

- # 87 **famine** (noun) - widespread hunger and starvation
The famine in Ethiopia took the lives of over one million starving people.
- # 88 **decline** (noun) - a falling to a lower level (in prices, health, popularity)
Investors were frightened by the rapid decline in stock market prices.
decline (verb) - to refuse politely, to say "No, thank you!"
I declined the invitation to attend my friend's birthday party because I wanted to be at home to welcome my grandma back from the hospital.
- # 89 **ascend** (verb) - to climb up, to rise (≠ descend)
ascent (noun) - the climb up (the sudden ascent of the elevator...)
After my operation, I didn't have the strength to ascend the stairs, so I had to sleep in the livingroom for a few days.
- # 90 **potential** (noun) - a possibility (the potential to become great)
potential (adj) - possible (≠ actual, real)
Before the take-off from the launch pad, the spacecraft was scrutinized for potential flaws
- # 91 **abolish** (verb) - to do away with completely
During the Civil War era, people who wanted to do away with slavery were known as Abolitionists.
Students would abolish homework if given the chance.
- # 92 **ethical** (adj) - (1) morally right (≠ evil, wrong)
You acted in an ethical manner when you returned the wallet with the money in it.
(2) having to do with standards of right and wrong
Capital punishment presents us with an ethical dilemma.
- # 93 **diverse** (adj) - not alike, different (≠ common, the same, identical)
Students in our middle school come from diverse backgrounds.
The jury couldn't reach a verdict because of all their diverse opinions.
- # 94 **hinder** (verb) - to make difficult, to hold back, to get in the way of
(≠ to promote, to assist, to help) Deep mud hindered travel.
Loud shouting in the next room hindered my concentration.
- # 95 **abundant** (adj) - plentiful, more than enough (≠ insufficient, skimpy)
(abundant conveys a positive feeling whereas superfluous is seen as negative, wasteful)
Skiers were elated with the abundant new snowfall.
We didn't know what to do with the superfluous supply of pamphlets.
- # 96 **authentic** (adj) - genuine, real, reliable, worthy of trust (≠ false, copied)

That is her authentic signature, not a forgery.

We heard an authentic account of the wreck, given by one of the ship's passengers.

97 **devour** (verb) - to eat very greedily or hungrily (like an animal)

The lion devoured the gazelle.

The refugees devoured the food provided by the Red Cross.

The raging fire devoured the forest.

98 **compassionate** (adj) - wishing to help those who suffer, sympathetic, pitying (≠ insensitive, indifferent)

Compassionate people donated tons of food and clothing, as well as shelter, for the victims of the earthquake.

99 **diligent** (adj) - hard-working, industrious, careful, steady (= careless)

The diligent student kept on working until he had finished his homework.

The detective made a diligent search for clues.

100 **pensive** (adj) - thoughtful in a serious or sad way

The teacher of the angry inner-city students grew pensive as she tried to think of ways to motivate them.

101 **refuse** (1) (verb) - to say no, to decline (≠ accept)

I refused to participate when my friend planned to hack into the school's computer files.

(2) (noun) - garbage, trash

The Sanitation Department collects the refuse we leave at the curb on Mondays and Thursdays.

102 **modest** (adj) - humble, not bold, not vain (≠ conceited, ostentatious)

Sherry lives in a modest home in a working class neighborhood.

Mitch acted modest when he won the MVP award.

103 **disconsolate** (adj) - heartbroken, incapable of being consoled,

My little sister was disconsolate when her favorite doll fell from the top of the ferris wheel.

104 **endure** (verb) (1) to last: Plastics endure for a long time.

(2) to put up with, to stand, to bear: If I can't endure the pain, the doctors have promised to give me morphine.

105 **erratic** (adj) - irregular, changing unexpectedly, strange

(≠ steady, regular, predictable)

Doctors were alarmed when the monitor showed an erratic heartbeat.

Sean's erratic performance in school was discussed by his teachers and counselors at their weekly meeting.

106 **emerge** (verb) - to come into view

The sun **emerged** from behind the clouds creating a gorgeous rainbow.

Startling new evidence **emerged** during the investigation.

The underdog **emerged** as the new NCAA basketball champion.

- # 107 **impede** (verb) - to hinder, to obstruct, to make progress harder
(from Latin - meaning "on the foot" which tends to hinder a person in whatever he is trying to do)

The heavy braces on Forrest Gump's legs **impeded** his running.

Blinding storms and avalanches **impeded** the mountain climbers' attempt to make it up Mt. Washington before nightfall.

- # 108 **coax** (verb) - to persuade by soft words

coax a smile from a shy child, **coax** a kitten out of the tree

- # 109 **foul** (adj) - dirty, nasty, smelly (**foul** diapers)
- stormy, unpleasant (**foul** weather)
- indecent (**foul** language)

(noun) - a play against the rules in sports (commit a **foul**)

- # 110 **chaos** (noun) - bedlam, scene of wild disorder and confusion

The tornado left the town in **chaos**.

chaotic (adjective) - very confused, greatly disordered

The city was in a **chaotic** condition after the nuclear accident.

- # 111 **obstinate** (adj) - stubborn, not giving in (an **obstinate** child or mule)

- # 112 **prolific** (adj) - (1) producing or creating much
(a **prolific** author, or composer)

(2) producing offspring abundantly
(a **prolific** rabbit, or cockroach)

- # 113 **furtive** (adj) sneaky, secret, sly, stealthy

a **furtive** snatch at the candy

a **furtive** glance into the forbidden room

- # 114 **murky** (adj) dark, gloomy

The deepsea divers had to use powerful flashlights to explore the shipwreck in the the **murky** depths of the ocean.

It was tough to avoid depression in the **murky** prison cell.

- # 115 **abrupt** (adj) - sudden, unexpected (≠ gradual)

When I made an **abrupt** turn to avoid hitting another car, my puppy skidded off the seat.

- # 116 **saunter** (verb) - to stroll, to walk along slowly and happily

People **sauntered** through the park on summer evenings.

- # 117 **lurk** (verb) - to wait out of sight, to be hidden

(1) A tiger was **lurking** in the jungle.