

Accessible (adj)

Easy to reach or to approach

The introduction to the complex novel was, thankfully, written in clear accessible language.

Synonyms: approachable, attainable

Accommodate (verb)

To give consideration to

The hospitable couple was happy to accommodate the needs of their finicky guest.

Synonyms: oblige, abet

Advantageous (adj)

Giving an advantage

The house's location in the best school district was advantageous to the seller.

Synonyms: favorable, beneficial

Adversary (noun)

One who opposes or resists

Franklin hoped to defeat his adversary in the afternoon's tennis match.

Synonyms: opponent, enemy

Absolve (verb)

To forgive; to free from guilt

Marta felt greatly relieved after her mother absolved her for breaking the vase.

Synonyms: exculpate, pardon

Brandish (verb)

To shake or wave menacingly

The baseball player was fined for brandishing his bat at the opposing pitcher.

Synonyms: flourish, swing

Buffer (noun)

Protective barrier

The dense trees acted as a buffer against the heavy rain.

Synonyms: cushion, mediator

Buffoonery (noun)

Foolish behavior

Clarence, an irrepressible comic, was held after class for his buffoonery.

Synonyms: jocular, clowning

Camaraderie (noun)

Spirit of friendship

The manager hoped the retreat would increase the camaraderie among the feuding workers.

Synonyms: sociability, esprit de corps

Censure (verb)

To find fault with

The critical teacher was quick to censure her students for even small mistakes.

Synonyms: blame, criticize

Civility (noun)

Politeness

The usually unruly Thomas acted with great civility when his favorite uncle visited.

Synonyms: courtesy, consideration

Clairvoyance (noun)

Ability to see things beyond ordinary perception

Rosa used her clairvoyance to help Alexander find his lost keys.

Synonyms: divination, foretelling

Clarity (noun)

Cleanness

The refreshing water in the mountain stream was remarkable for its clarity.

Synonyms: lucidity, limpidity

Colossal (adj)

Immense, enormous

After pushing with all his might, Frank realized he could never move the colossal boulder.

Synonyms: gigantic, tremendous

Combative (adj)

Eager to fight

The teacher suggested the combative student channel his aggression into boxing.

Synonyms: aggressive, belligerent

Condone (verb)

To treat as acceptable

Crystal condoned her friend's late arrival because she found it hard to be on time herself.

Synonyms: excuse, sanction

Conduit (noun)

Means for transmitting or distributing

Jason, a notorious gossip, was a conduit for information about his friends.

Synonyms: channel, pipeline

Demeanor (noun)

Behavior towards others

Carlos was well liked because of his charming demeanor.

Synonyms: disposition, comportment

Derelict (adj)

Abandoned

The derelict house was condemned as a public hazard.

Synonyms: destitute, forsaken

Derivative (adj)

Lacking originality

Critics panned the movie as a derivative version of last year's Best Picture.

Synonyms: banal, cliché

Diffident (adj)

Lacking self-confidence

The diffident student never raised her hand in class, even when she knew the answer.

Synonyms: timid, bashful

discern (verb)

To recognize as separate as distinct

The pastry connoisseur was able to discern Swiss from Belgian chocolate.

Synonyms: detect, discriminate

Disconcert (verb)

To throw into confusion

Jennifer's outspoken criticism of the meal disconcerted the waiter.

Synonyms: unnerve, bewilder

Ecstatic (adj)

Overwhelmingly emotional

They were ecstatic when their team won the championship game in the last second.

Synonyms: overjoyed, rapturous

Egotist (noun)

Self-important person

Darren dreaded carpooling with the egotist Shelly, who talked about herself nonstop.

Synonyms: blowhard, braggart

Elate (verb)

To fill with joy

It elated Margaret to be awarded first place in the science fair.

Synonyms: delight, thrill

Eloquent (adj)

Fluent, expressive

Kim, an eloquent speaker, was the best choice to make the presentation for the group.

Synonyms: articulate, persuasive

Elusive (adj)

Hard to grasp

The words to the song are elusive, as the singer tends to mumble.

Synonyms: evasive, obscure

Embellish (verb)

To decorate

Sari embellished the plain curtains with satin ribbons and tassels.

Synonyms: adorn, garnish

Entangle (verb)

To involve in trouble

Jonah regretted entangling Parker in his legal difficulties.

Synonyms: embroil, implicate

Facade (noun)

false or superficial appearance

Emily's smile is just a facade masking her broken heart.

Synonyms: mask, deceit

Fidelity (noun)

State of being faithful

Unlike her fickle friend Benji, May Belle was known for her fidelity.

Synonyms: loyalty, devotion

Finite (adj)

Having definite limits

The exasperated mother had finite patience for her toddler's tantrums.

Synonyms: limited, circumscribed

Flagrant (adj)

Noticeably offensive

The executive was fired for his flagrant abuse of the company expense account.

Synonyms: glaring, outrageous

Flaunt (verb)

To display showily

Sheila, who could not resist bragging, flaunted the "A" marked on her test paper.

Synonyms: parade, brandish

Flaw (noun)

An imperfection

The otherwise perfect diamond had a tiny flaw that reduced its value.

Synonyms: defect, blemish

Flourish (verb)

To make bold, sweeping gestures

The fairy godmother flourished her wand and turned the pumpkin into a carriage.

Synonyms: brandish, wave

Foil (noun)

One that enhances or underscores by contrast

The sweet cookie was a perfect foil to the sour lemon sorbet.

Synonyms: complement

Garish (adj)

Offensively bright

The garish wallpaper offended Jerome, who preferred subtle colors.

Synonyms: gaudy, loud

Genial (adj)

Sympathetic, friendly

The genial host warmly greeted his many guests.

Synonyms: pleasant, cordial

Grandiose (adj)

With an affectation of grandeur

The sweeping, grandiose staircase looked preposterous in the modest entry hall.

Synonyms: pretentious, pompous

Gravity (noun)

Importance, significance

Understanding the gravity of his error, Ken offered his humblest apology.

Synonyms: seriousness, magnitude

Gruff (adj)

Rough or stern in manner or speech

Heidi's grandfather was gruff, barking stern orders and hardly smiling.

Synonyms: surly, brusque