

English vocabulary words meaning

Abate - to decrease in intensity or amount

Abhor - to hate or detest intensely

Abstain - to refrain from doing something

Accolade - an award or honor

Accost - to approach and speak to someone aggressively or boldly

Adamant - refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind

Adversary - an enemy or opponent

Advocate - to support or argue for a particular cause or position

Aesthetic - relating to beauty or the appreciation of beauty

Affable - friendly, good-natured, or easy to talk to

Alacrity - eagerness or willingness to do something

Alienate - to make someone feel isolated or estranged

Allay - to relieve or alleviate something, such as fears or doubts

Alleviate - to make something less severe or intense

Aloof - distant, detached, or uninvolved

Altruistic - showing a selfless concern for the well-being of others

Ambiguous - having more than one possible meaning or interpretation

Ambivalent - having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone

Ameliorate - to make something better or more tolerable

Amicable - characterized by friendliness and goodwill

Anachronistic - belonging to a period other than that being portrayed

Analogous - similar in some respects but not in others

Anecdote - a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

Animosity - strong hostility or antagonism

Anomaly - something that deviates from what is expected or normal

Antagonist - a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something

Antipathy - a strong feeling of dislike or aversion

Apathy - lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern

Aphorism - a concise statement of a principle or truth

Apotheosis - the highest point in the development of something

Appease - to pacify or placate someone by acceding to their demands

Apprehension - anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen

Arduous - requiring great exertion or effort

Articulate - expressing oneself clearly and effectively

Ascetic - characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence

Aspire - to have a strong desire to achieve or become something

Assuage - to make an unpleasant feeling less intense or severe

Astute - having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage

Audacious - showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks

Augment - to make something greater by adding to it

Auspicious - promising success or good fortune

Authentic - genuine or real, not fake or copied

Autonomy - the right or condition of self-government or self-determination

Avarice - extreme greed for wealth or material gain

Aversion - a strong dislike or disinclination

Banal - lacking originality, freshness, or novelty

Belie - to give a false impression of something

Bellicose - demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight

Benign - gentle, kind, or harmless

Bequeath - to leave or pass on something, such as property or a legacy

Berate - to scold or criticize someone angrily

Blatant - done openly and unashamedly; obvious

Blithe - showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper

Bolster - to support or strengthen something

Bombastic - high-sounding but with little meaning; inflated

Boorish - rough and bad-mannered; coarse

Brazen - bold and without shame

Breach - an act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct

Buttress - a projecting support of stone or brick built against a wall

Cache - a collection of items of the same type stored in a hidden or inaccessible place

Cajole - to persuade someone to do something by coaxing or flattery

Callous - showing no concern that other people are or might be hurt or upset; insensitive

Candor - the quality of being open and honest in expression; frankness

Capricious - given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior

Carping - difficult to please; critical

Catalyst - a person or thing that precipitates an event or change

Caustic - sarcastic in a scathing and bitter way

Censure - to express severe disapproval of someone or something

Chagrin - distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated

Charlatan - a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill; a fraud

Chicanery - the use of deception or subterfuge to achieve one's purpose

Chimera - a thing that is hoped or wished for but in fact is illusory or impossible to achieve

Choleric - bad-tempered or irritable

Chronic - persisting for a long time or constantly recurring

Circumscribe - to restrict something within limits

Circumspect - wary and unwilling to take risks; cautious

Citadel - a fortress, typically on high ground, protecting or dominating a city

Clairvoyant - having or exhibiting an ability to perceive events in the future or beyond normal sensory contact

Clandestine - kept secret or done secretly, especially because illicit

Clemency - mercy; lenience

Coalesce - to come together and form one mass or whole

Cogent - clear, logical, and convincing

Coherent - logical and consistent

Collusion - secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, especially in order to cheat or deceive others

Comely - pleasant to look at; attractive

Commensurate - corresponding in size or degree; in proportion

Complacency - a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements

Complicit - involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing

Comport - to behave in a particular way

Compromise - an agreement or settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions

Concede - to admit that something is true or valid after first denying or resisting it

Conciliatory - intended or likely to placate or pacify

Concord - agreement or harmony between people or groups

Condescend - to behave in a patronizing or superior manner

Confidant - a person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, trusting them not to repeat it to others

Conflagration - an extensive fire that destroys a great deal of land or property

Confluence - the junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width; a situation in which two things come together or happen at the same time

Conjecture - an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information; a guess

Connive - to secretly allow or assist something considered immoral, illegal, or harmful to occur

Connoisseur - an expert judge in matters of taste

Consensus - general agreement among a group of people

Construe - to interpret a word or action in a particular way

Consummate - showing a high degree of skill and flair; complete or perfect

Contemptuous - showing contempt; scornful

Contentious - causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial

Contrite - feeling or expressing remorse or penitence; affected by guilt

Contrived - deliberately created rather than arising naturally or spontaneously

Conundrum - a confusing and difficult problem or question

Convivial - friendly, lively, and enjoyable; sociable

Copious - abundant in supply or quantity

Corpulent - excessively fat

Corroborate - to confirm or give support to a statement, theory, or finding

Coterie - a small group of people with shared interests or tastes, especially one that is exclusive of other people

Countenance - a person's face or facial expression; to support or approve of something

Covert - not openly acknowledged or displayed; secret

Covet - to yearn to possess or have something

Craven - cowardly; lacking in courage

Credible - able to be believed; convincing

Credulous - having or showing too great a readiness to believe things; gullible

Culpable - deserving blame; guilty

Cumulative - increasing or growing by accumulation or successive additions

Cursory - hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed

Curtail - to reduce in extent or quantity; to impose a restriction on

Cynical - distrustful of human sincerity or integrity; believing that people are motivated purely by self-interest

Daunt - to make someone feel intimidated or apprehensive

Debacle - a sudden and ignominious failure; a fiasco

Debilitate - to make someone weak and infirm

Decadent - characterized by or reflecting a state of moral or cultural decline; luxurious and self-indulgent

Decimate - to kill, destroy, or remove a large proportion of something

Decorum - behavior in keeping with good taste and propriety; etiquette

Decrepit - elderly and infirm; worn out or ruined because of age or neglect

Defamation - the action of damaging the good reputation of someone; slander or libel

Deference - humble submission and respect

Defunct - no longer existing or functioning

Deleterious - causing harm or damage

Delineate - to describe or portray something precisely

Delinquent - typically used to describe a young person who regularly commits crimes or antisocial behavior

Deluge - a severe flood; a heavy downpour of rain; a great quantity of something

Demagogue - a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument

Denigrate - to criticize unfairly; to defame or disparage

Ebb - the movement of the tide out to sea; a gradual decline in intensity or size

Ebullient - cheerful and full of energy; exuberant

Eccentric - unconventional and slightly strange; not placed centrally or not having its axis or other part placed centrally

Eclectic - deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources

Edify - to instruct or improve morally or intellectually

Efficacious - effective; producing the desired outcome

Effigy - a sculpture or model of a person, typically one of a hated person

Effusive - expressing feelings of gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained or heartfelt manner

Egregious - outstandingly bad; shocking

Elated - extremely happy and excited; overjoyed

Elegy - a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead

Elusive - difficult to find, catch, or achieve

Emaciated - abnormally thin or weak, especially because of illness or a lack of food

Embellish - to make something more attractive by adding decorative details or features; to exaggerate or add fictitious details to a story or account

Embolden - to give someone the courage or confidence to do something

Emulate - to match or surpass a person or achievement, typically by imitation

Enamored - filled with a feeling of love or admiration

Encumber - to restrict or burden someone or something in such a way that free action or movement is difficult

Endemic - regularly found and widespread in a particular geographic area or among a particular group of people

Endow - to provide with a quality, ability, or asset

Enervate - to cause someone or something to feel drained of energy or vitality; to weaken

Engender - to cause or give rise to a feeling, situation, or condition

Enhance - to improve the quality, value, or extent of something

Enigma - a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand

Enmity - the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something

Ennui - a feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement

Enormity - the great or extreme scale, seriousness, or extent of something perceived as bad or morally wrong

Enshroud - to envelop completely and hide from view

Entail - to involve something as a necessary or inevitable part or consequence

Entice - to attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage

Enthrall - to capture the fascinated attention of someone

Enunciate - to pronounce or articulate words clearly and distinctly

Environ - to surround or enclose something

Epicure - a person who takes particular pleasure in fine food and drink

Epitome - a person or thing that is a perfect example of a particular quality or type

Equanimity - mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation

Equivocal - open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous

Erudite - having or showing extensive knowledge, learning, or culture

Escalate - to increase rapidly in extent, volume, or intensity

Eschew - to deliberately avoid or abstain from

Espouse - to adopt or support a cause, belief, or way of life

Facetious - Treating serious issues with inappropriate humor.

Fallacious - Based on a mistaken belief or unsound reasoning.

Fastidious - Very attentive to detail; meticulous.

Feasible - Possible to do easily or conveniently.

Fervent - Displaying passionate intensity.

Flippant - Not showing a serious or respectful attitude.

Formidable - Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable.

Garrulous - Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters.

Gluttonous - Excessively greedy.

Gratuitous - Given or done free of charge; unnecessary or uncalled for.

Gregarious - Fond of company; sociable.

Guileless - Innocent and without deception.

Harrowing - Extremely distressing; agonizing.

Haughty - Arrogantly superior and disdainful.

Heinous - Utterly odious or wicked.

Hermetic - Complete and airtight.

Histrionic - Overly theatrical or melodramatic in character or style.

Iconoclast - A person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions.

Idiosyncrasy - A peculiar personality trait or habit.

Illicit - Forbidden by law, rules, or custom.

Imminent - About to happen.

Impartial - Treating all rivals or disputants equally; fair and just.

Jaunty - Having or expressing a lively, cheerful, and self-confident manner.

Jocular - Fond of or characterized by joking; humorous or playful.

Judicious - Having, showing, or done with good judgment or sense.

Kinetic - Relating to or resulting from motion.

Kitsch - Art or other objects that appeal to popular or uncultivated taste.

Knotty - Full of knots; extremely difficult or intricate.

Lackadaisical - Lacking enthusiasm and determination; carelessly lazy.

Languid - Slow and relaxed; displaying no vigor or energy.

Lascivious - Lustful or lewd in a vulgar way.

Laudable - Deserving praise and commendation.

Loquacious - Tending to talk a great deal; talkative.

Magnanimous - Generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person.

Malicious - Intending or intended to do harm.

Malleable - Easily influenced; pliable.

Melancholic - Characterized by or causing or expressing sadness.

Mercurial - Subject to sudden or unpredictable changes of mood or mind.

Nefarious - Wicked or criminal.

Nostalgic - Characterized by a sentimental longing for the past.

Novel - New or unusual in an interesting way.

Obtuse - Annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand.

Omnipotent - Having unlimited power; able to do anything.

Onerous - Involving an amount of effort and difficulty that is oppressively burdensome.

Opportune - Well-chosen or particularly favorable or appropriate.

Paltry - Small or meager in quantity; petty; trivial.

Panacea - A solution or remedy for all problems or diseases.

Paradigm - A typical example or pattern of something; a model.

Parsimonious - Extremely frugal; unwilling to spend money or use resources.

Quaint - Attractively unusual or old-fashioned.

Quandary - A state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do in a difficult situation.

Querulous - Complaining in a petulant or whining manner.

Rancorous - Characterized by bitterness or resentment.

Rapacious - Aggressively greedy or grasping.

Redolent - Having a strong pleasant odor; suggestive or reminiscent of something.

Sagacious - Having or showing good judgment; shrewd.

Salient - Most noticeable or important; prominent.

Sanguine - Optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation.

Scintillating - Sparkling or shining brightly; brilliantly and excitingly clever or skillful.

Serendipitous - Occurring or discovered by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

Spurious - Not genuine; false or fake.

Stoic - Enduring pain or hardship without showing feelings or complaining.

Taciturn - Reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little.

Temerarious - Reckless or rash; daring.

Tenuous - Very weak or slight; insubstantial.

Timorous - Showing or suffering from nervousness, fear, or a lack of confidence.

Ubiquitous - Present, appearing, or found everywhere.

Unctuous - Excessively or ingratiatingly flattering; oily.

Undulate - Move with a smooth wavelike motion.

Vacuous - Having or showing a lack of thought or intelligence; mindless.

Vehement - Showing strong feeling; forceful, passionate, or intense.

Venerable - Accorded a great deal of respect, especially because of age, wisdom, or character.

Wanton - Deliberate and unprovoked; sexually immodest or promiscuous.

Whimsical - Playfully quaint or fanciful, especially in an appealing and amusing way.

Wistful - Having or showing a feeling of vague or regretful longing.

Xenophobic - Having or showing a dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries.

Yearning - A feeling of intense longing for something.

Yielding - Giving way to pressure or influence; submissive.

Zealous - Showing great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective.

Zephyr - A gentle breeze.

