

english

VOCABULARY IN USE

**VOCABULARY,
IDIOMS AND
PROVERBS
FOR ENGLISH
LEARNER**

Vol.1

ENGDEMY

LIST OF IDIOMS AND PROVERBS

A list of idioms can be useful, since the meaning of an idiom cannot be deduced by knowing the meaning of its constituent words.

For example, someone might know perfectly well what a bucket is and also understand the meaning of the verb "to kick," completely; however, unless they had already encountered the meaning of the phrase or were able to tell from the context the phrase appears in, they would not know that to kick the bucket is one of the many colorful idioms in the English language meaning to die.

English has a tremendous stock of idioms. They can be a source of confusion and frustration to non-native users of the language. When speaking to people who have recently learned English it might aid their ability to comprehend if one avoids idioms. However, most native English speakers have internalized a large repertoire of idioms, which they use often and without thinking much about them so it can be very difficult to censor all idioms from one's speech.

A

Idiom	Meaning
A black look	Giving someone a look of malice; "a dirty look".
A dirty look	A look of disapproval or malice.
A tempest in a teapot (or: a storm in a teacup)	A fuss being made about an insignificant matter.
All mouth and trousers	Said of someone who boasts in a macho way but cannot be trusted to achieve what he is clearly fond of talking about.
Arm and a leg (to pay)	An extremely high price.
At the end of the day	X will happen. A fatalistic phrase suggesting that whatever criticisms or uncertainties arise, the most probable outcome is likely to be x, where x is what has usually happened in the past. Slightly more obscure than "all things considered" and often a tactical way of terminating a discussion or sustained criticism.

B

Idiom	Meaning
Bad	Very good.
Baker's dozen	Thirteen of a particular item.
Ball and chain	An unhelpful burden that cannot be abandoned. Husband or wife (pejorative, or sometimes satirically affectionate).
Bat out of Hell (like a)	Very quickly (also implies haphazardly, frenetically or in a panic).
To bear fruit	To come to profitable conclusion or to produce some worthwhile thing.
Beat a dead horse	Beating a dead horse is to engage in pointless and repetitive discussion. Beating is more common in American idioms, while Flogging a dead horse is more common in Britain.
Beat around the bush	Procrastinate or hesitate, mainly when one does not want to say something (circumlocution).
Being from Missouri	Skeptical; requiring proof. (The state's unofficial slogan: "Show me" appears on their license plates).
Between a rock and a hard place	When you are "between a rock and a hard place" you are in a very difficult jam, any foreseeable resolution of which will not be pleasant. Another common form of this idiom is "between the Devil and the deep blue sea."
Black-hearted	Someone with evil intentions.
Black sheep	An ostracized or ill-fitting member of a family or group. ("Uncle Ned is the black sheep of the family.")
Boot out	To eject a person from a group or society against their wishes.
Born in a barn	Said to someone who fails to close an external door behind them on entering a building, thus causing a discomforting draught. There are regional variations, in Lincolnshire for instance, one will hear "Do you come from Bardney?" a reference to a windswept fenland village in that English county.
Break a leg	Good luck, especially used to wish luck to stage performers before an opening.

Broken his/her duck	(British), "scored for the first time," or more generally to have avoided complete failure. In British sports slang a "duck's egg" refers to a score of "zero" or "nought". (Similarly "goose eggs" can also mean "00" in American slang.) In the British game of Cricket scoring naught is getting a "duck" and a batter's first run scored is, therefore, "breaking his duck." Generally intended hopefully, as a harbinger of more success to follow. "He's out of his rut and starting to make progress."
Bull in a china shop	A tactless person who upsets others or upsets plans; a very clumsy person.
Burning the candle at both ends	Someone trying to do too much at once, wearing themselves out.
Burning the midnight oil	Studying or working late into, or through, the night.
Bury the hatchet	Make peace with. To end hostilities.
Buy/Bought the farm	To die (possibly a cynical reference to the effect of a life insurance benefits to the beneficiaries; as in "his demise bought the farm").
Buying a pig in a poke	To purchase something without inspection, thereby creating an opportunity for fraud. Canonical: unethical farmer places a barn-yard cat in a burlap bag (poke) and sells it sight-unseen to another, claiming it contains a piglet. Related to "the cat's out of the bag", below.
By the numbers	To do things precisely as instructed, or as perceived to be instructed.

C

Idiom	Meaning
Call the badger a bishop	This term derives from the practice of badger-baiting, in which a badger is put into a pit and made to fight dogs. To call the badger a bishop is to imply that the badger's overwhelmed condition somehow makes it virtuous, when it is, in fact, just a badger. So, the term means committing the fallacy of projecting virtue on to the oppressed or disadvantaged.
Can of worms	A situation that is hard to deal with, especially one that comes about unexpectedly and intractably. To "open a can of worms" is to get involved with something that is discomforting, hard to

	resolve, or not easily escaped (closing a container of worms, used as bait by fishermen, generally involves some tricky handling of the wriggling occupants)
Can't see the forest (or wood) for the trees	Losing sight of the big picture by getting mired down in details
Can't see your nose in front of your face	Being oblivious to something in plain view
Cat amongst the pigeons	Putting a cat amongst the pigeons involves some, usually premeditated, disruption. Such an act might simply be verbal, cutting across an apparent consensus, but will certainly disturb the equilibrium.
Cat got your tongue?	Asked of someone rendered speechless to emphasize their inability to speak
Cat nap	A short sleep taken during the day. However, this may not necessarily qualify as an "idiom", as the meaning is apparent to some; cats tend to sleep for short intervals (naps) at various times throughout a twenty-four hour period, whereas humans generally sleep for a solid one-third fraction of each day and do not typically "nap" in a catlike manner. Thus, sleeping in this manner is to "nap like a cat", or to take a "cat nap"
Catch 22	A situation from which there is no escape; a problem in which any course of action is likely to result in undesirable consequences. Similar to a "no-win situation" and Hobson's Choice.
Change horses in midstream	Make new plans or choose a new leader in the middle of an important activity. Connotes an unwise, or at best risky, activity.
Close the barn door after the horse gets out	Refers to not taking action until after a problem has already occurred, usually when it's too late and should have been done sooner. "Closing the stable door after the horse has bolted" is the common British variant
Curiosity killed the cat	As cats are naturally curious, the expression suggests excessive curiosity is not necessarily a good thing, especially where it is not their business.
Cut off your nose to spite your face	To take rash or single-minded action that hurts your own cause in the end. Similar to "throwing the baby out with the bathwater"

D

Idiom	Meaning
Dark horse	A surprise candidate, or competitor; someone who hides their talents or interests. From the metaphor: "He rode in as if on a dark horse in the night" or "No one saw him coming."
Dead and buried	A settled issue. Something no longer needing consideration.
Dead as a doornail	Useless, very distinctly dead. A doornail is the strikeplate for most door knockers. To hold it in place, after it was driven through the door, the pointed end was bent over and buried in the door, to prevent movement. This nail was unrecoverable, so was considered dead to future reclamation, which was apparently common before modern time.
Devil's advocate	To argue a point of view that is not necessarily one's own, but for the sake of fairness. To play "the devil's advocate" in a debate is to ensure that some attempt was made to hear a side that might otherwise have gone unrepresented
Dime [for] a dozen	very common and easy to get; very cheap
Dog and pony show	A presentation which aims to persuade, generally a marketing presentation, especially one with lots of splashy glitz and little or no real informational content
Dotting the I's and Crossing the T's	Paying much attention to detail

E

Idiom	Meaning
Egg on	To provoke or encourage, sometimes in a sarcastic or derisive manner.
Egg on one's face	To be embarrassed
Elephant in the room	The problem or situation is immediately obvious to all but spoken of by none. Usually the topic in question is emotionally charged and so felt by most involved to be best ignored.

F

Idiom	Meaning
Fall on (one's) sword	To take responsibility or blame for a negative outcome, especially if one's own idea To sacrifice oneself
Feel[ing] blue	Feeling sad, down, or depressed
A few X short of a Y	Not possessing all of one's mental faculties; i.e., crazy or stupid. These phrases take the form "A few X short of a Y" where X is a common component of Y. In these phrases, Y represents full mental capacity, and the lack of a few X implies a lack of full mental capacity. A few fries short of a Happy Meal A few sandwiches short of a picnic Two bricks short of a load A few syllables short of a Haiku A couple of cans short of a six-pack. Whimsically derived from "A few lawnchairs short of a picnic", with special emphasis on the dearness of syllables (17 altogether) in a Haiku and the sensitivity of the form to nonconformance.
Not the X-est Y in Z	Having comparatively diminished capacities. Similar to "A few X short of a Y", but describing quality rather than quantity and often used for mock-humility. Not the sharpest pencil in the cup. Not the brightest crayon in the box.
First-come, first-served	Indicates a policy of serving clients or customers in the order they arrived without other preferences.
(On a) fishing expedition	Trying to find some evidence of something, often through improper methods. Sometimes used in court.
Five finger discount	To take without paying, to steal, also known as shoplifting
Full fathoms five	(From Shakespeare, The Tempest) Lost deep in the sea

G

Idiom	Meaning
(bird in a) Gilded cage	In a pleasant situation, but trapped. For example, celebrities that fear the paparazzi are "prisoners in gilded cages," because despite their wealth and fame their every action is under intense scrutiny
Go with the flow	to conform or go along with whatever happens
Take it with a grain of salt	to approach a claim with appropriate skepticism
Graveyard dead	Certainly dead. Emphatically dead.
Gravy Train	An easy or comfortable endeavor.

H

Idiom	Meaning
Have a dog in the fight	To have a stake in, or be exposed to the risks associated with, the outcome of some problem or dispute. Conversely, "I don't have a dog in that fight" is frequently used as a way to beg off and opt out of being expected to assist.
Have one's cake and eat it too	To attempt to get all the positive aspects of something while avoiding any negative but usually occurring aspects
Herding cats	Trying to elicit coordinated action from a group not inclined to do so. Doing something that is very difficult
Hit the hay	To go to bed
Hobson's Choice	A situation from which there is no escape; a problem in which any course of action is likely to result in undesirable consequences. Similar to a "no-win situation" and Catch 22.

I

Idiom	Meaning
In for a penny, in for a pound	Said by someone realising that risks of failure are increasing, but still prepared to press onwards, maintaining their earlier efforts. Similar to the expression "no turning back"
In (out of) the loop	Kept informed (not informed), given feedback.

J

Idiom	Meaning
Juggling picked onions (or frogs)	Carrying out a hazardous or difficult task. Both onions and frogs are slippery and so likely to be hard to juggle with ease.

K

Idiom	Meaning
Keep a stiff upper lip	To exercise self-restraint in the expression of emotion, especially fear or grief
Kick the bucket	To die. Derived from the slaughter of pigs, the wooden block a pig was hung from during slaughter was referred to as a buque. Thus in the process of killing the pig, it would inevitably kick it.
Killing two birds with one stone	Completing two tasks with one process or action
Knock on wood (Knocking on wood)	Knock on something made of wood to keep from having bad luck

L

Idiom	Meaning
Last straw	A problem or obstacle that may be trivial in itself, but causes cataclysmic failure because it pushes the total array of problems or obstacles to an intolerable level. Also referred to as the Straw that broke the camel's back, after the original proverb: a straw by itself has an insignificant weight, but enough of them together can be a crushing weight.
(the) Lights are on, but no one's home	Said of a person that is lacking intellect and/or sanity, even if they may appear at first to possess full mental faculties. Like "two bricks short of a load", there are endless variations, based around the metaphor of a machine or a system that is not operating as it should ("His elevator doesn't stop at all floors.")
Loan shark	A predatory lender, usually one that charges inordinately high interest

M

Idiom	Meaning
Make hay	To take advantage of a favorable opportunity. To work diligently toward a goal. Sometimes this idiom appears as "to make hay while the sun shines"
Mind one's p's and q's	Be very careful to behave correctly
More than one way to kill (or skin) a cat (there is)	Something can be achieved in several different ways

N

Idiom	Meaning
Nod off	To fall asleep gradually, perhaps reflecting the boredom of a lecture or presentation
Not playing with a full deck	Someone who is eccentric, mad or wildly unconventional, bordering on crazy. See Two bricks short of a load on this page.

O

Idiom	Meaning
Off (or below) the radar	Beyond popular consciousness, less obvious or less mainstream
Off one's rocker	Crazy
Off the X	Fairly recent slang expression, in which X is replaced by various nouns to make an expression with the general meaning of "great" or "wonderful". (e.g. Off the chains, Off the wall, etc.)
On the ball	To be prepared, especially in regards to anticipated future requests or instructions.
On the nose	Exactly correct or correctly
Out of Sorts	Feeling poorly.
Out of touch	To be unaware of current trends, news, or fashions, especially because of actual physical distance from others.
Over the hill	To be past one's prime, old, a senior citizen. A person has reached his/her peak of physical or employment capabilities and is starting the downhill slide
Over the moon	To be very happy

P

Idiom	Meaning
Pay through the nose (for something)	pay too much or a lot of money for something
Penny wise, pound foolish	Cautious with small amounts of money, but wasteful with large amounts of money.
Pissing in the wind	continuing with an ineffective action, having no impact on the outcome
Pissing against the wind	self-defeat by going against the natural flow of things, against reality

Pot calling the kettle black	Where person A accuses person B of something that person A is guilty of. The idiom is usually used to imply or accuse someone of hypocrisy.
Pouring cats and dogs	Raining very heavily.
Pulling strings	A reference to those really in power limiting the discretion of those who appear to make decisions, an analogy to those who operate stringed puppets.
Pulling one's leg	Being facetious, or kidding around. Playfully lying.
Pushing up daisies	To be dead. (example: He's pushing up daisies.) This comes from the Western cultural practice of burying the deceased in a cemetery or "memorial park" often with flowers or grass growing at the gravesite.

R

Idiom	Meaning
Reading between the lines	Inferring additional information or nuances not explicitly stated, perhaps revealing a hidden agenda or true motive
Red light district	An area of town where with a concentration of prostitutes, strip bars, pornography and sex toy shops, and the like
Red tape	Bureaucratic paperwork, usually in large amounts and being difficult to finish yet seemingly pointless in nature.
Reinvent the wheel	Duplicate a basic method or concept (usually in lieu of pursuing a more original, presumably more worthwhile, goal)
Right under your nose	Something so obvious that it is easily overlooked
Rob Peter to pay Paul	Solving a problem in a way that leads to a new problem; a quick solution with an obvious drawback
Rock the boat	Breaking with tradition or going against custom or an apparent consensus, possibly with entirely benign motives - but perhaps out of selfishness
Rooted to the spot	One that has not moved out of the place where the person has been for a long time. Both in physical, and in mental situations

S

Idiom	Meaning
Set the Thames on fire	Perform an astonishing feat. This phrase is almost invariably used in the negative: "He'll never set the Thames on fire." Latin and German have similar idioms regarding the Tiber and the Rhine, respectively.
To travel by Shank's Pony	To walk
Six feet under	Dead and buried (from a traditional depth for human graves)
Six of one, half a dozen of another	Two things that are essentially the same and so there is no real choice to be made
Slow as molasses	To work or act in a slow manner
Soup to nuts	From beginning to end; etymologically, from the first course of a meal (soup) to the last course (nuts)
Sour grapes	To decide that the attainment of something you have been thwarted from getting is not worth it after all and probably inferior in quality anyway. (Aesop's Fables: The Fox and the Grapes)
To spin a yarn	To tell a story, especially one with distorted truths or exaggerations
Spirit of the law	To interpret something as it is meant, not as explicitly stated
Squaring the circle	Trying to do something which is impossible
Stalking horse	A political candidate unlikely to succeed against an incumbent, standing to generate an election and to reveal disquiet with the incumbent's recent performance — possibly inducing other competitors for that post to declare their interest.
Start with a clean slate/sheet (of paper)	To contemplate solving a problem without preconceptions
Steal someone's thunder	Taking the credit for something positive occasioned largely by someone else
Stem the tide	To stop or control the growth or increase of something, usually unpleasant

Stick in the mud	An old fashioned idea or concept, or someone who moves or adapts slowly. Also used to describe a person who does not want to participate in activities suggested by one or more people
Straw that broke the camel's back	From a proverb about loading up a camel beyond its capacity to move. This is a reference to any process by which cataclysmic failure (a broken back) is achieved by a seemingly inconsequential addition (a single straw). This also gives rise to the phrase "the last straw"
Swan song	A final appearance; a theatrical or dramatic farewell (from a legendary belief that a mute swan would sing its own dirge as it died)
Swim with the fishes	To die, especially to be murdered and have your body disposed of, often in a body of water. (See also "sleep with the fishes"). It's presumed to be a bit of Mafia jargon
Sword of Damocles	The Sword of Damocles is a frequently used symbolic allusion to this myth, referring to the insecurity felt by those with great power due to the possibility of that power being taken away suddenly, or, more generally, any feeling of impending doom

T

Idiom	Meaning
Take a flyer	To take a chance or risk
Take a seat	A command or request to sit down
Taken to the cleaners	Defrauded, robbed, cheated, conned
Tall tale	A (sometimes boastful) unrealistic story, often told in a humorous way
That was then, and this is now	To denote a change between the situation in the past and the current one
The cat's out of the bag	To let the cat out of the bag A secret or hidden thing has been discovered. Related to "buying a pig in a poke", above
The Powers That Be	Generic term for people who are in charge of something. Often used either derisively or when the actual people are not known. Usually capitalized

((The) tail that) wag(s) the dog	To note or have an out of proportion impact or influence. "He is addicted to Wikipedia, it's the tail that wags the dog." To note reversal of a typical or expected causality chain, usually in exclamation. "That bird frightened the cat! Doesn't that just wag the dog!"
Three sheets to the wind	Drunk. Usually heavily inebriated.
Throw down the gauntlet	To challenge
To be catty	To be antagonistic, usually applied to women
To pocket	To attempt to steal by slipping something unnoticed into a concealed place (pocket, purse, jacket, etc.)
To the letter	To interpret and follow instructions or rules in as literal a manner as possible, doing nothing that one is not explicitly instructed or told to do, often deliberately ignoring the implicit meaning of those instructions or rules.
To turn turtle	To capsize
Toot your own horn/blow your own trumpet	To brag about oneself, often downplaying the contributions of others
Toe the line	To follow rules and regulations faithfully. To be careful to never commit any transgressions. To conform, particularly to conform to onerous or odious demands through loyalty
Treading water	Making no progress
Two bricks short of a load	Not possessing all of one's mental faculties; i.e., crazy or stupid. AKA "two bricks shy of a load". The general form "N Xs short of a Y", where N is a small number and X is an item in a set Y, provides endless recognizable variations. Examples: "two chairs short of a set" (Gilmore Girls, "Emily in Wonderland"); "One Can Short of a 6 Pack" (Da Yoopers album); "two deuces shy of a deck" (playing cards) (see "Not playing with a full deck")

U

Idiom	Meaning
Under the weather	To be feeling ill.

Up a creek (sometimes, up shit's creek) without a paddle	To be in an untenable position. To have no recourse or satisfactory course of action
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W

Idiom	Meaning
Wake up on the wrong side of the bed	To be very grumpy. Usually used in response to side of the bed discovering someone is very grumpy. "Whoa! Looks like you woke up on the wrong side of the bed today!"
Water under the bridge	Something that has happened in the past and is no longer worth agonizing over. A dismissal of prior offenses or transgressions. Generally said after emotional conflicts
When the gloves are off	After the polite negotiations have failed, when false posturing is no longer plausible. Similar to "when the chips are down" or "when push comes to shove"
Whole nine yards	The entire amount, everything. Comes from the 9 yard machine gun belts used in some military aircraft during WWII etc. Gunners would say "I gave them (the enemy) the whole nine yards."

English proverbs :

1. "A poor workman blames his tools."
2. "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."
3. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."
4. "A cat may look at a king."
5. "A chain is no stronger than its weakest link."
6. "A coward dies a thousand times before his death. The valiant never taste of death but once."
7. "A creaking door hangs longest." and "A creaking gate hangs long."
8. "Actions speak louder than words."
9. "Advice when most needed is least heeded."
10. "A fool and his money are soon parted."
11. "A fox smells its own lair first." and "A fox smells its own stink first."
12. "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

13. "After a storm comes a calm."
14. "After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile."
15. "A good beginning makes a good ending."
16. "A good man in an evil society seems the greatest villain of all."
17. "A good surgeon has an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand."
18. "A guilty conscience needs no accuser."
19. "A jack of all trades is master of none."
20. "A lie has no legs."
21. "A lie can be halfway around the world before the truth gets its boots on."
22. It's easier to turn falsehood loose than correct it everywhere it runs to.
23. "A little knowledge is dangerous. Drink deep, or taste not the puritan waters"
24. "A little Learning is a dang'rous Thing;
25. "All of you that intend to ring, you undertake a dangerous thing."
26. "A merry heart makes a long life."
27. "A miss by an inch is a miss by a mile."
28. "A penny saved is a penny earned."
29. "A penny saved is very grateful."
30. "A person is known by the company he keeps."
31. "A picture is worth a thousand words."
32. "A picture is worth a thousand words, and yet picture books are for infants."
33. "A pot of milk is ruined by a drop of poison."
34. "A rolling stone gathers no moss."
35. "A sound mind in a sound body."
36. "A stitch in time saves nine." This is attributed to Benjamin Franklin under american proverbs.
37. "All cats love fish but hate to get their paws wet."
38. "All flowers are not in one garland."
39. "All frills and no knickers."
40. "All good things come to an end."
41. "All hat and no cattle."
42. "All roads lead to Rome."
43. "All's fair in love and war."
44. "All's well that ends well."
45. "All that glitters is not gold."
46. "All things come to he who waits."
47. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

48. "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."
49. "An Englishman's home is his castle"
50. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."
51. "Another man's poison is not necessarily yours."
52. "One man's medicine is another man's poison."
53. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."
54. "April showers bring May flowers."
55. "Ask and you shall receive."
56. "Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies."
57. "As you make your bed, so you must lie in it."
58. "As you sow, so shall you reap."
59. "A watched kettle never boils."
60. "But an unwatched kettle boils!"
61. "A woman's work is never done."
62. "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle."
63. "A word to the wise is enough" (or "sufficient.")
64. "A word spoken is past recalling."
65. "Barking dogs seldom bite."
66. "Be careful what you wish for, you might just get it."
67. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."
68. "Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes straight to the bone."
69. "Beauty may open doors but only virtue enters."
70. "Beer before liquor, you'll never be sicker, but liquor before beer and you're in the clear."
71. "Beggars can't be choosers."
72. "Better to be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."
73. "Better late than never."
74. "Better safe than sorry."
75. "Better the devil you know than the devil you don't."
76. "Birds of a feather flock together."
77. "Bitter pills may have blessed effects."
78. "Blood is thicker than water."
79. "Blood will out."
80. "Boys will be boys."
81. "Brain is better than brawn."
82. "Bread is the staff of life."
83. "Brevity is the soul of wit."

84. "Butter is gold in the morning, silver at noon, lead at night."
85. "Cast not your pearls before swine."
86. To waste something of value on those who won't or can't appreciate it.
87. "Chance favors the prepared mind."
88. "Cider on beer, never fear; beer upon cider, makes a bad rider."
89. "Close but no cigar."
90. "Close only counts in horseshoes and hand-grenades."
91. "Clothes make(th) the man."
92. "Cobbler, stick to thy last."
93. "Common sense ain't common."
94. "Cowards die many times, but a brave man only dies once."
95. "Cross the stream where it is the shallowest."
96. "Curiosity killed the cat. Satisfaction brought it back, that's why the cat has nine lives"
97. "Cut your coat according to your cloth."
98. "Desperate diseases must have desperate cures."
99. "Desperate times call for desperate measures."
100. "Desperate diseases must have desperate remedies."
101. "Desperate times call for desperate measures."
102. "Different sores must have different salves."
103. "Different strokes for different folks."
104. "Diseases come on horseback, but steal away on foot."
105. "Do as you would be done by."
106. "Do unto others as you would have done to you."
107. "Doctors make the worst patients."
108. "Don't bite the hand that feeds you."
109. "Don't burn your bridges before they're crossed."
110. "Don't burn your bridges behind you."
111. "Don't change horses in midstream."
112. "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched."
113. "Don't cross a bridge until you come to it."
114. "Don't cry over spilt milk."
115. "Don't cut off your nose to spite your face."
116. "Don't have too many irons in the fire."
117. "Don't judge a book by its cover."
118. "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth."
119. Looking at a horse's mouth is one classic way to judge it's health

120. "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill."
121. Don't exaggerate small things.
122. "Don't mend what ain't broken."
123. Alternately, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."
124. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."
125. "Don't put the cart before the horse."
126. "Don't shut the barn door after the horse is gone."
127. "Don't spoil the ship for a halfpenny of tar."
128. "Don't use your hairdryer in the shower, you prat"
129. Don't do something that's just going to get you back.
130. "Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater."
131. "Don't trudge mud into the house of love."
132. "Don't trust the Greek bearing gifts."
133. "Doubt is the beginning, not the end, of wisdom."
134. "Do or die."
135. "Do the thing you fear, the death of fear is certain."
136. "If you were born to be shot, you'll never be hung."
137. "Early bird gets the worm."
138. "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."
139. "Early to rise early to bed makes a man socially dead"
140. "Eat to live, don't live to eat."
141. "Eat when you're hungry, and drink when you're dry."
142. "East or West, home is best."
143. "Education is a subversive activity."
144. "Empty barrels make the most sound."
145. "Even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while."
146. "Even a worm will turn."
147. "Even a broken clock is right twice a day."
148. "Every cloud has a silver lining."
149. "Every coin has two sides".
150. "Every day is a new beginning."
151. "Every disease will have its course."
152. "Every dog has its day."
153. "Every man has a price."
154. "Every rule has its exception."
155. "Everything comes to him who waits."

156. "Everything's eventual."
157. "Every why has a wherefore."
158. "Every path has its puddle."
159. "Faith will move mountains."
160. "Faint heart ne'er won fair lady."
161. "Familiarity breeds contempt."
162. "Fine feathers make fine birds."
163. "Fine words butter no parsnips."
164. "First come, first served."
165. "First deserve then desire."
166. "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."
167. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."
168. "Forewarned is forearmed."
169. "Fourty Two is the answer"
170. "Fresh pork and new wine kill a man before his time."
171. "Fretting cares make grey hairs."
172. "Friend to all is a friend to none."
173. "Friend in need is a friend indeed."
174. "Garbage in, garbage out."
175. "Give and take is fair play."
176. "Give a dog a bad name and hang him."
177. "Give the Devil his due."
178. "God blesses a drunk."
179. "God cures and the physician takes the fee."
180. "Good eating deserves good drinking."
181. "Good fences make good neighbors."
182. "Good men are scarce."
183. "Good wine needs no bush."
184. "Great minds think alike, but fools seldom differ."
185. "Great oaks from little acorns grow."
186. "Green leaves and brown leaves fall from the same tree."
187. "Grow where you are planted."
188. "Hair of the dog that bit you."
189. "Half a loaf is better than none."
190. "Handsome is as handsome does."
191. "Hang a thief when he's young, and he'll no' steal when he's old."

192. "Happy wife, happy life."
193. "Hard cases make bad law."
194. "Hard words break no bones."
195. "Haste makes waste."
196. "Have not want not." said by Lee Field Walstad
197. "Hawks will not pick out hawks' eyes."
198. "Health is better than wealth."
199. "Heaven protects children, sailors and drunken men."
200. "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."
201. He goes a'sorrowing who goes a'borrowing
202. "Help a lame dog over a stile."
203. "He that lives too fast, goes to his grave too soon."
204. "He that will steal an egg will steal an ox."
205. "He who hesitates is lost."
206. "He who laughs last laughs best."
207. "He who laughs last laughs longest."
208. "He who last, lasts, laughs last."
209. " A cobbler formed the shape of shoes on a wooden foot shaped last. If it lasted long he was happy"
210. "He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword."
211. "He who pays the piper calls the tune."
212. To be able to control the details of a situation by virtue of being the one who bears the cost or provides for others.
213. "He who sleeps forgets his hunger."
214. "He's all hat and no cattle."
215. Purely bluster and no substance.
216. "Hindsight is 20/20."
217. "His bark is worse than his bite."
218. "History repeats itself."
219. "History never repeats itself, but it does rhyme." - Mark Twain
220. "Home is where the heart is."
221. "Home is where you hang your hat."
222. "Honesty is the best policy."
223. "Honey catches more flies than vinegar."
224. "Hope for the best, expect the worst."
225. "Hunger is the best spice."

- 226. "Hunger is the best sauce."
- 227. "Hunger makes good kitchen."
- 228. "Hope is life.", by deadman
- 229. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."
- 230. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then give up, it's no good being pig-headed."
- 231. "If at first you don't succeed, redefine success"
- 232. "If at first you don't succeed, give up skydiving"
- 233. "If at first you don't succeed, try a shorter bungee"
- 234. "If at first you don't succeed, well, you're about average"
- 235. "If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing well."
- 236. "If it is worth doing, it is worth doing poorly."
- 237. "If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?"
- 238. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it"
- 239. "If it jams, force it. If it breaks, it probably needed fixing anyway."
- 240. "If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy."
- 241. If something can go wrong, it will
- 242. "If the cap fits, wear it."
- 243. "If the shoe fits, wear it."
- 244. "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride."
- 245. "If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride, but you better not think about going outside."
- 246. "If words could only speak, they'd mean even less."
- 247. "If you buy cheaply, you pay dearly."
- 248. "If you can't beat them, join them."
- 249. "If you can't join them, beat them."
- 250. "If you can't be good, be careful."
- 251. "If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."
- 252. "If you don't love yourself with passion, you'll love others with it. Passion is conserved."
- 253. "If you keep your mouth shut, you won't put your foot in it."
- 254. "If you want a thing done well, do it yourself."
- 255. "If you're in a hole, stop digging."
- 256. "Ignorance is bliss."
- 257. "In for a penny, in for a pound."
- 258. "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king."
- 259. "In the end, a man's motives are second to his accomplishments."
- 260. "It's a good horse that never stumbles."

- 261. "It never rains, but it pours."
- 262. "It's a long lane that has no turning."
- 263. "It's an ill wind that blows no good."
- 264. "It's better to give than to receive."
- 265. "It's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."
- 266. "It's easy to be wise after the event."
- 267. "It's never too late to mend."
- 268. "It's not over till it's over." -- Yogi Berra
- 269. "It ain't over till it's over."
- 270. "It's no use crying over spilt milk."
- 271. "It's often a person's mouth broke their nose."
- 272. "It's the early bird that gets the worm."
- 273. "It's the empty can that makes the most noise."
- 274. "It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease."
- 275. "It pays to pay attention."
- 276. "It takes all sorts to make a world." or, "It takes all sorts to make the world go round."
- 277. also, "It takes all kinds to make the world go round."
- 278. "It takes two to make a quarrel."
- 279. "It takes two to tango."
- 280. "It takes two to lie, one to lie and one to listen."
- 281. "If you dont have anything nice to say, dont say anything at all!"
- 282. "Jack is as good as his master."
- 283. "Jack of all trades, master of none."
- 284. "Jam tomorrow and jam yesterday, but never jam today."
- 285. "Jove but laughs at lover's perjury."
- 286. "Judge not, lest ye be judged."
- 287. "Just do it!"
- 288. "Keep a thing seven years and you will always find a use for it."
- 289. "Keep no more cats than catch mice."
- 290. "Kill not the goose that laid the golden egg."
- 291. "Kill two birds with one stone."
- 292. "Knock and the door will be opened unto you."
- 293. "Laughter is the best medicine."
- 294. "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."
- 295. "Learn to walk before you run."
- 296. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

- 297. "Let sleeping dogs lie."
- 298. "Lie down with dogs, wake up with fleas."
- 299. "Like cures like."
- 300. "Like father like son."
- 301. "Like water off a duck's back."
- 302. "Little by little and bit by bit."
- 303. "Little enemies and little wounds must not be despised."
- 304. "Liquor before beer and you're in the clear. Beer before liquor and you'll never be sicker."
- 305. "Long absent, soon forgotten."
- 306. "Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves."
- 307. "Look before you leap."
- 308. "Loose lips sink ships."
- 309. "Love is blind."
- 310. "Life begins at forty."
- 311. "Live and let die."
- 312. "Live and let Live"
- 313. "Life's a bitch and then you die"
- 314. "Life's a bitch and then you marry one"
- 315. "Life's a bleach and then you dye."
- 316. "Make hay while the sun shines."
- 317. "Make love not war."
- 318. "Make love like war."
- 319. "Making a rod for your own back."
- 320. "Man with four balls can't walk."
- 321. "Many hands make light work."
- 322. "Many a mickle makes a muckle"
- 323. "Many a true word is spoken in jest"
- 324. "Measure twice, cut once."
- 325. "Misery loves company."
- 326. "Money for old rope."
- 327. "Money makes the mare go."
- 328. "Money makes the world go around."
- 329. "Money talks."
- 330. "Money talks, bullshit walks."
- 331. "More haste, less speed."
- 332. "Mouth is in gear, brain is in neutral"

- 333. "Nature abhors a vacuum."
- 334. "Nature, time, and patience are three great physicians."
- 335. "Necessity is the mother of all invention."
- 336. "Never judge the book by it's cover."
- 337. Not to be taken by it's look on the surface.
- 338. "Never, Never... allow anyone to persuade you to suspend your common sense."
- 339. "Never rub another man Rhubarb"
- 340. "Never put off till (until) tomorrow what you can do today."
- 341. "Never do today what you can put off till (until) tomorrow ."
- 342. "It was probably a waste of time anyway."
- 343. "Never trouble trouble until trouble troubles you."
- 344. "New brooms sweep clear."
- 345. "New broom sweeps clean."
- 346. "Noblesse oblige."
- 347. "No cows, no cares."
- 348. "No gain without pain."
- 349. "No hoof, no horse."
- 350. "No man can serve two masters."
- 351. "No man is content with his lot."
- 352. "No man is an island"
- 353. "No news is good news."
- 354. "No pain, no gain."
- 355. "No pain, no injury."
- 356. "No time to waste like the present."
- 357. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."
- 358. "Nothing succeeds like success."
- 359. "Old is gold."
- 360. "Once bitten, twice shy."
- 361. "One doctor makes work for another."
- 362. "One good turn deserves another."
- 363. "One man's trash is another man's treasure."
- 364. "One man's meat is another's poison."
- 365. "Only two things in life are certain; death and taxes."
- 366. "Out of sight, out of mind."
- 367. "Paddle your own canoe."
- 368. "Pain is only weakness leaving the body."

- 369. "Patience is a virtue."
- 370. "Penny wise, pound foolish."
- 371. "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones."
- 372. "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely."
- 373. "Power attracts the corruptible." -from Dune series, Frank Herbert
- 374. "Practice makes perfect."
- 375. "Practice makes permanent"
- 376. "Rats desert a sinking ship."
- 377. "Red sky at night: shepherd's delight. Red sky in the morning: shepherd's warning."
- 378. "Rolling stone gathers no moss."
- 379. "Rome wasn't built in a day."
- 380. "Rules are made to be broken."
- 381. "Scratch my back and i will scratch yours".
- 382. "Seek and ye shall find."
- 383. Set a thief to catch a thief.
- 384. "Smile, and the world smiles with you. Cry, and you cry alone."
- 385. "Sometimes people who live in glass houses throw stones because their windows are painted"-James Finstrom
- 386. "Starve a fever, feed a cold."
- 387. "Still waters are the deepest."
- 388. "Stolen fruit is sweet"
- 389. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me."
- 390. "Still waters run deep."
- 391. "Strike while the iron is hot."
- 392. Seize the moment. Take the opportunity now; don't waste it.
- 393. "Try not to become a man of success but a man of value."
- 394. "Talk is cheap."
- 395. "Talk of the devil - and the devil appears."
- 396. "Talk the hind legs off a donkey."
- 397. "Talking a mile a minute."
- 398. "The best things in life are free."
- 399. "The coat makes the man."
- 400. "The cure is worse than the disease."
- 401. "The early bird gets the worm."
- 402. "The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese."
- 403. "The end justifies the means."

- 404. "The English are a nation of shopkeepers" (attributed to Napoleon)
- 405. "The first step to health is to know that we are sick."
- 406. "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence."
- 407. "The head and feet keep warm, the rest will take no harm."
- 408. "The more things change, the more they stay the same."
- 409. "The nail that sticks out gets pounded."
- 410. "The only stupid question is the one that is not asked."
- 411. "The opera ain't over until the fat lady sings."
- 412. "The pitcher goes so often to the well that it comes home broken at last."
- 413. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating."
- 414. "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."
- 415. "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."
- 416. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."
- 417. "The start of a journey should never be mistaken for success."
- 418. "The third time someone tries to put a saddle on you, you should admit you're a horse."
- 419. "The truth shall set you free," or "The truth will set you free."
- 420. "The wish is father to the thought."
- 421. "There are no small parts, only small actors."
- 422. "There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians."
- 423. "There's always a calm before a storm."--Shanth
- 424. "There's always a deep breath before a plunge."
- 425. "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip."
- 426. "There's more than one way to skin a cat."
- 427. "There's no accounting for taste."
- 428. "There's no arguing with the barrel of a gun."
- 429. "The beauty of things lies in the mind that contemplates it"
- 430. "There's no place like home."
- 431. "There's no time like the present."
- 432. "Think before you speak."
- 433. "Think globally, act locally."
- 434. "Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones."
- 435. "Time flies when you're having fun."
- 436. "Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana."--Groucho Marx
- 437. "Time is money."
- 438. "Time is of the essence."
- 439. "This too, shall pass."

- 440. "To each his own."
- 441. "To err is human; to forgive is divine." (Pope, Essay on Criticism)
- 442. "To kill two birds with one stone."
- 443. "Tomorrow is another day."
- 444. "Too many chiefs and not enough indians."
- 445. "Too many cooks spoil the broth."
- 446. "Trouble shared is trouble halved."
- 447. "Truth is stranger than fiction."
- 448. "Truth will out."
- 449. "Two's company, three's a crowd."
- 450. "Two heads are better than one."
- 451. "Two things prolong your life: A quiet heart and a loving wife."
- 452. "Two wrongs don't make a right."
- 453. "Two wrongs don't make a right, but three lefts do."
- 454. "Treat them mean, keep them keen."
- 455. "Up a creek without a paddle."
- 456. "Variety is the spice of life."
- 457. "Waste not, want not."
- 458. "We all make mistakes."
- 459. "We are all in this together."
- 460. "We must take the bad with the good."
- 461. "That which does not kill you, makes you stronger."
- 462. "What goes around comes around."
- 463. "What goes up must come down."
- 464. "What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."
- 465. "When the cat's away, the mice will play."
- 466. "When the going gets tough, the tough get going."
- 467. "When you hear hoofbeats, think horses, not zebras."
- 468. "When your only tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail."
- 469. "Where one door shuts, another opens."
- 470. "Where there's a will there's a way."
- 471. "Where's there's muck, there's money"
- 472. "While the cat is away, the mice will play."
- 473. "While there's life, there's hope."
- 474. "Whiskey on beer, never fear. Beer on whiskey, mighty risky."
- 475. "Who keeps company with the wolves, will learn to howl."

476. "Whom we love best, to them we can say the least."
477. "Why have a dog and bark yourself?"
478. "Why pay for the cow when the milk is free?"
479. "Wide ears and short tongue are the best."
480. "Winners never cheat and cheaters never win."
481. "Without sleep, no health."
482. "You are responsible for you."
483. "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."
484. "You can lead (take) a horse to water but you can't make it drink."
485. "You can't free a fish from water."
486. "You can't have it both ways."
487. "You can't judge a book by its cover."
488. "You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs."
489. "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."
490. "You can't milk a cow with your hands in your pants."
491. "You can't run with the hare and hunt with the hounds."
492. "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."
493. "You can't teach grandma to suck eggs."
494. "You can't teach grandpa to suck eggs."
495. "You can't tell a book by its cover."
496. "You have to crawl before you can walk."
497. "You'll always miss 100% of the [basketball] shots you don't take."
498. "You need to bait the hook to catch the fish."

ADVANCED VOCABULARY FOR USE :

A

abase (v.)	-	to lower, demean, degrade
abate (v.)	-	to lessen, to reduce in severity
abbreviate (v.)	-	to shorten, reduce
abduct (v.)	-	to kidnap
aberration (n.)	-	a deviation from the expected course
abhor (v.)	-	to hate, loathe
abide (v.)	-	to put up with, tolerate
abject (adj.)	-	of the most miserable or contemptible kind

abort (v.)	-	to give up unfinished
abridge (v.)	-	to shorten, cut down
abrogate (v.)	-	to abolish, often by authority
abscond (v.)	-	to sneak away and hide
abundant (adj.)	-	in great numbers
accede (v.)	-	to agree
accentuate (v.)	-	to emphasize, to highlight
accommodating (adj.)	-	obliging, helpful
accost (v.)	-	to approach or confront aggressively
acumen (n.)	-	keen insight
acute (adj.)	-	sharp, severe
affable (adj.)	-	friendly, amiable
affluent (adj.)	-	rich, wealthy
aggrandize (v.)	-	to increase or make greater
aggregate (v.)	-	to gather, amass
aghast (adj.)	-	struck by amazement or terror
agoraphobia (n.)	-	an abnormal fear of open or public places
akimbo (adj.)	-	with hands on hips and elbows extending outward
alacrity (n.)	-	speed, readiness
algid (adj.)	-	frigid, cold
allay (v.)	-	to sooth, assuage
alleviate (v.)	-	to relieve
aloof (adj.)	-	reserved, distant
altercation (n.)	-	an argument, dispute
amalgamation (n.)	-	a union, a merger
ambivalent (adj.)	-	having contradictory feelings
amble (v.)	-	to stroll, walk
ameliorate (v.)	-	to improve, to make better
amend (v.)	-	to change for the better, improve
amiable (adj.)	-	friendly, affable
amorous (adj.)	-	relating to or showing love
amorphous (adj.)	-	without shape or borders
anomaly (n.)	-	something that does not fit into the normal order
antechamber (n.)	-	a waiting room
anxiety (n.)	-	uneasiness
aphorism (n.)	-	a short saying

apocalypse (n.)	-	total devastation, the end of the world
apparitional (adj.)	-	ghostly, spectral
arbitrator (n.)	-	one who settles controversy between two sides
ascetic (n.)	-	one who practices restraint as a means of self-discipline, usually religious
assuage (v.)	-	to ease, pacify
atone (v.)	-	to apologize, make amends
audacious (adj.)	-	excessively bold
augment (v.)	-	to increase or make larger
austere (adj.)	-	very bare, bleak, simple

B

baleful (adj.)	-	harmful, threatening
bard (n.)	-	a poet, often a singer as well
battery (n.)	-	an assault or an array of similar things intended for use together
belligerent (adj.)	-	contentious, ready to fight
benevolent (adj.)	-	kind, good, caring
benign (adj.)	-	non-threatening, innocuous
berate (v.)	-	to scold severely
bereft (adj.)	-	without, devoid of
bide (v.)	-	to wait, or remain in a condition
bilk (v.)	-	to cheat, to swindle
blandish (v.)	-	to coax through flattery
bloated (adj.)	-	swollen, bigger than desired
boisterous (adj.)	-	loud, energetic
bourgeois (adj.)	-	middle class
brash (adj.)	-	hasty or lacking in sensitivity
brazen (adj.)	-	excessively bold, brash
brumal (adj.)	-	wintry, relating to winter
brusque (adj.)	-	short, abrupt, dismissive
buffet (n.)	-	a spread of food involving choices
buffet (v.)	-	to hit or strike
burgeon (v.)	-	to come forth, blossom

C

cacophony (n.)	-	noise, discordant sound
cadence (n.)	-	rhythm
cajole (v.)	-	to urge, coax
callous (adj.)	-	harsh, cold, unfeeling
calumny (n.)	-	an attempt to defame another's reputation
camaraderie (n.)	-	cheerful unity among a group
canvas (n.)	-	a piece of cloth on which an artist paints
capricious (adj.)	-	impulsive, unpredictable, subject to whim
captivate (v.)	-	to hold the interest of, to gain the attention of
carouse (v.)	-	to revel, to party
cavity (n.)	-	a hole
cavort (v.)	-	to frolic, leap, prance
celestial (adj.)	-	relating to the sky or the heavens
chastise (v.)	-	to criticize, to scold
choreographed (adj.)	-	arranged, as in dance
circumlocution (n.)	-	indirect language
circumspect (adj.)	-	cautious
clairvoyant (adj.)	-	able to see things that others cannot
claustrophobia (n.)	-	an abnormal fear of closed or crowded spaces
cliché (n.)	-	a trite, overused expression
coalesce (v.)	-	to combine into one
cogent (adj.)	-	intelligent, viable
collusion (n.)	-	a conspiracy, a secret agreement
colossus (n.)	-	an enormous structure
comatose (adj.)	-	lethargic
commendable (adj.)	-	worthy of praise
commodious (adj.)	-	spacious, roomy
compel (v.)	-	to force
complicit (adj.)	-	being an accomplice in a wrongful act
compliment (n.)	-	an expression of esteem or approval
concede (v.)	-	to give in, to accept
conciliatory (adj.)	-	agreeable, friendly
concoct (v.)	-	to make up or invent
concord (n.)	-	agreement

conduit (n.)	-	a pipe, passage, channel
confluence (n.)	-	a convergence, a coming together
confound (v.)	-	to frustrate
connotation (n.)	-	a meaning or association suggested by a word beyond its definition
contusion (n.)	-	bruise, injury
convalescence (n.)	-	the gradual return to health after illness
copious (adj.)	-	abundant, plentiful
corpulent (adj.)	-	very fat
cosmopolitan (adj.)	-	worldly, sophisticated
credulity (n.)	-	readiness to believe
cursory (adj.)	-	brief to the point of being superficial

D

daft (adj.)	-	insane, foolish
daunting (adj.)	-	intimidating
dearth (n.)	-	a lack, scarcity
defame (v.)	-	to destroy the reputation of
deft (adj.)	-	skilled, adept
defunct (adj.)	-	no longer used or existing
deleterious (adj.)	-	harmful
delude (v.)	-	to deceive, to mislead
deluge (n.)	-	a great flood or something that overwhelms like a flood
derelict (adj.)	-	run-down, abandoned
desolate (adj.)	-	deserted, lifeless
despondent (adj.)	-	discouraged, hopeless, depressed
destitute (adj.)	-	impoverished
diaphanous (adj.)	-	transparent, light, airy
dictate (v.)	-	to pronounce, command, prescribe
differentiate (v.)	-	to distinguish, to make different
dilapidated (adj.)	-	in a state of disrepair
diligent (adj.)	-	careful, showing care
diminish (v.)	-	to decrease or make smaller
diminutive (adj.)	-	miniature, small
discreet (adj.)	-	prudent or inconspicuous

discrete (adj.)	-	separate, distinct, individual
disparage (v.)	-	to criticize, degrade, belittle
dissonance (n.)	-	lack of harmony or agreement
divergent (adj.)	-	different, deviating, contrary
diverse (adj.)	-	varied
divisive (adj.)	-	causing conflict, opposition
domicile (n.)	-	a residence, a home
doppelganger (n.)	-	a ghostly double of a living person
douse (v.)	-	to drench, saturate
dutiful (adj.)	-	careful to fulfill obligations
dynamic (adj.)	-	characterized by continuous change or activity

E

elocution (n.)	-	the art of public speaking
elucidate (v.)	-	to clarify
empathetic (adj.)	-	feeling another's pain as one's own
empathy (n.)	-	the experience of another's feelings as one's own
enervate (v.)	-	to weaken, make weary
enervated (adj.)	-	lacking energy, weakened, exhausted
entity (n.)	-	something that exists as a discrete unit
entomology (n.)	-	the study of insects
envious (adj.)	-	jealous
erect (v.)	-	to construct, to raise
erroneous (adj.)	-	mistaken, incorrect
espouse (v.)	-	to support, or to marry
espy (v.)	-	catch sight of, glimpse
ethereal (adj.)	-	heavenly, exceptionally delicate or refined
euphoric (adj.)	-	elated, overjoyed
exacerbate (v.)	-	to make more violent, intense
excursion (n.)	-	a trip, an outing
exemplary (adj.)	-	serving as an example
exigent (adj.)	-	critical, urgent
existential (adj.)	-	relating to existence
exorbitant (adj.)	-	excessive
extol (v.)	-	to praise

extravagant (adj.) - excessive, over-the-top

F

fabricate (v.) - to invent, make-up, concoct
fabulist (n.) - a teller of fables; a liar
facile (adj.) - easy
fallacious (adj.) - incorrect, misleading
familial (adj.) - relating to family
fatuous (adj.) - silly, foolish
fecund (adj.) - fertile, fruitful
feign (v.) - to fake or pretend to
feral (adj.) - savage, wild, untamed
fetter (v.) - to restrain, chain, tie
fey (adj.) - magical
fickle (adj.) - characterized by changeableness, whimsical
figurative (adj.) - symbolic
firmament (n.) - the sky, the heavens
flabbergasted (adj.) - astounded, stupefied
flaccid (adj.) - limp
flattery (n.) - compliments, sycophancy
flout (v.) - to scorn, ignore, show contempt for
fluctuate (v.) - to vary irregularly
flux (n.) - a state of constant change or a flow
forage (v.) - to rummage, scavenge, graze for food
forestall (v.) - to delay, impede
forlorn (adj.) - lonely, hopeless
formidable (adj.) - arousing fear or alarm
forsake (v.) - to abandon, forget
fortify (v.) - to strengthen
fortitude (n.) - strength, bravery
fortuitous (adj.) - lucky, occurring by chance
foster (v.) - to stimulate, promote, encourage
frenetic (adj.) - frenzied, hectic, frantic

G

gape (v.)	-	to open the mouth and stare stupidly
gay (adj.)	-	happy, cheery, or homosexual
gluttonous (adj.)	-	insatiable in appetite
goad (v.)	-	to urge, to provoke into action
gourmand (n.)	-	one who likes eating and drinking
grandiose (adj.)	-	extraordinary, grand in scope
gregarious (adj.)	-	sociable, outgoing
grotto (n.)	-	a small cave or cavern
guile (n.)	-	deceitful actions or behavior

H

hail (v.)	-	to come from
hapless (adj.)	-	unlucky
harmony (n.)	-	agreement, often of sound
harrowing (adj.)	-	agonizing, distressing
hedonist (n.)	-	one whose primary pursuit is pleasure
henchman (n.)	-	a trusted follower, goon
hiatus (n.)	-	an interruption in continuity, a break
hiemal (adj.)	-	wintry, relating to winter
hierarchy (n.)	-	a ranking system of groups or individuals
histrionic (adj.)	-	excessively dramatic or emotional

I

idolatrous (adj.)	-	worshipping excessively an object or person
illusory (adj.)	-	deceptive, produced by an illusion
immaculate (adj.)	-	impeccably clean, spotless, pure
immutable (adj.)	-	not susceptible to change
impecunious (adj.)	-	excessively poor
impervious (adj.)	-	unable to be penetrated, unaffected
impudent (adj.)	-	rude, improper
incessant (adj.)	-	without interruption
incisive (adj.)	-	clear, sharp, direct
inclement (adj.)	-	stormy, bad, severe

inclination (n.)	-	a tendency, propensity
indictment (n.)	-	accusation of wrongdoing
indignation (n.)	-	anger due to an unfair situation
inextricable (adj.)	-	hopelessly confused or tangled
infuse (v.)	-	to inject
ingenious (adj.)	-	marked by special intelligence
inimical (adj.)	-	hostile, threatening
iniquity (n.)	-	a wicked act, a sin
innate (adj.)	-	inborn, native, inherent
innocuous (adj.)	-	harmless
inquisitor (n.)	-	someone who asks questions or makes an inquiry
inundate (v.)	-	to flood
invariable (adj.)	-	not susceptible to change
invective (n.)	-	a verbal attack
inveterate (adj.)	-	habitual, natural
irascible (adj.)	-	easily angered

J

jubilant (adj.)	-	joyful, happy
judicious (adj.)	-	of sound judgment
juvenile (adj.)	-	young or immature
juxtapose (v.)	-	to put next to each other

L

labyrinthine (adj.)	-	intricate, maze-like
laceration (n.)	-	a cut, a rip
lachrymose (adj.)	-	tearful
latent (adj.)	-	present but hidden
laud (v.)	-	to applaud or praise
laudatory (adj.)	-	admiring, praising
lavish (adj.)	-	extravagant
lethargic (adj.)	-	sluggish, weary, apathetic
lewd (adj.)	-	vulgar, offensive, rude
libel (n.)	-	a statement that gives an unjust or unfavorable representation of a person or thing

licentious (adj.)	-	amoral, lawless, lewd
limber (adj.)	-	bending or flexing readily, pliable
limpid (adj.)	-	clear, easily understood
linchpin (n.)	-	something that holds separate things together
lithe (adj.)	-	graceful, flexible, supple
loquacious (adj.)	-	talkative
lull (n.)	-	a relatively calm interval, as in a storm
luminescence (n.)	-	light from non-thermal sources

M

magnanimous (adj.)	-	generous, noble
malaise (n.)	-	vague feeling of discomfort
malevolent (adj.)	-	having intent to harm others
malicious (adj.)	-	malevolent, harmful
malign (v.)	-	to slander, to smear, to libel, to defame, to speak evil of
malleable (adj.)	-	easily shaped or formed
mandatory (adj.)	-	required, not optional
manifest (v.)	-	to show clearly
manifold (adj.)	-	many
masticate (v.)	-	to chew
matrimony (n.)	-	marriage
maudlin (adj.)	-	sentimental
maxim (n.)	-	a common saying of advice or virtue
meager (adj.)	-	lacking in quality stature
mediate (v.)	-	to intervene, to arbitrate, to sort out
melodramatic (adj.)	-	exaggeratedly emotional or sentimental; histrionic
mendacious (adj.)	-	inclined to lie or mislead
mercurial (adj.)	-	quick and changeable in temperament
meritorious (adj.)	-	deserving of praise or merit
metamorphosis (n.)	-	a change of form, shape, substance
mimic (v.)	-	to imitate, to copy
misogyny (n.)	-	hatred of women
modicum (n.)	-	a small amount of something
mollify (v.)	-	to soften in temper
monogamy (n.)	-	having only one spouse at a time

mores (n.)	-	moral attitudes
morose (adj.)	-	gloomy or sullen
munificent (adj.)	-	generous, benevolent
mutability (n.)	-	capability of change
myopic (adj.)	-	short-sighted
myriad (adj.)	-	consisting of a very great number

N

narrate (v.)	-	to tell a story
nebulous (adj.)	-	indistinct, hazy
nefarious (adj.)	-	horribly villainous
neologism (n.)	-	the creation of new words, or a new word
neonate (n.)	-	a newborn baby
noisome (adj.)	-	foul, offensive, particularly to the sense of smell
notoriety (n.)	-	infamy, known in bad regard
novel (adj.)	-	strikingly new, unusual, or different
noxious (adj.)	-	harmful, toxic

O

obdurate (adj.)	-	unyielding to persuasion or moral influences
obfuscate (v.)	-	to render incomprehensible
obsequious (adj.)	-	excessively compliant or submissive
odious (adj.)	-	meriting strong displeasure
officious (adj.)	-	offering unwanted help or service
olfactory (adj.)	-	relating to the sense of smell
ominous (adj.)	-	foreboding or foreshadowing evil, portentous
oration (n.)	-	a dignified and formal speech
ostracize (v.)	-	to exclude from a community

P

pacify (v.)	-	to sooth, ease
paragon (n.)	-	model of perfection
pariah (n.)	-	an outcast

parody (n.)	-	a satirical imitation
patent (adj.)	-	clear, apparent
pedagogue (n.)	-	a schoolteacher
pellucid (adj.)	-	clear
penchant (n.)	-	a tendency, partiality, preference
peregrinate (v.)	-	to travel from place to place on foot
perfunctory (adj.)	-	showing little enthusiasm, done as duty
permeate (v.)	-	to spread out, to pervade
persevere (v.)	-	to persist, remain constant
pertinacious (adj.)	-	stubbornly persistent, holding to a belief or position
peruse (v.)	-	to examine carefully
pervasive (adj.)	-	to spread throughout
petulance (n.)	-	irritability, impoliteness
physiognomy (n.)	-	the art of judging human character from facial features
poke (v.)	-	to provoke or to cause indignation
pithy (adj.)	-	succinctly meaningful
pittance (n.)	-	very small amount
placate (v.)	-	to soothe, appease
placid (adj.)	-	calm, tranquil
plethora (n.)	-	a great number, an abundance
pliable (adj.)	-	flexible, bendable
poach (v.)	-	to hunt or fish illegally
poised (adj.)	-	balanced, readied
polygamy (n.)	-	having more than one spouse at a time
portentous (adj.)	-	foreboding or foreshadowing evil, ominous
portly (adj.)	-	fat, chubby, round
precarious (adj.)	-	dangerously lacking in security or stability
predestination (n.)	-	the concept of destiny or fate
premonition (n.)	-	a presentiment of the future
preponderance (n.)	-	a great amount or frequency
presage (n.)	-	an omen
prestidigitation (n.)	-	a sleight of hand
presumptuous (adj.)	-	disrespectfully bold
profane (adj.)	-	indecent, blasphemous
profuse (adj.)	-	abundant, lavish, prolific
propensity (n.)	-	an inclination, preference

propriety (n.)	-	decency, state of being proper
protean (adj.)	-	readily taking on various shapes or forms
prudent (adj.)	-	cautious, careful
puerile (adj.)	-	immature
pugnacious (adj.)	-	belligerent
pulchritude (n.)	-	physical beauty
punctilious (adj.)	-	eager to follow rules
pungent (adj.)	-	having a sharp, strong quality especially related to smell
purport (v.)	-	to present an intention that is often FALSE
putrid (adj.)	-	rotten, rancid, foul

Q

quaint (adj.)	-	old-fashioned
quid pro - (n., latin)	-	a mutually beneficial exchange
quotidian (adj.)	-	daily, everyday

R

radiant (adj.)	-	bright, beaming
rancid (adj.)	-	rotten, spoiled, disgusting in smell or taste
ratiocinate (v.)	-	to think, contemplate
raze (v.)	-	to demolish
recalcitrant (adj.)	-	defiant
recalibrate (v.)	-	to readjust or make corrections to
recapitulate (v.)	-	to repeat, reiterate
rectify (v.)	-	to set right, correct
redact (v.)	-	to revise, edit
redoubtable (adj.)	-	formidable, commanding respect
redress (v.)	-	to set right or remedy
reel (v.)	-	to be thrown off balance or feel dizzy
refrain (v.)	-	to hold oneself back, forbear
reiterate (v.)	-	to repeat
relish (v.)	-	to take zestful pleasure in, enjoy the flavor of
remiss (adj.)	-	negligent, exhibiting carelessness
render (v.)	-	to say, or to make

renovate (v.)	-	to restore, return to original state
repose (n.)	-	rest, sleep
reprehensible (adj.)	-	deserving criticism
repudiate (v.)	-	to reject, turn down
repulse (v.)	-	to cause disgust or distaste, or to drive back, repel
requisition (n.)	-	a demand for goods, often by an authority
restitution (n.)	-	compensation, reimbursement
retaliation (n.)	-	revenge, punishment
retract (v.)	-	withdraw
retribution (n.)	-	vengeance, revenge, payback
revel (v.)	-	to enjoy
rife (adj.)	-	abundant
ruddy (adj.)	-	having a healthy, reddish color
ruse (n.)	-	a trick
rustic (adj.)	-	relating to country life

S

saccharine (adj.)	-	overly sweet
sacrosanct (adj.)	-	sacred, holy
sagacious (adj.)	-	shrewd, showing sound judgement
salient (adj.)	-	significant, conspicuous
salutation (n.)	-	a greeting
sanguine (adj.)	-	cheery, optimistic, hopeful
sate (v.)	-	to satisfy (an appetite) fully.
satiate (v.)	-	to satisfy excessively
savor (v.)	-	to appreciate fully, enjoy
scathing (adj.)	-	hurtful, critical
scourge (n.)	-	a plague
scurrilous (adj.)	-	crude, vulgar
sedate (v.)	-	to calm, soothe
sedentary (adj.)	-	sitting
seer (n.)	-	a fortune teller
seminal (adj.)	-	original, ground-breaking
serendipity (n.)	-	the act of finding things not sought, luck
slander (n.)	-	a FALSE statement to damage the reputation of another

sobriety (n.)	-	moderation from excess, calm, tranquillity
somnolent (adj.)	-	sleepy
soothsayer (n.)	-	a fortune teller
sordid (adj.)	-	dirty
spectral (adj.)	-	ghostly
spurious (adj.)	-	FALSE but intended to seem believable or possible
stagnant (adj.)	-	still, not flowing
stagnate (v.)	-	to be idle, to be still
static (adj.)	-	not moving, being at rest
steadfast (adj.)	-	fixed or unchanging
strenuous (adj.)	-	requiring tremendous strength or energy
strife (n.)	-	conflict
stupefy (v.)	-	to astound
submissive (adj.)	-	easily yielding to authority
subsist (v.)	-	to live, exist
succinct (adj.)	-	marked by compact precision
suffice (v.)	-	to meet needs
supplant (v.)	-	to displace and substitute for another
surfeit (n.)	-	an excess, a surplus, an overabundance
surmise (v.)	-	to guess, infer, suppose
surreptitious (adj.)	-	done in a secret, or stealthy way
swarthy (adj.)	-	of dark color or complexion
sybarite (n.)	-	someone devoted to pleasure and luxury, a voluptuary
sycophant (n.)	-	a self-serving flatterer
sympathetic (adj.)	-	compassionate
sympathy (n.)	-	an expression of pity for another, compassion
synopsis (n.)	-	a summary

T

taciturn (adj.)	-	not inclined to talk
tantamount (adj.)	-	equivalent in value or significance
tedious (adj.)	-	boring, dull
telepathic (adj.)	-	capable of reading minds
tenuous (adj.)	-	having little substance or strength

terrestrial (adj.)	-	relating to the land
terse (adj.)	-	abrupt, short, brief
timorous (adj.)	-	fearful, timid
tome (n.)	-	a large book
toothsome (adj.)	-	delicious, luscious
torpid (adj.)	-	lazy, lethargic, moving slowly
torrid (adj.)	-	giving off intense heat, passionate
tortuous (adj.)	-	winding, twisted
tragedy (n.)	-	a disastrous event, or a work of art in which the hero meets a terrible fate
tranquil (adj.)	-	calm, serene, peaceful
travesty (n.)	-	a grossly inferior imitation
trek (v.)	-	to walk, travel by foot
trite (adj.)	-	overused, hackneyed
truculent (adj.)	-	eager to fight, violent

U

ubiquitous (adj.)	-	existing everywhere, widespread
ultimate (n.)	-	the last part, or a fundamental element
umbrage (n.)	-	anger, offense, resentment
uncanny (adj.)	-	of supernatural character or origin
undulate (v.)	-	to move in a smooth wavelike motion
uniform (adj.)	-	unvarying, conforming to one principle
unilateral (adj.)	-	having only one side
unique (adj.)	-	being the only one of its kind
upbraid (v.)	-	to criticize, scold, reproach

V

vacillate (v.)	-	to sway from one side to another
variance (n.)	-	a difference between what is expected and what actually occurs
variegate (v.)	-	to diversify
vast (adj.)	-	enormous, immense
veneer (n.)	-	a superficial or deceptively attractive appearance, façade

veracious (adj.)	-	honest, truthful
verbose (adj.)	-	wordy
vicarious (adj.)	-	experienced through another's actions
vicissitudes (n.)	-	the unexpected changes and shifts often encountered in one's life
vigor (n.)	-	vitality and energy, vim.
vim (n.)	-	and energy, vigor.
vivacious (adj.)	-	lively, spirited, full of life
vocation (n.)	-	one's work or professional calling
volition (n.)	-	a conscious choice or decision
voluminous (adj.)	-	large, ample
voluptuary (n.)	-	someone devoted to sensory pleasure and luxury, a sybarite

W

wane (v.)	-	to decrease gradually in size or degree
wax (v.)	-	to increase gradually in size or degree
weather (v.)	-	to withstand or survive a situation
whet (v.)	-	to make more keen, stimulate
winsome (adj.)	-	charming, attractive
Zeitgeist (n.)	-	the spirit of the time