

1. **appreciable**  
(ə prē' shə bəl)

(adj.) sufficient to be noticed or measured

The injured woman lost an appreciable amount of blood before the paramedics arrived.

SYNONYMS: perceptible, detectable, considerable  
ANTONYMS: slight, trivial, inconsequential, negligible

2. **autocratic**  
(ô tə krat' ik)

(adj.) absolute in power or authority

For many years, the island was under the autocratic control of a dictator.

SYNONYMS: domineering, dictatorial, tyrannical, bossy  
ANTONYMS: democratic, egalitarian, lenient, permissive, indulgent

3. **blanch**  
(blanch)

(v.) to remove the color from; to make or turn pale; to parboil

Even the veteran rescue worker blanched upon seeing the crash site.

SYNONYMS: bleach, drain, wash out, go white  
ANTONYMS: color, dye, infuse, blush, flush

4. **blasphemy**  
(blas' fə mē)

(n.) an act, utterance, or writing showing contempt for something sacred

Galileo was accused of blasphemy for asserting that the sun, and not the earth, is the center of the universe.

SYNONYMS: curse, profanity, sacrilege, imprecation  
ANTONYMS: reverence, veneration, devotion, respect

5. **brawny**  
(brô' nē)

(adj.) strong, muscular

In Arthurian legend, one brawny knight after another tries to pull the sword Excalibur from the stone, but none succeeds.

SYNONYMS: broad-shouldered, strapping, husky, burly  
ANTONYMS: slight, frail, delicate, puny

6. **concerted**  
(kən sər' tid)

(adj.) planned or performed in cooperation with others

Teenagers and adults, northerners and southerners alike, participated in a concerted drive to register new voters.

SYNONYMS: joint, cooperative, combined, consolidated  
ANTONYMS: unorganized, unilateral, diffused

7. **contend**  
(kən tend')

(v.) to fight, struggle; to compete; to argue

I enjoy watching the four major tennis tournaments in which brilliant players contend for the "grand slam" titles.

SYNONYMS: battle, dispute, vie, maintain, assert  
ANTONYMS: yield, acquiesce, submit, relinquish

8. **humane**  
(hyū măn')

(adj.) kind, merciful

The humane legal code of Hammurabi, king of Babylonia, was ahead of its time in seeking justice for the weak and the oppressed.

SYNONYMS: sympathetic, compassionate, kindhearted  
ANTONYMS: cruel, merciless, unfeeling, brutal, heartless

9. **illustrious**  
(i ləs' trē əs)

(adj.) very famous, distinguished

As a student of world politics, I would be thrilled to meet an illustrious member of Parliament.

SYNONYMS: eminent, renowned, prominent, celebrated  
ANTONYMS: unknown, obscure, nameless, anonymous

10. **intolerable**  
(in täl' ər ə bəl)

(adj.) unbearable

To a perfectionist, mediocrity is more than unacceptable; it is simply intolerable.

SYNONYMS: insufferable, unendurable, outrageous  
ANTONYMS: enjoyable, pleasant, pleasing

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11. **irreverent**  
(i rev' ə rənt)

(adj.) disrespectful

The student's irreverent comments show a lack of respect for people in authority.

SYNONYMS: profane, impious, sacrilegious, flippant  
ANTONYMS: awed, respectful, devout, pious, deferential

12. **laborious**  
(lə bɔr' ē əs)

(adj.) not easy, requiring hard work; hardworking

After cleaning the gutters, we moved on to the laborious task of raking and bagging the leaves.

SYNONYMS: arduous, difficult, strenuous, wearisome  
ANTONYMS: easy, effortless, facile

13. **lithe**  
(lith)

(adj.) bending easily, limber

The burly linebacker was as lithe and agile as a ballet dancer.

SYNONYMS: supple, flexible, pliant, lissome  
ANTONYMS: stiff, rigid, inflexible, taut

14. **maltreat**  
(mal trēt')

(v.) to abuse, use roughly or crudely

The candidate pledged to shut down any factory or manufacturing plant found to maltreat workers.

SYNONYMS: misuse, mistreat, harm, aggrieve  
ANTONYMS: coddle, pamper, indulge

15. **ponder**  
(pän' də r)

(v.) to consider carefully, reflect on

I need time to ponder all of my options before deciding how to spend the summer.

SYNONYMS: think over, ruminare, contemplate

16. **subversive**  
(səb vər' sɪv)

(adj.) intended to undermine or overthrow; (n.) one who advocates or attempts to undermine a political system

The underground movement circulated subversive pamphlets that criticized the government.

The Alien and Sedition Acts enacted in 1798 gave the U.S. president the power to deport any noncitizen deemed a subversive.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) treasonous, traitorous; (n.) a revolutionary  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) patriotic, loyal, true-blue

17. **synthetic**  
(sɪn thet' ɪk)

(adj.) made or put together by people; (n.) something artificial

Sometimes only a jeweler can detect the difference between an expensive synthetic gem and a natural stone.

Nylon, rayon, and polyester are all synthetics that have revolutionized the textile industry.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) artificial, ersatz  
ANTONYMS: (adj.) natural, genuine

18. **temperate**  
(tem' pər ət)

(adj.) mild, moderate

It's impossible to have a temperate discussion with a hotheaded person.

SYNONYMS: composed, balanced, mellow, fair  
ANTONYMS: immoderate, extreme, excessive, harsh

19. **venomous**  
(ven' ə məs)

(adj.) poisonous; spiteful, mean

It was only after we had rushed the child to the emergency room that we learned he'd been bitten by a venomous spider.

SYNONYMS: nasty, malicious, virulent, malevolent  
ANTONYMS: harmless, innocuous, benign

20. **wily**  
(wī' lē)

(adj.) sly, shrewd, cunning

The fur trappers of colonial North America were known to be wily traders.

SYNONYMS: clever, tricky, artful, foxy, cagey  
ANTONYMS: dull-witted, dense, artless, straightforward