

# C2

3rd  
Edition

# English Vocabulary

# 2022

The  
Most  
Comprehensive  
English  
Proficiency  
Vocabulary

Premier English Learning Publishing

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Proficiency Vocabulary  
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by Premier English Learning Publishing

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## **From Publisher**

3rd edition of the most comprehensive English Proficiency vocabulary.

In this book, we have collected words, idioms, and phrasal verbs you should know to brilliantly pass writing and speaking parts of all English Proficiency Tests.

This vocabulary contains only the most important words with clear and simple definitions and up-to-date example sentences.

Study at home or in class, bookmark pages, and remember that repetition is the key to memory.

# Vocabulary

## **Abiding**

Meaning: Ongoing; continues for a long time.

Example: Abiding love for old movies.

## **Able-bodied**

Meaning: Strong and healthy; physically fit.

Example: Our construction company requires only able-bodied workers.

## **Abolish**

Meaning: To cancel; put an end to; terminate; finish something.

Example: Prohibition was abolished in 1933.

## **Absentminded**

Meaning: One who constantly forgets things or fails to notice things.

Example: Sarah's absentminded husband forgot his car keys at the bar.

## **Abundant**

Meaning: Available in large quantities; more than enough.

Example: The lake near our house is abundant in fish.

## **Accentuate**

Meaning: To make more noticeable.

Example: Dan's new shirt accentuates his biceps.

### **Accrue**

Meaning: To accumulate; gradually increase over time.

Example: I placed my money in a saving account to accrue interest.

### **Acerbic**

Meaning: Harsh, sarcastic and critical.

Example: Someone left a very acerbic comment under my new video.

### **Adamant**

Meaning: Unwillingness to change one's mind, decision, or belief.

Example: Mike was adamant in his decision to quit his job.

### **Afflatus**

Meaning: Sudden burst of inspiration; strong creative impulse.

Example: In 1995, on a wave of afflatus, I wrote my first book.

### **Aggravate**

Meaning: Make something bad even worse.

Example: The new treatment plan only aggravated her condition

### **Aimless**

Meaning: Without clear purpose or intent.

Example: Jack's life became aimless after the death of his wife.

### **Akin**

Meaning: Similar in some way.

Example: He spoke in a language akin to Spanish; this game is akin to football.

### **Aloof**

Meaning: Unfriendly; stays away from others; distant.

Example: Jessica kept aloof from her father's new wife.

### **Ambrosial**

Meaning: Delicious; something very tasty or smelly.

Example: Her mother's birthday cake was ambrosial.

### **Antagonize**

Meaning: Make someone dislike you or get mad at you.

Example: After the divorce, Rebecca tried to antagonize our kids against me.

### **Ante up**

Meaning: To give money; pay what is due.

Example: My landlord told me to ante up or vacate the apartment by the beginning of the month.

### **Antiquated**

Meaning: Too old; old-fashioned; no longer useful.

Example: Antiquated system; antiquated beliefs; antiquated methods; antiquated laws.

### **As right as rain**

Meaning: To feel great or healthy again.

Example: After the final stage of therapy, he is as right as rain now.

### **Assertive**

Meaning: Very confident without being aggressive.

Example: If you want to get this job, you need to be more assertive.

### **A stone's throw**

Meaning: Very close.

Example: Her apartment is just a stone's throw from the city center.

### **Awe**

Meaning: A feeling of deep respect and approval combined with fear.

Example: Sam was in awe of his strong father; Dina gazed at the soldiers with awe.

### **Backlash**

Meaning: A strong and unfavorable reaction of a large number of people to political or social changes.

Example: Government faces backlash from voters; the backlash against default.

### **Bad blood**

Meaning: Feelings of enmity and hatred between people for events that occurred in the past.

Example: There has been bad blood between John and Sarah for years.

### **Baleful**

Meaning: Capable of doing something bad or hurting someone; evil; hateful.

Example: The bully gave me a baleful look.

### **Barmy**

Meaning: Extremely stupid; slightly crazy.

Example: Barmy idea, barmy decision.

### **Barren**

Meaning: Sterile; unable to produce anything.

Example: This land is barren, we cannot grow anything here.

### **Batty**

Meaning: Crazy; mad; mentally unstable.

Example: Dean gets a bit batty when we talk about politics.

### **Bawl**

Meaning: Scream or cry very loudly.

Example: "Stop hitting my husband!" she bawled.

### **Bear up**

Meaning: Face a difficult situation with courage and bravery.

Example: Donna is bearing up well under the strain of losing her apartment.

### **Beckon**

Meaning: Make a hand or head gesture to encourage someone to come closer.

Example: She beckoned to the waiter.

### **Beggarly**

Meaning: Very poor; small in amount.

Example: Dan received a beggarly sum for his excellent work.

### **Besotted**

Meaning: Deeply in love with someone; thinking about someone all the time.

Example: Ronda is completely besotted with her new boyfriend.

### **Bewitching**

Meaning: Seductively attractive; delightful; fascinating; charming.

Example: Craig was bewitched by Fiona's beauty.

### **Billow**

Meaning: To be filled with air; huge moving mass of something.

Example: The sails billowed in the wind; billow of smoke.

### **Bite the bullet**

Meaning: Force yourself to do something extremely hard or unpleasant.

Example: I hate doing this part of my job, but I have to bite the bullet and get it done.

### **Boisterous**

Meaning: Noisy; loud; full of energy and a little out of control.

Example: A boisterous horse; boisterous children; boisterous crowd.

### **Bonkers**

Meaning: Silly; crazy; stupid.

Example: Ron must be bonkers to take such a risk.

### **Bountiful**

Meaning: Large in amount; generous.

Example: Bountiful supply of food; bountiful land.

### **Braggart**

Meaning: Someone who talks about their accomplishments with extreme pride.

Example: He was so annoying and braggart, always talking about what a successful football player he was 20 years ago.

### **Brush up**

Meaning: Improve your knowledge of something.

Example: You need to brush up on your French before you go to Paris.

## **Buffoonery**

Meaning: Stupid and silly behavior that makes you laugh.

Example: John's buffoonery was funny, but completely out of place.

## **Burdensome**

Meaning: Difficult to carry out; hard to deal with.

Example: All my problems were too burdensome for her, so she broke up with me.

## **Burly**

Meaning: Big; has strong muscles.

Example: Burly powerlifter; burly worker.

## **Call it a day**

Meaning: To stop what you're doing.

Example: I'm tired! Let's call it a day and go home.

## **Callous**

Meaning: Cruel; does not care about other people or their feelings.

Example: It might sound a bit callous, but I don't care if she's alive.

## **Cap off**

Meaning: Successfully complete or finish something.

Example: He capped off business meeting with a signed contract.

## **Chagrin**

Meaning: Disappointment; grief; distress; deep sorrow.

Example: Much to his father's chagrin, John did not become a doctor.

## **Clique**

Meaning: A group of people (usually united by a common interest or purpose) who spend time together and don't allow others to join them.

Example: A small clique of chess players; clique at work; clique at school.

## **Clogged**

Meaning: Become blocked, obstructed, or filled.

Example: The waterways are clogged with leaves in autumn.

## **Cloistered**

Meaning: Secluded; separated from the outside world; one who stays away from the usual busy life.

Example: Most IT specialists lead a cloistered life; she cloistered herself away with her smartphone.

## **Clueless**

Meaning: Know nothing about a particular subject or in general.

Example: I'm completely clueless about programming.

## **Coarsen**

Meaning: To become rough or less polite.

Example: His hands were coarsened by years of work; last year in prison had coarsened him.

### **Coax**

Meaning: Gently persuade someone to do something.

Example: It took a lot of coaxing before my dad agreed to buy me a new computer.

### **Colossal**

Meaning: Extremely large; gigantic.

Example: Colossal effort; colossal amount of money; colossal sacrifice.

### **Companionate**

Meaning: Super friendly; harmoniously suited.

Example: Companionate marriage; companionate love.

### **Conceal**

Meaning: Cover or hide something; prevent disclosure.

Example: Conceal the truth; conceal identity.

### **Conceited**

Meaning: Being too proud of yourself; narcissistic.

Example: I don't want to sound conceited, but I'm the smartest person in this room.

### **Consecutive**

Meaning: Following one after another in a certain order.

Example: The numbers 10, 11, and 12 are consecutive.

### **Copious**

Meaning: More than enough; plentiful.

Example: She drinks copious amounts of coffee.

### **Coquettish**

Meaning: Flirty; playful; behaves in a way that seems very attractive.

Example: A coquettish outfit; coquettish smile; coquettish girl.

### **Cordial**

Meaning: Friendly and warm.

Example: Cordial relations between the two countries.

### **Crammed**

Meaning: Filled with people or things.

Example: Her closet is crammed with clothes.

### **Craven**

Meaning: Showing a lack of courage.

Example: A craven traitor; craven deserter.

### **Crumbly**

Meaning: Something that breaks easily into many small parts or pieces.

Example: This cake has a very crumbly texture.

**Dawdle**

Meaning: Be very slow and waste time.

Example: Stop dawdling! We will miss our plane.

**Dazzle**

Meaning: To lose clear vision (temporarily) when looking at bright light.

Example: John was dazzled by the sunlight.

**Debilitate**

Meaning: To make someone or something weaker.

Example: They were debilitated by hunger and disease.

**Deceitful**

Meaning: Lying; dishonest; not telling the truth.

Example: Deceitful behavior; deceitful politician; deceitful child.

**Deflate**

Meaning: To release the air or gas from; to make someone less confident or strong.

Example: Deflate the balloon; she was deflated by losing a job.

**Dehort**

Meaning: To persistently try to persuade or convince someone not to do something.

Example: He tried to dehort her not to buy that red car.

**Deplorable**

Meaning: Extremely sad, bad, or unacceptable.

Example: She lived in deplorable conditions.

**Detestable**

Meaning: Deserves to be hated; extremely unpleasant.

Example: Detestable coward; detestable fraud.

**Devious**

Meaning: Dishonest but skillful; will do everything to achieve the goal.

Example: Devious businessman; devious politician.

**Dimly**

Meaning: Without much light.

Example: Dimly room; dimly streets.

**Dismay**

Meaning: A strong feeling of fear, anxiety, or disappointment.

Example: "He stole my car and left me on the road!" she said in dismay.

**Dizzy**

Meaning: Feeling as if you are losing your balance and might fall.

Example: When I got to the top of the mountain, I felt a little dizzy.

**Dreadful**

Meaning: Causing great suffering or fear; extremely unpleasant or bad.

Example: Dreadful experience; dreadful behavior; dreadful news.

**Drenched**

Meaning: Completely wet.

Example: Drenched by rain; drenched with sweat.

**Dwindle**

Meaning: To become smaller or less in number.

Example: Her savings dwindled to 100 bucks; dwindling resources; dwindling population.

**Ecstatic**

Meaning: Extremely happy, enthusiastic, and full of excitement.

Example: John was ecstatic about his new car.

**Eerie**

Meaning: Mysterious, frightening, very strange.

Example: It's a bit eerie to walk down a dark path at night.

**Elated**

Meaning: Extremely happy, proud, or excited.

Example: Serena was elated with her new dress.

## **Embroid**

Meaning: To involve someone in an argument, trouble, or a difficult situation.

Example: My wife embroiled me in an argument with her parents.

## **Enticing**

Meaning: Attractive; causing a strong desire or interest; makes you want it.

Example: His offer was so enticing, but I had to refuse.

## **Erstwhile**

Meaning: Former; previous.

Example: Erstwhile lover; erstwhile friends; erstwhile employer.

## **Excruciating**

Meaning: Causing great physical or emotional pain.

Example: Excruciating memories; excruciating back pain.

## **Exhale**

Meaning: To breathe out.

Example: Take a deep breath, wait 7 seconds and exhale slowly.

## **Exuberant**

Meaning: Full of energy or excitement; lively.

Example: Exuberant performance; exuberant crowd.

**Famished**

Meaning: Extremely hungry.

Example: When is breakfast? I am famished.

**Farcical**

Meaning: Something so stupid, ridiculous, or silly that you can't take it seriously.

Example: It was a farcical trial; farcical behavior; farcical situation.

**Fatigued**

Meaning: Become weaker; tired; exhausted.

Example: She's fatigued from the long ride.

**Fawn over**

Meaning: Giving someone a lot of attention that isn't sincere; be extremely nice to someone.

Example: Most people hate waiters who fawn over them.

**Feel under the weather**

Meaning: Feel a little unwell; slightly ill.

Example: I'm feeling a bit under the weather and won't be going to work today.

**Feisty**

Meaning: Courageous; forceful; not afraid to argue with people.

Example: Feisty young activists; feisty fighter.

**Ferret out**

Meaning: Searching for something (like information) very carefully and thoroughly.

Example: I want to ferret out the truth about her past.

**Ferocious**

Meaning: Extremely violent, aggressive, and intimidating.

Example: Her dog was very ferocious.

**Fervid**

Meaning: Extremely passionate about someone or something; highly enthusiastic.

Example: Fervid followers; fervid orator.

**Flimsy**

Meaning: Super weak; easily broken; extremely thin.

Example: Flimsy door; flimsy construction; flimsy dress.

**Fondly**

Meaning: Showing great love, care, or strong liking.

Example: He smiled fondly at his son.

**Forlorn**

Meaning: Lonely, sad, and unhappy; abandoned.

Example: This house is forlorn and empty; she looked so forlorn standing there alone.

## **Frenetic**

Meaning: Fast and energetic; uncontrolled and disorganized.

Example: A frenetic attempt to win the competition at the last minute; frenetic activity; frenetic pace.

## **Fretful**

Meaning: Behavior that shows that you are unhappy or dissatisfied with something.

Example: He's always so fretful when he is tired or hungry.

## **Garish**

Meaning: Unpleasantly bright; colorful in an unattractive way.

Example: This dress is too garish for my taste; this store has too garish and luminous signs.

## **Garrulous**

Meaning: Talking a lot (mostly about unimportant things).

Example: I live with a very garrulous roommate.

## **Gauche**

Meaning: Shy; feels uncomfortable in the company of other people.

Example: Gauche teenager; gauche manner.

## **Gingerly**

Meaning: In a very careful manner.

Example: Anna gingerly plucked the rose; he opened the box gingerly.

## **Glittering**

Meaning: Impressive or successful; bright and shining.

Example: John has a glittering career in IT; glittering diamond ring.

## **Gleeful**

Meaning: Full of triumphant happiness or joy.

Example: She was so gleeful when her opponent was disqualified; he was very gleeful with his success.

## **Godsend**

Meaning: Something good that happened unexpectedly and helped you a lot.

Example: The rain was a godsend for dryland farmers.

## **Go easy on someone**

Meaning: To treat someone more gently, less harshly.

Example: Go easy on your little brother, he's just a kid.

## **Go easy on something**

Meaning: To use less of something.

Example: Go easy on the alcohol and fatty foods.

## **Gormless**

Meaning: Lacking intelligence; stupid.

Example: He looks really gormless.

## **Grasping**

Meaning: Very greedy; always trying to get more money.

Example: Grasping landlord; grasping banker.

### **Grating**

Meaning: Sounds extremely annoying.

Example: Grating voice; grating noise; grating cry.

### **Grind to a halt**

Meaning: To stop; come to an end.

Example: Without new investments, our startup will soon grind to a halt.

### **Grueling**

Meaning: Extremely tiring, exhausting, or demanding.

Example: A grueling work schedule; grueling hike; grueling race.

### **Harebrained**

Meaning: Unthinking and reckless; silly; unlikely to succeed; foolish.

Example: Harebrained plan; harebrained idea; harebrained scheme.

### **Hastily**

Meaning: Done in a hurry; very quickly.

Example: She hastily made her choice and now regrets it.

### **Haywire**

Meaning: Out of control; out of order; doesn't work correctly.

Example: The laptop's gone haywire; our economy has gone haywire.

### **Hazardous**

Meaning: Dangerous; unsafe; involving risk.

Example: Smoking is hazardous to your health.

### **Heinous**

Meaning: Shockingly evil or bad.

Example: Heinous torture; heinous crime.

### **Hiss**

Meaning: To make a sound like a long 's'.

Example: She hisses at me like a snake; Rachel hissed at me to shut up.

### **Hit the books**

Meaning: Study hard.

Example: I will have to hit the books to prepare for this difficult exam.

### **Hoggish**

Meaning: Egoistic; only thinking about yourself; dirty.

Example: Don't be so hoggish and give me half of our winnings.

### **Huffy**

Meaning: Easily offended; angry over nothing.

Example: Erica gets huffy if you mention her ex-boyfriend's name.

### **Immaculate**

Meaning: Extremely clean and tidy.

Example: His suit was immaculate; the car was in immaculate condition.

### **Impede**

Meaning: Delay or prevent something or someone; to slow the movement or progress.

Example: Nothing can impede technological progress.

### **Imperil**

Meaning: Put at risk of being harmed or injured.

Example: Our company was imperiled by a series of bad decisions.

### **Incite**

Meaning: To encourage someone to do something illegal or violent.

Example: He incited his friend to rob a bank.

### **Indemnify**

Meaning: Compensate for damage or loss.

Example: Anna was obliged to indemnify her boss for the damage she caused to the firm.

### **Inquiringly**

Meaning: In a way that shows you need more information about something.

Example: Jack looked at his wife inquiringly, after seeing her with another man.

### **Insoluble**

Meaning: Impossible to solve.

Example: This task is insoluble.

### **Intently**

Meaning: With great attention.

Example: I listened intently throughout the lesson.

### **Inter alia**

Meaning: Among other things.

Example: Being a good person means, inter alia, helping those in need.

### **Internecine**

Meaning: A conflict within a group or country that is destructive or harmful to all sides of the conflict.

Example: Internecine war for grandfather's inheritance; internecine conflicts in the company.

### **Intrusive**

Meaning: Causing annoyance; too easy to notice.

Example: Intrusive lights; intrusive adware; intrusive questions.

**Irascible**

Meaning: Easily angered.

Example: An irascible temper; irascible man.

**Irk**

Meaning: To annoy or disturb someone.

Example: I was irked by her childlike behavior.

**Irreproachable**

Meaning: Too good; beyond criticism; having no fault.

Example: Her son's behavior was irreproachable.

**Itinerant**

Meaning: Traveling or moving from place to place.

Example: An itinerant musician; itinerant journalist; itinerant circus.

**Jazz up**

Meaning: To make more interesting; breathe a new life into.

Example: We need to jazz up the interior of your bedroom.

**Jeopardize**

Meaning: To put in danger or risk.

Example: This decision will jeopardize his career; our mistake could jeopardize the negotiations.

**Jittery**

Meaning: Nervous; can't relax.

Example: She felt very jittery before the final exam.

### **Keepsake**

Meaning: A small gift given to you by someone so that you will not forget them.

Example: She gave me her necklace as a keepsake before going away.

### **Lackluster**

Meaning: Lacking excitement, energy, or interest.

Example: Lackluster performance; lackluster response; lackluster interview.

### **Lament**

Meaning: To express your sadness or regret.

Example: Dan lamented over the loss of his wife.

### **Leave no stone unturned**

Meaning: To do everything you can to find something.

Example: Rita left no stone unturned in her search for her missing brother.

### **Leery of**

Meaning: Suspicious; wary; avoiding something or someone.

Example: She was leery of strangers; I'm leery of their proposal.

### **Level-headed**

Meaning: Calm and reasonable even in difficult situations.

Example: Level-headed leader; level-headed approach; level-headed investor; level-headed remark.

### **Lukewarm**

Meaning: Slightly warm; not showing much enthusiasm.

Example: Lukewarm water; lukewarm coffee; lukewarm review; lukewarm support; lukewarm response.

### **Madcap**

Meaning: Crazy; reckless; eccentric; foolish; not caring about the danger.

Example: Madcap lifestyle; madcap party; madcap ideas.

### **Malodorous**

Meaning: Smelling extremely unpleasant.

Example: Malodorous garbage bags.

### **Malevolent**

Meaning: Having or showing a great desire to harm others.

Example: Malevolent smile; malevolent thoughts; malevolent stare; malevolent intentions.

### **Malformed**

Meaning: Abnormally or badly formed.

Example: Malformed body; malformed heart; malformed data.

### **Malleable**

Meaning: Easily changes shape; easily influenced or controlled.

Example: Malleable iron; malleable kids; malleable followers.

### **Maudlin**

Meaning: Tearfully sentimental, mostly because of drinking a lot of alcohol.

Example: John gets very maudlin after a few beers.

### **Menacing**

Meaning: Can harm you; dangerous-seeming; threatening.

Example: Menacing message; menacing look; menacing behavior.

### **Mischievous**

Meaning: Likes to have fun by causing trouble.

Example: Mischievous kids; mischievous dogs or cats.

### **Mortifying**

Meaning: Extremely embarrassing; shameful.

Example: A mortifying performance at high school prom.

### **Muffle**

Meaning: To make a sound less loud or clear; to suppress something.

Example: Muffle the noise; muffle your anger.

### **Nebulous**

Meaning: Having no clear form; hard to see or understand; uncertain; vague.

Example: He gave me a very nebulous explanation; a nebulous shape; nebulous idea; nebulous concept.

### **Nefarious**

Meaning: Dishonest; criminal; immoral; evil.

Example: Nefarious activities; nefarious machinations; nefarious villain.

### **Neglect**

Meaning: To give not enough attention or care; fail to look after (something or someone).

Example: If you neglect this part, the whole project will be ruined; our house has been neglected for years; don't neglect your health.

### **Noxious**

Meaning: Extremely harmful or poisonous.

Example: Noxious gases; noxious fumes.

### **Offish**

Meaning: Unfriendly; distant in manner; uncommunicative.

Example: He was the most offish and unsociable person in our team.

### **Omission**

Meaning: Something that has not been included; left undone.

Example: The song was shortened by the omission of fourth verse.

## **Onerous**

Meaning: Something that is too difficult or unpleasant to do.

Example: Sara finds motherhood too onerous and therefore doesn't want to have children.

## **Opening gambit**

Meaning: The first move.

Example: An opening gambit in the conversation; this badass word is going to be my opening gambit.

## **Outlandish**

Meaning: Looking or sounding extremely strange or unfamiliar.

Example: Outlandish clothes; outlandish hairstyle; outlandish tales.

## **Overweening**

Meaning: Extremely self-confident or proud.

Example: Overweening celebrities; overweening ambitions; overweening behavior.

## **Painstaking**

Meaning: Involving a lot of effort or care; thoroughly.

Example: Assembling a mechanical watch is a very painstaking work; painstaking research; painstaking attention to detail.

## **Palatable**

Meaning: Pleasant to taste.

Example: Palatable food; palatable wine.

### **Palatial**

Meaning: Luxurious; deluxe; splendid; very impressive.

Example: A palatial mansion; palatial apartment.

### **Pamper**

Meaning: To treat with extreme kindness or care; give someone everything they want.

Example: Grandparents often pamper the kids.

### **Panic-stricken**

Meaning: Overwhelmed with panic.

Example: After the fire alarm went off, a panic-stricken crowd rushed to the exit.

### **Pave the way**

Meaning: To make it easier for.

Example: This information will pave the way for a cure for this disease.

### **Peculiar**

Meaning: Very unusual or strange.

Example: Our dog was peculiarly quiet; he has a very peculiar sense of humor.

### **Peevish**

Meaning: Easily irritated or annoyed.

Example: Lack of sleep makes me very peevish; a peevish old man.

### **Perilous**

Meaning: Extremely dangerous or risky.

Example: Perilous ride, perilous journey, perilous expedition.

### **Perturbed**

Meaning: Concerned or worried.

Example: Dan is very perturbed about his wife's health.

### **Petulant**

Meaning: Capricious; complaining like a child; bad-tempered.

Example: Dan acted like a petulant child and slammed the door in my face.

### **Placid**

Meaning: Very calm and peaceful; rarely shows excitement or anger.

Example: Placid river; placid child; placid face.

### **Pony up**

Meaning: To pay for something.

Example: I can't afford to pony up for this laptop.

### **Priggish**

Meaning: Acting like a snob; self-righteous.

Example: Priggish monarchs; priggish loyalists.

### **Puckish**

Meaning: Playful; likes to have fun and joke with people.

Example: Puckish sense of humor; puckish smile; puckish person.

### **Putrid**

Meaning: Rotten; smelling very bad; extremely unpleasant.

Example: Putrid meat; putrid smell; the jacket is a putrid brown color.

### **Puzzled**

Meaning: Very confused because you can't understand something.

Example: The math task just puzzled me; he looked very puzzled.

### **Quaint**

Meaning: Attractively unusual; extraordinary; strange; old-fashioned.

Example: Quaint small village; quaint phrase; quaint idea.

### **Quarrelsome**

Meaning: Often argues with others.

Example: A quarrelsome old man; quarrelsome schoolboy.

### **Rambunctious**

Meaning: Full of energy and noisy.

Example: Rambunctious puppies; rambunctious kids.

### **Rebuke**

Meaning: Talking rudely to someone because they did something wrong.

Example: Ron received a stern rebuke from his boss.

### **Recalcitrant**

Meaning: Unwilling to obey orders; uncontrolled.

Example: Cats are very recalcitrant animals.

### **Reminiscent**

Meaning: Making you remember something.

Example: That movie is reminiscent of my childhood; the decor was reminiscent of the Gothic style.

### **Reproachful**

Meaning: Expressing disapproval or or criticism.

Example: Noah gave me a reproachful look.

### **Rule out**

Meaning: To stop considering something; exclude.

Example: My boss has ruled out the possibility of my career advancement.

### **Rummage**

Meaning: Carelessly move objects around in search of something.

Example: He rummaged through the closet for a white shirt; she rummaged in her pocket for the money.

### **Scoot over**

Meaning: Move to a different position.

Example: Could you scoot over a little bit? I would like to sit here.

### **Scowl**

Meaning: To look at someone/something with irritation or anger.

Example: Nate looked at me with a scowl on his face.

### **Shivering**

Meaning: Trembling from cold or fear.

Example: Rita stood shivering in the cold air.

### **Shoddy**

Meaning: Badly made or done.

Example: Shoddy service; shoddy goods; shoddy work; shoddy performance.

### **Slacker**

Meaning: Lazy; tries to avoid working.

Example: He's such a slacker, can't even clean the house.

### **Snooty**

Meaning: Acting like you are better or more important than others.

Example: He's too snooty to hang out with his old friends; after winning the math Olympiad, she became so snooty.

### **Soggy**

Meaning: Wet and soft.

Example: The ground was very soggy from the rain.

### **Sojourn**

Meaning: A temporary stay.

Example: My sojourn in Paris.

### **Solicitous**

Meaning: Showing great care or concern.

Example: Mary was so solicitous of her cats.

### **Somber**

Meaning: Gloomy, serious, or sad.

Example: Somber faces; somber mood; somber occasion.

### **Sporadically**

Meaning: Occasionally; not regular.

Example: Visit parents sporadically; he only works sporadically; I went to college only sporadically.

### **Stipulate**

Meaning: Clarify your requirements; to say what is or is not allowed; state clearly how something should be done.

Example: Our rules stipulate that worker must be sober.

## **Stuffy**

Meaning: Lacking fresh air; too boring or formal.

Example: In summer it gets too stuffy here; stuffy room; stuffy rules; stuffy formalities; stuffy atmosphere.

## **Sullen**

Meaning: Gloomy; sad; unwilling to smile.

Example: Sullen crowd; sullen teenagers; sullen silence.

## **Swagger**

Meaning: Walking or behaving too proudly or confidently.

Example: Don't swagger just because you won a bet.

## **Tally up**

Meaning: To calculate the sum of something.

Example: Tally up the score; tally up the votes.

## **Tangible**

Meaning: Perceptible by touch; easily seen or recognized.

Example: Tangible assets; tangible benefits; tangible evidence; tangible results.

## **Tawdry**

Meaning: Cheap; showing a lack of taste; of bad quality; highly unpleasant.

Example: Tawdry jewelry; tawdry home decor; tawdry affair.

## **Tempestuous**

Meaning: Full of strong or intense emotions; turbulent; very stormy.

Example: Tempestuous relationship; tempestuous love; tempestuous sea; tempestuous wind.

## **Thumping**

Meaning: Impressively large; very important.

Example: A thumping majority; thumping victory; thumping loss.

## **Torrid**

Meaning: Extremely hot; very passionate.

Example: Torrid summer; torrid love affair.

## **Treacherous**

Meaning: Likely to betray trust; traitorous; extremely dangerous.

Example: Because of her treacherous actions, we are no longer best friends; a treacherous path.

## **Tremendous**

Meaning: Great in size or amount.

Example: Tremendous number of people; tremendous difference; tremendous changes.

## **Turbid**

Meaning: Not clear; muddy; cloudy; opaque.

Example: Turbid water; turbid material.

### **Unbosom**

Meaning: To reveal one's secrets; to disclose one's feelings.

Example: Dan unbosomed his fear of dogs to me.

### **Under a cloud**

Meaning: Be under suspicion.

Example: The victim's neighbor is under a cloud; our mayor left the position under a cloud after the harassment scandal.

### **Unfathomable**

Meaning: Incapable of being fully understood or explained.

Example: For some unfathomable reason, she decided not to go to college.

### **Unpalatable**

Meaning: Highly unpleasant; difficult to accept.

Example: Unpalatable truth; unpalatable fact; unpalatable proposal.

### **Unpretentious**

Meaning: Sincere; simple in appearance; modest; not attempting to impress others.

Example: Unpretentious food; unpretentious house; unpretentious dress; unpretentious style.

### **Unriddle**

Meaning: To find an answer; to solve.

Example: I unriddled the main mystery of the movie.

## **Unruly**

Meaning: Extremely difficult to control or manage.

Example: Unruly kids; unruly behavior; unruly hair; unruly emotions.

## **Unsullied**

Meaning: Not harmed or damaged; clear.

Example: Unsullied reputation; unsullied person; unsullied and shining floor.

## **Untrodden**

Meaning: Not having been walked on.

Example: Untrodden road; untrodden path; untrodden snow.

## **Uproarious**

Meaning: Very noisy or funny.

Example: Uproarious party; uproarious laughter.

## **Vanquished**

Meaning: Defeated; beaten.

Example: I was vanquished in a chess battle.

## **Variegated**

Meaning: Showing different colors; including a wide range of something.

Example: Variegated leaves; variegated dialects.

## **Vastly**

Meaning: Very much; immensely.

Example: Vastly different; vastly more experienced; vastly more significant.

## **Verve**

Meaning: Great enthusiasm or energy.

Example: Verve for life; she composed it with great verve.

## **Vexing**

Meaning: Very annoying or disturbing.

Example: Vexing questions about why I still don't have a boyfriend.

## **Vile**

Meaning: Highly unpleasant; immoral.

Example: Vile comments; vile smell; vile slums.

## **Vivacious**

Meaning: Lively, happy, and attractive.

Example: She's so charming and vivacious; vivacious laugh; vivacious manners.

## **Waspish**

Meaning: Easily expresses anger, harshness or irritation.

Example: A waspish tongue; waspish sense of humor; waspish comments.

## **Wayward**

Meaning: Behave selfishly; difficult to control; unpredictable; not organized.

Example: A wayward teenager; wayward thoughts; wayward emotions.

## **Wheedling**

Meaning: Using flattery to persuade someone to do something.

Example: Stop wheedling me, I won't sign this contract; our son tried to wheedle us into buying him new phone.

## **Whimsical**

Meaning: Unusual but funny; strange in a good way; playful; not serious in a funny way.

Example: This movie about aliens is pretty whimsical; whimsical sense of humor; whimsical fashion; whimsical mind.

## **Willfully**

Meaning: Intentionally; deliberately.

Example: She willfully ignores the rules; the principles of our company were willfully ignored.

## **Wispy**

Meaning: Very thin and light; not thick.

Example: Wispy hair; wispy paper; wispy moustache; wispy clouds.

## **Wizened**

Meaning: Very old with many wrinkles on the skin.

Example: A wizened old man.

### **Worldly-wise**

Meaning: Having a lot of life experience and therefore able to cope with various difficulties and situations.

Example: She is too worldly-wise for such a young age; being more worldly-wise than me, my father told me how to solve my problem.

### **Woozy**

Meaning: Slightly weak; can't think clearly; not very steady.

Example: I was still woozy from the wine.

### **Wretched**

Meaning: Miserable or unhappy; of low quality; in very bad condition.

Example: I felt so wretched after she broke up with me; wretched performance; wretchedly poor; wretched old clothes.

### **Yammer**

Meaning: To talk continuously in a foolish or annoying way.

Example: John never stops yammering about his boss's love affairs.

### **Zany**

Meaning: Weird or eccentric in a funny way.

Example: Zany movies; zany tricks; zany games; zany stories; zany humor.