

VISUAL VOCABULARY

250 VOCABULARY WORDS WITH PICTURES



LEARN
VOCABULARY WORDS
EASILY
WITH CARTOONS!

CREATED BY SUBJECT EXPERTS

VISUAL VOCABULARY

250 Vocabulary Words with Pictures



Contributors: Subo Wijeyeratne, Hafizh Shiddiq, Kentaro Tanaka, Douglas Busacker, Neil Nguyen, Tyler Kusunoki, Alisa Fukuda, Nicole Engen, Chris Sasanuma and other Tokyo Academics team members.

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INTRODUCTION

The motivation behind creating this book

Vocabulary is key to understanding the world around us, as well as our own thoughts. Without vocabulary, self-expression is challenging, and comprehending written texts or spoken language stays frustratingly out of reach.

We all face challenges in accruing a proficient understanding of vocabulary. We here at Tokyo Academics have been working in a bilingual environment for a decade.

We observed that both native and non-native speakers had difficulty learning vocabulary; this book was part of a comprehensive effort to effectively teach vocabulary.

Who can use this book

Students of all ages can benefit from studying the vocabulary in this book. An extensive knowledge of vocabulary opens up a whole new level of reading, writing and speaking. Understanding these vocabulary can also help students studying for standardized tests such as the SAT, ACT, SSAT and ISEE.

This book can also apply to older learners. Improved vocabulary skills can improve the reading and writing capabilities vital to any industry or career field.

“Visual Vocabulary,” is also a great tool for teachers who want to give their students a deeper understanding of vocabulary. This book serves as an easy and engaging tool for teachers to help their students quickly understand terms.

Components of this book

Our book is focused around 5 key components that focus on helping our students remember vocabulary in the longer term. They also have been proven to effectively help students further understand the true meaning behind each word.

Definition

Part of speech and a comprehensive meaning.

Synonym/Antonym

We found that having a multifaceted approach to words by understanding several related words, students could form a network of words and how they relate to each other. Knowing which words relate to each other would strengthen the web of words that a student possesses.

“Sounds-Like” sentence

This sentence contains the word itself and a different word that sounds like it. This helps the learner remember the word through relating it to a simpler word that they already understand.

Picture

This is a picture that portrays the, “Sounds-Like” sentence. By looking at this picture, the learner can visualize the, “Sounds-Like” sentence and perceive the word from yet another angle. This leads to a deeper, more finely ingrained understanding of the word.

3 example sentences

Presents the vocabulary word in three different sentences to show how the word might be found in multiple contexts.

How to study with this book as a student

As a student, this book can help you easily remember terms. However, merely reading the text of the book may not be the best studying method.

This is why we recommend a few ways to remember words:

1. Write your own example sentences
2. Test yourself with online flash card tools
3. Start using words in everyday conversations

About this book and Tokyo Academics

Tokyo Academics' subject experts are from some of the most regarded educational institutions around the world. As an educational organization, we have been teaching vocabulary to students of all ages and backgrounds.

We first started with 1-on-1 and group classes, teaching young children the importance of vocabulary and the meaning of important words. From this, we expanded to create more vocabulary courses for students of all ages. After getting a grasp of how to teach students of all ages and backgrounds, we expanded internationally.

For several years now, we have offered an international vocabulary program for students in over 20 countries. Visual Vocabulary is part of our mission to further effectively teach vocabulary to people around the world.

We have incorporated elements that we think are necessary to successfully remember the meaning and use of each vocabulary word. This book is a result of our vocabulary education adventure up until now. We hope you enjoy it just as much as we do.

1

ABASH

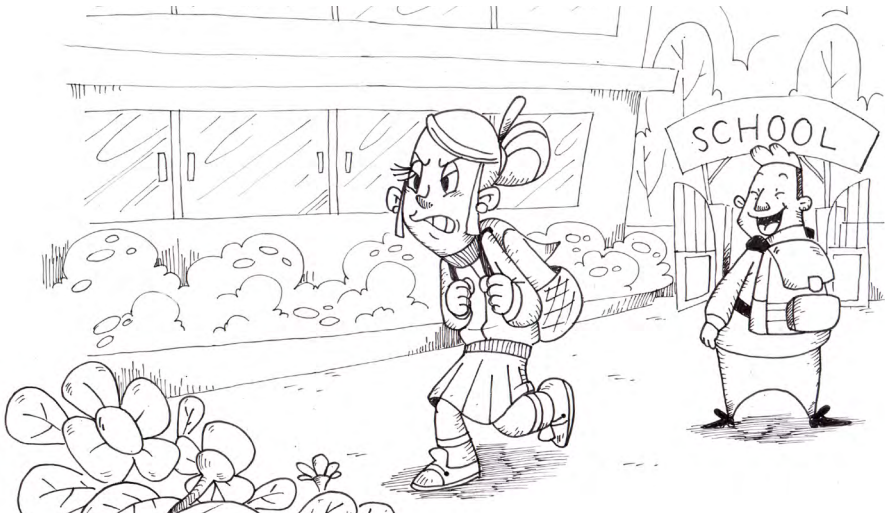
Meaning:

(v) to embarrass;

(adj) ashamed or embarrassed

Similar to: (v) disconcert, rattle, shame; (adj) mortified, sheepish

Opposite of: (v) soothe, calm, encourage; (adj) unembarrassed, emboldened



Sounds like: Eyelash

“She felt ABASHED (adj) when she showed up to school with one eyelash.”

Examples:

1. My terrible performance on stage ABASHED (v) me.
2. The boy felt ABASHED (adj) after being the victim of a prank.
3. She was an UNABASHED (adj) fan of Kim Kardashian.

2

ABOLISH

Meaning:

(v) to put an end to

Similar to: destroy, cancel, nullify

Opposite of: establish, create



Sounds like: Polish

“It is time to ABOLISH the custom of wearing nail polish.”

Examples:

1. Adam would not allow them to ABOLISH such a fine institution.
2. The school rules were ridiculous and, therefore, ABOLISHED.
3. They are determined to ABOLISH these old traditions.

3

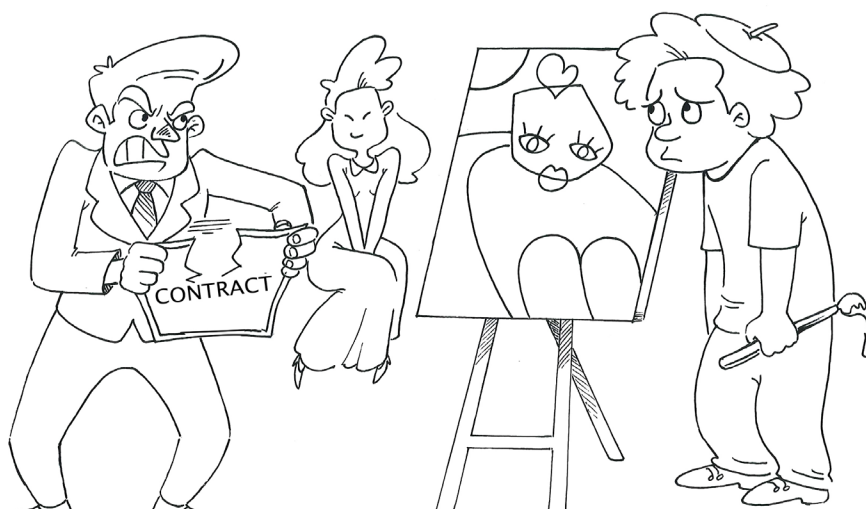
ABSTRACT

Meaning:

(adj) without reference to specific instance or concrete existence

Similar to: non-specific, theoretical

Opposite of: concrete, specific, clear, detailed



Sounds like: Contract

“The artist broke his contract by making his painting too ABSTRACT.”

Examples:

1. He really hated ABSTRACT art, but that’s only because he never stopped to really think about it.
2. ABSTRACT ideas are difficult to understand.
3. For a poor man, the idea of saving money will always be an ABSTRACT one.

4

ACCLAIM

Meaning:

(v) to praise enthusiastically, esp. publicly;

(n) an enthusiastic approval, expression of enthusiasm

Similar to: (v) applaud, praise, recognize; (n) commendation, kudos

Opposite of: (v) blame, disapprove; (n) criticism, censure



Sounds like: Fame

“Widespread ACCLAIM (n) is what led to his fame.”

Examples:

1. The crowd ACCLAIMED (v) the new king as he took up the throne.
2. Even her harshest critics ACCLAIMED (v) the violinist’s brilliant performance.
3. The student’s excellent presentation was received with much ACCLAIM (n) by her teachers.

5

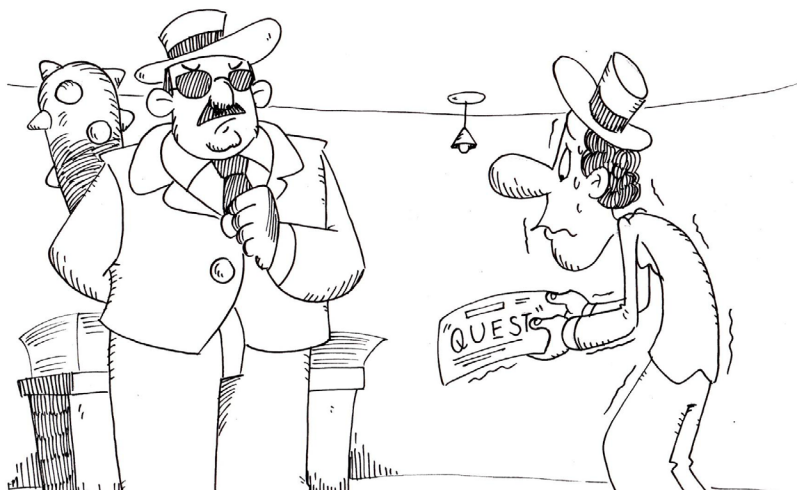
ACQUIESCED

Meaning:

(v) to agree without protest

Similar to: give in, yield, accept

Opposite of: refuse, oppose, reject



Sounds like: Quest

"You must ACQUIESCE and embark on this quest!"

Examples:

1. The family had no choice but to ACQUIESCE to the kidnapper's demands.
2. After months of begging, my family finally ACQUIESCED to getting me a puppy!
3. Dictators expect their citizens to ACQUIESCE to their commands immediately.

6

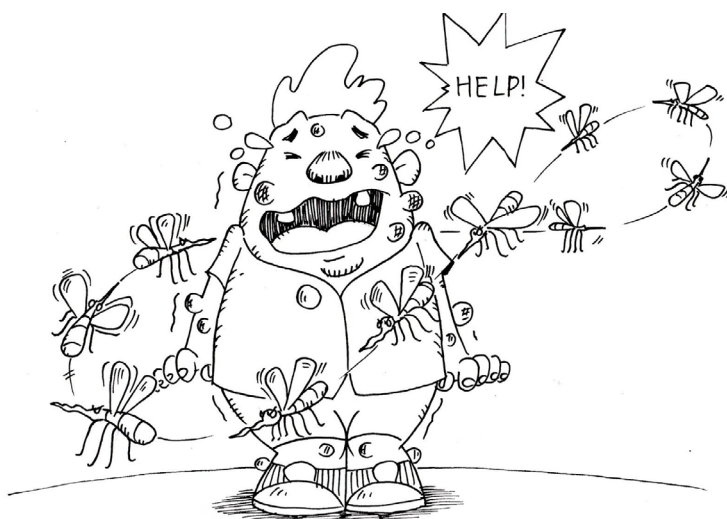
AD INFINITUM

Meaning:

(adv) lasting forever, continuously

Similar to: forever, endlessly

Opposite of: brief, temporary, short-term



Sounds like: Get rid of them

“These mosquitoes keep coming AD INFINITUM; there is no way to get rid of them!”

Examples:

1. As a result of your mistake, complaints have been pouring in AD INFINITUM!
2. Junk mail has been filling my inbox AD INFINITUM.
3. The amount of work I have to do today feels like it will continue AD INFINITUM.

7

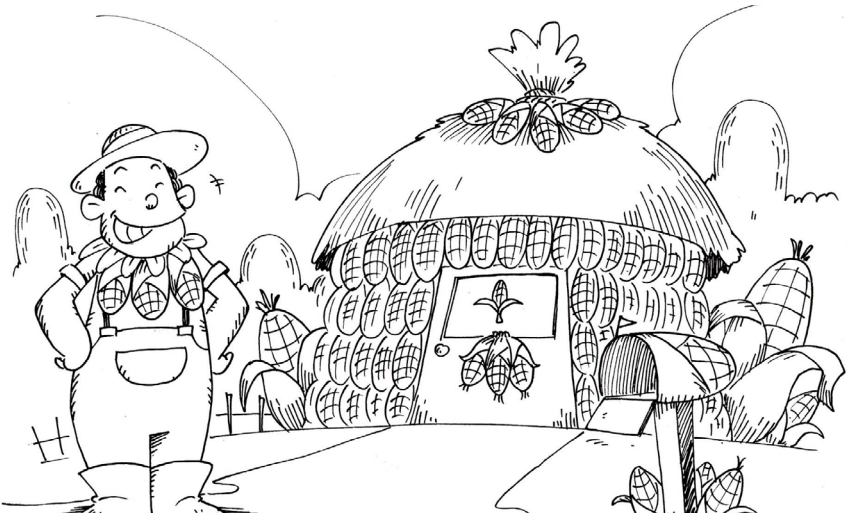
ADORN

Meaning:

(v) to add beauty, to decorate

Similar to: beautify, enhance, garnish

Opposite of: disfigure, spoil



Sounds like: Corn

“The farmer ADORNED his house with corn.”

Examples:

1. The children ADORNED the Christmas tree with many angels and stars.
2. The ballerina was ADORNED with a beautiful crown.
3. His speech was plain and UNADORNED with fancy words.

8

ADVOCATE

Meaning:

(v) to speak in support of something;

(n) a person who publicly supports a cause or policy

Similar to: (v) defend, promote, support; (n) spokesperson, supporter, proponent

Opposite of: (v) oppose, defy, reject; (n) critic, detractor



Sounds like: Cake

“I will always ADVOCATE (v) for more cake.”

Examples:

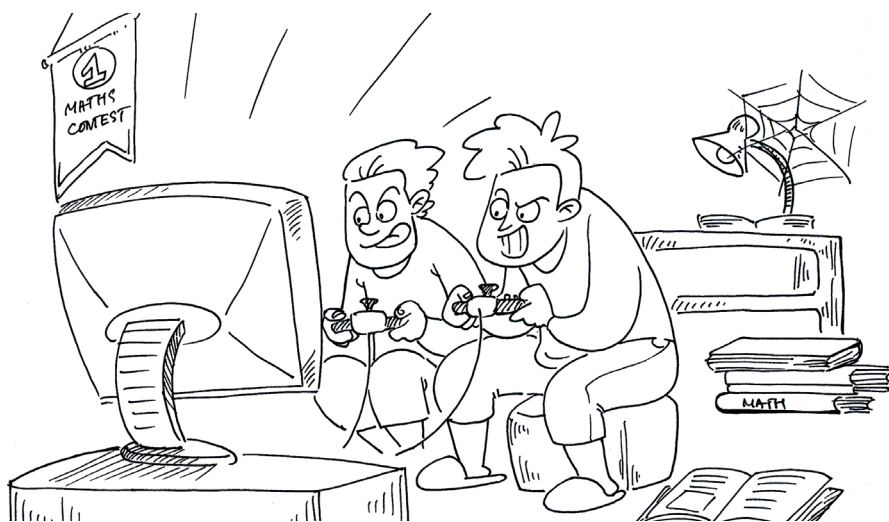
1. Any good doctor will ADVOCATE (v) healthy diet and exercise.
2. Since Jason is an ADVOCATE (n) of healthy living, I find it quite surprising that he smokes.
3. As a teacher, I am a strong ADVOCATE (n) for more parental involvement in schools.

Meaning:

(n) a natural attraction or feeling of kinship, an inherent similarity

Similar to: affection, closeness, fondness

Opposite of: dislike, hatred, incompatibility



Sounds like: Destiny

“These people have an AFFINITY for ruining their destiny.”

Examples:

1. I have a natural AFFINITY for politics, which is why I constantly read about it.
2. Phil and Beatrice displayed an AFFINITY for one another, making us suspect that they would eventually marry.
3. I have a strange AFFINITY with animals, and they seem to always understand me.

Meaning:

(adj/adv) *wide open, with the mouth wide open, as in wonder, surprise, or eagerness*

Similar to: open, gaping

Opposite of: closed, shut, sealed



“Our mouths were AGAPE trying to swallow the grapes.”

Examples:

1. When I first saw sunset in the Grand Canyon, I could only stand there watching with my mouth AGAPE.
2. The police rushed into the bank, but all they found was the door to the empty safe sitting AGAPE.
3. I didn't realize how hurtful my words had been until I saw Sherrie's expression, AGAPE with shock.

Meaning:

(adj) *distant or removed in attitude or manner*

Similar to: distant, indifferent, detached

Opposite of: compassionate, engaged, sociable



Sounds like: Roof

"The ALOOF boy often escaped to the roof during parties."

Examples:

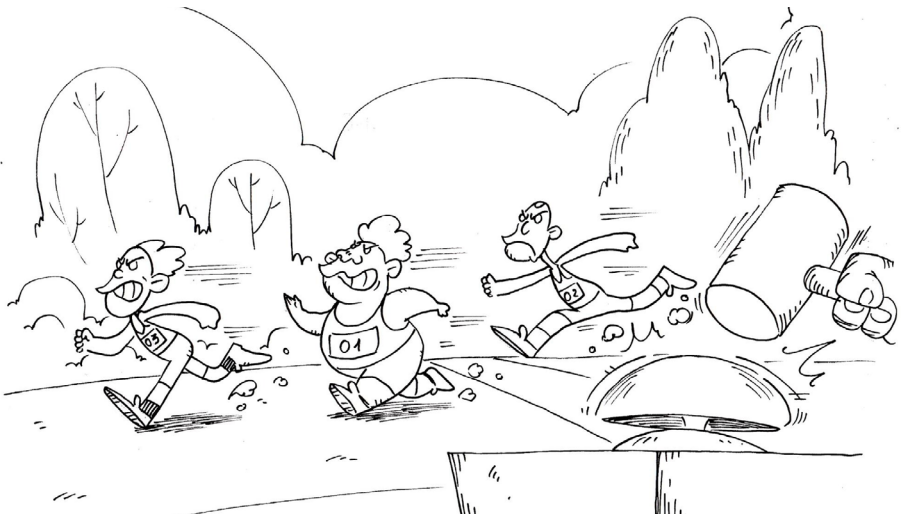
1. If he comes across as ALOOF, it is only because he's shy.
2. Sitting in the VIP section, the celebrity seemed ALOOF and arrogant.
3. Cats are quite ALOOF creatures.

Meaning:

(adv) frenzied, out of control

Similar to: excitedly, madly, wildly

Opposite of: calmly, peacefully, deliberately



Sounds like: Struck

“The contestants ran AMOK once the starting bell was struck.”

Examples:

1. After the underdog team won, the fans went AMOK in the stadium, leaving a terrible mess behind them.
2. When the school caught fire the students ran AMOK, blocking the exits.
3. Too tired to stop them, the kindergarten teacher just watched as her students ran AMOK in the classroom.

13

ANECDOTE

Meaning:

(n) a brief story, often humorous

Similar to: tale, short story, narrative

Opposite of: saga, epic



Sounds like: Overcoat

“He told an ANECDOTE about losing his overcoat.”

Examples:

1. Jillian’s ANECDOTE about her encounter with a clown made us all laugh.
2. As a writer, I am always pleased when a fan shares an ANECDOTE about reading one of my novels.
3. Professor Chapman’s funny ANECDOTE about his first day at college put the nervous freshmen at ease.

14

ANTHROPOMORPHISM

Meaning:

(n) the attribution of human characteristics to animals or inanimate objects;

(v) to attribute human characteristics to animals or inanimate objects

Similar to: (n) zoomorphism; (v) to personify

Opposite of: (n) dehumanization; (v) to brutalize, to dehumanize



Sounds like: Dwarfism

“Saying that some trees have dwarfism is an example of ANTHROPOMORPHISM (n).”

Examples:

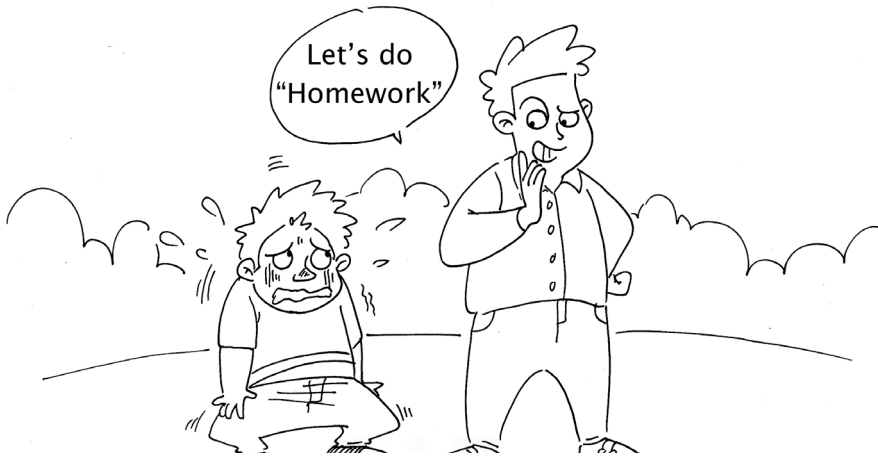
1. Writers often use ANTHROPOMORPHISM (n) to make their ideas and settings more relatable.
2. Pet owners often ANTHROPOMORPHIZE (v) their animals and assume that they have facial expressions like people do.
3. Stop ANTHROPOMORPHIZING (v) your furniture! That’s a sofa, not a human being!

Meaning:

(n) worry or unease

Similar to: anxiety, fear

Opposite of: certainty, calm



Sounds like: Mention

“Just mention ‘homework’ to him, and he is filled with APPREHENSION!”

Examples:

1. Caleb watched with APPREHENSION as the stray cat crossed the busy street.
2. After a few singing lessons, she lost her APPREHENSION of singing in front of a crowd.
3. I felt a wave of APPREHENSION as the teacher started handing back our tests.

16

ARABLE

Meaning:

(adj) suitable for growing crops (of land)

Similar to: fertile, bountiful

Opposite of: infertile, barren



Sounds like: Terrible

“The lack of ARABLE land was terrible for farmers.”

Examples:

1. The soil in the front yard is ARABLE and perfect for planting a rose garden.
2. Since the farmland was dry and not ARABLE, nobody wanted to purchase it.
3. Japan has very little ARABLE land and a high percentage of mountainous territory.

17

ARDUOUS

Meaning:

(adj) difficult, laborious

Similar to: burdensome, exhausting, rigorous

Opposite of: easy, effortless, pleasant



Sounds like: Useless

“Attaching real flowers to a dress by hand is both ARDUOUS and useless.”

Examples:

1. Taking seven classes, in addition to doing an internship this semester, is going to be ARDUOUS!
2. Playing the piano may seem ARDUOUS at first, but it gets easier with practice.
3. Driving a school bus is a more ARDUOUS task than driving a car.

18

ASCRIBE

Meaning:

(v) to attribute to a specific source

Similar to: charge, refer

Opposite of: absolve, forgive



Sounds like: Bribed

“The handyman bribed the doctor to ASCRIBE his injury to his work.”

Examples:

1. These symptoms could be ASCRIBED to allergies, but I’m pretty sure you have a full-fledged cold.
2. The criminal wanted to ASCRIBE blame to the police, to her parents, to the people who were robbed – anyone but herself.
3. The low attendance at the game was ASCRIBED to the rock concert across the street.

19

ATROPHY

Meaning:

(v) to waste away, esp. body tissue;

(n) a wasting away of an organ or part, or a failure to grow to normal size as the result of disease, faulty nutrition

Similar to: (v) degenerate, weaken; (n) degeneration, decline, weakening

Opposite of: (v) improve, grow; (n) improvement, growth, development



Sounds like: Trophy

“The champion can’t even lift the trophy because of muscular ATROPHY (n).”

Examples:

1. According to researchers, lack of studying causes grades to ATROPHY (v).
2. The ATROPHY (n) of Janice’s musical skill was caused by a two-year break from practice.
3. Students who rely on the Internet for research soon discover their manual research skills have begun to ATROPHY (v).

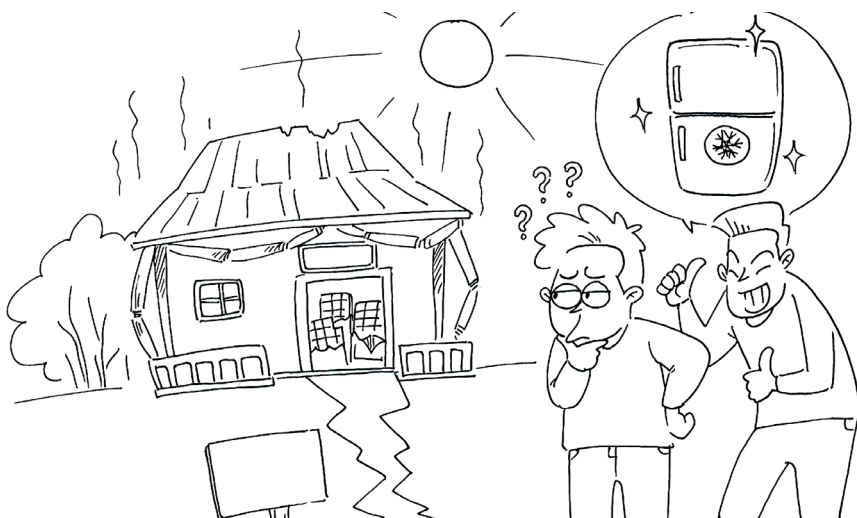
20 AUSPICIOUS

Meaning:

(adj) showing signs of a favorable outcome, marked by favorable circumstances

Similar to: promising, advantageous, opportune

Opposite of: unsuitable, ominous, unfortunate



Sounds like: Suspicious

“I think it is suspicious that he says his house is AUSPICIOUS for storing all the chocolate.”

Examples:

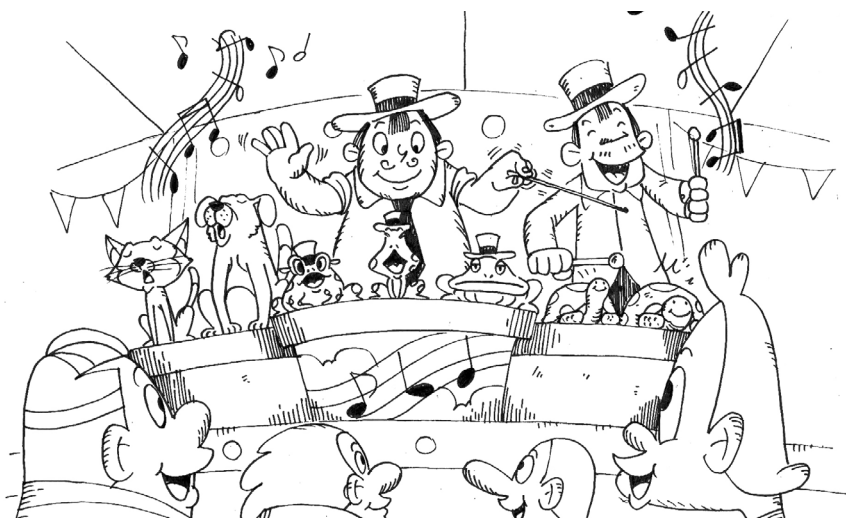
1. His brilliant speech was an AUSPICIOUS start to his political career.
2. Because everyone was happy and feeling generous, it was an AUSPICIOUS time to ask for charitable donations.
3. According to an old rhyme, a red sky at night is an AUSPICIOUS sign.

Meaning:

(adj) relating to the experimental treatment of artistic, musical, or literary material

Similar to: unconventional, radical, innovative

Opposite of: conservative, traditional



Sounds like: Bard

“The bard made AVANT-GARDE music using small animals.”

Examples:

1. Though people often criticize it for being “strange”, much of the music we enjoy today was once AVANT-GARDE.
2. Japan is the source of AVANT-GARDE ‘industronoise’ music.
3. AVANT-GARDE special effects experts were behind the success of the action movie.

Meaning:

(v) to nag

Similar to: annoy, pester, harass

Opposite of: aid, support, delight



Sounds like: Badges

“His plan is to BADGER his coach till he gets the badges he wants.”

Examples:

1. My daughter will BADGER me until I explain how to tie her shoelaces.
2. I agreed to tutor for my neighbor after he refused to stop BADGERING me about it.
3. Not wanting to BADGER my supervisor, I often sought out answers from other coworkers.

23

BANISH

Meaning:

(v) to drive away, to force to leave a place

Similar to: exile, dismiss, exclude

Opposite of: admit, summon



Sounds like: Vanish

“The BANISHED prince vanished from the kingdom and was never heard from again.”

Examples:

1. The old king was BANISHED from the palace after his son seized the throne.
2. The husband was BANISHED from the kitchen after burning the food.
3. BANISH nasty odours from your car with our new air freshener!

Meaning:

(n) any place or circumstance full of noise and confusion

Similar to: chaos, clamor, commotion

Opposite of: calm, order, quiet



Sounds like: Led Some

“Giving the sheep sugar led some of them to cause BEDLAM in the market.”

Examples:

1. The cat created BEDLAM in the house as it chased the mouse over tables and furniture.
2. There was BEDLAM in the city after the missile warning.
3. The escape of a prisoner from a local jail caused BEDLAM in our community.

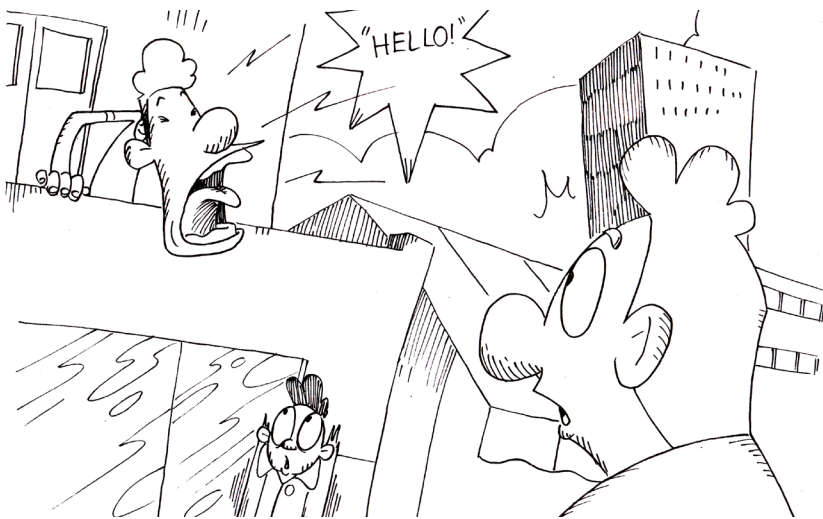
Meaning:

(v) to yell very loudly, to shout;

(n) a roaring shout or sound

Similar to: (v/n) scream, yell

Opposite of: (v/n) whimper, quiet



Sounds like: Hello

“I could hear him BELLOW (v) ‘Hello!’ from all the way down on the street below.”

Examples:

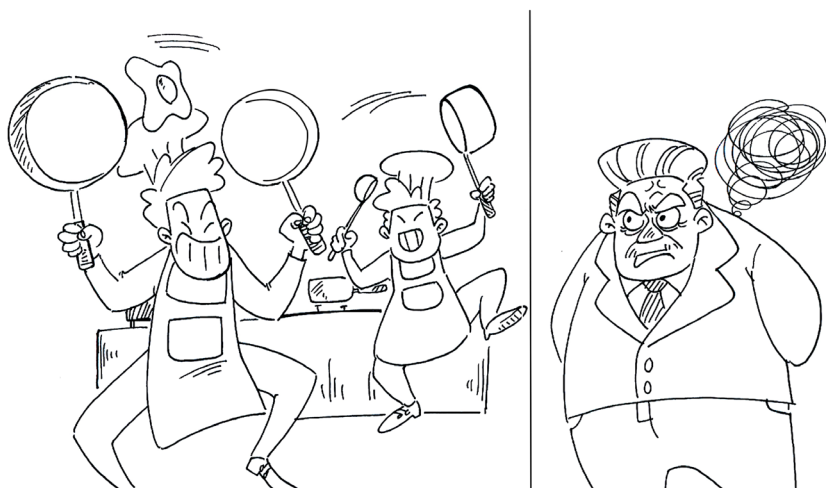
1. My brother gave a fierce BELLOW (n) before he lunged at the bully.
2. The bull's BELLOW (n) was loud enough for everyone in the ranch to hear.
3. Will you please stop BELLOWING (v) insults and just listen to my explanation?

Meaning:

(adj) *bad-tempered, cross*

Similar to: angry, annoyed, grumpy

Opposite of: cheerful, pleasant, happy



Sounds like: Serious

“He was BILIOUS because his employees refused to be serious.”

Examples:

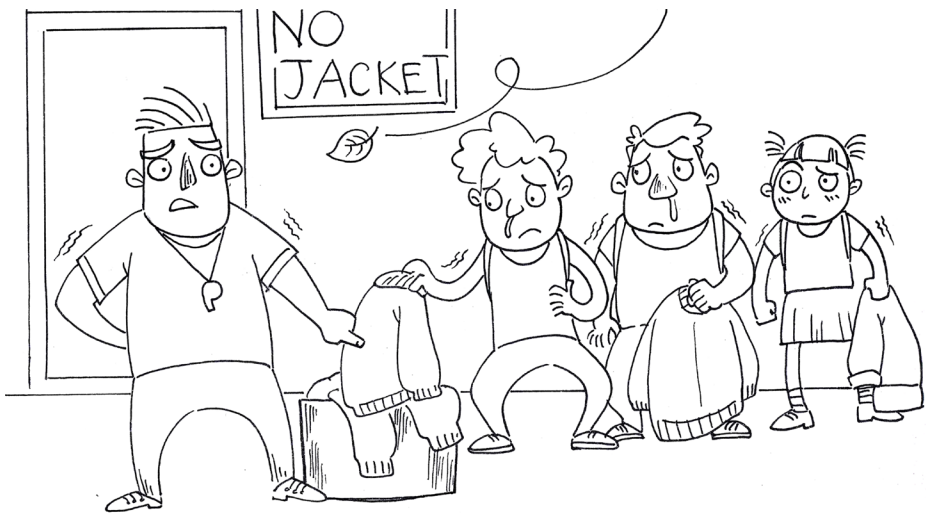
1. The neighbors become BILIOUS every time we have house parties.
2. Alya left her mother in a BILIOUS state after a heated argument.
3. BILIOUS is a pretty old-fashioned word for anger, from back when people thought ‘bile’ was responsible for being cross.

Meaning:

(adj) applying to *all* conditions or instances

Similar to: absolute, comprehensive, including

Opposite of: limited, partial



Sounds like: Jacket

“There is a BLANKET ban on jackets in school.”

Examples:

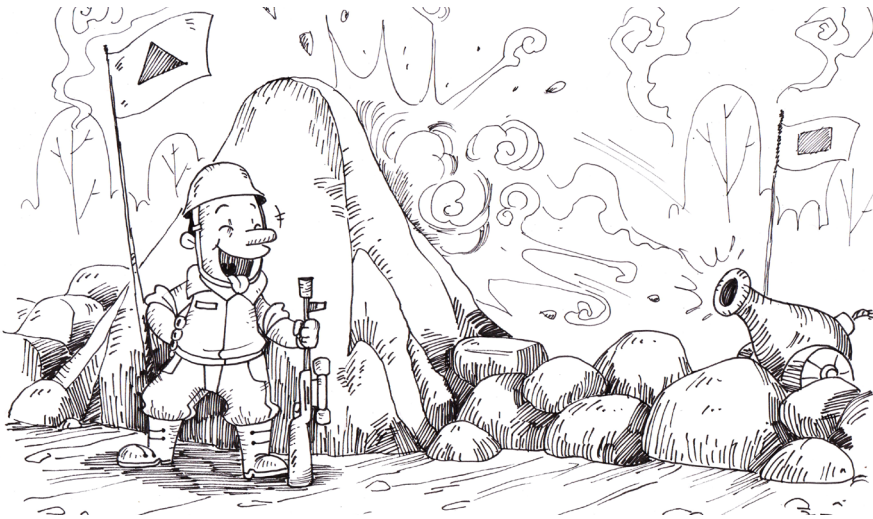
1. Her opinions are always BLANKET generalizations with no regard for any variation.
2. You can't make BLANKET decisions like that – people are different!
3. This set of laws is intended as a BLANKET solution for a wide-ranging problem.

Meaning:

(v) to support or strengthen

Similar to: cushion, aid, reinforce

Opposite of: hinder, hurt, weaken



Sounds like: Boulder

“The army used huge boulders to BOLSTER their defenses.”

Examples:

1. The tech company decided to BOLSTER their firewall with new software.
2. The reinforcements BOLSTERED the army's shaky position.
3. I find it difficult to BOLSTER my vocabulary due to my bad memory.

Meaning:

(n) great technical skill, a showy display of daring;

(adj) spirited, brilliant

Similar to: (n) bravery, daring, audacity; (adj) masterly, outstanding

Opposite of: (n) fear, cowardice, humility; (adj) unskilled, ordinary



Sounds like: Tempura

“The tempura chef gave a BRAVURA (adj) performance.”

Examples:

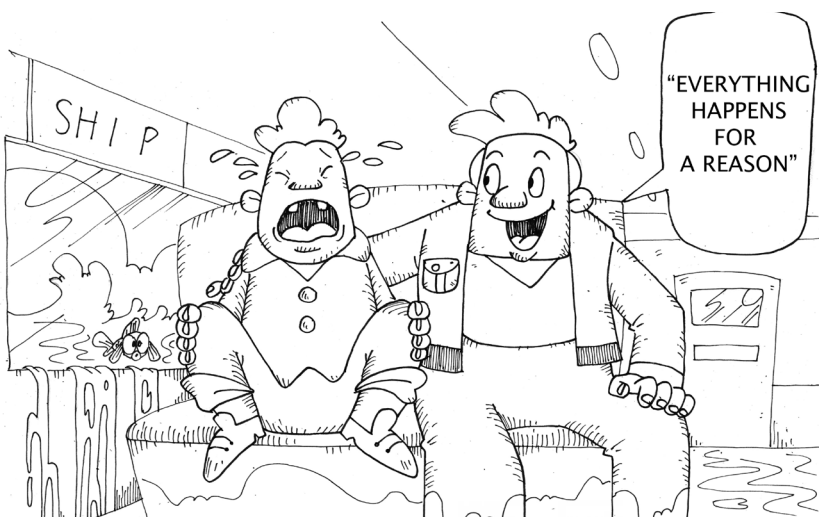
1. The officer charging towards the enemy army was the very image of BRAVURA (n).
2. The actress gave such a BRAVURA (adj) performance that people came to see the play from all over the country.
3. BRAVURA (n) is a key part of a good bullfighter's performance; a boring bullfight is nothing more than murder.

Meaning:

(n) a cliché remark intended to calm, platitude

Similar to: cliché, commonplace, positive

Opposite of: negative, serious



Sounds like: Hide

“Don’t use BROMIDES to hide the problems we’re facing!”

Examples:

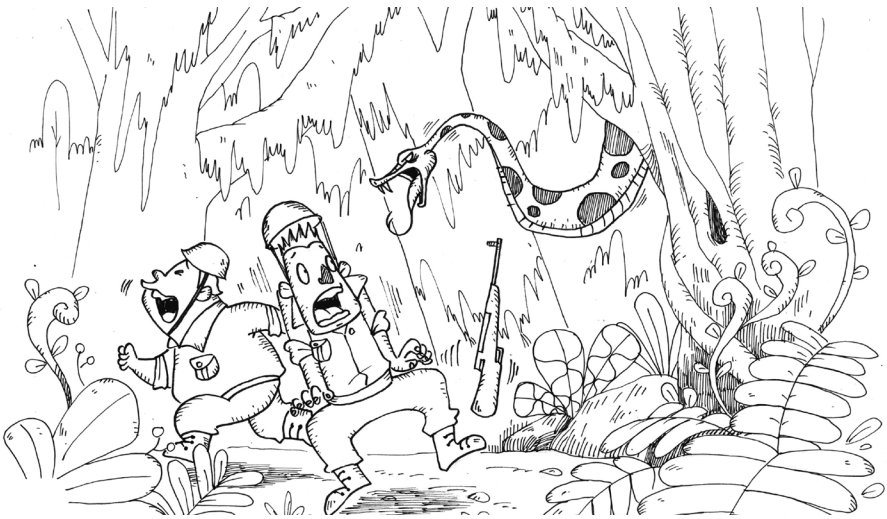
1. I grow increasingly tired of his tendency to offer nothing more than BROMIDES when I’m sad.
2. Instead of thinking of clever BROMIDES, think of a solution!
3. The wounded soldier laughed at the medic’s droll BROMIDE.

Meaning:

(v) to handle badly, to botch or mess up

Similar to: mishandle, screw up

Opposite of: succeed, manage



Sounds like: Jungle

“The inexperienced soldiers BUNGLED their mission in the jungle.”

Examples:

1. Since I BUNGLED the interview, I probably won't get the job.
2. The lawyer was fired after BUNGLING a case in court.
3. The detective BUNGLED the investigation when he lost the evidence.

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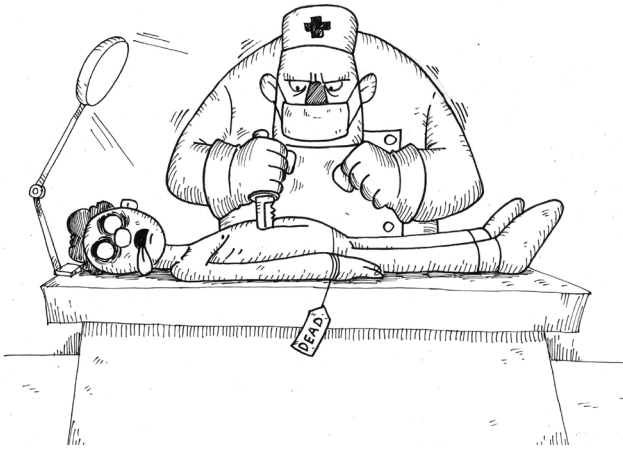
CADAVER

Meaning:

(n) a dead body, esp. a human body to be dissected

Similar to: carcass, corpse, skeleton

Opposite of: living being



Sounds like: Dagger

“Missing his tools, the doctor had to cut open the CADAVER with a dagger.”

Examples:

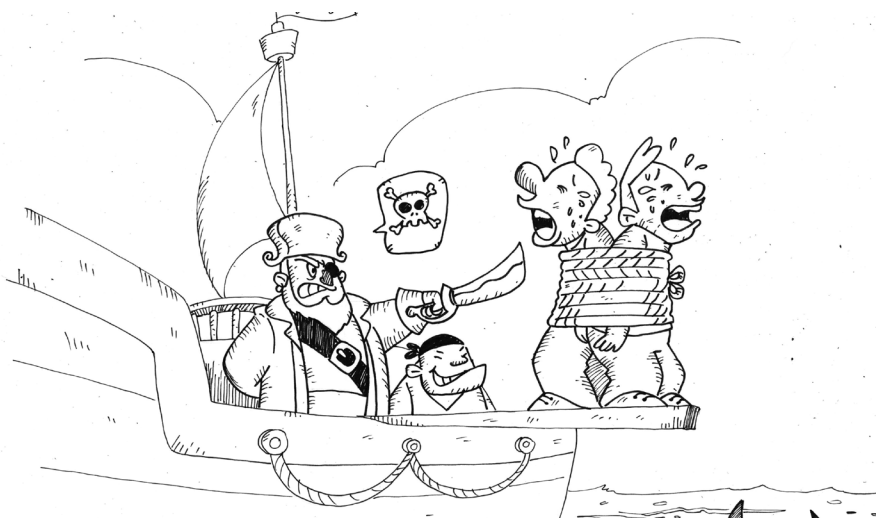
1. I thought I was cut out for working at a morgue, but I fainted when I saw my first CADAVER.
2. Certain CADAVERS are donated to hospitals for research.
3. He was as pale as a CADAVER and twice as cold.

Meaning:

(adj) lacking pity or mercy, unfeeling

Similar to: cruel, insensitive, indifferent

Opposite of: caring, compassionate, concerned



Sounds like: Kill Us

“These pirates are so CALLOUS that they will certainly kill us.”

Examples:

1. The CALLOUS manager fired the intern after one small mistake.
2. In Greek mythology the gods can often be CALLOUS, punishing humans for no reason.
3. You're so CALLOUS – how could you leave a kitten to starve on the street?

Meaning:

(n) a law or body of laws, esp. religious, an established principle or basis for judgment, the works of a writer that have been accepted as authentic

Similar to: catalogue, precept, tenet

Opposite of: innovation, novelty



Sounds like: Cannon

“The use of cannon in battle was part of the old CANON of war.”

Examples:

1. Most religions have an established CANON of saintly figures stretching back centuries.
2. Though the CANON is important, we should also study new and unusual works too.
3. Your theories are nice and all, but the author hasn't confirmed them, so they're not CANON!

Meaning:

(n) the dead body of an animal, esp. one slaughtered for food (also used figuratively)

Similar to: corpse, remains

Opposite of: living being



Sounds like: Marcus

“A butcher named Marcus brought the pig’s CARCASS to the market.”

Examples:

1. The week old CARCASS was starting to attract flies.
2. James couldn’t stand the stench coming from the deer CARCASS.
3. Vultures are scavengers, feeding on CARCASSES instead of hunting for fresh meat.

36

CARTE BLANCHE

Meaning:

(n) *unrestricted power to act at one's own discretion*

Similar to: free rein, authority

Opposite of: limitations, constraints



Sounds like: Launch

“He was given CARTE BLANCHE to make whatever changes he wanted to the launch.”

Examples:

1. The teacher was given CARTE BLANCHE to place students in detention.
2. People assume monarchs have CARTE BLANCHE to rule as they like, but actually they're bound by powerful traditions.
3. Just because you're president doesn't mean you have CARTE BLANCHE to do whatever you like.

Meaning:

(adj) casual, disdainful

Similar to: dismissive, unconcerned

Opposite of: humble, shy



Sounds like: Fear

“He has no fear – he’s quite CAVALIER.”

Examples:

1. People at work tend to dislike Addison due to her CAVALIER attitude towards work.
2. He had a CAVALIER attitude towards the enemy.
3. Our group member’s CAVALIER attitude made it difficult for us to work with him.

Meaning:

(n) complete disorder

Similar to: anarchy, disarray, lawlessness

Opposite of: calm, harmony



Sounds like: Cause

“The main cause of CHAOS in this city is snow.”

Examples:

1. When Arthur realized he'd overslept on the day of his wedding, he knew he'd be facing a scene of CHAOS when he arrived at the church.
2. She made sure the files were stored properly to avoid any CHAOS in the workplace.
3. My pet snake caused CHAOS when it got loose inside the house.

Meaning:

(v) to correct by punishment or criticism, to restrain or humiliate

Similar to: penalize, discipline

Opposite of: award, compliment



Sounds like: Chasing

“The bear was CHASTENED for chasing students around the zoo.”

Examples:

1. People who commit crimes are usually CHASTENED by a little jail time.
2. The teacher CHASTENED the child with detention.
3. She looked thoroughly CHASTENED after being scolded – but as soon as the teacher left, she stomped on Billy’s foot.

Meaning:

(adj) easily angered, bad-tempered

Similar to: ill-tempered, peevish

Opposite of: patient, calm



Sounds like: Lyric

“The lyric was about a CHOLERIC boy.”

Examples:

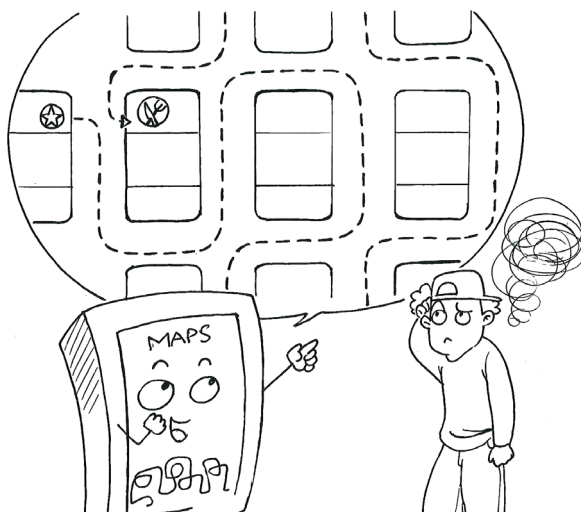
1. After yet another incident, the CHOLERIC girl was sent to anger management seminars.
2. As a CHOLERIC, and well-muscled, woman, she is perfectly suited to being an MMA fighter.
3. The pirates were careful not to cross paths with their CHOLERIC captain.

Meaning:

(n) an indirect or wordy way of expressing an idea, long-winded

Similar to: indirectness, roundabout, wordiness

Opposite of: conciseness, straightforward



Sounds like: Location

“The apps CIRCUMLOCUTION made it difficult to determine the location of the restaurant.”

Examples:

1. The presentation's CIRCUMLOCUTION was the reason the judges all fell asleep halfway through.
2. Most professional writers hate CIRCUMLOCUTION.
3. His use of CIRCUMLOCUTION made his argument difficult to follow.

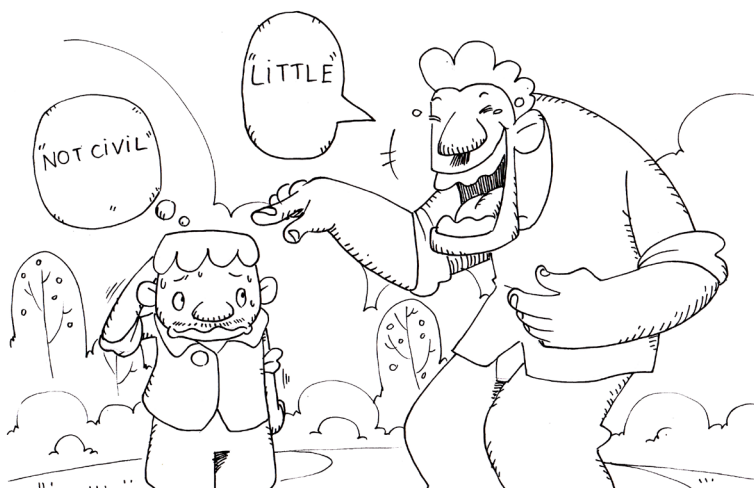
42 CIVIL

Meaning:

(adj) observing accepted social customs, not rude

Similar to: domestic, local, civic

Opposite of: ill-mannered, impolite, foreign



Sounds like: Little

“Making fun of people because they’re little is not very CIVIL.”

Examples:

1. The CIVIL samurai paid his master respect.
2. The attendant remained CIVIL even though the drunk passenger called him all sorts of names.
3. Offering visitors refreshments is the CIVIL thing to do.

Meaning:

(n) fear of confined spaces

Similar to: distress, neurosis

Opposite of: comfort (in confined spaces)



Sounds like: Sophia

“Sophia suffered from terrible CLAUSTROPHOBIA.”

Examples:

1. The tunnel triggered my CLAUSTROPHOBIA.
2. A tightly packed elevator can lead to CLAUSTROPHOBIA.
3. People with CLAUSTROPHOBIA shouldn't go caving.

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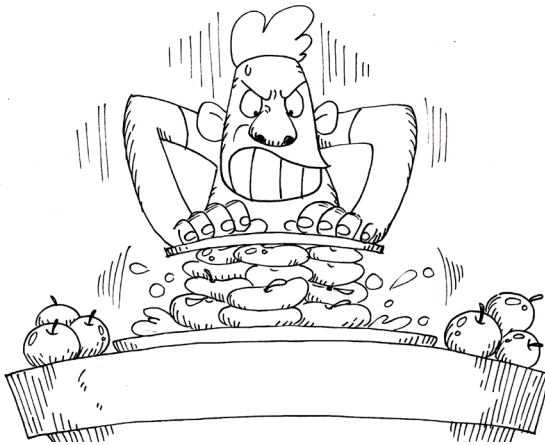
COALESCE

Meaning:

(v) to grow together, to merge into a single body

Similar to: unite, integrate, fuse

Opposite of: divide, separate



Sounds like: Compress

“Pile of apples will COALESCE if you take the time to compress them.”

Examples:

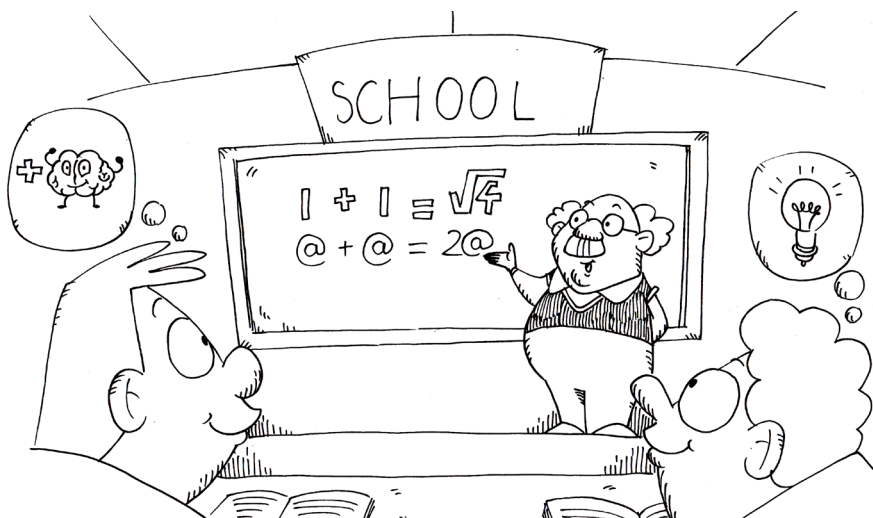
1. When gases COALESCE in space, they collapse inwards and eventually form stars.
2. Political stability won't return until the political parties' objectives COALESCE.
3. In the winter, the water droplets COALESCED to form an icicle.

Meaning:

(n) the process of knowing, perception

Similar to: awareness, comprehension, attention

Opposite of: thoughtlessness, ignorance



Sounds like: Mission

“The mission of a school is to improve COGNITION.”

Examples:

1. This disease may affect COGNITION.
2. My COGNITION has been blunted by two days of sleeplessness.
3. Hopefully the concussion does not harm your COGNITION.

Meaning:

(adj) appropriate to spoken, as opposed to written, language, informal

Similar to: common, conversational, slang

Opposite of: correct, formal, standard



Sounds like: Colonial

“Colonial” leaders disapprove of COLLOQUIAL language.”

Examples:

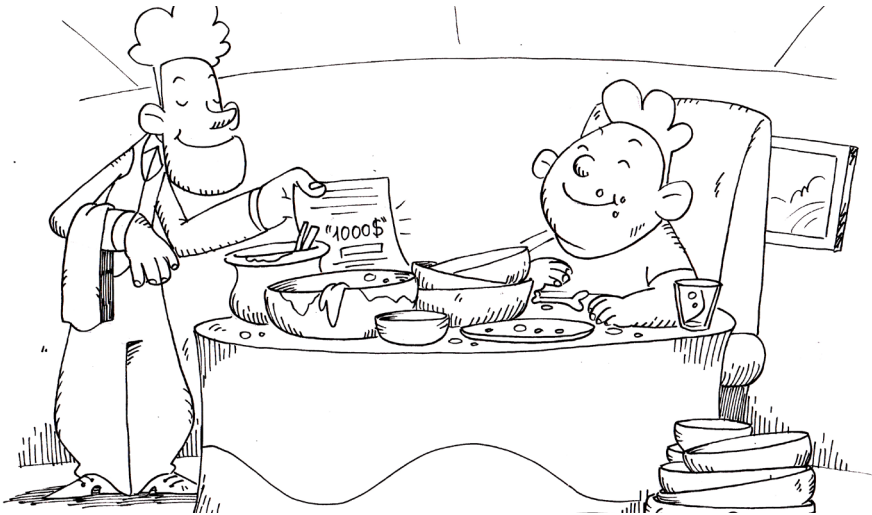
1. *Canis lupus familiaris*, known by its COLLOQUIAL name “dog”, is man’s best friend.
2. Our expressions may be COLLOQUIAL, but our arguments are no less important than yours.
3. Try to use COLLOQUIAL expressions when speaking publicly, to make your point easier to understand.

Meaning:

(adj) appropriate, suitable, in proportion to

Similar to: comparable, compatible, consistent

Opposite of: unsuitable, unfitting



Sounds like: Ate

“The rate you pay is COMMENSURATE with how much you ate.”

Examples:

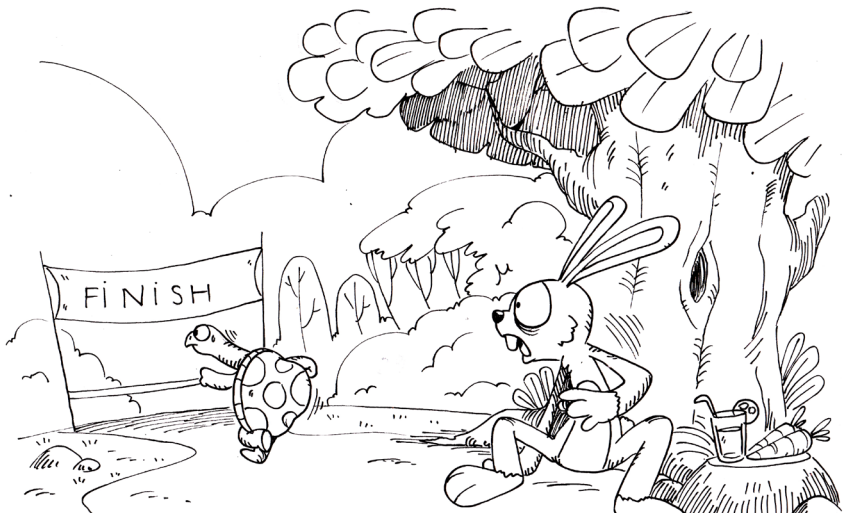
1. The worker's paycheck should be COMMENSURATE with the quality of work they produce.
2. As the child struggled to finish painting, he realized his skill was not COMMENSURATE with his imagination.
3. I realized that effort is COMMENSURATE with achievement.

Meaning:

(adj) too pleased with oneself

Similar to: confident, satisfied

Opposite of: ambitious



Sounds like: Adjacent

“The COMPLACENT rabbit woke to find the turtle adjacent to the finish line.”

Examples:

1. The COMPLACENT football team lost their lead and ultimately the match.
2. She feels COMPLACENT because her parents shower her with compliments.
3. He fails to improve at anything because he is too COMPLACENT.

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CONCEPTION

Meaning:

(n) *formation of an idea in the mind, the start of pregnancy*

Similar to: realization, perception



Sounds like: Creation

“It was a scientist’s CONCEPTION that led to the creation of the flying car.”

Examples:

1. You may have been responsible for the plan’s CONCEPTION, but I carried it out!
2. The interviewer asked the famous artist what led to the CONCEPTION of her hit song.
3. The architect has a different CONCEPTION from his client.

Meaning:

(v) to present as a gift or honor; to consult

Similar to: award, grant; discuss, deliberate,



Sounds like: Fur

“The judges will CONFER a fur coat to the winner.”

Examples:

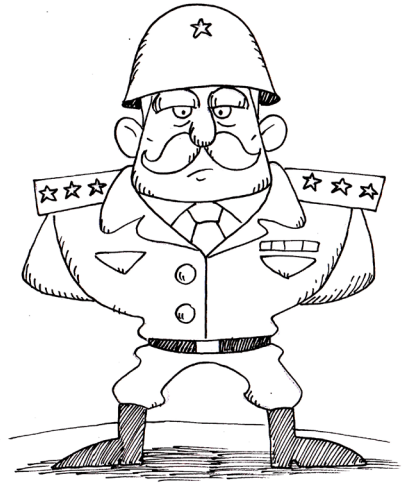
1. The athlete was CONFERRED an Olympic gold medal.
2. Sam CONFERRED with his parents about his future career.
3. Certificates are CONFERRED for academic achievement.

Meaning:

(adj) present since birth, being an essential characteristic

Similar to: ingrained, inborn

Opposite of: acquired, contracted



Sounds like: General

“The general’s CONGENITAL mustache has always stood out.”

Examples:

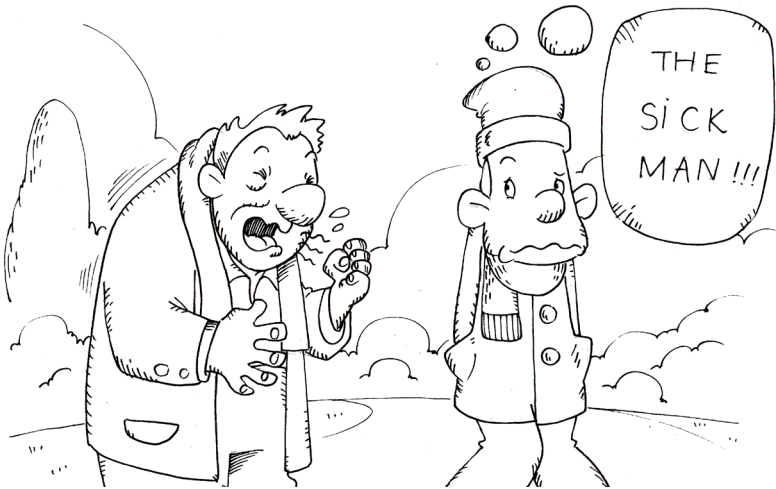
1. Skills such as reading and writing are not CONGENITAL.
2. Intelligence levels may be CONGENITAL, but hard work is important too.
3. Down syndrome is a CONGENITAL disorder.

Meaning:

(adj) easy to notice, obvious, apparent

Similar to: apparent, evident, distinct

Opposite of: hidden, obscure, unclear



Sounds like: Continuous

“The sick man was CONSPICUOUS due to his continuous coughing.”

Examples:

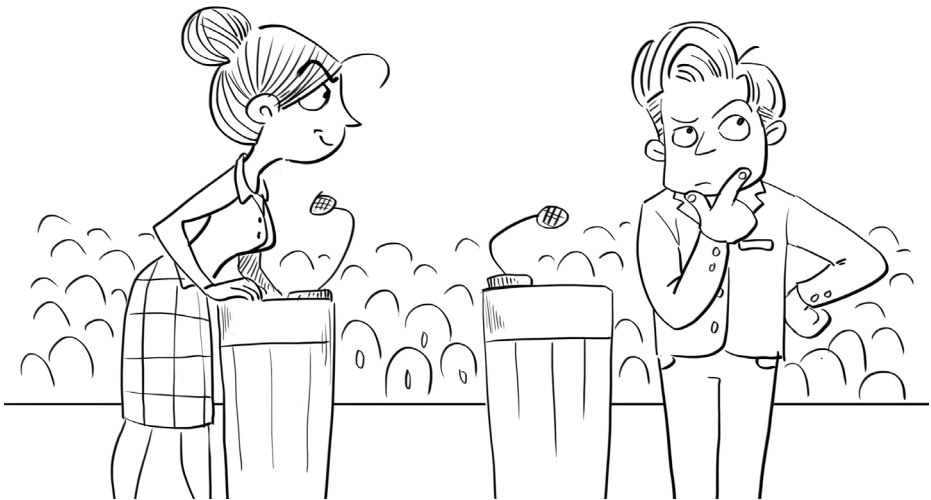
1. Though he tried blending in, the man had a shiny jacket that made him highly CONSPICUOUS.
2. You thought you could listen in on my conversation, but you're so CONSPICUOUS that I noticed you from the start.
3. The CONSPICUOUS spy could not sneak past the guards.

Meaning:

(v) to look at or think about carefully, to consider as a possibility

Similar to: ponder, weigh

Opposite of: ignore, neglect, disregard



Sounds like: Debate

“Remember to CONTEMPLATE before you engage in debate.”

Examples:

1. The prime minister must CONTEMPLATE all his choices.
2. I am CONTEMPLATING whether I should study in America or Japan.
3. Buffets force me to CONTEMPLATE what I want to eat – there’s just so many choices!

54

CONUNDRUM

Meaning:

(n) a riddle or puzzle, esp. one without a solution

Similar to: (n) enigma, mystery



Sounds like: Dungeon

“The CONUNDRUM of how the dungeon was created forced him to run tests.”

Examples:

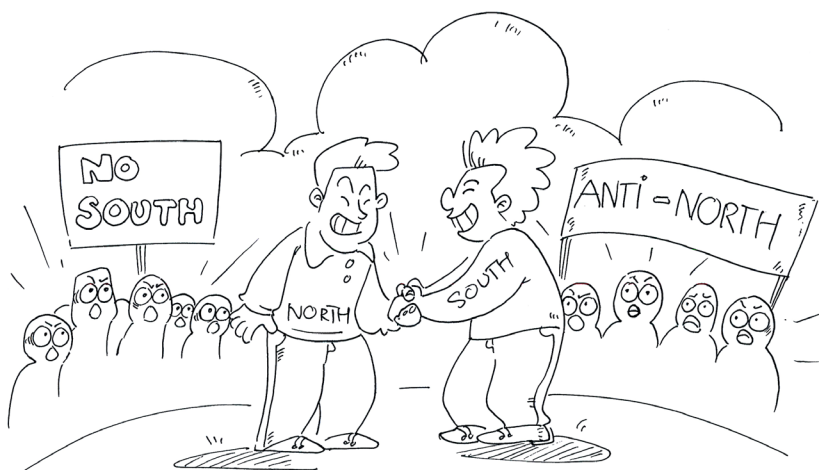
1. Zeno's Paradox is one of history's most famous CONUNDRUMS.
2. The next hint will be revealed if you solve this CONUNDRUM.
3. The answer to your little CONUNDRUM is quite simple.

Meaning:

(adj) warm and friendly, polite and respectful

Similar to: affectionate, congenial, cheerful

Opposite of: cold, insincere, rude



Sounds like: Immoral

“Some people say being CORDIAL to your enemies is just immoral.”

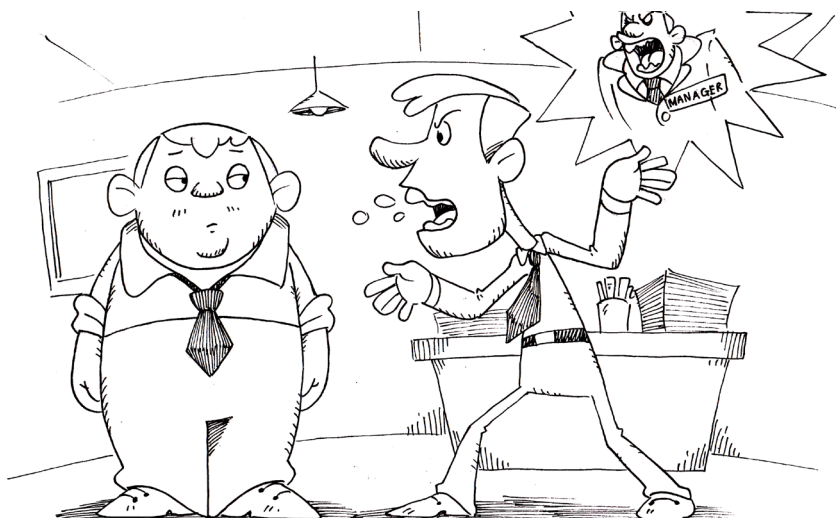
Examples:

1. The CORDIAL pet shop owner was very fond of the young girl, allowing her to visit anytime she wanted.
2. As one of the most popular students, the CORDIAL boy made many friends in school.
3. The concierge of the five star hotel greeted us CORDIALLY.

Meaning:

(v) to phrase in a particular way

Similar to: utter, formulate, frame



Sounds like: Grouch

“Your struggle with anger management”, is just a fancy way to COUCH the fact that you’re a big grouch.”

Examples:

1. The way you COUCHED the event made it seem different to the way it actually happened.
2. There is no way of COUCHING this statement to make it sound less harsh: you’re fired.
3. The book was COUCHED in simple language, so more people could enjoy it.

Meaning:

(adj) *barbaric, unrefined*

Similar to: ill-mannered, coarse

Opposite of: sophisticated, sharp, sensitive



Sounds like: Mass

“A mass of CRASS football fans took over the party.”

Examples:

1. The people in this neighborhood may be CRASS, but at least they're honest.
2. His CRASS jokes made everyone in the room extremely uncomfortable.
3. She may seem CRASS, but she is actually an honors student.

Meaning:

(v) to cut or bite the end off, to trim

Similar to: shave, chop, shear

Opposite of: include



Sounds like: Stop

“Stop CROPPING me out of all your photos!”

Examples:

1. I don't want all these other people in my photo – CROP them out.
2. The small airplane screen CROPPED the movie's dimensions.
3. The landlord decided to CROP the pool and construct a gym.

Meaning:

(adj) *deserving blame or punishment*

Similar to: guilty, responsible

Opposite of: innocent, unconnected



Sounds like: Lovable

“I find him to be quite lovable though he is CULPABLE of some terrible crimes.”

Examples:

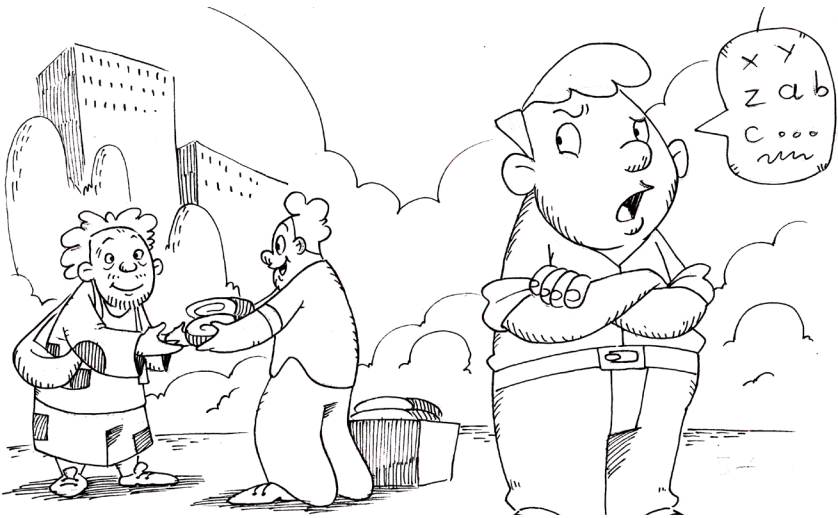
1. It is not the interns but rather the manager who is CULPABLE.
2. A rat was CULPABLE for the spreading of the sickness.
3. The thunderstorm is CULPABLE of causing the power outage.

Meaning:

(adj) *distrusting others from a sense that everyone's motives are selfish*

Similar to: skeptical, unbelieving, suspicious

Opposite of: hopeful, trusting, naive



Sounds like: Critical

“The CYNICAL man was very critical of charities.”

Examples:

1. You're too CYNICAL, John – what if those people really need our help?
2. Though he always talked about the school's “values”, everyone knew the principal was a CYNICAL man, caring only about money.
3. The CYNICAL housewife didn't accept the cookies from her neighbors.

Meaning:

(adj) **Spotted;**

(v) **to mark or become marked with spots**

Similar to: (adj) speckled, freckled; (v) to speckle, fleck, dot

Opposite of: (adj) plain



Sounds like: Apples

“You shouldn’t eat apples that are DAPPLED (v) with rot.”

Examples:

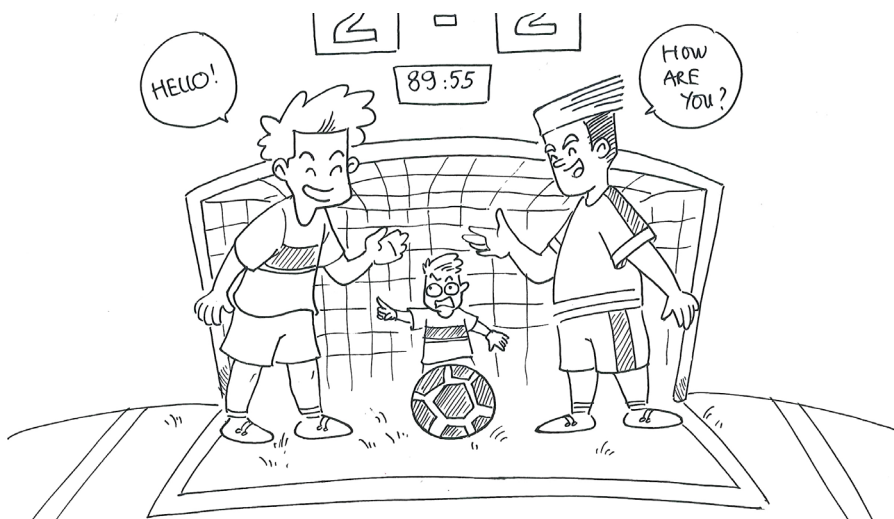
1. His pink DAPPLED (adj) suit was inappropriate for a funeral.
2. Many poisonous frogs have a DAPPLED (adj) appearance.
3. The DAPPLED (adj) horse munched lazily at the feed in front of her.

Meaning:

(n) a tie, a standstill

Similar to: dilemma, standoff, predicament

Opposite of: continuation, solution



Sounds like: Small Talk

“We should be trying to break this DEADLOCK, not engaging in small talk.”

Examples:

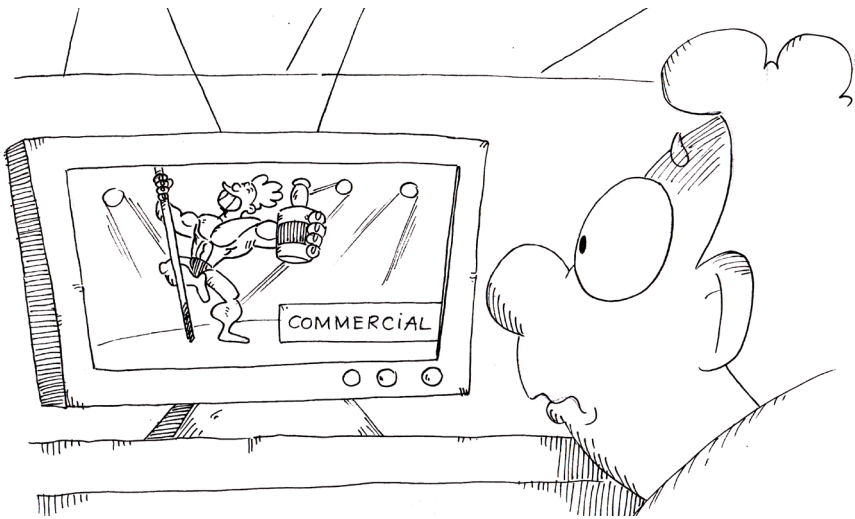
1. The equally immense power of the two armies resulted in DEADLOCK.
2. One side needs to yield for this DEADLOCK to end.
3. The hero grappled with the villain, but their equal strength resulted in a DEADLOCK.

Meaning:

(n) a period of decline, associated with excessive pursuit of pleasure and luxury

Similar to: decay, degeneracy, downgrade

Opposite of: development, improvement, rise



Sounds like: Evidence

“These commercials for luxury goods are evidence of this country’s DECADENCE.”

Examples:

1. Though the city walls and great wealth kept war at bay, it also brought about an age of DECADENCE.
2. Though spas and gourmet meals every day would be too much, a little DECADENCE once in a while is OK.
3. A very serious man, he treated even simple pleasures like the worst kind of DECADENCE.

Meaning:

(v) to delay, to put off

Similar to: hold up, stall, postpone

Opposite of: carry out, advance



Sounds like: Prefer

“At this point the sheep would prefer not to DEFER having their fleeces cut.”

Examples:

1. I will have to DEFER my decision as I am still uncertain which choice is best.
2. She DEFERRED her application in order to acquire more practical skills.
3. I DEFERRED my admission; I wanted to take some time off before university.

Meaning:

(n) a god

Similar to: divinity, supernatural, spirit

Opposite of: natural, human



Sounds like: City

“Some say this city was founded by a DEITY.”

Examples:

1. In ancient times during drought, those with faith prayed to their DEITY for rain.
2. Some would argue that the beauty of nature is proof of a DEITY’S work.
3. Though religions differ in many ways, most of them agree on the existence of a DEITY.

Meaning:

(v) *raise objections or show reluctance*

Similar to: challenge, question

Opposite of: accept, acquiesce



Sounds like: Conquer

“Sir Alexander DEMURRED with the King’s decision to conquer Ireland.”

Examples:

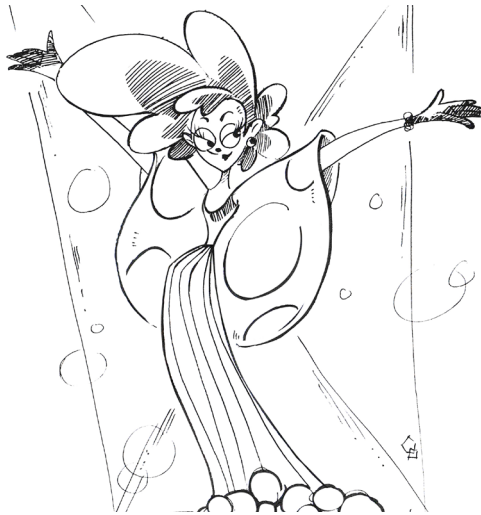
1. “I don’t care what other people want – I don’t want to go to summer camp,” she DEMURRED.
2. It is fine to DEMUR on various topics with your friends.
3. They wanted me to give a speech in assembly, but I DEMURRED; it would have been a terribly traumatic experience for me.

Meaning:

(v) to represent, to portray

Similar to: sketch, picture, describe

Opposite of: hide, conceal



Sounds like: Outfit

“The catalogue DEPICTED the outfits beautifully.”

Examples:

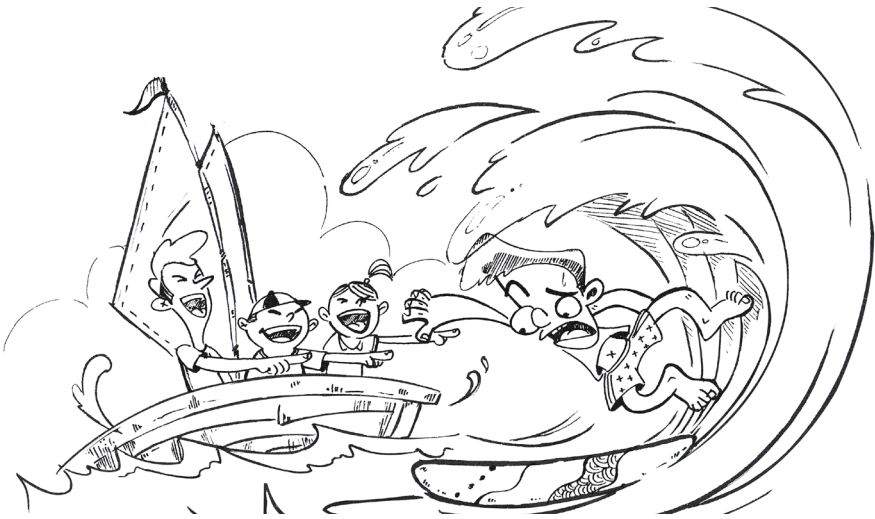
1. He DEPICTED his brother as annoying and immature in his essay.
2. Samurais are often DEPICTED as warriors, yet in times of peace they were more involved in administration than fighting.
3. The author made a great effort to DEPICT himself as honest, though all his friends knew him to be a liar.

Meaning:

(v) to ridicule

Similar to: mock, jeer

Opposite of: approve, endorse



Sounds like: Tide

“The surfer was DERIDED for falling in the tide.”

Examples:

1. They DERIDED his efforts to climb the steep cliff.
2. He DERIDED his opponents in the final but ended up losing.
3. My speech was DERIDED for being unfunny and boring.

Meaning:

(adj) *lonely, deserted*

Similar to: barren, stark

Opposite of: inhabited, populated, full



Sounds like: Separate

“Separate from his balloons, the boy felt DESOLATE.”

Examples:

1. This DESOLATE district has no inhabitants.
2. She has been feeling DESOLATE since her parents' divorce.
3. She trekked through the DESOLATE plains, searching desperately for a drop of water or something to eat.

Meaning:

(v) to depart from the norm

Similar to: to err, to ramble

Opposite of: to conform, to maintain, to continue



Sounds like: Overweight

“The overweight fighter DEVIATED from his usual diet to lose a few pounds.”

Examples:

1. In the end, DEVIATING from their usual tactics won them the match.
2. You shouldn't simply DEVIATE from your faith as soon as it's challenged.
3. I DEVIATED from my normal route to school because I was late.

Meaning:

(adj) lacking self-confidence, timid, shy

Similar to: self-conscious

Opposite of: brave, aggressive



Sounds like: Different

“A DIFFIDENT student tried several different studying techniques to improve his habits.”

Examples:

1. He was DIFFIDENT towards his ability to succeed as a writer.
2. The boy was generally DIFFIDENT and, as a result, failed in most of the tasks assigned to him.
3. I was DIFFIDENT about my capabilities after the criticism.

Meaning:

(adj) painstaking and steady, hard-working

Similar to: careful, tireless, persistent

Opposite of: thoughtless, disinterested



Sounds like: Intelligent

“An intelligent student is DILIGENT in his studies.”

Examples:

1. A DILIGENT trainee, he improves his boxing skills all the time.
2. Police officers must always be DILIGENT in their duties.
3. After DILIGENT study I was able to pass the test.

73

DISCARD

Meaning:

(v) to throw out

Similar to: dump, remove, abandon

Opposite of: accept, hold, retain



Sounds like: Card

“I was required to DISCARD the expired credit card.”

Examples:

1. She DISCARDED the milk after seeing that it was out of date.
2. If you want to keep your warranty on a new phone, don't DISCARD the box.
3. I just can't DISCARD items I am overly attached to- I've become a hoarder!

Meaning:

(n) a feeling of contempt

Similar to: dislike, derision

Opposite of: admiration, affection, approval



Sounds like: Complained

“The operator expressed DISDAIN when the customer complained.”

Examples:

1. The judges evaluated my awful science project with DISDAIN.
2. The betrayed warrior glared in DISDAIN at the traitor.
3. Jamie couldn't stand the look of DISDAIN on his mother's face after he failed his exam.

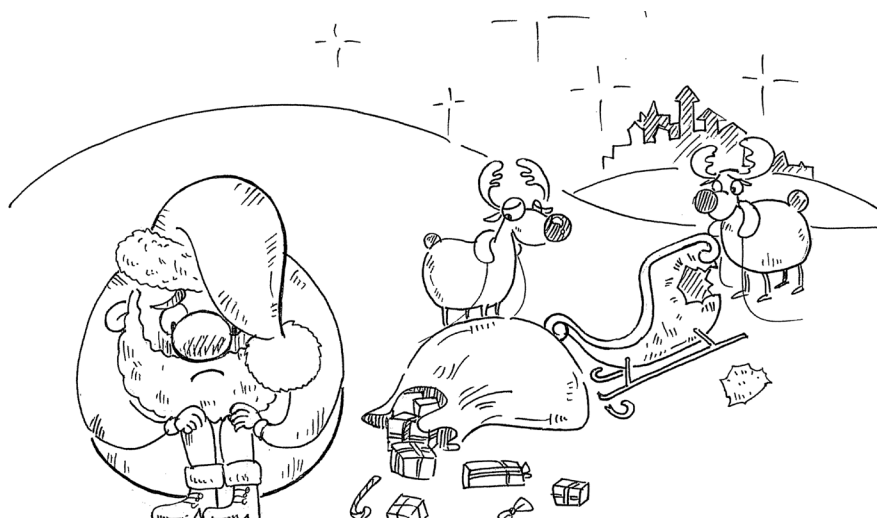
Meaning:

(v) to feel concern and distress caused by something unexpected;

(n) sudden or complete loss of courage, utter disheartenment

Similar to: (v) demoralize, dispirit; (n) horror, shock

Opposite of: (v) encourage; (n) delight, joy



Sounds like: His sleigh

“Santa Claus was DISMAYED (v) when he found that his sleigh was broken.”

Examples:

1. She was DISMAYED (v) that her application for her dream job had been denied.
2. Much to the other team's DISMAY (n), we were victorious today.
3. The young wrestler was DISMAYED (v) to hear that he had been matched against the champion.

Meaning:

(adj) disagreeing or dissenting, especially politically;

(n) a person who opposes policy

Similar to: (adj) nontraditional, unconventional (n) nonconformist

Opposite of: (adj) conforming, according, agreeing; (n) supporter



Sounds like: Resident

“The DISSIDENT (adj) resident wrote a letter criticizing her landlord.”

Examples:

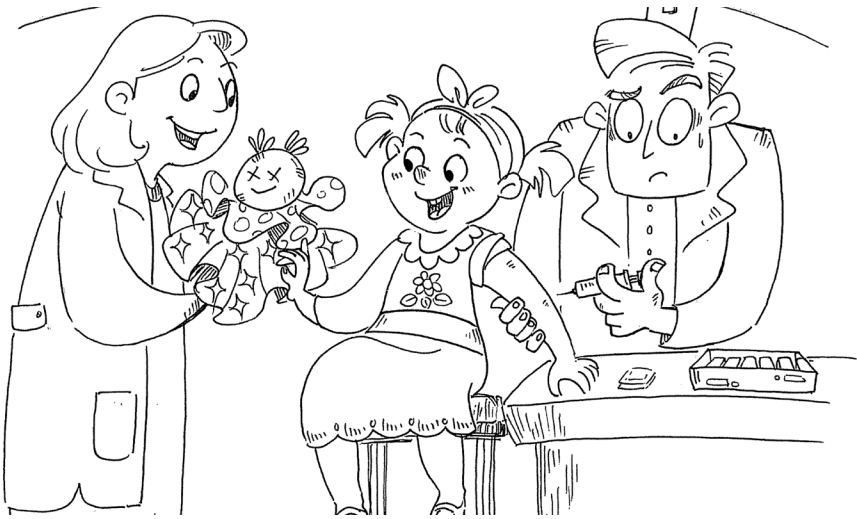
1. The horrible president was notorious for silencing DISSIDENTS (n).
2. The DISSIDENT (adj) magazine has controversial contents.
3. The DISSIDENTS (n) in the crowd booed the dictator during his speech.

Meaning:

(n) mental distress, that which amuses or entertains

Similar to: disturbance, interference, interruption

Opposite of: calm, order, peace



Sounds like: Fashion

“The doll’s fashion served as a suitable DISTRACTION.”

Examples:

1. I couldn’t concentrate on my homework with the DISTRACTIONS in my room.
2. I love studying in the library; it’s so free of DISTRACTIONS.
3. The crying baby was a loud DISTRACTION.

Meaning:

(v) to rule over arbitrarily or tyrannically;

(adj) inclined to rule arbitrarily or despotically, overbearing, tyrannical

Similar to: (v) bully, dominate, intimidate; (adj) authoritarian, despot, dictatorial

Opposite of: (v) follow, obey; (adj) amenable, yielding



Sounds like: Fear

“The dictator DOMINEERED (v) the population by inspiring fear.”

Examples:

1. Even by the standards of the time, Peter the Great was a DOMINEERING (adj) man.
2. Some parents DOMINEER (v) their children, who respond with rebellion in their teenage years.
3. The NBA rookie was scared of the DOMINEERING (adj) captain.

Meaning:

(adj) *lacking in neatness or style, shabby*

Similar to: antiquated, vintage, run-down

Opposite of: fashionable, classy, modern



Sounds like: Rowdy

“The DOWDY woman became rowdy after she was insulted.”

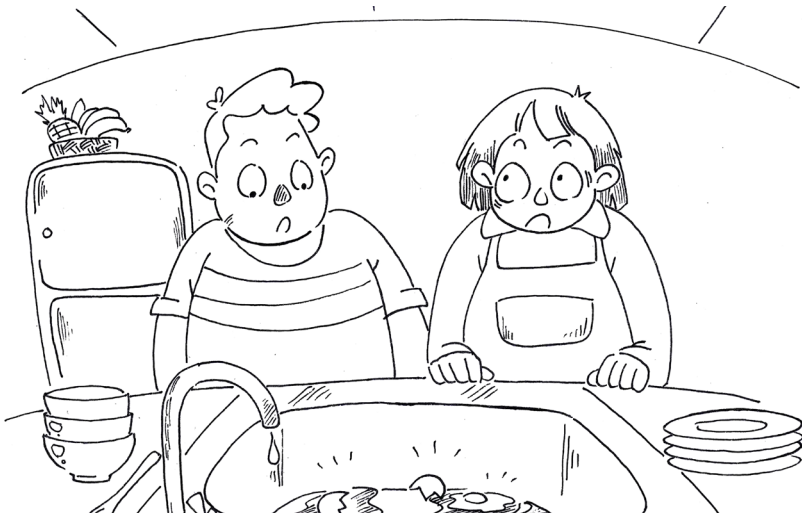
Examples:

1. I hid my sister's DOWDY dresses so she wouldn't wear them to my wedding.
2. The couple decided the house was too DOWDY, even for the price.
3. Sure it's DOWDY, but it is a hostel, after all!

Meaning:

(n) the worst part, sediment in a liquid

Similar to: dirt, residue, waste



Sounds like: Egg

“We found bits of boiled eggs in the DREGS of the sink.”

Examples:

1. The dishonest and corrupt are the DREGS of society.
2. Sipping the last good coffee from her cup, she tossed the remaining DREGS into the bin.
3. I managed to collect DREGS from the Amazon river for my experiment.

81

DUPLICITY

Meaning:

(n) deception, deceitfulness, double-dealing

Similar to: dishonesty, falsehood

Opposite of: frankness, honesty, openness



Sounds like: Publicity

“The news gave publicity to the former banker’s stunning DUPLICITY.”

Examples:

1. His DUPLICITY had fooled many of his friends.
2. They exposed the DUPLICITY of the principal by revealing his lies.
3. Most politicians possess a certain degree of DUPLICITY.

Meaning:

(adj) in high spirits, boiling or seeming to boil

Similar to: agitated, elated

Opposite of: down, depressed, unhappy



Sounds like: Brilliant

“The couple was EBULLIENT after the brilliant circus show.”

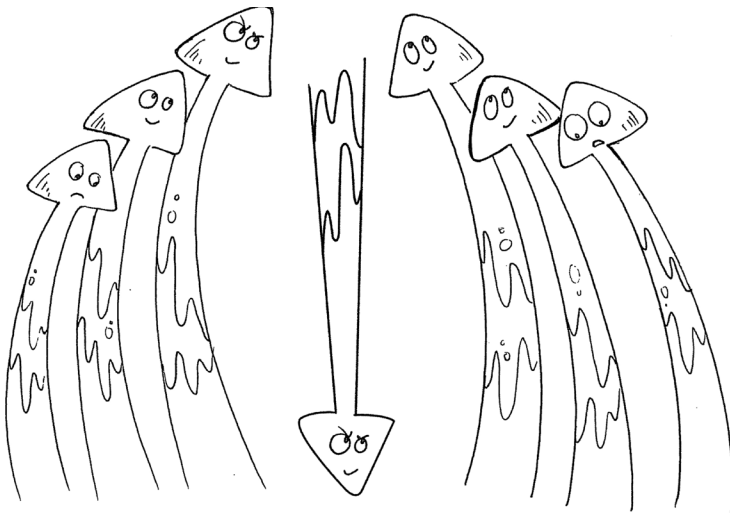
Examples:

1. The EBULLIENT song made the whole crowd dance.
2. My EBULLIENT solo performance cheered up the audience.
3. She felt EBULLIENT on her special day as family and friends gathered.

Meaning:

(n) a current, as of water or air, moving contrary to the direction of the main current, esp. in a circular motion

Similar to: whirlpool, tide



Sounds like: Steady

“The steady EDDY flows south.”

Examples:

1. The leaves caught in the wind circled around the trees in small EDDIES.
2. When he pulled out the plug, the water made little EDDIES as it drained.
3. Our boat almost couldn't escape the powerful EDDY.

Meaning:

(v) to rub out, as from a surface, to erase

Similar to: delete, fade

Opposite of: preserve, conserve



Sounds like: Face

“The revolutionaries used chemicals to EFFACE the painting’s face.”

Examples:

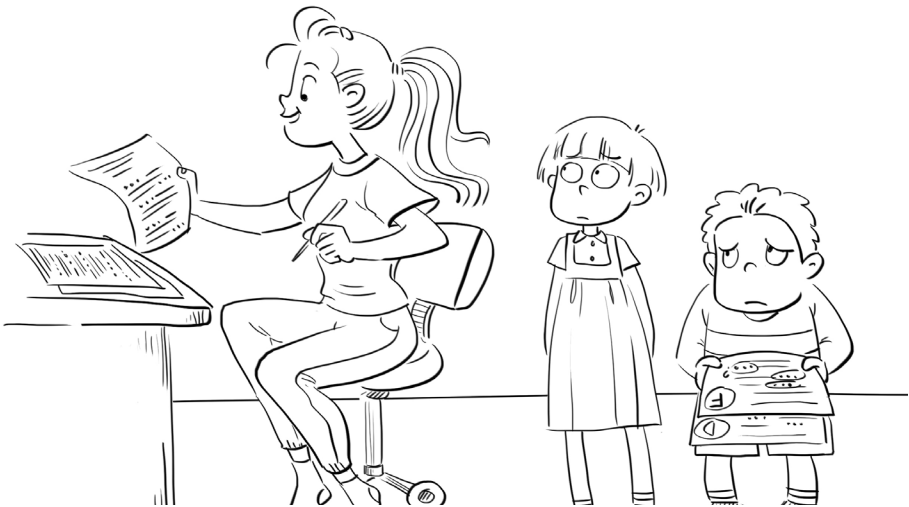
1. The engraving on the back of the pocket watch was EFFACED by constant use.
2. His footprints in the sand were quickly EFFACED by the hot desert winds.
3. If you want the memory of this failure to be EFFACED, you’ll have to do something more memorable.

Meaning:

(n) in a sentence, the omission of a word or words replaced by three periods

Similar to: omission

Opposite of: insertion



Sounds like: His Big Sis

“His big sis used ELLIPSIS in her papers a lot – and so never got good grades.”

Examples:

1. ELLIPSES are used to present a trail of thoughts in informal writings.
2. She used an ELLIPSIS to indicate that her thoughts trailed off.
3. “I never thought...” is an example of an expression with an ELLIPSIS.

Meaning:

(v) to escape from, as by daring or skill, to escape the understanding of

Similar to: outwit, foil, evade

Opposite of: assist, pursue



Sounds like: You'd

"If you were a kid you'd want to ELUDE school, too!"

Examples:

1. My friend ELUDED the cops after he crossed a red light.
2. You can't ELUDE fate.
3. The mysteries of the bicycle ELUDED physicists for more than a century after its invention.

Meaning:

(v) to give freedom, to set loose

Similar to: liberate, release

Opposite of: detain, hold, imprison



Sounds like: Awaited

“The CIA agent awaited the day he was to be EMANCIPATED from his duties.”

Examples:

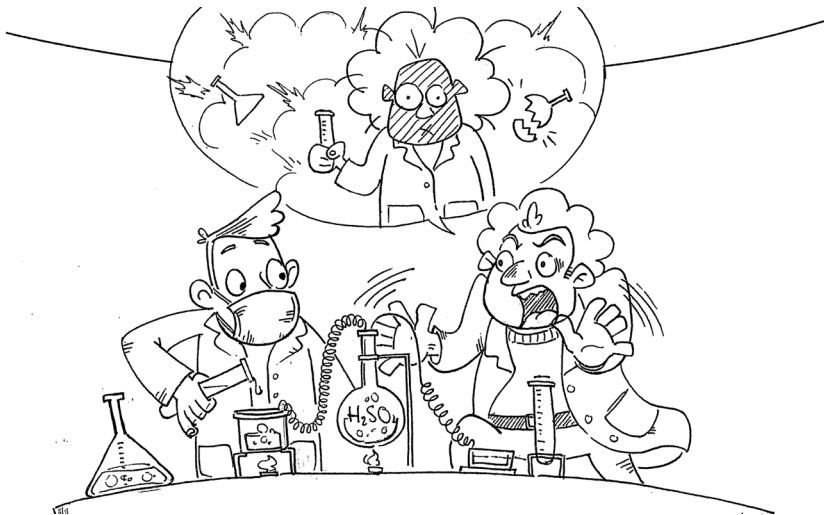
1. Frederick Douglass played a large part in EMANCIPATING African Americans.
2. After raising the bird by hand, EMANCIPATING it was difficult.
3. I was filled with joy as I EMANCIPATED myself from loan debt.

Meaning:

(adj) based on experience rather than theory

Similar to: observational

Opposite of: emotional, subjective



Sounds like: Critical

“EMPIRICAL evidence is critical to an experiment.”

Examples:

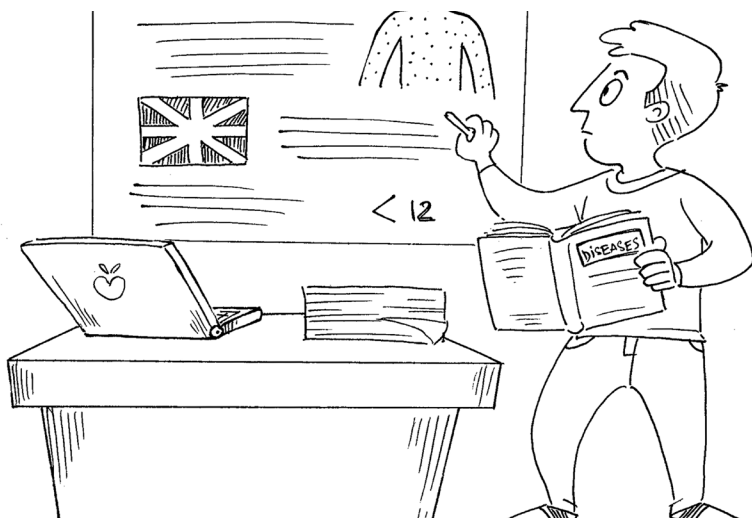
1. To uncover the truth, you must carry out EMPIRICAL research.
2. Which one can we trust more: EMPIRICAL evidence or common sense?
3. Scientific laws are confirmed only after EMPIRICAL proof has been gathered.

Meaning:

(adj) native to a particular country or region, commonly found within

Similar to: local, regional

Opposite of: international, pandemic



Sounds like: Academic

“He studied an ENDEMIC disease for his academic research paper.”

Examples:

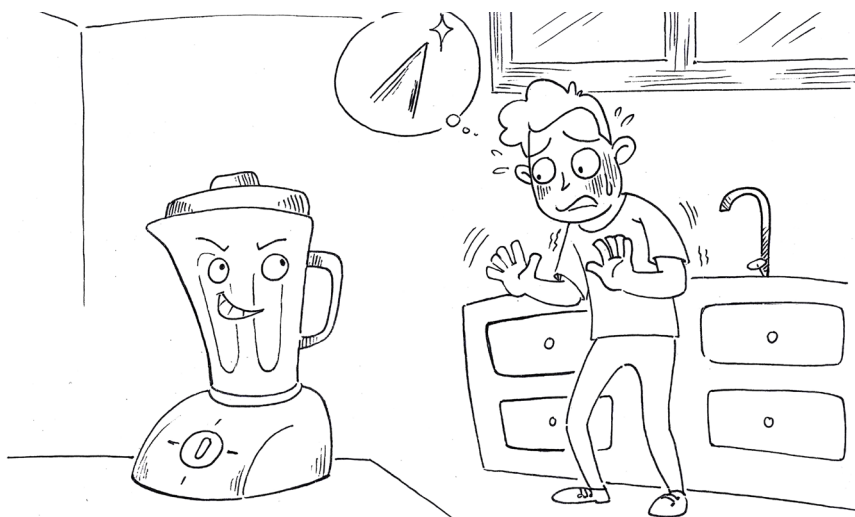
1. Corruption has become an ENDEMIC problem in the local banking system.
2. The Amur leopard, ENDEMIC to southeastern Russia and northeastern China, is on the verge of extinction.
3. Malaria is an ENDEMIC disease in large parts of Africa.

Meaning:

(v) to beget, to cause, to promote

Similar to: arouse, bring about, incite

Opposite of: discourage, halt, prevent



Sounds like: Blender

“His fear of sharp objects ENGENDERED an anxiety of blenders.”

Examples:

1. The politician's racist remarks ENGENDERED nationwide protests.
2. Even the smell of expired milk can ENGENDER nausea in some people.
3. The campsite by the lake ENGENDERED feelings of nostalgia in all the campers.

Meaning:

(v) *to have as a necessary result*

Similar to: bring about, require, call for

Opposite of: exclude, untwist



Sounds like: Mail

“The secretary’s job ENTAILS the delivery of mail.”

Examples:

1. Being as successful as Steve Jobs ENTAILS hard work and creativity.
2. My assignment ENTAILS sleepless nights and many mugs of coffee.
3. The life of an athlete will ENTAIL long hours of practice.

Meaning:

(n) *a sudden flash of understanding*

Similar to: vision, realization, insight



Sounds like: Catastrophe

“He had an EPIPHANY about how to slow the catastrophe of global warming.”

Examples:

1. In the middle of stapling papers, she experienced an EPIPHANY: she was not cut out for this job, but for a life of adventure!
2. The detective's EPIPHANY enabled him to solve the crime.
3. One can't always count on EPIPHANIES - sometimes answers come to you, but other times it's a long and grueling process.

Meaning:

(v) to make a mistake

Similar to: stumble, misbehave



Sounds like: Care

“You must take care not to ERR.”

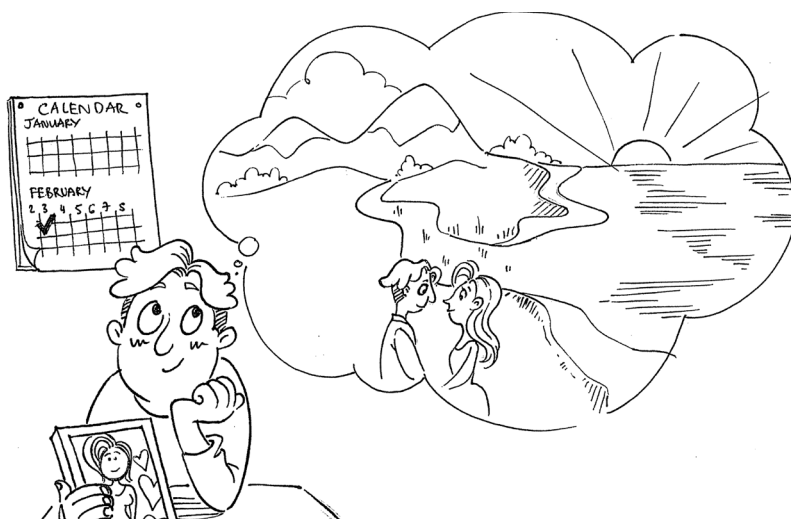
Examples:

1. When conditions are uncertain, you should ERR on the side of caution.
2. When you ERR, you should learn from it, and not repeat your mistakes.
3. She constantly practices, so she doesn't ERR during the competition.

Meaning:

(n) the part of a river that meets a sea

Similar to: inlet, waterway



Sounds like: February

“Let’s meet near the ESTUARY in February.”

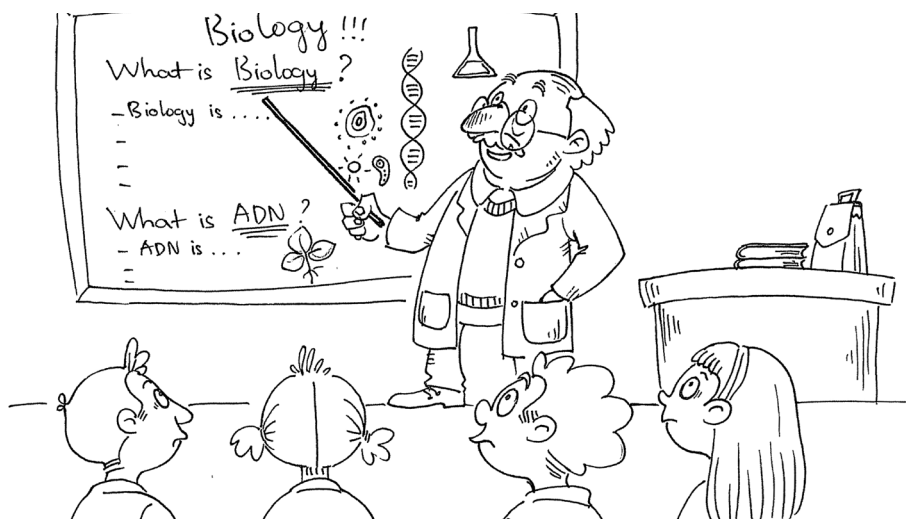
Examples:

1. The Amazon River ESTUARY is 325 km wide!
2. The baby turtles crawled toward the ESTUARY as it was the closest source of water.
3. She slipped on slippery rocks at the ESTUARY.

Meaning:

(n) the study of origins of words, the origin of a word and its history

Similar to: derivation, root



Sounds like: Biology

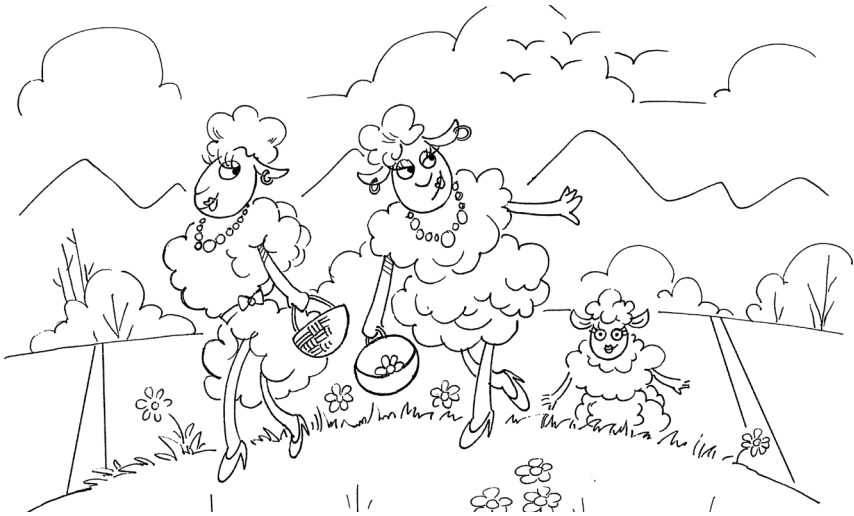
“The students studied the ETYMOLOGY of the biology terms to better understand them.”

Examples:

1. The ETYMOLOGY of at least 20 common words can be traced back to Shakespeare.
2. The etymology of the word “ETYMOLOGY” is not so complicated: in Greek, “etymon” means true meaning, and “logia” means “the study of”.
3. I love studying ETYMOLOGY- it’s so interesting to learn where words came from.

Meaning:

(n) a female sheep, esp. when full grown



Sounds like: Few

“A few EWES walked across the field.”

Examples:

1. The EWE had more lambs than she could nurse.
2. Merino wool tends to be of a higher quality than wool from other EWES.
3. The farmer wanted to find more rams to breed with his EWES.

Meaning:

(v) to make very impatient, to annoy greatly

Similar to: agitate, annoy, disturb

Opposite of: comfort, delight, please



Sounds like: Desperate

“The two boys were desperate to EXASPERATE their hardworking father.”

Examples:

1. I'm getting EXASPERATED by these constant flight delays.
2. He was EXASPERATED by the dog's constant barking.
3. Morning traffic jams EXASPERATE everyone on their way to work.

Meaning:

(adj) thorough, complete

Similar to: comprehensive, in-depth, extensive

Opposite of: incomplete, partial, exclusive



Sounds like: Effective

“Her EXHAUSTIVE efforts to protect the child were actually effective.”

Examples:

1. A good military must go through EXHAUSTIVE training in order to be prepared for the battlefield.
2. I couldn't find my keys, even after an EXHAUSTIVE search of my house.
3. His mother's EXHAUSTIVE cleaning left the house spotless.

Meaning:

(adj/adv) fully revealed or made clear, not uncertain

Similar to: (adj/adv) accurate, exact, definitive

Opposite of: (adj/adv) indistinct, false, incorrect



Sounds like: Split

“The boss’s orders were pretty EXPLICIT (adj) – split the company into two groups.”

Examples:

1. Banks are very EXPLICIT (adj) about the terms you need to follow when borrowing money from them.
2. I EXPLICITLY (adv) told you not to eat my sandwich!
3. The EXPLICIT (adj) instructions made it easy to construct the table.

Meaning:

(v) to remove, esp. with effort

Similar to: pry, pull, withdraw

Opposite of: plant, add, insert



Sounds like: Crack

“Miners EXTRACT gas from the rock’s cracks.”

Examples:

1. The tooth was painfully EXTRACTED from his mouth.
2. Dynasties in the Arabian Gulf have become rich by EXTRACTING and selling massive amounts of oil.
3. They used ionization to EXTRACT metal from ores.

Meaning:

(n) outward appearance, the face of a building

Similar to: exterior, front

Opposite of: essence



Sounds like: Fraud

“He was a fraud – his whole image was just a FACADE to hide his true self.”

Examples:

1. His lavish spending was just a FACADE to impress people.
2. Mosques often have beautifully decorated FACADES.
3. My smile in public is just a FACADE to hide my frustration.

Meaning:

(adj) produced artificially, not genuine

Similar to: false

Opposite of: real, natural



Sounds like: Delicious

“FACTITIOUS though it may be, some processed food is actually delicious.”

Examples:

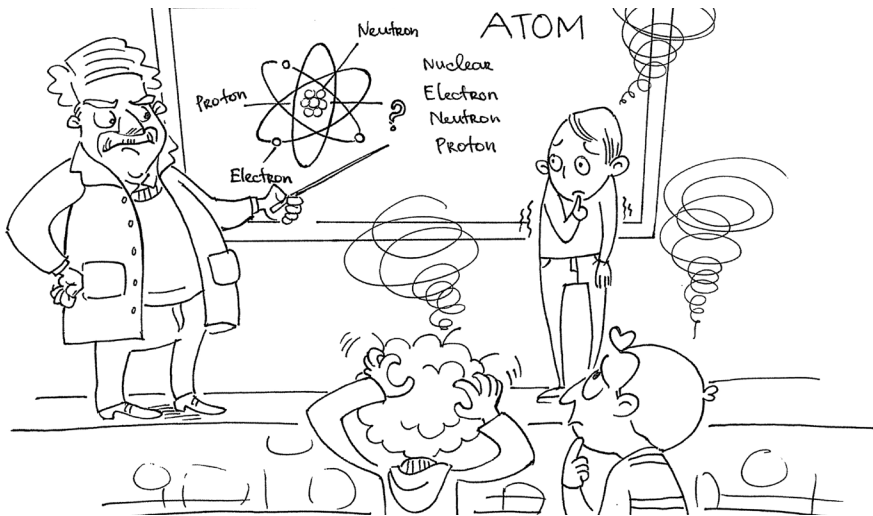
1. His behavior is FACTITIOUS – he acts like a millionaire, when in fact he’s neck-deep in debt!
2. Her FACTITIOUS laugh irritated her friends.
3. The film is entirely FACTITIOUS; Abraham Lincoln was not from Hawaii, he was from Kentucky.

Meaning:

(v) to understand or comprehend, to determine the depth of

Similar to: grasp, comprehend

Opposite of: be confused, misunderstand



Sounds like: Atom

“No one in my class could FATHOM the concept of an atom.”

Examples:

1. I could never FATHOM the basics of calculus.
2. No human could ever FATHOM how large the universe is.
3. She couldn't FATHOM why her grades were failing even though she had studied so hard.

104 FETTER

Meaning:

(v) to confine, restrain, or keep down;

(adj) the feeling of being restrained from motion, action or progress

Similar to: (v) bind, restrict

Opposite of: (v) free, let go, loose



Sounds like: Letter

“The government FETTERS (v) access to some letters for security reasons.”

Examples:

1. They FETTERED (v) the prisoner with chains to the wall.
2. I felt FETTERED (adj) by the strict rules my parents made.
3. Though many adults worry about how they look, children are UNFETTERED (v) by this concern – they dress however they like.

Meaning:

(n) strict faithfulness to vows or promises, exact correspondence with fact

Similar to: devotion, loyalty

Opposite of: betrayal



Sounds like: Charity

“The charity event showed the FIDELITY of the investors to the causes they had chosen.”

Examples:

1. Ever since Mark stood up for him, John had no doubt about his FIDELITY.
2. Her consistent FIDELITY to her own principles is proof of her strength of character.
3. High-FIDELITY speakers produce sound that more closely resembles the original recording.

Meaning:

(adj) occurring in irregular outbursts, occurring in spurts

Similar to: spotty, periodic

Opposite of: constant, continual



Sounds like: Pitbull

“Though its outbursts were FITFUL, the pitbull was still a threat to everyone around it.”

Examples:

1. The toddler's FITFUL weeping left the mother sleepless.
2. I struggle to focus during the day if I have had a night of FITFUL sleep.
3. As the blizzard raged on, her heart began to beat slowly, her legs felt heavy, and her FITFUL coughing shook her whole body.

Meaning:

(n) plants as a group, esp. of a specified region or time

Similar to: vegetation



Sounds like: Aura

“The FLORA was so beautiful that it was as if it had its own aura.”

Examples:

1. The Indonesian jungle is home to a huge wealth of FLORA.
2. I keep equatorial FLORA in a greenhouse.
3. The Sahara Desert, though some plants grow there, is mostly devoid of FLORA.

Meaning:

(v) to change in quantity or quality, esp. unpredictably

Similar to: vary, waver

Opposite of: be steady, persist



Sounds like: In-state

“In-state tuition charges FLUCTUATE every year.”

Examples:

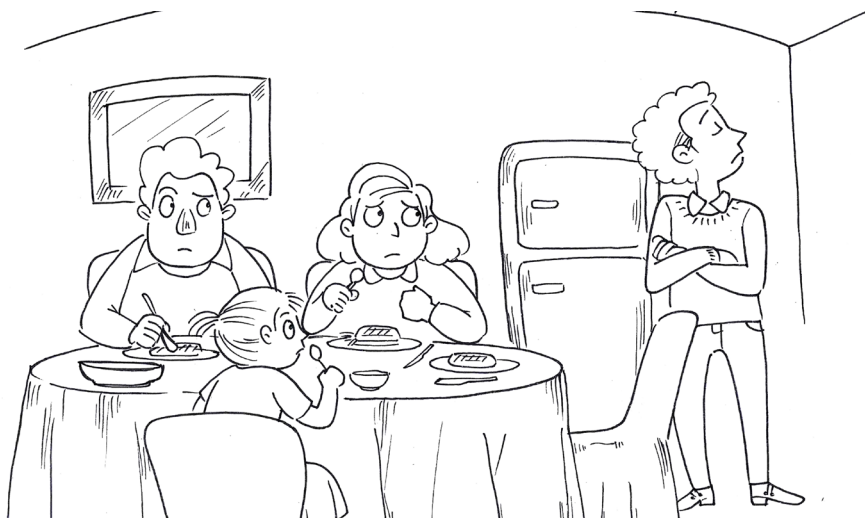
1. Lately, the price of gas has been FLUCTUATING dramatically.
2. Her grades FLUCTUATED after she started dating her new boyfriend.
3. He can be a good author though the quality of his books FLUCTUATES.

Meaning:

(n) a minor weakness or quirk of character

Similar to: shortcoming, fault, defect

Opposite of: advantage, strength



Sounds like: Table

“One of his FOIBLES is refusing to sit at tables to eat.”

Examples:

1. Overeating is the single biggest FOIBLE that prevents her from being healthy.
2. As a wife, she can overlook her husband's FOIBLES because she loves him.
3. My obsession with social media is the FOIBLE that keeps me from getting enough sleep; I'm such a procrastinator!

Meaning:

(v) to search for food or provisions

Similar to: scour, rummage

Opposite of: cultivate, produce



Sounds like: Storage

“The hunter put the food that he FORAGED into storage.”

Examples:

1. The tribe FORAGED all day for berries.
2. Birds will fly south to FORAGE during the winter.
3. The invention of farming changed the way humans lived, moving them away from a life of hunting and FORAGING.

Meaning:

(v) to surrender or be forced to surrender

Similar to: abandon, relinquish

Opposite of: persist, win



Sounds like: Profit

“He had to FORFEIT his business because it didn’t produce a single penny in profit.”

Examples:

1. Since you refused to help me make dinner, you’ve FORFEITED your right to any of it.
2. I had to FORFEIT my inheritance in order to take religious vows and become a monk.
3. The team was forced to FORFEIT the game because they arrived three hours late.

Meaning:**(v) to bring up or nurture;****(adj) indicating relationship through fostering and not through birth****Similar to:** (v) assist, raise, nourish; (adj) adoptive**Opposite of:** (v) hinder, hurt; (adj) biological, blood

Sounds like: Roster

“The trainer FOSTERED excellence in the younger members on the roster.”

Examples:

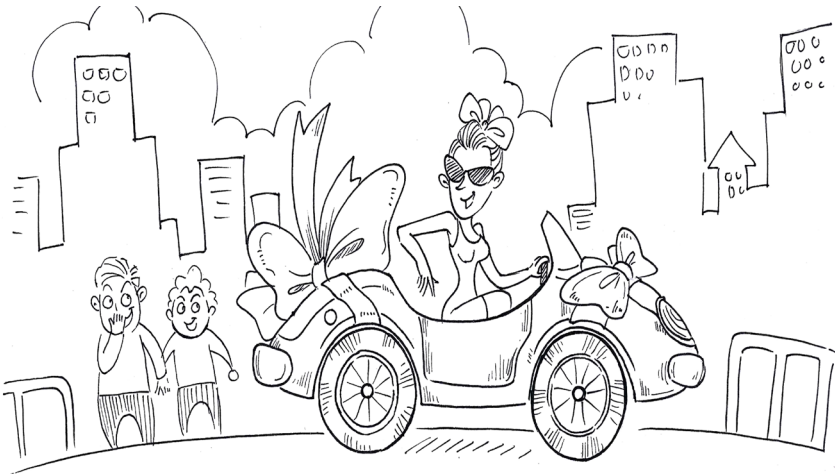
1. The baby was sent to a pair of FOSTER (adj) parents when her grandmother became too old to take care of her.
2. He FOSTERS (v) stray dogs with disabilities.
3. A good parent must FOSTER (v) strong principles and values in their children.

Meaning:

(adj) of little importance

Similar to: silly, pointless, petty

Opposite of: sensible, serious



Sounds like: Ridiculous

“The FRIVOLOUS additions to her car– including ribbons – make it look ridiculous.”

Examples:

1. She regretted spending her savings on FRIVOLOUS items like a giant pink melon.
2. Most arguments on the internet are, at the end of the day, FRIVOLOUS.
3. The lawyer did not accept the case on the grounds that it was FRIVOLOUS and had no chance of succeeding.

Meaning:

(adj) characterized by secretive behavior

Similar to: sneaky, stealthy

Opposite of: open, brazen



Sounds like: Assertive

“The cop was assertive enough to draw everyone’s attention to the criminal’s FURTIVE behavior.”

Examples:

1. He gave a FURTIVE gesture across the room to his fellow spy.
2. I don’t know what to think of Janet – she’s always got a FURTIVE look in her eye.
3. The kid FURTIVELY (adv) stuffed the stolen candy into his pockets.

Meaning:

(adj) awkwardly tall, long-limbed

Similar to: lanky, skinny

Opposite of: chubby, fat, stumpy



Sounds like: Angry

“The GANGLY teenager was angry because his friends made fun of him.”

Examples:

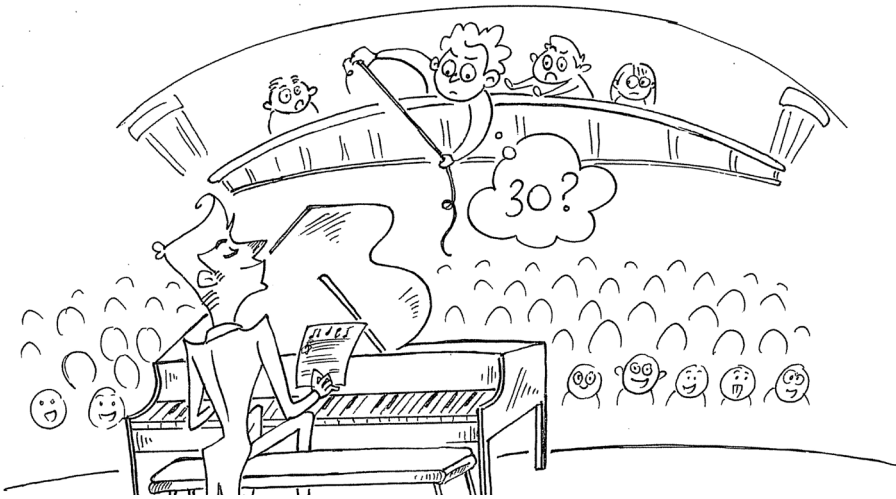
1. The kid stared up at the GANGLY basketball player.
2. My friend is so GANGLY he has to crouch just to get into his car.
3. He asked his GANGLY sister to reach the upper cupboard, which he couldn't.

Meaning:

(n) an instrument for measuring or testing;

(v) to measure

Similar to: (n) yardstick, determine, evaluate; (v) to appraise, to figure



Sounds like: Age

“I GAUGED (v) the performer’s age within ten seconds of seeing him.”

Examples:

1. Unsure of what kind of speech to give, she first GAUGED (v) the crowd’s mood with a few questions.
2. A thermometer is a GAUGE (n) to measure temperature.
3. It was only when my motorcycle stopped dead that I noticed that the fuel GAUGE (n) was empty.

Meaning:

(n) a kind, or type

Similar to: category, group



Sounds like: Opera

“Michelle’s favorite GENRE of opera is from Austria.”

Examples:

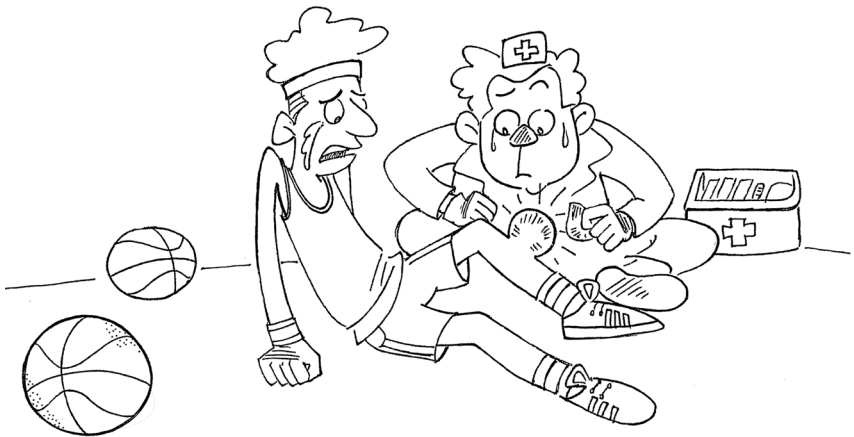
1. I prefer the horror GENRE when it comes to movies.
2. Mystery is, in my opinion, the only GENRE worth reading.
3. Jazz is boring – I prefer other GENRES.

Meaning:

(adv) very carefully, cautiously

Similar to: carefully, attentively

Opposite of: carelessly, rashly



Sounds like: Injury

“The team doctor touched the basketball player’s injury very GINGERLY.”

Examples:

1. You have to open cans of carbonated drinks GINGERLY to prevent explosive fizzing.
2. The beekeepers GINGERLY remove the honey from the beehive.
3. GINGERLY dabbing the brush on the canvas, she added the tulips to her scene.

Meaning:

(n) *one who eats too much*

Similar to: over-eater, chowhound

Opposite of: dieter, nibbler



Sounds like: Muffin

“My British grandmother is a GLUTTON when it comes to blueberry muffins.”

Examples:

1. He showed how much of a GLUTTON he is by eating a whole turkey alone.
2. All-you-can-eat buffets are a GLUTTON’S dream.
3. I want to lose weight, but I’m such a GLUTTON.

120 GRANDILOQUENT

Meaning:

(adj) using excessively fancy or pompous words

Similar to: big-talking, overblown, inflated

Opposite of: plain, simple



Sounds like: Torn Ligament

“The doctor used GRANDILOQUENT terms to explain my torn ligament – and I didn’t understand a thing he said!”

Examples:

1. The GRANDILOQUENT Shakespearean script was difficult to understand.
2. The bride had prepared a GRANDILOQUENT speech for her wedding.
3. My poem, though GRANDILOQUENT, was praised for its elegance.

Meaning:

(adj) serious, dignified, formal

Similar to: heavy, dull

Opposite of: light, silly



Sounds like: Wave

“A huge wave put the children in GRAVE danger.”

Examples:

1. The city was in GRAVE danger due to an approaching hurricane.
2. Staying up all night studying for an exam is a GRAVE mistake.
3. It is of GRAVE importance that we try to reverse the effects of global warming.

Meaning:

(v) to beg, to lower oneself to please another

Similar to: beg

Opposite of: demand, berate



Sounds like: Shovel

“The gardener had to GROVEL in order to buy a shovel at a lower price.”

Examples:

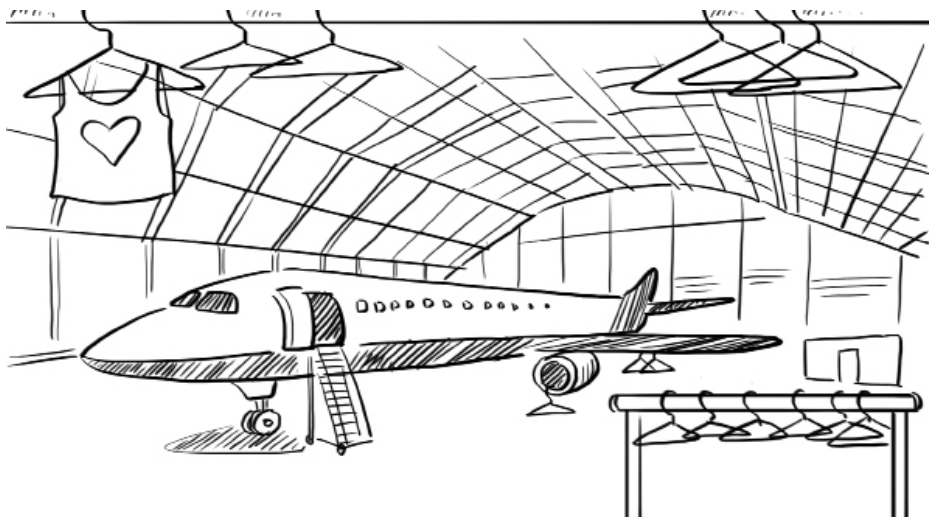
1. The rebel GROVELED before the king, hoping to be forgiven.
2. He GROVELED for forgiveness at his girlfriend's door after he stood her up.
3. I'll have to do a lot of GROVELING to my parents if I want to get a new computer.

123 HANGAR

Meaning:

(n) a structure used for housing aircraft

Similar to: garage, shed, shelter



Sounds like: Hanger

“For some strange reason there were lots of clothes hangers in the aircraft HANGAR.”

Examples:

1. The HANGAR was too small to house the military cargo plane.
2. The airplanes had to be stored elsewhere after the storm damaged the main HANGAR.
3. We toured the HANGARS to study flight maintenance.

Meaning:

(v) to protect against possible loss by taking compensatory measures, to avoid making a direct statement;

(n) any barrier or boundary

Similar to: (v) sidestep, evade; (n) barricade, fence

Opposite of: (v) face, confront; (n) opening



Sounds like: Pledge

“Management saw the employee’s pledge not to strike as just a HEDGE (n) against bad publicity.”

Examples:

1. Instead of choosing a side, he HEDGED (v) , and ended up being hated by everyone.
2. She HEDGED (v) her investments by buying gold.
3. It’s best to HEDGE (v) your bets, you really can’t tell what way this fight will go.

Meaning:

(n) *unquestioned influence, domination*

Similar to: authority, leadership, command

Opposite of: powerlessness



Sounds like: Weaponry

“The ceremony to showcase the nation’s weaponry demonstrated its military HEGEMONY.”

Examples:

1. Christians rebelled against the HEGEMONY of the pagan Roman Empire.
2. Microsoft’s HEGEMONY has determined much of the shape of modern technology.
3. Pizza Hut continues to expand its HEGEMONY in the pizza industry.

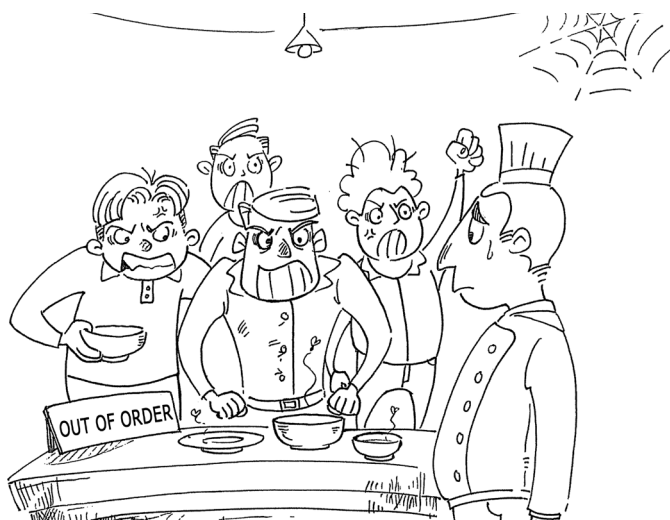
126 HIATUS

Meaning:

(n) *an interruption in activity*

Similar to: pause, interval, break

Opposite of: continuation



Sounds like: Hate Us

“The people hate us for the extended HIATUS in food supply.”

Examples:

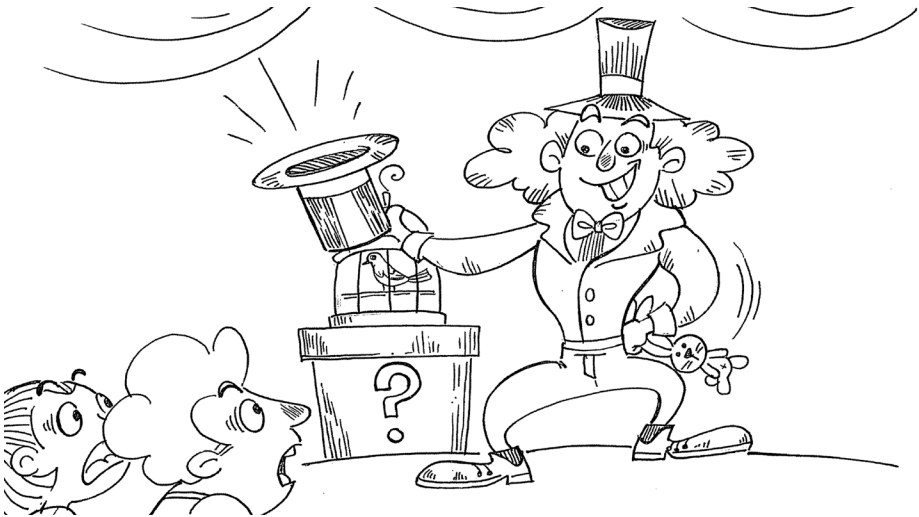
1. I was on HIATUS from school for two weeks, as I was ill.
2. She took a brief HIATUS from work after giving birth.
3. The Olympics was on HIATUS during World War 2.

Meaning:

(n) *an act meant to trick or fool*

Similar to: deceive, swindle

Opposite of: honesty, truthfulness



Sounds like: Folk

“I tricked some folks with a brilliant HOAX.”

Examples:

1. Rumors of the school being haunted turned out to be a HOAX designed by students trying to avoid their exams.
2. The gang realized the whole thing was just a HOAX when Velma pulled off the monster's head to reveal a man wearing a costume – again!
3. The picture of Bigfoot was a HOAX – but most people still believe it is true.

128 HOVEL

Meaning:

(n) *a small, miserable dwelling*

Similar to: cottage, hut, shack

Opposite of: palace, mansion



Sounds like: Struggle

“People who live in HOVELS struggle with daily life.”

Examples:

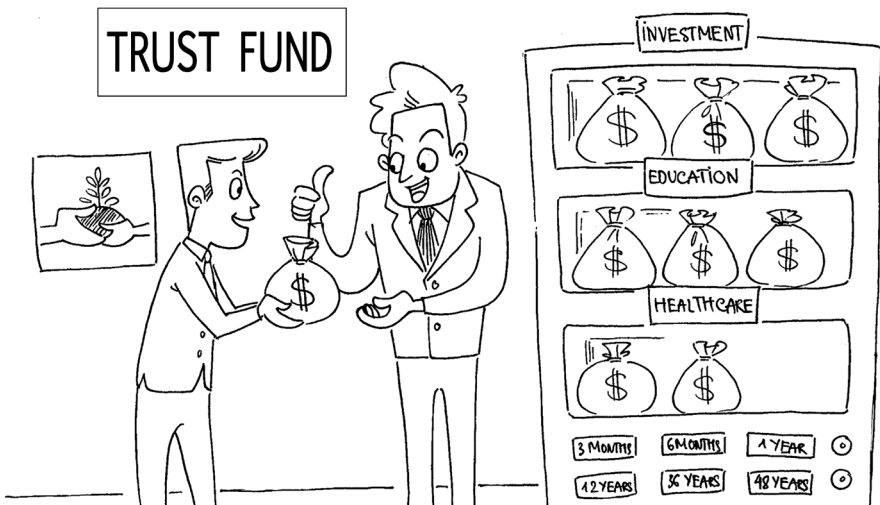
1. HOVELS in rural areas are unsanitary.
2. Until I get a job that pays me better, I'll have to live in this HOVEL.
3. Running from the war and unwelcome in most other places, refugees make do with any HOVEL they can find.

Meaning:

(v) to use sparingly, to conserve

Similar to: economical, frugal

Opposite of: splurge



Sounds like: Trust Fund

"The trust fund HUSBANDED its finances carefully."

Examples:

1. You should HUSBAND your money carefully and grow your savings.
2. HUSBAND your energy or you'll be stuck halfway up the mountain, exhausted.
3. Ancient tribes HUSBANDED their limited resources carefully.

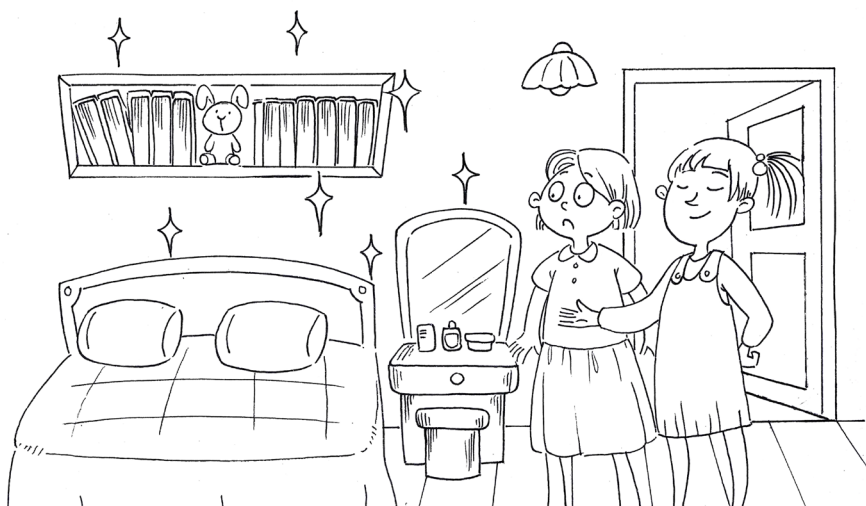
130 IMMACULATE

Meaning:

(adj) perfectly clean

Similar to: flawless, neat, spotless

Opposite of: imperfect, dirty



Sounds like: Accurate

“She was accurate in describing her room as IMMACULATE.”

Examples:

1. His jeep was IMMACULATE after driving through the car wash.
2. The manicurist turned her nails from a tattered mess into IMMACULATE pieces of miniature art.
3. I refuse to wear my uniform unless it is IMMACULATE.

Meaning:

(v) to push something into motion

Similar to: prompt, incite

Opposite of: hinder, halt



Sounds like: Yell

“The coach’s yell didn’t IMPEL the team to train harder – their own ambition did.”

Examples:

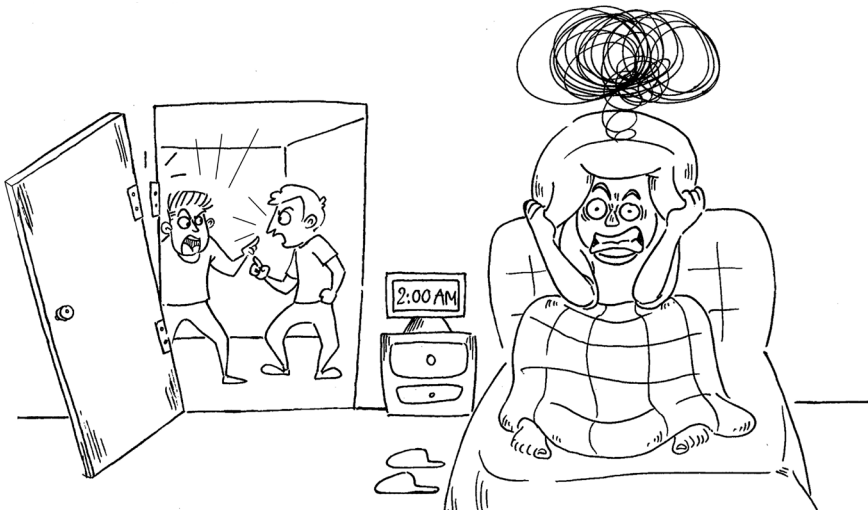
1. He was IMPELLED by the desire to see his family again.
2. My curiosity IMPELLED me to carry out more research.
3. Desire IMPELS a man to greatness; torture compels him to be wretched.

Meaning:

(v) to have an effect on something, esp. a negative one, to encroach

Similar to: violate, pry

Opposite of: avoid, leave alone



Sounds like: Hinge

“Kicking my door off its hinges has really IMPINGED on my quality of life.”

Examples:

1. Getting no sleep will IMPINGE on your performance in tomorrow's exam.
2. The expansion of the metro system slowly but surely IMPINGED on the local park until it was eventually shut down entirely.
3. Though following politics may seem pointless, the consequences of government actions IMPINGE on everyday life.

Meaning:

(v) to guilt or blame

Similar to: attribute, accuse

Opposite of: defend, praise



Sounds like: Root

“Dr. Melvin IMPUTED that my sickness was rooted in my habits.”

Examples:

1. People IMPUTE his bad behavior to his lazy parents.
2. The destruction of the power plant was IMPUTED to Batman, even though he had, in fact, tried to save it.
3. Though you can IMPUTE his success entirely to him, one mustn't forget his wife's contribution.

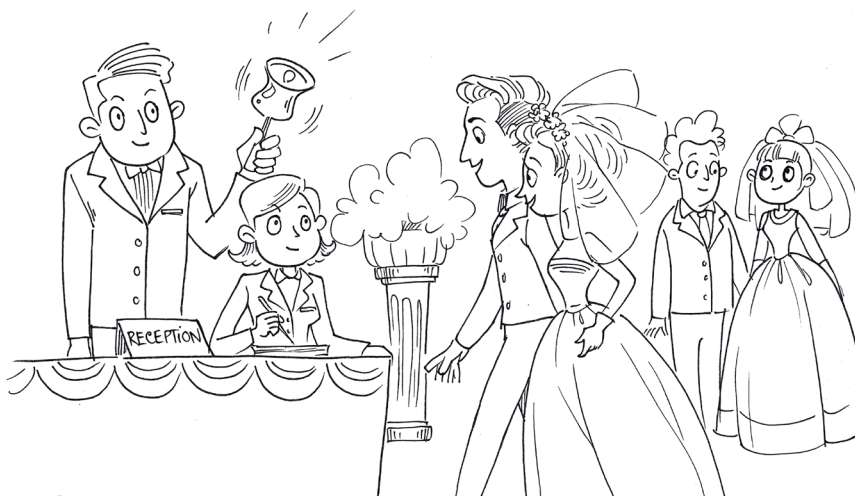
134 INCEPTION

Meaning:

(n) commencement, beginning, origin

Similar to: initiation, outset

Opposite of: termination, conclusion, end



Sounds like: Reception

“The ringing bells announced the INCEPTION of the wedding reception.”

Examples:

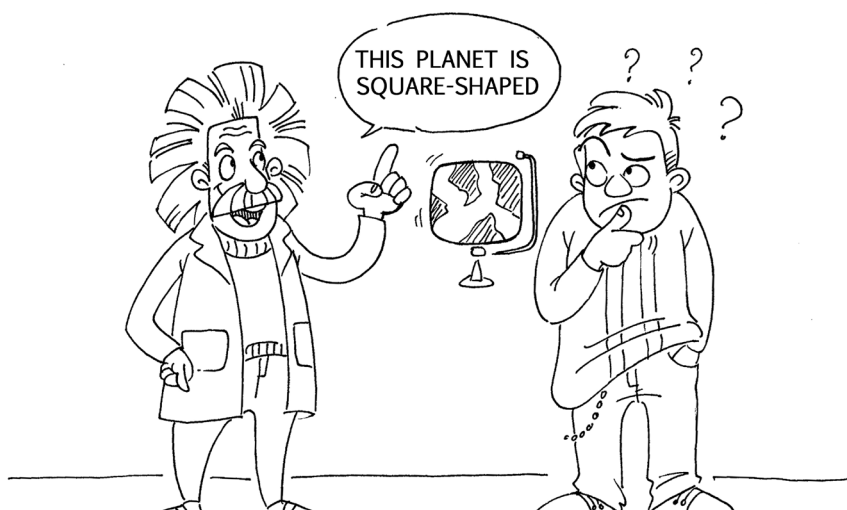
1. The tech company had its INCEPTION not in a large office building, but in a garage.
2. Thousands of people have been enrolled at this school since its INCEPTION.
3. He has been a significant figure right from the project's INCEPTION.

Meaning:

(adj) *disbelieving, skeptical*

Similar to: suspicious, hesitant

Opposite of: certain, definite, sure



Sounds like: Intelligence

“I was INCREDULOUS that a man of his intelligence said something so stupid.”

Examples:

1. Though I'd hoped she would believe my ghost story, all she did was look INCREDULOUSLY (adv) at me.
2. Though at first she was INCREDULOUS, she finally believed me when I laid the lottery money on the kitchen table.
3. They were INCREDULOUS when a bear came out of the forest and sat down at their picnic table.

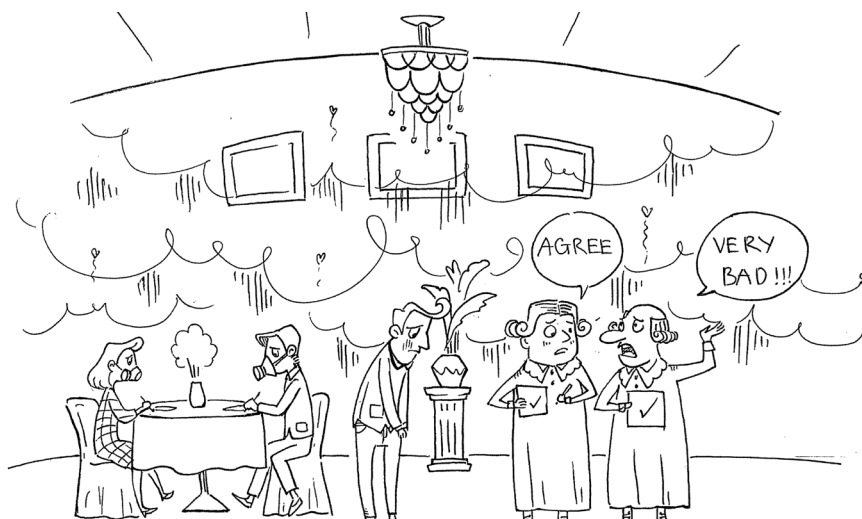
136 INCUR

Meaning:

(v) to acquire or sustain something undesirable

Similar to: earn, obtain

Opposite of: forfeit, lose



Sounds like: Concur

“The judges concurred that this restaurant had INCURRED a bad reputation.”

Examples:

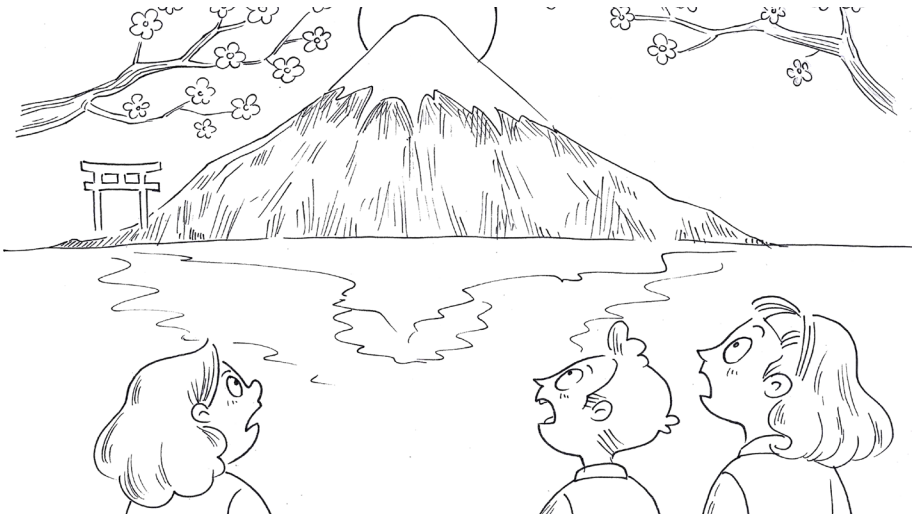
1. Her late tax payments INCURRED fines.
2. Buying an older vehicle can INCUR you greater costs due to maintenance costs.
3. My pranks at my sister's wedding INCURRED her considerable wrath.

Meaning:

(adj) too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words

Similar to: heavenly, transcendent, unspeakable

Opposite of: definable, utterable



Sounds like: Incredible

“The beauty of this incredible view of Mount Fuji is INEFFABLE.”

Examples:

1. Seeing the sunset from the Grand Canyon is an INEFFABLY (adv) beautiful experience.
2. The experience of seeing his wife in her wedding dress for the first time was INEFFABLE.
3. Many mysteries of life are simply INEFFABLE.

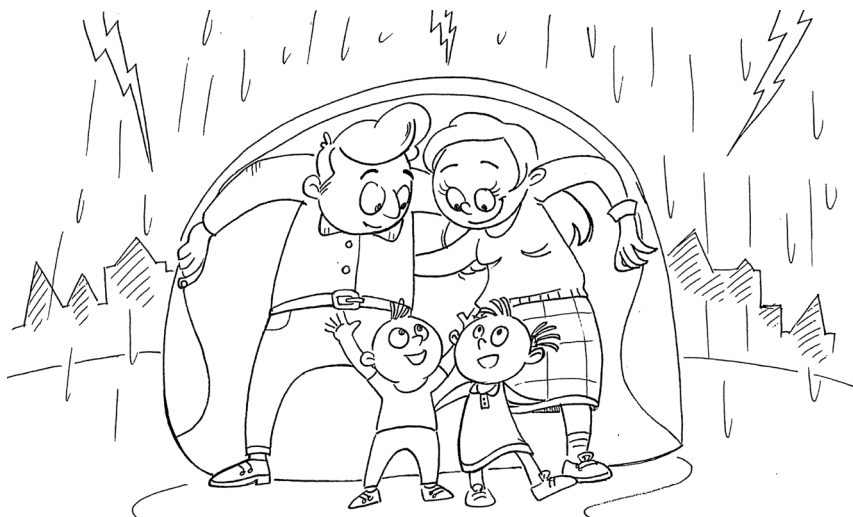
138 INHERENT

Meaning:

(adj) included as an essential part, intrinsic

Similar to: built-in, ingrained, innate

Opposite of: extra, learned, acquired



Sounds like: Parents

“It is an INHERENT responsibility of parents to protect their children.”

Examples:

1. Since he has an INHERENT good humor, everyone loves him.
2. Every human being has some INHERENT goodness to them.
3. There's nothing more powerful than a mother's INHERENT desire to protect her children.

139 INSENSIBLE

Meaning:

(adj) not able to feel or perceive, unresponsive

Similar to: cold, numb

Opposite of: caring



Sounds like: Intestinal

“The champion chill eater was INSENSIBLE to the pains of his intestinal tract.”

Examples:

1. After the horrors of war, he was INSENSIBLE to the sadness of his children.
2. My hands became INSENSIBLE after hours of shoveling snow without gloves.
3. Without her glasses, she was INSENSIBLE to the rapidly approaching volleyball.

140 INSULAR

Meaning:

(adj) narrow in outlook, provincial

Similar to: isolated, circumscribed

Opposite of: broad-minded, unbiased



Sounds like: Insecure

“He became insecure after so many people mocked his INSULAR ways of thinking.”

Examples:

1. Some Amazonian tribes are entirely INSULAR communities detached from modern society.
2. His view of romance is INSULAR and informed mostly by cartoons.
3. It was hard to make friends at school; the cliques there were so INSULAR.

Meaning:

(n) *someone who takes part in a conversation, esp. formally*

Similar to: interrogator, interviewer



Sounds like: Binocular

“As an INTERLOCUTOR in the class discussion, he had to explain why he was using binoculars at school.”

Examples:

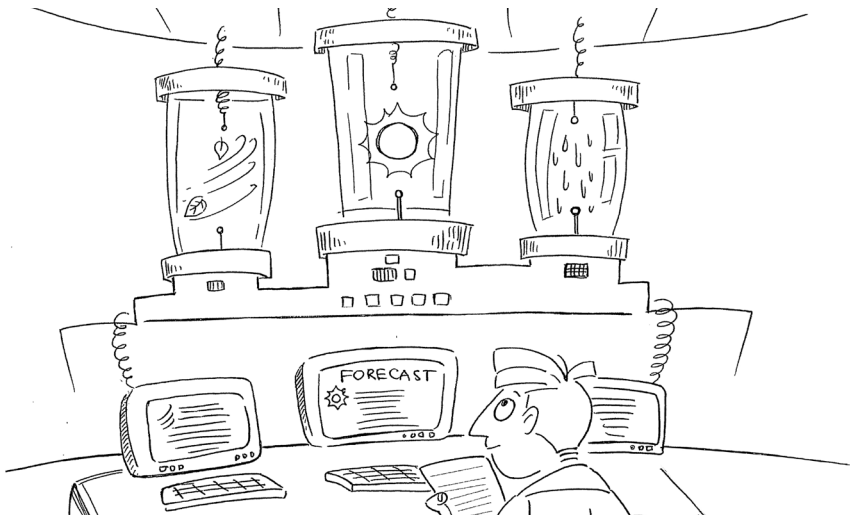
1. Effective talk therapy requires both the therapist and patient to be INTERLOCUTORS.
2. His parents were active INTERLOCUTORS in the conversation with the principal.
3. The group of INTERLOCUTORS included my manager, teammates, and me.

Meaning:

(adj) relating to the essential nature of something

Similar to: inherent, innate

Opposite of: acquired, learned



Sounds like: Mimic

“The simulation was intended to mimic the INTRINSIC conditions of various kinds of weather.”

Examples:

1. Good food is an INTRINSIC part of my quality of life.
2. Though physical fitness is important, cooperation and character are also INTRINSIC to team sports.
3. Family time has an INTRINSIC value that should be respected by employers.

Meaning:

(adj) traveling from place to place, esp. for work

Similar to: roaming, roving, wandering

Opposite of: settled, permanent



Sounds like: Interest

“Many young people have an interest in ITINERANT employment.”

Examples:

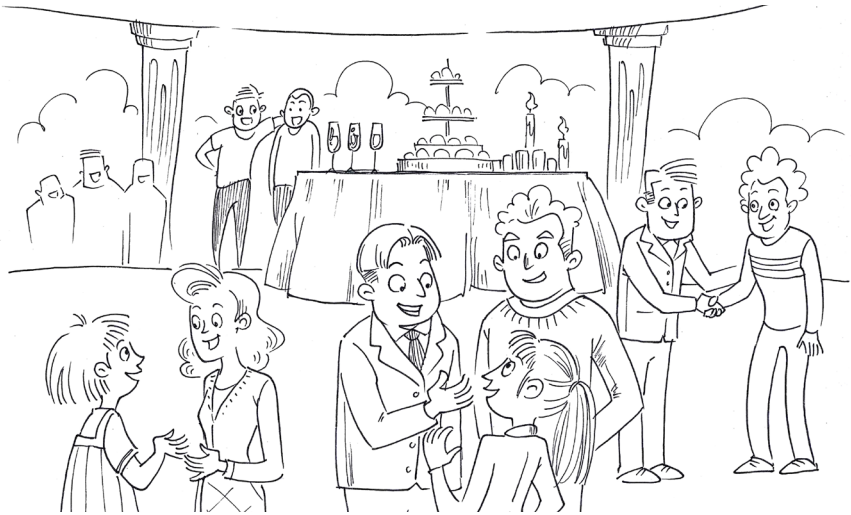
1. As an ITINERANT musician, I go on many tours around the country.
2. The ITINERANT artist traveled the world, painting what he saw.
3. An ITINERANT trader must carefully calculate which goods to bring to which towns.

Meaning:

(adj) full of hearty, playful good humor

Similar to: happy, amiable, jolly

Opposite of: depressed, disagreeable, gloomy



Sounds like: Ceremonial

“It was a ceremonial gathering that was JOVIAL and heartwarming – as all weddings are.”

Examples:

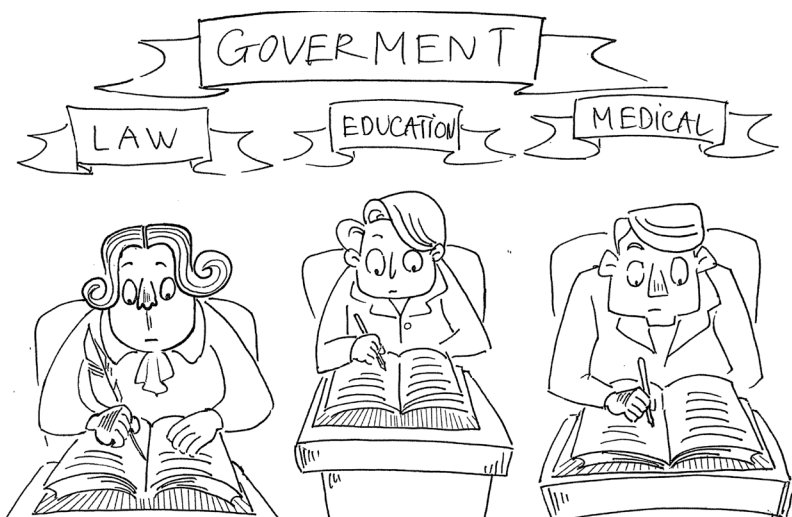
1. I was given a JOVIAL welcome from my parents when I visited them.
2. Always JOVIAL, his presence is enough to defuse tension.
3. The new student has made many friends already due to his JOVIAL character.

Meaning:

(adj) honorable and fair, consistent with what is right

Similar to: equitable

Opposite of: unfair, unjust



Sounds like: Must

“In order to create a JUST legal system, the government must value the rights of all people.”

Examples:

1. After the jury decided the verdict, he was given a JUST punishment for his crimes.
2. Harsh as it may have been, cleaning children's mouths with soap was a once a JUST punishment for using foul language.
3. Throughout history, JUST causes have motivated people to improve their lives.

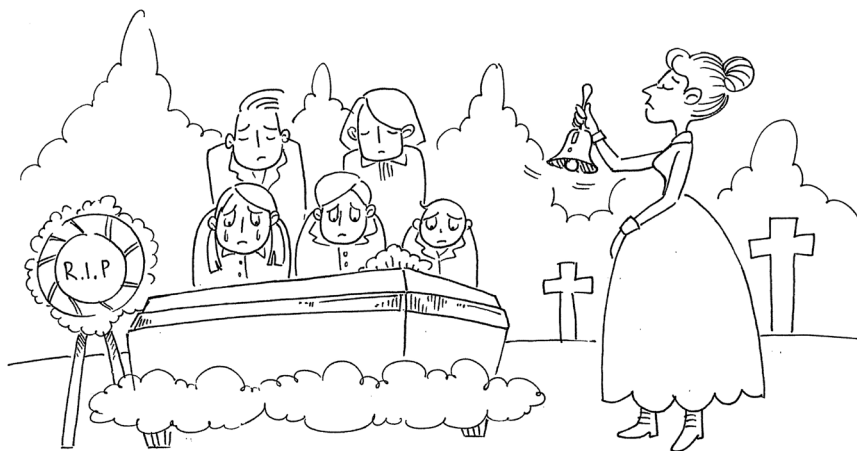
Meaning:

(v) to ring in a slow, solemn way;

(n) the sound made by a bell rung slowly, especially for a death or a funeral

Similar to: (v) chime, signal, sound; (n) toll, clang

Opposite of: (v) dampen



Sounds like: Bell

“The ceremony began with her first KNELL of the ceremonial bell.”

Examples:

1. The king's death KNELL was struck at noon, precisely.
2. Overcome by the sound of the KNELL, the students began weeping for their dead friends.
3. I can hear the church bells KNELLING my imminent failure.

Meaning:

(v) to grieve, to regret deeply

Similar to: deplore, bemoan

Opposite of: exult, rejoice



Sounds like: Sent

“He would LAMENT writing the love letter he’d sent after it was rejected without even being read.”

Examples:

1. I LAMENT not spending more time with my grandfather.
2. She LAMENTED the knowledge that her best friend is moving far away.
3. After receiving a bad score, I LAMENTED not studying before my exams.

Meaning:

(adj) inclined not to be strict

Similar to: forgiving, sympathetic, tolerant

Opposite of: judgmental, merciless



Sounds like: Ingredient

“The chef is LENIENT when it comes to including artificial ingredients in his cooking.”

Examples:

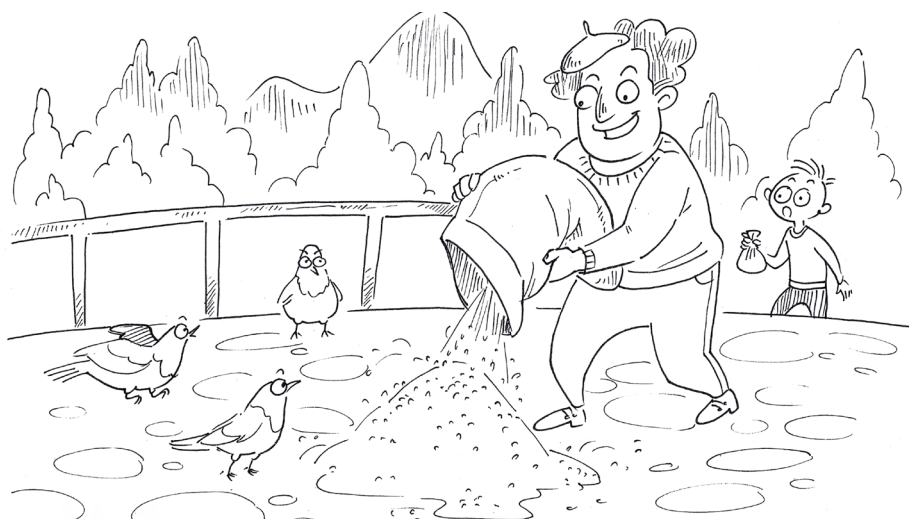
1. The parents were LENIENT towards their youngest child.
2. As the head of security, I cannot be LENIENT.
3. The kind principal was LENIENT in handing down punishments.

Meaning:

(adj) generous, giving freely

Similar to: kind, altruistic

Opposite of: mean, greedy



Sounds like: Cereal

“The man gave LIBERAL amounts of cereal to the pigeons – it was cheap, and he wanted them all to be happy.”

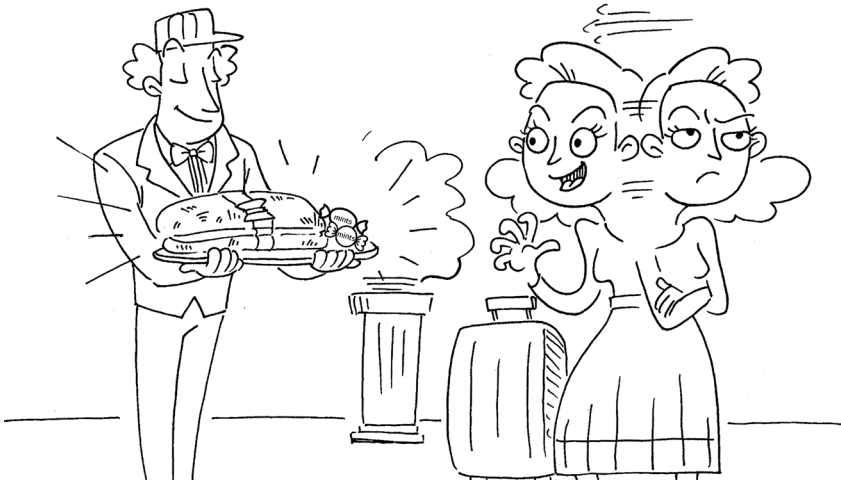
Examples:

1. He gave his time LIBERALLY to community efforts.
2. He gave the children a LIBERAL amount of ice cream to cheer them up.
3. Apply a LIBERAL amount of the face cream for the best effect.

Meaning:

(n) any of the features of the body, usually the face

Similar to: looks, appearance



Sounds like: Linens and Mints

“The hotel’s gifts of fresh linens and mints changed the harsh LINEAMENTS of her face into a smile.”

Examples:

1. The LINEAMENTS of her face show a life of stress with clarity.
2. The children were told to draw around the LINEAMENT of the template.
3. Her naivety has always been a LINEAMENT of her character; she never learns.

Meaning:

(adj) larger or shaped differently on one side than another

Similar to: skewed, uneven

Opposite of: balanced



Sounds like: Divided

“The architect’s LOPSIDED building recieved divided opinions.”

Examples:

1. No wonder he fell off the chair – it’s LOPSIDED!
2. Though no one else could tell, she insisted her ears were LOPSIDED.
3. This grade was LOPSIDED – the teacher took excessive notice of the student’s weaknesses and ignored the strengths.

Meaning:

(adj) *ridiculous or exaggerated as to cause or deserve laughter, absurd*

Similar to: bizarre, crazy, foolish

Opposite of: normal, reasonable



Sounds like: Numerous

“His LUDICROUS pranks were numerous and irritating.”

Examples:

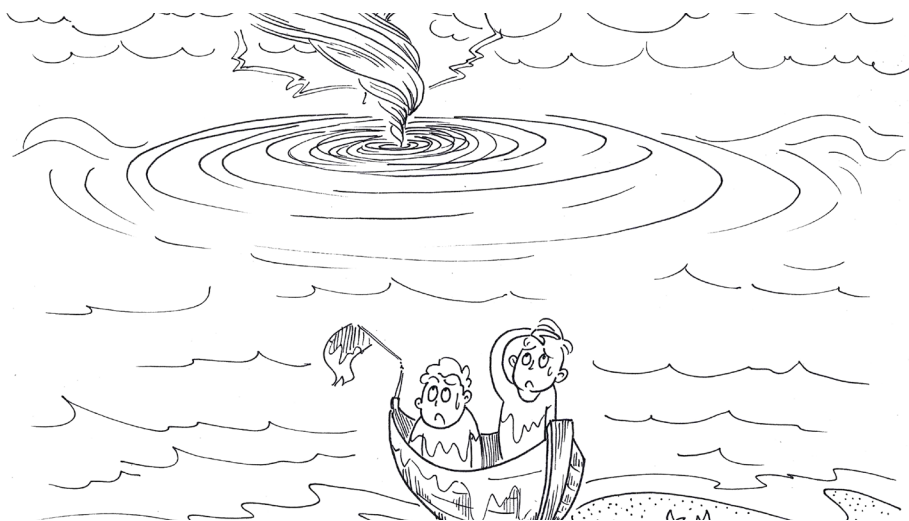
1. Though he thought it was reasonable, the committee found his suggestion utterly LUDICROUS.
2. My LUDICROUS polka dot suit received much attention at the party.
3. Slapstick comedy is old-fashioned, but it's still LUDICROUSLY (adv) popular.

Meaning:

(n) a violently and confused state, a very large whirlpool

Similar to: chaos, disorder, turmoil

Opposite of: harmony, order, peace



Sounds like: Autumn

“This lake is full of MAELSTROMS in the autumn.”

Examples:

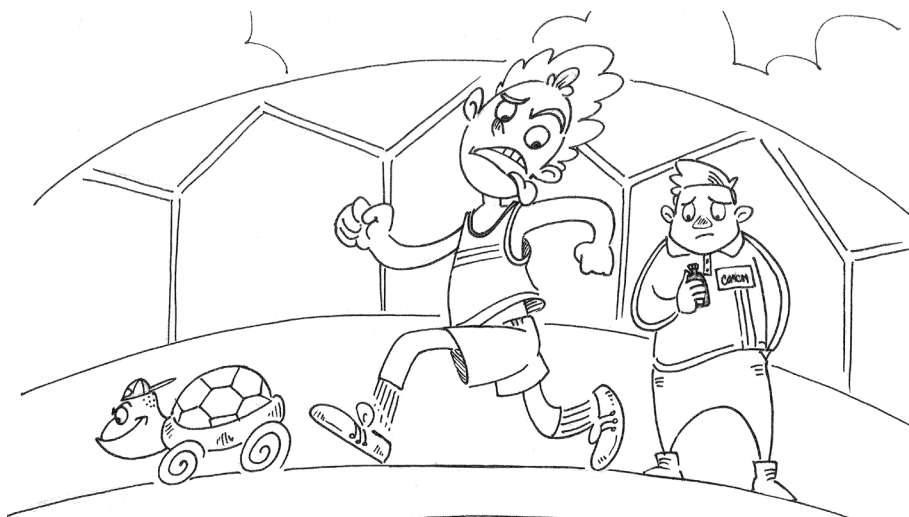
1. He was caught in a MAELSTROM of work as the application deadline neared.
2. The CEO's awful comments provoked a MAELSTROM of public criticism.
3. The ship sank to the bottom of the ocean because of a massive MAELSTROM.

Meaning:

(adj) Harmful, evil

Similar to: hurtful, destructive, hostile

Opposite of: aiding, helpful



Sounds like: Misaligned

“His misaligned jaw had a MALIGN effect on the athlete’s health – and performance.”

Examples:

1. Though she appeared helpful to other candidates, her intentions were MALIGN: she would do anything to become prom queen.
2. With the medicated cream, the doctors removed the MALIGN rash from her arm.
3. Despite the dog’s MALIGN appearance, it is actually incredibly sweet.

Meaning:

(n) *command, an order, a responsibility;*

(v) *to authorize, make mandatory*

Similar to: (n) decree, directive, instruction; (v) to decree

Opposite of: (n) disorganization, lawlessness; (v) obey



Sounds like: Cooperate

“With his MANDATE (n), the King forced everyone to cooperate, ending the argument.”

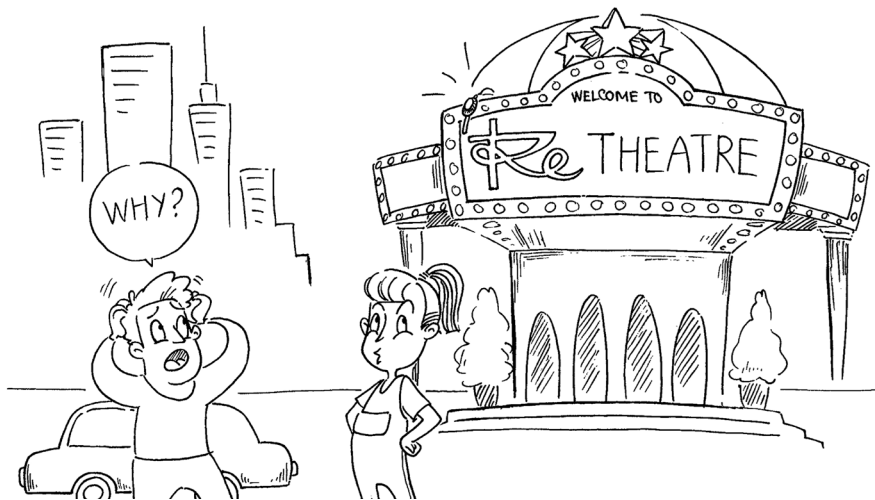
Examples:

1. As captain, my MANDATE (n) is to run this ship well.
2. The court MANDATED (v) that she oversee the child.
3. The new housing rule MANDATED (v) that everyone should have fences.

Meaning:

(n) a sign over the entrance to a public building

Similar to: signboard



Sounds like: Car Keys

“Why did you throw my car keys on the MARQUEE?”

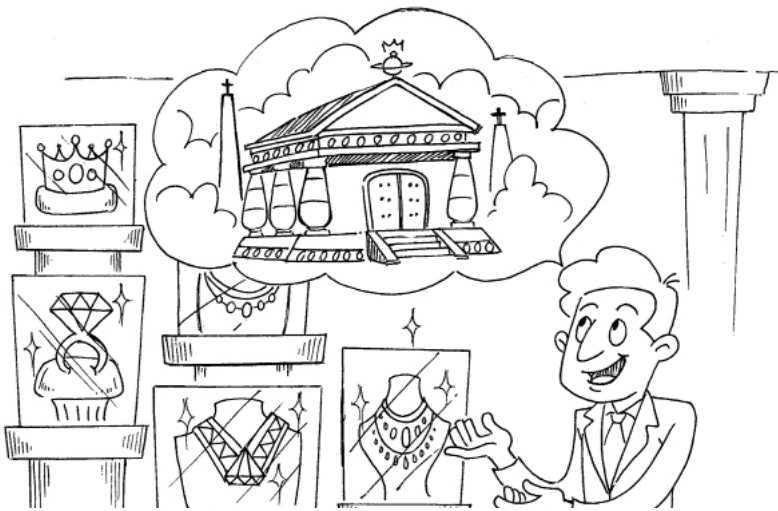
Examples:

1. Many tourists posed for photos under the MARQUEE of the famous hall.
2. When it rained, I took shelter under a hotel's MARQUEE.
3. The theatre put up a MARQUEE to attract an audience.

Meaning:

(n) a huge tomb

Similar to: burial, cemetery, coffin



Sounds like: Museum

“The museum had many jewels from the king’s MAUSOLEUM on display.”

Examples:

1. The king and queen want to be buried together in a MAUSOLEUM.
2. Presidential MAUSOLEUMS are huge and expensive.
3. The MAUSOLEUM of Halicarnassus was one of the Wonders of the Ancient World.

Meaning:

(adj) ordinary or inferior in quality, not standing out from the average

Similar to: decent, undistinguished

Opposite of: excellent, exceptional, extraordinary



Sounds like: Ogre

“The ogre’s power was MEDIocre when compared to that of the dragon.”

Examples:

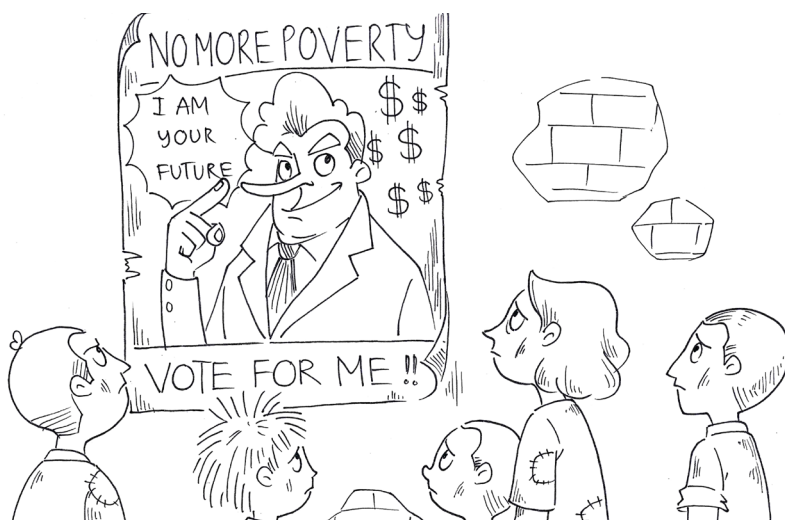
1. The amateur mechanic did a MEDIocre job of repairing the car.
2. His first attempt at stand-up comedy was MEDIocre at best.
3. Though the coach wanted to bring in fresh players, the applicants were all MEDIocre.

Meaning:

(adj) *lying, false, esp. habitually*

Similar to: dishonest, deceptive, false

Opposite of: frank, honest



Sounds like: Outrageous

“These MENDACIOUS lies are outrageous!”

Examples:

1. Such a MENDACIOUS man should never have been given so much power.
2. The state newspaper began spreading MENDACIOUS stories to control people’s opinions.
3. You’d promised me you would not eat my sandwich, but now I realize that was a MENDACIOUS lie!

Meaning:

(n) bearing or manner, esp. as revealing one's inner state of mind

Similar to: presence, act, front



Sounds like: Mean

“His mean MIEN made him terrible company.”

Examples:

1. After years of training, he has developed the disciplined MIEN of a soldier.
2. My happy MIEN makes it difficult for my subordinates to take me seriously.
3. The lazy janitor has the MIEN of a snorlax and sleeps all the time.

Meaning:

(n) *one who hates or mistrusts mankind*

Similar to: doubter, skeptic, cynic

Opposite of: believer, humanitarian, philanthropist



Sounds like: Cantaloupes

“He may hate people, but that old MISANTHROPE loves cantaloupes.”

Examples:

1. He became a MISANTHROPE after witnessing so much pain in the war.
2. Some environmentalists are MISANTHROPES, angry at humankind for the damage they've done to the world.
3. You're not friendly, you're the biggest MISANTHROPE I've ever met!

Meaning:

(adj) of extreme importance

Similar to: crucial, significant, noteworthy

Opposite of: ordinary, meaningless, trivial



Sounds like: Precious

“His MOMENTOUS victory gave him precious memories for the rest of his life.”

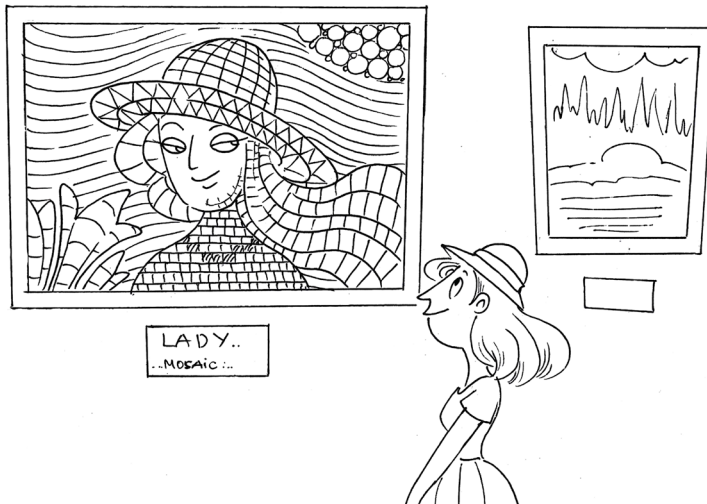
Examples:

1. The Civil War was the single most MOMENTOUS event in the history of the USA
2. The job hunting process is MOMENTOUS because it will determine the next several decades of your life.
3. My wedding day will probably be the most MOMENTOUS moment of my life.

Meaning:

(n) an image created by the assembly of many small colored pieces, e.g. tiles

Similar to: patchwork, montage



Sounds like: Basic

“The MOSAIC is largely comprised of basic shapes and colors.”

Examples:

1. There's a beautifully colorful MOSAIC on display at the city center.
2. Old churches have MOSAICS decorating their ceilings.
3. The culture of the USA is a MOSAIC of various immigrant groups' contributions and cultures.

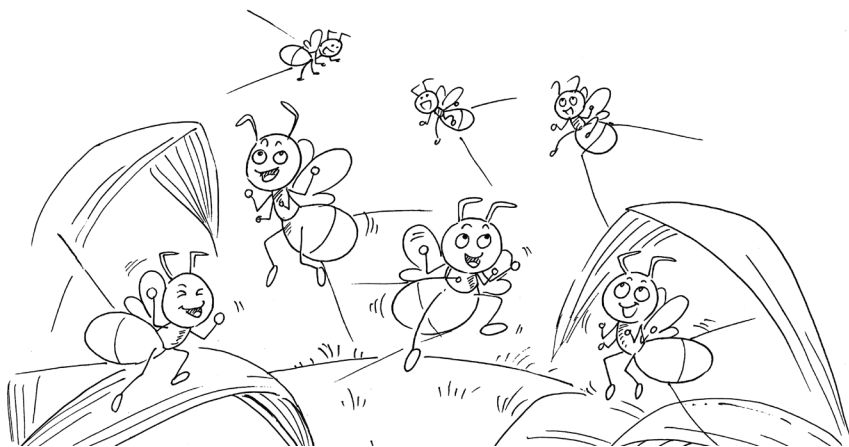
Meaning:

(n) *an indefinitely large number;*

(adj) *extremely great in number*

Similar to: (n) multitude; (adj) countless, endless, infinite

Opposite of: (adj) bounded, limited, measurable



Sounds like: Period

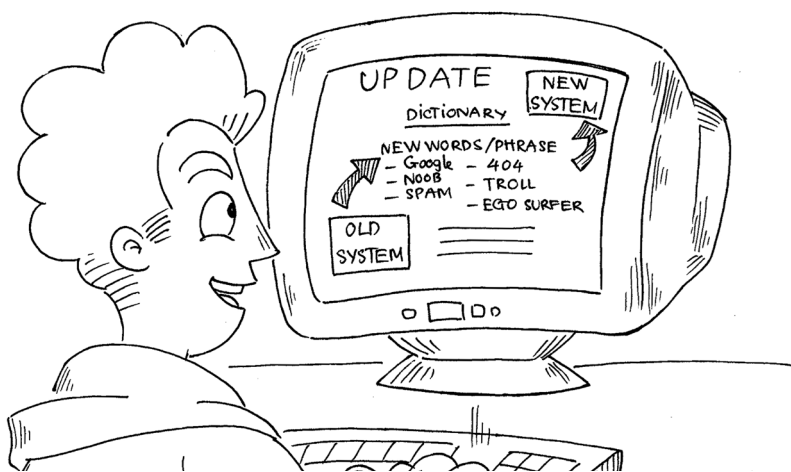
“A MYRIAD (n) of fireflies danced outside for a long period of time.”

Examples:

1. Elon Musk is a man of MYRIAD (adj) ideas.
2. The widow spends all day taking care of her MYRIAD (n) of cats.
3. He had a MYRIAD (n) of excuses to avoid detention.

Meaning:

(n) new word or phrase



Sounds like: Old Systems

“NEOLOGISMS are a cool way of updating old systems.”

Examples:

1. ‘Millennial’ is a NEOLOGISM used to refer to a new generation.
2. He came up with a NEOLOGISM that ended up in the dictionary.
3. Stop using old words and update your vocabulary with NEOLOGISMS!

Meaning:

(n) a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless

Similar to: anarchy, lawlessness, pessimism

Opposite of: faith, belief, optimism, religion, mysticism, spirituality



Sounds like: Tourism

“Some tourism leads to NIHILISM, at least when it comes to the preservation of ancient ruins.”

Examples:

1. After years of no growth and failed governments, an air of NIHILISM gripped the nation.
2. It's hard not to embrace NIHILISM after witnessing the destruction that comes with war.
3. She thinks NIHILISM isn't a philosophy but merely an excuse lazy people use to avoid responsibility.

Meaning:

(adj) *lacking distinction or individual character*

Similar to: undistinguished, common, ordinary

Opposite of: abnormal, indescribable



Sounds like: Ripped

“He ripped the NONDESCRIPT painting in half, and said, ‘This is the worst present ever!’”

Examples:

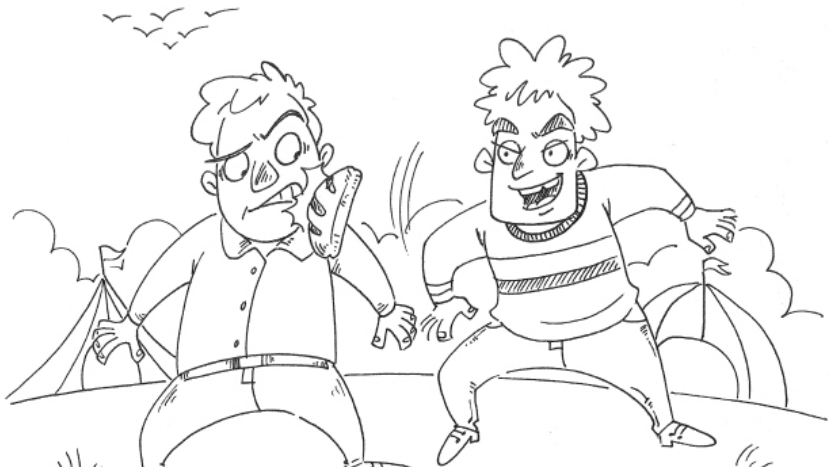
1. The man didn't receive the part because of his NONDESCRIPT acting.
2. Dad's NONDESCRIPT gift for my birthday was thoughtless and disappointing.
3. The park's NONDESCRIPT attractions failed to excite guests.

Meaning:

(n) a stupid, clumsy person

Similar to: fool, idiot

Opposite of: gentleman



Sounds like: Loaf

“An OAF threw a loaf of bread at his friend.”

Examples:

1. The old OAF forgot to pick up his own daughter again.
2. People called him an OAF for his reckless behavior.
3. Stop messing things up, you bumbling OAF!

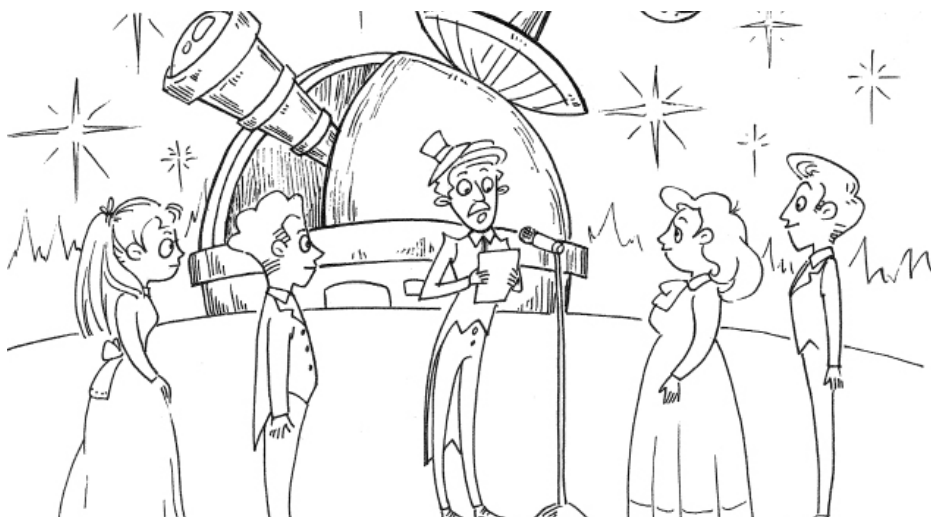
169 OBLIGATORY

Meaning:

(adj) *legally or morally required, required as a praiseworthy or necessary course of action*

Similar to: imperative, mandatory, requisite

Opposite of: voluntary, unnecessary, nonessential



Sounds like: Observatory

“The OBLIGATORY ceremony was held at the observatory to mark Galileo’s birthday.”

Examples:

1. It is OBLIGATORY for parents to provide for their children.
2. The new OBLIGATORY uniforms annoyed students who were used to wearing casual clothes.
3. Security implemented OBLIGATORY curfew for the community.

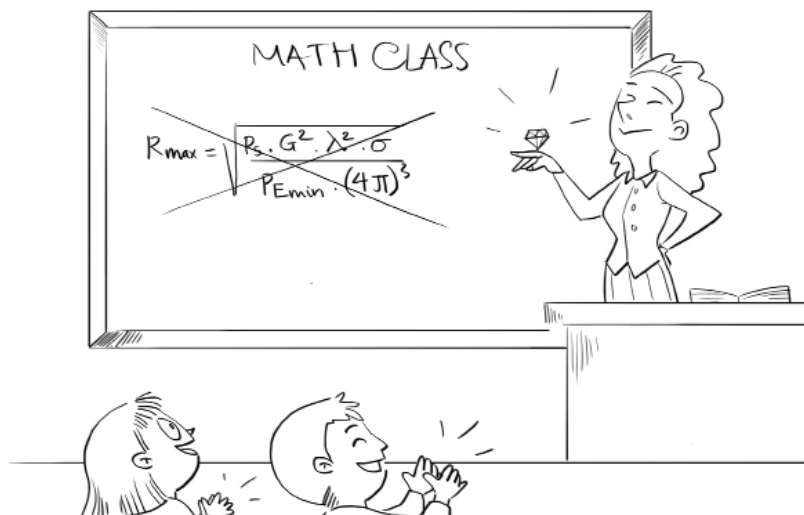
Meaning:

(v) to cause, to provide an appropriate opportunity for;

(n) a particular time, especially as marked by certain circumstances or occurrences

Similar to: (v) elicit, evoke, generate; (n) affair, event, circumstance

Opposite of: (v) discourage, hinder, prevent



Sounds like: Equation

“As it was a special OCCASION (n), the math teacher gave no equations.”

Examples:

1. My joke OCCASIONED (v) an awkward silence in the dining room.
2. His successful negotiations OCCASION (v) new partnerships around the world.
3. The pleasant weather OCCASIONED (v) a picnic.

Meaning:

(adj) *interfering, trying to give unwanted advice*

Similar to: opinionated, intrusive, pushy

Opposite of: modest, timid



Sounds like: Advise His

“The employee tried to advise his boss, but ended up annoying him by being OFFICIOUS.”

Examples:

1. I was annoyed by the OFFICIOUS man who would not shut up about tax regulations.
2. Sales clerks can sometimes be too OFFICIOUS, scaring off customers.
3. His OFFICIOUS sister constantly annoys him throughout the day.

Meaning:

(n) *initiative, obligation*

Similar to: liability, task, duty



Sounds like: Bonus

“The boss took the ONUS by paying everyone’s bonuses.”

Examples:

1. After I complete my part of the job, the ONUS is on you to finish it.
2. The ONUS is on the prosecution to prove the defendant’s guilt.
3. The thief claims he wasn’t there, but the ONUS is on him to prove it.

173 ORNATE

Meaning:

(adj) *highly, often excessively decorated*

Similar to: fancy, glamorous, elegant

Opposite of: plain, dull, simple



Sounds like: Gate

“The celebrity’s mansion gate was really quite ORNATE.”

Examples:

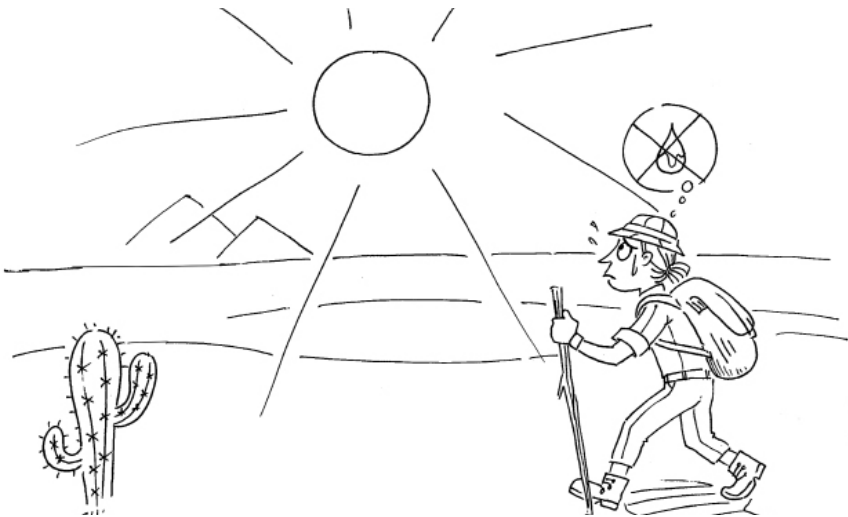
1. The restaurant’s ORNATE interior was too dazzling for the customers; they couldn’t focus on eating their meals.
2. Her ORNATE watch may be beautiful, but it’s design makes it hard to read the time.
3. Their ORNATE door was delicately crafted of iron bars shaped like branches with small golden leaves.

Meaning:

(adj/adv) open, not hidden

Similar to: (adj/adv) apparent, definite, unconcealed

Opposite of: (adj/adv) obscure, unclear



Sounds like: Desert

“In this desert you will find no OVERT (adj) source of water.”

Examples:

1. Being OVERTLY (adv) insulting to your teachers is rude; however, complaining about them to your classmates is entirely normal.
2. His love poem was an OVERT (adj) display of affection.
3. There's no attempt at hiding this theft – it is an OVERT (adj) crime!

Meaning:

(adj) very thorough, careful

Similar to: diligent, meticulous

Opposite of: careless, negligent, unconcerned



Sounds like: Rainmaking

“From the perspective of ancient gods, rainmaking involved a PAINSTAKING process.”

Examples:

1. His PAINSTAKING research produced huge amounts of new information.
2. Operating a crane requires PAINSTAKING focus to ensure safety.
3. James Cameron is a PAINSTAKING director, who demands perfection in his scenes.

Meaning:

(adj) noticeable, easily perceived

Similar to: tangible, tactile, solid

Opposite of: abstract, unreal, nonexistent



Sounds like: Jewel

“His desire for the jewels was PALPABLE.”

Examples:

1. From the frown on her face, her displeasure was easily PALPABLE.
2. Between the two opponents, the PALPABLE sense of hatred was thick.
3. During the announcement of the latest smartphone, the excitement was PALPABLE.

Meaning:

(n) a humorous and ridiculous imitation

Similar to: joke, satire, skit

Opposite of: reality



Sounds like: Recipe

“His terrible recipe was no more than a PARODY of the real thing.”

Examples:

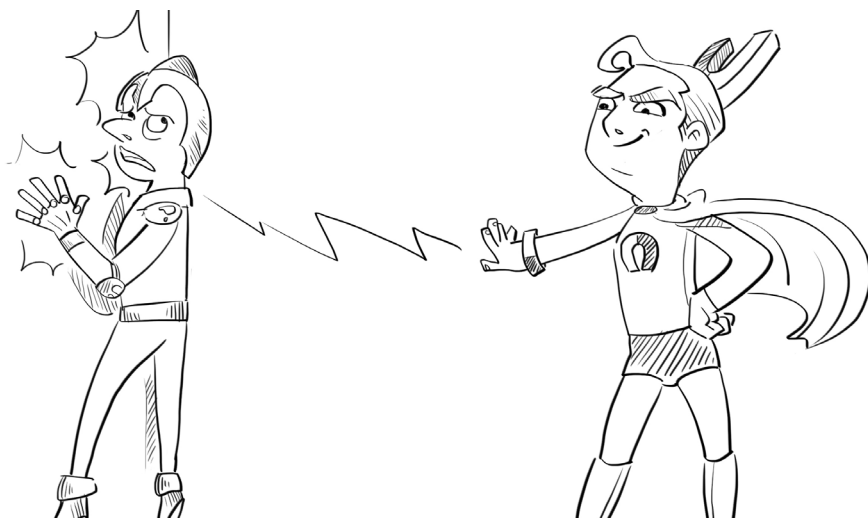
1. YouTube is well-known for its many PARODY videos.
2. Several scary movies are PARODIES based on classic horror films.
3. PARODIES of songs are made to amuse listeners.

Meaning:

(adj) arousing pity, arousing scorn

Similar to: miserable, woeful, heartbreaking

Opposite of: cheerful, joyful



Sounds like: Magnetic

“The superhero’s magnetic power was amazing; his enemy’s was PATHETIC.”

Examples:

1. Attacking others to make yourself feel stronger is PATHETIC.
2. I must have looked pretty PATHETIC for him to try and comfort me.
3. The harshest critics called it a PATHETIC excuse for a movie.

Meaning:

(n) the art or methodology of teaching

Similar to: education, tutoring, schooling



Sounds like: Gloomy

“He’s too gloomy to be good at PEDAGOGY.”

Examples:

1. Harvard is world famous for its PEDAGOGY.
2. As a teacher, I am required to improve my PEDAGOGY every year.
3. Knowledge, experience, and patience are key aspects of proper PEDAGOGY.

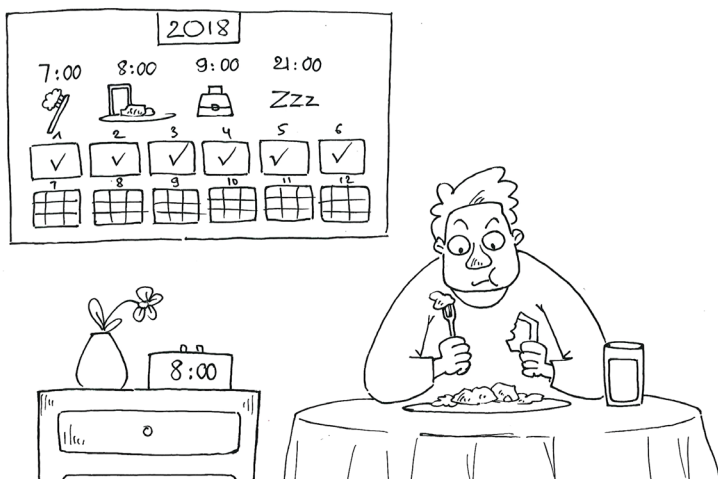
180 PERPETUITY

Meaning:

(n) a state of infinite or indefinitely long duration

Similar to: constantly, always, forever

Opposite of: finite, ending, set



Sounds like: Stability

“If we were to do the same things daily in PERPETUITY, we could expect a kind of stability.”

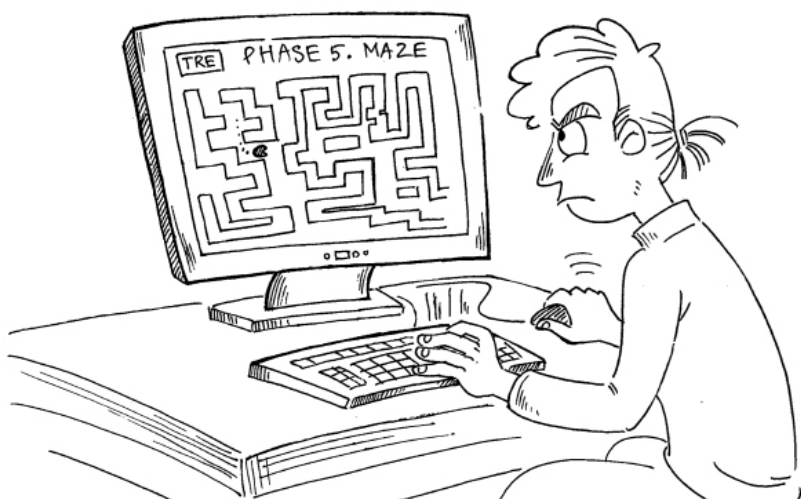
Examples:

1. She vows to love her husband in PERPETUITY.
2. It's physically impossible to create an engine that will keep running in PERPETUITY.
3. To cure my illness I must take this treatment in PERPETUITY.

Meaning:

(n) a stage in a process of change or development

Similar to: point, chapter, step



Sounds like: Maze

“I’m always challenged by the maze PHASE of this game.”

Examples:

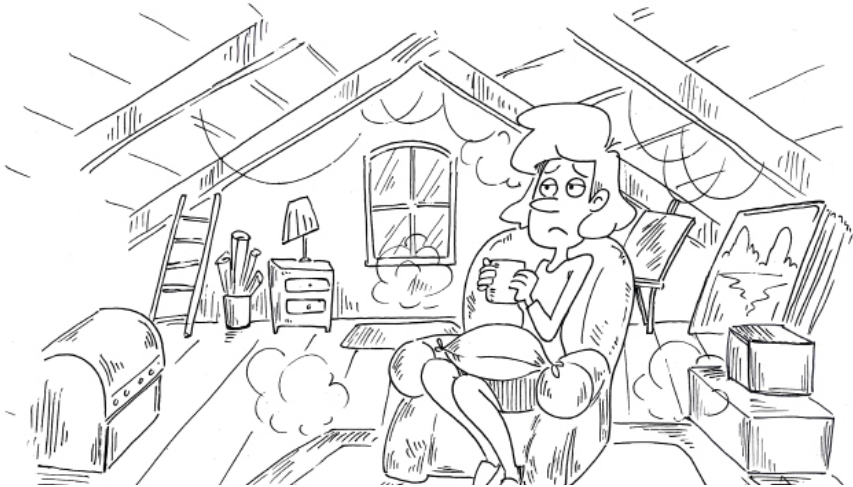
1. Each PHASE of life will bring its own joys and sorrows.
2. His project needs to go through five PHASES of development to finish.
3. The testing PHASE of my invention is the most crucial.

Meaning:

(adj) having a calm, sluggish temperament, unemotional

Similar to: cool, dispassionate, unfeeling

Opposite of: excited, aggressive, choleric



Sounds like: Attic

“The dusty attic adds to the woman’s PHLEGMATIC mood.”

Examples:

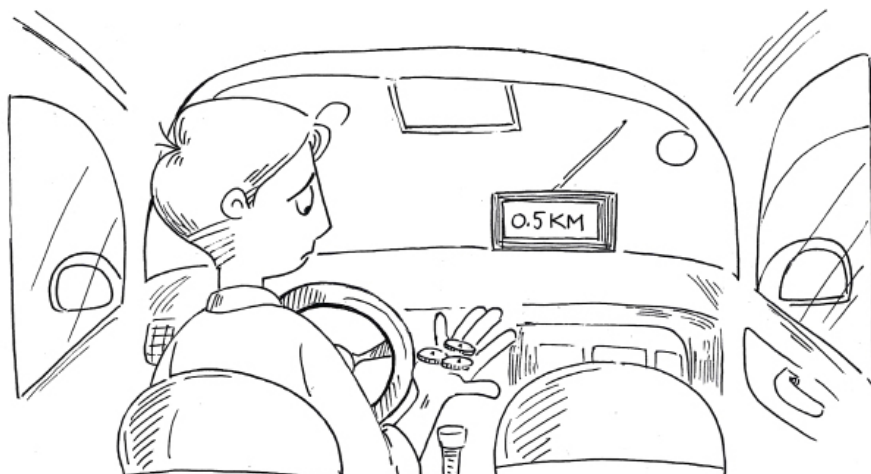
1. My mom was surprisingly PHLEGMATIC after the cat littered the house.
2. His PHLEGMATIC temperament means he stays calm even in emergencies.
3. He’s too PHLEGMATIC for this high-paced, high-stakes work.

Meaning:

(n) a small amount, esp. of money

Similar to: allowance, bit

Opposite of: plenty, sufficiency



Sounds like: Distance

“The taxi driver received a PITTANCE despite the distance he traveled.”

Examples:

1. Interns are often only given a PITTANCE for their work.
2. For the richest people, even massive taxes can seem a PITTANCE.
3. He was given a PITTANCE as an allowance after he wasted his last salary.

184 PLEBEIAN

Meaning:

(adj) common, unsophisticated

Similar to: base, low class, pedestrian

Opposite of: noble, wealthy



Sounds like: Caribbean

“A man of PLEBEIAN tastes went to a Caribbean restaurant just to order french fries.”

Examples:

1. The rich kid insisted on having a driver take him to school, since he thought the school bus was too PLEBEIAN.
2. You might call it PLEBEIAN, but I like to think of this house as modest and cozy.
3. What a PLEBEIAN film – no narrative sophistication whatsoever!

185 POSTERITY

Meaning:

(n) future generations

Similar to: children, descendants, offspring

Opposite of: past, parent



Sounds like: Prosperity

“My prosperity will protect my memory in POSTERITY.”

Examples:

1. The museum contains crucial lessons for POSTERITY.
2. We buried a time capsule filled with valuable items for POSTERITY.
3. Don't do it for yourself, do it for POSTERITY!

Meaning:

(n) a rule of action or conduct

Similar to: commandment, direction, guideline



Sounds like: Accept

“New students had to accept the strict PRECEPTS introduced by the new teacher.”

Examples:

1. The PRECEPTS of the law forbid insulting a judge.
2. His parents imposed strict PRECEPTS on him to ensure his discipline.
3. The trainer's PRECEPT was to run 5 km per day to strengthen her legs.

Meaning:

(adj) *surpassing all others, most common*

Similar to: prevailing, prevalent, dominating

Opposite of: inferior, minor, subordinate



Sounds like: Super Giant

“The super giant tower is the PREDOMINANT object in this image.”

Examples:

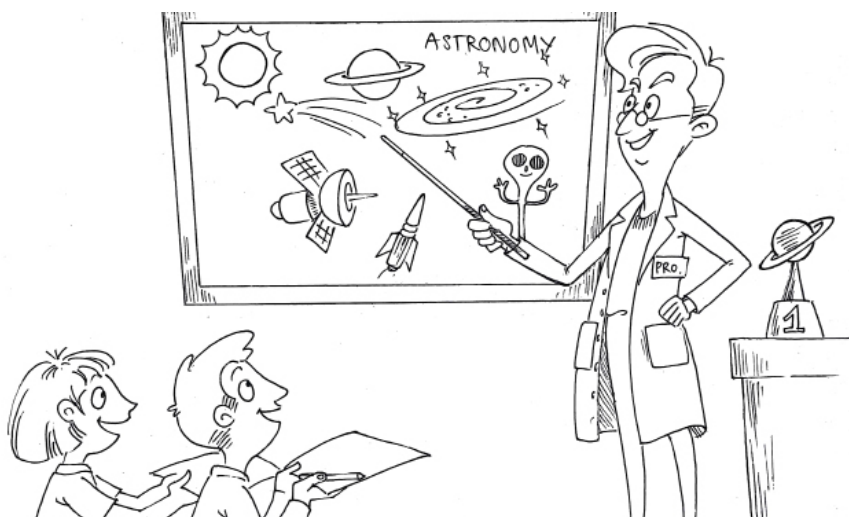
1. Traveling by car is still the PREDOMINANT method of transport in the Midwest.
2. In rural areas, farming is the PREDOMINANT occupation.
3. The iPhone is the PREDOMINANT mobile phone amongst teenagers.

Meaning:

(n) fame or importance based on reputation or achievements

Similar to: influence, reputation, standing

Opposite of: insignificance



Sounds like: Expertise

“Expertise in astronomy gives scientists PRESTIGE all around the world.”

Examples:

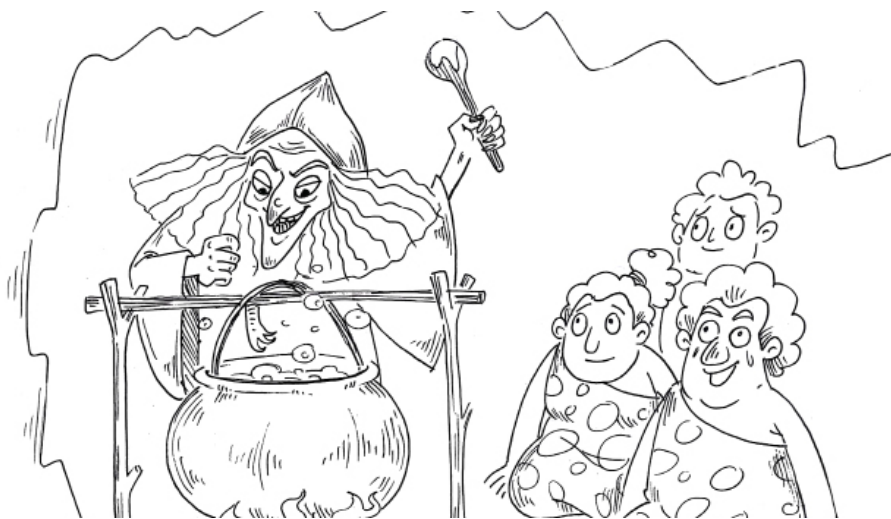
1. The PRESTIGE of being valedictorian is something many students would want to have.
2. Any Ferrari owner would feel a lot of PRESTIGE.
3. There's a lot of PRESTIGE that comes with a high-paying job.

Meaning:

(adj) Extremely ancient, relating to a time before history

Similar to: prehistoric, primitive, earliest

Opposite of: modern, recent



Sounds like: Evil

“PRIMEVAL communities believed in evil witchcraft.”

Examples:

1. PRIMEVAL forests are getting more difficult to preserve due to human activity.
2. The remains of PRIMEVAL humans can still be found in the countryside.
3. Some people say belief in religion is a PRIMEVAL urge.

190 PROCRASTINATE

Meaning:

(v) to delay, to put off

Similar to: postpone, prolong

Opposite of: expedite, continue, persist



Sounds like: Fascinate

“Social media is designed to fascinate, leading me to PROCRASTINATE.”

Examples:

1. I PROCRASTINATED instead of doing work, and now I have to write a novel in sixteen hours.
2. She kept PROCRASTINATING and watching YouTube videos instead of working.
3. If you PROCRASTINATE, you'll only make more work for your future self.

Meaning:

(adj/adv) giving or pouring forth freely

Similar to: (adj/adv) plenty, overflowing

Opposite of: (adj/adv) lacking, sparse



Sounds like: Produce

“Her PROFUSE (adj) generosity produced good results after the earthquake.”

Examples:

1. He was PROFUSE (adj) in gift-giving to his friends.
2. Although I apologized PROFUSELY (adv), she still refused to forgive me.
3. My PROFUSE (adj) growth in weight had doctors worried.

Meaning:

(v) to grow or reproduce rapidly

Similar to: breed, multiply

Opposite of: decrease, lessen, dwindle



Sounds like: Debate

“Disagreements concerning the debated issue quickly PROLIFERATED through the group.”

Examples:

1. The politician's slogans PROLIFERATED in the media as she became the most popular leader in the country.
2. The cat population PROLIFERATED to the point that the island was renamed Cat Island.
3. People became more cautious as the flu PROLIFERATED through the region.

193 PROSPECT

Meaning:

(n) the outlook for the future, a view, esp. of scenery

Similar to: expectation, forecast, hope

Opposite of: hindsight



Sounds like: Contest

“His PROSPECT was to win the contest for a job.”

Examples:

1. After college, traveling around the world is an exciting PROSPECT.
2. The PROSPECTS of a company surviving its first year are pretty low.
3. The PROSPECT of failure demotivates me sometimes.

Meaning:

(n) *skill or ability*

Similar to: aptitude, excellence, expertise

Opposite of: lack, incapability, inability



Sounds like: Boundless

“As a professional athlete, his PROWESS is boundless.”

Examples:

1. Ronaldo's footballing PROWESS remains unmatched.
2. She displayed a real PROWESS in mathematics, solving all the questions ages before her peers.
3. JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings demonstrated his writing PROWESS.

Meaning:

(v) to claim, esp. falsely

Similar to: imply, convey, allege

Opposite of: deny



Sounds like: Airport

“The thief PURPORTED to be the owner of the luggage left at the airport – and so got away with a bag of gold bars.”

Examples:

1. In their commercials, Cosmetic companies often PURPORT to have the best lipstick.
2. He PURPORTS to know Spanish, even though he's only familiar with two words.
3. I don't PURPORT to know a lot about cars, but I'm pretty sure that one is on fire.

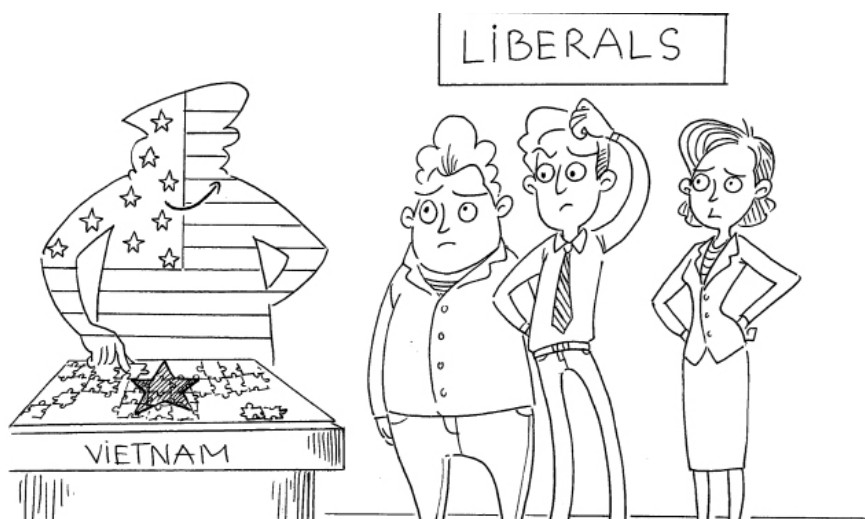
196 QUALM

Meaning:

(n) a doubt, an uneasy feeling about the moral rightness of an action

Similar to: objection, doubt, hesitation

Opposite of: certainty, sureness, approval



Sounds like: Vietnam

“Liberals had QUALMS about American involvement in Vietnam.”

Examples:

1. I have no QUALMS about him, so why is he so angry with me?
2. Many companies have no QUALMS with misrepresenting their products – as long as they can get away with it.
3. Kate had no QUALMS with abandoning her kittens on the street.

197 QUELL

Meaning:

(v) to ease, to calm down

Similar to: appease, ease, quiet

Opposite of: annoy, aggravate, incite



Sounds like: Bell

“The soothing sound of the bell helped to QUELL his stress.”

Examples:

1. The police were called to QUELL the fighting at the protest.
2. She had to QUELL her younger brother's rage after another child ate his lunch.
3. I QUELLED my anger by doing my breathing exercises.

Meaning:

(adj) foolishly idealistic

Similar to: dreamy, impractical, utopian

Opposite of: realistic, sensible



Sounds like: Exotic

“The QUIXOTIC knight was from an exotic part of Spain.”

Examples:

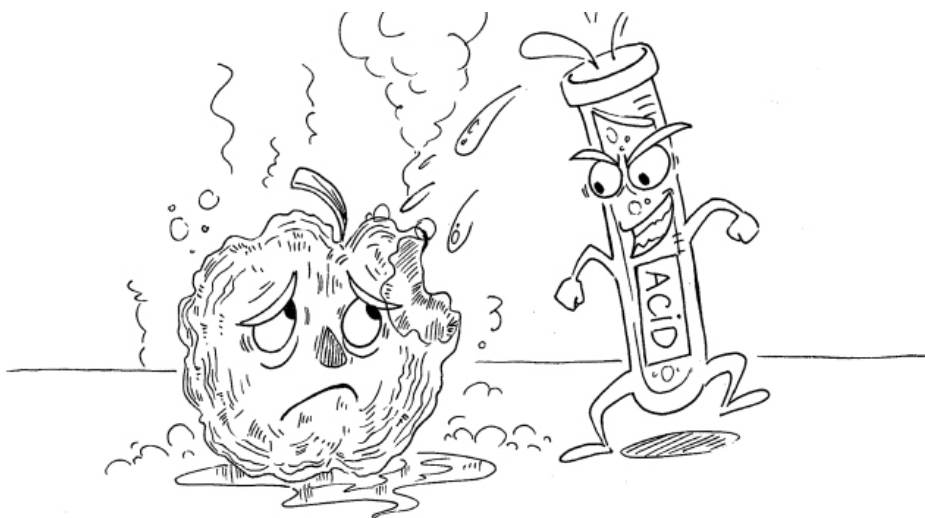
1. Sending a human to the moon used to be a QUIXOTIC vision.
2. His determination to build a castle from bottle caps is QUIXOTIC at best, and strange at worst.
3. My ambition to become president is viewed as QUIXOTIC – but just you wait and see.

Meaning:

(adj) spoiled or rotten

Similar to: contaminated, moldy, tainted

Opposite of: fresh, new, pure



Sounds like: Acid

“Acid caused the apple to turn RANCID.”

Examples:

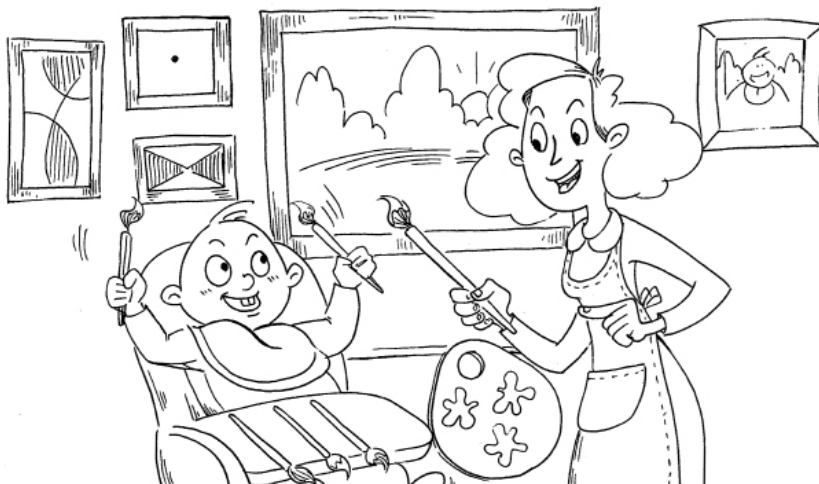
1. Food keep past the expiration date usually smells RANCID.
2. His imagination is RANCID and full of nasty visions.
3. When we first met, he called me RANCID, so I called him terrible. Six years later, we were married.

Meaning:

(v) to raise children

Similar to: bring up, care for

Opposite of: to abandon, to neglect



Sounds like: Career

“She reared her son well, and he went on to have a good career.”

Examples:

1. She REARED five children on her own after her husband had to leave the country.
2. The wolf pack REARS the young together.
3. The nun volunteered to help REAR children at the orphanage.

Meaning:

(n) one who hides from the world;

(adj) solitary, retiring

Similar to: (n) hermit, shut-in; (adj) solitary, isolated

Opposite of: (n) extrovert



Sounds like: Juice

“He is a RECLUSE who only drinks orange juice.”

Examples:

1. I am a total RECLUSE (n) when I'm gaming.
2. He couldn't stand other people and ended up becoming a RECLUSE (n), living in the jungle.
3. The snow leopard is a beautiful but RECLUSIVE (adj) animal.

Meaning:

(n) a shelter or sanctuary

Similar to: hideout, retreat



Sounds like: Huge

“There’s a huge REFUGE for abandoned dogs near Tokyo.”

Examples:

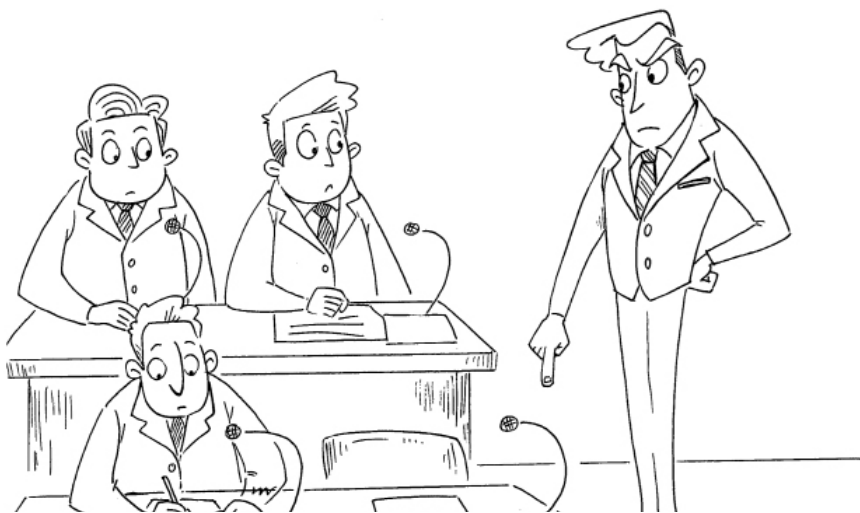
1. To protect our family, we had to find REFUGE from the massive storm.
2. If we climb the mountains, we’ll find REFUGE from the hunters.
3. While her parents constantly pressured her to study, she found REFUGE with her aunt, who was more understanding.

Meaning:

(v) to assign to an obscure place or condition, to send away, to demote

Similar to: banish, dismiss, deport

Opposite of: permit, remain, keep



Sounds like: Delegate

“The delegate was RELEGATED to a lower position.”

Examples:

1. She RELEGATED her secretary to role responsible for unimportant work.
2. Being rich might be important, but don't RELEGATE finding happiness to second place.
3. He felt humiliated after being RELEGATED to the same position he'd worked in five years ago.

Meaning:

(v) to argue strongly, to disagree with great passion

Similar to: object, criticize, disagree

Opposite of: agree, go along, support



Sounds like: Demonstrate

“If you take away their right to demonstrate, they are sure to REMONSTRATE with you.”

Examples:

1. My father always REMONSTRATES with people who don't park correctly.
2. The referee gave me a yellow card after I REMONSTRATED with him over his decision to award a penalty.
3. “You can't cancel the school trip, it's not fair!” the children REMONSTRATED.

Meaning:

(n) *the range of pieces an artist is prepared to perform, a range of skills*

Similar to: stock, skillset



Sounds like: Afar

“Because the band had a large REPERTOIRE, people came to hear them from afar.”

Examples:

1. The pop band expanded their REPERTOIRE to include rock and jazz.
2. It was an important occasion, so my act this time drew from my entire REPERTOIRE.
3. She showed off her dancing REPERTOIRE during the performance.

Meaning:

(adj) *able to recover quickly*

Similar to: flexible, strong, tough

Opposite of: weak, delicate



Sounds like: Brilliant

“He is creatively brilliant and physically RESILIENT – his name is Jackie Chan.”

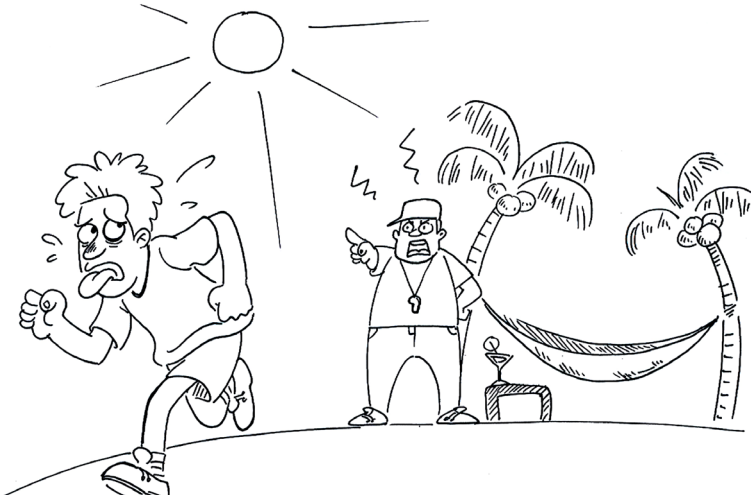
Examples:

1. The strong may win battles, but the RESILIENT win wars.
2. Water bears are one of the most RESILIENT species in the world; they can even survive in space!
3. After she beat cancer, I don't think anyone can doubt how RESILIENT she is.

Meaning:

(n) temporary relief

Similar to: downtime, recess, breather



Sounds like: Despite

“Despite his exhaustion, the trainer gave him no RESPITE.”

Examples:

1. Gardening gives me moments of RESPITE from studying for exams.
2. Escaping to the countryside can give RESPITE from the bustle of the city.
3. I had to go stay with my mother just to get some RESPITE from my roommate's noisiness.

Meaning:

(v) to take back, to pull back

Similar to: back off, repeal, withdraw

Opposite of: allow, enforce, approve



Sounds like: Fact

“You can’t RETRACT the facts – they’re out there!”

Examples:

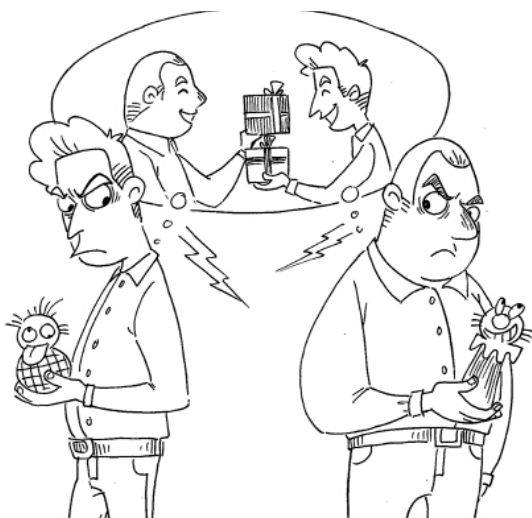
1. The newspaper RETRACTED their article after they received complaints.
2. Cats can RETRACT their claws, only bringing them out when necessary.
3. The university RETRACTED my admission offer after I failed my exams.

Meaning:

(n) a break in friendly relations, a physical split in the ground

Similar to: split, breach, flaw

Opposite of: continuation, agreement



Sounds like: Gift

“Their argument over a gift caused a RIFT in their friendship.”

Examples:

1. During the election, differing political opinions started a RIFT between the friends.
2. There was a RIFT between her and her husband because he would come home late every night.
3. A diplomatic RIFT formed between the two countries after the president's rude remarks.

Meaning:

(v) to wake or provoke

Similar to: awaken, get up

Opposite of: calm, lull



Sounds like: House

“I was ROUSED by the squeaking of the mouse in my house.”

Examples:

1. His startling confession ROUSED the audience from boredom.
2. The general was relatively good at strategy, but he excelled in giving ROUSING speeches.
3. The pep talk was intended to ROUSE the team, but it ended up terrifying them instead.

Meaning:

(adj) relating to the country or farming

Similar to: agricultural, pastoral

Opposite of: metropolitan, urban



Sounds like: Funeral

“RURAL funerals are very long.”

Examples:

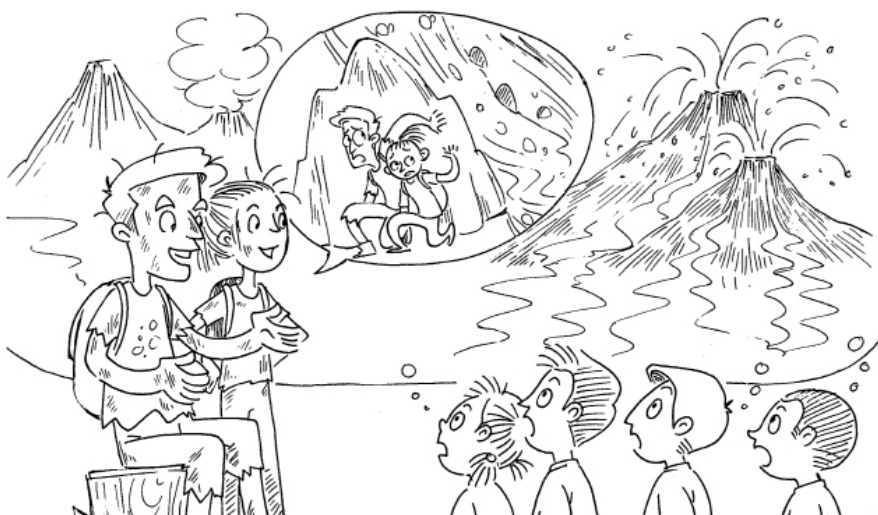
1. Cities are still dependent on food produced in RURAL areas.
2. My family took a vacation to RURAL Tuscany.
3. He wanted to spend some time alone in a remote, RURAL place.

Meaning:

(n) a long prose narrative, often telling of adventure or heroism, a long, complicated story

Similar to: adventure, epic, chronicle

Opposite of: short story, anecdote



Sounds like: Lava

“Their escape from the lava was a SAGA worthy of a Hollywood movie.”

Examples:

1. The Harry Potter SAGA took seven books to reach its climax.
2. My journey around the world turned into a SAGA of hardship and unexpected kindness.
3. The original SAGAS were about Nordic heroes who explored the world.

Meaning:

(adj) optimistic, cheerful

Similar to: enthusiastic, hopeful, upbeat

Opposite of: down, depressed, gloomy



Sounds like: Penguin

“The SANGUINE penguins played on the ice.”

Examples:

1. He was SANGUINE about the exam results, even though he hadn't studied.
2. Despite the gloomy weather, the children were SANGUINE enough to risk playing outside.
3. The local community took a more SANGUINE view of the situation after the firemen reported that the blaze wasn't spreading.

Meaning:

(adj) of gloomy temperament

Similar to: cheerless, sad

Opposite of: happy, upbeat, excited



Sounds like: After Nine

“She became SATURNINE after nine defeats in tennis.”

Examples:

1. Just like the rest of the family, the dog appeared quiet and SATURNINE.
2. My SATURNINE sister can't seem to find enjoyment in anything she does I think she might be depressed.
3. She has been SATURNINE ever since she was paralyzed from the waist down.

Meaning:

(adj) very harsh

Similar to: critical, brutal, cruel

Opposite of: gentle, mild



Sounds like: Bathing

“He ignored the SCATHING criticism for his love of bathing: the hot water always relaxed him.”

Examples:

1. The prosecution launched a SCATHING attack on the defendant.
2. The SCATHING reviews of his first novel hurt him deeply.
3. I know you're annoyed with me, but there's no need to be so SCATHING.

Meaning:

(v) to wash by scrubbing vigorously, to search intensely

Similar to: brush, cleanse, rub

Opposite of: energetic, mobile, moving



Sounds like: Tourism

“SCOUR in the shower to clean yourself well.”

Examples:

1. After years of use, we had to SCOUR the bathroom floor to fully clean it.
2. The rusted car body had to be SCOURED before repainting.
3. To prepare for the debate, they SCOURED the Internet for sources, but ultimately found nothing.

Meaning:

(adj) sitting down most of the time, not migratory or nomadic

Similar to: settled, sluggish, inactive

Opposite of: energetic, mobile, moving



Sounds like: Cherry

“Cherries are the favorite snack of the SEDENTARY man.”

Examples:

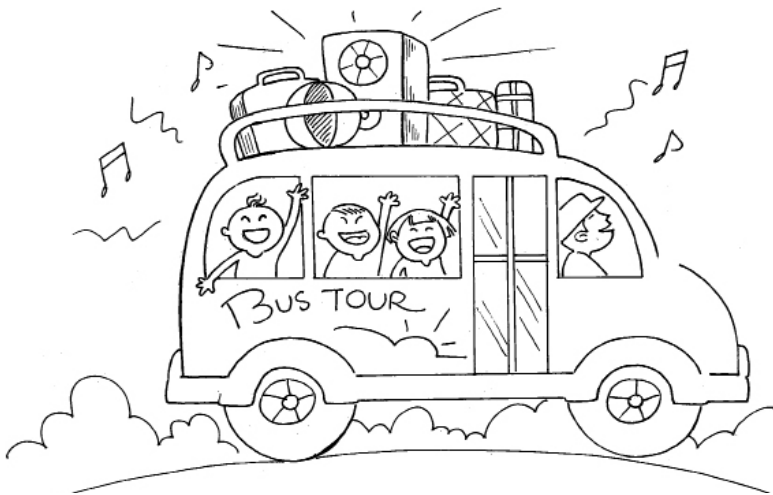
1. Working in an office is a SEDENTARY job that can easily bore anyone.
2. My family has lived a SEDENTARY life ever since we moved to the city.
3. Not all birds migrate South for the winter; some are SEDENTARY.

Meaning:

(adj) *appealing to the senses*

Similar to: rich, gratifying

Opposite of: disgusting, dull



Sounds like: Tour Bus

"The music on the tour bus was SENSUOUS."

Examples:

1. Enthusiasts will often describe the harp's soft, liquid music as 'SENSUOUS'.
2. The painting was too SENSUOUS, and the Vatican soon had it removed.
3. The SENSUOUSNESS (n) of the scene rendered most viewers speechless.

Meaning:

(n) a small variation, a nuance, a small amount

Similar to: tinge, variation



Sounds like: Trade

“There were different SHADES of opinions within the government about international trade.”

Examples:

1. It makes not a SHADE of difference whether the lemonade stand makes money or not; it's supposed to teach the child responsibility.
2. There is a SHADES's variation between the old model of the car and the new one.
3. On our panel we have speakers from all SHADES of the political spectrum.

Meaning:

(n) a custom or phrase distinctive of a particular group, class, etc., usually outdated, a password

Similar to: code



Sounds like: Mammoth

“The SHIBBOLETH for access to the secret base was the word ‘mammoth’.”

Examples:

1. New artists are trying to challenge and overturn the SHIBBOLETHS of the genre.
2. You need to know the SHIBBOLETH in order to use this restricted library.
3. While one side says their opponents are clinging to outdated SHIBBOLETHS, the other side calls them crazy.

Meaning:

(adj) nervous, easily frightened

Similar to: fearful, jumpy, edgy

Opposite of: calm, collected, laid-back



Sounds like: Vanish

“The SKITTISH deer were likely to vanish.”

Examples:

1. The SKITTISH cat ran off when we approached him.
2. Her SKITTISH brother would run to his parents whenever he got scared.
3. I can't go to haunted houses, I'm too SKITTISH.

Meaning:

(v) to smile in a self-satisfied or artificial way

Similar to: grin, sneer, look smug



Sounds like: Hurt

“He SMIRKED at his rival’s hurt.”

Examples:

1. He SMIRKED as someone else took the blame for his mess.
2. I sat back and SMIRKED after plotting the best prank I had ever thought of.
3. The child SMIRKED as he dipped his hand into the cookie jar.

223 SONOROUS

Meaning:

(adj) *having a full, deep sound*

Similar to: booming, thundering, full-voiced

Opposite of: quiet, tinny, high-pitched



Sounds like: Glorious

“The singer’s SONOROUS voice was glorious.”

Examples:

1. The singer’s SONOROUS voice filled everyone in the hall with a great joy.
2. The sound of the alarm was SONOROUS and far-reaching.
3. I admire radio hosts with their fluid manner of speaking and beautiful, SONOROUS voices.

224 SPONTANEOUS

Meaning:

(adj/adv) occurring naturally or without forethought

Similar to: (adj/adv) impulsive, voluntary, unplanned

Opposite of: (adj/adv) deliberate, planned, intended



Sounds like: Hilarious

“The SPONTANEOUS (adj) laughs were from the hilarious joke.”

Examples:

1. We made a SPONTANEOUS (adj) visit to the carnival.
2. Since the tickets were cheap, the family decided to make a SPONTANEOUS (adj) trip to Hawaii.
3. It's so hard to work with him because he keeps SPONTANEOUSLY (adv) changing the plan.

Meaning:

(v) to stop the flow of something

Similar to: bar, block, break

Opposite of: continuation, aid, advance



Sounds like: Launch

“The waiter STANCHED the launch of the salad dressing, preventing stains on the woman’s dress.”

Examples:

1. After the bullet hit, he STANCHED the blood with a cloth.
2. The leak needs to be STANCHED! My bathroom is flooding!
3. I held my face in an attempt to STANCH my tears.

Meaning:

(n) a sign of disgrace, a mark that lowers reputation

Similar to: scar, stain, taint

Opposite of: benefit, honor, credit



Sounds like: Magma

“The man faced STIGMA for dropping the dog into the magma.”

Examples:

1. There's a STIGMA around single parenthood, making raising a child even more difficult.
2. Failure is no STIGMA, and it should not make you feel like less of a person.
3. The STIGMA of cowardice is so strong that soldiers are executed for desertion.

Meaning:

(v) to interrupt or cut off, to keep in or hold back, to suffocate or smother

Similar to: repress, choke off

Opposite of: let go, loose, release



Sounds like: Rifle

“I’ll use this rifle, if you don’t STIFLE your screams.”

Examples:

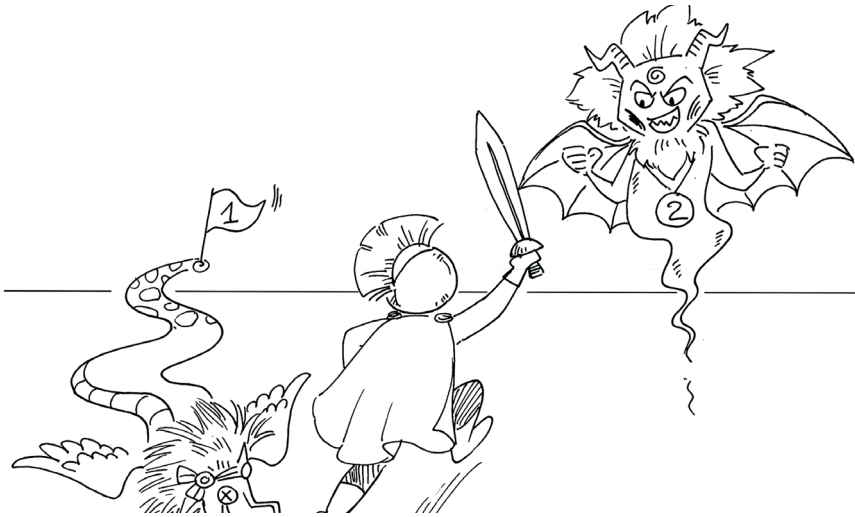
1. I tried very hard to STIFLE my laughter after seeing my friend trip and fall.
2. All through her adolescence, her creativity was STIFLED by strict parents.
3. The lack of funding had STIFLED research about global warming in the USA.

Meaning:

(adj) happening afterward, following in order

Similar to: successive, consecutive

Opposite of: preceding, previous, prior



Sounds like: Sun Serpent

“After beating the Sun Serpent the hero traveled to beat the SUBSEQUENT monster.”

Examples:

1. There will be SUBSEQUENT releases of sequels to this famous fantasy novel.
2. Scientists hope to find new discoveries in SUBSEQUENT years.
3. He had to retake the same class in the SUBSEQUENT semester.

Meaning:

(v) to give in or yield

Similar to: surrender, cave in, yield

Opposite of: continue, fight, refuse



Sounds like: Chewing Gum

“He tried to avoid chewing gum, but in the end he did SUCCUMB.”

Examples:

1. Sadly, he SUCCUMBED to the pressure of his surroundings and gave up his principles.
2. I SUCCUMBED to my craving for ice cream, despite my diet.
3. The community SUCCUMBED to the temptation of a lucrative offer for their land.

Meaning:

(adj) excellent, of the highest quality

Similar to: first-class, superb, best

Opposite of: poor, ordinary, worst



Sounds like: Alternative

“The car was SUPERLATIVE when compared to the alternatives.”

Examples:

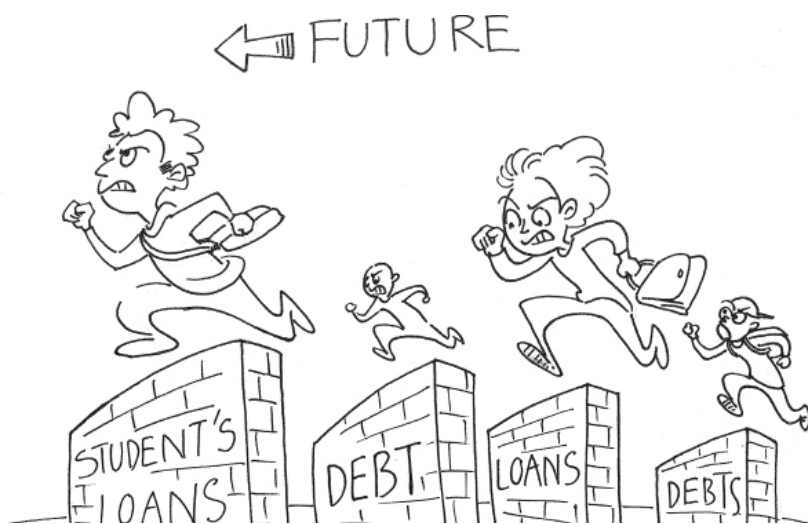
1. Certified scholars are SUPERLATIVE in terms of knowledge and skill.
2. Android is coded by SUPERLATIVE programmers who improve it with every update.
3. They chose a doctor with a SUPERLATIVE record to perform the heart surgery.

Meaning:

(v) to overcome (e.g. an obstacle), to climb to the top of

Similar to: triumph, conquer, best

Opposite of: fail, lose, surrender



Sounds like: Amount

“We had to SURMOUNT huge amounts of student loan debt.”

Examples:

1. Refusing to settle, she SURMOUNTED all the obstacles life put in her way.
2. In classic stories, the hero SURMOUNTS challenges to win his princess.
3. Soldiers must SURMOUNT their physical limits to prepare for battle.

Meaning:

(n) the combination of separate parts into a unified whole

Similar to: fusion, blend, composite

Opposite of: division, separation, part



Sounds like: Simpleness

“The simpleness of his stylistic synthesis shows Picasso’s genius.”

Examples:

1. The new album is a SYNTHESIS of western and eastern musical styles.
2. New medicine can be created through the SYNTHESIS of natural elements.
3. Research is a SYNTHESIS of knowledge and analysis.

Meaning:

(adj) *able to be touched or treated as real*

Similar to: concrete, touchable, actual

Opposite of: abstract, intangible, conceptual



Sounds like: Doable

“He preferred doable tasks with TANGIBLE benefits.”

Examples:

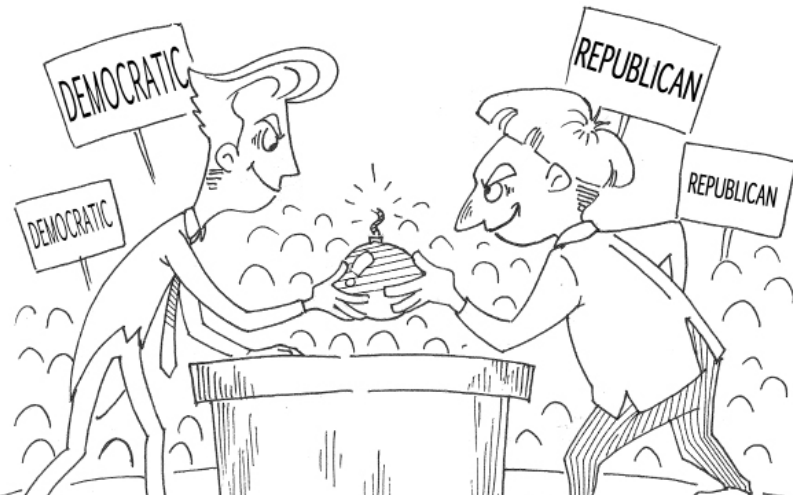
1. He was released from jail due to a lack of TANGIBLE evidence.
2. I'm so close to achieving my dream: it's almost TANGIBLE.
3. His TANGIBLE excitement was infectious.

Meaning:

(n) excessive boldness or rashness

Similar to: overconfidence, daring, carelessness

Opposite of: caution, modesty, care



Sounds like: Similarity

“The similarity of the politicians is seen in TEMERITY: they always think of destroying each other.”

Examples:

1. He had the TEMERITY to fight against bullies despite his size – an error for which he ended up in the hospital.
2. The presenter had the TEMERITY to suggest that the audience wasn't intelligent enough to understand her speech.
3. The teacher didn't tolerate students with the TEMERITY to question his authority.

Meaning:

(n) a legal offer, something, esp. money, offered in payment;

(v) to present formally for acceptance, make formal offer of

Similar to: (n) proposal, bid, submission; (v) to proffer, to propose



Sounds like: Spender

“The big spender had to stop because the shop wouldn’t accept foreign TENDER.”

Examples:

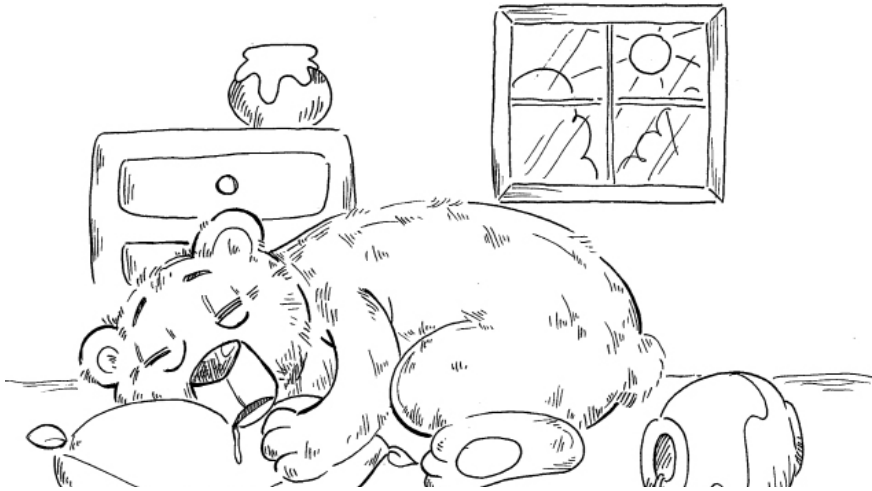
1. A multi-million dollar company submitted a TENDER of four billion dollars for the whole firm.
2. The TENDER to purchase all of the shares in 2016 was a success.
3. He TENDERED his resignation the day after the company went into bankruptcy.

Meaning:

(adj) old and worn out

Similar to: scruffy, shabby, tattered

Opposite of: unused, fresh, new



Sounds like: Pet Bear

“The pet bear slept with a THREADBARE pillow.”

Examples:

1. The creaky floors were covered by a THREADBARE carpet.
2. He still wears that THREADBARE t-shirt from his college days.
3. Some call my house THREADBARE. I call it old fashioned.

Meaning:

(n) a swift-flowing stream, an uncontrolled outpouring

Similar to: cascade, tide

Opposite of: dribble, seep



Sounds like: Current

“The TORRENT had a lucky current that carried the baby out to sea.”

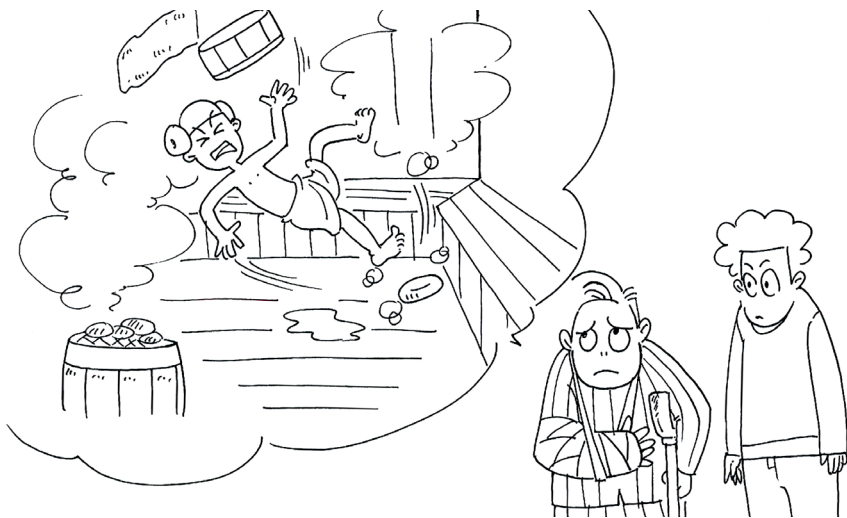
Examples:

1. The police use cannons to attack criminals with TORRENTS of water.
2. She subjected her children to a TORRENT of yelling in public.
3. The firefighter turned on the hose and sprayed the burning building with a TORRENT of water.

Meaning:

(n) serious physical or emotional injury

Similar to: damage, stress, wound



Sounds like: Sauna

“The incident in the sauna was nothing less than a TRAUMA.”

Examples:

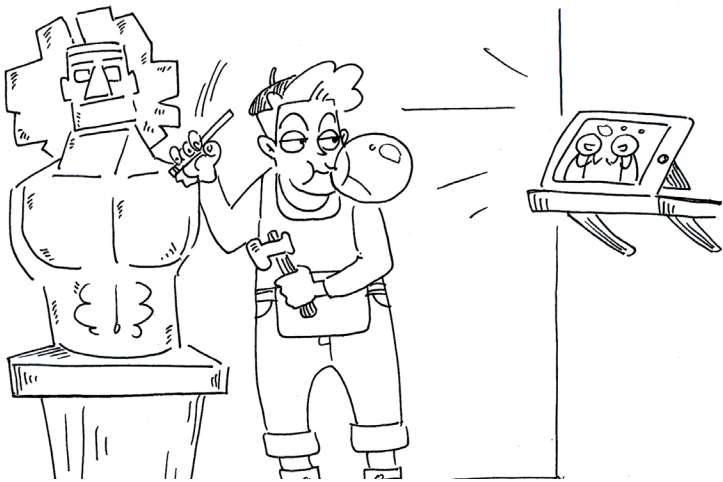
1. I left journalism after experiencing the TRAUMA of constant criticism.
2. Surgeons rushed to treat the TRAUMA victim. (n)
3. Parents fighting in front of their children may cause long-term psychological TRAUMA.

Meaning:

(n) something that lacks significance or worth

Similar to: bit, unimportant, useless

Opposite of: significant



Sounds like: Idol

“For the sculptor, fixing the idol was a TRIFLE.”

Examples:

1. You shouldn't debate such TRIFLES – it's an utter waste of time.
2. Some believe that money is a TRIFLE when compared to happiness.
3. A thousand dollars is a mere TRIFLE for billionaires.

Meaning:

(adj/n) *excessively ornate or complex in style, swollen due to fluid*

Similar to: (adj) bloated, puffy, inflated

Opposite of: (adj) reserved, simple, plain



Sounds like: Haunted

“Packed with a mess of ghosts, the haunted house became TURGID (adj) and overflowing on Halloween.”

Examples:

1. Students couldn't comprehend the TURGID (adj) instruction for the assignment.
2. The TURGIDITY (n) of the banana showed that it was ripe.
3. His speech was TURGID (adj), and his dress ridiculous; no one returned for part two.

Meaning:

(n) a final demand or statement of terms

Similar to: conditions, warning, proposal



Sounds like: debate him

“She didn’t want to debate him, so she gave me an ULTIMATUM: respect her rock, or leave.”

Examples:

1. The judge gave an ULTIMATUM to the prisoner: serve prison time, or pay the fine.
2. The ULTIMATUM from the rebel leader caused uproar in the capital.
3. The coach gave him an ULTIMATUM: work hard, or get kicked off the team.

Meaning:

(adj) not decent or proper

Similar to: inappropriate, incorrect

Opposite of: suitable, fitting, suited



Sounds like: Dreamy

“I thought he was dreamy, but then he did something terrible and UNSEEMLY.”

Examples:

1. He spends an UNSEEMLY amount of money on himself.
2. It was UNSEEMLY of me to wear flip-flops to school.
3. During the match, the UNSEEMLY fight between fans caused embarrassment for both sides.

Meaning:

(n) a farewell speech;

(adj) bidding goodbye, saying farewell

Similar to: (n) goodbye; (adj) final, departing

Opposite of: (n) greeting; (adj) first, opening



Sounds like: Big story

“His heartwarming VALEDICTORY (adj) speech was such a big story for college’s audience.”

Examples:

1. The graduating class was given a motivational VALEDICTORY (n) before they were dismissed.
2. Presidents generally deliver a VALEDICTORY (n) before stepping down.
3. The priest’s VALEDICTORY (n) left many in tears.

244 VERISIMILITUDE

Meaning:

(n) *resemblance to the truth*

Similar to: authenticity, genuine, realism

Opposite of: falseness, fraudulence



Sounds like: Very similar to

**“His comic had surprising VERISIMILITUDE!
It was very similar to the truth.”**

Examples:

1. Novelists strive for VERISIMILITUDE in their stories.
2. Modern graphics in games are as close to VERISIMILITUDE as we've ever gotten.
3. I used personal experiences to ensure some degree of VERISIMILITUDE in my documentary.

Meaning:

(adj) energetic, forceful, strong and healthy

Similar to: active, effective, tough

Opposite of: delicate, lazy



Sounds like: Rigorous

“Rigorous competitis require VIGOROUS preparation.”

Examples:

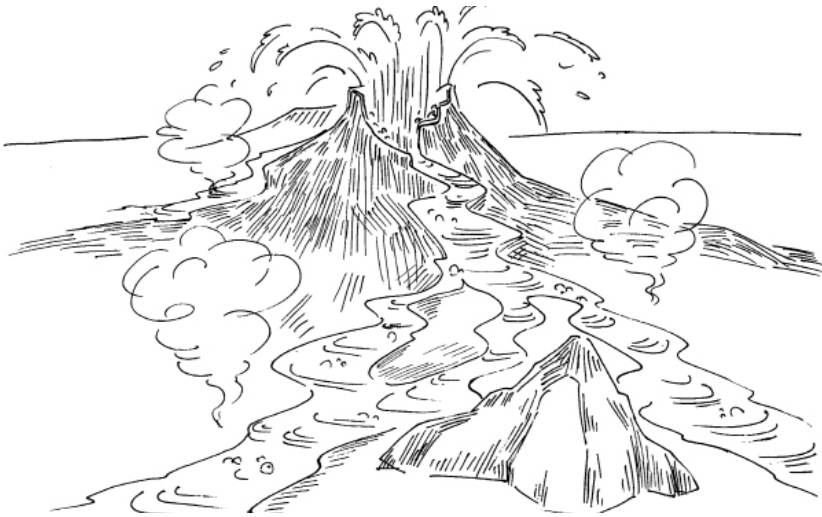
1. Burning fat and building muscle requires VIGOROUS exercise.
2. To chop wood, you will need VIGOROUS strength.
3. Only those of VIGOROUS spirit can become athletes.

Meaning:

(adj) *tending to vary widely, unstable, quickly evaporating*

Similar to: changeable, explosive

Opposite of: constant, definite, steady



Sounds like: Mile

“The VOLATILE magma flowed for a mile.”

Examples:

1. The market is VOLATILE, so you have to be careful with your investments.
2. VOLATILE chemicals are kept at low temperatures to prevent reactions.
3. The protests have caused a VOLATILE atmosphere in the nation.

Meaning:

(adj) *mischievous, playful*

Similar to: amusing, joyous

Opposite of: serious



Sounds like: Catfish

“Children loved to play with the WAGGISH catfish.”

Examples:

1. The WAGGISH dog doesn't like staying still.
2. Though his stories carried valuable moral lessons, his WAGGISH telling ensured they were entertaining.
3. The WAGGISH bloopers in modern films always give me laughs.

Meaning:

(v) to justify or deserve

Similar to: permit, guarantee, authorize

Opposite of: deny, reject, refuse



Sounds like: Current

“The child’s current illness absolutely WARRANTS hospitalization.”

Examples:

1. His horrible criminal acts WARRANTED 5 years in jail.
2. My swim through the muddy lake WARRANTED an extra long bath.
3. The student’s horrific prank WARRANTED harsh punishment.

Meaning:

(v) to handle (for example a tool), to exert (for example power)

Similar to: employ, handle, maintain

Opposite of: ignore, neglect



Sounds like: Field

“The farmer WIELDS a pitchfork in the field.”

Examples:

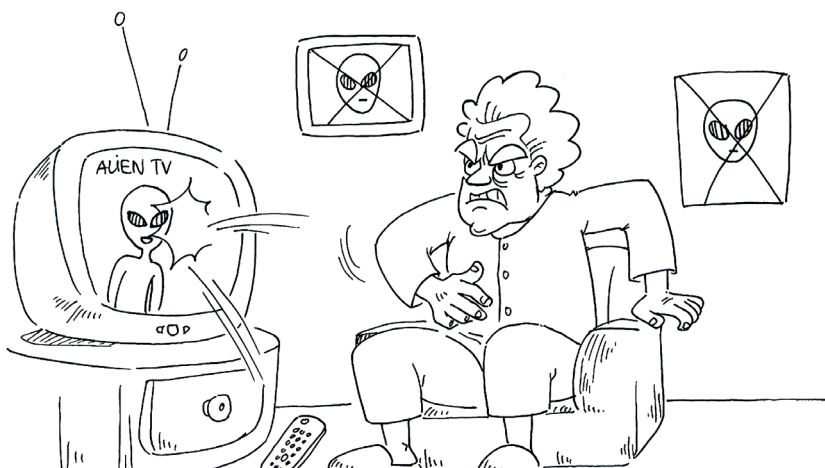
1. As for chopping wood, he is too young to WIELD an axe on his own.
2. I would love to learn how to WIELD a sword.
3. He WIELDS his intellect with precision and determination.

Meaning:

(n) fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners

Similar to: animosity, bigotry, injustice

Opposite of: fairness, impartiality



Sounds like: Seen a foe on media

**“He became angry because of his XENOPHOBIA:
he had seen a foe on media.”**

Examples:

1. Immigrants can often become targets of XENOPHOBIA.
2. Media’s focus on crimes committed by foreigners causes XENOPHOBIA in the viewers.
3. The XENOPHOBIA he saw convinced him to shorten his stay in the country.

VISUAL VOCABULARY



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