

CRACKING THE GRE 2006 EDITION - PRINCETON REVIEW

HIT PARADE GROUP 1

abscond	verb	to depart clandestinely; to steal off and hide
aberrant	adjective	deviating from the norm (noun form: aberration)
alacrity	noun	eager and enthusiastic willingness
anomaly	noun	deviation from the normal order, form, or rule; abnormality (adjective form: anomalous)
approbation	noun	an expression of approval or praise
arduous	adjective	strenuous, taxing; requiring significant effort
assuage	verb	to ease or lessen; to appease or pacify
audacious	adjective	daring and fearless; recklessly bold (noun form: audacity)
austere	adjective	without adornment; bare; severely simple; ascetic (noun form: austerity)
axiomatic	adjective	taken as a given; possessing self-evident truth (noun form: axiom)
canonical	adjective	following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards (noun form: canon)
capricious	adjective	inclined to change one's mind impulsively; erratic, unpredictable
censure	verb	to criticize severely; to officially rebuke
chicanery	noun	trickery or subterfuge
connoisseur	noun	an informed and astute judge in matters of taste; expert
convoluted	adjective	complex or complicated
disabuse	verb	to undeceive; to set right
discordant	adjective	conflicting; dissonant or harsh in sound
disparate	adjective	fundamentally distinct or dissimilar
effrontery	noun	extreme boldness; presumptuousness
eloquent	adjective	well-spoken, expressive, articulate (noun form: eloquence)
enervate	verb	to weaken; to reduce in vitality
ennui	noun	dissatisfaction and restlessness result from boredom or apathy
equivocate	verb	to use ambiguous language with a deceptive intent (adjective form: equivocal)
erudite	adjective	very learned; scholarly (noun form: erudition)
exculpate	verb	exonerate; to clear of blame
exigent	adjective	urgent, pressing; requiring, immediate action or attention
extemporaneous	adjective	improvised; done without preparation
filibuster	noun	intentional obstruction, esp. using prolonged speechmaking to delay legislative action
fulminate	verb	to loudly attack or denounce
ingenuous	adjective	artless; frank and candid; lacking in sophistication

inured	adjective	accustomed to accepting something undesirable
irascible	adjective	easily angered; prone to temperamental outbursts
laud	verb	to praise highly (adjective form: laudatory)
lucid	adjective	clear; easily understood
magnanimity	noun	the quality of being generously noble in mind and heart, esp. in forgiving (adjective form: magnanimous)
martial	adjective	associated with war and the armed forces
mundane	adjective	of the world; typical of or concerned with the ordinary
nascent	adjective	coming into being; in early developmental stages
nebulous	adjective	vague; cloudy; lacking clearly defined form
neologism	noun	a new word, expression, or usage; the creation or use of new words or senses
noxious	adjective	harmful, injurious
obtuse	adjective	lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression
obviate	verb	to anticipate and make unnecessary
onerous	adjective	troubling; burdensome
paean	noun	a song or hymn of praise and thanksgiving
parody	noun	a humorous imitation intended for ridicule or comic effect, esp. in literature and art
perennial	adjective	recurrent through the year or many years; happening repeatedly
perfidy	noun	intentional breach of faith; treachery (adjective form: perfidious)
perfunctory	adjective	cursory; done without care or interest
perspicacious	adjective	acutely perceptive; having keen discernment (noun form: perspicacity)
prattle	verb	to babble meaninglessly; to talk in an empty and idle manner
precipitate	adjective	acting with excessive haste or impulse
precipitate	verb	to cause or happen before anticipated or required
predilection	noun	a disposition in favor of something; preference
prescience	noun	foreknowledge of events; knowing of events prior to their occurring (adjective form: prescient)
prevaricate	verb	to deliberately avoid the truth; to mislead
qualms	noun	misgivings; reservations; causes for hesitancy
recant	verb	to retract, esp. a previously held belief
refute	verb	to disprove; to successfully argue against
relegate	verb	to forcibly assign, esp. to a lower place or position
reticent	adjective	quiet; reserved; reluctant to express thoughts and feelings
solicitous	adjective	concerned and attentive; eager
sordid	adjective	characterized by filth, grime, or squalor; foul
sporadic	adjective	occurring only occasionally, or in scattered instances
squander	verb	to waste by spending or using irresponsibly

static	adjective	not moving, active, or in motion; at rest
stupefy	verb	to stun, baffle, or amaze
stymie	verb	to block; thwart
synthesis	noun	the combination of parts to make a whole (verb form: synthesize)
torque	noun	a force that causes rotation
tortuous	adjective	winding, twisting; excessively complicated
truculent	adjective	fierce and cruel; eager to fight
veracity	noun	truthfulness, honesty
virulent	adjective	extremely harmful or poisonous; bitterly hostile or antagonistic
voracious	adjective	having an insatiable appetite for an activity or pursuit; ravenous
waver	verb	to move to and fro; to sway; to be unsettled in opinion

HIT PARADE GROUP 2

abate	verb	to lessen in intensity or degree
accolade	noun	an expression of praise
adulation	noun	excessive praise; intense adoration
aesthetic	adjective	dealing with, appreciative of, or responsive to art or the beautiful
ameliorate	verb	to make better or more tolerable
ascetic	noun	one who practices rigid self-denial, esp. as an act of religious devotion
avarice	noun	greed, esp. for wealth (adjective form: avaricious)
axiom	noun	a universally recognized principle (adjective form: axiomatic)
burgeon	verb	to grow rapidly or flourish
bucolic	adjective	rustic and pastoral; characteristic of rural areas and their inhabitants
cacophony	noun	harsh, jarring, discordant sound; dissonance (adjective form: cacophonous)
canon	noun	an established set of principles or code of laws, often religious in nature (adjective form: canonical)
castigation	noun	severe criticism or punishment (verb form: castigate)
catalyst	noun	a substance that accelerates the rate of chemical reaction without itself changing; a person or thing that causes change
caustic	adjective	burning or stinging; causing corrosion
chary	adjective	wary; cautious; sparing
cogent	adjective	appealing forcibly to the mind or reason; convincing
complaisance	noun	the willingness to comply with the wishes of others (adjective form: complaisant)
contentious	adjective	argumentative; quarrelsome; causing controversy or disagreement
contrite	adjective	regretful; penitent; seeking forgiveness (noun form: contrition)
culpable	adjective	deserving blame (noun form: culpability)
dearth	noun	smallness of quantity or number; scarcity; a lack
demur	verb	to question or oppose
didactic	adjective	intended to teach or instruct
discretion	noun	cautious reserve in speech; ability to make responsible dictions (adjective form: discrete)
disinterested	adjective	free of bias or self-interest; impartial
dogmatic	adjective	expressing a rigid opinion based on unproved or improvable principles. (noun form: dogma)
ebullience	adjective	the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts and feelings (adjective form: ebullient)
eclectic	adjective	composed of elements drawn from various sources
elegy	noun	a mournful poem, esp. one lamenting the dead (adjective form: elegiac)

emollient	a/n	soothing, esp. to the skin; making less harsh; mollifying; an agent that softens or smoothes the skin
empirical	adjective	based on observation or experiment
enigmatic	adjective	mysterious; obscure; difficult to understand (noun form: enigma)
ephemeral	adjective	brief; fleeting
esoteric	adjective	intended for or understood by a small, specific group
eulogy	noun	a speech honoring the dead (verb form: eulogize)
exonerate	verb	to remove blame
facetious	adjective	playful; humorous
fallacy	noun	an invalid or incorrect notion; a mistaken belief (adjective form: fallacious)
furtive	adjective	marked by stealth; covert; surreptitious
gregarious	adjective	sociable; outgoing; enjoying the company of other people
harangue	v/n	to deliver a pompous speech or tirade; a long, pompous speech
heretical	adjective	violating accepted dogma or convention (noun form: heresy)
hyperbole	noun	an exaggerated statement, often used as a figure of speech (adjective form: hyperbolic)
impecunious	adjective	lacking funds; without money
incipient	adjective	beginning to come into being or to become apparent
insert	adjective	unmoving; lethargic; sluggish
innocuous	adjective	harmless; causing no damage
intransigent	adjective	refusing to compromise (noun form: intransigence)
inveigle	verb	to obtain by deception or flattery
morose	adjective	sad; sullen; melancholy
odious	adjective	evoking intense aversion or dislike
opaque	adjective	impenetrable by light; not reflecting light
oscillation	noun	the act or state of swinging back and forth with a steady, uninterrupted rhythm (verb form: oscillate)
penurious	adjective	penny-pinching; excessively thrifty; ungenerous
pernicious	adjective	extremely harmful; potentially causing death
peruse	verb	to examine with great care (noun form: perusal)
pious	adjective	extremely reverent or devout; showing strong religious devotion (noun form: piety)
precursor	noun	one that precedes and indicates or announces another
preen	verb	to dress up; to primp; to groom oneself with elaborate care
prodigious	adjective	abundant in size, force, or extent; extraordinary
prolific	adjective	producing large volumes or amounts; productive
putrefy	verb	to rot; to decay and give off a foul odor (adjective form: putrid)
quaff	verb	to drink deeply
quiescence	noun	stillness; motionlessness; quality of being at rest (adjective form: quiescent)
redoubtable	adjective	awe-inspiring; worthy of honor
sanction	n/v	authoritative permission or approval; a penalty intended to

		enforce compliance; to give permission or authority to
satire	noun	a literary work that ridicules or criticizes a human vice through humor or derision (adjective form; satirical)
squalid	adjective	sordid; wretched and dirty as from neglect (noun form: squalor)
stoic	adjective	indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; steadfast (noun form; stoicism)
supplant	verb	to take the place of; supersede
torpid	adjective	lethargic; sluggish; dormant (noun form: torpor)
ubiquitous	adjective	existing everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered; wide-spread
urbane	adjective	sophisticated; refined; elegant (noun form: urbanity)
vilify	verb	to defame; to characterize harshly
viscous	adjective	thick; sticky (noun form: viscosity)

HIT PARADE GROUP 3

acumen	noun	keen, accurate judgment or insight
adulterate	verb	to reduce purity by coming with inferior ingredients
archaic	adjective	outdated; associated with an earlier, perhaps more primitive, time
aver	verb	to state as a fact; to declare or assert
bolster	verb	to provide support or reinforcement
bombastic	adjective	pompous; grandiloquent (noun form: bombast)
diatribe	noun	to disguise or conceal; to mislead
eccentric	adjective	departing from norms or conventions
endemic	adjective	characteristic of or often found in a particular locality, region, or people
evanescent	adjective	tending to disappear like vapor, vanishing
exacerbate	verb	to make worse or more severe
fervent	adjective	greatly emotional or zealous (noun form: fervor)
fortuitous	adjective	happening by accident or chance
germane	adjective	relevant to the subject at hand; appropriate in subject matter
grandiloquence	noun	pompous speech or expression (adjective form: grandiloquent)
hackneyed	adjective	rendered trite or commonplace by frequent usage
halcyon	adjective	calm and peaceful
hedonism	noun	devotion to pleasurable pursuits, esp. to the pleasures of the senses (a hedonist is someone who pursues pleasure)
hegemony	noun	the consistent dominance of one state or ideology over others
iconoclast	noun	one who attacks or undermines traditional conventions or institutions
idolatrous	adjective	given to intense or excessive devotion to something (noun form: idolatry)

impassive	adjective	revealing no emotion
imperturbable	adjective	marked by extreme calm, impassivity and steadiness
implacable	adjective	not capable of being appeased or significantly changed
impunity	noun	immunity from punishment or penalty
inchoate	adjective	in an initial stage; not fully formed
infelicitous	adjective	unfortunate; inappropriate
insipid	adjective	without taste or flavor, lacking, in spirit; bland
loquacious	adjective	extremely talkative (noun form: loquacity)
luminous	adjective	characterized by brightness and the emission of light
malevolent	adjective	having or showing often vicious ill will, spite, or hatred (noun form: malevolence)
malleable	adjective	capable of being shaped or formed; tractable; pliable
mendacity	noun	the condition of being untruthful; dishonesty (adjective form: mendacious)
meticulous	adjective	characterized by extreme care and precision; attentive to detail
misanthrope	noun	one who hates all other humans (adjective form: misanthropic)
mitigate	verb	to make or become less severe or intense; to moderate
obdurate	adjective	unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
obsequious	adjective	exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
occlude	verb	to obstruct or block
opprobrium	noun	disgrace; contempt; scorn
pedagogy	noun	the profession or principles of teaching, or instructing
pedantic	adjective	overly concerned with the trivial details of learning or education; show-offish about one's knowledge
penury	noun	poverty; destitution
pervasive	adjective	having the tendency to permeate or spread throughout
pine	verb	to yearn intensely; to languish; to lose vigor
pirate	verb	to illegally use or reproduce
pith	noun	to essential or central part
pithy	adjective	precise and brief
placate	verb	to appease; to calm by making concessions
platitude	noun	a superficial remark, esp. one offered as meaningful
plummet	verb	to plunge or drop straight down
polemical	adjective	controversial; argumentative
prodigal	adjective	recklessly wasteful; extravagant; profuse; lavish
profuse	adjective	given or coming forth abundantly; extravagant
proliferate	verb	to grow or increase swiftly and abundantly
queries	noun	questions; inquiries; doubts in the mind; reservations
querulous	adjective	prone to complaining or grumbling; peevish
rancorous	adjective	characterized by bitter, long-lasting resentment (noun form: rancor)
recalcitrant	adjective	obstinately defiant of authority; difficult to manage
repudiate	verb	to refuse to have anything to do with; disown

rescind	verb	to invalidate; repeal; to retract
reverent	adjective	marked by, feeling, or expressing a feeling of profound awe and respect (noun form: reverence)
rhetoric	noun	the art or study of effective use of language for communication and persuasion
salubrious	adjective	promoting health or well-being
solvent	adjective	able to meet financial obligations; able to dissolve another substance
specious	adjective	seeming true, but actually being fallacious; misleadingly attractive; plausible but false
spurious	adjective	lacking authenticity or validity; false; counterfeit
subpoena	noun	a court order requiring appearance and/or testimony
succinct	adjective	brief; concise
superfluous	adjective	exceeding what is sufficient or necessary
surfeit	noun/verb	an overabundant supply; excess; to feed or supply to excess
tenacity	noun	the quality of adherence or persistence to something valued; persistent determination (adjective form: tenacious)
tenuous	adjective	having, little substance or strength; flimsy; weak
tirade	noun	a long and extremely critical speech; a harsh denunciation
transient	adjective	fleeting; passing quickly; brief
zealous	adjective	fervent; ardent; impassioned, devoted to a cause (a zealot is a zealous person)

HIT PARADE GROUP 4

acerbic	adjective	having a sour or bitter taste or character; sharp; biting
aggrandize	verb	to increase in intensity, power, influence or prestige
alchemy	noun	a medieval science aimed as the transmutation of metals, esp. base metals into gold (an alchemist is one who practices alchemy)
amenable	adjective	agreeable; responsive to suggestion
anachronism	noun	something or someone out of place in terms of historical or chronological context
astringent	a./n.	having a tightening effect on living tissue; harsh; severe; something with a tightening effect on tissue
contiguous	adjective	sharing a border; touching; adjacent
convention	noun	a generally agreed-upon practice or attitude
credulous	adjective	tending to believe too readily; gullible (noun form: credulity)
cynicism	noun	an attitude or quality of belief that all people are motivated by selfishness (adjective form: cynical)
decorum	noun	polite or appropriate conduct or behavior (adjective form: decorous)
derision	noun	scorn, ridicule, contemptuous treatment (adjective form: derisive; verb form: deride)

desiccate	verb	to dry out or dehydrate; to make dry or dull
dilettante	noun	one with an amateurish or superficial interest in the arts or a branch of knowledge
disparage	verb	to slight or belittle
divulge	verb	to disclose something secret
fawn	verb	to flatter or praise excessively
flout	verb	to show contempt for, as in a rule or convention
garrulous	adjective	pointlessly talkative, talking too much
glib	adjective	marked by ease or informality; nonchalant; lacking in depth; superficial
hubris	noun	overbearing presumption or pride; arrogance
imminent	adjective	about to happen; impending
immutable	adjective	not capable of change
impetuous	adjective	hastily or rashly energetic; impulsive and vehement
indifferent	adjective	having no interest or concern; showing no bias or prejudice
inimical	adjective	damaging; harmful; injurious
intractable	adjective	not easily managed or directed; stubborn; obstinate
intrepid	adjective	steadfast and courageous
laconic	adjective	using few words; terse
maverick	noun	an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party
mercurial	adjective	characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood
mollify	verb	to calm or soothe; to reduce in emotional intensity
neophyte	noun	a recent convert; a beginner; novice
obfuscate	verb	to deliberately obscure; to make confusing
obstinate	adjective	stubborn; hardheaded; uncompromising
ostentatious	adjective	characterized by or given to pretentious display; showy
pervade	verb	to permeate throughout (adjective form: pervasive)
phlegmatic	adjective	calm; sluggish; unemotional
plethora	noun	an overabundance; a surplus
pragmatic	adjective	practical rather than idealistic
presumptuous	adjective	overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy); taking liberties
pristine	adjective	pure; uncorrupted; clean
probity	noun	adherence to highest principles; complete and confirmed integrity; uprightness
proclivity	noun	a natural predisposition or inclination
profligate	adjective	excessively wasteful; recklessly extravagant (noun form: profligacy)
propensity	noun	a natural inclination or tendency, penchant
prosaic	adjective	dull; lacking in spirit or imagination
pungent	adjective	characterized by a strong, sharp smell or taste
quixotic	adjective	foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals

quotidian	adjective	occurring or recurring daily; commonplace
rarefy	verb	to make or become thin, less dense; to refine
recondite	adjective	hidden; concealed; difficult to understand; obscure
refulgent	adjective	radiant; shiny; brilliant
renege	verb	to fail to honor a commitment; to go back on a promise
sedulous	adjective	diligent; persistent; hard-working
shard	noun	a piece of broken pottery or glass
soporific	adjective	causing drowsiness; tending to induce sleep
sparse	adjective	thin; not dense; arranged at widely spaced intervals
spendthrift	noun	one who spends money wastefully
subtle	adjective	not obvious; elusive; difficult to discern
tacit	adjective	implied; not explicitly stated
terse	adjective	brief and concise in wording
tout	verb	to publicly praise or promote
trenchant	adjective	sharply perceptive; keen; penetrating
unfeigned	adjective	genuine; not false or hypocritical
untenable	adjective	indefensible; not viable; uninhabitable
vacillate	verb	to waver indecisively between one course of action or opinion and another; waver
variegated	adjective	multicolored; characterized by a variety of patches of different color
vexation	noun	annoyance; irritation (noun form: vex)
vigilant	adjective	alertly watchful (noun form: vigilance)
vituperate	verb	to use harsh condemnatory language; to abuse or censure severely or abusively; berate
volatile	adjective	readily changing to a vapor; changeable; flick; explosive (noun form: volatility)

BEYOND THE HIT PARADE GROUP 1

alloy	verb	to commingle; to debase by mixing with something inferior; unalloyed means pure
appropriate	verb	to take for one's own use, confiscate
arrest /arresting	verb / adjective	to suspend; to engage; holding one's attention as in arrested adolescence, an arresting portrait
august	adjective	majestic, venerable
bent	noun	leaning, inclination, proclivity, tendency: "He had a naturally artistic bent."
broach	verb	bring up, announce, begin to talk about
brook	verb	to tolerate, endure, countenance
cardinal	adjective	major, as in cardinal sin
chauvinist	noun	a blindly devoted patriot
color	verb	to change as if by dyeing, i.e., to distort, gloss or affect (usually the first): " Yellow journalism colored the truth. "
consequential	adjective	pompous, self-important (primary definitions are: logically following; important)
damp	verb	to diminish the intensity or check the vibration of a sound
die	noun	a tool used for shaping, as in a tool-and-die shop
essay	verb	to test or try; attempt, experiment: "The newly born fawn essayed a few wobbly steps."
exact	verb	to demand, call for, require, take: "Even a victorious war exacts a heavy price."
fell	verb	to cause to fall by striking: "The lumberjacks arrived and felled many trees."
fell	adjective	inhumanly cruel: "Fell beasts surrounded the explorers."
flag	verb	to sag or droop, to become spiritless to decline: Think of a flag on a windless day, as in her flagging spirits
flip	adjective	sarcastic, impertinent, as in flippant: a flip remark
ford	verb	to wade across the shallow part of a river or stream
grouse	verb	to complain or grumble
guy	noun / verb	a rope, cord, or cable attached to something as a brace or guide; to steady or reinforce using a guy: Think guide
intimate	verb	to imply, suggest, or insinuate: "Are you intimating that I cannot be trusted?"
list	verb	to tilt or lean to one side: "The ship's broken mast listed helplessly in the wind."
lumber	verb	to move heavily and clumsily: "Lumbering giants on land, walruses are actually graceful swimmers."
meet	adjective	fitting, proper: "It is altogether meet that Jackie Robinson is in the baseball hall of fame."

milk	verb	to exploit, to squeeze every last ounce of: "I milked the position for all it was worth."
mince	verb	pronounce or speak affectedly, euphemize, speak too carefully: "Don't mince words." Also, to take tiny steps, tiptoe
nice	adjective	exacting, fastidious, extremely precise: "He made a nice distinction between the two cases."
obtain	adjective	to be established, accepted, or customary: "Those standards no longer obtain."
occult	adjective	hidden, concealed, beyond comprehension
pedestrian	adjective	commonplace, trite, unremarkable, quotidian
pie	adjective	multicolored, usually in blotches: "The Pied Piper of Hamelin was so called because of his multicolored coat."
pine	verb	to lose vigor (as through grief): to yearn
plastic	adjective	moldable, pliable, not rigid
pluck	noun	courage, spunk, fortitude: "Churchill's speeches inspired the pluck of his countrymen during the war."
prize	verb	to pry, to press or force with level; something taken by force, spoils: "The information was prized from him."
rail	verb	to complain about bitterly: "Early American progressives railed against the railroad barons."
rent	verb / noun	torn, past of rend: "He rent his garments"; an opening or tear caused by such: a large rent in the fabric
quail	verb	to lose courage, turn frightened
qualify	verb	to limit: "Let me qualify that statement."
sap	verb	to enervate or weaken the vitality of: "That race sapped my strength."
sap	noun	a fool or nitwit: "Don't be a sap!"
scurvy	adjective	contemptible, despicable: "He was a scurvy old reprobate."
singular	adjective	exceptional, unusual, odd: "He was singularly well-suited for the job."
stand	noun	a group of trees
steep	verb	to saturate or completely soak, as in to let a tea bag steep: "She was steeped in esoteric knowledge."
strut	noun	the supporting structural cross-part of a wing
table	verb	to remove (as a parliamentary motion) from consideration: "They tabled the motion and will consider it again later."
tender	verb	to proffer or offer: "He tendered his resignation."
waffle	verb	to equivocate; to change one's position: "His detractors say that the President waffles too much; he can never make up his mind."
wag	noun	wit, joker: "Groucho Marx was a well-known wag."

BEYOND THE HIT PARADE GROUP 2

abjure	verb	to renounce or reject solemnly; to recant; to avoid
adumbrate	verb	to foreshadow vaguely or intimate; to suggest or outline sketchily; to obscure or overshadow
anathema	noun	a solemn or ecclesiastical (religious) curse; accursed or thoroughly loathed person or thing
anodyne	adjective / noun	soothing, something that assuages or allays pain or comforts
apogee	noun	farthest or highest point; culmination; zenith
apostate	noun	one who abandons long-held religious or political convictions
apotheosis	noun	deification, glorification to godliness, an exalted example, a model of excellence or perfection
asperity	noun	severity, rigor; roughness, harshness; acrimony, irritability
asseverate	verb	to aver, allege, assert
assiduous	adjective	diligent, hard-working, sedulous
augury	noun	omen, portent
bellicose	adjective	belligerent, pugnacious, warlike
calumniate	verb	to slander, make a false accusation; calumny means slander, aspersion
captious	adjective	disposed to point out trivial faults, calculated to confuse or entrap in argument
cavil	verb	to find fault without good reason
celerity	noun	speed, alacrity; think "accelerate"
chimera	noun	an illusion; originally, an imaginary fire-breathing she-monster
contumacious	adjective	insubordinate, rebellious; contumely means insult, scorn, aspersion
debacle	noun	rout, fiasco, complete failure: "My first attempt at a soufflé was a total debacle."
denouncement	noun	an outcome or solution; the unraveling of a plot
descry	verb	to discriminate or discern
desuetude	noun	disuse: "After years of desuetude, my French skills were finally put to use."
desultory	adjective	random; aimless; marked by a lack of plan or purpose: "Her desultory performance impressed no one."
diaphanous	adjective	transparent, gauzy
diffident	adjective	reserved, shy, unassuming; lacking in self-confidence: "Surprisingly, the CEO of the corporation had been a diffident youth."
dirge	noun	a song of grief or lamentation: "We listened to the slow, funereal dirge."
encomium	noun	glowing and enthusiastic praise; panegyric, tribute, eulogy
eschew	verb	to shun or avoid: "She chose to eschew the movie theater, preferring to watch DVDs at home."
excoriate	verb	to censure scathingly, to upbraid

execrate	verb	denounce, feel loathing for, curse, declare to be evil
exegesis	noun	critical examination, explication
expiate	verb	to atone or make amends for: "Pia Zadora has expiated her movie career by good works and charity."
extirpate	verb	to destroy, exterminate, cut out, excise
fatuous	adjective	silly, inanely foolish: "I would ignore such a fatuous comment."
fractious	adjective	quarrelsome, rebellious, unruly, refractory, irritable
gainsay	verb	to deny, dispute, contradict, oppose
heterodox	adjective	unorthodox, heretical, iconoclastic
imbroglio	noun	difficult or embarrassing situation
indefatigable	adjective	not easily exhaustible; tireless; dogged
ineluctable	adjective	certain, inevitable
inimitable	adjective	one of a kind, peerless
insouciant	adjective	unconcerned, carefree, heedless
inveterate	adjective	deep rooted, ingrained, habitual
jejune	adjective	vapid, uninteresting, nugatory; childish, immature, puerile
lubricious	adjective	lewd, wanton, greasy, slippery
mendicant	noun	a beggar, supplicant
meretricious	adjective	cheap, gaudy; tawdry, flashy, showy; attracting by false show
minatory	adjective	menacing, threatening (reminds you of the Minotaur, a threatening creature indeed)
nadir	noun	low point, perigee
nonplussed	adjective	baffled, bewildered, at a loss for what to do or think
obstreperous	adjective	noisily and stubbornly defiant, aggressively boisterous
ossified	adjective	tending to become more rigid, conventional, sterile, and reactionary with age; literally; turned into bone
palliate	verb	to make something seem less serious, to gloss over, to make less severe or intense
panegyric	noun	formal praise, eulogy, encomium; panegyric means expressing elaborate praise
parsimonious	adjective	cheap, miserly; "A parsimonious person parses out his money with great difficulty."
pellucid	adjective	transparent, easy to understand, limpid
peroration	noun	the concluding part of a speech; flowery, rhetorical speech
plangent	adjective	pounding, thundering, resounding
prolix	adjective	long-winded, verbose; prolixity means verbosity: "Michael Gorbachev is famous for his prolixity."
propitiate	verb	to appease; to conciliate; propitious means auspicious, favorable
puerile	adjective	childish, immature, jejune, nugatory
puissance	noun	power, strength; puissant means powerful, strong; "The senator delivered a puissant speech to the convention."
pusillanimous	adjective	cowardly, craven

remonstrate	verb	to protest, object
sagacious	adjective	having sound judgment; perceptive, wise; like a sage
salacious	adjective	lustful, lascivious, bawdy
salutary	adjective	remedial, wholesome, causing improvement
sanguine	adjective	cheerful, confident, optimistic
saturnine	adjective	gloomy, dark, sullen, morose
sententious	adjective	aphoristic or moralistic; epigrammatic; tending to moralize excessively
stentorian	adjective	extremely loud and powerful
stygian	adjective	gloomy, dark
sycophant	noun	toady, servile, self-seeking flatterer; parasite
tendentious	adjective	biased; showing marked tendencies
timorous	adjective	timid, fearful, diffident
tyro	noun	novice, greenhorn, rank amateur
vitiate	verb	to corrupt, debase, spoil, make ineffective
voluble	adjective	fluent, verbal, having easy use of spoken language