

WEEK 1: (20 words)

abase (v.) to humiliate, degrade

abate (v.) to reduce, lessen

abdicate (v.) to give up a position, usually one of leadership

aberration (n.) something that differs from the norm

abet (v.) to aid, help, encourage

abeyance (n.) state of not happening or not being used at present

abhor (v.) to hate, detest

abridge 1. (v.) to cut down, shorten 2. (adj.) shortened

abscond (v.) to sneak away and hide

abstain (v.) to freely choose not to commit an action

abstemious (adj.) not doing things which give you pleasure

abstruse (adj.) hard to comprehend

accost (v.) to confront verbally

acerbic (adj.) biting, bitter in tone or taste

adroit (adj.) skillful, dexterous

adulation (n.) great admiration or praise for someone, usually when it is more than what is deserved

adverse (adj.) antagonistic, unfavorable, dangerous

aesthetic (adj.) artistic, related to the appreciation of beauty

affable (adj.) pleasant, easy to talk to, friendly

affinity (n.) spontaneous feeling of closeness

WEEK 2: (20 words)

- altruistic (adj.) desire to help other people, even if it results in disadvantage for yourself
- ameliorate (v.) to improve
- amicable (adj.) friendly
- ambivalent (adj.) having opposing feelings
- anachronistic (adj.) being out of correct chronological order
- analogous (adj.) similar to, so that an analogy can be drawn
- antiquated (adj.) old, out of date
- arbitrary (adj.) based on factors that appear random
- arcane (adj.) obscure, secret, known only by a few
- arid (adj.) excessively dry
- assiduous (adj.) hard-working, diligent
- asylum 1. (n.) a place of refuge, protection, a sanctuary 2. (n.) an institution in which the insane are kept
- banal (adj.) dull, commonplace
- benevolent (adj.) marked by goodness or doing good
- benign (adj.) favorable, not threatening, mild
- bequeath (v.) to pass on, give
- beseech (v.) to beg, plead, implore
- bias (n.) a tendency, inclination, prejudice
- boisterous (adj.) loud and full of energy
- bombastic (adj.) excessively confident, pompous

WEEK 3: (10 words and review)

brazen (adj.) excessively bold, brash

brevity (n.) speaking in a few words or lasting only a short time

brusque (adj.) short, abrupt, dismissive

bucolic (adj.) of or pertaining to an idyllic, rural life

buttress 1. (v.) to support, hold up 2. (n.) something that offers support

cajole (v.) to urge, coax

calibrate (v.) to set, standardize

callous (adj.) harsh, cold, unfeeling

camaraderie (n.) brotherhood, jovial unity

candor (n.) honesty, frankness

WEEK 4: (20 words)

canny (adj.) shrewd, careful

capacious (adj.) very spacious

capitulate (v.) to surrender

capricious (adj.) subject to whim, fickle

catalyze (v.) to charge, inspire

cavort (v.) to leap about, behave boisterously

caustic (adj.) bitter, biting, acidic

censure 1. (n.) harsh criticism 2. (v.) to rebuke formally

chide (v.) to voice disapproval

circuitous (adj.) roundabout

clairvoyant (adj.) able to perceive things that normal people cannot

clemency (n.) mercy

cognizant (adj.) aware, mindful

conciliatory (adj.) friendly, agreeable

conflagration (n.) a great, destructive fire; a large and violent event

conformist (n.) one who behaves the same as others

copious (adj.) profuse, abundant

contentious (adj.) having a tendency to quarrel or dispute

credulity (n.) readiness to believe

cupidity (n.) greed or a strong desire

WEEK 5: (20 words)

culpable (adj.) deserving blame

cursory (adj.) brief to the point of being superficial

curtail (v.) to lessen, reduce

dearth (n.) a lack, scarcity

decorous (adj.) socially proper, appropriate

defamatory (adj.) harmful toward another's reputation

deleterious (adj.) harmful

demagogue (n.) a leader who appeals to a people's prejudices

demure (adj.) quiet, modest, reserved

despondent (adj.) feeling depressed, discouraged, hopeless

diaphanous (adj.) light, airy, transparent

didactic 1. (adj.) intended to instruct 2. (adj.) overly moralistic

digress (v.) to deviate away from the main topic

disavow (v.) to deny knowledge of or responsibility for

discursive (adj.) rambling, lacking order

disdain 1. (v.) to scorn, hold in low esteem 2. (n.) scorn, low esteem

disparage (v.) to criticize or speak ill of

disseminate (v.) to spread widely

dissonance (n.) lack of harmony or consistency

diverge (v.) to follow a different direction

WEEK 6: (10 words and review)

docile (adj.) easily taught or trained

dogmatic (adj.) aggressively and arrogantly certain about unproved principles

dullard (n.) an insensitive person

duplicity (n.) crafty dishonesty

duress (n.) hardship, threat

ebullient (adj.) extremely lively, enthusiastic

edict (n.) an order, decree

efficacious (adj.) effective

effrontery (n.) impudence, nerve, insolence

elicit (v.) to bring forth, draw out, evoke

WEEK 7: (20 words)

emaciated (adj.) very thin, enfeebled looking

empathy (n.) sensitivity to another's feelings as if they were one's own

emulate (v.) to imitate

enervate (v.) to weaken, exhaust

enigmatic (adj.) mystifying, cryptic

enmity (n.) ill will, hatred, hostility

ensconce (v.) to settle securely or snugly, to cover, hide securely

ephemeral (adj.) short-lived, fleeting

epistolary (adj.) relating to or contained in letters

equivocal (adj.) ambiguous, uncertain, undecided

eradicate (v.) to get rid of completely, destroy something bad

erudite (adj.) learned

esoteric (adj.) understood by only a select few

evanescent (adj.) fleeting, momentary

evolve (v.) to develop gradually

exemplary (adj.) good enough to be copied by other people

exorbitant (adj.) excessive

expunge (v.) to obliterate, eradicate

extenuate (v.) to underestimate, to make a fault seem less serious

extricate (v.) to disentangle

WEEK 8: (20 words)

facetious (adj.) not meant to be taken seriously or literally

fallacious (adj.) incorrect, misleading

fastidious (adj.) meticulous, demanding, having high and often unattainable standards

felicitous 1. (adj.) well suited, apt 2. (adj.) delightful, pleasing

flaccid (adj.) limp, not firm or strong

florid (adj.) flowery, ornate

flout (v.) to disregard or disobey openly

forbearance (n.) patience, restraint, toleration

fortitude (n.) strength, guts

fortuitous (adj.) happening by chance, often lucky or fortunate

foster (v.) to stimulate, promote, encourage

fraught (adj.) (usually used with “with”) filled or accompanied with

frugal (adj.) thrifty, economical

furtive (adj.) secretive, sly

garish (adj.) gaudy, in bad taste

garrulous (adj.) talkative, wordy

genial (adj.) friendly, affable

grandiloquence (n.) lofty, pompous language

gratuitous (adj.) uncalled for, unwarranted

gregarious (adj.) drawn to the company of others, sociable

WEEK 9: (10 words and review)

guile (n.) deceitful, cunning, sly behavior

hackneyed (adj.) unoriginal, trite

harangue 1. (n.) a ranting speech 2. (v.) to give such a speech

haughty (adj.) disdainfully proud

hedonist (n.) one who believes pleasure should be the primary pursuit of humans

hypothesis (n.) an idea or explanation for something that is based on facts, but has not been proven

iconoclast (n.) one who attacks common beliefs or institutions

idiosyncratic (adj.) peculiar to one person; highly individualized

illicit (adj.) forbidden, not permitted

impetuous (adj.) rash; hastily done

WEEK 10: (20 words)

impute (v.) to ascribe, blame

inane (adj.) silly and meaningless

inebriated (adj.) the state of having too much, usually alcohol

ineffable (adj.) unspeakable, incapable of being expressed through words

inexorable (adj.) incapable of being persuaded or placated

innocuous (adj.) harmless, inoffensive

insolent (adj.) rude, arrogant, overbearing

intrepid (adj.) brave in the face of danger

irascible (adj.) easily angered

jubilant (adj.) extremely joyful, happy

juxtaposition (n.) the act of placing two things next to each other for implicit comparison

lackadaisical (adj.) showing little enthusiasm and effort

laconic (adj.) terse in speech or writing

lament (v.) to express sadness and feeling sorry about something

languid (adj.) sluggish from fatigue or weakness

larceny (n.) obtaining another's property by theft or trickery

laudatory (adj.) expressing admiration or praise

levity (n.) humor or lack of seriousness, especially during a serious occasion

lobbyist (n.) someone who tries to persuade a politician or official group to do something

lugubrious (adj.) mournful, dismal, or gloomy

WEEK 11: NOVEMBER 4 (20 words)

luminous (adj.) brightly shining

lurid (adj.) ghastly, sensational

magnanimous (adj.) noble, generous

marred (v.) to spoil something, making it less perfect or less enjoyable

mawkish (adj.) characterized by sick sentimentality

mitigate (v.) to make less violent, alleviate

mundane (adj.) concerned with the world rather than with heaven, commonplace

multifarious (adj.) having great diversity or variety

munificence (n.) generosity in giving

myriad (adj.) consisting of a very great number

nefarious (adj.) heinously villainous

neophyte (n.) someone who is young or inexperienced

nonchalant (adj.) having a lack of concern, indifference

novice (n.) a beginner, someone without training or experience

nuance (n.) a slight variation in meaning, tone, expression

obfuscate (v.) to render incomprehensible

obstinate (adj.) not yielding easily, stubborn

opulent (adj.) characterized by rich abundance verging on ostentation

oration (n.) a speech delivered in a formal or ceremonious manner

oscillate (v.) to sway from one side to the other

WEEK 12: (10 words and review)

ostentatious (adj.) excessively showy, glitzy

ostracism (n.) exclusion from a group

pallid (adj.) lacking color

panacea (n.) a remedy for all ills or difficulties

paradigm (n.) an example that is a perfect pattern or model

parched (adj.) dried out because of too much heat, lacking hydration

paucity (adj.) small in quantity

perfidious (adj.) disloyal, unfaithful

perturbed (adj.) worried

penultimate (adj.) next to last

WEEK 13: (20 words)

phlegmatic (adj.) uninterested, unresponsive

piety (n.) strong belief in a religion that is shown in the way someone lives

placate (v.) to ease the anger of, soothe

polemic (n.) an aggressive argument against a specific opinion portent

potent (adj.) very powerful, forceful

pragmatic (adj.) practical

precocious (adj.) advanced, developing ahead of time

primeval (adj.) original, ancient

proclivity (n.) a strong inclination toward something

propensity (n.) an inclination, preference

prosaic (adj.) plain, lacking liveliness

prosperity (n.) the state of being successful and having a lot of money

provocative (adj.) causing thought about interesting subjects

prudence (n.) cautious, circumspect

punitive (adj.) involving punishment

querulous (adj.) whiny, complaining

quixotic (adj.) idealistic, impractical

quotidian (adj.) daily

rancor (n.) deep, bitter resentment

raucous (adj.) loud, boisterous

WEEK 14: (20 words)

raze (v.) to demolish, level

reclusive (adj.) solitary, shunning society

reconcile 1. (v.) to return to harmony 2. (v.) to make consistent with existing ideas

rectitude (n.) uprightness, extreme morality

relegate 1. (v.) to assign to the proper place 2. (v.) to assign to an inferior place

reprehensible (adj.) deserving rebuke

reproach (v.) to scold, disapprove

rescind (v.) to take back, repeal

respite (n.) a break, rest

revere (v.) to esteem, show deference, venerate

rife (adj.) abundant

ruminare (v.) to contemplate, reflect

sacrosanct (adj.) holy, something that should not be criticized

sagacity (n.) shrewdness, soundness of perspective

sanguine (adj.) optimistic, cheery

sardonic (adj.) characterized by bitter or scornful derision, mocking

scurrilous (adj.) vulgar, coarse

semblance (n.) outward aspect or appearance

solipsistic (adj.) believing that oneself is all that exists

sophomoric (adj.) immature, uninformed

WEEK 15: (10 words and review)

soluble (adj.) able to dissolve

spurious (adj.) false but designed to seem plausible

stoic (adj.) unaffected by passion or feeling

stupefy (v.) to astonish, make insensible

submissive (adj.) easily yielding to authority

superfluous (adj.) exceeding what is necessary

surfeit (n.) an overabundant supply or indulgence

surreptitious (adj.) stealthy

susceptible (adj.) easily influenced by something

sycophant (n.) one who flatters for self-gain

WEEK 16: (20 words)

taciturn (adj.) not inclined to talk

tactful (adj.) careful not to say or do anything that could upset someone

temerity (n.) audacity, recklessness

tenuous (adj.) having little substance or strength

timorous (adj.) timid, fearful

transgress (v.) to violate, go over a limit

transient (adj.) passing through briefly; passing into and out of existence

tremulous (adj.) fearful

trenchant (adj.) effective, articulate, clear-cut

trite (adj.) not original, overused

truncate (v.) to shorten by cutting off

turpitude (n.) depravity, moral corruption

ubiquitous (adj.) existing everywhere, widespread

unequivocal (adj.) total, or expressed in a clear and certain way

upbraid (v.) to criticize or scold severely

usurp (v.) to seize by force, take possession of without right

utilitarian (adj.) relating to or aiming at usefulness

vacillate (v.) to fluctuate, hesitate

vehemently (adv.) marked by intense force or emotion

venerable (adj.) deserving of respect because of age or achievement

WEEK 17: (20 words and review)

veracity (n.) truthfulness, accuracy

verbose (adj.) wordy, impaired by wordiness

vex (v.) to confuse or annoy

vicarious (adj.) experiencing through another

vindicate (v.) to avenge; to free from allegation; to set free

virulent (adj.) actively poisonous, violently or spitefully hostile

vivacious (adj.) lively, sprightly

vocation (n.) the work in which someone is employed, profession

vociferous (adj.) loud, boisterous

volatile (adj.) likely to change suddenly and unexpectedly or suddenly become violent or angry

voluble (adj.) speaking a lot with confidence and enthusiasm

vicissitude (n.) event that occurs by chance

wanton (adj.) undisciplined, lewd, lustful

wary (adj.) watchful, being on one's guard against danger

whimsical (adj.) fanciful, full of whims

winsome (adj.) charming, pleasing

yoke (v.) to join, link

zealous (adj.) fervent, filled with eagerness in pursuit of something

zenith (n.) the highest point, culminating point

zephyr (n.) a gentle breeze

List of Prefixes

ante: before

anti: against

auto: self

bene: good, well

chron: time

circum: around

con, com: with, together

contra, counter: against

cred: to believe

dict: to speak

dis: not

equi: equal

ex, e: out, away

flu, flux: flow

hyper: abover, over

in, im: not

inter: between

mal: bad

multi: many

neo: new

omni: all

per: through

sanct: holy

scrib, script: to write

spect: to look

tract: to drag, to draw

trans: across

vert: to turn