daily fed, a world employed in gathering
plenty yet to be enjoyed, till gratitude grew vocal in the
praise of God—Cowper> <this instantaneous indignation
of the most impulsive and vocal of men was diligently
concealed for at least six weeks, with reporters camped
upon his doorstep day and night—Mencken> Articulate
is as often applied to thoughts and emotions with reference
to their capacity for expression as to persons or their
utterances. It implies the use of language which exactly
and distinctly reveals or conveys what seeks expression
<the deepest intuitions of a race are deposited in its art;
no criticism can make these wholly articulate—Binyon>
<the primitive poet ... was used by the community to
make its spiritual needs articulate—Day Lewis> <how can
you write about a literary subject ... when you yourself
are hardly articulate, can scarcely express the most
commonplace thoughts—Edmund Wilson> Fluent stresses
facility in speaking or writing and copiousness in the flow
of words; unlike vocal and articulate, it refers chiefly
to the manner of the expression rather than to the matter
seeking expression <it was his gift to be fluent on any-
things or nothing—Stevenson> The word can carry a de-
nite suggestion of depreciation or contempt <politically
at the mercy of every bumpious adventurer and fluent
character—Shaw> but also it is the only one of these
words capable of implying facility and ease in the use
of a foreign language <had a fluent command of idiomatic
French> Eloquent usually implies fluency but it suggests
also the stimulus of powerful emotion and its expression
in fervent and moving language; it is applicable not only
to speakers but to writers and can be extended to things
that convey similar suggestions <see also EXPRESSIVE>
<presented his arm reassuringly, and the gesture was more
eloquent than any words could be—Wolfe> <Tully was
not so eloquent as thou, thou nameless column with the
buried base—Byron> <the wording of the Weimar Con-
stitution was sweet and eloquent to the ear of any demo-
cratically minded man—Shirer> Voluble and glib both
imply loquacity and are usually derogatory. Voluble sug-
gests a flow of language that is not easily stemmed <indulge
in voluble explanations> <a voluble person, but at last the
flow of words stopped—Glasgow> Glib implies such facil-
ity in utterance as to suggest superficiality or emptiness in
what is said or slipperiness or untrustworthiness in the
speaker <a glib reply> <he has a glib tongue> <their
only virtue, a glib conversance with such topics as came
up for discussion—Sackville-West>
Anna expressing, voicing, venting (see EXPRESS vb):
*expressive, sentientious, eloquent
vociferate *roar, bellow, bluster, bawl, clamor, howl, hu-
late
Anna *shout, yell, shriek, scream, screech, holler
vociferation see under vociferate at ROAR vb
vociferous, clamorous, blatant, strident, boisterous, ob-
streperous are comparable when they mean so loud and
noisy, especially vocally, as to compel attention, often
unwillingly. Vociferous implies both loud and vehem-
ent cries or shouts; it often suggests also a deafening
quality <watermen, fishwomen, oysterwomen, and ... all
the vociferous inhabitants of both shores—Fielding>
<voicerous vociferations of their innocence—Irving>
<voicerous protests> Clamorous can imply insistency
as well as vociferousness in demanding or protesting (it
was impossible to yield to her clamorous demands—
Reppier) but as often it stresses the notion of sustained
din or confused turbulence (the district had been clamor-
ous with trucks arriving, backing in and out ... the drivers
bawling and cursing—Peggy Bacon> Blatant implies a
tendency to bellow or be conspicuously, offensively,
or vulgarly noisy or clamorous <they were heretics of the
blatant sort, loudmouthed and shallow-minded—Exposi-
tor> <building against our blatant, restless time an unseen,
skillful, medieval wall—Lindsay> Strident basically
implies a harsh and discordant quality characteristic
of some noises that are peculiarly distressing to the ear; it
is applied not only to loud, harsh sounds but also to things
which, like these, irresistibly and against one's will force
themselves upon the attention <the colors are too striden
<the strident yellow note of the cockerel shot up into the
sunshine—Gibbons> <there was no strident old voice to
bid him do this or that; no orders to obey, no fierce and
insane faultfinding—Deland> Boisterous has usually
an implication of rowdy high spirits and shouting of customary
order and is applied to persons or things that are extremely
noisy and turbulent, as though let loose from all restraint
<from the distant halls the boisterous revelry floated in
broken bursts of faint-heard din and tumult—Jerome>
<boisterous spring winds—Cather> Obstreperous sug-
gests unruly and aggressive noisiness, typically occurring
in resistance to or defiance of authority or restraining
influences <the most careless and obstreperous merriment—
Johnson> <disrespectful of Parliamentary decorum, they
are so obstreperous that sitting sometimes have to be
suspended to stop their hubbub—Flanner> Anna
noisy, sounding (see corresponding nouns at SOUND):
bewildering, distracting (see PUZZLE vb)
voice vb *express, utter, vent, broach, air, ventilate
Anna *reveal, disclose, tell, discover, divulge: *com-
municate, impart: *speak, talk
void adj 1 *empty, vacant, blank, vacuous
Anna exhausted, depleted, drained (see DEPLET)
*bare, barren: hollow, empty, nugatory, *vain
2 *devout, destitute
void n vacuum, *hole, hollow, cavity, pocket
Anna emptiness, vacancy, vacuity (see corresponding
adjectives at EMPTY): abyss, *gulf, abyss
void

void vb vacate, *annul, abrogate, quash
volatile effervescent, buoyant, expansive, resilient, *elastic

Ana unstable, mercurial, *inconstant, fickle, capricious:
light-minded, frivolous, flippant, flighty (see corresponding
nouns at LIGHTNESS): variable, *changeable, protein
volatility *lightness, light-mindedness, levity, frivolity, flippancy, flightiness
Ana vivaciousness or vivacity, gaiety, liveliness, animation, sprightliness (see corresponding adjectives at LIVELY): unstableness or instability, mercurialness, inconstancy (see corresponding adjectives at INCONSTANT): variability, changeableness (see corresponding adjectives at CHANGEABLE)

volcano *mountain, mount, peak, alp, mesa
volition *will, conation
Ana *choice, election, option
Con *force, coercion, compulsion, duress
volubility glibness, garrulity, loquacity, talkativeness (see under TALKATIVE)
Ana fluency, glibness, eloquence, articulateness (see corresponding adjectives at VOCAL)

voluble 1 fluent, glib, eloquent, *vocal, articulate
Ana copious, abundant, *plentiful: *easy, facile, effortless, smooth
Ant stuttering, stammering
2 glib, garrulous, loquacious, *talkative
Ant curt
volume 1 magnitude, *size, extent, dimensions, area
2 *bulk, mass

voluntary, intentional, deliberate, willful, willing can mean constituting or proceeding from an exercise of free will. Voluntary, the most widely applicable of these terms, often implies not only freedom from constraint but freedom from the control of an influence that might suggest, prompt, or incite action; it does not necessarily imply that these influences have not been operative, but it usually suggests that the decision is the result of one’s free choice (a voluntary renunciation of his inheritance) (a voluntary confession) (a voluntary system ... which possessed a certain pleasant dignity denied to the systems of a more compulsory sort—Sackville-West). Often the term carries another, sometimes a different, implication, such as that of spontaneity (voluntary contributions) (our voluntary service he requires not—Milton) or, especially when the opposition is to involuntary, that of subjection to or regulation by the will (voluntary movements of the eyes) (voluntary muscles) or that of prior consideration and clear choice (voluntary manslaughter) or that of absence of any legal obligation or compulsion (as to do or make) (voluntary bankruptcy) or of any valuable consideration in return for doing or making (voluntary conveyance of property) Intentional applies chiefly to acts or processes entered into in order to achieve a desired end or purpose or to the end or purpose so willed or effected; the use of the word eliminates all suggestion of the possibility of accident or inadvertence (an intentional insult) (not one in a thousand) perpetrates any intentional damage to fish, food, or flowers—Jeffries. Deliberate (see also DELIBERATE 2, SLOW) adds the implication of full knowledge or full consciousness of the nature of one’s intended act and a decision to go ahead in spite of such knowledge or consciousness (a deliberate falsehood) (deliberate murder) (an organized and deliberate attack—carefully planned and calculated—N.Y. Times). Willful (see also UNRULY) adds to deliberate the implications of a refusal to be taught, counseled, or commanded, and of an obstinate determination to follow one’s own will or choice in full consciousness of the influences or arguments opposed to the attitude adopted or the action or deed contemplated (willful murder) (willful ignorance) (his willful abuse of his children) (willful blindness to ascertained truth—Inge). Willing carries, in contrast, an implication of characteristics (as agreeableness, openness of mind, or absence of reluctance) that makes one ready or eager, without suggestion or without coercion, to accede to the wishes or instructions of others or to do something or effect some end pleasing to them (how curious is that instinct which makes each sex, in different ways, the willing slave of the other!—Jeffries) (willing service) (where ears are willing, talk tends to be loud and long—Huxley). Ana chosen, elected, opted (see CHOOSE): *free, independent, autonomous
Ant involuntary: instinctive (sense 2) —Con compelled, coerced, forced (see FORCE vb)

voluptuous luxurious, sybaritic, epicurean, *sensual, sensual
Ana indulging or indulgent, pampering (see corresponding verbs at INDULGE): *luxurious, opulent, sumptuous
Ant ascetic

vomit *belch, burp, disgorge, regurgitate, spew, throw up
Ana *vomit, expel, oust

voracious, glutinous, ravenous, ravishing, rapacious can all mean excessively greedy and can all apply to persons, their appetites and reactions, or their behavior. Voracious implies habitual gorging with food or drink, or with whatever satisfies an excessive appetite (a voracious eater) (a voracious reader) (voracious birds, that hotly bill and breed, and largely drink—Dryden). Gluttonous differs from voracious chiefly in its common suggestions of covetous delight (as in food) and of acquiring or eating past need or to the point of satiety (he was gluttonous for jewels—Guinther) (though a Norman was not gluttonous, he was epicurean—Lyton) (his gluttonous appetite for food, praise, pleasure—Guérard). Ravenous implies excessive hunger and suggests violent or brutal methods of dealing with food or with whatever satisfies an appetite (he contracted a habit of eating with ravenous greediness. . . . The sight of food affected him as it affects wild beasts and birds of prey—Macaulay) (he had mad hungers that grew more ravenous as he fed them—Wilde). Ravening is sometimes employed in place of ravenous (the hordes of ravening ants—Beeby) but more often it comes close to rapacious in suggesting a violent tendency to seize or appropriate to oneself in the manner of a bird of prey or a predatory animal (beare of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves—Mt 7:15). Rapacious may imply the seizure of food (rapacious animals we hate: kites, hawks, and wolves, deserve their fate—Gay) or more often it suggests excessive and utterly selfish acquisitiveness or cupidity (the Indians, who, though often rapacious, are devoid of avarice—Parker) (the European nations, arrogant, domineering, and rapacious, have done little to recommend the name of Christianity in Asia and Africa—Inge).

Ana greedy, grasping, acquisitive, *covetous: satiating, satisfying, surfeiting, gorging (see SATIATE)

vortex *eddy, whirlpool, maelstrom

voteary *enthusiast, fanatic, zealot, bigot

vote n *suffrage, franchise, ballot
vouch *certify, attest, witness
Ana *support, uphold: *confirm, substantiate, verify, corroborate
vouchsafe *grant, accord, concede, award
Ana *give, bestow, confer, present: descend, deign, *stoop: *oblige, accommodate, favor

Ana analogous words
Ant antonyms
Con contrasted words
See also explanatory notes facing page 1
wage or wages, salary, stipend, fee, pay, hire, emolument
can all mean the same thing paid to a person for his labor or services. Wage or wages applies chiefly to an amount paid on a daily, hourly, or piecework basis and typically at weekly intervals for labor, especially labor that involves more physical than mental effort (a gardener's wages) (a steelworker's daily wage) Salary and stipend both usually apply to compensation at a fixed, often annual, rate that is paid in regular (as weekly or monthly) installments but stipend is more likely to apply to the compensation of a teacher, a clergyman, or a magistrate, or it may denote money received from a scholarship or a pension (many a person has brought up a family on a stipend of seventy pounds a year—Shaw) Fee applies to the price usually in the form of a fixed charge, asked or paid for the service of a professional (as a physician, lawyer, musician, or artist) when such service is requested or required (pay the surgeon's fee for a major operation) (a lawyer's retaining fee) (a pianist's fee for a concert) Pay can replace wages, salary, or stipend (fired and told to draw his pay) (a teacher's pay) (even a preacher needs adequate pay) and is the one of these four terms freely used in combination and attributively (waiting for pay day) (paycheck) (crumpled empty pay envelope) Hire, which basically denotes payment made for the temporary use of something (as the property or money of another), is occasionally and especially in legal use applied to compensation for labor or services and is then equivalent to wages or salary (the laborer is worthy of his hire—Lk 10:7) (lends his pen for small hires—Meredith) Emolument, usually in the plural, often means the financial reward of one's work or office (the emoluments of a profession—Gibbon) (a worthier successor wears his dignity and pockets his emoluments—Hawthorne) or more specifically rewards and perquisites other than wages or salary (emoluments of value, like pension and insurance benefits, which may accrue to employees—Boyce) (salary £550 with no emoluments—Farmer and Stock-Breeder) Ana remuneration, recompensing or recompense (see corresponding verbs at PAY)
wager *bet, stake, pot, ante
waggish *sportive, frolicsome, *playful, impish, mischievous, roguish
Ana facetious, jocose, jocular, humorous, *witty: jovial, jolly (see MERRY): comical, comic, *laughable, droll, ludicrous, funny
Con *serious, earnest, sober, grave, sedate, staid
wall vb weep, *cry, whimper, blubber, keen
wait *stay, remain, abide, tarry, linger
Ana *delay, loiter
Con depart, leave, *go, withdraw, retire
waive cede, yield, resign, abandon, surrender, *relinquish, leave
Ana *forgo, forbear, sacrifice: concede, *grant, allow

W

wander

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
from point to point. Most of these verbs may imply walking, but most are not restricted in their reference to human beings or to any particular means of locomotion. **Wander** implies the absence of a fixed course or more or less indifference to a course that has been fixed or otherwise indicated; the term may imply the movement of a walker whether human or animal or of any traveler, but it may be used of anything capable of direction or control that is permitted to move aimlessly (**wandering** thoughtful in the silent wood—**Pope**) (**his eyes wandered over the landscape**) (**his mind wandered and he was unsure of himself—**Shirer**) (**she wandered frequently from her subject**) **Stray** carries a stronger suggestion of deviation from a fixed, true, or proper course, and often connotes a being lost or a danger of being lost (**fallows grey, where the nibbling flocks do stray—**Milton**) (**we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep—**Book of Common Prayer**) (**though we stumbled and we strayed, we were led by evil counsellors—**Kipling**) **Roam** carries a stronger suggestion of freedom and of scope than **wander**; it usually carries no implication of a definite object or goal, but it seldom suggests futility or fruitlessness and often connotes delight or enjoyment (**like us, the Libyan wind delights to roam at large—**Arnold**) (**let the winged Fancy roam—**Keats**) (**type of the wise who soar, but never roam—**Wordsworth**) (**the charm of a quiet watch on deck when one may let one's thoughts roam in space and time—**Conrad**) **Ramble**, in contrast, suggests carelessness in wandering and more or less indifference to one's path or goal (**to ramble through the country and to talk about books—**Marquand) It often, especially in its extended uses, implies a straying beyond bounds, an inattention to details that ought to serve as guides, or an inability to proceed directly or under proper restrictions (**a vine, remarkable for its tendency, not to spread and ramble, but to mass and mount—**Cather) (**great temptation . . . to ramble on interminably in praise of the delights of sailing—**Schoettle) **Rove** comes close to **roam** in its implication of wandering over extensive territory, but it usually carries a suggestion of zest in the activity, and does not preclude the possibility of a definite end or purpose (**invaders roved through the country burning and pillaging homes in their pathway**) (**ravenous beasts freely roving up and down the country—**Fuller d. 1661) (**to seek thee did I often rove through woods and on the green—**Wordsworth) **Range** is often used in place of **rove** without loss; it may be preferred when literal wandering is not implied or when the statesmen is the sweep of territory covered rather than on the form of locomotion involved (**earth ships had ranged the cosmos far and wide—**Theodore Sturgeon) (**her imperious and hoarse voice ranged over a complete octave of requited social ambitions—**Cheever) (**his thoughts always ranged far afield—**Mencken) **Prowl** implies a stealthy or furtive roving, especially in search of prey or booty. It is not used only of animals (**even a tomcat who cannot get the tabby he wants will prowl around her prison for days—**Edmund Wilson) but often also of human beings intent on marauding (**now goes the nightly thief prowling abroad—**Cowper) but it is also applied with little or no connotation of an evil intention to persons, especially those of a restless or vagabond temperament, who rove, often singly, through the streets or the fields in a quiet and leisurely manner (**if I should prowl about the streets a long time, don't be uneasy—**Dickens) **Gad** and **gallivant** imply a wandering or roving especially by those who ought to be under restrictions (as servants, children, husbands or wives, and persons who have not much strength or enough money) **Gad**, usually with **about**, may suggest a bustling from place to place idly or for the most trivial ends and often to the detriment of one's actual duties (**her upper housemaid and laundry maid, instead of being in their business, are gallivanting about the village all day long—**Austen) (**he disapproved of her gadding about by herself—**Galsworthy) **Gallivant** adds to **gad** the implication of a search for pleasure or amusement or the use of an opportunity to display one's finery (**her father refused to allow her to go gallivanting around with any of her suitors**) (**young girls dressed in their Sunday best gallivanting along the highways**) **Traipse**, which commonly suggests more vigor in movement and less aimlessness in intent than the remaining terms, may come close to **come, go, or travel** in meaning (**in her late sixties she traipsed over Europe with a crony of equal years—**Leavitt) (**how old . . . does he think a man should be before he is barred from traipsing around making political speeches—**N. Y. Times) (**there traipsed into town a little thing from away off down in the country—**Weltly) Even when used with reference to an erratic course **traipse** ordinarily implies a positive purpose (**they lacked the time and energy to traipse around looking for the sort of thing they had in mind—**Kahn) or stresses a bustling activity (**other crowds like this: the yellow-faced swarm that pours out of shipyards, say, at five o'clock, the swarm that traipses Oxford Street, the mad swarms at the greyhound tracks—**Pritchett) or a wearying expenditure of energy (**she traipsed around the provinces playing small parts in second-rate companies at a miserable salary—**Maugham) (**kings . . . traipsed here and there with frenetic energy—**J. E. M. White) Sometimes the term loses most of its reference to a course and then stresses a dashing or flunting manner of going (**people . . . who traipsed about in trite monotonous flippery—**Peggy Bennett) (**I got a job . . . as a model. I'd traipse around stepping through lace hems and gabbing to the customers—**New Yorker) **Meander** may be used in reference to persons and animals but more characteristically in reference to things (as streams, paths, or roads) that follow a winding or intricate course in such a way as to suggest aimless or listless wandering (**rivers that . . . meandered across the vast plains—**Haggard) (**across the ceiling meandered a long crack—**Galsworthy) (**the gray gelding meandered along through the hills—**Anderson) **wane** *abate, subside, ebb* **Ana** *decrease, dwindle, lessen, diminish* **Con** *increase, augment: mount, soar,* tower, surge.*rise*** **want** vb 1 *lack, need, require* **Ana** *demand, claim, exact* **Con** *have, hold, own, possess, enjoy* 2 *desire, wish, crave, covet* **Ana** *long, yearn, hanker, pine, hunger, thirst: aspire, pant, *aim** **Con** refuse, *decline, reject, repudiate, spurn** **want** n 1 *lack, dearth, absence, defect, privation* **Ana** *need, necessity, exigency: deficiency (see corresponding adjective at DEFICIENT)* **Con** plentifulness or plenty, abundance, copiousness (see corresponding adjectives at PLENTIFUL) 2 destitution, *poverty, indigence, privation, penury* **Ana** pinch, strain, pass, exigency (see JUNCTURE): meagerness, scantiness, exiguosity (see corresponding adjectives at MEAGER) **Con** affluence, opulence, riches, wealth (see corresponding adjectives at RICH) **wanton** 1 *licentious, libertine, lewd, lustful, lascivious, licidinous, lecherous* **Ana** *immoral, unmoral, amoral: *abandoned, profligate,
dissolute, probate

Ant chaste — Con pure, modest, decent (see CHASTE): virtuous, * moral

2 * supererogatory, uncalled-for, gratuitous

Ana * malicious, malevolent, spiteful: wayward, * contrary, perverse

war vb battle, * contend, fight

Ana * resist, withstand, combat, oppose, fight: strive, struggle, endeavor, essay, * attempt

warble vb * sing, troll, carol, descant, trill, hymn, chant, intone

ward avert, * prevent, preclude, obviate

Ana block, bar, obstruct, impede, * hinder: forestall, anticipate (see PREVENT): * frustrate, balk, thwart, foil

Ant conduct to

wariness carelessness, caution, circumspection, calculation (see under CAUTIONOUS)

Ana alertness, watchfulness (see corresponding adjectives at WATCHFUL): prudence, discretion, foresight, forethought, providence

Ant foolhardiness: brashness (of persons) — Con careless, heedless, thoughtless, inadvertence (see corresponding adjectives at CARELESS): recklessness, rashness (see corresponding adjectives at ADVENTUROUS)

warlike * martial, military

Ana bellicose, * belligerent, pugnacious, combative, contentious: fighting, warring, contending, battling (see CONTEND)

Con * pacific, peaceable, peaceful

warm adj warmhearted, sympathetic, * tender, compassionate, responsive

Ana * loving, affectionate: cordial, * gracious, affable: ardent, fervent, passionate (see IMPASSIONED): * sincere, heartfelt, hearty, wholehearted

Ant cool: austere

warmhearted warm, sympathetic, * tender, compassionate, responsive

Ana * loving, affectionate: * kind, kindly, benign, benignant: heartfelt, hearty, wholehearted, * sincere

Ant coldhearted — Con austere, * severe, stern: * cold, cool, frosty, frigid

warn, warn vb, warning vb, warn vb, warn vb, caution can mean to let one know of approaching or possible danger or risk. Warn is the most comprehensive of these terms; in most of its senses it stresses a timely notification that makes possible the avoidance of a dangerous or inconvenient situation <warn ships of an approaching hurricane> <five minutes before the end of the class period, a bell rings to warn the students to get their books and start their tests> Additionally, the word may carry an implication of admonition <warned him of the consequences of his folly> or of exhortation <the priestly brotherhood... prompt to persuade, exhort, and warn> or of threats of punishment, reprisal, or personal violence <I shall not take him at his word about fishing, as he might change his mind another day, and warn me off his grounds—Austen> Forewarn carries a stronger implication of advance notification than warn and may also suggest impending though not imminent danger or peril <I will arm me, being thus forewarned—Shak> <he knew not one forewarning pain—Wordsworth> Caution commonly emphasizes advice that puts one on one's guard or that suggests precautions <cautioned him against unwarranted expectations> <the doctor cautioned him against overindulgence in strenuous exercise>

Ana apprise, * inform, advise, notify: admonish (see REPROVE): advise, counsel (see under ADVISE)

warp vb distort, contort, * deform

A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
a garden, why didn't they rise up ...?—Huxley> (willing
to squander their lives on the gratuitous work that great art
demands—Edmund Wilson> (the most brilliant journalist of my generation ... often squanders his genius for invective—T. S. Eliot> Dissipate, in the specific sense here considered (see also SCATTER), implies loss by extra-
gance, as if what is expended had been scattered to the four winds; it goes further than waste or squander, which
do not, as does dissipate, in themselves imply exhaustion or near exhaustion of the store or stock (its endowment
dissipated in worthless securities, the institution was closed—Amer. Guide Series: N.C.) (the face of one
whose essential innocence could not be dissociated by maturity, even tragedy—Hervey> Fritter, usually with
away, implies expenditure on trifles or by bits; it usually suggests a gradual disappearance (as of money, of property,
or of something of value) (the friend had lost $300,000, and Lasher had frittered away almost as much—Cerf>
(if we fritter and fumble away our opportunity in needless, senseless quarrels—L. B. Johnson> Consume basically
stresses a devouring or destroying (the house was con-
sumed by fire) (see also EAT, MONOPOLIZE), but it can mean
to waste or squander entirely as if by devouring. In
this use it is decreasingly frequent with regard to money or
property (having then consumed all his estate he grew
very melancholy—Anthony Wood> but in reference to time or energy spent unprofitably, it is not uncommon (the
day was consumed attending to a multitude of little things)
(the heat, the exertion had consumed all superfluous
energy—Hervey>
Ana> *spend, expend, disburse: *distribute, dispense;
*scatter, disperse, dispel: *deplete, drain, exhaust, impoverish
Ant> save: conserve
wasted> pinched, cadaverous, *haggard, worn, careworn
Ana> gaunt, scrawny, skinny, angular, rawboned (see
LEAN adj)
Con> sturdy, *strong, stout, stalwart: robust, *healthy
waster> *spendthrift, profligate, prodigal, wastrel
Ana idler, loafer, loung (see corresponding verbs at
IDLE): squanderer, dissipater, fritter (see corresponding
verbs at WASTE)
wastrel> *spendthrift, profligate, prodigal, waster
Ana> reprobate, *outrage: loafer, idler, loung (see corre-
sponding verbs at IDLE): scoundrel, rascal, rogue, scamp
(see VILLAIN)
watch> vb 1) tend, mind, attend
Ana guard, protect, shield, safeguard (see DEFEND)
2 look, *see
Ana* gaze, gape, stare, glare: *scrutinize, scan, inspect,
examine
watchful, vigilant, wide-awake, alert are comparable when they
mean on the lookout especially for danger or for opportunities. Watchful is the general word (the five
watchful senses—Milton> (became almost remote, strangely watchful, looking back from time to time as
though they were being followed—Malamud> Vigilant implies keen, courageous, often wary, watchfulness (be
sober, be vigilant) because your adversary the devil, as
a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may
devour—1 Pet 5:8) (we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that
we loathe—Justice Holmes> Wide-awake stresses keen awareness, more often of opportunities and relevant
developments than of dangers (merchants who ... were ... wide-awake and full of energy—van Loon) Alert
stresses readiness or promptness in apprehending and
meeting a danger, an opportunity, or an emergency (not
only watchful in the night, but alert in the drowsy after-
noon—Pater> (our wits are much more alert when en-
gaged in wrongdoing ... than in a righteous occupation
—Conrad>
Ana* cautious, wary, chary, circumspect: *quick, ready, prompt
Con> *careless, heedless, thoughtless, inadvertent
waterlog> *soak, drench, saturate, steep, impregnate, sop
waterspout> *whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, twister
wave> vb *swing, flourish, brandish, shake, thrash
Ana> wield, swing, manipulate, *handle, ply: undulate, sway,
*swing, fluctuate: *shake, quiver, quaver
waver> vb 1 fluctuate, oscillate,pendulate, vibrate,*swing, sway, undulate
Ana> flicker, flutter, hover, *flicker, flicker, quiver, quaver,
tremble, *shake
2 falter, *hesitate, vacillate
Ana> balk, boggle, stickle, scruple, *demur, shy: fluctuate,
oscillate (see SWING)
way n 1 Way, route, course, passage, pass, artery mean,
in common, a track or path traversed in going from one
place to another. Way is general and inclusive of any track
or path; it can specifically signify a thoroughfare especi-
ally in combinations and in fixed phrases (highway)
(live across the way) (the city accepted the new street
and public way) (long inclined ways, paved with cobble-
stones, leading down between great warehouses to the
water's edge—Santayana) or a direction or track that is,
or can or should be, followed (lost his way) (the short
way to town) (the only other village was one day's mule
trip farther into the interior, but the way was so steep
and slippery in places that we walked almost as much as
we rode—Hitchcock> (the water continues its way down
the valley for 5 kilometers—Heiden) The term also can
be extended to what leads in a specified or implied non-
spatial direction or toward a specified or implied end
(clear the way for a more purely rational interpreta-
tion of the world—Ashley Montagu> (the way was now
open for the final act—W. C. Ford> Route signifies a
way, often circuitous, followed with regularity by a person
or animal or laid out to be followed (as by a tourist or
army) (a paper route) (a milk truck following a morning
delivery route) (the dog team trails and canoe routes
of trader, trapper and missionary in the bush country—
Granberg> (a much traveled main route from Boston to
Albany> Course may be interchangeable with route but
more often implies a path followed by or as if by a stream,
star, or other moving natural object impelled by or in a
path determined by natural forces (the course of a river)
(a meteor's course) (a ship's course) (the course of the
seasons) or a predetermined or more or less compulsory
way or route followed in human activities or enterprises
(a course of study for an academic degree) (a golf course
(a racecourse> Passage stresses a crossing over or a pass-
ing through, often designating the thing passed through,
usually something narrow where transit might be restricted
(a rough passage to America by boat) (a narrow passage
from kitchen to basement) (restrict the passage into the
stomach) Pass usually designates a passage through or
over something that presents an obstacle (as a mountain or
river) (a narrow pass over the Alps) (a shallow ford
constituted the only pass across the river> Artery is
applied to one of the great continuous traffic channels (as
a central rail route, river, or highway) from which branch
off smaller or shorter channels (the Congo river would
remain the main traffic artery—Weigend) (the main
artery between Buffalo and Niagara Falls—Retailing
Daily> (the need for improvement of main arteries inter-
connecting cities and for express highways in cities—
**tighten** 870 **weaken**

*Britannica Bk. of the Yr.*

2 *method, mode, manner, fashion, system*  

**Ana** procedure, *process, proceeding: plan, design, scheme: practice, *habit, habitude, custom, use, usage, wont

**waylay** *surprise, ambush*  

**Ana** *attack, assault, assail: prevent, forestall

**wayward** perverse, froward, restive, *contrary, balky

**Ana** insubordinate, contumacious, rebellious: refractory, recalcitrant, intractable, headstrong, *unruly: capricious, *inconstant, fickle, unstable

**Con** amenable, tractable, *obedient: compliant, acquiescent

**weak, feeble, frail, fragile, infirm, decrepit** can mean not strong enough to bear, resist, or endure strain or pressure or to withstand difficulty, effort, or use. **Weak** is by far the widest in its range of application, being not only inter-changeable with all of the succeeding words but also capable of being applied where they are not. Fundamentally it implies deficiency or inferiority in strength; it may apply to the body, the will, the mind, or the spirit (a character too weak to resist temptation) (she wasn't a weak and silly creature . . . . She didn't swoon and give way to feelings and emotions—Farrell) (though strong in love, art all too weak in reason—Wordsworth) Often it implies a lack of power, skill, efficiency or ability to control (a weak government) (a weak team) (a weak influence) It may also suggest a sign of impairment of a thing's strength (as a defect, a fault, or a dilution) (a weak tread in a stairway) (weak tea) (a weak argument) (weak facetious echoes of a style . . . . ten years outmoded—Woolf) **Feeble** not only is more restricted than weak in its range of application but also carries a stronger implication of lamentableness or pitiableness in that weakness. It is chiefly applied to human beings and their acts and utterances, then usually implying a manifest lack or impairment of physical, mental, or moral strength (a feeble, tottering old man) (a feeble attempt to resist the enemy's advance) (rigid principles often do for feeble minds what stays do for feeble bodies—Macaulay) As applied to things, feeble implies faintness, indistinctness, impotency, or inadequacy (a feeble light) (a feeble sound) (a sense of feeble lust, of desire that mumbled incoherently as in a restless dream—Hervey) **Frail** When it implies physical weakness, suggests not so much the impairment of strength as natural delicacy of constitution or slightness of build (a small, frail man, all heart and will—Masefield) (it was marvelous that . . . the energy of her spirit could carry through so triumphantly her frail nervous system and her delicate constitution—Ellis) As applied to things the term usually implies liability to failure or destruction if the thing has physical existence (shoot the rabbits in a frail canoe) (I would lie . . . and listen to Yuriko's voice as it floated . . . through the frail partitions—Mailer) or, if immaterial, an incapacity for dealing with forces or powers opposed to it, or tending to destroy it (beauty, frail flow'r that ev'ry season fears—Pope) **Frail** is applied to the will, the conscience, the moral nature of man, it carries an even stronger implication of lack of power to resist than weak (if he prove unhonk, (as who can say but being man, and therefore frail, he may)—Cowper) (Frail fragile (see also FRAGILE 1)) is frequently used in place of frail, but it usually carries even a stronger suggestion of delicacy and of likelihood of destruction (physically frail, she was spiritually tough—Sackville-West) (passionately realizing the moment, its fleeting exquisiteness, its still, frail, fragile beauty—Rose Macaulay) **Infirm** usually implies a loss of strength, especially of physical strength, with consequent instability, unsoundness, or insecurity (elevators in loft buildings . . . that, infirm and dolorous to hear, seem to touch on our concepts of damnation—Cheever) As referred to human beings, it implies illness or more often old age (a poor, infirm, weak, and despised old man—Shak) As referred, however, to the temper, the designs, or the intentions of men, it often implies wavering or serious vacillation (infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers—Shak) **Decrepit** is as applicable to things as to persons that are worn out or broken down by use or age (such is its misery and wretchedness, that it resembles a man in the last decrepit stages of life—Fielding) (the bus is decrepit and the seats and several of the windows are held together with friction tape—Cheever)  

**Ana** debilitated, weakened, enfeebled (see WEAKEN): powerless, impotent  

**Ant** strong —Con stout, sturdy, tough, stalwart, tenacious (see STRONG)

Weak, enfeebled, debilitate, undermine, sap, cripple, disable can mean to lose or cause to lose, strength, vigor, or energy. **Weak** is the most general term of this group, most frequently implies loss of the physical strength or functional efficiency characteristic of a healthy living thing or of any of its parts or loss of the soundness or stability characteristic of a strong material structure (overexercise has weakened his heart) (unfertilized plants weaken and die) (the illness has weakened him considerably) (decay has weakened the wooden supports of the bridge) but it may imply a loss in quality, intensity, or effective power in something material or immaterial (as by a natural or forced reduction in resources, numbers, means of support, or strengthening principle) (wearing down the weakening defenders in battles of attrition—Shirer) (the growing power of Parliament weakened the authority of the sovereign) (weaken tea with water) (the spirit of adventure is not stimulated but weakened by poverty—Cohen) **Enfeeble** implies a more obvious and a more pitiable condition than weaken; it suggests the state of a person greatly weakened by old age, by severe or prolonged illness, or by a state comparable to it and usually implies helplessness or powerlessness more strongly than weaken does (so enfeebled by illness that he will probably never walk again) (a country crushed and enfeebled by war) **Debilitate** may be used in place of enfeeble but it tends to suggest somewhat less marked and often more gradually developed impairment of strength or vitality (her frail nervous system and her delicate constitution, still further debilitated by the slow progress of disease—Ellis) (a debilitating climate) **Undermine and sap** imply a weakening by something or someone working surreptitiously or insidiously and may further suggest a draining of strength or a caving in or breaking down (her health has been undermined by lack of rest and proper food) (some of the new philosophies undermine the authority of science, as some of the older systems undermined the authority of religion—Inge) (but sloth had sapped the prophet's strength—Newman) (his moral energy is sapped by a kind of skepticism—Dowden) **Cripple** basically means to deprive of the use of a limb; in extended use it suggests a deprivation of something causing a loss of strength or effectiveness comparable to that resulting from the loss of a limb (crippled diseases) (crippled by arthritis) (the obstacles which smite and cripple the men—Inge) (the war economy which carries full production to a necessarily crippled market—Mailer) (a writer possessing a sense of style only partially crippled by his reckless fecundity—A. C. Ward) **Disable** implies an intervention (as an event, an injury, or an influence) that deprives of strength or competence (these consoling yet nonetheless disabling illusions—Straight) (disabled soldiers) (do
wealthy

not let your mind be disabled by excessive sympathy—Shaw


strengthen —Con energize, *vitalize, activate: *improve, better

wealthy *rich, affluent, opulent

wean *strange, alienate, disaffect

Ana *separate, part, divide, sunder, sever, divorce

Ant *addict

wearless unwearying, unwearied, tireless, *indefatigable, uniting, unflagging

Ana dogged, pertinacious (see OBSTINATE): assiduous, sedulous, diligent (see BUSY)

Con lagging, dwindling, procrastinating (see DELAY): indolent, fainthearted, slothful, *lazy

diminutive, tiny, teeny, weeny, *small, little, minute, wedlock

weep *cry, wail, mourn, *sigh, groan

Ana *worry, annoy, harass, harry; torment, torture, *afflict, try, rack

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

weight n 1 significance, *importance, moment, consequence, import

Ana *worth, value: magnitude, *size, extent: seriousness, gravity (see corresponding adjectives at serious)

2 *influence, authority, prestige, credit

Ana effectiveness, efficacy (see corresponding adjectives at EFFECTIVE): *emphasis, stress: powerfulness, potency, forcefulness, forbiddiness (see corresponding adjectives at POWERFUL)

weight vb 1 load, *adulterate, sophisticate, doctor

2 *burden, encumber, cumber, weigh, load, lade, tax, charge, saddle

Ana see those at weigh 2

wealthy *heavy, ponderous, cumbersome, cumbrous, hefty

Ana *onerous, burdensome, oppressive, exacting

weird, eerie, uncanny can all mean fearfully and mysteriously strange or fantastic. Weird may be used in the sense of unearthly or preternaturally mysterious (when night makes a weird sound of its own stillness—Shelley) (a weird mixture of . . . a weird mixture of the irresponsible, megalomaniacal ideas which erupted from German thinkers during the nineteenth century—Shirer)

Eerie does not connote ordinary justifiable or explainable fear but rather a vague consciousness that unearthly or mysterious and often malign powers or influences are at work; the term is used chiefly to create atmosphere rather than to define the character of the thing so described (found awe creeping over her as her brother’s voice filled the vault of the temple, chanting words thousands of years old, in an eerie melody from a dim lost time—Wouk)

Uncanny has in general use an implication of uncomfortable strangeness or of unpleasant mysteriousness that makes it applicable not only to persons or concrete things but to abstractions (as sensations, feelings, or thoughts) (the alien elements of the Soviet Union affect him as disquieting, uncanny, because they turn up in fusion with pretenses at Western discipline, Western logic—Edmund Wilson)

Ana *mysterious, inscrutable: *fearful, awful, dreadful, horrific: *strange, odd, queer, curious, peculiar

welcome adj *pleasant, pleasing, agreeable, grateful, gratifying

Ana satisfying, contenting (see Satisfy): congenial, sympathetic (see CONSONANT)

Ant *unwelcome —Con distasteful, *repugnant, repulsive

well-nigh nearly, almost, approximately

well-timed timely, *seasonable, opportune, pat

Ana apt, happy, felicitous, appropriate, fitting (see FIT adj)

Con *premature, untimely: late, *tardy, behindhand

welter *swallow, grovel

Ana struggle, strive (see ATTEMPT vb)

wet, damp, dank, moist, humid are comparable when they mean covered or more or less soaked with liquid. Wet may be used with no further implications or it may specifically imply saturation (the rain lies in puddles on the wet ground) (the rain lies in puddles on the wet ground) (the rain lies in puddles on the wet ground) (the rain lies in puddles on the wet ground)

Often, however, the term refers to a surface covered with liquid (wet pavements) (wet pavement) (wet hands) (cheeks wet with tears) But wet often means
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

*wharf*, dock, pier, quay, slip, berth, jetty, levee signify a structure used by boats and ships for taking on or landing cargo or passengers. Wharf applies to a structure projecting from the shore that permits the entrance of a vessel for loading or unloading, but can be restricted to signify an enclosed basin which permits the entrance of a vessel for loading or unloading or which, with floodgates and a method of exhausting water, can be used for building or repairing ships. A summer lake cottage with a short dock for canoes and rowboats. A dock on Occoquan Creek—Amer. Guide Series: Va.—(the New York docks) (bring a ship into dock for repairs) Pier is interchangeable with dock or wharf especially as applied to a large or long structure shooting out quite a distance into a body of water. A sloping earthen pier for the launching of boats—G. S. Perry (a fishing dragger unloading its catch at a pier—Don Smith) (pulled the canoes up on the pier to empty it). (the New York harbor piers) Quay usually refers to an artificial embankment lying along or projecting from a shore and mainly used for loading or unloading; the term normally applies to wharves or piers characteristic of small places. A dock on the quay, and got ashore—Black (a quay is a docking facility at which vessels lie parallel to the shoreline—N.Y. Times) Slip can apply to a sloping ramp usually constructed or used where the shore is high and shore water shallow. On the slip a thick water hose was connected from a hydrant to the ship—Pizer (rolling barrels down a slip into the ship’s hold) but it, like berth, can denote the space between two piers or wharves which gives room for a ship when anchored or not in use, and is more common for such a space intended or used for ferryboat landings or boardings. About to sail from her berth at the foot of Fifth Street—Ships and the Sea (a deep-chested liner rears through the thin haze, easing her way to a Hudson river berth—Amer. Guide Series: N.Y. City) Transatlantic liners in adjoining slips down at the docks. A series of steamship piers and ferry slips. Jetty although commonly applied to a structure serving as a breakwater for a harbor applies also to a small and usually not very substantial pier of timbers (the harbor, from 30 to 60 feet deep, is protected by white marble jetties—Amer. Guide Series: Fla.) (fishermen . . . take their accustomed places on the wharves and jetties for the summer sport of gawking—Anable) (a jetty is usually built so that it lies parallel with the direction of the tidal stream, and at such jetties ships should always berth against the stream—Manual of Seamanship) Levee primarily applies to an embankment for confining or restricting floodwaters but in the South and West, where a levee is often used for landing, the term is often the equivalent of quay (build emergency levees to control a dangerously rising river) (down by the river’s borders the new levees proclaim the grands’ plans for a resurrected river traffic—Amer. Guide Series: Minn.)

*wheel* blith, cajole, *coax
*Ana* entice, inveigle, *lure, seduce, decoy
*Con* bully, browbeat, bulldoze, cow, *intimidate
*wheel* vb *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, spin, whirl, swirl, pirouette, eddy
*while*, wile, beguile, fleet mean to pass time, especially leisure time, without being bored. One *whiles or wiles away* a space of time by causing it to be filled by something pleasant, diverting, or amusing (they *can while away* an hour very agreeably at a card table—Lamb (attempt to wile away the long days . . . telling a story to his sister—Woof!). One *beguiles* a space of leisure time or its seduction or irksomeness by occupying that time with some agreeable and not necessarily time-wasting employment (and, skilled in legendary lore, the lingering hours *beguiled—Goldsmith*) (others . . . beguiled the little tedium of the way with penny papers—Hawthorne) (to beguile his enforced leisure, I tried to teach him sundry little tricks—Grandgent) One *fleets* the time by causing it to pass quickly or imperceptibly; the term may or may not imply an effort to while time away (many young gentlemen . . . fleet the time carelessly—Shak.) (fleeting the quiet hour in observation of his pets—Lewes)

*Ana* divert, *amuse, entertain
*whim* freak, fancy, *caprice, whimsy, conceit, vagary, crotchet
*Ana* inclination, disposition (see corresponding verbs at INCLINE): *fancy, fantasy, vision, dream: notion, *idea
*whimper* vb weep, *cry, blubber, wail, keen
*whimsy* caprice, freak, fancy, whim, conceit, vagary, crotchet
*Ana* see those at WHIM
*whirl* vb 1 swirl, spin, wheel, whirl, *turn, revolve, rotate, gyrate, circle, pirouette, eddy
2 *reel, stagger, totter
*whirlpool* eddy, maelstrom, vortex
*whirlwind*, cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, water-spout, twister share the basic notion of a rotary motion of the wind. Whirlwind is applied to a small windstorm which begins with an inward and upward spiral motion of the lower air and is followed by an outward and upward spiral motion until, usually, there is a progressive motion at all levels. Cyclone, in technical use, is applicable to a system of winds that rotate, counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere, about a center of low atmospheric pressure; such a system of winds originating in the tropics (a tropical cyclone) may rotate at the rate of 75 miles per hour or more, sometimes exceeding 200 miles per hour. Typhoon is used of a severe tropical cyclone in the region of the western Pacific Ocean. A tropical cyclone in the tropical north Atlantic and tropical western Pacific, with winds rarely exceeding 150 miles an hour, occasionally moving into temperate latitudes, is called a hurricane. In popular
use, especially in the midwestern U.S., cyclone may take the place of tornado, the usual technical term, for an extremely violent whirling wind which is accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud and which moves with great speed in a narrow path over a stretch of territory, often causing great destruction. A waterspout is a tornado that occurs over water. Twister is a familiar term often applied to a whirlwind, tornado, or waterspout.

**Whit**

mite, jot, iota, bit, *particle, smidgen, tittle, atom

**Whiten**

bleach, glob, gloss, *palliate, extenuate

whit

mite, jot, iota, bit, *particle, smidgen, tittle, atom

**Whitewash**

bleach, glob, gloss, *palliate, extenuate

whit

mite, jot, iota, bit, *particle, smidgen, tittle, atom

**Wholesale**

 entire, *perfect, intact

**Whole**

1 entire, *perfect, intact

**Wholehearted**

whole-souled, heartfelt, hearty, unfeigned, *sincere

**Whole Sale**

indiscriminate, sweeping

**Wholesome**

1 *healthful, healthy, salubrious, salutary, hygienic, sanitary

**Wholly**

entire—Milton

**Why**

See explanatory notes facing page 1
will broke down from time to time, as Richelieu's never did; and, after all, the government of self is the supreme test of will—Bellcro— willful but it may be used when frustration or impossibility of action is suggested <spirits disillusioned, who still pathetically preserve the will to conquer, even when life no longer presents them with anything worth winning—Binyon> Further will may designate a subjective power, act, or process <luxurious feeling and pathetic imagination, which make no severe call upon . . . the will —Inge> or an objective force which must be encountered, challenged, or obeyed <submit oneself to the will of God> <this method of consulting the popular will—Bryce> Volition, in contrast to will, is a comparatively simple term. In its ordinary and most sharply distinguished sense, it designates merely the act of making a choice or decision; it usually carries an implication of deliberation, but it rarely suggests struggle or determination to put one's decision or choice into effect. Therefore it may be preferred when no other implications are desirable or important <surrendered his authority of his own volition> <our children do not seek school of their own volition—Grandgent> <the primal necessity for the faithful is that by an act of the will,—not necessarily an emotional act, but an act of pure and definite volition,—they should associate themselves with the true and perfect sacrificer—Benson> Conation usually implies a striving to get or achieve what is desired or willed. The term need not imply a conscious goal; it may suggest clearly directed striving or it may connotate the restless aimless strivings which the mind cannot interpret or explain, but it stresses effort rather than choice <Religion or the desire for the salvation of our souls, Art or the desire for beautification, Science or the search for the reasons of things—these conations of the mind . . . are really three aspects of the same profound impulse—Ellis> 

Ana *intention, intent, purpose, design: *choice, election, preference: character, *disposition, temper, temperament 

will vb Will, bequeath, devise, leave, legate all mean to give a part or the whole of one's possessions to another by one's last will and testament. Will implies the provision or the existence of a legal instrument (a will) disposing of one's property after one's death <he has willed that his property be divided among his wife and children> <he willed his money to various charities> Bequeath is much used in wills by the testator <I bequeath all my property to my wife> and is frequent in legal, historical, and literary use; it may imply nothing more than a proved intention (as by a will or a definite oral or written statement) <William had bequeathed Normandy to his eldest son, Robert—J. R. Green> In legal use bequeath is commonly distinguished from devise, the one implying a gift of personally, the other a gift of reality <every article she possessed . . . , every pot and pan, every garment, is separately bequeathed as an affectionate remembrance—Ellis> <I had never imagined rings as things one bought for oneself . . . They were things given, or bequeathed by grandaunts—Replplier> <was the son of a white man by one of his slaves, and his father executed certain instruments to manumit him, and devised to him some landed property—Taney> Leave is the common and ordinary unspecific term for any of the preceding terms <he left a legacy to his nephew> <he left his land, money, books, pictures to Harvard University> Legate is not manifestly different from bequeath except that it invariably implies a formal will <the oval inlaid table I legate to——Law Reports, House of Lords> 

willful 1 deliberate, intentional. *voluntary, willing Ana determined, decided, resolved (see DECIDE): intended, pursued (see INTEND): obstinate, stubborn, dogged, pertinacious 

Con acquiescent, *compliant: submissive, *tame 2 headstrong, intractable, refractory, recalcitrant, *unruly, ungonvernable 

Ana rebellious, contumacious, factious, *insubordinate: *obstinate, mulish, bullheaded, pigheaded 

Ant biddable —Con tractable, docile, amenable, *obedient 

willing *voluntary, intentional, deliberate, willful Ana prone, open (see LIABLE): inclined, predisposed, disposed (see INCLINE vb) 

Ant unwilling —Con reluctant, loath, *disinclined, indisposed, averse 

will *droop, flag, sag Ana slump, sink, drop, *fall: languish (see corresponding adjective at Languid) 

wily *sly, cunning, crafty, tricky, foxy, insidious, guileful, artful Ana astute, sagacious, *shrewd: deceitful, cunning (see corresponding nouns at DECEIT) 

win gain, acquire, *get, obtain, procure, secure 

Ana achieve, accomplish, effect (see PERFORM): attain, *reach, compass: *induce, persuade, prevail, get 

Ant lose 

wince *recoil, flinch, shrink, blench, quail 

Ana cringe, cower (see FAWN): balk, shy, stick, stickle (see DEMUR): squirm, *writhe 

wind, breeze, gale, hurricane, zephyr are comparable rather than synonymous terms that can all basically mean air in motion. Wind is the general term referable to any sort of natural motion whatever its degree of velocity or of force <a strong wind> <there is no wind tonight> Breeze in general use is applied to relatively light but fresh wind, usually a pleasant or welcome one <the fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, the furrow followed free—Coleridge> In technical meteorological use the term specifically denotes a wind with a velocity of from 4 to 31 miles an hour. Breezes are sometimes further described as light (4–7 miles an hour), gentle (8–12), moderate (13–18), fresh (19–24), strong (25–31). Gale in ordinary use is applied to a high, destructive wind of considerable velocity and force; technically the term is applied specifically to a wind between 32 and 63 miles an hour; a whole gale is one having a velocity between 55 and 63 miles an hour. Hurricane is sometimes applied popularly to an exceedingly violent or devastating windstorm but technically the term denotes a rotating windstorm with winds of particular velocities (see also WHIRLWIND). Zephyr is a poetical term for a very light gentle breeze that delicately touches objects <fair laughs the morns, and soft the zephyr blows—Gray> 

Ana *whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon, tornado, twister 

wind vb Wind, coil, curl, twist, twine, wreath, entwine mean to follow a circular, spiral, or whirling course or to make or form a corresponding figure. Wind fundamentally implies an axis or something suggestive of an axis around which another thing is turned so as to encircle, enclose, or enfold <wind thread on a spool> <wind a bandage around his arm> Often the word is extended in meaning to imply a result accomplished (as tightening, tensing, or lifting) by or as if by waving <wind a watch> <wind the strings of a mandolin> <her nerves are all wound up> <wind up his affairs> At other times the word implies movement or direction in a curving, sinuous, or deviant manner (compare WINDING) (the road . . . wound on between low, quick-set hedges or wooden palings—Mackenzie> <a wagon . . . light enough and narrow enough to wind through the mountain gorges beyond Pueblo—Cather> Coil implies a curving so as to take the form of a spiral, often a flat
spiral; it is used chiefly in reference to something (as a rope, a wire, a hose, or a snake) which is wound or winds itself in such a manner <ropes coiled on the deck and everything shipshape> <coil the hose before putting it away> <the snake coiled itself to strike> Curl basically implies the formation of the hair into large or small ringlets either by nature or by art; in extended use it is applied to something that forms itself or is formed into a curl or coil <curled his lip in disgust> <tree leaves curled by drought> <the smoke curled up from the chimney> <the dog curled itself up on the sofa> <shavings curled by the plane> <huge waves with crests curling over as they broke on the beach> Twist and twine can both refer to a step in the process of spinning or throwing in which two or more filaments are turned about each other to form yarn or thread. Twist retains this or a similar sense in more general use <form a cable by twisting several rods of wire together> Often in its extended senses twist implies a turning this way and that, a sudden turning around, a contorting, or a distorting <twisted his ankle when he fell> <caught the ball, twisted to avoid a tacker, then ran ten yards to a touchdown> <a sluggish stream twisting and turning through the meadowland> <twist the testimony of the witness so as to give it a new significance> Twine has nearly lost its implication of a mechanical process and usually emphasizes a winding around something by another thing which is flexible <let me twine mine arms about that body—Shak> <let wreaths of triumph now my temples twine—Pope> <the bucket and rope had been encircled by twining tendrils of convolvulus—Binyon> Wreath may come close to coil, twist, or wind <about his head) Entwine usually implies a twisting together (as two or more similar things) and it can both refer to a step in the process of spinning or throwing in which two or more filaments are turned about each other to form yarn or thread and usually implies connivance, and. . . Mahbub Ali. . . came very near. . . mischievously or teasingly or as a hint or a com- mand <Asiatics do not wink when they have outmaneuvered the enemy, but. . . Mahbub Ali. . . came very near it—Kipling> To blink is to wink involuntarily and with eyes nearly shut as if dazzled, partly blind, half asleep, or as a hint or a command <Asiatics do not wink when they have outmaneuvered the enemy, but. . . Mahbub Ali. . . came very near it—Kipling> To blink is to wink involuntarily and with eyes nearly shut as if dazzled, partly blind, half asleep, or suddenly startled <blink when roused from a sound sleep> <blink at the report of a gun> <he was. . . hauled up. . . blinded and tottering. . . into the blessed sun—Stevenson> In extended use wink implies connivance, and blink suggests evasion or shirking <wink at neglect of duty> <blink the issue> winner *victor, conqueror, champion, vanquisher

Ant loser

wisdom

wink vb Wink, blink both mean to move one's eyelids. Wink usually means to close and open the eyelids rapidly and usually involuntarily <houses so white that it makes one wink to look at them—Dickens> or to close one eye part way mischievously or teasingly or as a hint or a command <Asiatics do not wink when they have outmaneuvered the enemy, but. . . Mahbub Ali. . . came very near it—Kipling> To blink is to wink involuntarily and with eyes nearly shut as if dazzled, partly blind, half asleep, or suddenly startled <blink when roused from a sound sleep> <blink at the report of a gun> <he was. . . hauled up. . . blinking and tottering. . . into the blessed sun—Stevenson> In extended use wink implies connivance, and blink suggests evasion or shirking <wink at neglect of duty> <blink the issue> winner *victor, conqueror, champion, vanquisher

Ant loser

winking adj *sweet, engaging, winsome, dulcet

Ana charming, alluring, captivating, enchanting, bewitching, attractive (see under ATTRACT vb)

winsome *sweet, engaging, winning, dulcet

Ana see those at WINNING

wipe *extemperate, extirpate, eradicate, uproot, deracinate

Ana obliterate, erase, efface, expunge, blot out: *abolish, extinguish, annihilate: *destroy, demolish

wisdom judgment, *sense, gumption

Ana discretion, *prudence, foresight; judiciousness, sagacity, saneness, sapience (see corresponding adjectives at
wise: sagacity, perspicacity, shrewdness (see corresponding adjectives at SHREWED)

Ant folly: injudiciousness

wise, sage, sapient, judicious, prudent, sensible, sane are comparable when they mean having or manifesting the power to recognize the best ends and the best means to attain those ends. Wise applies to one or the acts or views of one who is so discerning in his understanding of persons, conditions, or situations that he knows how to deal with them, how to correct what is wrong in them, how to get the best out of them considering their limitations or difficulties, or how to estimate them fairly and accurately; often also the term implies a wide range of experience or of knowledge or learning (prudent and conservative, Edward was wise enough to know that these two qualities . . . were not enough—Buck) (knowing himself wise in a mad world—Meredith) (it is wise to be cautious in condemning views and systems which are now out of fashion—Inge) Sage characterizes one who is eminently wise and typically philosophical by temperament and experience. The term can suggest a habit of profound reflection upon men and events and an ability to reach conclusions of universal as well as immediate value, and has been applied chiefly to persons and utterances that are venerated for their wisdom and good counsel (what the sage poets, taught by the heavenly Muse, storied of old in high immortal verse—Milton) (for 1, who hold sage Homer's rule the best—Pope) (the natural crown that sage Experience wears—Wordsworth) In somewhat lighter use sage often suggests the affectation or the appearance of great wisdom or knowledge, whether the matters concerned be of significance or not (the older women seemed to have a kind of secret among themselves, a reason for sage smiles and glances—Sackville-West) Sapient describes one exhibiting the utmost sagacity (contain valuable insights and sapient advice to educators—Larrabee) (the sapient leader who shall bring order out of the wild misrule—Parrington) but often the term is used ironically to imply a mere hollow sham of such sagacity (the generals . . . turned attractive profiles in their [photographers'] direction and put on expressions of sapient authority—linklater) (a sapient, instructed, shrewdly ascertaining ignorance—Pater) Judicious applies to one who is capable of arriving at wise decisions or just conclusions; the term usually suggests the ability to distinguish fact from falsehood and to eliminate all bias so that one's judgments are fair, well-balanced, and level-headed as well as sound (I am perfectly indifferent to the judgment of all, except the few who are indeed judicious—Cowper) (I really think that, for wise men, this is not judicious—Burke) (the love of knowledge is not perhaps as insatiable as with us, but it is infinitely more judicious—Brownell) Prudent (see also under PRUDENCE; PRUDENT 3) applies to one who is so rich in practical wisdom that he is able to keep himself, his passions, and his actions under control and obedient to what he knows as right and necessary. In this sense prudent implies the use of one's reason in the attainment of the moral virtue that leads to right living, as distinguished from its use in the attainment of knowledge of things which transcend experience (the prudent man looketh well to his going—Prov 14:15) Sensible (see also AWARE, PERCEPTIBLE, MATERIAL) describes one who in speech or action does not exceed the bounds of common sense or of good sense; the term suggests a display of intelligence rather than of wisdom and of natural reasonableness rather than the exercise of the reason (to discuss the ultimate career of a child nine years old would not be the act of a sensible parent—Bennett) (whatever he took up he did in the same matter-of-fact sensible way; without a touch of imagination, without a spark of brilliancy—Woolf) Sapient characterizes one who shows healthy-mindedness and level-headedness in prudent, judicious, or sensible acts and words (sane . . . persons who are so well balanced that they can adjust themselves to the conditions of every civilization—Ellis) (thankful in his heart and soul that he had his mother, so sane and wholesome—D. H. Lawrence) Ana discreet, prudent, foresighted (see under PRUDENCE): *cautious, circumspect, calculating: sagacious, perspicacious, *shrewd, astute: knowing, *intelligent, alert, bright, smart Ant simple

wisecrack n crack, gag, *joke, jest, jape, quip, witticism

wish vb *desire, want, crave, covet


Con spurn, refuse, *decline, reject, repudiate: scorn, *despise, disdain

witty adj *insipid, vapid, flat, jejune, banal, inane

Ana spiritless, enervated, * languid, listless: *weak, feeble: diluted, attenuated, thinned (see THIN vb)

Con *spirited, high-spirited, merrymaking, spunky, fiery, peppery, gingery: stimulating, exciting, piquing, provoking (see PROVOKE)

wit n 1 intelligence, brain, *mind, intellect, soul, psyche

Ana *reason, understanding, intuition: comprehension, apprehension (see under APPREHEND): sagaciousness or sagacity, perspicaciousness or perspicacity (see corresponding adjectives at SHREWED)

2 Wit, humor, irony, sarcasm, satire, repartee are comparable when they denote a mode of expression which has for its aim the arousing of sudden sharp interest that is accompanied by amusement or laughter or a quality of mind which leads or predisposes to such expression. Wit which can denote reasoning power or mental capacity more typically implies intellectual brilliance and quickness in perception combined with the talent for expressing one's ideas in a sparkling effective manner; in this sense wit need not imply the evocation of laughter, but it suggests a delighting and entertaining (they never meet but there's a skirmish of wit between them—Shak.) (true wit is nature to advantage dressed, what oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed—Pope) Sometimes the implication of a power to evoke laughter or smiles becomes prominent and the term without any loss of its earlier suggestions of mental acuteness and swift perception, especially of the incongruous, adds notions of verbal felicity, especially as shown in the expression's unexpectedness of turn and aptness of application (if thou hast wit, and fun, and fire, and ne'er good wine did fear—Burns) Humor is often contrasted with wit, especially as one of two similar yet strikingly different modes of expression in literature. Humor may designate the peculiar disposition that leads one to perceive the ludicrous, the comical, or the ridiculous, and to express one's perceptions so as to make others see or feel the same thing (she was always saved by her crisp sense of humor, her shrewd and mischievous wit—Ellis) or it may imply more human sympathy, more tolerance, more kindness than wit, a deeper sense of the inherent incongruities in human nature and human life, and a feeling for the not readily perceived pathos as well as for the not readily perceived absurdness of characters, of situations, or of consequences (writers distinguish the humor of Chaucer and Shakespeare from the wit of Dryden and Pope; the wit of Molière's comedies from the humor of Don Quixote) (you expect wit from every man of any eminence in the eighteenth century. But of that sympathetic enjoyment of all the manifold contrasts
and incongruities of life which we call humor, I think
Wesley had very little—Winchester Irony applies chiefly
to a way of speaking or writing in which the meaning
intended is contrary to that seemingly expressed (Of
course Constance is always right,) observed Sophia, with
. . . irony—Bennett) (she was assisted by an impetuous
girl called Caroline . . . who by the irony of language
"waited" at table—Mackenzie) In a deeper sense irony
applies both to the quality of mind of a person (as a poet,
dramatist, or philosopher) who perceives discrepancies in
life and in character (as between the appearance and the
reality, or between what is promised and what is fulfilled,
or between what is attempted and what is accomplished)
and to the form of humor or wit which has for its aim
the revelation of the mockery implicit in these contradictions
(there must be some meaning beneath all this terrible
irony—Shaw) A kind of understatement which recalls to
us at once the grim and conscious irony of those who knew
that "their feet had come to the end of the world"—Day
Lewis) Sarcasm applies chiefly to a savage, bitter form
of humor intended to cut or wound. Sarcasm need not
imply the use of verbal irony, sometimes suggesting no
more than plain speaking, but it regularly implies as its aim
the intent to make the victim an object of ridicule (in
the intercourse of familiar life, he indulged his disposition
to petulance and sarcasm—Johnson) (the arrows of sarcasm
are barbed with contempt—Gladden) Satire primarily
designates writing intended to hold up vices or follies (as
of a people or an age) for ridicule and repudiation (Jon-
son's drama is only incidentally satire, because it is only
incidentally a criticism upon the actual world . . . that is,
it does not find its source in any precise emotional attitude
or precise intellectual criticism of the actual world—T. S.
Elliot) Repartee applies chiefly to the power or art of
answering quickly, pointedly, skillfully, and with wit or
humor or, less often, irony or sarcasm (as for repartee in
particular, as it is the very soul of conversation, so is it the
greatest grace of comedy—Dryden) (I hadn't known Jane
spoke so well. She has a clever, coherent way of making
her points, and is concise in reply if questioned, quick at
repartee if heckled—Rose Macaulay) Ana quick-wittedness,
alertness, brightness, brilliancy, cleverness, smartness, intelligence (see corresponding
adjectives at INTELLIGENT): raillery, *badinage, persiflage:
vh certify, attest, vouch
witness withhold detain, keep back, keep out, retain, hold, hold back, reserve,*keep
Ana *restrain, curb, check, bridge, inhibit: refuse,*decline
Con accord, *grant, concede, award, vouchsafe
withstand *resist, contest, oppose, fight, combat, conflict, antagonize
Ana *bear, endure, stand, tolerate, suffer: thwart, baffle, balk, foil,*frustrate: assail, *attack, assault
Con submit, *yield, capitulate
witness n *spectator, observer, beholder, looker-on, onlooker, eyewitness, bystander, kibitzer
witness vb *certify, attest, vouch
wit, humor, sarcasm, satire, irony, repartee
Ana subscribe (see ASSENT)
wit, humor, facetious, jocular, jocose are comparable
when they apply to persons and their utterances and
provoking or intended to provoke laughter or smiles.
Witty (compare wit) suggests a high degree of cleverness
and quickness in discerning amusing incongruities or
incongruities; it may connote sparkling pleasantry, especially
in repartee, but it often suggests sarcasm or causticity (her
tongue was as sharp and witty as ever—Sackville-West)
(there's no possibility of being witty without a little ill-
nature; the malice of a good thing is the barb that makes it
stick—Sheridan) Humorous is a generic term applied to
whoever or whatever provokes laughter (a humorous
account of a picnic) (a humorous lecture) (the humorous
characters of Shakespeare's plays) As opposed to witty,
humorous often suggests sensibility rather than intellect,
sympathy rather than aloofness in criticism, and some-
times, whimsicality rather than direct insight; thus, Pope is
often described as a witty, Burns as a humorous, poet
(whose humorous vein, strong sense, and simple style
may teach the gayest, make the gravest smile—Cowper)
(he is the genius of the Italians is acute . . . but not subtle;
ence, what they think to be humorous is merely witty—
Coleridge) jocular also implies a fondness for jesting and joking but suggests as its motive
the desire to make others laugh or to keep them amused.
Jocose suggests waggishness or sportiveness in jesting and joking; it often
comes close to facetious in suggesting clumsy inappropriate
jesting (sundry jocose proposals that the ladies
should sit in the gentlemen's laps—Dickens)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.

**Anachronistic:** amusing, diverting, entertaining (see AMUSE); sparkling, scintillating (see FLASH vb): *caustic, mordant, acrid, scathing: penetrating, piercing, probing (see ENTER)*

**Witchcraft:** wizard 
*expert, adept, artist, artiste, virtuoso*

**Wizards:** witchcraft, witchery, sorcery, *magic, alchemy, thaumaturgy*

**Wizen:** wither, shrivel

**Ana:** shrink, *contract: dwindle, diminish, reduce, *decrease*

**Wobble:** teeter, totter, shimmy, quiver, shiver, shudder, quaver, quake, *shake, tremble, dither*

**Woeful:** grief, anguish, heartache, heartbeat, *sorrow, regret*

**Ana:** *distress, suffering, misery, agony, dolor: lamenting, bewailing, bemoaning, deploiring (see DEPLORE)*

**Con:** *happiness, bliss, felicity*

**woebegone:** disconsolate, dispirited, dejected, depressed, *woebegone*

**Wither:** wither, shrivel, wizen, wobble

**Womanly:** womanly, womanlike, ladylike, feminine, *female, effeminate*

**Ant** manliness — *Con* manlike, virile, masculine, *male*

**Womanlike:** womanly, womanish, ladylike, feminine, *female, effeminate*

**Con** feminine, womananish, ladylike, feminine, *female, effeminate*

**Womanly:** womanlike, ladylike, womanish, feminine, *female, effeminate*

**Ana** *mature, matured, grown-up, adult*

**Ant** unwomanly, manly — *Con* manliness (see MALE):
*Youthful, juvenile, virgin, virginal, maiden*

**Wonder**

1. **Wonder** marvel, prodigy, miracle, phenomenon can all mean something that causes astonishment or admiration. **Wonder** applies specifically to whatever excites surprise, astonishment, or amazement (as by its perfection, its greatness, or its inexplicableness) *the hotels were wonders of comfort—White* (the real wonder of jujitsu is . . . in the uniquely Oriental idea which the whole art expresses—Hearn) *Chinese painters are not . . . absorbed in expressing their sensuous delight in the wonder and glory of the world—Binyon* **Marvel** applies to something that excites surprise or astonishment especially by its extraordinariness, its strangeness, or its curiousness *All I ask from them is discreetness.* "Ay," said Adrian, whose discreetness was a marvel—Meredith *had never believed that such marvels of the cooking art really existed—Wouk* *(for the Roman army was still strong, and was to remain for centuries one of the marvels of the world—Buchan)* **Prodigy** may name some extraordinary or abnormal fact or circumstance in nature seen as an omen or portent <were not comets formerly dreaded, as awful prodigies intended to alarm the world?—Jeremiah Joyce> or apply to something that makes one marvel because of its oddness or unusualness especially in degree of some quality (as skill, endurance, size, or achievement) <wondering whether her husband, a despotic and pitiless pedant, would have tried to turn their boy into a prodigy—Edmund Wilson> <women performing prodigies of endurance, bravery, and hope—Newsweek>* **Miracle** applies to something that is accomplished or occurs which seems to those who are witnesses or have undergone the experience to exceed human powers and to require a supernatural or superhuman explanation *wonders ye have done; miracles ye cannot—Tennyson>* In its nonreligious sense **miracle** retains its implication of wonder in its insistence on the fact that the person or thing so designated is beyond ordinary human comprehension or capacity to do or produce; only occasionally does it suggest a supernatural or superhuman agent or agency <clung to their candles with an instinctive feeling that these primitive instruments were . . . more to be trusted than the miracles of science—Wolfe> *(the miracle which we call genius—Lowers)* *(it was a miracle that the two men survived so many days' exposure in an open boat) it was a miracle of rare device, a sunny pleasure dome with caves of ice!—Coleridge>* **Phenomenon** in its more popular sense, which is somewhat contrary in meaning to **phenomenon** as used by scientists and philosophers (compare *phenomenal* under MATERIAL), implies something exceptional or extraordinary; it applies to a person, animal, or thing that is regarded as a prodigy or marvel or occasionally merely as an oddity *(the captain—a phenomenon during prohibition because he was honest—Dinneen)* *(Beat . . . the first phenomenon in years to come out of the Great Unwashed which Madison Avenue hadn’t rigged, manipulated or foreseen—Mailer)*

2. **Wonder, wonderment, amazement, admiration** can denote the complex emotion aroused by something that is inexplicable or incomprehensible and, often, awe-inspiring. **Wonder** and **wonderment** commonly suggest novelty or strangeness in what excites the emotion and astonishment or perplexity in the person affected *(still the wonder grew that one small head could carry all he knew—Goldsmith)* *(showed no great zest . . . a quiet wonderment rather, faintly tinged with pleasure—Cather)* In its richest use **wonder** often implies rapturous awe *(nor any power above or under ever made us mute with wonder—Sheri)* **Amazement** stresses bewilderment or loss of power to collect one’s thoughts; it rarely gives an indication of like or dislike for the object exciting the emotion *(reports . . . which constantly express amazement* at the extent and severity of Russian attacks . . . and despair at the German setbacks—Shirer)* **Admiration**, which in its most general sense implies an often enthusiastic recognition of superiority (see REGARD) can add an implication of absorbed or ecstatic attention (as to the rare, the beautiful, or the sublime) that approaches awe in its elevation and intensity *(respect which in the lay mind may well mount to admiration and even to awe—More)* *(considered the emotion of reverence to be very complex. Into it enters awe which itself is a blend of fear and admiration. Admiration, in turn, represents a fusion of negative self-feeling and wonder—G. W. Allport)* *(a Kyoto painter . . . who burnt a hole in his roof to admire a moonlight effect, and in his rapt admiration omitted to notice that he had set a whole quarter of the city on fire—Binyon)* *(Ana* awe, *reverence, fear; astonishment, amazement (see corresponding verbs at SURPRISE): perplexity, puzzle-
ment, bewilderment (see corresponding verbs at PUZZLE)*

**Wondert** wonder, amazement, admiration

**Wont** habit, custom, practice, usage, custom, use

**Ana** way, manner, fashion (see METHOD)

**Wonted** accustomed, customary, habitual, *usual

**Ana** familiar, *common, ordinary: natural, regular, normal, typical*

**Woo** vb court, solicit, *invite, bid


**Wooden** *stiff, rigid, inflexible, tense, stark

**Ana** firm, hard, solid: *heavy, weighty, ponderous: clumsy, *awkward

**Con** plant, pliable, *plastic: *supple, limber

**Word, vocable, term** can mean a letter or combination of letters or a sound or combination of sounds capable of being pronounced and expressing an idea that is by tradition or common consent associated with the letters or the sounds. **Word** applies to a letter or combination of
letters or a sound or a combination of sounds that forms an indivisible whole constituting one of the ultimate units of a language. **Vocabulary** throws emphasis upon a word as pronounced or spelled rather than as a unit of meaning (a flat denial of poetic possibilities, in the case of any **vocabulary**, is liable to disastrous refutation—**Lowes**). **Accustomed to songs in which the words are often merely convenient **vocables** with the melody usually more important than the text—**Scholl**). **Term** applies both to words and to phrases that express a whole idea and form one of the units of expression in a language, applying especially to units with a more or less precise technical use or meaning (the **term** communism is used today to describe both a political philosophy and its translation into reality—**Gatzke**). "The most important woman in Finland" is a **term** which has been applied—**Current Biol**. (all professions are likely to develop innumerable terms that constitute an almost private jargon)

**Ana** expression, idiom, *phrase, locution** wordy, verbose, prolix, diffuse, redundant can all mean using or marked by the use of more words than are necessary to express the thought. **Wordy** often carries no further implications, though it may suggest garrulousness or loquacity when the reference is to speech (went into considerable detail about the Fuehrer's thoughts and policies on almost every conceivable subject, being more wordy than any previous letter... to his Italian partner—**Shirer**). (a wordy, prolegomenous babble—**Stevenson**). **Verbose** suggests overabundance of words as a literary fault characteristic especially of a writer or public speaker or of a work or speech; it often implies resulting dullness or obscurity of expression or a lack of incisiveness, confusion of ideas, or grandiloquence (a **verbose** style) (a dull **verbose** narrative) (his letters are full of interesting details but they are never **verbose**). **Prolix** implies such attention to minute details as to extend what is written or told beyond due bounds; the term carries a stronger implication of tediousness or wearisomeness than **verbose** (the belief, so prevalent abroad, that it is typical of Russian literature to be formless, **prolix** and hysterical—**Edmund Wilson**). (this, then, was Nufo's story, told not in Nufo's manner, which was infinitely **prolix**—**Hudson**). **Diffuse** usually implies verbosity, but it throws the emphasis upon the lack of organization and of the compactness and condensation needed for pointedness and for strength of style; it often attributes flabbiness, looseness, or desultoriness to what is written (the one can be profuse on occasion; the other is **diffuse** whether he will or no—**J. R. Lowell**). (though Seneca is long-winded, he is not **diffuse**; he is capable of great concision—**T. S. Eliot**). **Redundant** can apply to whatever is superfluous (elder... occupations are becoming **redundant** and obsolete—**Barkin**) but in its specific application to words and phrases the term implies a superfluity that results from being repetitious or unnecessary for clarity and accuracy of expression (revision of technical prose requires word by word revision and elimination of whatever is **redundant**). In its corresponding application to writers, speakers, or utterances **redundant** implies the use of redundancies (see **redundancy under Verbiage**). (the naturally copious and flowing style of the author is generally **redundant**—**Mackintosh**). (she had been, like nearly all very young writers, superfluous of phrase, **redundant**—**Rose Macaulay**) (in sharp comment... quite demolished the emptiness and the pretentiousness of this **redundant** plan—**Michener**).

**Ana** *inflated, turgid, tumid, flatulent; bombastic, *rhetorical: loquacious, garrulous, voluble, glib, *talkingative **Con** laconic, *concrete, terse, succinct, summary, pitiful, compendious

**work** *n 1 Work, labor, travail, toll, drudgery, grind are comparable when they mean effort or exertion directed to the accomplishment of an end, or an employment or activity which involves such expenditure of effort or exertion. **Work** is the most comprehensive of these terms, for it may imply activity of body, mind, or machine or, in its largest sense, of a natural force. It is applicable not only to the exertion and to the employment which involves such exertion (six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy **work**—**Exod 20:9**) but also to what is accomplished or produced by such exertion (this statue is the **work** of a gifted but unknown sculptor) (you have done a day's **work** in three hours) and to the material upon which one is employed (put your **work** away). **Labor** differs from **work** not so much in its specific denotations as in its implications, as a rule it implies human work and therefore suggests physical or intellectual exertion only, but it may suggest work of strenuous, onerous, or fatiguing kind (**labor** is doing what we must; leisure is doing what we like—**Shaw**). (the larger part of the **labor** of an author in composing his work is critical **labor**; the **labor** of sifting, combining, constructing, expunging, correcting, testing—**T. S. Eliot**). (Sir William Meredith, anticipating the **labor**s of Romilly, protested against the barbarity and the inefficacy of a criminal code—**G. O. Trevelyan**). **Travail** carries a stronger implication of painful effort or exertion than does **labor**; that connotation is often so strong that the term tends to denote suffering rather than labor (the sentimentalist escapes the stern **travail** of thought—**Lowes**) (it breaks his heart... that all his hours of **travail** here for men seem yet in vain—**Lindsay**). **Toil** suggests labor that is prolonged and highly fatiguing but not necessarily physical (for years he led a life of unremitting physical **toil**—**Buchan**). **Drudgery** implies dull, irksome, and distasteful labor (thereafter, through... all the days she served in the store, the job was nothing but exasperating **drudgery**—**Wouk**). (labor of the hands... pursued to the verge of **drudgery**—**Thoreau**). **Grind** applies to labor that one finds tiresome and trying or exhausting to mind or body (the long **grind** of teaching the promiscuous and occupied young—**Henry James**).

**Ana** exertion, *effort, pains, trouble: *task, duty, chore **Ant** play

2 **Work**, employment, occupation, calling, pursuing, business can all denote the specific kind of labor or activity in which a person engages seriously especially as a means of earning a livelihood. **Work** is the most general of these terms; it applies to any kind of labor, whether physical or intellectual, whether carried on by the hour, day, week, month, or longer period, and whether done for pay or not and, if the former, whether compensated for by an employer or out of fees for services or the profits of a business (be out of **work**; his **work** is that of a railroad engineer) (he is at **work** on his book). **Employment** implies work for which one has been engaged and is being paid by an employer (he is unable to find **employment**; his **employment** is that of a bookbinder) (1... went from town to town, working when I could get **employment**—**Goldsmith**). **Occupation**, though often used interchangeably with **employment**, can be more inclusive, for it does not necessarily connote service under an employer and may be referred to the work of a kind in which one engages habitually or for which one has been trained; thus, one seeks **employment** but follows a particular occupation (unable to find **employment** in his old **occupation**, he turned to common labor (he is by **occupation** a teacher) (these are the chief questions which a man would ask... whom circumstances allowed to choose his **occupation**—**Inge**). **Calling** is...
sometimes used in place of occupation but is typically used of occupations which can be described as vocations or professions and to which one is likely to have been called by one's nature or special tastes (his calling is that of a preacher) (the learned callings) (Miss Jekyll had received that luckiest of fairy gifts, a calling ... something that she loved to do—L. P. Smith) Pursuit, too, may be used in place of occupation but more specifically in the sense of a trade, craft, profession, business, or art that is followed often as a means of earning one's living (they never have to learn to adjust themselves to people whose tastes and pursuits are different from their own—Russell) (though it was supposed to be proper for them to have an occupation, the crude fact of moneymaking was still regarded as derogatory, and the law, being a profession, was accounted a more gentlemanly pursuit than business—Wharton) Business is often used in the sense of work or sometimes of occupation (the business of keeping a lunatic asylum—Denman) (I hated, and still hate, the awful business of research—Bennett)

Ana *trade, craft, handicraft, art, profession

3 Work, product, production, opus, artifact can all denote a concrete thing that is made or brought into being by the exertion of effort and the exercise of skill. Work is applied to what comes under this general definition (as something that is manufactured or that is constructed or built) only when used without reference to a particular thing (the work reveals the workman) or when used with a possessive (the cabinetmaker is proud of his work) (every church that is known as Christopher Wren's work) or in certain combinations (fireworks) (waxworks) Otherwise it is applied to a thing that results from mental labor, especially one involving composition and artistry in execution and specifically called a work of art (the works of Keats include his poems and usually his prefaces) (the works of Beethoven are all his musical compositions) (The Thinker is one of Rodin's works) (the new history of literature promises to be a monumental work) Product (see also product 2) is applied chiefly to articles of manufacture whether they are made by hand or with the aid of machinery (the factory seeks a market for its products) (she was unwilling to part with the embroideries and laces that were the products of her handiwork) (synthetic materials impart their special properties to perfumes and flavors and when properly used, increase rather than diminish the value of the product—Morrison) When product rather than work is used of a poem, novel, statue, or painting, it is often either deprecative in its connotations or definitely noncommittal (this dull product of a scoffer's pen—Wordsworth) (shall a literary product reveal the spirit of its age and be silent as to the spirit of its author—Mattheson) Production is sometimes used where work would be the commoner and more idiomatic term, but it has a formal or slightly bombastic effect except when qualified by a superlative (the noblest productions of literary genius) (the finest productions of Michelangelo) (so one [Pygmalion] whose story serves at least to show men loved their own productions long ago, wooed an unfeeling statue [Galatea] for his wife—Cowper) The term is also specifically applied to a theatrical or similar performance viewed as the work of a producer or director who is responsible for all the details (the recent Shakespearean productions) Opus is applied chiefly to a musical composition or group of compositions and in this use it is commonly followed by a number designating the order of publication or, sometimes, execution (Beethoven's opus 27) The term also has some specific application (as to work in mosaic or embroidery) and is used in light criticism of a work of art or literature often with a suggestion of facetious pomposity (British books on statistics are ever so much sprightlier and clearer than American opera on the subject—Forbes) (an instance of misplaced creativity, perhaps the first but not the last in Wright's prodigious opus—Mumford) Artifact basically denotes an artificial as distinguished from a natural product; it usually implies human workmanship, largely as a general designation for primitive weapons and implements as well as works of art (flints, arrowheads, and other artifacts of stone).

Ana article, object, *thing: accomplishment, achievement, performance (see corresponding verbs at perform)

work vb operate, function, *act, behave, react

worker, workman, workingman, laborer, craftsman, handicraftsman, mechanic, artisan, hand, operative, roustabout can all mean one who earns his living by labor, especially by manual labor. Worker, the most comprehensive and least specific of these terms, applies to someone who earns his living by work of hand or brain (office workers) (factory workers) Workman does not imply a specific kind of work, but in all but its extended senses it commonly implies manual labor. It may be applied to one engaged to do a specified piece of work or to help in the construction of something requiring many workers; it may also be applied to a skilled or to an unskilled worker. Usually it implies opposition to employer, or manager, or foreman (there were 50 workmen on the job) In extended use the term is applicable to a worker whether he works with his hands or with his mind provided he makes, constructs, invents, or creates something (high-minded and purifying workmen, they have spared no pains to produce a poetry finer than that of any other country in our time—Lowell) Workingman is more restricted in its range of application than workman, and is, in spite of varying legal definitions, applied commonly to a wage earner who at an hourly, daily, or weekly rate pursues a trade (as carpentry, masonry, or plumbing) or is similarly employed in a mercantile, manufacturing, or industrial establishment as distinguished especially from an industrialist, a merchant, and a professional man. Laborer commonly designates one whose work demands more strength and physical exertion than skill (as on a construction or excavation job) (day laborers) (farm laborers) Craftsman and handicraftsman basically apply to one who is a skilled workman in a craft or handicraft (see craft, handicraft under trade 1). Unlike the foregoing terms these two are common in general use and may apply as freely with reference to an avocation as to an employment. But the former may apply distinctively to a worker who is a competent technician or who is versed in the technique of his art, profession, or trade. It is especially used of artists, writers, playwrights, or skilled artificers (Pope ... one of the most consummate craftsmen who ever dealt in words—Lowes) (the good craftsman constructs his product as perfectly as he can ... He becomes a artist in so far as he treats his materials also for themselves—Alexander) Mechanic applies specifically to a workman skilled in the repair or adjustment of machines (an automobile mechanic) (an aviation mechanic) Artisan is more often opposed to artist (for this sense see under artist 1) than employed as a designation of a particular type of workman. When applied to workmen as such and without thought of opposition to artist, the term comes very close to craftsman and is commonly applied to one who is skilled in a trade (as carpentry, weaving, or shoemaking) that involves learned skills and their appropriate application as well as physical labor (we pass from the weavers of cloth to a different class of artisans—Macaulay) Hand is applied to one of a crew, a force, or a gang of workmen or some-
times to an owner’s or proprietor’s helper or assistant
(a deckhand) (a farmhand) (mill hands) (my son has
lately lost his principal hand by death—Franklin) Oper-
ative, a general term suggestive of modern industrial
conditions, applies to a workman employed in a mill, a
manufactury, or an industry utilizing machines (the steel-
works employ as many as 2000 operatives) Roustabout
usually adds to laborer distinguishing implications of
muscular fitness for exceedingly heavy work, roughness,
and, often, migratory habits (longshoremen and other
roustabouts)

Ant idler

workingman workman, laborer, *worker, craftsman,
handicraftsman, mechanic, artisan, operative, hand, roustabout

workman *worker, workingman, laborer, craftsman,
handicraftsman, mechanic, artisan, operative, hand, roustabout

world universe, *earth, cosmos, macrocosm

worldly I mundane, *earthly, terrestrial, earthly, sublunary

Ana temporal, *profane, secular: *material, physical,
corporeal: *carnal, fleshly, sensual

Con *celestial, heavenly, empyrean, empyreal: sacred
*holy, spiritual, divine, religious

2 sophisticated, worldly-wise, blasé, disillusioned

worldly-wise worldly, *sophisticated, blasé, disillusioned

worn *haggard, careworn, pinched, wasted, cadaverous

Ana exhausted, tired, wearied, fatigued, flagged, jaded

(see tire vb): gaunt, scrawny, skinny, *lean

Con refreshed, restored, rejuvenated (see renew): *vig-
orous, lusty, energetic, strenuous

worried anxious, concerned, careful, solicitous (see under

CARE n)

Ana apprehensive, afraid, *fearful: troubled, distressed

(see trouble vb): harassed, harried (see worry vb)

Con comforted, solaced, consolèd (see comfort vb)

worry vb Worry, annoy, harass, harry, plague, pester,
tease, tantalize can all mean to torment so as to destroy
one’s peace of mind or to disturb one acutely. Worry
stresses incessant attacking or goading and an intention
or sometimes an effect of driving the victim to desperation
or defeat (pursue a policy of worrying the enemy) (worry
him out till he gives his consent—Swift) (brother should
not war with brother, and worry and devour each other—
Cowper) Annoy (see also annoy 1) implies continued
molesting, interfering with, intruding on, or bedevil-
ing until the victim is angry or upset (will thou then serve
the Philistines with that gift which was expressly given thee to
annoy them?—Milton) (clouds of flies . . . annoyed our
horses—Borrow) (my movements are all along a regular
beat, which enables me to avoid things that bore or annoy
me—Edmund Wilson) Harass usually implies persecution,
especially continued petty persecutions, or burdensome
demands or exactions that drive one to distraction or
exhaust one’s nervous or mental power (it is good for
boys and girls to know that their father can be harassed
by worn and their mother worn out by a multiplicity of
details—Russell) (securing air and naval bases from
which he could harass and blockade the British Isles—
Shirer) Harry, though often used interchangeably with
harass, more vividly suggests maltreatment and oppres-
sion (Button and Miss Wace had been harried and chivied
. . . the latter getting visibly flustered, for tears came into
her eyes—Sackville-West) (how on earth can you rack
and harry and post a man for his losses, when you . . . live
in the same station with him?—Kipling) Plague basically
implies an affliction or infliction comparable to that of a
devastating epidemic disease and even with greatly
weakened implications tends to suggest a tormentor and
an agonized or suffering victim (the gods are just, and of
our pleasant vices make instruments to plague us—Shak.)
(kind of unhappy phrase that could plague a candidate
right down to the wire—Michener) (misfortune plagued
the plotters at every turn—Shirer) Pester implies the
power to annoy past endurance (as by numbers or by
repetition of attacks suggestive of the discomforts of an
infestation of vermin) (pester the authorities with com-
plaints) (Adrian . . . would accept him entirely as he
seemed, and not pester him . . . by trying to unlock his
heart—Meredith) Tease may imply repeated attempts to
break down resistance by successive appeals or impor-
tunities (the children were teasing to be taken to the
circus) (I have not been to the Rooms this age . . . except
. . . last night with the Hodges’s . . . they teased me into it—
Austen) or it may imply an attempt to provoke or
upset by railillery or tormenting (gets me mad when my ana-
yst friends ask me some teasing question . . . Implying
they know a hell of a lot more about me than I do—Wouk)
(not soon provoked, however stung and teased, and, if
perhaps made angry, soon appeased—Cowper) Tanta-
lize stresses the repeated awakening of expectation and
then its frustration (because they are so fabulous and
beautiful, they create an atmosphere of suspense . . . some-
thing tantalizing, breathtaking—Dahl) (merciful love that
tantalizes not, one-thoughted, never-wandering, guileless
love—Keats)

Ana disquiet, disturb, *discompose, perturb, agitate,
upset: torment, try, torture (see afflict): oppress, perse-
cute, *wrong, aggrieve

Con *comfort, solace, console

worry n anxiety, concern, *care, solicitude

Ana *apprehension, foreboding, misgiving, presentiment:
anguish, woe, heartache (see sorrow) *uncertainty,
doubt, mistrust

Con *equanimity, composure, sangfroid: *certainty, as-
surance, certitude

worph n adoration, veneration, reverence (see under

REVERE vb)

Ana *honor, homage, obeisance: respect, *regard, es-
teen, admiration

Con *profanation, desecration, sacrilege: execration,
cursing (see corresponding verbs at execute)

worph vb I adore, venerate, *revere, reverence

Ana *exalt, magnify: respect, esteem (see under re-

gard n)

Con *execute, curse: *despise, scorn, disdain, contemn
2 *adore, idolize

Ana love, dote (see like): admire, regard (see under

REARD n)

Con *hate, abhor, detest

worth n Worth, value are close synonyms in more than one
of their senses, often differentiated by demands of idiom
rather than differences of meaning or connotation. Both
worth and value denote the equivalent in money or some-
times in goods or services given or asked in exchange for
another thing: thus, the value or worth of these coins to
collectors is much greater than their monetary worth or
value (the current exchange value of the dollar) (he
always gets his money’s worth) (gets full value for his
money) When, however, worth and value mean the
quality of being useful, important, excellent in its kind, or
highly desirable or meritorious, they do not always come
so closely together. In such use worth more often than
value applies to what is excellent intrinsically (as by being
superior morally, spiritually, intellectually, or aestheti-
cally) (of ancient race by birth, but nobler yet in his own
worth—Dryden) (Archer’s . . . coherent thinking, his
sense of the worth of order and workmanship—Montague)
A colon (:) separates groups of words discriminated. An asterisk (*) indicates place of treatment of each group.
urgent demands or threats) that suggests a physical wringing (wring a confession from a suspect) more farm output, both of foodstuffs and raw materials, must be wrung from the hard-pressed peasants—Lieberman (wringing more blackmail from this unwarlike nation—Forester) Ana twist, bend (see CURVE): *force, compel, coerce, constrain: strain, sprain (see under STRAIN n) wretch vb *wrench, wring Ana twist, bend (see CURVE): usurp, *arrogate, confiscate: evert, extract, elicit (see EDEUCE): distort, contort (see DEFORM) wrestle, tussle, grapple, scuffle mean to struggle with an opponent at close quarters. Wrestle basically implies a struggle for mastery by gripping with hands, arms, and legs, often in ways governed by fixed rules; the term connotes the exercise of skill and ingenuity as well as strength. In its extended use wrestle also implies a struggle for mastery, but it may suggest either a striving for superiority or for a particular advantage or a laborious effort (as in understanding, in seeking, or in overcoming) compelled to wrestle with the increasing difficulties of his office the perfectionist's instinct for wrestling with a problem until he had shaped it to his mental image Kolodin (the man who has never wrestled with his early faith has missed not only a moral but an intellectual discipline Ellis) Tussle also suggests a struggle for mastery, but it implies determination rather than skill or ingenuity and willingness to accept the rough-and-tumble conditions of such a struggle (the boys tussled long and hard) tussle with a problem in mathematics (a strong man who could tussle with evil and conquer Caspary) Grapple stresses the action of taking hold of or coming to grips with; the term carries a stronger implication of being in a position to gain the mastery and, usually, of a successful struggle grappled with his assailant, pinning one of his arms behind him the architect has grappled with more problems than one need hope to see solved in any single church—Henry Adams it has been mainly the academicians who have attempted to grapple with the intricacies of Joyce's mysticism of the flesh—Mailer Scuffle may imply brief, confused, usually not very serious fighting involving much scrambling and noise (boys scuffled with each other in the schoolyard) it may suggest hurry or superficiality in overcoming difficulties you go to school and scuffle on the best way you can—Runciman Ana *contend, fight, battle, war: *resist, withstand, combat, oppose: strive, endeavor, essay (see ATTEMPT): labor, toil, travel (see corresponding nouns at work) wretched *miserable Ana *despondent, forlorn, hopeless, despairing: doleful, dolorous, *melancholy: abject, sordid, *mean: pitiable, piteous, *pitiful wrench vb *wrench, wrest Ana *press, squeeze: *crush, mash, smash, bruise: extract, extort, elicit (see EDEUCE): distort, contort (see DEFORM): wizel, bend (see CURVE) writer, author, composer can all denote a person who gives expression to his ideas or feelings, but they are not as a rule synonyms. Writer is a comprehensive term applied to someone whose occupation or chief employment is that of expressing something in words, especially for others to read. As an occupational designation, it implies that one's profession is writing for publication, and it covers such persons as novelists, essayists, dramatists, editors, and journalists (a free-lance writer) (news writers) (the writers' club) Author in its comprehensive sense (see under MAKER) is applicable to a producer or source (as of a work of art) the author of my being but it can be applied specifically to a person who has written for publication. It differs from writer in placing less stress upon the profession and more upon the fact of having written and published something (as a book or an article under one's own name or a pen name) decide to become a writer the authors of some well-known books were not writers by profession Author in this sense, too, implies an originator or source and is distinguished from reviser, adapter, editor, or dramatizer. Composer, like author, may be used generally and specifically. But because it emphasizes the bringing together of a number of things so as to form a whole (a composition), it is applied most frequently to those expressions of ideas or feelings achieved by bringing together musical tones, words, colors, or shapes so as to form an artistic pattern. It is the specific term for the author of a musical composition (the composer of the Peer Gynt suite) but, although this is its commonest application, it is also applicable to poets, painters, designers, and others when composition rather than creation or representation is the end Shakespeare was not only a dramatist but a composer of lyrics and sonnets writhed, agonize, squirm are comparable when they mean to twist or turn in physical or mental distress. Write regularly carries vivid suggestions of convulsive contortions (as of one in the throes of death, in a paroxysm, in an instrument of torture, or in a trap) and of fruitless struggling to escape. When used in reference to physical distress, it commonly implies also great pain childhood and age writhing in savage pains—Shelley When extended to refer to mental distress, it usually implies a torturing sense of shame, of bafflement, or of frustration thus, at every march, the hidden enemy became bolder and the regiment writhed under attacks it could not avenge—Kipling (corrupt men in the machines write in the presence of his obvious integrity—Helen Fuller) Agonize sometimes evokes the image of one in the pangs of death, struggling and in anguish; sometimes it evokes the picture of one wrestling or straining arduously to achieve a difficult victory bled, groaned, and agonized, and died in vain Cowper pages which cost a week of unremitting labor—Huxley Squirm evokes images of a less dignified or a more familiar character; it usually does not imply profound distress, but great unease (as in aversion to restraint or discipline) or a shrinking or wincing (as under sarcasm or criticism) sleek-haired subalterns who squirmed painfully in their chairs when they came to call—Kipling a grueling cross-examination in which he is going to make me squirm in front of the grand jury Gardner Ana twist, bend (see CURVE vb): distort, contort (see DEFORM): wince, blench, flinch, *recoil wrong n *injustice, injury, grievance Ana damage, *injury, harm, mischief: violation, infraction, *breach, trespass, transgression: hardship, *difficulty wrong adj 1 *false Ana fallacious, sophistical (see under FALLACY): *misleading, deceptive, delusive, delusory Ant right —Con *correct, exact, accurate, precise 2 bad, poor Ana improper, *unfit, inappropriate, unfitting, undesirable, inapt, unhappy, infected: *awry, askew: *amiss, astray: *awry, askew: *fit, appropriate, suitable, fitting: good, *right wrong vb Wrong, oppress, persecute, aggrieve can mean to inflict injury upon a person without just cause or in an outrageous manner. One wrongs another who injures him by unjustifiably depriving him of his property or his good name or by violating something he holds sacred receive analogous words Ana antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man—2 Cor 7:2) (such an air of wronged nobility—Cheever) One oppresses another who inhumanely lays upon him burdens too heavy to be endured or exacts of him more than he can possibly perform. How reviving to the spirits of just men long oppressed, when God into the hands of their deliverer puts invincible might—Milton (may have missed the tender love of her parents . . . or been oppressed by her elderly uncle—Cheever) One persecutes another who relentlessly or unremittingly subjects him to annoyance or suffering (if a boy has abnormal mental powers in some direction, combined with poor physique and great nervousness, he . . . may be so persecuted [by normal boys] as to be driven mad—Russell) One aggrieves another or, more often, causes him to be or to feel aggrieved who by wrongdoing, oppressing, or persecuting him gives him ground for protest (several nations were aggrieved by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles) (so the bargain stood: they broke it, and he felt himself aggrieved—Browning) * Anger * abuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat, outrage: * injure, harm, hurt

wroth

Ania * pull, drag, tug: snatch, clutch (see take): * wrench, wrest

yap vb * bark, bay, howl, growl, snarl, yelp

yardstick * standard, criterion, gauge, touchstone

yarn tale, * story, narrative, anecdote

yearn * long, pine, hanker, hunger, thirst

yell * shout, shriek, scream, screech, squeal, holler, whoop

yeast * foam, froth, spume, scum, lather, suds

yeo * long, pine, hanker, hunger, thirst

yet * until, but, however, but, nevertheless

yield vb * produce, turn out, * bear

yielding * of respect or reverence for another or in recognition of another's authority or superior knowledge: everybody must defer . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable (bow to the inevitable) (bow to established authority) (he admired the tribal discipline which made May . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable)

yielded * of respect or reverence for another or in recognition of another's authority or superior knowledge: everybody must defer . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable (bow to the inevitable) (bow to established authority) (he admired the tribal discipline which made May . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable)

yielded to persuasion (yield to persuasion) (yield to temptation) (he never yields except when the matter under discussion is of no significance to him) (the great principle in a contest with a child is: do not yield but do not punish—Russell) but when the reference is to a thing, the word implies elasticity, or lack of firmness, strength, or endurance in the thing that gives way (the door suddenly yielded to her hand—Austen) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or dwelling place) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or dwelling place)

yielded to age—Stevenson) (a long diatribe against Pitt for having tamely submitted to the rebuffs of the French Directory—Quiller-Couch) (submitted to their joking with the best grace she could—Wouk) Capitulate can mean to surrender on terms definitely agreed upon, but in its common extended use, it more often centers attention on a definite submission to a force or power that one has not the strength, the skill, or the will to overcome (always tips for special services rendered but I will not capitulate before sheer impertinence—Weichsberg) (the universities would capitulate to a young, vigorous and revolutionary creed—Moherly) Succumb carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding terms of weakness or helplessness in the person or thing that gives way or of strength or irresistibility in the person or more often the thing that causes the giving way. The suggestion of sinking under that force or power is usually so strong in succumb that the word frequently implies a disastrous outcome (as death, destruction, or subjugation) (succumb to pneumonia) (the best of constitutions will not prevent ambitious politicians from succumbing . . . to the temptations of power—Huxley) (true passion . . . must be crushed before it will succumb—Meredith)

All of the preceding terms usually imply a giving way on the part of a person or sometimes a thing that has not or cannot maintain the upper hand; they therefore often imply a weakening of the one that gives way. Relent, by contrast, implies a yielding on the part of the one who has the upper hand and who has been severe or harsh in his attitude to another person or fixed in his determination (as to punish, to interfere, or to frustrate). The term therefore implies a softening or mollifying that turns him from his previous course (can you hear a good man groan, and not relent?—Shak) (when a second appeal, couched in more urgent terms, was dispatched to him, he relented—Cerf) Defer implies a yielding or submitting to because of respect or reverence for another or in recognition of another's authority or superior knowledge (everybody must defer . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable) (bow to the inevitable) (bow to established authority) (he admired the tribal discipline which made May bow to this decision—Wharton) Cave, usually with in, can be a close synonym of succumb, but it often suggests resistance to pressure to the point of exhaustion and sudden collapse (in the end government caved in, and unconditionally agreed to inquiry—Punch)

Ana surrender, cede, waive (see relinquishe): concede, accord, award, * grant

Yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent, defer, bow, cave can all mean to give way to someone or something that one cannot further resist. Yield (see also relinquishe; bear 2), when the reference is to a person implies being overcome (as by force, argument, or entreaty) (yield to persuasion) (yield to temptation) (he never yields except when the matter under discussion is of no significance to him) (the great principle in a contest with a child is: do not yield but do not punish—Russell) but when the reference is to a thing, the word implies elasticity, or lack of firmness, strength, or endurance in the thing that gives way (the door suddenly yielded to her hand—Austen) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or dwelling place) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or dwelling place)

yielded to age—Stevenson) (a long diatribe against Pitt for having tamely submitted to the rebuffs of the French Directory—Quiller-Couch) (submitted to their joking with the best grace she could—Wouk) Capitulate can mean to surrender on terms definitely agreed upon, but in its common extended use, it more often centers attention on a definite submission to a force or power that one has not the strength, the skill, or the will to overcome (always tips for special services rendered but I will not capitulate before sheer impertinence—Weichsberg) (the universities would capitulate to a young, vigorous and revolutionary creed—Moherly) Succumb carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding terms of weakness or helplessness in the person or thing that gives way or of strength or irresistibility in the person or more often the thing that causes the giving way. The suggestion of sinking under that force or power is usually so strong in succumb that the word frequently implies a disastrous outcome (as death, destruction, or subjugation) (succumb to pneumonia) (the best of constitutions will not prevent ambitious politicians from succumbing . . . to the temptations of power—Huxley) (true passion . . . must be crushed before it will succumb—Meredith)

All of the preceding terms usually imply a giving way on the part of a person or sometimes a thing that has not or cannot maintain the upper hand; they therefore often imply a weakening of the one that gives way. Relent, by contrast, implies a yielding on the part of the one who has the upper hand and who has been severe or harsh in his attitude to another person or fixed in his determination (as to punish, to interfere, or to frustrate). The term therefore implies a softening or mollifying that turns him from his previous course (can you hear a good man groan, and not relent?—Shak) (when a second appeal, couched in more urgent terms, was dispatched to him, he relented—Cerf) Defer implies a yielding or submitting to because of respect or reverence for another or in recognition of another's authority or superior knowledge (everybody must defer . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable) (bow to the inevitable) (bow to established authority) (he admired the tribal discipline which made May bow to this decision—Wharton) Cave, usually with in, can be a close synonym of succumb, but it often suggests resistance to pressure to the point of exhaustion and sudden collapse (in the end government caved in, and unconditionally agreed to inquiry—Punch)

Ana surrender, cede, waive (see relinquishe): concede, accord, award, * grant

Yield, submit, capitulate, succumb, relent, defer, bow, cave can all mean to give way to someone or something that one cannot further resist. Yield (see also relinquishe; bear 2), when the reference is to a person implies being overcome (as by force, argument, or entreaty) (yield to persuasion) (yield to temptation) (he never yields except when the matter under discussion is of no significance to him) (the great principle in a contest with a child is: do not yield but do not punish—Russell) but when the reference is to a thing, the word implies elasticity, or lack of firmness, strength, or endurance in the thing that gives way (the door suddenly yielded to her hand—Austen) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or dwelling place) (the house they went to was . . . a human burrow or dwelling place)

yielded to age—Stevenson) (a long diatribe against Pitt for having tamely submitted to the rebuffs of the French Directory—Quiller-Couch) (submitted to their joking with the best grace she could—Wouk) Capitulate can mean to surrender on terms definitely agreed upon, but in its common extended use, it more often centers attention on a definite submission to a force or power that one has not the strength, the skill, or the will to overcome (always tips for special services rendered but I will not capitulate before sheer impertinence—Weichsberg) (the universities would capitulate to a young, vigorous and revolutionary creed—Moherly) Succumb carries a stronger implication than any of the preceding terms of weakness or helplessness in the person or thing that gives way or of strength or irresistibility in the person or more often the thing that causes the giving way. The suggestion of sinking under that force or power is usually so strong in succumb that the word frequently implies a disastrous outcome (as death, destruction, or subjugation) (succumb to pneumonia) (the best of constitutions will not prevent ambitious politicians from succumbing . . . to the temptations of power—Huxley) (true passion . . . must be crushed before it will succumb—Meredith)

All of the preceding terms usually imply a giving way on the part of a person or sometimes a thing that has not or cannot maintain the upper hand; they therefore often imply a weakening of the one that gives way. Relent, by contrast, implies a yielding on the part of the one who has the upper hand and who has been severe or harsh in his attitude to another person or fixed in his determination (as to punish, to interfere, or to frustrate). The term therefore implies a softening or mollifying that turns him from his previous course (can you hear a good man groan, and not relent?—Shak) (when a second appeal, couched in more urgent terms, was dispatched to him, he relented—Cerf) Defer implies a yielding or submitting to because of respect or reverence for another or in recognition of another's authority or superior knowledge (everybody must defer . . . a nation must wait upon her decision, a defer to the inevitable) (bow to the inevitable) (bow to established authority) (he admired the tribal discipline which made May bow to this decision—Wharton) Cave, usually with in, can be a close synonym of succumb, but it often suggests resistance to pressure to the point of exhaustion and sudden collapse (in the end government caved in, and unconditionally agreed to inquiry—Punch)

Ana surrender, cede, waive (see relinquishe): concede, accord, award, * grant
yoke 885 zone

yoke *couple, pair, brace
yokel bumpkin, hick, rube, clodhopper, clown, lout, *boor, churl
young n *offspring, progeny, issue, descendant, posterity
youth, adolescence, puberty, pubescence are sometimes used interchangeably to denote the period in life when one passes from childhood to maturity. Youth is the most general of these terms, being applied sometimes to the whole early part of life from childhood or infancy to maturity (youth, maturity, senility). More often, however, youth is applied to the period between the maturing of the sexual organs and the attaining of full maturity. Youth often connotes the freshness, vigor, inexperience, or impetuosity characteristic of the young. Adolescence designates the same period as youth in the restricted sense, but it carries a stronger connotation of immaturity. Adolescence suggests the awkwardness resulting from the rapid growth during this period and also the mental and emotional instability resulting from the physiological changes. In legal use adolescence designates the period extending from puberty to the attainment of full legal age or majority. Basically puberty designates the age at which the signs of the maturing of the sexual organs appear (as the beard and changed voice in boys and the development of the breasts in girls); in law this age is commonly fixed at fourteen for boys and twelve for girls. In broader use puberty often designates the period covering the earlier years of adolescence during which the secondary sex characteristics are unfolding. Pubescence is sometimes used as equivalent to puberty, but often it applies distinctively to the condition of attaining the characteristics (as genital hair) of developing sexuality.

Ant age (sense 1)

youthful, juvenile, puerile, boyish, virgin, virginal, maiden are comparable when they mean relating to or characteristic of one who is between childhood and adulthood; although their basic meaning is the same, they are seldom interchangeable because of widely differing implications and applications. Youthful suggests the possession or the appearance of youth, or of qualities appropriate to youth; it can be employed laudatorily or in extenuation (youthful aspirations) <youthful indiscretions> Juvenile often suggests immaturity of mind or body or lack of experience; it is applied especially to what is suited to or designed for boys and girls in their early teens (juvenile dances) <juvenile fiction> Puerile is applied especially to acts and utterances which, though excusable in a boy or girl or characteristic of immaturity, would be unpardonable or out of character in an adult; the word finds its commonest use in depreciatory reference to acts or utterances of the mature (what seemed sapient discourse in 1940 is rather puerile chatter now—G. W. Johnson) <time and again the suspicion wounds us that we are puerile people, fetal minds, illegible tapestries—Peggy Bennett> Boyish (compare mannish under male), though referred commonly to boys, is sometimes used in reference to girls or their clothes, appearance, or qualities. The term often suggests some of the engaging qualities or the physical attractiveness of normal, vigorous boys (a boyish smile) (boyish charm) (boyish enthusiasm) Virgin and virginal, though referable usually to girls, in the extended use in which they suggest the freshness, innocence, purity, and inexperience that are associated with youthful virginity are applicable also to boys (that beautiful mixture of manly courage and virginal modesty—Farrar) (he smiled like a girl, or like clear winter skies, a virginal light making stars of his eyes—Lindsay) Maiden in its extended sense carries an even stronger suggestion than virgin or virginal of youthful lack of experience; it also implies that one's qualities (as virtue, worth, competence, or strength) have not been tried or tested (a maiden speech) (his maiden effort at authorship)

Ana *immature, unma tured
Ant aged —Con *mature, matured, grown-up

zeal enthusiasm, fervor, ardor, *passion
Ana energy, force (see power): zest, gusto (see taste); earnestness, seriousness (see corresponding adjectives at serious); intensity, vehemence, fierceness (see corresponding adjectives at intense)
Ant apathy —Con impassivity, phlegm, stolidity (see under impassive)
zealot *enthusiast, fanatic, bigot
Ana partisan, sectary, adherent, disciple, *follower: devotee, votary (see addict)
zenith apogee, culmination, meridian, *summit, peak, pinnacle, climax, apex, acme
Ant nadir
zeephyr *wind, breeze, gale, hurricane
zest relish, gusto, *taste, palate
Ana enthusiasm, fervor, ardor, zeal, *passion: spiritedness or spirit, high-spiritedness (see corresponding adjectives at spirited): enjoyment, delight, delectation, *pleasure
zone belt, *area, tract, region
Ana *locality, district: section, sector, segment (see part n)

Ana analogous words Ant antonyms Con contrasted words See also explanatory notes facing page 1
LIST OF AUTHORS QUOTED

The entries in italic type in the left-hand column are the actual forms used in citations in the Vocabulary of this Dictionary. These entries are arranged in the alphabetical order of surnames or titles. The right-hand column supplies an identification for each author or source cited. Only readily understood abbreviations (such as Amer. for American and Eng. for English) are used in this column.

As the names of books of the Bible are given wherever cited in the Vocabulary, these names are omitted from the list below. Unless otherwise stated at the citation itself in the Vocabulary, for Douay Version (or Douay Bible). Quotations from other versions are indicated by the addition of the abbreviations R. V. for Revised Version (of 1885), D. V. for Douay Version (or Douay Bible).

Abbott . . . George Francis Abbott (1889- ) Amer. playwright
J. S. C. Abbott (1805-1877) Amer. historian
Abel . . . Darrel Abel (1915-) Amer. philosopher, educator
Abend . . . Haliet Edward Abend (1884-1955) Amer. editor
Abernethy . . . Cecil Emory Abernethy (1908- ) Amer. educator
Abse . . . Dannie Abse (1923- ) Brit. poet
Ace . . . Oscar (1899-1982) Amer. writer
Acheson . . . Dean Goodherm Acheson (1893-1971) Amer. diplomat
Sam Acheson . Sam Hanna Acheson (1900- ) Amer. editor
Ackerman . Saul Alvin Ackerman (1887- ) Amer. educator
ACLS Newsletter Acton . . . John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton (1834-1902) 1st baron Acton. Eng. historian
Adair . . . James Adair (?-1718) Amer. (Irish-born) pioneer
Adams . . . John Adams (1735-1826) 2d Amer. statesman
Sam Adams . Sam Adams (1705-1785) Amer. (Irish-born) statesman
F. A. Adams Francis A. Adams (fl. 1852) Amer. businessman
Henry Adams Henry Brooks Adams (1838-1918) Amer. historian
J. D. Adams . . . James Donald Adams (1891-1968) Amer. critic
J. Q. Adams . . . John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) 6th president of the U.S.
William Adams William Adams (1706-1789) Eng. poet
Addison . . . Joseph Addison (1672-1719) Eng. essayist
A. E. . pseud. of George William Russell (1867-1935) Irish poet
African Abstracts of African Wild Life
Agar . . . Herbert Sebastian Agar (1897- ) Eng. poet
Agtenon . . . Arthur Ainsley Agton (1900-1971) Amer. naval officer
Agnew . . . Seth Agnew (1921-1967) Amer. publisher
Agnew . . . Mary Jane Agnew (1921-1967) Amer. publisher
Attenborough . pseud. of Charles Bullard Fairbanks (1827-1859) Amer. poet
Attenborough . . . Ronald A. Attenborough (1921- ) Brit. playwright
Allen . . . Conrad Potter Allen (1889-1933) Amer. poet
Alnsworth . . . William Harrison Alnsworth (1805-1882) Eng. novelist
Alberge . . . Ray Alberge (fl. 1953) Brit. journalist
Albright . . . William Foxwell Albright (1891-1971) Amer. orientalist
Albine . . . Bill Albine (fl. 1945) Amer. soldier
Alcott . . . Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) Amer. author
Aldrich . . . Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1900) Amer. author
Alder . . . John Aldridge (1862-1931) Amer. critic
Alexander . . . Samuel Alexander (1859-1938) Amer. psychologist
Franz Alexander . . . Franz Gabriel Alexander (1891-1964) Amer. (Hung.-born) psychiatrist
H. B. Alexander .. . Henry Alexander (1873-1939) Amer. philosopher
Allison . . . Sir Archibald Allison (1912-1967) Scot. historian
Allen . . . Alexander Viergriswold Allen (1841-1908) Amer. clergyman
F. L. Allen . . . Frederick Lewis Allen (1890-1954) Amer. editor
Grant Allen . . . Grant Allen (1848-1899) Can. poet
Hercey Allen . . . William Hercey Allen (1889-1949) Amer. author
Allport . . . Floyd Henry Allport (1899- ) Amer. psychologist
G. W. Allport . . . Gordon Willard Allport (1897-1967) Amer. psychologist
Alpert . . . Holis Alpert (1916- ) Amer. writer
Alsop . . . Stuart Holcombes Alsop (1914-1974) Amer. journalist
Altamira y Crevella . . . Rafael Altamira y Crevella (1866-1951) Span. jurist
Altick . . . Richard Daniel Altick (1915- ) Amer. educator
Altschuld . . . Frank Altschuld (1887-1981) Amer. businessman
Amblard . . . Eric Amblard (1909- ) Brit. poet
Amer. Anthropologist Amer. Fabrics Amer. quarterly
Amer. Guide to London Series Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration
Americanica Annual Amer. Encyclopedia of American Ethnicities
Americas . . . Pan American Union monthly
American Political Science Review "The Amer. Int'l Political Science System"
Amer. Jour. of Sociology Amer. monthly
Amer. Jour. of Science Amer. monthly
Amer. Jour. of Sociology Amer. monthly
Amer. Mercury Amer. monthly
Amer. Sociological Review Amer. monthly
Amer. Speech Anable . . . Anthony Anable, Jr. (fl. 1953) Amer. critic
Anderson . . . Sherwood Anderson (1876-1941) Amer. writer
Maxwell Anderson Maxwell Anderson (1888-1959) Amer. playwright
M. L. Anderson . . . Maria Lily Anderson (1916- ) Amer. educator
Quentin Anderson . . . Quentin Anderson (1912- ) Amer. educator
Andrews . . . Sir Christopher Andrews (1896- ) Eng. physician
Andrews . . . Wayne Andrews (1913- ) Amer. critic
Anspach . . . Louis Kaufman Anspach (1903- ) Amer. dramatist
Appraisal Terminology and Methodology Amer. Institute of Real Estate Appraisers
Archer . . . William Archer (1856-1924) Scot. critic
Arden . . . Ingold Arden, Textile Industries (1954)
Clique Arden p.s. of Lily Clive Nutt (1888- ) Eng. poet
Arendt . . . Hannah Arendt (1894-1975) Amer. (Ger.-born) political philosopher
Argelius . . . Lewis Brainerd Argy (1891- ) Amer. anatomist
Arke . . . C. H. Arke, English Digest (1953)
Armbrister . . . Tristram Armbrister (1933- ) Amer. writer
Arms . . . George Armstrong (1866-1951) Span. jurist
Donald Armstrong . Donald Armstrong (1899- ) Amer. army officer
E. A. Armstrong . . . Edward Armstrong (1900- ) Brit. clergyman
Arnold . . . Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) Eng. essayist
Aron . . . Raymond Aron (1905- ) French sociologist
Arts . . . Frederick Blumkin Artz (1894- ) Amer. historian
Asbury . . . Herbert Asbury (1891-1963) Eng. poet
Ascham . . . Roger Ascham (1515-1568) Eng. scholar
Ascoli . . . Max Ascoli (1889-1978) Amer. (Ital.-born) editor
Ashbrook . . . Frank G. Ashbrook (1892- ) Amer. historian
Ashley . . . Frederick William Ashley (1863-1943) Amer. librarian
Asimos . . . Isaac Asimos (1920- ) Amer. (Russ.-born) educator
Aswell . . . James R. Aswell (1906-1955) Amer. author
Athenaeum . Eng. weekly incorporated in The Nation and Athenaeum (1921)
Atkinson . . . John Brooks Atkinson (1894- ) Amer. critic
Atlantic . . . Amer. monthly

887
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors Quoted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O’Flaherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogdon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Leary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliphant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. D. Olivier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Meara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’mO’Toole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppenheimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orsino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Orwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ouida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ourssier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overstreet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paepe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pahlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palgrave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pall Mall Gazette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panter-Downes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pashukan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peattie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pegler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perelman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. S. Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. O. Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’H. Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Keefe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Authors Quoted

Ripley... William Zebina Ripley (1867-1941) Amer, economist (Sidney) Dillon Ripley (1913-1974) Amer, musician
Ripnin... Richard C. Ripnin, Ships & the Sea (1953)
Ritchie... Letitia Ritchie (1800-1865) Scot, nov.
Road & Track... Roberta...
Robert... Elizabeth Madox Roberts (1882-1949) Amer, poet
Robertson... Kenneth Lewis Robertson (1885-1957) Amer, nov.
Robertson... Frederick William Robertson (1816-1853) Eng, clergyman
R. B. Robertson... Robert Blackwood Robertson (1913-) Scot, writer
Robert... William Robertson (1721-1793) Scot, historian
Robinson... Henry Crabbin Robinson (1775-1867) Eng, diarist
Cyril Robinson... Cyril Cyril Robinson (1884-1957) Brit, historian
E. A. Robinson... Edward Arlington Robinson (1850-1914) Amer, poet
F. N. Robinson... Frederick Norris Robinson (1871-1966) Amer, educator
F. W. Robinson... Frederick William Robinson (1830-1901) Eng, nov.
Robinson... Richard Robinson (fl. 1950)
Robson... William Alexander Robson (1819-1896) Eng, poet
Roche... John Pierre Roche (1889-1960) Amer, advertising executive
Roche... Daniel Rock (1799-1871) Eng, astronomer
Hazel Rockow... Hazel Marcia (Kory) Rockow (1920-) Amer, interior decorator
Julius Rockow... Julius Rockow (1912-) Amer, interior designer
Rodell... Fred Waldo Rodell (1907-1980) Amer, educator
Roehm... A. Wesley Roehm (1908-1996) Amer, author
Roeter... Charles Roeter (fl. 1953) Brit, editor
Rogers... Samuel Rogers (1763-1855)
Rogow... Lee Rogow (fl. 1954) Amer, writer
Rohn... John Magnus Rohn, Dict. o Amer, Brit, author
Rolf... Mary Jean Rollis (1916-) Amer, writer
Kolo... Charles James Rolo (1916-1923)
Röönga... Ole Edvard Röönga (1876-1931) Amer, (Norw.-born) educator
Romulo... Carlos Pena Romulo (1901-1974) Filipino editor
Roney... James Givens Roney (1918-)
Roosevelt... S. J. Roosevelt
Roosevelt... Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) 32nd president of the U.S.
Eleanor Roosevelt... Eleanor Roosevelt
Rorick... Isabel Scott Rorick (1900-1981) Amer, writer
Rose... George Rose III (fl. 1908)
Rosebery... Archibald Philip Primrose (1847-1929) 5th earl of Rosebery. Eng, statesman
Rosen... Harold Rose (1908-1984) Amer, physician
Rosenberg... Bernhard Rosenberg (1923-)
Harold Rosenberg (1907-1964)
Rosenblum... Morris Engleblum (fl. 1951) Amer, educator
Rosenfeld... Isaac Rosenfeld (1918-1956) Amer, educator
Rosenhal... Abraham Michael Rosenthal (1922-) Amer, (Canad.-born) journalist
Harold Rosenthal... Harold David Rosenthal (1917-)
Rosenweig... Saul Rosenthal (1907-1990) Amer, psychologist
Rosner... Charles Rosner (1902-1972) Amer, (Hung.-born) artist
Ross... Emory Ross (1887-1973) Amer, musician
Ishbel Ross... Ishbel Ross (1897-1983) Amer, Scot, author
Mary Ross... Mary Margaret Ross (1918-) Amer, author
Victor Ross... Victor Ross (1919-)
Rossetti... Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894) Eng, poet
Royster... Clinton Lawrence Royster (1917-1970) Amer, educator
Rosten... Leo Calvin Rosten (1906-1988) Amer, (Pol.-born) author
Rothman... Nathan L. Rothman (1904-1978)
Roucek... Joseph Slaby Roucek (1902-1971) Amer, (Czech-born) social scientist
Roueché... Berton Roueché (1911-1979) Amer, writer
Rourke... Constance Mayfield Rourke (1895-1980) Eng, educator
Rowell... Nicholas Rowell (1874-1781) Eng, dramatical writer
D. N. Rowe... David Niles Rowe (1905-1973) Amer, poet
H. K. Rowe... Henry Kallock Rowe (1889-1941) Amer, educator
Rowlands... John James Rowlands (1892-1966) Canad. writer
Rowse... Alfred Leslie Rowse (1903-1987) Amer, historian
Roy... Ralph Lord Roy (1928-)
Rubinstein... Ronald Rubenstein (1896-1947) Brit, writer
Rufus... Will Carl Rufus (1876-1946) Amer, astronomer
Rukeyser... Muriel Rukeyser (1913-1980) Amer, poet
Runciman... James Runciman (1852-1891) Eng, writer
Rusinoff... Samuel Eugene Rusinoff (1894-1947) Amer, (Russ.-born) engineer
Ruskin... John Ruskin (1819-1900) Eng, critic
RusSELL... Bertrand Arthur William Russell (1872-1970) 3d earl Russell; Eng, philosopher
Nancy... pseud. of Leigh Brison (fl. 1956) Amer, author
Ryan... Abram Joseph Ryan (1838-1886) Amer, priest
W. L. Ryan... William L. Ryan (1911-1964)
Ryle... Gilbert Ryle (1900-1976) Eng, educator
Sarasin... Alma Beesene Sarainen (1914-1972) Amer, art critic
Sabatini... Rafael Sabatini (1875-1950) Itl.-born, author
Sabine... George Holland Sabine (1880-1961) Amer, political philosopher
Sackville-West... Sziegfried Lorraine Sassoon (1886-1967) Eng, writer
Saunders... E. Olffarda Saunders (fl. 1932) Eng, art historian
Sawyer... Walter Warwick Sawyer (1911-1975)
Sax... Lyle Saxon (1891-1946) Amer, author
Sayers... Dorothy Leigh Sayers (1895-1973) Amer, writer
Sayre... Wallace Stanley Sayre (1905-1972) Amer, political scientist
Morris Sayre... Morris Sayre (1885-1953) Amer, businessman
Scalia... Samuel Eugene Scalia (1903-1989) Amer, jurist
Schazer... Joseph Schaper (1897-1941) Amer, editor
Schapiro... Jacob Salwyn Schapiro (1879-1961)
Sheingold... Stuart A. Sheingold (fl. 1966) Amer, educator
Scherman... Harry Scherman (1887-1969)
Schelesinger... Arthur Meier Schlesinger (1885-1965) Amer, historian
Schlesinger... Arthur Meier Schlesinger (b. 1917) Amer, historian; d. 1965
Schoettle... Edwin J. Schoettle (fl. 1949) Amer, yachtsman
Scholl... Evelyn Hardwood Scholl (1899-1974) Amer, educator
School and Society... weekly
Schorer... Mark Schorer (1908-1979)
Schocker... Paul Schocker (1896-1965) Amer, (Austrian-born) educator
Schréiner... Olivier Schréiner (1855-1920)
Schulberg... Budd Schulberg (1914-
Schultz... Howard Schultz (1907-1977) Amer, educator
Schumpeter... Joseph Alois Schumpeter (1883-1950) Amer, (Ger.-born) economist
Schuyler... Robert Livingston Schuyler (1883-1961) Amer, historian
Schwartz... Delmore Schwartz (1913-1966)
Schytt... Frank G. Schytt (1919-1982) Swedish geologist
Science... Amer, weekly
Science News... Amer, weekly
Scientific Letter... Amer, monthly
Scientific Monthly... Amer, monthly
The Score... Brit, quarterly
The Scotsman... Edinburgh daily
Scott... Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)
Scott... Sir Walter Scott (1800-1830)
G. G. Scott... Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878) Brit, architect
H. D. Scott... Hugh Doggett Scott (1900-1978) Amer, senator