

1. **ad infinitum**
(ad in fə nī' təm)

(adv.) endlessly

Children who hear a favorite story read over and over
ad infinitum are learning about language.
SYNONYMS: forever, unceasingly, incessantly, ceaselessly
ANTONYMS: succinctly, concisely, tersely, briefly

2. **apportion**
(ə pōr' shən)

(v.) to divide and give out in shares

The aging king decided to apportion
the lands of his vast kingdom among his three daughters.
SYNONYMS: distribute, allot, parcel out, allocate

3. **bona fide**
(bō' nə fīd)

(adj.) genuine; sincere

The appraiser studied the old book and declared it to be a
bona fide first edition of *Moby Dick*.
SYNONYMS: authentic, indisputable, legitimate, certified
ANTONYMS: false, fake, bogus, spurious, counterfeit

4. **buoyant**
(boi' ənt)

(adj.) able to float easily; able to hold things up; cheerful, hopeful

We were weary and anxious to get home, but our friend's
buoyant spirits kept us going.
SYNONYMS: blithe, jaunty, lighthearted, animated
ANTONYMS: downcast, depressed, gloomy, morose

5. **clique**
(klēk; klik)

(n.) a small, exclusive group of people

The queen was surrounded by a clique
of powerful nobles who actually ran the country.
SYNONYMS: inner circle, coterie

6. **concede**
(kən sēd')

(v.) to admit as true; to yield, submit

Even though the votes were all in and counted, the losing
candidate refused to concede the
election.
SYNONYMS: acknowledge, grant, allow, assent
ANTONYMS: contest, dispute, gainsay, challenge

7. **congenial**
(kən jēn' yəl)

(adj.) getting on well with others; agreeable, pleasant

I was relieved when my bunkmate at summer camp turned
out to be considerate and congenial.
SYNONYMS: friendly, sociable, amiable, compatible
ANTONYMS: disagreeable, surly, cold, standoffish

8. **lofty**
(lōf' tē)

(adj.) very high; noble

My mentor maintains lofty
standards and works hard to adhere to them.
SYNONYMS: elevated, towering, exalted, grand
ANTONYMS: base, petty, low, sordid, despicable

9. **migration**
(mī grā' shən)

(n.) a movement from one country or region to another

migration from north to south has
contributed to the political clout of the Sun Belt.
SYNONYMS: population shift, mass movement

10. **perceive**
(pər sēv')

(v.) to be aware of through the senses, observe; to grasp meaning

I thought I perceived a flicker of guilt
on my brother's face when I asked who ate my slice of pie.
SYNONYMS: notice, discern, understand
ANTONYMS: miss, overlook, be blind to

11. **perverse**
(pə'vɜːs')

(adj.) inclined to go against what is expected; stubborn; tur away from what is good and proper

Some teenagers get perverse pleasure from blasting music that their parents do not like.

SYNONYMS: obstinate, contrary, mulish, wayward
ANTONYMS: tractable, docile, amenable, yielding

12. **prelude**
(pre'li:d)

(n.) an introduction; that which comes before or leads off

The orchestral prelude to the new opera seemed more interesting to me than the opera itself

SYNONYMS: preface, overture, prologue, "curtain-raiser"
ANTONYMS: epilogue, postlude, aftermath

13. **rancid**
(ran'sid)

(adj.) stale, spoiled

When he opened the door, there poured forth the unmistakably rancid odor of some ancient leftovers.

SYNONYMS: foul, rank, fetid, sour, rotten, putrid
ANTONYMS: wholesome, fresh

14. **rustic**
(rəs'tik)

(adj.) country-like; simple, plain; awkward; (n.) one who lives in the country

We rented a rustic cabin, with no electricity or running water, twenty miles from the town.

On the trail we met an amiable old rustic carrying a fishing pole and a string of trout he'd caught.

SYNONYMS: (adj.) rough, unsophisticated, countrified
ANTONYMS: (adj.) citified, urban, sophisticated, suave

15. **sever**
(sev'ər)

(v.) to separate, divide into parts

It was extreme of her to sever ties with her former best friend, but that is what she did.

SYNONYMS: cut off, amputate, break off, dissolve
ANTONYMS: join, unite, weld together

16. **sordid**
(sôr'did)

(adj.) wretchedly poor; run-down; mean or selfish

Nineteenth century reformers made people aware of just how sordid conditions were in city slums.

SYNONYMS: filthy, squalid, base, vile, seedy, sleazy
ANTONYMS: pure, noble, opulent, lavish

17. **untenable**
(ən ten' ə bəl)

(adj.) not capable of being held or defended; impossible to maintain

Minutes into the debate she had a sinking feeling that her position was completely untenable.

SYNONYMS: indefensible, insupportable, groundless
ANTONYMS: irrefutable, impregnable, incontestable

18. **versatile**
(vər'sə təl)

(adj.) able to do many things well; capable of many uses

By moving from comedy to drama to musicals, he has shown himself to be a truly versatile actor.

SYNONYMS: adaptable, handy, all-around, many-sided
ANTONYMS: limited, specialized, restricted

19. **vindicate**
(vin'də kāt)

(v.) to clear from hint or charge of wrongdoing; to defend successfully against opposition; to justify

Though the accused was vindicated in the end, his career was all but ruined by the allegations.

SYNONYMS: acquit, absolve, exonerate, advocate
ANTONYMS: implicate, incriminate, condemn, convict

20. **wane**
(wān)

(v.) to lose size, strength, or power

As the moon wanes, the nights grew darker; we could hardly see our way along the forest trails.

SYNONYMS: diminish, decline, subside, dwindle
ANTONYMS: grow, wax, amplify, balloon, increase