

SENIOR CATEGORY SPELLING BOOK



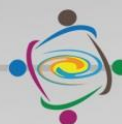
2018 SPELLING BEE



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| Word | Part of Speech | Definition | Use in a sentence to bring out context |
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| Aardwolf | Noun | A black-striped nocturnal African mammal that feeds mainly on termites | <i>A black-striped nocturnal African mammal that feeds mainly on termites.</i> |
| Aberration | Noun | A departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically an unwelcome one. | <i>These aberrations are mainly caused by the proposed adoption of the 45% base rate approach.</i> |
| Abscission | Noun | The natural detachment of parts of a plant, typically dead leaves and ripe fruit. | <i>The presence and balance of plant hormones have been shown to affect abscission of leaves, flowers, and immature and mature fruit.</i> |
| Accomplice | Noun | A partner in crime | <i>The wife was accused of being an accomplice in the murder of her husband.</i> |
| Absorbent | Adjective | (Of a material) able to soak up liquid easily. | <i>Absorbent kitchen paper.</i> |
| Accommodate | Verb | (Of a building or other area) provide lodging or sufficient space for. | <i>The cottages accommodate up to six people.</i> |
| Absorption | Noun | The process by which one thing absorbs or is absorbed by another. | <i>Shock absorption is especially important for fitness instructors.</i> |
| Aficionado | Noun | A person who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about an activity, subject, or pastime. | <i>Without a doubt this show has an appeal that reaches beyond photography aficionados.</i> |
| Amusement | Noun | A feeling or an activities that bring pleasure or entertainment | <i>The magician provided amusement to the children at the birthday party.</i> |
| Analysis | Noun | A detailed study or examination of something in order to understand more about it; the result of a study | <i>The scientist had to present an analysis of his experiment at the conference.</i> |
| Ancestors | Noun | A person's forefathers persons who lived in the past, from whom one's father or mother is a descendant | <i>Ancestors play a significant role in the beliefs and values of some cultures.</i> |
| Announcement | Noun | A formal written or spoken statement to inform people about something | <i>The public waited anxiously for the announcement by the newly appointed Minister of Finance.</i> |
| Aerator | Noun | An apparatus for aerating water or other fluids. | <i>If both hot and cold water are affected, probably the aerator is congested with rust and corrosion.</i> |
| Antarctic | Adjective | Relating to the South polar region | <i>The large emperor penguins are only found in the Antarctic regions.</i> |
| Abscond | Verb | Leave hurriedly and secretly, typically to escape from custody or avoid arrest. | <i>The barman absconded with a week's takings.</i> |
| Aficionado | Noun | A person who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about an activity, subject, or pastime. | <i>It was a real and rare treat for aficionados of modern jazz.</i> |
| Apartheid | Noun | A policy or system of separation or discrimination on grounds of race | <i>Whether the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa paved the way for democracy is debatable.</i> |
| Australia | Pro. | An island country and continent | <i>The climate of Australia is</i> |

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| | Noun | of the southern hemisphere, in the SW Pacific, a member state of the Commonwealth Capital, Canberra. | <i>significantly influenced by ocean currents.</i> |
| Abysmal | Adjective | Extremely bad; appalling. | <i>The quality of her work is abysmal.</i> |
| Aggrandise | Verb | Increase the power, status, or wealth of. | <i>An action intended to aggrandise the Frankish dynasty.</i> |
| Abbreviate | Verb | Shorten (a word, phrase, or text) | <i>Network' is often abbreviated to 'net'.</i> |
| Ambidextrous | Adjective | Able to use the right and left hands equally well. | <i>Few of us are naturally ambidextrous.</i> |
| Acceleration | Noun | An increase in speed or rate | <i>The doctor was alarmed by the acceleration in his patient's heartbeat.</i> |
| Amphitheatre | Noun | (especially in Greek and Roman architecture) an open, circular or oval building with a central space for the presentation of dramatic or sporting events surrounded by tiers of seats for spectators. | <i>The opera was performed in the Roman amphitheatre.</i> |
| Application | Noun | The action of putting something into operation | <i>That question required an application of specific reading skills.</i> |
| Applique | Noun | Ornamental needlework in which pieces of fabric are sewn or stuck on to a larger piece to form a picture or pattern. | <i>Throughout 2004 appliqué and embroidery on clothes and fabrics will be much stronger and more extravagant, yet remain dignified</i> |
| Arctic | Adjective | Relating to the regions around the North pole | <i>He was keen to explore the Arctic regions.</i> |
| Artificial | Adjective | Produced by human beings; not of natural origin | <i>He moved around quite easily despite having an artificial leg.</i> |
| Assault | Verb | To make a physical or verbal attack | <i>He pleaded not guilty to the charges of assault.</i> |
| Assembly | Noun | A gathering of people for a common purpose | <i>An assembly is held every Monday morning at our school.</i> |
| Assignment | Noun | A task or piece of work to be completed as part one's job or study | <i>The assignment we were given was extremely difficult.</i> |
| Assortment | Noun | A collection of different types of the same thing | <i>The auction of an assortment of vintage cars attracted both national and international buyers.</i> |
| Abstinence | Noun | The practice of restraining oneself from indulging in something, typically alcohol | <i>I started drinking again after six years of abstinence.</i> |
| Aqueous | Adjective | Of or containing water. | <i>An aqueous solution of potassium permanganate.</i> |
| Astounding | Adjective | Surprisingly impressive or notable | <i>The view from the top of Table mountain is astounding.</i> |
| Acquiesce | Verb | Accept something reluctantly but without protest. | <i>Sara acquiesced in his decision.</i> |
| Athlete | Noun | A person who competes in sports such as running and jumping | <i>As an athlete, one should be of sound mind and body.</i> |
| auburn | Adjective | (Of hair) of a reddish-brown colour. | <i>Her auburn hair was swept up in elegant curls.</i> |

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| Automatic | Adjective | The ability of a device or process to working by itself with little or no direct human control | <i>Automatic appliances are labour saving devices.</i> |
| Adieu | Exclamation | Goodbye | <i>If sight and shape be true, why then, my love adieu!</i> |
| Backstage | Adjective | Working in the area behind the stage where the actors dress or are waiting to perform | <i>It is seldom that the backstage staff is given credit for the success of a production.</i> |
| Bargain | Noun | A thing bought for less than the usual price; | <i>She was thrilled about the bargain she got in the Summer sale.</i> |
| Barometer | Noun | The instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure | <i>He was unable to get an accurate reading as the barometer was faulty.</i> |
| Benchmark | Noun | A standard or point of reference against which things may be compared | <i>The test used as a benchmark to admit students was found to be unreliable.</i> |
| Betrayal | Noun | An act of being disloyal; treachery | <i>He went into depression because of the betrayal of his partner.</i> |
| Biscuit | Noun | A small flat dry cake, usually sweet, and baked until crisp | <i>The biscuit is very popular among young toddlers.</i> |
| Blackout | Noun | A period when all lights must be turned out or covered to prevent visibility; | <i>The public was furious with Eskom for the recent blackout.</i> |
| Blunder | Noun | A stupid or careless mistake | <i>She was embarrassed by the terrible blunder she had made during the interview.</i> |
| Bodyguard | Noun | A person or group of people employed to escort and protect someone, usually an important or famous person | <i>The president's bodyguard is heavily armed to ensure his safety.</i> |
| Borderline | Noun | Line of division or cut-off point | <i>The borderline for a pass is forty percent.</i> |
| Bowler | Noun | A player who throws the ball at the batsman in a cricket match | <i>It is an honour to be recognised as the fastest bowler in your team.</i> |
| Bridesmaid | Noun | A female who helps and accompanies the bride on her wedding day | <i>She chose her best friend as her bridesmaid.</i> |
| Bridge | Noun | A structure built over a river, road or railway to allow people and vehicles to cross over | <i>The heavy storm destroyed the bridge, leaving many motorists stranded in the countryside.</i> |
| Broadcast | Verb | To announce or present programmes on television or radio | <i>The citizens were eager to watch the live broadcast of the president's national address.</i> |
| Brutality | Noun | Savagely cruel, violent, merciless, behaviour | <i>The police were accused of brutality in controlling the protest march.</i> |
| Bubble | Noun | A ball of air or a gas surrounded by a thin layer of liquid | <i>The toddler was fascinated by the transparent bubble as it rose into the air.</i> |
| Abdication | Noun | Failure to fulfil a responsibility or duty | <i>The headmaster's abdication was investigated.</i> |
| Accessory | Noun | An additional or extra item that is useful but not essential | <i>She wore a simple necklace as an accessory to her wedding gown.</i> |
| Accompaniment | Noun | Music that supports or an instrument, voice, or group | <i>She danced rhythmically to the accompaniment of African drums.</i> |
| Accumulate | Verb | To gradually increase in number or quantity | <i>The investigators were given two weeks to accumulate enough</i> |

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| | | | <i>evidence for the court case.</i> |
| Achievement | Noun | Something done successfully with effort skill or courage | <i>Every success, no matter how small, should give you a sense of achievement.</i> |
| Acquire | Verb | To gain something by oneself or to come into possession of something | <i>Not all children learn to acquire computer skills at an early age.</i> |
| Acquitted | Verb | Freed someone from a criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty | <i>She was acquitted on all counts of fraud.</i> |
| Activism | Noun | An act or a movement to bring about political and social change | <i>There is widespread activism against child abuse.</i> |
| Adamant | Adjective | Refusing to change one's mind | <i>The pupil was adamant that he did not copy in the examination.</i> |
| Adequate | Adjective | A satisfactory or acceptable quality or quantity | <i>The teacher gave his learners adequate time to complete the project.</i> |
| Adhesive | Noun | A substance used to stick pieces of material or objects together | <i>Glue is an example of an adhesive.</i> |
| Adjacent | Adjective | Next to or adjoining something else | <i>The property adjacent to the school was vacant.</i> |
| Apocryphal | Adjective | (Of a story or statement) of doubtful authenticity, although widely circulated as being true. | <i>An apocryphal story about a former president.</i> |
| Advocate | Noun | A person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy | <i>He was an untiring advocate of educational reform.</i> |
| Aftermath | Noun | The consequences or after-effects of a significant unpleasant event, for example, a war or natural disaster | <i>The public were warned about water restrictions in the aftermath of the drought-stricken areas.</i> |
| Agitator | Noun | A person who urges others to protest or rebel | <i>Robert was the agitator of the argument.</i> |
| Allergy | Noun | A medical condition that causes a person to respond or become hypersensitive to a particular substance or food | <i>She developed an allergy to feathers.</i> |
| Alliteration | Noun | The use of the same letter or sound at the beginning of words that are close together | <i>The hissing snake slithered away' is an example of alliteration.</i> |
| Aluminium | Noun | The chemical/metal element with the atomic number 13 | <i>The aluminium wings of the aeroplane glistened in the sunlight.</i> |
| Amoeba | Noun | A single-celled aquatic living organism which is able to change its shape | <i>The virus in the amoeba can infect the blood stream of a human.</i> |
| Anagram | Noun | A word or phrase that is formed by re-arranging the letters of another word or phrase. | <i>Elvis is an anagram of lives.</i> |
| Animosity | Noun | A strong feeling of opposition or hostility | <i>After the disciplinary hearing, he showed animosity towards his boss.</i> |
| Annoying | Adjective | Causing irritation or anger | <i>Nail biting is an annoying habit.</i> |
| Antics | Noun | Foolish, outrageous, or amusing behaviour | <i>Currently, the comments on social media on the antics of our politicians are increasing.</i> |
| Aperture | Noun | An opening, a gap or hole | <i>You should increase the lens aperture to maximise the brightness of the</i> |

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| | | | <i>shot.</i> |
| Apostrophe | Noun | A punctuation mark used to indicate either possession or the omission of letters in a word | <i>The apostrophe is often misplaced by many learners.</i> |
| Appetiser | Noun | A portion of food or a drink eaten or drunk to stimulate the appetite | <i>Most of the guests preferred black mushrooms as an appetiser.</i> |
| Appreciation | Noun | The recognition or understanding of someone or something | <i>The woman smiled in appreciation at the shop assistant because of her helpfulness.</i> |
| Apprehended | Verb | Arrested someone for a crime | <i>The police apprehended the suspects after a week of prompt investigations.</i> |
| Apprentice | Noun | A person who works for an employer for a fixed period of time in order to learn the particular skills needed in his/her job | <i>The electrician found his experience as an apprentice at a local company very rewarding.</i> |
| Aquarium | Noun | An artificial transparent tank in which water plants and animals are kept | <i>We visited the aquarium during our last excursion.</i> |
| Arson | Noun | A criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property | <i>The police suspect arson in the burning down of the Ntuli house.</i> |
| Articulated | Verb | To have expressed or explained one's thoughts or feelings clearly | <i>The adjudicators complimented all the finalists on their interesting speeches that were articulated so eloquently.</i> |
| Artisan | Noun | A person who does skilled work, making things with his /her hands | <i>The artisans displayed their arts and crafts at the local market.</i> |
| Assertive | Adjective | Having or showing a confident and forceful personality | <i>Being assertive can be an asset when you are a manager.</i> |
| Assurance | Noun | A positive declaration intended to give confidence; confidence of one's own ability | <i>He was given the assurance that all his concerns will be addressed by the end of the day.</i> |
| Attire | Noun | Clothes | <i>Guests were requested to wear formal attire for the function</i> |
| Attorney | Noun | A qualified lawyer who represents the client in legal matters | <i>The client was annoyed when his attorney failed to appear in court.</i> |
| Auction | Noun | A public sale in which goods or property are sold to the highest bidder | <i>An auction of antique furniture was held to raise funds for the school library.</i> |
| Audience | Noun | A group of people gathered to listen or watch a performance | <i>At the end of the presentation, the audience was allowed to ask questions.</i> |
| Authentic | Adjective | To be of undisputed originality and not a copy; genuine | <i>She hesitated to pay that price for the painting because there was no proof that it was an authentic piece of art.</i> |
| Authority | Noun | The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and exercise control | <i>He exercised his authority as the principal to suspend two students who were found guilty of bullying.</i> |
| Autocracy | Noun | A system of government by one person with absolute power. | <i>We're trying to overthrow the very concept of tyranny and autocracy.</i> |
| Autism | Noun | A mental condition in which a person finds it very difficult to communicate or form | <i>The parents of children who suffer from Autism need to be patient and tolerant.</i> |

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| | | relationships with others | |
| Barbaric | Adjective | Savagely cruel behaviour that is unacceptable | <i>The poachers were barbaric in the manner in which they hunted rhinos.</i> |
| Baccalaureate | Noun | An examination intended to qualify successful candidates for higher education. | <i>Brigitte travelled to Paris for his final year of schooling, living here with his aunt, but did not sit the baccalaureate.</i> |
| Balalaika | Noun | A Russian musical instrument like a guitar with a triangular body, typically having three strings. | <i>By the age of 4, he was able to play the balalaika, accordion, and guitar, and by 8, the oboe as well as the trombone and other brass instruments.</i> |
| Bestowed | Verb | Conferred or presented an honour, right, or gift | <i>Guests at the wedding were bestowed with extravagant gifts.</i> |
| Biodiversity | Noun | The existence of a variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat | <i>The proposal for the mining project was disapproved because site would threaten the rich biodiversity in that area.</i> |
| Biographer | Noun | A person who writes an account of another person's life | <i>The biographer, Anthony Sampson wrote about the life of Nelson Mandela.</i> |
| Blistering | Adjective | An extremely hot and uncomfortable condition | <i>There were frequent alerts on television against the blistering heat of this summer.</i> |
| Blurred | Adjective | Lack of clarity in meaning or vision | <i>The optometrist recommended a new pair of spectacles for his blurred vision.</i> |
| Botanical | Adjective | Relating to plants | <i>The Japanese Botanical garden included colourful exotic plants.</i> |
| Boundary | Noun | A line which marks the limits of an area; a dividing line | <i>The boundary between the neighbouring properties was a high wall for reasons of privacy.</i> |
| Boycott | Verb | To refuse to buy, use or take part in something as a way of protesting | <i>There is a rumour that the workers unions will boycott the upcoming elections.</i> |
| Brandishing | Verb | Holding or waving something, especially a weapon, in an aggressive or excited way | <i>The criminal was seen brandishing a knife as he approached his victim.</i> |
| Breakthrough | Noun | An important discovery or development | <i>The excavation of Homo Naledi was a breakthrough for archaeologists.</i> |
| Breath | Noun | Air taken into or expelled from the lungs | <i>I was gasping for breath after I ran the marathon.</i> |
| Bruise | Noun | The discolouring of the skin due to injury | <i>He had a slight bruise on his leg when he fell off his bicycle.</i> |
| Budget | Noun | An estimate of income and expenses for a specific period of time | <i>You need to plan your budget for a holiday very carefully.</i> |
| Bursary | Noun | A grant or money awarded to someone to enable him/her to study | <i>She is very optimistic about her application to study abroad.</i> |
| Business | Noun | A trading operation or a person's profession; | <i>Many companies conduct their business online.</i> |
| Abhorrent | Adjective | Inspiring disgust, loathing, repulsion | <i>Child abuse is abhorrent and unacceptable behaviour.</i> |
| Abnegation | Noun | An action of denial or rejection | <i>The President showed strong abnegation of the corruption charges</i> |

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| | | | <i>laid against him.</i> |
| Absurdity | Noun | The quality or state of being ridiculous or wildly unreasonable | <i>Duncan laughed at the absurdity of the situation in which he found himself.</i> |
| Accolade | Noun | An award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit | <i>He was awarded an international scholarship as an accolade for his excellent performance in swimming.</i> |
| Accosted | Verb | Approached someone in a rude and threatening manner | <i>She was accosted by a group of strangers.</i> |
| Accredited | Adjective | Officially recognised or accepted standard or quality | <i>Only accredited products were sold at the market.</i> |
| Accrete | Verb | Grow together or into one; form around or onto; as round a nucleus | <i>The gas will cool and then accrete to the galaxy's core.</i> |
| Acoustic | Adjective | Relating to sound or sense of hearing | <i>Dogs have a much greater acoustic range than humans.</i> |
| Adolescent | Noun | A young person developing between childhood and adulthood | <i>Many parents find it hard to understand their adolescent children.</i> |
| Adulation | Noun | Excessive admiration or praise | <i>The pop singer was overwhelmed by the adulation of his fans on twitter.</i> |
| Aeronautic | Adjective | Related to the science of building, operating or flying aircraft | <i>As a pilot, he showed a keen interest in aeronautic research.</i> |
| Aesthetic | Adjective | Concerned with the appreciation and understanding of beautiful things | <i>That painting was expensive because of its aesthetic value.</i> |
| Affidavit | Noun | A written statement confirmed by oath, to be used as evidence in court | <i>The affidavit was accepted as evidence in the trial of the accused.</i> |
| Aggressive | Adjective | Acting in a threatening forceful manner | <i>The employee was a very uncooperative and aggressive member of the team.</i> |
| Aisle | Noun | A passage between rows of seats in a building such as a church or theatre, an aircraft, or train | <i>The flower girl sprinkled rose petals as she walked down the aisle.</i> |
| Alienate | Verb | To make someone feel that they do not belong in a particular group | <i>His bullying will alienate him from his classmates.</i> |
| Allegiance | Noun | Continued loyalty or commitment to support a group or cause | <i>The members' allegiance to the committee is admirable.</i> |
| Alliance | Noun | An agreement between countries or organizations to work together towards a common goal | <i>There is a strong alliance between the municipality and its community to solve the crime crisis.</i> |
| Altruism | Noun | Regard for the feelings and happiness of others as an act of unselfishness | <i>The young girl's voluntary work with the aged is an act of altruism.</i> |
| Amalgamate | Verb | Combine or unite two or more things or organisations to form one | <i>They decided to amalgamate the two companies for financial reasons.</i> |
| Amateur | Noun | A person who is a beginner and not yet skilled in a sport or activity; not professional | <i>The community project involved professionals training amateur soccer players.</i> |

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| Ambience | Noun | The character, mood and atmosphere of a place | <i>The hotel was popular for the relaxed ambience created by its staff.</i> |
| Ambivalent | Adjective | Having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone | <i>Many of her friends were ambivalent about her friendship.</i> |
| Amnesia | Noun | A partial or total loss of memory | <i>After the accident, he suffered from amnesia.</i> |
| Amnesty | Noun | A period of time during which people can admit to a crime or give up weapons without being punished; general pardon especially for politically offence | <i>The president granted amnesty to political prisoners.</i> |
| Anaesthetic | Noun | A drug that makes a person or animal not to feel anything, especially pain | <i>The patient was very anxious about going under anaesthetic before the operation.</i> |
| Anarchy | Noun | A state of disorder due to the absence or non-recognition of authority or control | <i>A president should always make strategic plans in advance to avoid anarchy in his country.</i> |
| Annuity | Noun | A fixed amount of money paid to someone each year, usually for the rest of their life | <i>She was informed of her retirement annuity of R5000 per month.</i> |
| Anomaly | Noun | A thing or situation that is different from what is normal or expected | <i>The investigation revealed that there was an anomaly in the distribution of examination papers.</i> |
| Anonymity | Noun | The state of remaining unknown to others | <i>The sponsor insisted on complete anonymity when he donated towards the campaign.</i> |
| Aperture | Noun | An opening, a gap or hole | <i>You should increase the lens aperture to maximise the brightness of the shot.</i> |
| Apocalypse | Noun | An event involving a catastrophic/complete final destruction | <i>The apocalypse of the Marikana miners has left survivors devastated.</i> |
| Aquatic | Adjective | Related to water or living in or near water | <i>The conservation of rare aquatic plants and animals has become a priority.</i> |
| Arbitrary | Adjective | Based on a random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system | <i>The arbitrary decision of the Mayor left the community baffled.</i> |
| Archaeologist | Noun | Is a scientist who studies human history by digging up and analysing human remains and artefacts | <i>Professor Berger is the archaeologist who is involved in the research on Homo Naledi, the new species of human relative.</i> |
| Architecture | Noun | The art, study or practice of designing and constructing buildings | <i>He was interested in the architecture of historic buildings during his last visit in Rome.</i> |
| Arguable | Adjective | Debatable or open to disagreement | <i>It was arguable that the bank had no authority to honour the cheques.</i> |
| Arrhythmia | Noun | A condition in which the heart beats with an irregular or abnormal rhythm | <i>Patients suffering from Arrhythmia may also have palpitations.</i> |
| Aspersions | Noun | An attack on the reputation of someone or something | <i>I don't think anyone is casting aspersions on you.</i> |
| Assassin | Noun | A person who attempts to or murders an important person for political or religious reasons | <i>The assassin who attempted to murder the President was taken in for questioning.</i> |

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| Assimilate | Verb | To take in and fully understand; to absorb into the system | <i>The new employees tried to assimilate the policies and structures of the company during their first day of training.</i> |
| Asylum | Noun | An institution for the care of people who are mentally ill | <i>To commit a family member to an asylum is an extremely sensitive matter.</i> |
| Atrocity | Noun | An act of extreme cruelty and violence, especially during war | <i>Human rights activists are persistent in their struggle against the atrocity of child abuse.</i> |
| Attribute | Noun | Quality or feature ascribed to person or thing; | <i>His physical attributes are ideal for a modelling career.</i> |
| Audacious | Adjective | Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks, at times even being disrespectful | <i>It was an audacious decision to immigrate to Australia.</i> |
| Auspicious | Adjective | Showing promise or likelihood of being successful or favourable | <i>It was not the most auspicious moment to hold an election.</i> |
| Auxiliary | Adjective | Providing supplementary or additional help and support | <i>The firm was forced to hire auxiliary staff to handle the crisis.</i> |
| Baroque | Adjective | Pertains to architecture and art from 17th century Italy. | <i>The programme will include baroque concertos by Vivaldi, Bach and many more.</i> |
| Barracuda | Noun | A large predatory tropical marine fish with a slender body and large jaws and teeth. | <i>It has been observed that great barracudas herd schools of fish into shallow water and guard them.</i> |
| Barricade | Verb | To block or prevent entry with a barrier | <i>The protestors barricaded and occupied the building.</i> |
| Bankruptcy | Noun | The state of being bankrupt. | <i>Many companies were facing bankruptcy.</i> |
| Beleaguered | Verb | Put in a very difficult situation | <i>The board members gave the beleaguered Director their undivided support.</i> |
| Belligerence | Noun | Aggressive or warlike behaviour. | <i>The prime minister's belligerence is dangerously irresponsible</i> |
| Beneficiary | Noun | A person who derives advantage from something, especially a trust, will, or life insurance policy | <i>He made his wife the sole beneficiary in his will.</i> |
| Bureaucratic | Adjective | Relating to a system of government in which most of the important decisions are taken by state officials rather than by elected representatives. | <i>For that kind of money, we deserve bureaucrats who aren't very bureaucratic.</i> |
| Bigotry | Noun | Intolerance or prejudice towards those who hold different opinions from oneself | <i>When religious leaders show bigotry, they are in fact betraying the religion they uphold.</i> |
| Boisterous | Adjective | Noisy, energetic and cheerful | <i>The neighbours complained of the boisterous teenagers who were partying all through the night.</i> |
| Bouquet | Noun | An arrangement of flowers | <i>She was pleasantly surprised by the bouquet of roses she received from a secret admirer.</i> |
| Boutique | Noun | A small shop/store that sells expensive, fashionable clothes, accessories or gifts | <i>Shopping at an exclusive boutique can prove to be a costly affair.</i> |

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| Bureau | Noun | An office or a department that provides information on a specific subject | <i>The employment bureau provides useful information to both employed and unemployed citizens.</i> |
| Bivouac | Noun | A temporary camp without tents or cover, used especially by soldiers or mountaineers. | <i>This is not a sedentary fishing, there are no bivouacs or campsites involved with this style of fishing.</i> |
| Boatswain | Noun | A ship's officer in charge of equipment and the crew. | <i>The boatswain tells them that the ship is in fine condition</i> |
| Bourgeoisie | Noun | The middle class, typically with reference to its perceived materialistic values or conventional attitudes. | <i>The rise of the bourgeoisie at the end of the eighteenth century.</i> |
| Boysenberry | Noun | A large red edible fruit resembling a blackberry | <i>He stalked back to the lakeside to pick boysenberries.</i> |
| Cactus | Noun | A cactus is a spiny plant that stores water in its leaves and grows in hot dry regions | <i>A prickly pear is a cactus that produces delicious fruit but beware of its prickles.</i> |
| Cauliflower | Noun | A cabbage of a variety which bears a large immature flower head of small creamy-white flower buds. | <i>Cabbages and cauliflowers have to go from Jubilee Allotment gardens, Kendal, so the Cumbria Education Department can raise a crop of healthy children.</i> |
| Camouflage | Noun | The disguising of military personnel, equipment, and installations by painting or covering them to make them blend in with their surroundings. | <i>He was wearing military style fatigues including camouflage trousers tucked into brown boots.</i> |
| Caption | Noun | A caption refers to a very brief, written supplement to an image of some sort. | <i>Pictures usually include an explanatory caption with a name or description of some kind.</i> |
| Cataclysm | Noun | A large-scale and violent event in the natural world. | <i>The 'long nineteenth century' begins and ends in a cataclysm of war and revolution.</i> |
| Cavern | Noun | A cavern is a cave or chamber in a cave. | <i>In the Cango Caves near Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape Province one may find a beautiful cavern or two to view.</i> |
| Centimetre | Noun | A centimetre is a unit of measurement countable in tens in the decimal system of millimetre, centimetre, metre and kilometre and so on | <i>One centimetre times one hundred amounts to one metre.</i> |
| Chamber | Noun | A chamber is a space or room | <i>The chamber of a gun holds bullets whereas a chamber of government holds officials in office.</i> |
| Champagne | Noun | A white sparkling wine that comes only from the province of champagne in France | <i>In some cultures, champagne is popularly used to toast marriage celebrations whereas other sparkling wines are used for annual celebrations.</i> |
| Chandelier | Noun | A large, decorative hanging light with branches for several light bulbs or candles. | <i>The room is dark and the only light comes from a chandelier which he holds like a torch.</i> |
| Chaotic | Adjective | Describes a state of confusion and disorder | <i>When people start rioting events become chaotic.</i> |

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| Cheetah | Noun | A 'cheetah' is a big, but not large, slender spotted cat of Africa and parts of Asia that is the fastest animal on land | <i>A cheetah is the only feline whose claws do not retract and therefore seldom found in trees.</i> |
| Chimney | Noun | A 'chimney' is a long vertical outlet to the top of a building that allows pollutants to escape | <i>A chimney must be kept unblocked to allow smoke to escape from a home so that residents do not choke.</i> |
| Chords | Noun | 'Chords' are a group of musical notes played simultaneously to create a harmony of sound. | <i>Composers rely on harmonious chords to create music but sometimes chords can be made disturbing to signal disharmony.</i> |
| Chronic | Adjective | 'Chronic' refers to something negative that constantly recurs | <i>Recurring acidity burning up the throat can lead to chronic lung infection.</i> |
| Chronicle | Noun | A 'chronicle' is a factual written account of important events in the order occurrence | <i>CS Lewis wrote a famous fantasy chronicle for children about a hero lion who asks children to save the world of Narnia.</i> |
| Circular | Noun | The word 'circular' refers to written information that is distributed to a large number of people. | <i>Banks will send a circular to clients that inform them of new services.</i> |
| Civilian | Noun | A 'civilian' is a citizen who is not employed in a country's armed forces. | <i>Only a small percentage of a country's population is in the armed forces while the rest are civilians.</i> |
| Clairvoyant | Noun | A person who claims to have a supernatural ability to perceive events in the future or beyond normal sensory contact. | <i>She has had a message from a clairvoyant that her son is alive and well.</i> |
| Clinch | Verb | To 'clinch' means to reach an agreement. | <i>To 'clinch a deal' means that a business agreement has been finalised.</i> |
| Clumsy | Adjective | Describes an awkward movement. | <i>The cold made his fingers clumsy and so he dropped the ice-tray.</i> |
| Cohort | Noun | A 'cohort' is a unit of people who have something in common. | <i>Any unit in an army, such as a brigade, is also a cohort of soldiers.</i> |
| Cockatiel | Noun | A slender long-crested Australian parrot related to the cockatoos, with a mainly grey body, white shoulders, and a yellow and orange face. | <i>When the aviary was smashed, the parrots, cockatiels and lovebirds took flight.</i> |
| Collide | Verb | To 'collide' means to 'crash'. | <i>I would hate to collide with a boy running in the opposite direction from me.</i> |
| Commerce | Noun | "Commerce" refers to business activities. | <i>Good commerce in a country's market-place depends on good products and good sales.</i> |
| Commute | Verb | To 'commute' means to travel from home to work on a regular basis. | <i>Commuters commute on the Gautrain between Pretoria and Johannesburg where they work and live.</i> |
| Competition | Noun | 'Competition' is an act or acts of trying to win. | <i>Competition in World Cup Soccer is tough and the winner is very deserving.</i> |
| Concrete | Adjective | 'Concrete' describes something that can be felt by touch. | <i>Most things, including living things, are concrete but time, light and air</i> |

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| | | | <i>cannot be felt by touch.</i> |
| Concur | Verb | To 'concur' is to 'agree'. | <i>Most people concur that smoking is bad for everyone's health.</i> |
| Conflict | Noun | 'Conflict' refers to disagreement. | <i>Political parties are usually in conflict over who has the most power.</i> |
| Conquest | Noun | 'Conquest' means to take control. | <i>Conflict usually ends in a conquest for someone.</i> |
| Conscious | Adjective | To be 'conscious' is to be aware. | <i>People must be conscious of their surroundings to avoid hi-jackings.</i> |
| Connoisseur | Noun | An expert judge in matters of taste. | <i>He was a connoisseur and he felt they were connoisseurs, too.</i> |
| Consumer | Noun | A 'consumer' is a person who buys goods and services. | <i>Everyone is a consumer of goods and must demand good products and services.</i> |
| Contempt | Noun | 'Contempt' is a negative feeling that a person or a thing is not good enough. | <i>Corrupt people deserve contempt because they cause society to become weak.</i> |
| Contrary | Adjective | 'Contrary' describes something as being opposite in kind. | <i>Contrary to parental advice, children sometimes talk to strangers who may harm them.</i> |
| Conversation | Noun | 'Conversation' refers to talk amongst people. | <i>The mother enjoyed having a conversation with her daughter's teacher to learn more about her child.</i> |
| Converse | Verb | To 'converse' means to talk with others. | <i>Children and adults should converse more often so that they can learn from each other.</i> |
| Convince | Verb | To 'convince' means to persuade. | <i>In debates students must convince an audience that their point of view is best.</i> |
| Corpse | Noun | A 'corpse' is a dead body. | <i>A corpse is kept in a fridge in a mortuary before burial or cremation.</i> |
| Corridor | Noun | A 'corridor' is a long passage that leads into rooms. | <i>A long corridor divides my room from my brother's room.</i> |
| Costume | Noun | A 'costume' is a set of clothes for a special purpose. | <i>One may think of a costume as used for swimming, acting, dancing and the opening of Parliament.</i> |
| Council | Noun | A 'council' is a group of people who work together to govern official matters | <i>A municipality usually has a council who work and meet to manage official matters.</i> |
| Courage | Noun | 'Courage' refers to being brave. | <i>Spelling Bee contestants have courage to face an audience and spell words.</i> |
| Credit | Noun | 'Credit' refers to buying and then paying for goods and services on a long-term basis. | <i>Capital One is targeting customers with better credit as a way to stem delinquencies and defaults.</i> |
| Crumble | Verb | To 'crumble' means to break into smaller fragments. | <i>Old buildings eventually crumble into ruins after years of battering from wind and rain.</i> |
| Crutch | Noun | A 'crutch' is stick-like thing that assists walking. | <i>Someone who has severely injured a leg would need at least one crutch to assist with walking.</i> |
| Crystal | Noun | A 'crystal' is transparent glass cut to shine brightly. | <i>Crystal is popularly used when making costume Jewellery because it sparkles.</i> |
| Cuckoo | Noun | A 'cuckoo' is a bird that lays its egg in another bird's nest for | <i>A cuckoo is a parasite because it tricks other birds into rearing its</i> |

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| | | rearing. | <i>chick by laying an egg in their nests.</i> |
| Cucumber | Noun | A 'cucumber' is a long green vegetable that is used in salads | <i>A cucumber is usually sliced or diced with or without its skin into a salad dish of tomato, lettuce and sweet peppers.</i> |
| Culprit | Noun | A 'culprit' is a person who has done wrong. | <i>Thieves are cunning culprits who use riots to steal from shops.</i> |
| Culture | Noun | 'Culture' is the sum total of human manifestation as a population group. | <i>Every population groups manifests its own culture such as the Japanese art of poetry called Haiku.</i> |
| Cunning | Adjective | 'Cunning' describes the intent of lying and hiding the truth to gain something. | <i>Fraudsters use cunning to take money from people without them knowing.</i> |
| Curdle | Verb | To 'curdle' means to cause liquids to separate into lumps | <i>Milk tends to curdle when it ages.</i> |
| Curator | Noun | A 'curator' takes specialist care usually of art and artefacts. | <i>The manager of a museum is the curator who ensures exhibits are in good condition and visitors are well-informed.</i> |
| Curb | Verb | To 'curb' something means to restrict it. | <i>Government must curb spending when debt is greater than income.</i> |
| Curiosity | Noun | 'Curiosity' refers to a desire to know something | <i>'Curiosity' is important to scientists who want to know everything they can about their interests.</i> |
| Currency | Noun | 'Currency' is the system of money used in a country. | <i>South Africa, Europe and North America use decimal currency and where coins are called cents.</i> |
| Curtail | Verb | To 'curtail' means to stop something from proceeding. | <i>Government must curtail spending when debt exceeds income.</i> |
| Bustling | Verb | Bustling refers to busy activity, | <i>At month end malls are bustling with shoppers.</i> |
| Cafeteria | Noun | A cafeteria is an eatery where customers serve themselves from a counter and pay before eating. | <i>Businesses usually provide a cafeteria where employees can buy food, snacks and drinks.</i> |
| Calibre | Noun | Calibre refers to the quality of a person's character; or an identifying measurement of a gun or its bullets. | <i>Leaders are expected to have character of excellent calibre.</i> |
| Camarilla | Noun | A small group of people, especially a group of advisers to a ruler or politician, with a shared purpose. | <i>The camarilla set out deliberately to disrupt these cadres, one by one, in one country after another.</i> |
| Campaign | Verb | A campaign is an organised course of action by many people meant to win a goal. | <i>The government and public campaign to combat the spread of HIV/Aids seems to have yielded good results.</i> |
| Canvassing | Verb | Canvassing is the act of persuading people to invest support, time and resources for a specific goal. | <i>Presidential campaigners are canvassing voters for the forthcoming elections in South Africa.</i> |
| Capsule | Noun | A capsule is an oblong container. | <i>Most antibiotics are contained in capsules.</i> |
| Carnage | Noun | Carnage refers to mass killing. | <i>War is carnage of extraordinary numbers of people and animals.</i> |
| Carpentry | Noun | The activity or occupation of making or repairing things in | <i>Carpentry skills are acquired through many years of practice.</i> |

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| Carriage | Noun | A carriage is a vehicle that transports people and goods. | <i>The carriage of a train usually contains benches for short trips and sleeping bunks for long trips.</i> |
| Cartoonist | Noun | A cartoonist draws pictures that resemble people, animals and things but contain exaggeration and humour. | <i>Walt Disney employs many cartoonists who draw pictures of characters such as Peter Pan.</i> |
| Catapult | Verb | To catapult something means to hurl or launch. | <i>The little boy struggled to catapult the rock into his neighbour's window.</i> |
| Cathedral | Noun | A church that is mostly grand in style and usually of Catholic and Anglican origin | <i>The first Cathedral for Christian worship was built in 313 by Emperor Constantine when he adopted Christianity.</i> |
| Caution | Noun | The word 'caution' means to take care to avoid danger or mistakes. | <i>Anyone receiving a package from an unknown source should exercise extreme caution to avoid harm as it could contain a bomb and poison.</i> |
| Ceasefire | Noun | 'Ceasefire' refers to a temporary cessation of fighting. | <i>On Christmas day in 1914 during World War One, the majority of British and German soldiers decided on a ceasefire for goodwill.</i> |
| Ceramics | Noun | 'Ceramics' refers to pottery made from clay that is hardened by heat. | <i>In ceramics the clay is not as fine as porcelain.</i> |
| Cessation | Noun | 'Cessation' refers to something brought to an end. | <i>'Ceasefire' refers to a temporary cessation of fighting.</i> |
| Championship | Noun | A 'championship' is contest that determines who wins. | <i>Each event in the Olympics is a championship round.</i> |
| Charisma | Noun | 'Charisma' refers to powerful charm that can inspire devotion in others. | <i>People, like Nelson Mandela, who have charisma are powerful, likeable and attract many followers.</i> |
| Choreograph | Verb | To 'choreograph' means to arrange movements in a space. | <i>To choreograph a ballet requires knowledge of dance, music and space so that the audience can enjoy the production from all possible angles.</i> |
| Citizen | Noun | A 'citizen' is a legally recognised subject of a country. | <i>Only a citizen of a country may register to vote for election of a president.</i> |
| Clandestine | Adjective | Kept secret or done secretly, especially because illicit. | <i>Some of the long-time members began organizing clandestine meetings to discuss grievances.</i> |
| Coalition | Noun | A 'coalition' is a temporary alliance for the purpose of winning a goal of some kind. | <i>Sometimes political parties form a coalition to gain the power they need to win their goal.</i> |
| Coax | Verb | To 'coax' is to persuade gently. | <i>Parents try to coax their children into eating less junk food.</i> |
| Coerce | Verb | To 'coerce' is to persuade by using force of some kind such as threats. | <i>Police usually coerce those in custody by threatening maximum sentence unless the truth is told.</i> |
| Cognition | Noun | 'Cognition' refers to matters and working of the mind such as insight, perception and understanding. | <i>Cognition of science requires deep thought and much patience that will generate insight.</i> |
| Cohesion | Noun | 'Cohesion' refers to the forming a united whole. | <i>When writing an essay there must be cohesion between sentences and</i> |

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| | | | <i>paragraphs through main ideas that facilitate easy reading.</i> |
| Collateral | Noun | 'Collateral' refers to providing something of sufficient value to get a cash loan that will be returned on full payment of the loan. | <i>Banks require collateral for big cash loans such as a house.</i> |
| Colleague | Noun | A 'colleague' is a fellow employee. | <i>A secretary would be subordinate to a manager but would also be a colleague.</i> |
| Collision | Noun | A 'collision' refers to a crash in contact of some kind. | <i>A collision of vehicles on a highway can stop traffic for hours.</i> |
| Collusion | Noun | 'Collusion' refers to agreement for the purpose of defrauding people. | <i>Too often there is collusion between criminals and security officers for the purpose of burglarising.</i> |
| Columnist | Noun | A 'columnist' is a journalist who contributes regularly to a newspaper or magazine | <i>An advice column is written by a columnist.</i> |
| Combatant | Noun | A 'combatant' is a person engaged in fighting. | <i>A soldier would be a combatant in war and police combatant against crime.</i> |
| Commentary | Noun | 'Commentary' is an act of providing information about something. | <i>Radio commentary on a game of sport is useful when one cannot attend or follow it on television.</i> |
| Commissioner | Noun | A 'commissioner' is a person appointed to take on an official role. | <i>One swears an oath of truth before a commissioner of oaths at a post office, police station or lawyer's office.</i> |
| Committee | Noun | A 'committee' is a group of people appointed for a specific function. | <i>A school would have a Sports committee for managing and monitoring sports matters.</i> |
| Communal | Adjective | 'Communal' describes something shared for common use. | <i>Hostels usually provide communal ablution cubicles with only showers these days.</i> |
| Compatible | Adjective | 'Compatible' describes a positive relationship between people and situations. | <i>Certain career paths are not compatible with everyday home life such as on commanding a ship.</i> |
| Compensation | Noun | 'Compensation' refers to an award for suffering loss of some kind. | <i>Employees are insured by employers to receive monetary compensation for injury at work.</i> |
| Complacent | Verb | To be 'complacent' is to feel thoughtless self-satisfaction. | <i>In areas of high crime, citizens cannot be complacent about their safety.</i> |
| Compliment | Noun | A 'compliment' is an expression of praise or admiration | <i>A compliment is due when a student does well in spelling difficult words.</i> |
| Conclusive | Noun | 'Conclusive' refers to evidence beyond doubt. | <i>A policeman's job is to find conclusive evidence that will lead to conviction of a defendant.</i> |
| Confession | Noun | A 'confession' is a formal admission of wrong-doing. | <i>A confession of guilt is not the same as a confession of wrong-doing.</i> |
| Confinement | Noun | 'Confinement' means being without freedom of movement. | <i>Prison is confinement meant to keep criminals out of society for a period of time.</i> |
| Confiscate | Verb | To 'confiscate' means to formally take the property of someone for legal reason. | <i>Customs officials confiscate illegal items from travellers at border posts.</i> |
| Conformist | Noun | A 'conformist' is a person who follows accepted behavioural | <i>Most people are conformist in their society because it serves the culture</i> |

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| | | practices in a society. | <i>and allows easier access to traditional jobs.</i> |
| Conjunction | Noun | A 'conjunction' refers to a connection between events and things. | <i>In January 2016 there was a planetary conjunction when Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn aligned.</i> |
| Conjure | Verb | To 'conjure' means to make something appear as if by magic. | <i>Magicians conjure white doves out of top-hats.</i> |
| Conqueror | Noun | A 'conqueror' is a person who takes over reigning power from people. | <i>I wish South Africa is never taken over by a conqueror.</i> |
| Conscience | Noun | A 'conscience' is a person's moral sense of right and wrong. | <i>Most people have a conscience that guides their behaviour for the good of all but psychopaths do not.</i> |
| Consciousness | Noun | 'Consciousness' is the state of being aware of and responsive to one's surroundings | <i>When the brain is damaged consciousness is compromised and responses are poor.</i> |
| Consecutive | Adjective | 'Consecutive' describes something following another thing linearly in some form of time order. | <i>Some committees in parliament sit every consecutive Monday throughout January and February.</i> |
| Consensus | Noun | 'Consensus' refers to an agreement | <i>There was consensus at the World Wildlife Conference in 2015 that the world's sea life should be actively protected from further exploitation.</i> |
| Consistently | Adjective | 'Consistently' describes something as being constant in quality or quantity. | <i>Albert Einstein, the famous physicist's marks for Mathematics were probably consistently high during his schooling.</i> |
| Consolation | Noun | 'Consolation' refers to comfort given to or received by another after a sad happening. | <i>A substantial second prize is usually some consolation for not coming first in a competition.</i> |
| Consolidate | Verb | To 'consolidate' means to combine things to form a better whole. | <i>Any company with many branches must be audited at least once a year to consolidate branch funds.</i> |
| Conspiracy | Noun | 'Conspiracy' refers to a secret plan of action agreed to by a group. | <i>The guy Fawkes group's conspiracy aimed to blow up the English houses of Parliament in 1606.</i> |
| Constancy | Noun | 'Constancy' refer to the quality of being faithful and dependable | <i>Leaders depend on constancy of followers to get work done well and on time.</i> |
| Constitution | Noun | 'Constitution' refers to the composition of something. | <i>Government is a constitution of policy, structures and procedure organized to regulate society.</i> |
| Constrain | Verb | 'Constrain' means to force a course of action | <i>Children are constrained to attend school by law.</i> |
| Construction | Noun | 'Construction' refers to the building of something. | <i>In new areas of building development, construction usually causes noise pollution.</i> |
| Contagious | Adjective | 'Contagious' describes spread of disease through some form of contact. | <i>HIV/Aids is contagious but cancer is not.</i> |
| Contemporary | Adjective | 'Contemporary' describes something occurring at the same time. | <i>King Moshweshwe of Lesotho who outlived King Shaka of Zululand by 42 years was contemporary leaders in</i> |

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| | | | <i>Southern Africa in the nineteenth century.</i> |
| Contemptuous | Adjective | 'Contemptuous' describes negative attitude of disrespect. | <i>Wildlife conservationists are contemptuous of hunters.</i> |
| Continental | Adjective | 'Continental' describes the belonging to a continent | <i>The boundary of a continent is not its coastline but the edge of its continental shelf or shallow under sea landmass.</i> |
| Contingency | Noun | A 'contingency' refers to a possibility. | <i>The back-packers' safety officers set up a contingency plan to combat all kinds of extreme weather conditions.</i> |
| Contingent | Adjective | 'Contingent' describes dependency of some nature. | <i>Back-packers will receive rain-ponchos contingent only upon heavy rain.</i> |
| Contractor | Noun | A 'contractor' is a legal persona who agrees to perform work for someone. | <i>Meals on airplanes are usually provided by a private contractor that has a catering firm.</i> |
| Contradiction | Noun | A 'contradiction' is something in opposition. | <i>Virtual reality' is a contradiction in terms but serves to describe the almost real on Facebook, for example.</i> |
| Controversial | Adjective | 'Controversial' describes conflicting ideas about something. | <i>Atheism is controversial in a god-worshipping culture.</i> |
| Controversy | Noun | Controversy refers to a matter producing conflict. | <i>Controversy usually occurs when politics and religion are discussed because of differing beliefs and opinions.</i> |
| Convener | Noun | A 'convener' is a person who must call people together for meetings of a committee. | <i>The secretary of a committee is usually the convener of a committee.</i> |
| Convention | Noun | A 'convention' is the form that something takes. | <i>One important academic writing convention is to use quotations and reference sources when copying an author's words.</i> |
| Conviction | Noun | A 'conviction' is a judgement that has been passed. | <i>The judge passed a conviction of murder and several life-sentences on the serial killer.</i> |
| Copious | Adjective | 'Copious' describes abundance of something. | <i>Copious and delicious food was supplied at the best chef South Africa final competition.</i> |
| Corruption | Noun | 'Corruption' refers to dishonest dealings. | <i>Bribery and blackmail are forms of corruption that lead to decay in a society.</i> |
| Counsellor | Noun | 'Counsellor' refers to a person who can give guidance. | <i>Alcoholic anonymous and other institutions can provide a counsellor to advise on addictions including alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, eating and spending.</i> |
| Counterpart | Noun | 'Counterpart' refers to a corresponding person or thing. | <i>A leader of a country has a counterpart in every other country though they may have different titles such as president, prime minister, king, emperor and so on.</i> |
| Creativity | Noun | 'Creativity' refers to the outcome of imagination and knowledge. | <i>Creativity is best witnessed in movies such as ice age where imagination of life gone by, knowledge of life gone</i> |

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| | | | <i>by, technology and human talents abound.</i> |
| Credential | Noun | Noun: 'credential' refers suitable proof of ability. | <i>A job application for teaching must be accompanied by an academic credential including a degree in education.</i> |
| Criminal | Noun | A 'criminal' is a person who has been convicted of a crime. | <i>A criminal is someone who has been convicted of a crime and is not someone who has committed a crime.</i> |
| Cuisine | Noun | 'Cuisine' refers to a style or method of cooking characteristic of a place. | <i>Mexican cuisine involves hot chilli and hot spices whereas Indian cuisine involves hot chilli and curry spices</i> |
| Cardiac | Adjective | Cardiac refers to the heart as a physical organ. | <i>The heart is the cardiac muscle of the body.</i> |
| Culinary | Adjective | 'Culinary' describes things to do with cooking. | <i>Two basic culinary skills needed is to cook pasta and boil an egg to perfection which is not easy.</i> |
| Culmination | Noun | 'Culmination' is the achievement point of something attained after some time. | <i>The culmination of freedom from oppression is usually attained after long struggle involving conflict.</i> |
| Culpable | Adjective | 'Culpable' describes the blameworthiness of a wrongful act. | <i>Culpable homicide describes unintentional killing whereas murder refers to intentional killing.</i> |
| Cumbersome | Adjective | 'Cumbersome' describes something as difficult to move, use or manage. | <i>Grand pianos are very cumbersome to relocate.</i> |
| Curvature | Noun | 'Curvature' refers to the shape of a curve | <i>The curvature of the body of a guitar requires expert carving to produce harmonious sounds.</i> |
| Custodian | Noun | A 'custodian' is a person who has responsibility for protecting something. | <i>Game rangers are custodians of wildlife.</i> |
| Calisthenics | Noun | Gymnastic exercises to achieve bodily fitness and grace of movement. | <i>Combine that with a basic training-styled cardiovascular and calisthenics session.</i> |
| Capitalisation | Noun | Capitalisation refers to turning assets into money or wealth that can be used to increase business interests. | <i>Businesses rely on capitalisation of their assets to generate money for new business ventures.</i> |
| Captaincy | Noun | Captaincy is the office or rank of a leader called a captain. | <i>The captaincy of the Springbok Rugby team is decided by a National Sports Committee</i> |
| Carnivorous | Adjective | Carnivorous refers to flesh-eating beings. | <i>Lions are carnivorous as they eat only flesh whereas human beings are omnivorous as they eat flesh and plants.</i> |
| Catalogue | Noun | A catalogue is a reference list of things of a kind. | <i>There is a catalogue for every kind of thing displayed in a museum.</i> |
| Catalyst | Noun | A catalyst is something that does not change but causes another thing to change. | <i>Water does not change when it causes iron to rust and therefore it is a catalyst.</i> |
| Catastrophe | Noun | A catastrophe is an event that causes sometimes sudden, but always great damage and suffering. | <i>Pollution of our air and water is a catastrophe for life on earth.</i> |
| Celestial | Adjective | The word 'celestial' refers to | <i>The sun is a celestial body and our</i> |

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| | | matters concerning the sky and outer space. | <i>planet's life-giving star.</i> |
| Centenary | Noun | A 'centenary' is the hundredth anniversary of an event. | <i>South Africa will celebrate its democratic centenary in the year 2094.</i> |
| Centennial | Adjective | The word 'centennial' describes an anniversary of one hundred years. | <i>South Africa's centennial democracy will be celebrated in the year 2094.</i> |
| Characteristic | Noun | A characteristic is an identifiable feature or quality of a person, place, or thing. | <i>A defining characteristic of human beings is the ability to learn language.</i> |
| Circumspection | Noun | 'Circumspection' is an act of gathering all information possible for the purpose of being very careful about taking risks. | <i>Most people resort to circumspection when evaluating dangerous circumstances.</i> |
| Comprehensive | Adjective | 'Comprehensive' describes something as complete or almost complete. | <i>Short-Term home insurance companies require a comprehensive list of goods in a home.</i> |
| Condemnation | Noun | 'Condemnation' refers to the expression of very strong disapproval. | <i>There is world population condemnation of air and water pollution perpetrated by industries.</i> |
| Condolence | Noun | 'Condolence' is the expression of sympathy. | <i>Condolence is given to those who suffer loss of loved ones.</i> |
| Congeaed | Verb | 'Congeaed' means to become semi-solid. | <i>Blood usually congeals when it leaves a body which stops bleeding.</i> |
| Congregation | Noun | A 'congregation' is a gathering of people, animals or things. | <i>A congregation of people may be found in a church, in a school hall, political rallies, theatre and so on.</i> |
| Consequence | Noun | A 'consequence' is the result of something. | <i>A positive consequence of unpolluted nutrition is good health while a negative consequence of ingesting alcohol, nicotine and drugs is poor health.</i> |
| Consignment | Noun | A 'consignment' is a batch of goods on delivery. | <i>Distribution companies prefer to deal in consignment stock as batching facilitates logistics.</i> |
| Constellation | Noun | A 'constellation' is a group of things. | <i>A famous constellation of stars visible in the Southern Hemisphere is the Southern Cross.</i> |
| Constituency | Noun | A 'constituency' is a group of people with shared interests. | <i>A constituency of voters resides in a demarcated area and can vote only for duly elected candidates.</i> |
| Contestation | Noun | 'Contestation' refers to what is being argued about. | <i>Contestation occurs when something is declared to be in dispute such as disagreement about execution of a will.</i> |
| Counterfeit | Noun | 'Counterfeit' refers to a fraudulent imitation. | <i>The most common counterfeit is that of bank notes.</i> |
| Custody | Noun | The protective care or guardianship of someone or something | <i>The property was placed in the custody of a trustee</i> |
| Cyclist | Noun | A person who rides a bicycle | <i>The Cyclist knocked down a drunk pedestrian.</i> |
| Cyclone | Noun | A system of winds rotating inwards to an area of low | <i>Durban was declared a disaster area after Cyclone Belinda had caused</i> |

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| | | barometric pressure, with an anticlockwise (Northern Hemisphere) or clockwise (Southern Hemisphere) circulation; a depression | <i>flooding in the area.</i> |
| Cylindrical | Adjective | Of, relating to, or having the form of a cylinder | <i>The learner argued that a funnel has a cylindrical shape.</i> |
| Cynics | Noun | An inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; scepticism | <i>The cynics can find problems even in solutions. The cynics didn't believe that the man had given money to the charity for altruistic reasons; they thought it was motivated by the man's desire for recognition.</i> |
| Dachshund | Noun | A dog of a very short-legged, long-bodied breed. | <i>These days, specially trained dogs - usually dachshunds - do the dirty work.</i> |
| Daunting | Adjective | Seeming difficult to deal with in prospect; intimidating | <i>It is a daunting task to kill an elephant with your bare hands.</i> |
| Deceased | Adjective | Recently dead | <i>The deceased man's family has arrived.</i> |
| Deception | Noun | The action of deceiving someone | <i>John got the job through deception because he submitted his father's CV instead of his.</i> |
| Desiccation | Noun | Removing the moisture from (something), typically in order to preserve it. | <i>Winter desiccation and damage from a freeze early in the fall are two causes of winter injury.</i> |
| Defamatory | Adjective | (of remarks, writing, etc.) Damaging the good reputation of someone; slanderous or libellous | <i>The pastor's wife issued a defamatory statement about her husband's integrity.</i> |
| Default | Verb | Fail to fulfil an obligation, especially to repay a loan or to appear in a law court | <i>Lovey and Dovey default on their medical bills because they are unemployed.</i> |
| Deficiency | Noun | A failing or shortcoming/a lack or shortage of something | <i>Scurvy is a disease caused by a deficiency of Vitamin C in the body.</i> |
| Deflation | Noun | The action or process of deflating or being deflated | <i>In Economics, deflation is a decrease in the general price level of goods and services.</i> |
| Deforestation | Noun | The state of being clear of trees | <i>One of the reasons for global warming is deforestation.</i> |
| Defunct | Adjective | No longer existing or functioning | <i>The now defunct Transvaal Province was made up of the current Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North-West Provinces.</i> |
| Dehydration | Noun | An abnormal loss of water from the body, especially from illness or physical exertion | <i>The athlete collapsed during the race because of dehydration.</i> |
| Delicious | Adjective | Highly pleasant to the taste | <i>Taki's mother bakes delicious cakes.</i> |
| Delightful | Adjective | Causing delight; charming; lovely | <i>A well-written poem could be a delightful gift for a birthday present.</i> |
| Delinquent | Adjective | (Typically of a young person) tending to commit crime, particularly minor crime | <i>Delinquent teenagers should not be punished but rehabilitated.</i> |
| Delusion | Noun | The action of deluding or the state of being deluded/a mistaken belief or impression. | <i>It's a delusion to believe that one can be successful without some sort of form of education.</i> |

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| Demeanour | Noun | Outward behaviour or bearing | <i>One's demeanour can tell a lot about one's upbringing.</i> |
| Demography | Noun | The composition of a particular human population/ the study of changes in human populations using records of the numbers of births, deaths, etc. | <i>The world's demography is changing rapidly.</i> |
| Demystify | Verb | Make (a difficult subject) clearer and easier to understand | <i>This book attempts to demystify technology</i> |
| Denouement | Noun | The final part of a play, film, or narrative in which the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved. | <i>As the novel reaches its denouement, the reader begins to see the astonishing mental strength of this woman.</i> |
| Departure | Noun | The action of leaving, especially to start a journey/a change from the usual way of doing something. | <i>Departure from the constitution leads to the death of democracy in any democratic state.</i> |
| Deployment | Verb | Military to spread out (troops) so as to form an extended front or line | <i>The University's students get course extensions on the basis of their deployment papers</i> |
| Derogatory | Adjective | Showing a critical or disrespectful attitude | <i>She tells me I'm fat and is always making derogatory remarks</i> |
| Despondent | Adjective | In low spirits from loss of hope or courage | <i>She grew more and more despondent when she heard no news about her job application.</i> |
| Despot | Noun | A ruler or other person who holds absolute power, typically one who exercises it in a cruel or oppressive way | <i>The only way to change a despot is to teach them the principles of democracy.</i> |
| Destination | Noun | The place to which someone or something is going or being sent | <i>Delft is an ideal destination for a relaxing weekend</i> |
| Destruction | Noun | The action or process of causing so much damage to something that no longer exists or cannot be repaired | <i>The destruction of the rainforest has led to loss of biodiversity.</i> |
| Detention | Noun | The action of detaining someone or the state of being detained in official custody | <i>The fifteen people arrested were still in police detention.</i> |
| Deterioration | Noun | The process of becoming progressively worse | <i>My friend's financial woes led to the deterioration of his health.</i> |
| Detrimental | Adjective | Tending to cause harm | <i>Recent policies have been detrimental to the interests of many old people.</i> |
| Devastate | Verb | Destroy or ruin | <i>The city was devastated by a huge earthquake.</i> |
| Devotion | Noun | Love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person or activity | <i>His devotion to duty never wavered.</i> |
| Dexterity | Noun | Skill in performing tasks, especially with the hands | <i>Her dexterity with chopsticks is delightful.</i> |
| Diagnose | Verb | Identify the nature of (an illness or other problem) by examination of the symptoms | <i>Two doctors failed to diagnose a punctured lung.</i> |
| Dialogue | Noun | A conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or film/a discussion intended to explore a subject or | <i>The two siblings have been fighting each other but they are now having a dialogue on reconciliation.</i> |

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| | | solve a problem. | |
| Diamond | Noun | A precious stone consisting of a clear and colourless crystalline form of pure carbon, the hardest naturally occurring substance. | <i>The country is also blessed with plenty of precious minerals such as diamonds, gold, emeralds, amethyst which are all waiting to be exploited.</i> |
| Diarrhoea | Noun | A condition in which faeces are discharged from the bowels frequently and in a liquid form | <i>Two people were admitted at the hospital because of diarrhoea.</i> |
| Dichotomy | Noun | A division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different. | <i>The old dichotomies of liberal-conservative, internationalist-isolationist, dove-hawk are breaking apart.</i> |
| Diffuse | Verb | Spread over a wide area or between a large number of people/ become mingled with a substance. | <i>Technologies enable us to diffuse information rapidly.</i> |
| Dignified | Adjective | Having or showing a composed or serious manner that is worthy of respect | <i>She maintained a dignified silence throughout the memorial service.</i> |
| Dignitary | Noun | A person considered to be important because of high rank or office | <i>The guests included former shareholders, a local dignitary, and many of the people directly involved with the project.</i> |
| Dignity | Noun | The state or quality of being worthy of honour or respect | <i>The lady who came second in the competition maintained her dignity by heaping praises on the winner.</i> |
| Dilemma | Noun | A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives, especially ones that are equally undesirable | <i>The learner who has just passed matric is in a dilemma because she doesn't know whether she should accept the job offer or go to the university to further her studies.</i> |
| Diminutive | Adjective | Extremely or unusually small | <i>A diminutive figure dressed in white was seen wandering in the streets.</i> |
| Dinosaur | Noun | A person or thing that is outdated or has become obsolete because of failure to adapt to changing circumstances/ an extinct reptile that lived millions of years ago, some kinds of which were very large. | <i>My principal is nicknamed, 'the surviving dinosaur' because he still uses the old green chalkboard for teaching instead of using the Hi-Tech Smart-board.</i> |
| Diplomacy | Noun | The profession, activity, or skill of managing international relations, typically by a country's representatives abroad | <i>Mandela's diplomacy helped mend relations between different racial groups in South Africa.</i> |
| Diphtheria | Noun | An acute and highly contagious bacterial disease causing inflammation of the mucous membranes, formation of a false membrane in the throat which hinders breathing and swallowing, and potentially fatal heart and nerve damage by a bacterial toxin in the blood. It | <i>A study in Benin failed to show that vaccination for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio was associated with reduced mortality from other conditions.</i> |

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| | | is now rare in developed countries owing to immunization. | |
| Diphthong | Noun | A sound formed by the combination of two vowels in a single syllable, in which the sound begins as one vowel and moves towards another (as in coin, loud, and side). | <i>Our role model was our head teacher, Miss Osborne, known as the High Mistress, who flapped about the place in her gown and lapsed into classical Greek pronunciation whenever she used a diphthong.</i> |
| Disarray | Noun | A state of disorganisation or untidiness | <i>Her grey hair was in disarray.</i> |
| Disastrous | Adjective | Causing great damage | <i>A disastrous fire swept through the museum.</i> |
| Disciplinary | Adjective | Concerning or enforcing discipline | <i>A soldier will face disciplinary action after going absent without leave.</i> |
| Discretion | Noun | The quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offence or revealing confidential information | <i>She knew she could rely on his discretion.</i> |
| Disembodied | Adjective | Separated from or existing without the body | <i>Mpho's voice was embodied as you entered the shop because she read from a chair below the height of the counter.</i> |
| Disenfranchise | Verb | Deprive (someone) of the right to vote | <i>The laws disenfranchise some 3,000 voters on the basis of a residence qualification.</i> |
| Disgruntled | Adjective | Angry or dissatisfied | <i>Judges receive letters from disgruntled members of the public.</i> |
| Disguise | Verb | Give (someone or oneself) a different appearance in order to conceal one's identity | <i>The robber was in disguise.</i> |
| Disillusioned | Adjective | Disappointed in someone or something that one discovers to be less good than one had believed | <i>The minority groups were completely disillusioned with the party.</i> |
| Disinfect | Verb | Clean (something) with a disinfectant in order to destroy bacteria | <i>Nurses and doctors always disinfect and dress patients' wounds.</i> |
| Dismantled | Verb | Take (a machine or structure) to pieces | <i>The engines were dismantled and the bits piled into a heap.</i> |
| Disorientated | Verb | Make (someone) feel confused | <i>Being near him made her feel weak and disorientated.</i> |
| Disparity | Noun | A great difference | <i>There is economic disparity between people in the rural areas and people in the urban areas.</i> |
| Dispatched | Verb | Send off to a destination or for a purpose | <i>He dispatched messages back to base.</i> |
| Disperse | Verb | Distribute or spread over a wide area | <i>Wind and insects are agents of pollination because they disperse pollen grains.</i> |
| Dispute | Noun | A disagreement or argument | <i>My sister and I had a dispute over a tennis match.</i> |
| Disrupt | Verb | Interrupt (an event, activity, or process) by causing a disturbance or problem | <i>Do not disrupt the proceedings with your chatter.</i> |

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| Disseminate | Verb | Spread (something, especially information) widely | <i>Health authorities always disseminate information about diseases such as TB.</i> |
| Dissidence | Noun | Protest against official policy | <i>The people's dissidence against the Group Areas Act was a step towards a free democratic South Africa.</i> |
| Distillation | Noun | A process of separating the component substances from a liquid mixture by selective evaporation and condensation. | <i>Alcoholic beverages are made stronger through the process of distillation.</i> |
| Distinct | Adjective | Recognisably different in nature from something else of a similar type | <i>The patterns of spoken language are distinct from those of writing.</i> |
| Distinguish | Verb | Recognise or treat (someone or something) as different | <i>A child should be able to distinguish fact from fantasy.</i> |
| Distribution | Noun | The action of sharing something out among a number of recipients | <i>The government released about 74,000 tonnes of rice for distribution among people affected by the cyclone.</i> |
| Docile | Adjective | Ready to accept control or instruction; submissive. | <i>You can be solitary and courageous, also docile and diplomatic when needed</i> |
| Domineering | Verb | Assert one's will over another in an arrogant way | <i>Cathy had been a martyr to her gruff, domineering husband.</i> |
| Dreadlocks | Noun | A Rastafarian hairstyle in which the hair is washed but not combed and twisted while wet into tight braids or ringlets hanging down on all sides | <i>A stately Rastafarian in dreadlocks nursed a dark ale.</i> |
| Dwindled | Verb | Diminish gradually in size, amount, or strength | <i>The crowd at the stadium dwindled as soon as the home team conceded another goal.</i> |
| Dysfunctional | Adjective | Not operating normally or properly. | <i>The telephones are dysfunctional.</i> |
| Dynasty | Noun | A line of hereditary rulers of a country | <i>The Ming dynasty ruled China for 276 years.</i> |
| Earmark | Verb | Designate (funds or resources) for a particular purpose | <i>We should earmark more money to alleviate poverty.</i> |
| Ease | Verb | Make (something unpleasant or intense) less serious or severe | <i>A huge road-building programme to ease congestion is underway.</i> |
| Eavesdrop | Verb | Secretly listen to a conversation. | <i>My father eavesdropped on my phone calls.</i> |
| Eclair | Noun | A long, thin individual cake of choux pastry filled with cream and topped with chocolate icing. | <i>That's a pineapple carrot cake on the bottom and whiskey eclairs in the middle and deep dish chocolate cake with the candle in it.</i> |
| Ecstatic | Adjective | Feeling or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement. | <i>He walked up to the table with a smile, and seemed excessively ecstatic to find her.</i> |
| Effective | Adjective | Successful in producing a desired or intended result | <i>The government must provide effective solutions to our complicated environmental problems</i> |
| Efficacy | Noun | The ability to produce a desired or intended result | <i>There is little information on the efficacy of this treatment</i> |
| Efficiency | Noun | The state or quality of being efficient | <i>South Africa won the Cricket World Cup as they played with efficiency and determination.</i> |

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| Egotistic | Adjective | One devoted to one's own interests and advancement; an egocentric person; a selfish person. | <i>My uncle is egotistic person because he only cares about himself and nobody else.</i> |
| Egregious | Adjective | Outstandingly bad; shocking | <i>The singer was charged for egregious abuses of copyright.</i> |
| Election | Noun | A formal and organised choice by vote of a person for a political office or other position | <i>The 2008 local election were declared fair and free.</i> |
| Elegant | Adjective | Graceful and stylish in appearance or manner | <i>She will look elegant in black.</i> |
| Eligible | Adjective | Having the right to do or obtain something; satisfying the appropriate conditions | <i>Customers who are eligible for discounts are given preferential treatment on sale days.</i> |
| Elimination | Noun | The process of getting rid of something, whether it's waste, errors, or the competition. | <i>Usain Bolt's elimination from the race during the Olympics was unfair.</i> |
| Elite | Noun | A select group that is superior in terms of ability or qualities to the rest of a group or society | <i>The elite of Britain's armed forces are all knighted.</i> |
| Ellipse | Noun | A regular oval shape, traced by a point moving in a plane so that the sum of its distances from two other points (the foci) is constant, or resulting when a cone is cut by an oblique plane which does not intersect the base | <i>The greatest displacement of the star from its mean position (the semi axis major of the ellipse) is called its parallax.</i> |
| Eloquence | Noun | Fluent or persuasive speaking or writing. | <i>In France, eloquence is one of the great means of social advancement.</i> |
| Emaciated | Adjective | Abnormally thin or weak, especially because of illness or a lack of food | <i>She was so emaciated she could hardly stand.</i> |
| Embedded | Verb | Fix (an object) firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass | <i>He had an operation to remove a nail embedded in his chest.</i> |
| Emanate | Verb | (Of a feeling, quality, or sensation) issue or spread out from (a source) | <i>Warmth should emanate from the fireplace soon.</i> |
| Emancipation | Noun | The fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberation | <i>The social and political emancipation of women should be a priority for the government.</i> |
| Embankment | Noun | A bank of earth or stone built to carry a road or railway over an area of low ground. | <i>He finally reached the bottom of the embankment and fell headlong into a bunch of blackberry bushes.</i> |
| Embark | Verb | Go on board a ship or aircraft | <i>When we were about to embark the ship, strong winds started blowing and we abandoned the trip.</i> |
| Embarrass | Verb | Cause (someone) to feel awkward, self-conscious, or ashamed | <i>She wouldn't embarrass either of them by making a scene.</i> |
| Embattled | Adjective | (Of a place or people) involved in or prepared for war, especially because surrounded by enemy forces; facing a lot of difficulty. | <i>The embattled Gauteng Premier resigned because of political pressure.</i> |
| Emblazon | Verb | Conspicuously inscribe or | <i>Let's emblazon our shirts with the</i> |

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| | | display a design on | <i>school motto.</i> |
| Emblem | Noun | A heraldic device or symbolic object as a distinctive badge of a nation, organisation, or family | <i>America's National emblem is the bald eagle.</i> |
| Embodiment | Noun | A tangible or visible form of an idea, quality, or feeling | <i>She seemed to be a living embodiment of vitality.</i> |
| Embrace | Verb | Hold (someone) closely in one's arms, especially as a sign of affection | <i>I like to embrace my mom.</i> |
| Embroidery | Noun | The art or pastime of embroidering cloth | <i>My mother decided I should learn embroidery.</i> |
| Embroided | Verb | Involve (someone) deeply in an argument, conflict, or difficult situation | <i>The organisation is currently embroidered in running battles with pressure groups.</i> |
| Eminent | Adjective | (Of a person) famous and respected within a particular sphere | <i>One of the world's most eminent statisticians has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.</i> |
| Empathy | Noun | The ability to understand and share the feelings of another | <i>Maria has empathy for illegal aliens because her parents immigrated to the United States to give her a better life.</i> |
| Emphasise | Verb | Give special importance or value to (something) in speaking or writing | <i>They emphasise the need for daily, one-to-one contact between parent and child.</i> |
| Enacting | Verb | Make (a bill or other proposal) law | <i>Enacting laws is the job of politicians.</i> |
| Encapsulate | Verb | Enclose (something) in or as if in a capsule | <i>The company would encapsulate the asbestos waste in concrete pellets.</i> |
| Encourage | Verb | Give support, confidence, or hope to (someone) | <i>Let us encourage the spellers to do well.</i> |
| Encroach | Verb | Intrude on (a person's territory, rights, personal life, etc.) | <i>One should not encroach on another's privacy.</i> |
| Encumbrance | Noun | An impediment or burden. | <i>The horse raised its hind leg as if to rid itself of an encumbrance.</i> |
| Endeavour | Verb | Try hard to do or achieve something | <i>They endeavour to help save third world countries from starvation.</i> |
| Endorsement | Noun | The action of endorsing someone or something | <i>The issue of full independence received overwhelming endorsement.</i> |
| Engagement | Noun | A formal agreement to get married | <i>She broke off her engagement to Paul.</i> |
| Engineering | Noun | The action of working artfully to bring something about | <i>If it were not for his shrewd engineering, the election would have been lost.</i> |
| Engrossed | Verb | Absorb all the attention or interest of | <i>They seemed to be engrossed in conversation.</i> |
| Enhance | Verb | Intensify, increase, or further improve the quality, value, or extent of | <i>His refusal does nothing to enhance his reputation.</i> |
| Enormous | Adjective | Very large in size, quantity, or extent | <i>The fisherman caught an enormous fish.</i> |
| Enriched | Verb | Improve or enhance the quality or value of | <i>Her exposure to museums enriched her life in France.</i> |
| Ensnared | Verb | Catch in or as in a trap | <i>They were ensnared in city centre traffic.</i> |
| Entertainment | Noun | The action of providing or being provided with amusement or | <i>Everyone sits in front of the television for entertainment.</i> |

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| | | enjoyment | |
| Enthral | Verb | Capture the fascinated attention of | <i>She will enthrall the crowd with her football dribbling skills.</i> |
| Enthusiasm | Noun | Intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval | <i>Her energy and enthusiasm for life makes her the right candidate for the community builder award.</i> |
| Entitlement | Noun | The fact of having a right to something | <i>Full entitlement to fees and maintenance should be offered.</i> |
| Entrance | Noun | An act or instance of entering somewhere | <i>At their abrupt entrance, he rose to his feet.</i> |
| Entrepreneur | Noun | A person who sets up a business or businesses, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit | <i>Any woman can be an entrepreneur, but if you want to be a rich entrepreneur you'll need to rise above the rest.</i> |
| Envelope | Noun | A covering or containing structure or layer; a flat paper container with a flap, used to enclose a letter or document | <i>He bought an A4-size envelope for fifty cents.</i> |
| Envious | Adjective | Feeling or showing envy | <i>I'm envious of their happiness.</i> |
| Environment | Noun | The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates | <i>Survival in an often hostile environment is difficult.</i> |
| Envisaged | Verb | Form a mental picture of (something not yet existing or known) | <i>The test did not go as I envisaged.</i> |
| Episode | Noun | An event or a group of events occurring as part of a sequence; an incident or period considered in isolation | <i>The whole episode has been a major embarrassment.</i> |
| Epitome | Noun | A person or thing that is a perfect example of a particular quality or type | <i>She looked the epitome of elegance and good taste.</i> |
| Equatorial | Adjective | Of, at, or near the equator | <i>Equatorial regions are characterised by high temperatures and rainfall.</i> |
| Equipment | Noun | The necessary items for a particular purpose | <i>Suppliers of office equipment are located next to the market.</i> |
| Equitable | Adjective | Fair and impartial | <i>The government should ensure that there is equitable distribution of resources.</i> |
| Equivalent | Adjective | Equal in value, amount, function, meaning, etc. | <i>In our exchange of gifts I got something equivalent in value to the one I gave.</i> |
| Erratic | Adjective | Not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable | <i>Her breathing was erratic throughout the day.</i> |
| Escalate | Verb | Increase rapidly | <i>Costs escalate with an increase in distance in the transportation business.</i> |
| Escort | Noun | A person, vehicle, or group accompanying another for protection or as a mark of rank | <i>A police escort helped prevent the mob from harming the councillor.</i> |
| Esteem | Noun | Respect and admiration | <i>He was held in high esteem by colleagues.</i> |
| Eternity | Noun | Infinite or unending time | <i>Their love was sealed for eternity.</i> |
| Etiquette | Noun | The customary code of polite behaviour in society or among | <i>He interspersed classes with lessons about the rules and etiquette of the</i> |

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| | | members of a particular profession or group. | <i>game.</i> |
| Euphoria | Noun | A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness | <i>Euphoria engulfed the winner of the race.</i> |
| Evangelist | Noun | A person who seeks to convert others to the Christian faith, especially by public preaching | <i>An American television evangelist will visit our country next month</i> |
| Eviction | Noun | The action of expelling someone from a property; expulsion | <i>Many tenants face eviction by the landlords because of non-payments.</i> |
| Evolution | Noun | The gradual development of something | <i>The forms of written languages undergo constant evolution.</i> |
| Exacerbate | Verb | Make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse | <i>The governor did not want to exacerbate economic hardships by increasing the bank rates.</i> |
| Exaggerate | Verb | Represent (something) as being larger, better, or worse than it really is | <i>He loves to exaggerate his accomplishments.</i> |
| Examination | Noun | A detailed inspection or study | <i>After a careful examination of the injury, the doctor decided to operate.</i> |
| Exceptional | Adjective | Unusual; not typical | <i>Late claims will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.</i> |
| Exclusion | Noun | The process of excluding or the state of being excluded | <i>He had a hand in my exclusion from the committee.</i> |
| Excursion | Noun | A short journey or trip, especially one taken as a leisure activity | <i>The school will organise an excursion to London Zoo.</i> |
| Execution | Noun | The carrying out of a plan, order, or course of action | <i>He was fascinated by the entire operation and its execution.</i> |
| Exemplary | Adjective | Serving as a desirable model; very good | <i>His work habits and attitudes are acknowledged by his employer as exemplary.</i> |
| Exhaustion | Noun | A state of extreme physical or mental tiredness | <i>He was pale with exhaustion.</i> |
| Expansion | Noun | The action of becoming larger or more extensive | <i>The rapid expansion of the city led to traffic congestion.</i> |
| Exhibition | Noun | A public display of works of art or items of interest, held in an art gallery or museum or at a trade fair | <i>I went to an art exhibition where I saw an amazing French sculpture.</i> |
| Exhort | Verb | Strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something | <i>As a dear friend, I exhort you to eat well and exercise regularly so you will have a long life.</i> |
| Expansive | Adjective | Covering a wide area in terms of space or scope; extensive | <i>Durban has expansive beaches that stretch from the south coast to the north coast.</i> |
| Expenditure | Noun | The action of spending funds | <i>The expenditure of taxpayers' money should be accounted for by the government.</i> |
| Expertise | Noun | Expert skill or knowledge in a particular field | <i>Technical expertise is what employers look for when employing people.</i> |
| Exploit | Verb | Make full use of and derive benefit from (a resource) | <i>500 companies sprang up to exploit this new technology.</i> |
| Expression | Noun | The action of making known one's thoughts or feelings | <i>The prisoners developed a dialect as an everyday means of expression.</i> |
| Expulsion | Noun | The action of forcing someone to leave an organisation | <i>His expulsion from the union was not fair.</i> |

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| Exquisite | Adjective | Extremely beautiful and delicate | <i>She bought exquisite, jewel like portraits for a song.</i> |
| Extemporaneous | Adjective | Spoken or done without preparation. | <i>It was an extemporaneous act with a lot of free association and politics.</i> |
| Extinction | Noun | The state or process of being or becoming extinct | <i>The extinction of the dinosaurs was a result of climate change.</i> |
| Extortion | Noun | The practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats | <i>He used bribery and extortion to build himself a huge, art-stuffed mansion.</i> |
| Extravagant | Adjective | Lack of restraint in spending money or using resources | <i>An extravagant child walked into the candy shop and bought everything until he had no money left. She always sent extravagant gifts to her daughter.</i> |
| Extremist | Noun | A person who holds extreme political or religious views, especially one who advocates illegal, violent, or other extreme action | <i>The extremist was jailed because his ideas caused the death of many people.</i> |
| Exuberant | Adjective | Full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness | <i>The headmaster told the exuberant pupils to keep quiet.</i> |
| Eyesore | Noun | A building, an object, etc. that is unpleasant to look at | <i>The old building is a real eyesore to the public.</i> |
| Facsimile | Noun | An exact copy, especially of written or printed material. | <i>This papyrus is a facsimile copy of the only surviving thing from the ancient library.</i> |
| Factionalism | Noun | The state or quality of being partisan or self-interested | <i>One of the challenges faced by political parties in South Africa today is that of factionalism.</i> |
| Fallacious | Adjective | Based on a mistaken belief. | <i>Some of Descartes' claims were fallacious such as his belief that the velocity of light is infinite.</i> |
| Falsified | Verb | Alter (information, a document, or evidence) so as to mislead | <i>Mary was arrested by the police after she falsified her matric results in order to get a top job at the firm.</i> |
| Fanatic | Noun | The quality of being fanatical | <i>The soccer fanatic attended all his teams' matches.</i> |
| Fascinated | Verb | Attract strong attention and interest of (someone) | <i>I've always been fascinated by computers.</i> |
| Fatalistic | Adjective | The acceptance of all things and events as inevitable | <i>Her fatalistic attitude meant that she could not question the cause of her husband's death.</i> |
| Fauna | Noun | The animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period. | <i>Apart from some other things, Sri Lanka is famous for its many rare species of flora and fauna.</i> |
| Favourite | Adjective | Preferred to all others of the same kind | <i>Their favourite soccer team is Mamelodi Sundowns Football Club.</i> |
| Feasible | Adjective | Likely; probable | <i>It is not feasible to begin constructing the dam in the middle of the rain season.</i> |
| Feature | Noun | A distinctive attribute or aspect of something | <i>The best feature of the team is its ability to score many goals.</i> |
| Federal | Adjective | Having or relating to a system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs | <i>The Federal Government banned the sale of alcohol to people under the age of 21 years in all the states.</i> |

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| Feisty | Adjective | (Of a person, typically one who is relatively small) lively, determined, and courageous | <i>The feisty girl managed to scare the robbers who wanted to break into the house.</i> |
| Feminism | Noun | The advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes | <i>Feminism gained popularity throughout the world in the 20th century.</i> |
| Fermentation | Noun | The chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other microorganisms, typically involving effervescence and the giving off of heat | <i>Fermentation is an important stage in the process of making alcohol.</i> |
| Ferocious | Adjective | Very aggressive or violent; very strong | <i>The tourists were attacked by a ferocious lion when they were walking in the game park.</i> |
| Fertile | Adjective | (Of soil or land) producing or capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops | <i>Fertile lands always produce good harvests.</i> |
| Fierce | Adjective | Having or displaying a violent or ferocious aggressiveness | <i>The fierce fighting between the two armies continued throughout the day.</i> |
| Fixture | Noun | Sports event that has been arranged to take place on a particular date and at particular place | <i>Their soccer team's fixture against Liverpool was cancelled because of rain.</i> |
| Flocculent | Adjective | Having or resembling tufts of wool. | <i>Personally, I find his style too flocculent for words.</i> |
| Flagship | Noun | The best or most important thing owned or produced by a particular organisation | <i>This bill is the flagship of the government's legislative programme.</i> |
| Flamboyant | Adjective | (Of a person or their behaviour) tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness | <i>The band's flamboyant lead singer died in a road accident.</i> |
| Flashback | Noun | A part of a film/movie, play etc. that shows a scene that happened earlier in time than the main story. | <i>The movie tells the life-story of the main actor using flashback techniques.</i> |
| Flickering | Verb | To keep going on and off as it shines or burns | <i>The flickering television screen was a sign that the transmission was poor.</i> |
| Flimsy | Adjective | Insubstantial and easily damaged | <i>The flimsy jersey that she was wearing could not protect her from the cold.</i> |
| Flippant | Adjective | Not showing a serious or respectful attitude | <i>The doctor's flippant remark showed that he did not take the patient's injury seriously.</i> |
| Flout | Verb | Openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention) | <i>Motorists who flout the law will be arrested.</i> |
| Fluctuation | Noun | An irregular rising and falling in number or amount; a variation | <i>The current fluctuation in the price of petrol in South Africa is a result of the unstable rand.</i> |
| Fluency | Noun | The ability to speak or write a particular language easily and accurately | <i>Fluency in Spanish is essential for people who wish to live in Spain.</i> |
| Fluorescent | Adjective | (of a substance) having or showing fluorescence. | <i>Some fluorescent materials, under the appropriate conditions, will also phosphoresce.</i> |
| Flurry | Noun | An occasion when there is a lot | <i>Her arrival caused a flurry of activity</i> |

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| | | of activity , interest, excitement, etc. | <i>among the journalists.</i> |
| Foliage | Noun | Plant leaves collectively. | <i>He's seen roses with good flowers but bad foliage, good foliage but bad flowers.</i> |
| Foreigner | Noun | A person born in or coming from a country other than one's own | <i>As a foreigner in South Africa, Peter struggled to speak isiZulu.</i> |
| Forensic | Adjective | Relating to or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime | <i>Forensic evidence is sometimes used in solving murder cases.</i> |
| Foreseen | Verb | Be aware of beforehand; predict | <i>The extent of the damage caused by the rain could not be foreseen.</i> |
| Foresight | Noun | The ability to predict what will happen or be needed in the future | <i>He had the foresight to check that his escape route was clear.</i> |
| Forfeit | Verb | To lose something or have something taken away from you because you have done something wrong | <i>If you cancel your flight, you forfeit your deposit.</i> |
| Formidable | Adjective | Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. | <i>The formidable team always instilled fear among its opponents.</i> |
| Forsythia | Noun | An ornamental Eurasian shrub whose bright yellow flowers appear in early spring before the leaves. | <i>For early blooming shrubs such as forsythia and viburnum, prune them as soon as blooms have passed.</i> |
| Fortuitous | Adjective | Happening by chance, especially a lucky chance that brings a good result | <i>Their victory was fortuitous because the ball went into the net after it was deflected by the referee.</i> |
| Fortune | Noun | A large amount of money or assets | <i>It cost a fortune to build his mansion.</i> |
| Fracture | Noun | The cracking or breaking of a hard object or material | <i>The fall caused a fracture to his right arm.</i> |
| Fragment | Verb | Break or cause to break into fragments | <i>The shattering of the precious heirloom caused it to fragment into many pieces</i> |
| Fragrance | Noun | A pleasant, sweet smell | <i>The fragrance of my rose garden is very pleasant.</i> |
| Fragrant | Adjective | Having a pleasant or sweet smell | <i>She gathered the fragrant roses which gave off a pleasant smell.</i> |
| Franchise | Noun | An authorization granted by a government or company to an individual or group enabling them to carry out specified commercial activities, for example acting as an agent for a company's products. | <i>He owns the London Park Hotel and is the franchise holder for the Holiday Inn in the capital.</i> |
| Fraternity | Noun | A group of people sharing a common profession or interests | <i>The lecturer who belongs to the academic fraternity spends a lot of time doing research</i> |
| Fraud | Noun | Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain | <i>Tom was arrested and convicted of fraud because he stole company documents and sold it to another</i> |

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| | | | <i>company for money.</i> |
| Fraudulent | Adjective | Obtained, done by, or involving deception, especially criminal deception | <i>The company that obtained the documents from Tom got them by fraudulent means.</i> |
| Fraught | Adjective | Causing or affected by anxiety or stress | <i>Tom and Jerry always fought with each other therefore we can say that their relationship was fraught with tension.</i> |
| Frequent | Verb | Visit (a place) often | <i>I frequent the library in order to get information.</i> |
| Frivolity | Noun | Lack of seriousness; light-heartedness | <i>The party was filled with fun and games so it was filled with frivolity.</i> |
| Fruition | Noun | The realization or fulfilment of a plan or project | <i>I am planning on working hard and achieving success in the future so that all my dreams come to fruition.</i> |
| Fuchsia | Noun | A shrub with pendulous tubular flowers that are typically of two contrasting colours. They are native to America and New Zealand and are commonly grown as ornamentals. | <i>Since the trailing fuchsias we're planting will be suspended, containers should be lightweight but sturdy.</i> |
| Fugacious | Adjective | Tending to disappear; fleeting. | <i>They are very fugacious, and now and then apparently absent.</i> |
| Fugitive | Noun | A person who has escaped from captivity or is in hiding | <i>The fugitive who escaped from the police demanded a place to hide.</i> |
| Further | Adjective | Additional to what already exists or has already taken place, been done, or been accounted for | <i>The pasta should cook for a further ten minutes.</i> |
| Futility | Noun | Pointlessness or uselessness | <i>The futility of war should be pointed out to everyone because nothing is gained from mass murder.</i> |
| Gadgets | Noun | A small mechanical device or tool, especially an ingenious or novel one | <i>My uncle loves gadgets so his garage is filled with futile devices that do not serve any purpose.</i> |
| Gaiety | Noun | The state or quality of being light-hearted or cheerful. | <i>Village fairs were occasions for happiness and gaiety.</i> |
| Galactic | Adjective | Relating to a galaxy or galaxies, especially the galaxy containing the solar system | <i>I wish that there was intelligent life on other planets who have their own galaxies so we can have an inter galactic relationship with them.</i> |
| Gallivant | Verb | Go around from one place to another in the pursuit of pleasure or entertainment | <i>My aunt loves going from place to place so she decided to go gallivanting around the world.</i> |
| Genesis | Noun | The origin or mode of formation of something | <i>The genesis of the Spelling Bee resides in the originators who work for the Department of Basic Education (DBE).</i> |
| Genetics | Noun | The genetic properties or features of an organism, characteristic | <i>Genetics often determine whether a child is going to look like the mother or father.</i> |
| Genuine | Adjective | Of a person, emotion, or action) sincere | <i>He made a genuine attempt to make things right by paying back the money.</i> |
| Geometry | Noun | The shape and relative arrangement of the parts of | <i>The geometry of the village was decided by a very clever person</i> |

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| | | something | <i>because it is practical and also uses space properly.</i> |
| Gerrymander | Verb | Manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favour one party or class. | <i>He gerrymandered electoral districts in order to control the results and sought to regulate the press.</i> |
| Gestation | Noun | The development of something over a period of time | <i>My birth took longer than usual so the gestation period in my case was more than 9 months.</i> |
| Gesture | Noun | A movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning | <i>Ntombi was too far away so instead of greeting me verbally she used a gesture instead.</i> |
| Ghastly | Adjective | Causing great horror or fear. | <i>India has had plenty of ghastly crimes, but this was arguably the worst of the lot.</i> |
| Ghost | Verb | Act as ghost writer of (a work) | <i>I did not want to be acknowledged for my own work so I got a ghost writer to write my biography.</i> |
| Gigantic | Adjective | Of very great size or extent; huge or enormous | <i>A gigantic concrete tower.</i> |
| Glimpse | Noun | A momentary or partial view | <i>She caught a glimpse of the ocean.</i> |
| Gluttony | Noun | Habitual greed or excess in eating | <i>She said plumpness was a sign of gluttony in most cases.</i> |
| Glockenspiel | Noun | A musical percussion instrument having a set of tuned metal pieces mounted in a frame and struck with small hammers. | <i>A marimba also is essentially a set of wooden bars, while the glockenspiel and vibraphone involve metal bars.</i> |
| Gorgeous | Adjective | Beautiful; very attractive | <i>Gorgeous colours and exquisite decoration.</i> |
| Government | Noun | System of governing, form of organisation of state | <i>The government's economic record.</i> |
| Graduate | Verb | Successfully complete an academic degree, course of training | <i>He graduated from Glasgow University in 1990.</i> |
| Graffiti | Verb | Write or draw graffiti on (something) | <i>Writing or drawing graffiti on the desks is wrong.</i> |
| Grandparent | Noun | A parent of one's father or mother; a grandmother or grandfather | <i>My mother's dad is my maternal grandparent and I love him a lot.</i> |
| Grapple | Verb | Engage in a close fight or struggle without weapons; wrestle | <i>I had to grapple my sister to get my sweets from her.</i> |
| Greenery | Noun | Green foliage, growing plants, or vegetation | <i>I stood on the mountain top and looked at the lush greenery of the valley.</i> |
| Grief | Noun | Intense sorrow, especially caused by someone's death | <i>Grief is experienced when one loses someone precious like a close family member, friend or a pet.</i> |
| Grievous | Adjective | (Of something bad) very severe or serious | <i>The victim suffered a grievous blow to the head this caused him to lose his life.</i> |
| Gruelling | Adjective | Extremely tiring and demanding | <i>The Spelling Bee word list is long so it is gruelling work learning them but the rewards are great.</i> |
| Gruesome | Adjective | Causing repulsion or horror; | <i>The manner in which the man was</i> |

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| | | grisly | <i>killed is gruesome.</i> |
| Guarantee | Verb | Promise with certainty | <i>I can guarantee that I will do my homework.</i> |
| Guardian | Noun | A person who protects or defends something | <i>After Thabo's parents passed away his aunt became his legal guardian.</i> |
| Gubernatorial | Adjective | Relating to a governor, particularly that of a state in the US. | <i>They are still finding uncounted ballots in Washington state from last fall's gubernatorial election.</i> |
| Guerrilla | Noun | A member of a small independent group taking part in irregular fighting, typically against larger regular forces. | <i>When you're fighting guerrillas, or terrorists, the enemy is quite literally hydra-headed.</i> |
| Guesthouse | Noun | A private house offering accommodation to paying guests | <i>When we went to Durban for a holiday we lived at a guesthouse.</i> |
| Guilty | Adjective | Culpable of or responsible for a specified wrongdoing | <i>He was found guilty of manslaughter because he was driving under the influence of alcohol and fatally knocked down a pedestrian.</i> |
| Guillotine | Noun | A machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used for beheading people. | <i>First, large heavy shards of glass can fall like guillotines, slicing off body parts.</i> |
| Haemorrhage | Noun | An escape of blood from a ruptured blood vessel | <i>A blow on the head caused a haemorrhage to the man's brain.</i> |
| Hallucination | Noun | An experience involving the apparent perception of something not present | <i>He continued to suffer from horrific hallucinations after being in a horrific car crash.</i> |
| Hamstring | Noun | Any of five tendons at the back of a person's knee | <i>The athlete pulled a hamstring in the last twenty metres of the race.</i> |
| Handicap | Noun | A circumstance that makes progress or success difficult | <i>The boy could not finish the race because he suffered a handicap in the form of a hamstring injury.</i> |
| Handkerchief | Noun | A square of cotton or other finely woven material intended for wiping one's nose. | <i>Both of them soaked their handkerchiefs in water and wiped around their faces and necks.</i> |
| Harmony | Noun | The combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce a pleasing effect | <i>The choir sang beautifully and they were in harmony with the band.</i> |
| Hasty | Adjective | Done with excessive speed or urgency; hurried | <i>Think before you agree to do something as hasty decisions are often bad ones.</i> |
| Hauled | Verb | (Of a person) pull or drag with effort or force | <i>When my uncle's car was stuck in a ravine it had to be hauled out with a crane.</i> |
| Haunches | Noun | A buttock and thigh considered together, in a human or animal | <i>He sat on his haunches to watch the game because there were no stools available.</i> |
| Havoc | Noun | Widespread destruction | <i>The hurricane ripped through Florida, destroyed homes and caused havoc in people's lives.</i> |
| Hawker | Noun | A person who travels about selling goods | <i>Mom always buys mealies from the hawker who passes by every day.</i> |
| Headquarters | Noun | The premises serving as the managerial and administrative centre of an organisation | <i>The prestigious firm has its headquarters in Johannesburg.</i> |

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| Heckle | Verb | Interrupt (a public speaker) with derisive or aggressive comments or abuse | <i>I hate it when people heckle at rallies.</i> |
| Hectic | Adjective | Full of incessant or frantic activity | <i>My dad has a hectic business schedule.</i> |
| Hedge | Noun | Closely planted bushes or low trees | <i>Our hedge separates our house from the neighbour's house.</i> |
| Heed | Noun | Take note or pay close attention | <i>It is good to take heed of good advice.</i> |
| Heinous | Adjective | (Of a person or wrongful act, especially a crime) utterly odious or wicked. | <i>Hence minorities were also targeted for committing various heinous crimes.</i> |
| Helicopter | Verb | Transport by helicopter | <i>The injured man was taken by helicopter to the nearest hospital.</i> |
| Hesitate | Verb | Pause in indecision before saying or doing something reluctant to | <i>She hesitated because she was unsure of what to say.</i> |
| Hiatus | Noun | A break or a gap | <i>He was too tired at work so he took a hiatus and rested.</i> |
| Hibernate | Verb | (Of an animal or plant) spend the winter in a dormant state | <i>Some species hibernate in winter.</i> |
| Hierarchy | Noun | A system in which members of an organisation or society are ranked according to relative status or authority | <i>In a school hierarchy the principal is at the top in terms of authority.</i> |
| Hilarious | Adjective | Extremely amusing | <i>The movie with the comedian Chris Brown is always hilarious.</i> |
| Hitchhike | Verb | Travel by getting free lifts in passing vehicles | <i>When our car broke down we had to hitchhike back home.</i> |
| Hoarse | Adjective | A husky or gruff sounding voice | <i>At the idols competition my voice became hoarse.</i> |
| Hoax | Noun | A humorous or malicious deception | <i>I love pranks so I planned a hoax to teach my brother a lesson by hiding his book.</i> |
| Holocaust | Noun | Destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially caused by fire or nuclear war. | <i>The world came within an inch of nuclear holocaust during the Cuban missile crisis.</i> |
| Homicide | Noun | The killing of one person by another | <i>He was charged with homicide because he killed an innocent man.</i> |
| Honourable | Adjective | Bringing or deserving honour | <i>His action of helping the poor is honourable.</i> |
| Hooligan | Noun | A violent young troublemaker, typically one of a gang | <i>A hooligan would not have respect for anyone.</i> |
| Horror | Noun | Painful or feeling of loathing | <i>I experienced a feeling of horror when I saw what happened at the scene of the accident.</i> |
| Horrendous | Adjective | Extremely unpleasant, horrifying, or terrible | <i>She suffered horrendous injuries to her body.</i> |
| Horse | Noun | Animal used for riding or transport | <i>The horse was tired after he had to pull the cart for several kilometre.</i> |
| Hostage | Noun | A person seized or held as security for the fulfilment of a condition | <i>They were held hostage by armed rebels and were finally recued.</i> |
| Huddled | Verb | Crowd together; nestle closely | <i>They huddled together for warmth.</i> |

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| Humanity | Noun | Human beings collectively | <i>Hitler perpetuated horrible crimes against humanity when he had millions of Jews killed.</i> |
| Humidity | Noun | A quantity representing the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere or in a gas | <i>The temperature is seventy seven and the humidity level is in the low thirties.</i> |
| Hummingbird | Noun | A small nectar-feeding tropical American bird that is able to hover and fly backwards, and typically has colourful iridescent plumage | <i>I saw the hummingbird fly backwards and was amazed.</i> |
| Humour | Noun | The quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech | <i>His tales are full of humour and makes me laugh.</i> |
| Hurdles | Noun | One of a series of upright frames over which athletes in a race must jump | <i>The athlete jumped effortlessly over the hurdles.</i> |
| Hydrogen | Noun | A colourless, odourless, highly flammable gas, the chemical element of atomic number 1 | <i>Hydrogen is necessary to sustain life.</i> |
| Hygiene | Noun | Conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health and preventing disease, especially through cleanliness | <i>I maintain personal hygiene by bathing regularly</i> |
| Hyphen | Noun | The sign (-) used to join words to indicate that they have a combined meaning or that they are linked in the grammar of a sentence (as in a pick-me-up, rock-forming Minerals | <i>The hyphen between the words rock-forming joins two already existing words to create new meaning.</i> |
| Hypnotise | Verb | Produce a state of hypnosis in (someone) | <i>He sees his therapist, who hypnotises him.</i> |
| Hypocrisy | Noun | The practice of claiming to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case | <i>He hates hypocrisy but is also guilty of the same crime.</i> |
| Hysterical | Adjective | Affected by or deriving from wildly uncontrolled emotion | <i>Janet became hysterical and began screaming.</i> |
| Icon | Noun | Someone who is highly regarded or a graven image of a person who is an icon | <i>Nelson Mandela is an icon to the world and an icon of him can be found in Nelson Mandela Square.</i> |
| Identity | Noun | The fact of being who or what a person or thing is | <i>He knows the identity of the culprits.</i> |
| Ideology | Noun | A system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy | <i>The capitalistic ideology makes the rich richer and the poor poorer.</i> |
| Idiosyncrasy | Noun | A mode of behaviour or way of thought peculiar to an individual. | <i>Any event like a wedding always has the little idiosyncrasies associated with family.</i> |
| Idle | Adjective | (of a person) avoiding work; lazy | <i>The idle students did not do any work.</i> |
| Ignite | Verb | Catch fire or cause to catch fire | <i>A spark can ignite a fire</i> |
| Ignominious | Adjective | Deserving or causing public disgrace or shame | <i>The man's reputation suffered an ignominious fate in the public debates.</i> |
| Illusion | Noun | An instance of a wrong or | <i>The idle student was under the</i> |

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| | | misinterpreted perception of a sensory experience | <i>illusion that he will still pass without working hard.</i> |
| Illustration | Noun | A picture illustrating a book, newspaper, etc. | <i>The illustrations in the comic book were hilarious.</i> |
| Illustrious | Adjective | Well known, respected, and admired for past achievements | <i>His illustrious actions earned him a lot of respect.</i> |
| Imbue | Verb | Inspire or permeate with (a feeling or quality) | <i>One should always strive to imbue people to behave in a proper fashion.</i> |
| Impartial | Adjective | Treating all rivals or disputants equally | <i>The minister cannot be impartial in the way that a judge would be.</i> |
| Immature | Adjective | Not fully developed | <i>Actions of some grownups could lead one to believe that they are immature.</i> |
| Immediate | Adjective | Occurring or done at once; instant | <i>The authorities took no immediate action against the criminal which angered the community.</i> |
| Immensely | Adverb | To a great extent; extremely | <i>The rapper was immensely popular for his lyrics against violence.</i> |
| Immersion | Noun | The action of immersing someone or something in a liquid | <i>Baptism involves immersion into water and a blessing</i> |
| Immigrate | Verb | Come to live permanently in a foreign country | <i>A person is sometimes forced to immigrate when they are not happy in their own country.</i> |
| Imminent | Adjective | Is when something is just about to occur | <i>The Spelling Bee competition is fast approaching so it is imminent.</i> |
| Immune | Adjective | Resistant to a particular infection or toxin owing to the presence of specific antibodies or sensitised white blood cells | <i>For some reason I am immune to the flu virus as I never get the flu even when people around me have it.</i> |
| Impassive | Adjective | Not feeling or showing emotion | <i>His cold, impassive face made me afraid.</i> |
| Impeccable | Adjective | In accordance with the highest standards; faultless | <i>He had impeccable manners and therefore he is my role model.</i> |
| Imperceptible | Adjective | So slight, gradual, or subtle as not to be perceived. | <i>There was an almost imperceptible shuffle on the stairs.</i> |
| Import | Verb | Bring goods from another country for profit | <i>My dad wants to import goods from China to sell at a profit.</i> |
| Impress | Verb | Affect or influence deeply | <i>The boy did a good deed only to impress a girl he likes.</i> |
| Impoverish | Verb | Make (a person or area) poor | <i>The actions of the man impoverished his family.</i> |
| Impressive | Adjective | Evoking admiration through size, quality, or skill; grand, imposing, or awesome | <i>His action of risking his life to save the dog was impressive.</i> |
| Improper | Adjective | Not in accordance with accepted standards, especially of morality or honesty | <i>The improper use of public funds is unacceptable.</i> |
| Impromptu | Adverb & Adjective | Done without being planned or rehearsed. | <i>This makes us conveniently close enough for impromptu dinner party invitations.</i> |
| Inadvertently | Adverb | Without intention; accidentally | <i>His name had been inadvertently omitted from the competition.</i> |
| Inaudible | Adjective | Unable to be heard | <i>At the National Spelling Bee the people in the back row could not hear the boy because his voice was</i> |

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| | | | <i>inaudible.</i> |
| Inaugural | Adjective | Marking the beginning of an institution, activity, or period of office | <i>The president gave his inaugural address at the start of his term of office.</i> |
| Incantation | Noun | A series of words said as a magic spell or charm | <i>The witch said an incantation to cast a spell on the people.</i> |
| Incapable | Adjective | Unable to do or achieve (something) | <i>I was incapable of providing proper advice on gardening when my gran asked me whether she should plant the roses in winter.</i> |
| Incarcerated | Verb | Imprison or confine | <i>Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for twenty seven years.</i> |
| Incentive | Noun | A thing that motivates or encourages someone to do something | <i>A good incentive for learning to spell words is improved literacy.</i> |
| Inception | Noun | The establishment or starting point of an institution or activity | <i>The principal has been at the school since its inception.</i> |
| Incessant | Adjective | (Of something regarded as unpleasant) continuing without pause or interruption | <i>The incessant ringing of the telephone disturbed my rest.</i> |
| Incessantly | Adverb | Without Interruption; Constantly | <i>When my sister met a boy she talked about him incessantly.</i> |
| Incident | Noun | An instance of something happening; an event or occurrence | <i>The teacher scolded me in class the other day and the incident still makes me feel embarrassed.</i> |
| Incinerate | Verb | Destroy (something, especially waste material) by burning | <i>Waste packaging is to be incinerated rather than buried in landfills.</i> |
| Incitement | Noun | The action of provoking unlawful behaviour or urging someone to behave unlawfully | <i>The pupil appreciated the incitement from his teachers that encouraged him to perform better.</i> |
| Incoherent | Adjective | (Of spoken or written language) expressed in an incomprehensible or confusing way; unclear | <i>He screamed some incoherent threat.</i> |
| Incongruous | Adjective | Not in harmony or keeping with the surroundings or other aspects of something | <i>The sneaker that he wore was incongruous with the suit and tie that he wore to the wedding.</i> |
| Inconsistency | Noun | Tending to change too often. | <i>The inconsistency of his behaviour confused people as sometimes he was nice and at other times he was nasty.</i> |
| Inconvenient | Adjective | Causing trouble, difficulties, or discomfort | <i>My grandmother always phones during dinner time which makes it an inconvenient time to call.</i> |
| Incorruptible | Adjective | Not susceptible to corruption, especially by bribery | <i>My dad is a policeman with good morals so he is incorruptible.</i> |
| Incredible | Adjective | Impossible to believe | <i>I learnt so many words for the competition which is incredible seeing that I could not spell properly before.</i> |
| Indefatigable | Adjective | (Of a person or their efforts) persisting tirelessly | <i>Nelson Mandela was an indefatigable defender of human rights.</i> |
| Independent | Adjective | Free from outside control; not subject to another's authority | <i>I cannot wait to grow up and become independent and take care of myself.</i> |
| Indictment | Noun | A formal charge or accusation of a serious crime | <i>The arrest of the criminal resulted in an indictment against him.</i> |
| Indigenous | Adjective | Originating or occurring | <i>The native Americans are indigenous</i> |

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| | | naturally in a particular place; native | <i>to America as they were the original inhabitants of the country.</i> |
| Indignation | Noun | Anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment | <i>The way that dogs are ill-treated by some causes me to feel a sense of indignation.</i> |
| Indiscretion | Noun | Behaviour or speech that is indiscreet or displays a lack of good judgement | <i>As young people grow up and become wiser, they need to train in avoiding youthful indiscretions.</i> |
| Indomitable | Adjective | Impossible to subdue or defeat | <i>Experience shows that success only comes to those who are hardworking and indomitable.</i> |
| Inducement | Noun | A thing that persuades or leads someone to do something | <i>An honest police force is peopled by officers who never succumb to inducement.</i> |
| Indulge | Verb | Allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of | <i>Eating healthily is always advisable, but one should allow oneself to indulge in a treat every now and then.</i> |
| Inept | Adjective | Without skill or aptitude for a particular task or assignment; maladroitness | <i>One of the worst things that a worker can be blamed for is being inept for the task assigned.</i> |
| Inequality | Noun | Difference in size, degree, circumstances, lack of equality; etc. | <i>There will never be justice in the world when inequality reigns supreme.</i> |
| Inevitable | Adjective | Certain to happen; unavoidable | <i>Now that black clouds are gathering on the horizon, rain is inevitable.</i> |
| Inexcusable | Adjective | Too bad to be justified or tolerated | <i>It is absolutely inexcusable to be rude and ill-mannered to someone who is innocent and cannot fight back.</i> |
| Inferior | Adjective | Lower in rank, status, or quality | <i>As customers we should never accept inferior goods or services; it is our right to demand the best.</i> |
| Inflammation | Noun | A localized physical condition in which part of the body becomes reddened, swollen, hot, and often painful, especially as a reaction to injury or infection. | <i>If your chronic sinusitis is caused by an allergy, nasal sprays can also reduce inflammation.</i> |
| Inflation | Noun | The action of inflating something or the condition of being inflated | <i>The current inflation affecting the price of goods is causing poverty amongst low-income workers.</i> |
| Infrastructure | Noun | The basic physical and organisational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise | <i>The difference between developed, developing, and the underdeveloped nations of the world relates directly to the infrastructure available in the country.</i> |
| Ingenuity | Noun | The quality of being clever, original, and inventive | <i>In order for one to achieve success in life, one needs to display both hard work and ingenuity.</i> |
| Ingrained | Adjective | (Of a habit, belief, or attitude) firmly fixed or established; difficult to change | <i>Doing the same thing every day in the same way leads to bad habits becoming ingrained.</i> |
| Ingredient | Noun | Any of the foods or substances that are combined to make a particular dish | <i>Adding salt to your flour mixture is an important ingredient to make bread taste good.</i> |
| Inherent | Adjective | Existing in something as a permanent, essential, or | <i>One of the inherent features of a healthy economy is a good education</i> |

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| | | characteristic attribute | <i>system.</i> |
| Inherit | Verb | Receive (money, property, or a title) as an heir at the death of the previous holder | <i>I stand in line to inherit my grandfather's farm.</i> |
| Inhumane | Adjective | Without compassion for misery or suffering; cruel | <i>It is inhumane to treat prisoners as if they are machines or animals.</i> |
| Inkling | Noun | A slight knowledge or suspicion; a hint | <i>I like to watch movie trailers so that I get an inkling of what the movie will be about.</i> |
| Innocent | Adjective | Not guilty of a crime or offence | <i>There is nothing worse than being accused of something when one is innocent.</i> |
| Innovation | Noun | The action or process of innovating | <i>A work of innovation is always useful if it improves people's lives.</i> |
| Inquiry | Noun | An investigation, as into an incident | <i>Before making a judgement, one should always conduct an inquiry to get one's facts right.</i> |
| Insanitary | Adjective | So dirty or germ-ridden as to be a danger to health | <i>It has been shown that insanitary toilets cause more disease than any other community facilities.</i> |
| Insecticide | Noun | A substance used for killing insects | <i>One must be careful when using insecticide in the home because many of these can poison humans, too.</i> |
| Insecure | Adjective | Uncertain or anxious about oneself; not confident | <i>When one finds yourself in a strange environment with strange people about one, it is normal for one to feel insecure.</i> |
| Insidious | Adjective | Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with very harmful effects | <i>The insidious way in which some people damage the reputation of others is often hard to detect.</i> |
| Insinuate | Verb | Suggest or hint (something bad) in an indirect and unpleasant way | <i>It is very hard to deal with people who insinuate that you have done something wrong, but do not come out honestly to accuse you so that you can defend yourself.</i> |
| Inspection | Noun | Careful examination or scrutiny | <i>All the evidence in a court of law needs to be subject to inspection.</i> |
| Inspiration | Noun | The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative | <i>The beautiful evening sunsets can be an inspiration to the weary soul.</i> |
| Installation | Noun | The action of installing someone or something, or the state of being installed | <i>The function of a machine can only be tested after its installation.</i> |
| Instil | Verb | Gradually but firmly establish (an idea or attitude) in a person's mind | <i>One of the duties of teachers is to instil a love of learning in their pupils.</i> |
| Institute | Noun | An organisation having a particular purpose, especially one that is involved with science, education, or a specific profession | <i>The institute of medical research devotes itself to seek cures for diseases.</i> |
| Institution | Noun | An organisation founded for a religious, educational, professional, or social purpose | <i>The institution of marriage is one of the oldest social arrangements in community life.</i> |
| Instrument | Noun | A tool or implement, especially | <i>Self-centredness and egoism can</i> |

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| | | one for precision work | <i>serve to be the instrument of one's own loneliness.</i> |
| Insubordinate | Adjective | Defiant of authority; disobedient to orders | <i>If you step out of line and insult those to whom you report, you will be accused of being insubordinate.</i> |
| Insurmountable | Adjective | Too great to be overcome | <i>For 1000 years, mount Everest was considered to be insurmountable until it was climbed by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953.</i> |
| Integrity | Noun | The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles | <i>It is often the case that people are judged not by their fame or their fortune but by their integrity and ethics.</i> |
| Intelligence | Noun | The ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills | <i>In order to get good marks at school you need not just intelligence but also a spirit of hard work.</i> |
| Intercollegiate | Adjective | Existing or conducted between colleges or universities. | <i>These range from intercollegiate athletics to veterinary medicine.</i> |
| Interdict | Noun | An authoritative prohibition, in particular | <i>An interdict against the bully at school was sought by the anguished parents from the court to protect their distressed child.</i> |
| Interference | Noun | The action of interfering or the process of being interfered with | <i>It is difficult to do one's job when one is subjected to continual interference.</i> |
| Interim | Noun | The intervening time | <i>It is still a year to go before the examinations, but in the interim, we can start preparing.</i> |
| Interior | Adjective | Situated on or relating to the inside of something; inner | <i>The drabness of the exterior of a building tells you nothing about the possibility of a luxurious interior.</i> |
| Interlude | Noun | An intervening period of time; an interval | <i>Between World War I and World War II, there was an interlude of 21 years.</i> |
| Intermittent | Adjective | Stopping or ceasing for a time; alternately ceasing and beginning again | <i>It is much better for farmers to have intermittent rain that can soak gently into the ground than to have a downpour.</i> |
| Interpreter | Noun | A person who interprets, especially one who translates speech orally or into sign language | <i>When you are travelling to a foreign country where your mother tongue is not spoken, it is best to hire an interpreter.</i> |
| Interrogate | Verb | Ask questions of (someone) closely, aggressively, or formally | <i>The job of an advocate in a court of law is to interrogate witnesses to arrive at the truth.</i> |
| Intervention | Noun | The action or process of intervening | <i>When two motor cars have collided in the street, it is best to call on the intervention of a traffic officer to mediate in the ensuing dispute.</i> |
| Interview | Verb | Hold an interview with (someone) | <i>Before you get a job, you have to go to an interview so that your potential employer gets the chance to meet you.</i> |
| Intimidation | Noun | The action of intimidating someone, or the state of being intimidated | <i>When in court, intimidation of witnesses is not allowed.</i> |
| Intolerance | Noun | Unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behaviour that differ from one's own | <i>Intolerance of another point of view is the quickest way to start a fight.</i> |

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| Intoxication | Noun | The state of being intoxicated, especially by alcohol | <i>Intoxication actually means to poison yourself, which is what you do when you drink too much.</i> |
| Intrinsic | Adjective | Belonging to a thing by its very nature | <i>One of the most intrinsic factors in a successful career likes what you do.</i> |
| Introspection | Noun | The examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes | <i>By introspection, a thoughtful person can work through his or her emotions and intuitions to arrive at a logical conclusion.</i> |
| Intrusive | Adjective | Causing disruption or annoyance through being unwelcome or uninvited | <i>The noise that comes from partying and loud music is intrusive to one's peace of mind.</i> |
| Inundated | Verb | Overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with | <i>Recently, the Department of English has been inundated with queries from those students whose registration has not been finalised.</i> |
| Invariable | Adverb | In every case or on every occasion; always | <i>Things such as lack of exercise, poor diet and lack of motivation are invariable causes of depression.</i> |
| Invasion | Noun | An instance of invading a country or region with an armed force | <i>The invasion of swarm of locusts in the Sahel caused widespread crop failure and famine.</i> |
| Invasive | Adjective | Tending to spread very quickly and undesirably or harmfully | <i>Invasive viruses released on the internet to hack into computers cause billions of dollars of damage every year.</i> |
| Inventory | Noun | A complete list of items such as property, goods in stock, or the contents of a building | <i>Every year, a company has to take stock of its inventory of goods to make sure that there is nothing missing.</i> |
| Invert | Verb | Put upside down or in the opposite position, order, or arrangement | <i>The way to empty a bottle is to invert it so that the liquid contents can pour out.</i> |
| Investigate | Verb | Carry out a systematic or formal inquiry to discover and examine the facts of (an incident, allegation, etc.) so as to establish the truth | <i>When a crime has been committed, police officers are sent to investigate the matter.</i> |
| Investment | Noun | The action or process of investing money for profit | <i>One normally saves a portion of one's salary every month as an investment for one's future retirement.</i> |
| Invincible | Adjective | Too powerful to be defeated or overcome | <i>For two years running, the Arsenal Football Club (FC) seemed invincible, until they lost 1—7 to Manchester United FC.</i> |
| Ionise | Verb | Become converted into an ion or ions; undergo I ionisation | <i>There are two types of electromagnetic waves that can ionize atoms: X-rays and Gamma-rays.</i> |
| Isthmus | Noun | A narrow strip of land with sea on either side, forming a link between two larger areas of land. | <i>The narrow isthmus, heavily defended by the Turks, was their battlefield for the next eight months.</i> |
| Jeopardise | Verb | Put (someone or something) into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm, or failure | <i>If you are a lazy, unreliable worker, you are very likely to jeopardise your career.</i> |

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| Jewellery | Noun | Personal ornaments, such as necklaces, rings, or bracelets, that are typically made from or contain jewels and precious metal | <i>We have examples of jewellery worn by both men and women dating back as far as 10,000 BC.</i> |
| Jostled | Verb | Push, elbow, or bump against (someone) roughly, typically in a crowd | <i>I try never to go to shopping on a Saturday morning because I do not like to be jostled by the crowds.</i> |
| Journalist | Noun | A person who writes for newspapers or magazines or prepares news to be broadcast on radio or television | <i>Sadly, being a newspaper journalist is no longer a sought-after career in this internet-crazy world.</i> |
| Journey | Noun | An act of travelling from one place to another | <i>It is a long walk between Grade 1 and Grade 12, but the education you get along the way makes the journey worthwhile.</i> |
| Jubilant | Adjective | Feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph | <i>When finally you matriculate with good grades, both you and your parents have cause to be jubilant.</i> |
| Judiciary | Noun | The judicial authorities of a country; judges collectively | <i>Effective government depends on three things: making the laws, executing the laws, and the judiciary.</i> |
| Juxtaposition | Noun | The fact of two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect | <i>The juxtaposition between the haves and have-nots is often the cause of civil unrest.</i> |
| Kaleidoscope | Noun | A toy consisting of a tube containing mirrors and pieces of coloured glass or paper, whose reflections produce changing patterns when the tube is rotated. | <i>When he next opened them, he was behind an electric kaleidoscope or a card of faceted glass.</i> |
| Kleptomaniac | Adjective | Of, relating to, or characteristic of kleptomania or a kleptomaniac | <i>There is no doubt that the goods in the store are being taken without being paid for, the work of either a thief or a kleptomaniac.</i> |
| Knight | Verb | Invest (someone) with the title of knight | <i>Francis Chichester was made a knight by Queen Elizabeth after he had circumnavigated the world on his own in his small yacht.</i> |
| Knockout | Noun | An act of knocking someone out, especially in boxing | <i>The boxer was defeated in the 1st round after receiving a knock-out blow to the head by his opponent.</i> |
| Knowledge | Noun | Facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject | <i>Knowledge is not the only thing you need to succeed in achieving; you need to know how to apply it, too.</i> |
| Laboratory | Noun | A room or building equipped for scientific experiments, research, or teaching, or for the manufacture of drugs or chemicals | <i>An important part of learning about science is how to apply your scientific knowledge in the laboratory.</i> |
| Laborious | Adjective | Requiring considerable time and effort | <i>Going over your work, looking for errors and correcting them are an essential but laborious task.</i> |
| Lament | Noun | A passionate expression of grief | <i>On discovering that he had failed his</i> |

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| | | or sorrow | <i>matric examinations, John lamented the fact that he had not worked hard enough to pass.</i> |
| Language | Noun | The method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way | <i>Being able to use language and to communicate effectively is one of the most important skills you learn in the home.</i> |
| Languishing | Verb | To continue for a long time without activity or progress in an unpleasant or unwanted situation | <i>Languishing at home in idleness before the television screen is a waste of time and it is bad for your health.</i> |
| Lapse | Verb | To fall from a previous level or standard, as of accomplishment, quality, or conduct | <i>If you fail to renew your TV licence, it will lapse, and you could end up paying a fine.</i> |
| Latitude | Noun | The angular distance of a place North or South of the earth's equator, or of the equator of a celestial object, usually expressed in degrees and minutes | <i>The length of your winter and summer is determined by the latitude of your position on the earth.</i> |
| Laryngitis | Noun | Inflammation of the larynx, typically resulting in huskiness or loss of the voice, harsh breathing, and a painful cough. | <i>They were used to cure obesity, haemorrhoids, nephritis, laryngitis, eye disorders as well as mental illness.</i> |
| Laundry | Noun | Clothes and linen that need to be washed or that have been newly washed | <i>I always dislike Mondays as that is the day I have to do all the laundry.</i> |
| Legacy | Noun | An amount of money or property left to someone in a will | <i>The love and care of your parents for you is the legacy they give you to carry forward to caring for your own children.</i> |
| Legislation | Noun | Laws, considered collectively | <i>Every government enacts legislation to regulate the affairs of the country.</i> |
| Legitimate | Adjective | Conforming to the law or to rules | <i>Spending money to advertise and market a company's products is recognised as a legitimate and necessary business expense.</i> |
| Leisure | Noun | Time when one is not working or occupied; free time | <i>Everyone needs to spend some time at leisure, doing things that are enjoyable.</i> |
| leprechaun | Noun | (In Irish folklore) a small, mischievous sprite. | <i>I could fall face first into a herd of leprechauns and not notice.</i> |
| Leverage | Noun | The exertion of force by means of a lever | <i>Donating funds to a political party is one way to get leverage in advocating your own needs.</i> |
| Liability | Noun | The state of being legally responsible for something | <i>Not having enough education to do the things you want to do is a severe liability in the pursuit of your career.</i> |
| Lieutenant | Noun | A deputy or substitute acting for a superior | <i>The co-pilot of a jet plane is often called the flight lieutenant.</i> |
| Lineage | Noun | Direct descent from an ancestor; ancestry or pedigree | <i>Royal families of whatever nation usually have a very ancient lineage.</i> |
| Linguistic | Adjective | Relating to language or linguistics | <i>The clicks that are found in a language like isiXhosa are unique linguistic features that are not found</i> |

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| | | | <i>in many other languages.</i> |
| Liquidity | Noun | The availability of liquid assets to a market or company | <i>It is every family and every company's goal to maintain financial liquidity so that debts never exceed income.</i> |
| Literacy | Noun | The ability to read and write | <i>The ability of the nation to function economically successfully is, without exception, a function of the level of literacy in that country.</i> |
| Literal | Adjective | Taking words in their usual or most basic sense without metaphor or exaggeration | <i>Many words and sayings have both a literal and a figurative meaning.</i> |
| Loathe | Verb | Feel intense dislike or disgust for | <i>Lack of honesty and basic unreliability are personal characteristics that we all loathe in a partner.</i> |
| Lonesome | Adjective | Solitary or lonely | <i>When the world seems to be having fun, and you are not, it is usually because you lonesome.</i> |
| Loophole | Noun | An ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules | <i>There was a loophole in the law that allowed many people to escape paying income tax.</i> |
| Luggage | Noun | Suitcases or other bags in which to pack personal belongings for travelling | <i>Airlines are very good at getting people to their destination, but they often lose their passengers' luggage.</i> |
| Lurch | Verb | Make an abrupt, unsteady, uncontrolled movement or series of movements; stagger | <i>If you release the clutch of a car too quickly, the car will lurch forward and then stall.</i> |
| Luxurious | Adjective | Extremely comfortable or elegant, especially when involving great expense | <i>Glossy magazines often have articles and photographs showing the luxurious life of famous people.</i> |
| Magazine | Noun | A periodical publication containing articles and illustrations, often on a particular subject or aimed at a particular readership | <i>It is not necessary to read thick books to improve your reading skills when reading a newspaper or magazine is just as good</i> |
| Magistrate | Noun | A civil officer who administers the law, especially one who conducts a court that deals with minor offences and holds preliminary hearings for more serious ones | <i>If you have ever seen television shows of Judge Judy, then you understand the job of a magistrate.</i> |
| Mainstream | Noun | The ideas, attitudes, or activities that are shared by most people and regarded as normal or conventional | <i>Mainstream literature deals mostly with love stories and crime narratives that cannot really be considered serious enough for university study.</i> |
| Majesty | Noun | Impressive beauty, scale, or stateliness | <i>The high Drakensberg mountains in KwaZulu-Natal have a majesty that makes even important people feel humble.</i> |
| Majorettes | Noun | A girl or woman who twirls a baton with a marching band | <i>The drum majorettes that entertain the crowds during the football trials are as athletic as the field players.</i> |
| Malevolent | Adjective | Having or showing a wish to do evil to others | <i>When groups of people meet secretly to undermine their colleagues, their intention is always malevolent.</i> |
| Malicious | Adjective | Characterised by malice; | <i>Spreading rumours about somebody</i> |

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| | | intending or intended to do harm | <i>just because you do not like them is the most malicious form of cowardice.</i> |
| Malign | Verb | Speak about (someone) in a spitefully critical manner | <i>You will find that it is only weak people who have a need to malign the good name of others.</i> |
| Mammoth | Noun | A large extinct elephant of the Pleistocene epoch, typically hairy with a sloping back and long curved tusks | <i>Many people are quite surprised to learn that the extinct mammoth is only a distant relative of the modern elephant.</i> |
| Mandatory | Adjective | Required by law or mandate; compulsory | <i>Having a driver's licence before you take the car out onto the road is not only common sense but is mandatory by law.</i> |
| Marvellous | Adjective | Causing great wonder; extraordinary | <i>The majesty of the Victoria falls in full flood is quite marvellous to behold.</i> |
| Manifesto | Noun | A public declaration of policy and aims, especially one issued before an election by a political party or candidate | <i>The dissatisfied workers got together and signed a manifesto to lodge their complaints with their employer.</i> |
| Manipulation | Noun | The action of manipulating something in a skilful manner | <i>Challenging the love that somebody has for you in order to get something out of them is nothing short of emotional manipulation.</i> |
| Mannerism | Noun | A habitual gesture or way of speaking or behaving | <i>Nervously covering your mouth or twitching and blinking when you speak are a mannerism linked to a deep-seated psychological cause.</i> |
| Manufacture | Verb | Make (something) on a large scale using machinery | <i>The jams that you can buy in a shop are not half as delicious as those of home manufacture.</i> |
| Marathon | Noun | A long-distance running race, strictly one of 26 miles 385 yards (42195 km) | <i>We seldom remember that the word of marathon relates to an ancient battle that took place two and-a-half thousand years ago.</i> |
| Maritime | Adjective | Connected with the sea, especially in relation to seaborne trade or naval matters | <i>Admiral Lord Nelson's victory against the French navy at Trafalgar will always be a significant part of maritime history.</i> |
| Marquee | Verb | A large tent used for social or commercial function | <i>Erecting a marquee in your garden to celebrate a wedding is much cheaper and more fun than holding the function in a hall.</i> |
| Martyr | Noun | A person who is killed because of their religious or other beliefs | <i>Some people burden their friends with stories about how hard they work so they can put themselves forward as martyrs to their work.</i> |
| Masquerade | Noun | A false show or pretence | <i>Showing off and trying to impress others with your skills and influence is just a masquerade to cover up your insecurity.</i> |
| Massacre | Noun | An indiscriminate and brutal slaughter of many people | <i>When the gang of brigands killed the women and children in the village, it was a massacre that will go down in history.</i> |
| Mastication | Verb | The chewing or grinding of food by the teeth | <i>Mastication is the process whereby food is ground down by the teeth and</i> |

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| | | | <i>mixed with enzymes in the saliva to break down food into nutrients that the body can absorb.</i> |
| Materialise | Verb | Become actual fact; happen | <i>Many facts and evidence about a particular event often materialise only after rigorous investigation.</i> |
| Mausoleum | Noun | A stately or impressive building housing a tomb or group of tombs. | <i>There were people grieving by their family's mausoleums and crypts.</i> |
| Mayonnaise | Noun | A thick creamy dressing consisting of egg yolks beaten with oil and vinegar and seasoned. | <i>Healthy fats also include salad dressings, mayonnaise, cooking oils, and fish oils.</i> |
| Meander | Verb | (Of a river or road) follow a winding course | <i>She pointed to where the road meandered toward a small stream.</i> |
| Measles | Noun | An infectious viral disease causing fever and a red rash, typically occurring in childhood | <i>Measles is usually regarded as a childhood disease because very few adults contract it.</i> |
| Mediator | Noun | A person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between | <i>When two companies argue about who has the exclusive right to manufacture the product, they have to call in a mediator to sort through the details.</i> |
| Melodramatic | Adjective | Full of exciting and extreme emotions reacting in an exaggerated way. | <i>Some people have a need to be melodramatic, and so turn every small incident into something traumatic.</i> |
| Memorandum | Noun | A written message in business or diplomacy | <i>The school staff sent a memorandum to the principle regarding the incidence of increasing absenteeism in the matric class.</i> |
| Memorial | Noun | A statue or structure established to remind people of a person or event | <i>After the war, money was collected for a memorial to be erected in the town square to remember those who had been killed.</i> |
| Mentor | Noun | An experienced and trusted adviser | <i>It is so important for parents to continually improve their education so that they can mentor their own children when they go to school.</i> |
| Mercury | Noun | The column of mercury in a thermometer in or barometer, its height dictating atmospheric, temperature or pressure | <i>When tempers are starting to flare and people start shouting at one another, we say that the mercury is rising in the room.</i> |
| Metaphor | Noun | A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable | <i>In order to make our speech sound more impressive in a public situation, we resort to figurative language and metaphor to make what we have to say more interesting.</i> |
| Meteorologist | Noun | An expert in or student of meteorology; a weather forecaster | <i>It is always interesting to listen to the meteorologist after the news on television to learn about the weather we can expect the following day.</i> |
| Meticulous | Adjective | Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise | <i>Painstaking and meticulous attention to detail is a vital part of good writing.</i> |
| Microphone | Noun | An instrument for converting | <i>A good announcer always knows how</i> |

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| | | sound waves into electrical energy variations which may then be amplified, transmitted, or recorded | <i>far the microphone must be placed to best be heard without distortion.</i> |
| Milestones | Noun | A significant stage or event in the development of something | <i>Going to university for further training is usually one of the important milestones in the life of a successful person.</i> |
| Military | Adjective | Relating to or characteristic of soldiers or armed forces | <i>If one is interested in serving in the armed forces, then serving in the military is a good option.</i> |
| Millennium | Noun | A period of a thousand years, especially when calculated from the traditional date of the birth of Christ | <i>Even something as monumental as the birth of a new millennium couldn't in the end live up to all of the hype.</i> |
| Mingle | Verb | Mix or cause to mix together | <i>When you travel to a foreign country on holiday, it is always a good idea to mingle with the locals to learn more about their culture.</i> |
| Miniature | Adjective | Very small of its kind | <i>In the 19th century, young children were expected to be miniature adults and be subject to the same punishment and working conditions as their parents.</i> |
| Minimalistic | Adjective | Relating to minimalism | <i>By not decorating your home, and filling it only with those things that you absolutely need, is a minimalistic attitude to life that seems sensible but in reality is so dull.</i> |
| Ministration | Noun | The provision of assistance or care | <i>The heart that is weary of life is often cured by the tender ministration of love by a caring companion.</i> |
| Minority | Noun | The smaller number or part, especially a number or part representing less than half of the whole | <i>Those who believe that women should not be allowed to vote, in the 21st century, surely, are a minority.</i> |
| Miracle | Noun | An extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency | <i>When the leukaemia patient suddenly recovered right at the point of death, the doctors could not believe it and believed that they had witnessed a miracle.</i> |
| Miraculous | Adjective | Of the nature of a miracle or having the power to work miracles | <i>Many farmers in the drought stricken area believed that the generosity of the donors was nothing short of miraculous when a long convoy of trucks arrived bringing thousands of litres of water.</i> |
| Mirage | Noun | An unrealistic hope or wish that cannot be achieved | <i>The belief that you can get rich quick is just a mirage to screen the reality that only hard work and diligence can bring you success.</i> |
| Miscarriage | Noun | The spontaneous or unplanned expulsion of a foetus from the womb before it is able to survive independently | <i>The prisoner was sent to jail on the flimsiest of evidence, so the newspapers protested the judgement as a gross miscarriage of justice.</i> |
| Miscellaneous | Adjective | (Of items or people gathered or | <i>There were cut out newspaper</i> |

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| | | considered together) of various types or from different sources. | <i>articles about hockey and other miscellaneous pieces of paper.</i> |
| Mischievous | Adjective | Causing or showing a fondness for causing trouble in a playful way | <i>As children, we used to knock on someone's door and then run away which was a harmless but very mischievous thing to do.</i> |
| Misconduct | Noun | Unacceptable or improper behaviour, especially by an employee or professional person | <i>If you take a salary from your job, but do not perform according to standards, you are guilty of the worst kind of misconduct.</i> |
| Mismatch | Noun | A failure to correspond or match; a discrepancy | <i>Forcing a couple to marry against their will is sure to result in a mismatch that will cause unhappiness in the future.</i> |
| Misgiving | Noun | A feeling of doubt or apprehension about the outcome or consequences of something we have misgivings about the way the campaign is being run | <i>One always turns the hungry beggar away from one's door with an enormous sense of guilt and personal misgiving.</i> |
| Misogynist | Noun | A person who dislikes, despises, or is strongly prejudiced against women | <i>The androgynist is someone who is prejudiced against men; and a misogynist is prejudiced against women.</i> |
| Missile | Noun | An object which is forcibly propelled at a target, either by hand or from a mechanical weapon | <i>They have now developed a missile that can deliver a nuclear warhead to the other side of the world.</i> |
| Misspend | Verb | Spend (one's time or money) foolishly, wrongly, or wastefully | <i>No one should idle away the time, watching television all day as this is bad for your health and leads you to misspend your energies.</i> |
| Mockery | Noun | Teasing and contemptuous language or behaviour directed at a particular person or thing | <i>A judge that accepts bribes to pervert the work of the court makes a mockery of the course of justice.</i> |
| Modernise | Verb | Adapt (something) to modern needs or habits, typically by installing modern equipment or adopting modern ideas or methods | <i>In the 19th century, Japan decided to modernise its economy and to move from agriculture to mass industrialization.</i> |
| Momentum | Noun | The impetus gained by a moving object | <i>When a car starts rolling down the hill, it goes faster and faster, gathering momentum.</i> |
| Monetary | Adjective | Relating to money or currency | <i>Learning to live within your means is the most important element of monetary good sense.</i> |
| Monger | Noun | A person who is involved with something in a petty or contemptible way (usually used in combination) | <i>Someone who spends the time spreading rumours is nothing other than a monger of heartbreak.</i> |
| Monopolised | Verb | (Of an organisation or group) obtain exclusive possession or control of (a trade, commodity, or service) | <i>In order to maximize its wealth, the Dutch East India Company monopolised all trade with the East.</i> |
| Monstrosity | Noun | A thing, especially a building, which is very large and | <i>The hundreds of hectares of identical, featureless houses built by the</i> |

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| | | unsightly | <i>developer to make money is a monstrosity that has to be seen to be believed.</i> |
| Monument | Noun | A statue, building, or other structure erected to commemorate a notable person or event | <i>The beautiful religious buildings that the architect designed are a monument to the architect's deep faith.</i> |
| Moonlit | Adjective | Lit by the moon | <i>The moonlit garden with its banks of roses and gently playing fountain was the perfect stage for a profession of the couple's undying love.</i> |
| Morsel | Noun | A small piece or amount of food; a mouthful | <i>When you are ravenously hungry, a small plate of salads to eat is only a morsel, and not a meal.</i> |
| Mortality | Noun | The state of being subject to death | <i>We are reminded of our own mortality every time we go to a funeral.</i> |
| Mortuary | Adjective | A room or building in which bodies are kept before they are buried. | <i>The sacred body of the one who has departed is reverently placed in a mortuary to await burial.</i> |
| Moulding | Noun | A shaped strip of wood or other material fitted as a decorative architectural feature, especially in a cornice | <i>Moulding for ceilings and woodwork to decorate a house was an important part of the work of interior designers in the 19th century.</i> |
| Mounting | Noun | A backing, setting, or support for something | <i>A large photograph honouring my grandparents is placed on the table in an ornate wooden mounting in our sitting room.</i> |
| Mourn | Verb | Feel or show sorrow for the death of (someone), typically by following conventions such as the wearing of black clothes | <i>The terrible war in Syria, where whole communities are torn apart, is something that we all mourn.</i> |
| Muddle | Verb | Bring into a disordered or confusing state | <i>When you are given instructions that are unclear and vague, this is a sure recipe for creating a hopeless muddle.</i> |
| Multiplicity | Noun | A large number or variety | <i>We all have a multiplicity of intelligences and skills that allow us to function as complete human beings.</i> |
| Municipality | Noun | A town or district that has local government | <i>Voters in our municipality choose a mayor after every four years.</i> |
| Murderous | Adjective | Capable of or intending to murder; dangerously violent | <i>The criminal gave the judge a murderous look after he was sentenced to eight years in jail.</i> |
| Muscle | Noun | A piece of body tissue that you contract and relax in order to move a particular part of the body | <i>The injury to his calf muscle ruled him out of the team for two months.</i> |
| Museum | Noun | A building in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interest are stored and exhibited | <i>When the student visited the museum in Pretoria, she was able to find important documents on South Africa's history.</i> |
| Mushroom | Noun | A fungus with a round flat head and a short stem | <i>Some species of mushroom are poisonous.</i> |
| Myopic | Adjective | Short-sighted | <i>Most myopic people wear spectacles to improve their vision.</i> |

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| Mysterious | Adjective | Difficult to understand, or explain; strange | <i>A mysterious illness is affecting children under the age of 10.</i> |
| Mystic | Noun | A person who tries to become united with God through prayer and meditation and so understand important things that are beyond normal human understanding | <i>When she failed to understand the source of her problems, she visited a mystic for possible explanation.</i> |
| Mythology | Noun | A collection of myths, especially one belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition | <i>Every evening, grandpa told children tales from Greek mythology.</i> |
| Naive | Adjective | (Of a person or action) showing a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgement | <i>The naive young man was duped of all his money in Cape Town.</i> |
| Narcissism | Noun | Excessive interest in or admiration of oneself and one's physical appearance | <i>Narcissism is a problem that affects many young people.</i> |
| Nastiness | Noun | The state of being very bad or unpleasant | <i>The nastiness of his character stopped other boys from playing with him.</i> |
| Naturalist | Noun | A person who studies animals, plants, birds and other living things | <i>She became a naturalist because she loves nature.</i> |
| Nauseous | Adjective | Feeling as if you want to vomit | <i>The stench of rotting meat made him nauseous.</i> |
| Nebulous | Adjective | Not clear; vague | <i>Despite numerous attempts to explain, his theory remained nebulous.</i> |
| Needless | Adjective | Unnecessary; not needed or wanted | <i>Banning smoking would stop needless deaths.</i> |
| Negligence | Noun | Failure to give somebody/something enough care or attention | <i>His injury was due to the negligence of his employers.</i> |
| Neighbour | Noun | A person living next door to you or near you | <i>Every weekend, I clean the house of my elderly neighbour.</i> |
| Nepotism | Noun | The practice among those with power or influence of favouring relatives or friends, especially by giving them jobs | <i>The Minister's decision to give the teaching job to his daughter, ahead of more qualified teachers, was seen as nepotism by the parents.</i> |
| Nervous | Adjective | Easily agitated or alarmed | <i>The little girl appeared nervous when the school principal called her to his office without notice.</i> |
| Neuroscience | Noun | The science that deals with the structure of the brain and the nervous system | <i>When my cousin finished her studies in neuroscience, she decided to enrol for a law degree.</i> |
| Neurotic | Adjective | Not behaving in a reasonable, calm way because you are worried about something | <i>She became neurotic about keeping the house clean</i> |
| Nonsense | Noun | Spoken or written words that have no meaning or make no sense | <i>The student's explanation for not submitting the assignment in time was rejected as nonsense by the teacher</i> |
| Notch | Noun | A level on a scale often marking quality or achievement a subatomic particle of about the same mass as a proton but | <i>The quality of food here has dropped a notch in the last two months ago.</i> |

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| | | without an electric charge, present in all atomic nuclei except those of ordinary hydrogen | |
| Nourishment | Noun | The food necessary for growth, health, and good condition | <i>We get nourishment from eating healthy food.</i> |
| Nullify | Verb | Make legally null and void; invalidate | <i>Judges were unwilling to nullify government decisions.</i> |
| Numerous | Adjective | Great in number; many | <i>She had complained to the council about water shortages on numerous occasions.</i> |
| Nurture | Verb | Care for and protect (someone or something) while they are growing | <i>It takes many years to nurture a child into adulthood.</i> |
| Nutrients | Noun | A substance that provides nourishment essential for the maintenance of life and for growth | <i>Fish is a source of many important nutrients, including protein, vitamins, and minerals.</i> |
| Oasis | Noun | A fertile spot in a desert, where water is found | <i>The thirsty travellers quenched their thirst from oasis that they found in the middle of the desert.</i> |
| Obedience | Noun | Compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority | <i>Good children always show obedience to their parents at all times.</i> |
| Obesity | Noun | The state of being grossly fat or overweight | <i>Lack of exercise is one of the causes of obesity in young people.</i> |
| Obligation | Noun | An act or course of action to which a person is morally or legally bound; a duty or commitment | <i>Parents have no obligation to look after their adult children.</i> |
| Obliterate | Verb | To remove all signs of something either by destroying or covering it completely | <i>The criminal burnt the building in an effort to obliterate evidence.</i> |
| Oblivious | Adjective | Not aware of or concerned about what is happening around one | <i>She continued watching TV, oblivious of the fact that there were robbers outside her gate.</i> |
| Obscene | Adjective | Offending against moral principles; repugnant | <i>Using swear words is considered obscene by many people.</i> |
| Obscurity | Noun | The state in which somebody/something is not well known or has been forgotten | <i>After retiring from top flight rugby, he lived the rest of his life working in obscurity.</i> |
| Obsequious | Adjective | Trying too hard to please somebody, especially somebody who is important | <i>The obsequious waiters kept asking the Minister if he needed anything.</i> |
| Observation | Noun | The act of closely watching/monitoring something or someone for a period of time, especially to learn something | <i>When Peter's headache did not get better after two weeks, the doctors decided to admit him to hospital for observation.</i> |
| Obsession | Noun | The state in which a person's mind is completely filled with thoughts of one particular thing or person in a way that is not normal | <i>She cared for him with a devotion bordering on obsession.</i> |
| Obstacle | Noun | A thing that blocks one's way or | <i>The major obstacle to attaining good</i> |

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| | | prevents or hinders progress | <i>results at school is lack of concentration.</i> |
| Obstinate | Adjective | Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course of action, despite attempts to persuade one to do so | <i>It is her obstinate determination to continue smoking that resulted in her death from lung cancer.</i> |
| Obviously | Adverb | In a way that is easily perceived or understood; clearly | <i>Thomas was obviously hungry because he had not eaten the previous evening.</i> |
| Occasion | Noun | A particular event, or the time at which it takes place | <i>On one occasion, I stayed awake until 2 am to watch a soccer match.</i> |
| Odour | Noun | A distinctive smell, especially an unpleasant one | <i>The smoker's jacket had an unpleasant odour.</i> |
| Onomatopoeia | Noun | The formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named (e.g. cuckoo, sizzle). | <i>Did you ever consider approaching your linguistics department with a master's thesis solely dedicated to onomatopoeia?</i> |
| Opinion | Noun | A view or judgement formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge | <i>The family did not consider his opinion because they thought he was too young.</i> |
| Opium | Noun | A reddish-brown heavy-scented addictive drug prepared from the juice of the opium poppy, used illicitly as a narcotic and occasionally in medicine as an analgesic | <i>Opium is a dangerous drug which is banned in most countries.</i> |
| Opportunity | Noun | A time or set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something | <i>Bernice only got the opportunity to play in the first team after one of the senior players got injured.</i> |
| Oppressive | Adjective | Treating people in a cruel and unfair way and not giving them the same freedom, rights, etc. as other people. | <i>The oppressive government did not allow people to vote in fair elections</i> |
| Optimise | Verb | Make the best or most effective use of (a situation or resource) | <i>We optimise our production during the day because at night there is no electricity.</i> |
| Optimism | Noun | Hopefulness and confidence about the future or the success of something | <i>Although the team had lost the last two games there was still optimism among the players because their next game was against weak opponents.</i> |
| Orchestra | Noun | A large group of people who play various musical instruments together, led by a conductor | <i>He plays a guitar in the church orchestra.</i> |
| Orphanage | Noun | A residential institution for the care and education of orphans | <i>The orphanage was too small to accommodate all the 36 children who had lost their parents during the war.</i> |
| Orthodox | Adjective | Following or conforming to the traditional or generally accepted rules or beliefs of a religion, philosophy, or practice | <i>One of the orthodox ways of showing love to a child is to carry him/her on the back.</i> |
| Outrageous | Adjective | Very shocking and unacceptable | <i>The teacher's decision to cane the late pupils was considered outrageous by many parents.</i> |
| Ovation | Noun | A sustained and enthusiastic | <i>After performing well on stage, the</i> |

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| | | show of appreciation from an audience, especially by means of applause | <i>actors received a thunderous ovation from the audience.</i> |
| Overwhelming | Adjective | Very great in amount | <i>His party won the election with an overwhelming majority.</i> |
| Package | Noun | An object or group of objects wrapped in paper or packed in a box | <i>The postman left the package containing John's books at the gate.</i> |
| Paddock | Noun | A small field in which horses are kept | <i>Mary saw two horses grazing in the paddock behind the farmhouse.</i> |
| Paedophile | Noun | A person who is sexually attracted to children | <i>The community chased the old man from the village because he was a paedophile.</i> |
| Palpitation | Noun | A noticeably rapid, strong, or irregular heartbeat due to agitation, exertion, or illness | <i>The palpitation stopped after the patient took her medication.</i> |
| Pandemonium | Noun | A situation in which there is a lot of noise, activity and confusion, especially because people are feeling angry or frightened | <i>There was pandemonium among the fans after one of the spectators fired a gun.</i> |
| Parachute | Noun | A device that is attached to people or objects to make them fall slowly and safely when they are dropped from an aircraft | <i>War planes dropped soldiers at the battlefield by parachute.</i> |
| Paradise | Noun | (In some religions) a perfect place where people are said to go when they die | <i>It is believed in some religions, that after death, only holy people enter paradise.</i> |
| Paraffin | Noun | A type of oil obtained from petroleum and used as fuel for heat and light | <i>The increase in the price of paraffin last month means that many poor families will have trouble cooking.</i> |
| Parallel | Adjective | (Of lines, planes, or surfaces) side by side and having the same distance continuously between them | <i>The road and the railway line run parallel to each other for almost ten kilometres.</i> |
| Paralyse | Verb | Cause (a person or part of the body) to become partly or wholly incapable of movement | <i>Sometimes back injuries can paralyse a person for life.</i> |
| Paramount | Adjective | More important than anything else; supreme | <i>The interests of the child are of paramount importance.</i> |
| Paranoia | Noun | Unjustified suspicion and mistrust of other people | <i>Paranoia is a condition that affects some people who occupy senior positions.</i> |
| Parasite | Noun | An organism which lives in or on another organism (its host) and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense | <i>A tick is a parasite that normally sucks blood from cattle.</i> |
| Parliament | Noun | The group of people who are elected to make and change the laws a country | <i>The parliament passed laws which made it difficult to smuggle goods into the country.</i> |
| Partially | Adverb | Only in part; to a limited extent | <i>The work partially fulfils the function of a historical memoir.</i> |
| Participle | Noun | A word formed from a verb (e.g. going, gone, being, been) and used as an adjective (e.g. working woman, burnt toast) or | <i>The past participle of the verb 'take' is 'taken'.</i> |

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| | | a noun (e.g. good breeding) | |
| Partition | Noun | (Especially with reference to a country with separate areas of government) the action or state of dividing or being divided into parts | <i>The government was advised not to partition the country into more than eight provinces.</i> |
| Passionate | Adjective | Having, showing, or caused by strong feelings or beliefs | <i>Peter was so passionate about his studies such that he often forgot to go and play with other boys.</i> |
| Patient | Adjective | Able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious | <i>Students, who are patient, do not easily give up finding solutions to difficult mathematics problems.</i> |
| Pathology | Noun | The scientific study of diseases, especially the branch of medicine that deals with the laboratory examination of samples of body tissue for diagnostic or forensic purposes | <i>Pathology was never his strong area in medical school.</i> |
| Patriot | Noun | A person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors | <i>The president and all ministers attended the funeral of the patriot.</i> |
| Patronage | Noun | The support given by a patron | <i>The arts could no longer depend on private patronage.</i> |
| Patronise | Verb | To treat somebody in a way that seems friendly, but which shows that you think they are not very intelligent or experienced | <i>Some television programmes patronise children by talking down to them.</i> |
| Pavement | Noun | A raised paved or asphalted path for pedestrians at the side of a road | <i>Thomas broke his arm after he slipped and fell on the pavement.</i> |
| Peacock | Noun | A large male bird with long blue feathers and green tail feathers that it can spread out in a fan | <i>Judith spent most of her time admiring the colourful feathers of the peacock.</i> |
| Pedestrian | Noun | A person walking rather than travelling in a vehicle | <i>The speeding driver narrowly missed hitting the pedestrian who was crossing the road at the junction.</i> |
| Pedigree | Noun | The record of descent of an animal, showing it to be pure-bred | <i>The horse that won the race has a good pedigree.</i> |
| Peignoir | Noun | A woman's light dressing gown or negligee. | <i>She put on her peignoir, and walked down the stairs.</i> |
| Penalty | Noun | A punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract | <i>A drunk driving offence often attracts a penalty of a few months in jail.</i> |
| Penguin | Noun | A large flightless seabird of the Southern hemisphere, with black upper parts and white under parts and wings developed into flippers for swimming under water | <i>The injured penguin struggled to swim long distances.</i> |
| Pension | Noun | A regular payment made by the state to people of or above the official retirement age and to some widows and disabled | <i>South Africans can draw a government pension from the age of sixty-five.</i> |

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| Periphery | Noun | The outer limits or edge of an area or object | <i>The workers' houses are located at the periphery of the mining compound.</i> |
| Permeate | Verb | To spread to an every part of an object or place | <i>Although it rained heavily, it took time for water to permeate through the hard ground.</i> |
| Perpetrator | Noun | A person who commits a crime or does something that is wrong | <i>The perpetrator of violence during the soccer match was arrested by police the following day.</i> |
| Perpetuate | Verb | Make (something) continue indefinitely | <i>People who perpetuate violence perpetuated through inadvertence.</i> |
| Perplex | Adjective | If something perplexes you, it makes you confused or worried because you do not understand it | <i>The big words in his speech could not perplex the students.</i> |
| Perseverance | Noun | Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success | <i>Studying medicine requires dedication and perseverance from students.</i> |
| Personification | Noun | The representation of objects or qualities as humans, in literature | <i>The poet uses personification when she describes the fire as angry.</i> |
| Pessimist | Noun | A person who always expects bad things to happen | <i>The pessimists predicted that South Africa would lose the rugby match.</i> |
| Persistent | Adjective | Continuing firmly or obstinately in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition | <i>It was because of her persistent cries for help that the neighbours finally learnt that there was a robbery going on.</i> |
| Persuasive | Adjective | Good at persuading someone to do or believe something through reasoning or the use of temptation | <i>Her speech was so persuasive that even the opposition members agreed with her proposal.</i> |
| Pervade | Verb | (Especially of a smell) spread through and be perceived in every part of | <i>During morning rush-hour, fumes from cars pervade the air.</i> |
| Pessimism | Noun | A tendency to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen | <i>The dispute cast an air of deep pessimism over the future of the peace talks.</i> |
| Pesticide | Noun | A substance used for destroying insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals | <i>The farmer failed to identify the correct pesticide to control the pests that were attacking his crops.</i> |
| Petition | Noun | A formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause | <i>She refused to sign a petition against plans to build houses on the local playing fields.</i> |
| Pharmacy | Noun | A shop or hospital dispensary where medicinal drugs are prepared or sold | <i>Most flu drugs are available at the local pharmacy.</i> |
| Pharmaceutical | Adjective | Relating to medicinal drugs, or their preparation, use, or sale. | <i>All information provided by the pharmaceutical industry has to satisfy stringent regulations.</i> |
| Phenomenon | Noun | A fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen, especially one whose cause or explanation is in question | <i>Earthquakes are an interesting natural phenomenon.</i> |

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| Pheasant | Noun | A large long-tailed game bird native to Asia, the male of which typically has very showy plumage. | <i>The pheasant is a beautiful bird and though not native still has adapted very well to living in the Irish countryside.</i> |
| Philanthropic | Adjective | (Of a person or organisation) seeking to promote the welfare of others; generous and benevolent | <i>Philanthropic organisations often make financial donations to poverty stricken communities</i> |
| Photographic | Adjective | Connected with photographs or photography | <i>The photographic equipment was damaged during the protest march.</i> |
| Pianist | Noun | A person who plays the piano, especially professionally | <i>The pianist played only two songs at their wedding.</i> |
| Phrase | Noun | A small group of words without a finite verb that form part of a sentence | <i>'The yellow duck' is a phrase.</i> |
| Physique | Noun | The form, size, and development of a person's body | <i>His muscular physique enabled him to defeat all the wrestlers in the competition.</i> |
| Picnic | Noun | An outing where you pack a meal and take it to eat outdoors. | <i>My mother boiled some eggs for our picnic in the park this afternoon</i> |
| Pioneer | Noun | A person who is among the first to explore or settle in a new country or area | <i>The pioneer to the village refused to give land to people who were not his friends.</i> |
| Pirouette | Noun | An act of spinning on one foot, typically with the raised foot touching the knee of the supporting leg. | <i>She then did a second, slower pirouette as if to emphasize her attire.</i> |
| Pivot | Noun | The central point, pin, or column on which something turns or balances | <i>The blades of the huge machine made a loud sound as they rotated around the pivot.</i> |
| Plague | Noun | An unusually large number of insects or animals infesting a place and causing damage | <i>The plague of locusts damaged crops in the entire village.</i> |
| Planetary | Adjective | Relating or belonging to a planet or planets | <i>It took the students a long time before they could understand how the planetary system works.</i> |
| Pledge | Noun | A solemn promise or undertaking | <i>The conference ended with a joint pledge to limit pollution.</i> |
| Plough | Verb | Turn up the earth of (an area of land) with a plough, especially before sowing | <i>Last season, I could not plough my fields because of the drought.</i> |
| Plummet | Verb | To fall suddenly and quickly from a high level or position | <i>If the prices of gold and platinum continue to plummet, the rand will lose its value.</i> |
| Poignant | Adjective | Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret | <i>The sermon was a poignant reminder of the difficult life that grandfather had lived as a young man.</i> |
| Portal | Noun | A doorway, gate, or other entrance, especially a large and imposing one | <i>The Department of Basic Education has a portal called 'Thutong Portal' which aims to improve learning in South Africa through technology.</i> |
| Portfolio | Noun | A large, thin, flat case for loose sheets of paper such as drawings or maps | <i>In his arm, the artist carried a large portfolio of containing his drawings.</i> |
| Portion | Noun | One part of something larger | <i>The master of ceremony accepted a portion of the blame for the late start</i> |

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| | | | <i>of the event.</i> |
| Portray | Verb | Depict (someone or something) in a work of art or literature | <i>It is not accurate to portray Thomas as a thief.</i> |
| Possession | Noun | The state of having, owning, or controlling something | <i>The defender lost possession of the ball to the opponent, who easily scored the first goal of the match.</i> |
| Potency | Noun | The power of something to affect the mind or body | <i>If you keep the medicine in a hot place for too long, it will lose its potency.</i> |
| Potential | Adjective | Having or showing the capacity to develop into something in the future | <i>The mayoral candidate went on a campaign to convince potential voters.</i> |
| Practitioner | Noun | A person actively engaged in an art, discipline, or profession, especially medicine | <i>Every medical practitioner is required by law to register with the Health Professions Council.</i> |
| Precipitous | Adjective | Extremely steep, high and often dangerous | <i>The hikers found it extremely difficult to descend the precipitous slopes of the mountain.</i> |
| Precision | Noun | The quality, condition, or fact of being exact and accurate | <i>Meteorologists cannot forecast the rainfall patterns with total precision.</i> |
| Predictable | adjective | If something is predictable, you know it in advance that it will happen or what it will be like | <i>The result of the soccer match was predictable from the beginning.</i> |
| Predominant | Adjective | Present as the strongest or main element | <i>Green was the predominant colour at last year's fashion parade.</i> |
| Prejudice | Noun | Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience | <i>The decision not to give her a place at the school was based on hatred and prejudice against foreigners.</i> |
| Premature | Adjective | Occurring or done before the usual or proper time; too early | <i>Excessive smoking and drinking can cause premature ageing in some people.</i> |
| Premonition | Noun | A strong feeling that something is about to happen, especially something unpleasant | <i>When his child did not return from the shops in time, the father had a premonition that he will never see her again.</i> |
| Preposterous | Adjective | Contrary to reason or common sense; utterly absurd or ridiculous | <i>His suggestion that we had to walk the entire journey was seen as preposterous by the entire community.</i> |
| Preservation | Noun | The act of keeping something in its original state or good condition | <i>The preservation of the city's green spaces requires everyone's effort.</i> |
| Pressure | Noun | Continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it | <i>The gate fell off its hinges because of the pressure from the crowd pushing it from outside.</i> |
| Prestigious | Adjective | Inspiring respect and admiration; having high status | <i>The hardworking teacher got a job at the prestigious school in town.</i> |
| Prevalent | Adjective | Widespread in a particular area or at a particular time | <i>Despite campaigns to educate people about the dangers of HIV, the disease is still highly prevalent in our society.</i> |
| Previous | Adjective | Existing or occurring before in time or order | <i>She looked tired after dancing at the party the previous evening.</i> |
| Principle | Noun | A fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behaviour or for a chain of | <i>The principle of love is the most important aspect of marriage.</i> |

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| | | reasoning | |
| Privilege | Noun | A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group | <i>In some countries, voting in national elections is a privilege enjoyed only by male members of the society.</i> |
| Procrastinate | Verb | Delay or postpone action; put off doing something | <i>I always put things off for later so it can be said that I like to procrastinate.</i> |
| Proficient | Adjective | Competent or skilled in doing or using something | <i>It is always advantageous to be proficient in at least three of the official languages in South Africa.</i> |
| Progressive | Adjective | Happening or developing gradually or in stages | <i>There was a progressive decline in the government's popularity after it failed to provide free education to all university students.</i> |
| Prohibition | Noun | The act of forbidding something, especially by law | <i>The prohibition of smoking in public areas reduced the number of people suffering from lung cancer by half..</i> |
| Projection | Noun | An estimate or forecast of a future situation based on a study of present trends | <i>The Education Minister's projection of a 90% matric pass rate in 2016 is based on results from last year.</i> |
| Proliferation | Noun | Rapid increase in the number or amount of something | <i>After the police station in our area was closed, there was a proliferation of house robberies.</i> |
| Prominent | Adjective | Important; famous | <i>Only prominent members of government attended the minister's birthday party.</i> |
| Propaganda | Noun | Information, ideas, or rumours deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc. | <i>Opposition parties rejected the news that the government was planning to build houses for the poor as propaganda.</i> |
| Prosecutor | Noun | A person, especially a public official, who institutes legal proceedings against someone | <i>The prosecutor brought two witnesses to testify against the woman accused of theft.</i> |
| Prospect | Noun | The possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring | <i>There was no prospect of a good harvest after many months of dry weather.</i> |
| Prosperous | Adjective | Successful in material terms; flourishing financially | <i>Her prosperous uncle financed her expensive studies in Europe.</i> |
| Prosthetics | Noun | An artificial body part; a prosthesis | <i>It is impossible for the boy who lost both legs in the accident to walk without prosthetics.</i> |
| Provision | Noun | The action of providing or supplying something for use | <i>The provision of new desks was suspended after allegations of corruption.</i> |
| Provocative | Adjective | Causing anger or another strong reaction, especially deliberately | <i>The provocative article caused anger among the community.</i> |
| Proximity | Noun | Nearness in space, time, or relationship | <i>Do not use microphones in close proximity to television sets.</i> |
| Pseudonym | Noun | A fictitious name, especially one used by an author | <i>I wrote the article under the pseudonym of Evelyn Hervey.</i> |
| Psychiatric | Adjective | Relating to mental illness or its treatment | <i>Most psychiatric disorders can easily be cured by modern drugs.</i> |
| Psychology | Noun | The mental characteristics or attitude of a person or group | <i>Scientists have done a lot of studies in attempts to understand the</i> |

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| | | | <i>psychology of criminals.</i> |
| Puberty | Noun | The period of a person's life during which their sexual organs develop and they become capable of having children | <i>Puberty is one of the most difficult phases in a person's life.</i> |
| Publicity | Noun | Notice or attention given to someone or something by the media | <i>The murder case attracted wide publicity in the press.</i> |
| Pursuit | Noun | The action of pursuing someone or something | <i>The police sped past in pursuit of the thief.</i> |
| Punctuality | Noun | Happening or doing something at the agreed or proper time | <i>The girl who always came to school on time was rewarded for her punctuality by the school principal.</i> |
| Puncture | Noun | A small hole in a tyre resulting in an escape of air | <i>She was driving her car home when she had a puncture.</i> |
| Pungent | Adjective | Having a sharply strong taste or smell | <i>The pungent smell of rotting fish filled the kitchen.</i> |
| Purchase | verb | The act or process of buying something | <i>It is illegal to purchase stolen property.</i> |
| Pyjama | Noun | A loose-fitting jacket and trousers for sleeping in | <i>The pyjama shirt hung loosely around the thin girl's body.</i> |
| Pylon | Noun | A tall tower-like structure used for carrying electricity cables high above the ground | <i>The electricity pylon was damaged during the heavy storm.</i> |
| Pyramid | Noun | A large building with a square or triangular base and sloping sides that meet in a point at the top | <i>I saw a pyramid during my visit to Egypt.</i> |
| Qualification | Noun | Usually an exam that you have passed or a course of study that you have successfully completed | <i>The student studied hard before the college awarded her a qualification in Arts.</i> |
| Qualifier | Noun | A person or team that qualifies for a competition or its final rounds | <i>He was the fifth-fastest qualifier in the race.</i> |
| Qualm | Noun | An uneasy feeling of doubt, worry, or fear, especially about one's own conduct; a misgiving | <i>Criminals do not have a qualm stealing from children.</i> |
| Quandary | Noun | A state of not being able to decide what to do in a difficult situation | <i>When Kate lost all her money in Johannesburg, she was left in a quandary as to whether she should go back home or call the police.</i> |
| Quench | Verb | Extinguish (a fire) | <i>Firemen hauled on hoses in a desperate bid to quench the flames.</i> |
| Querulous | Adjective | To be complaining in a whining manner | <i>His querulous personality made him unpopular with most people.</i> |
| Query | Noun | A question, especially one expressing doubt or requesting information | <i>His query about the food resources made them all question whether they were prepared for the trip.</i> |
| Quest | Noun | A long or arduous search for something | <i>Our quest for a peaceful society where differences are respected might take years, but it will be worth it.</i> |
| Questionnaire | Noun | A set of printed or written questions with a choice of | <i>To obtain the data she needed, she designed a questionnaire which she</i> |

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| | | answers | <i>asked a wide range of people to answer.</i> |
| Quintessential | Adjective | Representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class | <i>Her diligence, determination and focus made her the quintessential student.</i> |
| Quiver | Verb | To tremble or shake with a slight rapid motion | <i>The growling dog made him quiver with fear.</i> |
| Quotation | Noun | A group of words taken from a text or speech and repeated by someone other than the original author or speaker | <i>She started her speech with a quotation from Virginia Woolf and an explanation of what the words meant to her.</i> |
| Racquet | Noun | A bat with a round or oval frame strung with catgut, nylon, etc., used especially in tennis, badminton, and squash | <i>Her tennis racquet was broken and needed to be replaced before her next game.</i> |
| Ransack | Verb | To go through (a place) stealing things and causing damage | <i>Burglars may ransack a home until there is nothing valuable left.</i> |
| Ransom | Noun | A sum of money demanded or paid for the release of a captive | <i>The kidnappers demanded an expensive ransom for the businessman's daughter.</i> |
| Ratchet | Noun | A device consisting of a bar or wheel with a set of angled teeth in which a pawl, cog, or tooth engages, allowing motion in one direction only | <i>The machine works by means of a ratchet wheel that fits into a pawl.</i> |
| Ravenous | Adjective | To be extremely hungry | <i>She was so ravenous that she ate the entire bowl of pasta by herself.</i> |
| Reassess | Verb | To consider or assess again, in light of new or different factors | <i>After the burglary, they were forced to reassess their priorities.</i> |
| Reassure | Verb | To say or do something to remove the doubts and fears of (someone) | <i>In moments of doubt, her friends tried to reassure her that she would succeed.</i> |
| Recycle | Verb | To convert (waste) into reusable material | <i>When we recycle, we help to save the environment.</i> |
| Restriction | Noun | A limiting condition or measure, especially a legal one | <i>I felt that the rule was a frustrating restriction.</i> |
| Restructure | Verb | To alter the makeup or pattern of something | <i>With so many new subjects, they were forced to restructure the entire school curriculum.</i> |
| Resultant | Adjective | To occur as a result or consequence of something | <i>If prices go up, the resultant cost of living will be too high.</i> |
| Resume | Verb | To begin again or continue after a pause or interruption | <i>After the interruption, he tried to resume giving his lecture.</i> |
| Resurgent | Adjective | To have increased or revived after a period of little activity, popularity, or occurrence | <i>After years of gloom, there was a sudden resurgent optimism.</i> |
| Resurrect | Verb | To restore (a dead person) to life | <i>The scary story is about a woman who can resurrect the dead.</i> |
| Retrench | Verb | To release an organisation or individual from employment to reduce costs | <i>She hated the thought of needing to retrench her talented, loyal workers.</i> |
| Retribution | Noun | A punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act | <i>They wished to remain anonymous to escape retribution from those they had accused.</i> |
| Retrieve | Verb | To get or bring (something) back from somewhere | <i>I was sent to retrieve the ball from my neighbour's garden.</i> |

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| Reunion | Noun | An instance of two or more people coming together again after a period of separation | <i>The reunion between mother and daughter after such a long time was joyful.</i> |
| Reverberates | Verb | A loud noise repeatedly sounding as an echo | <i>Her laugh reverberates throughout the house.</i> |
| Revolutionary | Adjective | Involving or causing a complete or dramatic change | <i>The changes she introduced made such a difference, they were described as revolutionary.</i> |
| Rumpus | Noun | A noisy disturbance; a row | <i>He caused a rumpus with his flair for troublemaking.</i> |
| Rheumatism | Noun | Any disease marked by inflammation and pain in the joints, muscles, or fibrous tissue. | <i>His rheumatism made it difficult for him to walk in his old age.</i> |
| Sabotage | Verb | To deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct (something), especially for political or military advantage | <i>In war, there is always the danger of sabotage by the enemy.</i> |
| Sacrifice | Noun | An act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy | <i>To survive hard times, we will need to sacrifice some luxuries.</i> |
| Sarcastic | Adjective | To use irony to convey mockery or contempt | <i>His sarcastic comments offended everyone at the table.</i> |
| Sacrilegious | Adjective | An act of treating a holy thing or place without respect. | <i>Undoubtedly some people will find my venture sacrilegious.</i> |
| Sauerbraten | Noun | A dish of German origin consisting of beef that is marinated in vinegar with peppercorns, onions, and other seasonings before cooking. | <i>It needs time to marinate, like ceviche or kimchee or sauerbraten.</i> |
| Scaffolding | Noun | A temporary structure on the outside of a building, made of wooden planks and metal poles, used by workmen while building, repairing, or cleaning the building. | <i>The court was told Francis claimed he had seen a couple of people with machetes or metal scaffolding poles.</i> |
| Schizophrenic | Adjective | Having, relating to, or characteristic of schizophrenia. Mentally illness. | <i>This is a drawing of my patient in an acute state of a chronic, schizophrenic illness.</i> |
| Seismograph | Noun | An instrument that measures and records details of earthquakes, such as force and duration. | <i>This is similar to seismologists using seismographs on Earth to detect earthquakes.</i> |
| Shadow | Noun | The dark shape that somebody/something's form makes on a surface, for example on the ground, when they are between the light and the surface | <i>The shadow of the tree provided shade from the sun.</i> |
| | Verb | To cover something with a shadow | <i>The hat shadowed her from the sun.</i> |
| Shingles | Noun | A disease that affects the nerves and produces a band of painful spots on the skin | <i>He did not come to school last week because he was suffering from shingles.</i> |

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| Shining | Adjective Verb | To produce or reflect light; to polish something; to make something smooth and bright | <i>The lights of the car were shining in the dark. She was shining her shoes when we arrived.</i> |
| Shipment | Noun | The process of sending goods from one place to another. A load of goods that are sent from one place to another | <i>The books are ready for shipment to schools. The shipment of books arrived at the school yesterday in the afternoon.</i> |
| Siren | Noun | A device that makes a long loud sound as a signal or warning | <i>The siren sounded to indicate that it was break time.</i> |
| Skirmish | Noun | A short fight between small groups of soldiers, especially one that is not planned | <i>The skirmish between the soldiers lasted for about thirty minutes.</i> |
| Slippers | Noun | Loose soft shoes that you wear in the house | <i>After returning home from work, he removed his boots and wore a pair of slippers.</i> |
| Social | Noun | Connected with society and the way it is organised | <i>There are many social problems among children these days.</i> |
| Solemn | Adjective | Not happy or smiling; Done or said in a very serious or sincere way; Of a religious ceremony or formal occasion performed in a very serious way | <i>She remained solemn throughout the disciplinary hearing. They sang solemn hymns at his funeral. Her solemn face showed that she was telling the truth.</i> |
| Southern | Adjective | Located in the South or facing South; connected with or typical of the South part of the world or a region | <i>The fire started in the Southern part of the town.</i> |
| Speedometer | Noun | An instrument in a vehicle which shows how fast the vehicle is going | <i>The speedometer showed that he was driving at eighty kilometres per hour.</i> |
| Sphere | Noun | A solid figure that is completely round, with every point on its surface at an equal distance from the centre;-Any object that is completely round, for example a ball;-An area of activity, influence or interest; a particular section of society | <i>The earth and a soccer ball are shaped like a sphere. The sphere of his power extended too many provinces.</i> |
| Splatter | Verb | (Of large drops of liquid) to fall or hit something noisily; To drop or throw water, paint, mud etc. On somebody/something; to make somebody/something dirty by landing on them in large drops | <i>There was a splatter when he fell in the mud.</i> |
| Sprinkle | Verb | To shake small pieces of something or drops of a liquid on something | <i>Mother told Alfred to sprinkle more salt on the meat.</i> |
| Squalor | Noun | Dirty and unpleasant conditions | <i>Many people in Africa live in squalor.</i> |
| Stabilise | Verb | To become or to make something become firm, steady and unlikely to change; to make something stable | <i>Doctors are trying to stabilise the patient who was injured in a road accident.</i> |
| Standard | Noun | Of quality especially one that | <i>The government aimed to maintain</i> |

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| | | people think is acceptable. Average or normal rather than having special or unusual features | <i>high standards of living for its citizens. Her performance in class shows that she is a student of standard abilities.</i> |
| Stalactite | Noun | A tapering structure hanging like an icicle from the roof of a cave, formed of calcium salts deposited by dripping water. | <i>It is a fairy-tale world of weirdly shaped hills, as well as spectacular caverns of stalagmites and stalactites in endless shapes and forms.</i> |
| Startling | Adjective | Extremely unusual and surprising. Extremely bright | <i>He had golden tanned skin, startling blue eyes and short blonde hair.</i> |
| Stated | Verb | To formally write or say something, especially in a carefully or clear way | <i>She has already stated that she will not teach grade six pupils. It stated in the book that you have to read a poem more than once, in order to understand its meaning.</i> |
| Stationary | Adjective | Not moving; not intended to be moved. Not changing in condition or quantity | <i>The bus remained stationary after the collision. After a few years of growth, the county's population remained stationary for a long time.</i> |
| Steeple | Noun | A tall pointed tower on the roof of a church, often with a spire on it | <i>We could see the steeple at a distance as it stood on the roof the church.</i> |
| Stethoscope | Noun | An instrument that a doctor uses to listen to somebody's heart and breathing | <i>The doctor carefully placed the stethoscope on the patient's chest.</i> |
| Straggler | Noun | A person or an animal that is among the last or the slowest in a group to do something, for example, to finish a race or leave a place | <i>The straggler limped unsteadily towards the finishing line.</i> |
| Studying | Verb | The activity of learning or gaining knowledge, either from books or by examining things in the world. To watch, or look at something or somebody carefully in order to find out something | <i>After studying medicine at university at university, he opened his own surgery. The police are carefully studying the accident scene to determine the cause of the accident.</i> |
| Submarine | Noun | A ship that can travel underwater. Existing or located under the sea | <i>A submarine can be used to attack ships of enemies during war. Some of the submarine creatures can be as small as a grain of sugar.</i> |
| Subtract | Verb | To take a number or an amount away from another number or amount | <i>If you subtract 9 from eleven you get 2.</i> |
| Subtraction | Noun | The act of taking a number or an amount away from another number or amount | <i>Although he was good in maths, he always found subtraction difficult.</i> |
| Suburban | Adjective | In or connected with a suburb; boring and ordinary | <i>Most of the suburban areas were affected by floods. He led a suburban life until the time of his death</i> |
| Succeed | Verb | To achieve something that you have been trying to do or get; to have the result or effect that was intended | <i>One needs to work hard in order to succeed in the competition. Jane did not succeed because she is lazy.</i> |

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| Success | Noun | The fact that you have achieved something that you want and have been trying to do or get; the fact of becoming rich and famous. | <i>The fact that he got the best job in the company brought success to the family.</i> |
| Suffering | Noun | Physical or mental pain; Feelings of pain and unhappiness | <i>Marriage brought a lot of suffering into his life. The suffering he experienced in jail resulted in his early death.</i> |
| Suggest | Verb | To put forward an idea or a plan for other people to think about | <i>I suggest that the tallest boy should become the captain; Can someone suggest the poem to read in next week's lesson?</i> |
| Suitcase | Noun | A case with flat sides and a handle, used for carrying clothes, etc. when you are travelling | <i>The woman packed clothes into her suitcase in preparation for the journey to Pretoria.</i> |
| Superb | Adjective | Excellent; of a very good quality | <i>He is a superb rugby player. The performance by the students was superb.</i> |
| Surface | Noun Verb | The outside or top layer of something to come up to the surface of water to suddenly appear or become obvious after being hidden for a while | <i>The surface of the soccer pitch was even because the ball rolled smoothly. After spending many minutes under the water, he was able to surface again to everyone's surprise. After being away from home for many years, they saw him surface one afternoon.</i> |
| Surmise | Verb Noun | To guess or suppose something using the evidence you have, without definitely knowing; guess based on some facts that you already know. | <i>Because of the dirt on his clothes, I surmise that he has not been to his house for a week. Grandmother's surmise turned out to be correct when he brought half of the mine.</i> |
| Surprise | Noun | An event or piece of news that is unexpected or happens suddenly. | <i>His sudden death came as a surprise to most people.</i> |
| | Verb | To make somebody feel surprised | <i>You should surprise your friend by buying her a present on her birthday.</i> |
| Suspect | Noun Verb | A person who is suspected of committing a crime. To have any idea that something is probably true or going to happen, especially something bad, but without definite proof that may be false and that cannot be relied on | <i>The suspect in the murder case was brought to court early in the morning.-I suspect that the child is ill because she cried the whole night.-The belief that men are taller than women is suspect</i> |
| Suspicious | Adjective | Feeling that somebody has done something wrong, illegal or dishonest.-Making you feel that something is wrong, illegal or dishonest; Not willing or able to trust somebody or something | <i>They were suspicious that the homeless man had stolen something and called the guards; the teacher left his job under suspicious circumstances. They were suspicious of the new political party.</i> |
| Sweater | Noun | A knitted piece of clothing made of wool or cotton for the upper part of the body | <i>He wore his sweater because it was cold.</i> |

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| Syllable | Noun | Any of the units into which a word is divided, containing a vowel sound and usually one or two consonants | <i>The word 'sit' has two syllables.</i> |
| Symmetry | Noun | The exact match in size and shape between two halves, parts or sides of something | <i>The centre line made a clear symmetry of the sides of the ground, that each of the two opposing teams had to stand.</i> |
| Sympathy | Noun | The feeling of being sorry for somebody; to show that you understand and care about somebody's problems -The act of showing support for or approval of an idea, a cause, an organization, etc. | <i>The pupils showed sympathy for the girl whose mother had died. The students did not go to school in sympathy with the striking teachers.</i> |
| Synthesizer | Noun | An electronic machine for producing different sounds Synthesizers are used as musical instruments, especially for copying the sounds of other instruments, and for copying speech sounds | <i>The quality of the music was poor because the synthesizer did not work properly.</i> |
| Satirical | Adjective | To be sarcastic, critical, and mocking another's weaknesses | <i>Her satirical description of our argument made us all realise how silly we had been.</i> |
| Sausage | Noun | An item of food in the form of a cylindrical length of meat encased in a skin | <i>Her pasta is delicious because she adds sliced sausage to the sauce.</i> |
| Saxophone | Noun | A metal wind instrument used especially in jazz and dance music | <i>He plays the saxophone at the jazz club around the corner for small audiences.</i> |
| Scandalous | Adjective | Causing general public outrage because of a perceived offence against morality or law | <i>His misuse of the money was considered scandalous.</i> |
| Scenario | Noun | A description of a series or development of events. | <i>To help us understand the need for saving, she described a scenario in which we had spent all our money.</i> |
| Sceptical | Adjective | Not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations | <i>I could see that though had convinced some of the audience, many remained sceptical.</i> |
| Scepticism | Noun | A sceptical attitude or doubt as to the truth of something | <i>My story was not easily believed and I had to contend with much scepticism.</i> |
| Schedule | Noun | A plan for carrying out a process or procedure, giving lists of intended events and times | <i>In order to get everything done on time, we must stick to the schedule.</i> |
| Segregation | Noun | The action or state of setting someone or something apart from others | <i>The segregation of the school by gender meant we needed two of every facility, one for boys and one for girls.</i> |
| Sensationalism | Noun | The presentation of stories in a way that is intended to provoke public interest or excitement, at the expense of accuracy | <i>The article was so unbelievably violent that the newspaper that printed it was accused of sensationalism.</i> |
| Sentiment | Noun | A view, opinion, or feeling about something | <i>She expressed the sentiment that no one present at the time of the accident could be considered</i> |

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| | | | <i>innocent.</i> |
| Septicaemia | Noun | Blood poisoning, especially that caused by bacteria or their toxins | <i>She was diagnosed with septicaemia during her pregnancy, and told it might endanger her baby.</i> |
| Sequence | Noun | A particular order in which related things follow each other | <i>The riot set off a sequence of events that resulted in the burning of the building.</i> |
| Serendipity | Noun | The occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way | <i>It was pure serendipity that they should have met each other at exactly the right time.</i> |
| Serious | Adjective | Demanding or characterised by careful consideration or application | <i>Her expression was so serious that we all stopped laughing immediately.</i> |
| Shunned | Verb | To be persistently avoided, ignored, or rejected | <i>After his crimes were revealed, he was shunned by the entire town.</i> |
| Shuttering | Noun | A temporary structure made from planks | <i>The first thing I watched the builder do was construct a shuttering.</i> |
| Shuttle | Noun | A form of transport that travels regularly between two places | <i>The hotel luckily provided a shuttle service that ran every hour, so it did not matter that we did not have a car.</i> |
| Sophisticated | Adjective | Having, revealing, or involving a great deal of worldly experience and knowledge of fashion and culture | <i>His dressing showed a sophisticated sense of style.</i> |
| Sordid | Adjective | Involving immoral or dishonourable actions and motives | <i>The story of the corruption experienced by the employees was sordid and shocking.</i> |
| Sought | Verb | An attempt to have found or discovered something | <i>Women with degrees in the hard sciences are highly sought after in the industry.</i> |
| Source | Noun | A place, person, or thing from which something originates or can be obtained | <i>Mackerel is a good source of fish oil.</i> |
| Spacecraft | Noun | A vehicle used for travelling in space | <i>Many children dream of travelling in a spacecraft through the stars.</i> |
| Spatula | Noun | An implement with a broad, flat, blunt blade, used for mixing and spreading things, especially in cooking and painting | <i>He used a spatula to stir the scrambled eggs as he made breakfast.</i> |
| Spectacle | Noun | A visually striking performance or display | <i>The magician's tricks made quite a spectacle at the little boy's birthday party.</i> |
| Spectrum | Noun | A scale between two extreme points | <i>He asked me many questions to find out where I belonged on the spectrum between moral and corrupt.</i> |
| Speculation | Noun | The forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence | <i>I had no proof for my theory, only speculation.</i> |
| Sponsor | Noun | A person or organization that pays for or contributes to the costs involved in a development or event. | <i>The event would never have been accomplished without the support of the lead sponsor.</i> |
| Spurious | Adjective | Not what it purports to be; false or fake | <i>His spurious accusations were easily disproved.</i> |
| Sputtering | Verb | The expression of a series of | <i>We knew we were stranded when the</i> |

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| | | soft explosive or spitting sounds | <i>engine began sputtering.</i> |
| Strenuous | Adjective | Requiring or using great effort or exertion | <i>Her strenuous efforts at improving the school were well rewarded.</i> |
| Stretch | Verb | Made longer or wider without tearing or breaking | <i>The doctor asked me to stretch my arms up as she made her examination.</i> |
| Stretcher | Verb | A sheet of material attached to two short poles used to carry a sick or injured person | <i>The victim of the accident was carried away on a stretcher.</i> |
| Stricken | Adjective | To be seriously affected by an undesirable condition or unpleasant feeling. | <i>The stricken expression on his face as he heard the bad news was extremely moving.</i> |
| Structure | Noun | The arrangement of and relations between the parts or elements of something complex | <i>The structure of the building was designed to withstand earthquakes</i> |
| Struggle | Verb | To make forceful or violent efforts against an opposing force. | <i>Trying to make a difference in the world is not easy and every day is a struggle.</i> |
| Sturdy | Adjective | Strongly and solidly built | <i>She was a tall, sturdy girl.</i> |
| Stylist | Noun | A person whose job is to arrange and coordinate in an appropriate or attractive style | <i>A hair stylist was hired for her wedding day to make sure she would look perfect.</i> |
| Subdue | Verb | To overcome, quieten, or bring under control | <i>She tried to subdue the angry crowd with her stern voice.</i> |
| Subjugate | Verb | To bring under complete control or subjection | <i>His way of controlling people was to subjugate them.</i> |
| Surrogate | Noun | A substitute, especially a person replacing another in a specific role or office | <i>His older sister is like a surrogate mother to him.</i> |
| Surveillance | Noun | Close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal | <i>He was put under constant surveillance because he was a suspect in a crime.</i> |
| Suspicious | Adjective | Having or showing a cautious distrust of someone or something | <i>He was suspicious of her motives because she never did anything without personal gain.</i> |
| Sustainable | Adjective | Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level | <i>His pace, though fast, was not sustainable and he would soon slow down.</i> |
| Swindle | Verb | To be deprived (someone) of money or possessions through deception. | <i>It is immoral to swindle innocent people.</i> |
| Symptom | Noun | A physical or mental feature which is regarded as indicating a condition of disease | <i>Dental problems may be a symptom of another illness.</i> |
| Syndicate | Noun | A group of individuals or organisations combined to promote a common interest. | <i>A syndicate of thieves coordinated a series of burglaries in the neighbourhood.</i> |
| Synonym | Noun | A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language. | <i>Irritate is a synonym for aggravate.</i> |
| Tabloid | Noun | A newspaper that is typically popular in style and dominated by sensational stories. | <i>The tabloid reported the story of alien invaders as if it were fact.</i> |
| Technicality | Noun | A point of law or a small detail of a set of rules | <i>Although his guilt was beyond doubt, the police did not follow procedure so</i> |

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| | | | <i>he escaped punishment on a technicality.</i> |
| Telecommunication | Noun | Communication over a distance by cable, telegraph, telephone, or broadcasting | <i>Telecommunication has changed the modern world dramatically.</i> |
| Technique | Noun | A way of carrying out a particular task, especially the execution or performance of an artistic work or a scientific procedure | <i>She introduced a new technique that reduced the risk of the operation.</i> |
| Terminal | Adjective | Forming or situated at the end or extremity of something. | <i>Subway trains start and stop at a terminal.</i> |
| Terrorise | Verb | To create and maintain a state of extreme fear and distress in (someone); to fill with terror | <i>He used his private army to terrorise the population.</i> |
| Terrorism | Noun | The unofficial or unauthorised use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims | <i>Terrorism has been used throughout the world by many different groups of people for different reasons.</i> |
| Tertiary | Adjective | Third in order or level | <i>Tertiary education takes place at universities and colleges.</i> |
| Testament | Noun | Something that serves as a sign or evidence of a specified fact, event, or quality | <i>The student's progress is a testament to his teacher's dedication and skill.</i> |
| Testify | Verb | To give evidence as a witness in a law court | <i>He was asked to testify to the guilt of his own father.</i> |
| Testimony | Noun | A formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law | <i>His testimony was that he had never been involved in anything illegal.</i> |
| Texture | Noun | The feel or consistency of a surface or a substance | <i>He could tell by the texture of the material that it was expensive.</i> |
| Theatre | Noun | A building or outdoor area in which plays and other dramatic performances are given | <i>We saw a magnificent play at the theatre last night.</i> |
| Therapeutic | Adjective | Relating to the healing of a disease or psychological affliction. | <i>Many people with heavy troubles find art to be therapeutic.</i> |
| Threshold | Noun | Forming the bottom of a doorway and crossed in entering a house or room | <i>It is said that once you cross the threshold of a haunted house, you can never leave.</i> |
| Throttle | verb | To attack or kill (someone) by choking or strangling them | <i>When he teased her, she jokingly threatened to throttle him.</i> |
| Throughout | Adverb & preposition | In every part of (a place or object) | <i>The effects of the drought can be felt throughout South Africa.</i> |
| Tiptoe | Verb | To walk quietly and carefully with one's heels raised and one's weight on the balls of the feet | <i>She was forced to tiptoe across the room to avoid waking her baby brother.</i> |
| Totalitarian | Adjective | Relating to a system of government that is centralised and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state | <i>When one political party starts eradicating all other parties, the country is in danger of becoming a totalitarian state.</i> |
| Tournament | Noun | A series of contests between a number of competitors, competing for an overall prize | <i>She explained that if she won her next three matches, she would win the tournament.</i> |

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| Tragedy | Noun | An event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress, such as a serious accident, crime, or natural catastrophe | <i>The loss of the girl's mother to cancer was called a great tragedy.</i> |
| Tranquillity | Noun | The quality or state of being tranquil or calm | <i>An atmosphere of tranquillity lay over and around the lake.</i> |
| Trichotomy | Noun | A division into three categories. | <i>This trichotomy has been reinterpreted in various ways, but it still serves.</i> |
| Triskaidekaphobia | Noun | Extreme superstition regarding the number thirteen. | <i>That test included words to spell such as 'revelry' and 'triskaidekaphobia.'</i> |
| Troglodyte | Noun | (Especially in prehistoric times) a person who lived in a cave. | <i>The troglodyte site of Barry was continuously occupied for thousands of years.</i> |
| Trousseau | Noun | The clothes, linen, and other belongings collected by a bride for her marriage. | <i>Few disputed that a bride's personal items, her trousseau, went with her.</i> |
| Twilight | Noun | The soft glowing light from the sky when the sun is below the horizon | <i>My parents told me to always be home before twilight.</i> |
| Typical | Adjective | Having the distinctive qualities of a particular type of person or thing | <i>His behaviour is typical of an only child.</i> |
| Tyrant | Noun | A cruel and oppressive ruler | <i>When the president started executing those who criticised him, he began turning into a tyrant.</i> |
| Ultimate | Adjective | Being or happening at the end of a process | <i>Although there were many things they wished to accomplish, their ultimate aim was to win freedom for their people.</i> |
| Ultimatum | Noun | A final demand or statement of terms, the rejection of which will result in retaliation or a breakdown in relations | <i>Our teacher gave us an ultimatum: do our homework or fail.</i> |
| Unanimously | Adverb | Agreement of all people involved without opposition | <i>The club members unanimously voted for her as president for the second time.</i> |
| Unappetising | Adjective | Not inviting or attractive; unwholesome | <i>They were all too polite to say how unappetising the food looked.</i> |
| Unceremonious | Adjective | To do something with a lack of courtesy or respect; rough or abrupt. | <i>He found the unceremonious way she introduced herself to be extremely rude.</i> |
| Unenviable | Adjective | Difficult, undesirable, or unpleasant | <i>He was in the unenviable position of being caught in the act of cheating.</i> |
| Unequivocally | Adverb | In a way that is clear and unambiguous | <i>He was unequivocally responsible for the missing money.</i> |
| Unilateral | Adjective | Performed by or affecting only one person, group, or country involved in a situation, without the agreement of the others | <i>Her unilateral decision to speak on behalf of everyone was the cause of great anger.</i> |
| Unique | Adjective | The only one of its kind; unlike anything else | <i>They feared losing her to the competition because her talents were rather unique.</i> |
| Unkempt | Adjective | (Especially of a person) having an untidy or dishevelled | <i>His hair was almost as dishevelled and unkempt as mine, and he was the</i> |

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| | | appearance. | <i>first baboon in the troop who ever interacted with me.</i> |
| Utterance | Noun | A spoken word, statement, or vocal sound | <i>He warned us that a single utterance about the night's events would get us into trouble.</i> |
| Utterly | Adverb | Completely and without qualification; absolutely | <i>The rainstorm utterly ruined the wedding.</i> |
| Vaccine | Noun | An antigenic substance used to provide immunity against one or several diseases. | <i>Scientists are working hard to find a vaccine against the HIV infection.</i> |
| Valour | Noun | Great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. | <i>Stories are told of warriors, famous for their valour.</i> |
| Vandalism | Noun | An action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property. | <i>The students tore their textbooks in an act of mindless vandalism.</i> |
| Vantage | Noun | A place or position affording a good view of something | <i>From my vantage I could see the cricket match perfectly.</i> |
| Vaporises | Verb | To convert or be converted into vapour | <i>Water vaporises when it is heated.</i> |
| Vaudeville | Noun | A type of entertainment popular chiefly in the US in the early 20th century, featuring a mixture of speciality acts such as burlesque comedy and song and dance. | <i>The Classic has been many things in its lifetime: an acting space, a cinema, a porn palace, a vaudeville establishment, and - until recently - a disused warehouse.</i> |
| Vendetta | Noun | A prolonged bitter quarrel with or campaign against someone | <i>He believed the other students were targeting him as part of a vendetta against him.</i> |
| Vengeance | Noun | Punishment inflicted or retribution exacted for an injury or wrong | <i>After the destruction of her home, she only cared about vengeance against the perpetrators.</i> |
| Venomous | Adjective | Secreting venom or capable of injecting venom by means of a bite or sting | <i>Surprisingly, not all snakes are venomous.</i> |
| Venture | Noun | A risky or daring journey or undertaking | <i>He expended plenty of money and effort to ensure the success of the venture.</i> |
| Verdict | Noun | A decision on an issue of fact in a civil or criminal case or an inquest | <i>The verdict of guilt shocked the country because the accused was so young.</i> |
| Vermicelli | Noun | Pasta in the form of long slender threads. | <i>Gently break the vermicelli into smaller pieces.</i> |
| Versatile | Adjective | Able to adapt or be adapted to many different functions or activities | <i>A pocketknife is a versatile device which is useful in many different situations.</i> |
| Vessel | Noun | A hollow container, especially one used to hold liquid, such as a bowl or cask | <i>He used a glass bowl as a vessel for the punch.</i> |
| Veteran | Noun | A person who has had long experience in a particular field | <i>His experience as a veteran of two world wars is extraordinary.</i> |
| Vinaigrette | Noun | Salad dressing of oil, wine vinegar, and seasoning. | <i>We do have a homemade, sugar free mint sauce and a homemade oil and fat free vinaigrette salad dressing.</i> |
| Volatile | Adjective | Likely to change suddenly or easily becoming dangerous | <i>The anger of the crowd made it a volatile situation likely to turn into a riot.</i> |

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| Volunteer | Noun | A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task | <i>She has been a volunteer at the charity event for five years.</i> |
| Vulgarity | Noun | The state or quality of being vulgar | <i>His bad manners and offensive language gave him a reputation for vulgarity.</i> |
| Vulnerable | Adjective | To be exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally | <i>His sensitivity and trusting nature made him vulnerable.</i> |
| Vying | | | |
| Whistle | Verb | To emit a clear, high-pitched sound | <i>People cheer and whistle when the singer appears.</i> |
| Withdrawal | Noun | The retrieval or removal of something from something else | <i>Her bank records showed a withdrawal from her account of five hundred rands.</i> |
| Wooden | Adjective | Made of wood | <i>The shopkeeper made beautiful wooden toys.</i> |
| Worship | Noun | The feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity | <i>The ancient worship of gods often involved sacrifice of some kind.</i> |
| Yearning | Noun | A feeling of intense longing for something | <i>He felt a deep yearning for the home of his childhood.</i> |
| Yield | Verb | To produce, provide or give up | <i>He believed the farm would yield rich harvests.</i> |
| Zeal | Noun | Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective | <i>His zeal for the television show made everyone uncomfortable.</i> |
| Xenophobia | Noun | The dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries | <i>Xenophobia can be overcome through education and respect of differences.</i> |
| Zeppelin | Noun | A large German dirigible airship of the early 20th century, long and cylindrical in shape and with a rigid framework. Zeppelins were used during the First World War for reconnaissance and bombing, and after the war as passenger transports until the 1930s. | <i>For the first time, civilians themselves were targeted with bombing raids by Zeppelins and coastal raids by the German Navy.</i> |
| Zest | Noun | Great enthusiasm and energy | <i>Her zest for the sport was inspiring.</i> |
| Zoological | Adjective | Relating to zoology. | <i>Classification and physiological research dominated the zoological and botanical sciences in his time.</i> |
| Zucchini | Noun | A variety of summer squash that is shaped like a cucumber and that has a smooth, dark-green skin. | <i>I remember the last time I had zucchini flowers they were fritters - it is a simple but nice way to enjoy their pretty appearance and mild flavour of squash.</i> |
| Xylophone | Noun | A musical instrument played by striking a row of wooden bars of graduated length with one or more small wooden or plastic beaters. | <i>Here the group combines trombone, a simplistic guitar line, and what sounds like either a marimba or a xylophone.</i> |



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