

improvise
(im' prə vīz)

(v.) to compose or perform without preparation; to construct from available materials

After the earthquake, stunned villagers were forced to improvise shelters from the debris.

SYNONYMS: ad-lib, play it by ear, wing it, extemporize
ANTONYMS: plan, rehearse, practice, prepare

incite
(in sīt')

(v.) to rouse, stir up, urge on

Company agents were hired to incite a riot at the steelworkers' protest demonstration.

SYNONYMS: spur, kindle, provoke, instigate, prompt
ANTONYMS: check, curb, impede, restrain, smother

influx
(in' flæks)

(n.) a coming in, inflow

An influx of arctic air has brought unseasonably cold weather to half the country.

SYNONYMS: inpouring, inrush, invasion
ANTONYMS: outpouring, exodus, departure

14. pallor
(pal' ər)

(n.) an extreme or unnatural paleness

"A ghost!" the girl gasped, her pallor making her look much like a ghost herself as she ran away.

SYNONYMS: wanness, lividness, bloodlessness
ANTONYMS: flush, blush, rosiness, bloom

15. pedigree
(ped' ə grē)

(n.) a list of ancestors, family tree; the history or origins of something

Despite his impressive pedigree, the colt showed little enthusiasm for racing.

SYNONYMS: lineage, ancestry, genealogy

16. precipitous
(pri sip' ət əs)

(adj.) very steep

The novice hikers were very nervous as they carefully negotiated the precipitous mountain trail.

SYNONYMS: sheer, abrupt, sharp
ANTONYMS: gradual, shallow, graded, incremental

17. profuse
(prō fyūs')

(adj.) very abundant; given or flowing freely

How can I stay upset with someone when they are so sincere and profuse with their apologies?

SYNONYMS: extravagant, lavish, bounteous, plenteous
ANTONYMS: sparse, scanty, meager, insufficient

18. reconcile
(rek' ən sīl)

(v.) to restore to friendship; to settle; to resign (oneself)

After so many years of feuding, it will be difficult for the brothers to reconcile and begin anew.

SYNONYMS: unite, conciliate, mend fences
ANTONYMS: antagonize, alienate, drive a wedge between

19. shackle
(shak' əl)

(v.) to put into chains; (n., usually pl.) a chain, fetter

The guards attempted to shackle the prisoner before allowing him to board the waiting airplane.

His wicked plot discovered, the prince was bound in shackles, and taken to the dank dungeon.

SYNONYMS: (v.) manacle, enslave; (n.) handcuffs, bonds, irons
ANTONYMS: (v.) free, unfetter, emancipate, liberate

20. threadbare
(thred' bār)

(adj.) shabby, old and worn

My brother has carefully collected a closetful of faded, threadbare jeans, sweatshirts, and sneakers.

SYNONYMS: frayed, seedy, ragged, shopworn, trite
ANTONYMS: luxurious, plush, costly, sumptuous

14
1. **annex**
(v. ə nek's';
n. an' eks)

(v.) to add to, attach; to incorporate; (n.) an attachment or addition
The two nations protested when their militant neighbor annexed the disputed territory.
All back issues of magazines are kept next door on the second floor of the new library annex.
SYNONYMS: (v.) join, acquire, appropriate, procure

2. **cleave**
(klēv)

(v.) To cut or split open; to cling to
It is possible to cleave a ripe coconut neatly in two with just one swing of a machete.
SYNONYMS: sever, halve, sunder, adhere, clasp

3. **cordial**
(kôr' jəl)

(adj.) in a friendly manner, hearty; cheery; (n.) a liqueur
Our aunt's cordial welcome made us all feel right at home in her huge, drafty, Victorian house.
Grasshopper pie is made not with grasshoppers but with crème de menthe, a cordial.
SYNONYMS: (adj.) hospitable, affable, warm, convivial
ANTONYMS: (adj.) gruff, unfriendly, unsociable

4. **cornerstone**
(kôr' nər stōn)

(n.) the starting point of a building; a fundamental principle or element
The cornerstone of the American judicial system is the presumption of innocence.
SYNONYMS: foundation, base, underpinning, support

5. **debacle**
(di bāk' əl)

(n.) an overwhelming defeat, rout; a complete collapse or failure
After the debacle of their crushing loss in the World Series, the team vowed to return next year.
SYNONYMS: disaster, fiasco, calamity
ANTONYMS: success, triumph, victory, coup

6. **devitalize**
(dē vīt' ə līz)

(v.) to make weak or lifeless
The long, dark winter, with its cold rain and gloomy skies, devitalized her usually buoyant spirit.
SYNONYMS: enfeeble, sap, enervate
ANTONYMS: enliven, stimulate, energize, excite

7. **embroil**
(em broil')

(v.) to involve in a conflict or difficulty; to throw into confusion
The last thing I want is to embroil myself in a dispute between two of my best friends.
SYNONYMS: entangle, ensnarl
ANTONYMS: disentangle, separate, disconnect

8. **exonerate**
(eg zän' ə rāt)

(v.) to clear from a charge or accusation
The prisoner was set free after ten years, thanks to new evidence that exonerated him of all charges.
SYNONYMS: absolve, acquit, vindicate, exculpate
ANTONYMS: implicate, incriminate, inculcate

9. **glib**
(glib)

(adj.) ready and fluent in speech; thoughtless, insincere
The salesman had such glib answers to every objection that I grew extremely skeptical of his claims.
SYNONYMS: superficial, pat, oily, unctuous, facile,
ANTONYMS: halting, tongue-tied, speechless, awkward

10. **haphazard**
(hap haz' ərd)

(adj.) by chance, not planned; lacking order
The haphazard arrangement of facts in his presentation left his listeners completely confused.
SYNONYMS: random, accidental, slapdash
ANTONYMS: deliberate, purposeful, orderly, meticulous