350 of the Most Common TOEFL Vocabulary Words

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TOEFL® Vocabulary Quiz Book

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The Test of English as a Foreign Language is a standardized test designed to measure your ability to understand and use English as it is used in a North American university setting. Recent changes to the TOEFL have shifted its focus from how much you know about English to how well you comprehend, speak, and write English.

Whether you are taking the TOEFL iBT, TOEFL CBT, or TOEFL Pencil-and-Paper, Kaplan’s TOEFL Vocabulary Quiz Book is perfectly designed to help you learn over 350 important TOEFL vocabulary words. Simply read the vocabulary word and its part of speech on the front of a page to determine whether you know it; on the reverse side, its definition and a sample sentence are offered to be sure that you understand the word’s meaning and its correct, idiomatic usage.

These sample sentences are followed by the corresponding noun, verb, adjective, or adverb forms. Thus you learn an average of four or more new words with each entry and augment your grasp of English grammar as well as your vocabulary. Once you’ve mastered a particular word, clip or fold back the corner of the flashcard so that you can zip by it to the words you still need to study.

The words are organized according to their part of speech: noun, verb, adjective, or adverb. You will notice, however, that they are not alphabetical. This is to help you focus on the individual word, its meaning, and its context. Words listed alphabetically are harder to distinguish and learn because they look and sound alike.

Study the words in any order and start on any page.

Good luck!
trigger
verb

volunteer
verb
triggering, triggered, triggered
to cause (something) to happen, to set off
* A skier on the west side of the mountain triggered an avalanche of cascading snow.
* n. trigger

volunteering, volunteered, volunteered
to offer to do something, usually without being asked, pressured, or paid
* When their babysitter canceled at the last minute, I volunteered to take care of their son.
* n. volunteer adj. voluntary adv. voluntarily
predict
verb

accompany
verb
predicting, predicted, predicted
to know what will happen in the future, to foresee
Gamblers try to **predict** which horse will win a race.
n. prediction, predictability   adj. predictable   adv. predictably

accompanying, accompanied, accompanied
to go or come along with
*The Secretary of State** accompanied **the President on his trip.*
n. accompaniment
relax
verb

approve
verb
relaxing, relaxed, relaxed
to become less tense, to slacken
* A massage will help your muscles to *relax*.
  n. relaxation  *adj.* relaxing, relaxed

---

approving, approved, approved
1. to consent to, to allow, or to endorse; 2. to believe to be correct or good
* The treasurer has to *approve* all expenses.*
* His parents don't *approve* of his career choice.*
  n. approval  *adj.* approving  *adv.* approvingly
restrict
verb

violate
verb
restricting, restricted, restricted
to limit, to reduce
* Laws **restrict** the amount of tobacco a person can bring into the country.
 n. restriction *adj.* restrictive *adv.* restrictively

violating, violated, violated
to defy, to disobey
* By speaking to the press he **violated** our contract.*
 n. violation
deny
verb

immigrate
verb
denying, denied, denied
1. to dispute the truth of (a statement or fact); 2. to reject or refuse (a request)
*Her son denied that he had dented the car.*
*They denied our request for an extension.*
*n. denial adj. deniable*

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immigrating, immigrated, immigrated
to move to a new country
*Millions of Italians immigrated to the United States between 1880 and 1915.*
*n. immigration, immigrant*
conform
verb

acknowledge
verb
conforming, conformed, conformed
1. to follow rules or standards; 2. to follow social conventions, to fit in
Your new refrigerator should **conform** to energy efficiency standards.
Unlike his free-spirited, artistic sister, he has always tried to **conform**.
*n. conformity, conformist*  
*adj. conformist*

acknowledging, acknowledged, acknowledged

to admit or accept as a fact, to recognize
You should **acknowledge** that your mistakes caused the accident.

*n. acknowledgment*  
*adj. acknowledged*
assemble
verb

expose
verb
assembling, assembled, assembled
1. to put (something) together; 2. to come together
*The engine was assembled from spare parts.*
*All students will assemble in the cafeteria this afternoon.*
n. assembly

•

exposing, exposed, exposed
1. to reveal, to uncover; 2. to make vulnerable, to put in contact with something dangerous
*The journalist exposed a bribery scandal in the mayor’s office.*
*The explosion in the factory exposed workers to dangerous chemicals.*
n. exposure, exposé adj. exposed
interpret

verb

demonstrate

verb
interpreting, interpreted, interpreted
to explain or understand the meaning of, to translate
*He says that he can interpret people’s dreams.*
*n.* interpretation, interpreter *adj.* interpretive

demonstrating, demonstrated, demonstrated
to show, to prove, or to establish (a principle, theory, etc.)
with evidence
*Research has demonstrated that this new medication is five times as effective.*
*n.* demonstration, demonstrator *adj.* demonstrable, demonstrative *adv.* demonstrably, demonstratively
adjust

verb

diminish

verb
adjusting, adjusted, adjusted
to change or alter (something) slightly in order to improve it, to modify
You may need to adjust your television antenna for better reception.
*n. adjustment adj. adjusted

diminishing, diminished, diminished
to become less or worse, to decline
His influence in the company diminished after his successor was chosen.
*adj. diminished, diminishing
acquire
verb

influence
verb
acquiring, acquired, acquired

to obtain or receive, to attain

*During his year in Berlin he **acquired** a perfect German accent.*

*n. acquisition*

---

influencing, influenced, influenced

to have an effect on, to affect, to impact

*Current events **influenced** his recent writing.*

*n. influence  *adj. influential, influenced*
revise
verb

absorb
verb
revising, revised, revised
1. to reconsider; 2. to improve (a piece of writing, etc.) by changing it
Upon this discovery, astronomers revised their definition of a planet.
My teacher told me that if I revise the essay I will get a better grade.
n. revision, revisionism adj. revised, revisionary, revisionist

absorbing, absorbed, absorbed
to take in or soak up
A sponge can absorb a lot of liquid.
n. absorption adj. absorbed, absorbing
purchase
verb

select
verb
purchasing, purchased, purchased
to buy
*They are raising money to purchase new computers for the school.*
n. purchase, purchaser

selecting, selected, selected
to choose
*The judges selected five dancers as finalists.*
n. selection, selector adj. selective, select adv. selectively
intervene
verb

enhance
verb
intervening, intervened, intervened

to become involved in a situation, to interfere
*A fight broke out during the school dance, but the chaperones intervened before anyone was hurt.*

*n. intervention  adj. intervening*

enhancing, enhanced, enhanced

to make better, to improve
*Dressing neatly for a job interview will enhance your likelihood of getting hired.*

*n. enhancement  adj. enhanced*
motivate
verb

imply
verb
motivating, motivated, motivated
to give (a person) a reason or incentive to do something, to encourage or inspire
*Our coach motivates us to practice harder by setting goals.*
n. motive, motivation adj. motivated

•

implying, implied, implied
to suggest that something is true without saying so directly, to insinuate
*Although he didn’t complain, his reaction implied that he was disappointed.*
n. implication adj. implicit, implied
reveal
verb

implement
verb
revealing, revealed, revealed

to show, to uncover

*The curtains were pulled back to reveal a beautiful view.*

*n. revelation adj. revealing*

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implementing, implemented, implemented

to put into effect, to enact

*We will be implementing a new grading system next semester.*

*n. implement, implementation*
thrive
verb

strive
verb
thriving, thrived/throve, thrived/thriven
to flourish, to do well, to prosper
This plant will thrive in a warm, wet climate.

striving, strove/strived, striven/strived
to try, to attempt or endeavor
She strove to be a role model for female athletes.
n. striver
require
type: verb

accelerate
type: verb
requiring, required, required
to need or demand
*Finishing a crossword puzzle requires a lot of patience.*
n. requirement adj. required

accelerating, accelerated, accelerated
to gain speed, to speed up
*The gas pedal makes a car accelerate.*
n. acceleration
respond
verb

reject
verb
responding, responded, responded
to answer; to reply
*Only half of the people we contacted responded to our survey.*
n. response, respondent, responsiveness  
adj. responsive

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rejecting, rejected, rejected
to refuse to accept, to dismiss
*Very few scientists entirely reject this theory.*
n. reject, rejection  
adj. rejected
derive
verb

invest
verb
deriving, derived, derived
to obtain (something) from a source
All of the ingredients in this shampoo are derived from plants.
n. derivation, derivative adj. derived, derivative

investing, invested, invested
to put money into (stocks, a business, real estate, etc.) in the hope of making a profit
He made his fortune by investing in the stock market.
n. investment, investor
investigate
verb

decline
verb
investigating, investigated, investigated
to look closely at (something) in order to determine the truth,
to examine
*The police are **investigating** his connections to organized crime.*
v. investigation, investigator *adj.* investigative

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declining, declined, declined
1. to become lower or worse, to decrease or diminish; 2. to choose not to do something, to refuse
*The price of gold has **declined** since last year.*
*I declined their invitation to dinner.*
n. decline *adj.* declining
utilize
verb

seek
verb
utilizing, utilized, utilized

to use

*Our system utilizes the most advanced technology.*

*n. utilization, utility*

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seeking, sought, sought

to look for

*They are seeking applicants for a paralegal job.*

*n. seeker*
encounter

verb

involve

verb
encountering, encountered, encountered

to meet; to face

*The plans for a new shopping mall *encountered opposition in the city council.*

*n. encounter

•

involving, involved, involved

to make (someone) a part of something

*I don't want to get *involved* with this; it sounds like a terrible idea.*

*n. involvement  adj. involved
anticipate

verb

modify

verb
anticipating, anticipated, anticipated
to expect or look forward to
*Experts anticipate a major victory by the opposition party in
this election.*

*n. anticipation  adj. anticipated, anticipatory*

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modifying, modified, modified
to adapt; to change or adjust
*She modified her car to run on solar power as well as gasoline.*

*n. modification  adj. modified*
undergo

verb

underlie

verb
undergoing, underwent, undergone
to experience, to be subjected to
*The website underwent a complete remodeling.*

underlying, underlay, underlain
1. to be located beneath; 2. to be a cause or reason for something
*The layer of rock that underlies the earth's crust is called the mantle.*
*Numerous issues underlie the failure of the peace talks.*
*adj.* underlying
undertake

verb

translate

verb
undertaking, undertook, undertaken
to attempt, to take on (a task or job); to tackle
*They are **undertaking** a survey of the surrounding land.*

translating, translated, translated
to interpret, to express in another language
*He is **translating** the plays of Shakespeare into Spanish.*
*n. translation, translator*
terminate
verb

prohibit
verb
terminating, terminated, terminated
to end, to bring or come to a close
The landlord **terminated** our rental agreement, so we have to move.
n. termination

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prohibiting, prohibited, prohibited
to forbid or ban
Smoking is **prohibited** in this building.
n. prohibition adj. prohibitive, prohibited
participate
verb

discriminate
verb
participating, participated, participated
to take part in, to be involved in
All students are required to **participate** in after-school activities.
*n.* participation, participant *adj.* participatory, participating

discriminating, discriminated, discriminated
1. to treat differently because of prejudice; 2. to detect differences, especially small or subtle ones, to differentiate or distinguish
*Universities once** discriminated against women and minorities in their admissions practices.*
*Newborn babies can’t** discriminate between different colors.*
*n.* discrimination *adj.* discriminatory, discriminating
comprise

verb

consist

verb
comprising, comprised, comprised
to be made up of, to consist of, to incorporate
*The United States of America* **comprises** 50 individual states.


consisting, consisted, consisted
to be made up (of)
*A single deck* **consists** of 52 playing cards—13 of each suit.
vary
verb

rely
verb
varying, varied, varied

to change

_The town's population_ **varies** _with the season, as the tourists come and go._

*n.* variation, variant, variance, variety _adj._ various, variable, varied _adv._ variously, variably

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relying, relied, relied

to be dependent (on something)

_I rely on the financial aid money to pay for school._

*n.* reliance, reliability _adj._ reliant, reliable _adv._ reliably
substitute
verb

evaluate
verb
substituting, substituted, substituted
to replace
The recipe works just as well if you substitute oranges for lemons.

n. substitute, substitution

evaluating, evaluated, evaluated
to assess, judge, or estimate
An engineer evaluated the condition of the house.

n. evaluation
outgrow

noun

appreciate

verb
outgrowing, outgrew, outgrown  
to no longer need or be able to use (something) due to growth or development  
*She used to love this dress but she has outgrown it.*

appreciating, appreciated, appreciated  
to be grateful for  
*I really appreciate your generous help.*  
n. appreciation adj. appreciative, appreciable adv. appreciatively, appreciably
monitor
verb

construct
verb
monitoring, monitored, monitored
to observe, to keep track of
*After I got into debt, my parents started monitoring my spending.*
n. monitor  adj. monitored

constructing, constructed, constructed
to build or form
*The first rule of essay writing is to construct a convincing argument.*
n. construction, construct  adj. constructive, constructed
establish
verb

conclude
verb
establishing, established, established
1. to set up (an institution, etc.), to found; 2. to show that something is a fact
*Yellowstone Park was established in 1872.*
The prosecutor can establish that the defendant was there at the time of the robbery.
n. establishment adj. established

•

concluding, concluded, concluded
1. to finish, to end; 2. to develop a judgment after studying or considering something
*The play concludes with a joyful wedding scene.*
By the end of the meeting, we had concluded that your plan was best.
n. conclusion adj. conclusive, concluded, concluding adv. conclusively
survive
verb

recommend
verb
surviving, survived, survived
to last or live through an event or period of time, to endure
Only a few books **survived the fire in the library.**
n. survival, survivor  **adj. surviving**

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recommendating, recommended, recommended
1. to advise; 2. to say positive things about, to endorse
*The doctor **recommended** that I avoid salty foods.*
*My friend **recommends** this movie.*
n. recommendation  **adj. recommended**
scrutinize

verb

pollute

verb
scrutinizing, scrutinized, scrutinized

to closely inspect or examine

*The results were unexpected, but after scrutinizing the data we determined it was accurate.*

*n. scrutiny*

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polluting, polluted, polluted

to contaminate or make unclean

*The river has been polluted by chemicals from the factory.*

*n. pollution, pollutant  adj. polluted*
simulate

verb

ensure

verb
simulating, simulated, simulated
to imitate; to mimic
Astronauts train in water to **simulate** the experience of weightlessness.

*n. simulation, simulator* *adj. simulated*

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ensuring, ensured, ensured
to make (something) certain; to guarantee
Snow tires should be used in the winter to **ensure** safety on slippery roads.
commence
verb

approach
verb
commencing, commenced, commenced

to begin

Construction of the new chemistry building will commence next week.

n. commencement

approaching, approached, approached

to come close to

Temperatures approached record highs last summer.

n. approach adj. approachable
consult
verb

distract
verb
consulting, consulted, consulted
to seek advice or information from
*You should consult your lawyer before signing a contract.*
n. consultation, consultancy, consultant, consulting adj. consultative

distracting, distracted, distracted
to divert or take away someone's attention
*The music is distracting me from my work.*
n. distraction adj. distracting
enable
verb

assess
verb
enabling, enabled, enabled
to make able or possible
_A new computer would enable us to work faster._
n. enabler

assessing, assessed, assessed
To judge the nature, quality, or degree of (something), to
evaluate or appraise
_Students were asked to assess the accuracy of information they found on the Internet._
n. assessment, assessor _adj._ assessable, assessed
persist
verb

devote
verb
persisting, persisted, persisted

to last, to go on, to endure

*The bad weather is expected to *persist* for another week.*

*n. persistence  adj. persistent  adv. persistently*

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devoting, devoted, devoted

to commit, to dedicate

*Gandhi *devoted* his life to opposing discrimination and oppression.*

*n. devotion, devotee  adj. devoted  adv. devotedly*
cease
verb

doubt
verb
ceasing, ceased, ceased

to end, to conclude, to stop

A treaty was signed last night, and the fighting finally **ceased**.

*n.* cessation *adj.* ceaseless

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doubting, doubted, doubted

to suspect of being untrue

*The police have begun to**doubt** his version of events.*

*n.* doubt *adj.* doubtful *adv.* doubtfully
precede
verb

unify
verb
preceding, preceded, preceded
to go or come before
Twenty policemen on motorcycles **preceded** the president's limousine.
*n.* precedent, precedence  
*adj.* preceding

unifying, unified, unified
to bring or come together, to unite
*East and West Germany were* **unified** *in 1990.*
*n.* unification, unifier  
*adj.* unified, unifying
insert

verb

deteriorate

verb
inserting, inserted, inserted

to put (something) into something else

*To start the program, insert the disk and follow the instructions.*

*n. insertion*

deteriorating, deteriorated, deteriorated

to grow worse

*The patient’s condition has deteriorated since last night.*

*n. deterioration adj. deteriorating*
correspond

verb

cooperate

verb
corresponding, corresponded, corresponded
1. to be very similar to something, to match almost exactly; 2. to exchange letters
*The Greek letter alpha corresponds with the letter “A” in the Roman alphabet.*
*I have corresponded with her for several months.*
*n. correspondence, correspondent adj. corresponding*

cooperating, cooperated, cooperated
to work together in order to accomplish something, to collaborate
*The United States and Canada cooperated to fight smuggling over their shared border.*
*n. cooperation adj. cooperative adv. cooperatively*
dominate

verb

facilitate

verb
dominating, dominated, dominated

to exert control over
Our basketball team dominated the game.
n. domination, dominance adj. dominant

facilitating, facilitated, facilitated

to make (something) easier
Railroads facilitated the settlement of the midwestern United States.
n. facilitator, facilitation
retain
verb

complement
verb
retaining, retained, retained
to keep or hold
*The town retains much of its historic charm.*
n. retention, retainer *adj.* retentive

complementing, complemented, complemented
to bring out the best in or supply a missing quality to, to be the ideal partner or accompaniment
*The rich flavor of the wine complemented the steak perfectly.*
n. complement *adj.* complementary
compliment
verb

occupy
verb
complimenting, complimented, complimented

to make a positive comment about, to praise
He complimented her excellent taste in music.
n. compliment adj. complimentary

occupying, occupied, occupied
1. to be in (a place or position), to inhabit; 2. to engage, employ, or keep busy
They occupied the house for months without paying rent.
The toy occupied the boy for hours.
n. occupancy, occupant, occupier, occupation adj. occupied
manipulate
verb

waive
verb
manipulating, manipulated, manipulated to influence or control

*He manipulated his grandmother into leaving him money in her will.*

*n.* manipulation, manipulator *adj.* manipulative, manipulated *adv.* manipulatively

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waiving, waived, waived to give up, to relinquish

*She waived her right to a lawyer.*

*n.* waiver
convince
verb

perceive
verb
convincing, convinced, convinced

to cause (a person) to agree with a statement or opinion, to persuade

*I finally **convinced** him that I was right.*

*adj.* convincing, convinced *adv.* convincingly

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perceiving, perceived, perceived

to sense, to be aware of

*Dogs **perceive** a greater range of sounds than humans can.*

*n.* perception *adj.* perceived, perceptible *adv.* perceptibly
attribute
verb

occur
verb
attributing, attributed, attributed
to give credit or assign responsibility for (something) to a particular person, condition, etc.
*He attributes* *his good health* *to a low-fat diet and plenty of exercise.*
n. attribution adj. attributable, attributed

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occurring, occurred, occurred
to happen, to take place
*The burglary occurred late last night.*
n. occurrence
intimidate
verb

reinforce
verb
intimidating, intimidated, intimidated

to challenge (a person’s) confidence; to make nervous or afraid

*His students’ knowledge sometimes *intimidates* him.*

*n. intimidation  adj. intimidating*

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reinforcing, reinforced, reinforced

to make stronger or more intense

*He is very close-minded; he only reads books that *reinforce* his own beliefs.*

*n. reinforcement  adj. reinforced*
pursue
verb

concentrate
verb
pursuing, pursued, pursued
to follow or chase after
*The dogs pursued the fox through the field.*

*n*. pursuit, pursuer

---

concentrating, concentrated, concentrated
to focus, to direct one's attention to

*My teacher suggested that I concentrate on improving my writing.*

*n*. concentration
ignore
verb

detect
verb
ignoring, ignored, ignored

to pay no attention to

Whenever my little brother annoyed me, my mother just told me to ignore him.

adj. ignored

detecting, detected, detected

to sense or discover something, to discern, to identify

I detected some uncertainty in her voice as she answered.

n. detection, detective, detector adj. detectable adv. detectably
expand

verb

clarify

verb
expanding, expanded, expanded

to move apart or outwards so as to take up more space, to grow

*In the 1920s, scientists discovered that the universe is *expanding.*

*n.* expansion, expansionism  *adj.* expansive, expanding

clarifying, clarified, clarified

to make something clearer or easier to understand, to explain

*The candidate had to *clarify* his statements about environmental policy.*

*n.* clarification, clarity  *adj.* clarified
compare
verb

react
verb
comparing, compared, compared
to make note of differences and similarities between (two things)
They **compared** the two cars to see which was the better deal.
n. comparison adj. comparable adv. comparably

reacting, reacted, reacted
to act in response to, to respond
*How did your mother **react** when you told her you were getting married?*
n. reaction adj. reactionary, reactive
convey
verb

combine
verb
conveying, conveyed, conveyed
1. to communicate or express; 2. to transport
She tried to **convey** the seriousness of the situation, but they didn't seem to grasp it.
The boxes were conveyed to Boston by train.
n. conveyance

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combining, combined, combined
to put together; to blend
Text messaging **combines** the convenience of e-mail with the speed of a phone call.
n. combination adj. combined
distribute
verb

promote
verb
distributing, distributed, distributed
to give out, to divide among a group
*We distributed the money evenly among the group.*
*n. distribution, distributor*  
*adj. distributional*

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promoting, promoted, promoted
1. to support or publicize; 2. to raise (someone) to a higher grade or position
*Actors often go on television talk shows to promote their new movies.*
*Jay worked very hard at school, hoping he would be promoted.*
*n. promotion, promoter*
consume

verb

distort

verb
consuming, consumed, consumed
1. to buy or use up; 2. to eat or drink
Americans **consume** 25 percent of the world’s oil.
He **consumed** the entire pie in under ten minutes.
n. consumer, consumption **adj.** consuming

distorting, distorted, distorted

to depict something inaccurately
That mirror **distorts** your image so that you look taller than you are.
n. distortion **adj.** distorted
eliminate
verb

injure
verb
eliminating, eliminated, eliminated
to get rid of, to remove or exclude
First he became a vegetarian; now he is trying to **eliminate** milk
from his diet.
n. elimination

 injuring, injured, injured
to hurt
She was badly **injured** in a skiing accident.
n. injury **adj.** injurious, injured **adv.** injuriously
deplete
verb

transform
verb
depleting, depleted, depleted
to use up
Some critics worry that we are rapidly **depleting** the world’s oil supply.
n. depletion

transforming, transformed, transformed
to change dramatically
The discovery of penicillin **transformed** the way doctors treat infections.
n. transformation
permit

verb

justify

verb
permitting, permitted, permitted

to allow

*The police refused to permit the protest.*

*n.* permission, permit *adj.* permitted, permissive *adv.* permissively

justifying, justified, justified

to show or claim that (something) is right or reasonable

*He tried to justify his theft by claiming the money was owed to him.*

*n.* justification *adj.* justifiable, justified *adv.* justifiably
fluctuate
verb

deviate
verb
fluctuating, fluctuated, fluctuated
to vary frequently and irregularly, to vacillate
*The temperature has been fluctuating a lot recently, so I wasn’t sure if I should wear a coat.*
n. fluctuation  adj. fluctuating

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deviating, deviated, deviated
to differ or stray from an established standard or course, to vary or diverge
*The final version of the building deviated only slightly from the original plan.*
n. deviation, deviant  adj. deviant
export
verb

import
verb
exporting, exported, exported

to send something out of the country, usually for sale

Their business exports dairy products to Europe.

n. exporter, export, exporting  adj. exported

importing, imported, imported

to bring something into the country, usually for sale

He imports wine from Europe.

n. importer, import, importing   adj. imported
regulate
verb

provide
verb
regulating, regulated, regulated

to control, especially by making rules, to supervise
*The government regulates the sale of certain medicines.*
n. regulation, regulator adj. regulatory, regulated

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providing, provided, provided

to supply
*The local bakery provided cakes for our bake sale.*
n. provision, provider
qualify
verb

succeed
verb
qualifying, qualified, qualified
to meet requirements, to be or become eligible
*By winning the game they** qualified **for the national tournament.*

*n. qualification, qualifier adj. qualified, qualifying

succeeding, succeeded, succeeded
to achieve a goal
*He finally succeeded in getting his novel published.*

*n. success adj. successful adv. successfully
remove

verb

commit

verb
removing, removed, removed
to take (something) off or away
*You must remove the peel before eating a banana.*
n. removal adj. removable

committing, committed, committed
1. to promise to do something, to pledge; 2. to carry out (a crime, etc.)
*We committed to working here until the end of the summer.*
*I never thought I could commit murder.*
n. commitment adj. committed
generate
verb

focus
verb
generating, generated, generated
to produce, to create
*Her latest movie has* generated *a lot of controversy.*

•

focusing, focused, focused
to direct one's attention to, to concentrate
*We need to focus on the problem of water pollution before it is too late.*

*n. focus adj. focused*
identify

verb

persuade

verb
identifying, identified, identified
to determine who or what a person or thing is, to recognize
 She **identified** him as the man who tried to sell her a stolen
watch.

>n. identity, identification  *adj.* identifiable, identified

persuading, persuaded, persuaded
to convince

*I was planning to stay here over the vacation, but my parents
*persuaded* me to come home instead.

>n. persuasion  *adj.* persuasive  *adv.* persuasively
organize
verb

tolerate
verb
organizing, organized, organized
1. to put in order; 2. to arrange
I must **organize** my desk so I can find things more easily.
They are **organizing** a concert to benefit local charities.
n. organization, organizer  adj. organized

tolerating, tolerated, tolerated
 to allow or endure
My boss doesn’t **tolerate** lateness.
n. tolerance  adj. tolerant, tolerable  adv. tolerantly, tolerably
guarantee
verb

contribute
verb
guaranteeing, guaranteed, guaranteed
to promise or ensure
*Can you guarantee that this program will work on my computer?*

*n. guarantee  adj. guaranteed*

•

contributing, contributed, contributed
to give or donate
*All of the parents were asked to contribute twenty dollars for new soccer uniforms.*

*n. contribution, contributor  adj. contributed, contributing*
coincide
verb

contradict
verb
coinciding, coincided, coincided
to happen at the same time
*Her visit coincided with the annual Folk Music Festival.*
n. coincidence adj. coincidental adv. coincidentally

contradicting, contradicted, contradicted
to oppose or challenge (a person or statement), to dispute
*He contradicted your version of the story.*
n. contradiction adj. contradictory
recover
verb

perpetuate
verb
recovering, recovered, recovered
to improve after experiencing a decline
*The economy recovered quickly after the recent recession.*
n. recovery adj. recoverable

perpetuating, perpetuated, perpetuated
to cause (something) to last indefinitely, to sustain
*Advertisements like these perpetuate sexism in our society.*
n. perpetuity adj. perpetual adv. perpetually
exclude
verb

estimate
verb
excluding, excluded, excluded

to leave out, to omit

*The boys were excluded from the game.*

*n. exclusion* *adj.* exclusionary, exclusive, excluded *adv.* exclusively

---

estimating, estimated, estimated

to make an educated guess

*We estimate that next year’s profits will be 20 percent higher.*

*n. estimate, estimation* *adj.* estimated
legislate
verb

indicate
verb
legislating, legislated, legislated
to make law
Congress **legislated** a federal minimum wage in 1938.
*n*. legislation, legislator, legislature *adj*. legislative *adv*. legislatively

indicating, indicated, indicated
to show or suggest
*Your test scores* **indicate** exceptional talent in math.
*n*. indication, indicator *adj*. indicative
daunt
verb

founder
verb
daunting, daunted, daunted
to discourage; to intimidate
She tried hard not to let the enormity of the situation daunt her.
adj. daunting, daunted

foundering, foundered, foundered
to sink; to fall helplessly
After colliding with the jagged rock, the ship foundered, forcing
the crew to abandon it.
adj. foundering
goaded, goaded, goading

to prod or urge

Denise *goaded* her sister Leigh into running the marathon with her.

---

riddled, riddling, riddled

to make many holes in; permeate

*The gunfire* *riddled* *the helicopter* *with thousands of holes.*
nettle
verb

ply
verb
nettling, nettled, nettled

to irritate

*I don’t particularly like having blue hair—I just do it to *nettles my parents.*


plying, plied, plied

to use diligently; to engage; to join together

*The weaver plied the fibers together to make a blanket.*
edit

verb

straightforward

adjective
editing, edited, edited

to change and improve a piece of writing

*Your manuscript is strong, but it needs to be* edited.

*n. editor, edition* adj. editorial *adv. editorially*

uncomplicated, simple

*An effective speech will be* straightforward *and have a clear point.*

*n. straightforwardness* adv. straightforwardly
preliminary

adjective

valuable

adjective
coming before or done in preparation for something
*Before starting the program, you will need to take a* preliminary *course.*
*n. preliminary*

* of great worth, expensive
*The discs contained very* valuable *information.*
*v. value* *n. value* adj. valued
reluctant
adjective

subtle
adjective
unwilling; not eager
She got the scholarship, but she is **reluctant** to move abroad.
*n.* reluctance *adv.* reluctantly

delicate or understated, not obvious
Though garlic can be overpowering, in this recipe it is quite **subtle**.
*n.* subtlety *adv.* subtly
vague
adjective

consistent
adjective
unclear, imprecise, not specific
*I don’t remember exactly what he looked like, but I have a*
*vague memory.*
*n. vagueness adv. vaguely*

1. unchanging, stable; 2. compatible, in line with
*To train your dog you must be consistent about disciplining him.*
*The results of the blood test were consistent with the diagnosis.*
*n. consistency adv. consistently*
equivalent

adjective

valid

adjective
equal

One gallon is **equivalent** to four quarts.
n. equivalent, equivalence, equivalency  
adv. equivalently

1. acceptable as true; reasonable, convincing; 2. legally binding or effective; legitimate
She made a very **valid** point about the risks of this investment.
He will leave the country soon, because his visa is only **valid** until next week.
v. validate  
n. validity, validation  
adj. validated  
adv. validly
widespread

*adjective*

---

rigid

*adjective*
affecting or existing in a large area; extensive; general
The storm caused **widespread** damage, with flooding in six states.

hard, stiff, unyielding
There is a **rigid** dress code at his new school that forbids jeans and sneakers.
n. rigidity adv. rigidly
ultimate
adjective

abstract
adjective
1. eventual, final; 2. ideal, best
Her musical career started badly, but her talent and dedication ensured **ultimate** success.
This is the **ultimate** chocolate brownie: rich and chewy.
n. ultimate, ultimatum adv. ultimately

based on ideas or general concepts rather than physical reality or specific events
This aspect of economics seems very **abstract**, but it has important real-life applications.
n. abstraction, abstract adv. abstractly
ignorant
adjective

extensive
adjective
lacking in knowledge, unaware, uneducated
*He knows a lot about most sports, but when it comes to hockey he is completely ignorant.*
n. ignorance, ignoramus adv. ignorantly

wide-reaching, broad, substantial
*She has extensive experience with a variety of computer systems.*
v. extend n. extent adv. extensively
universal

adj

positive

adj
applying to all people or situations

*Fear of the unknown is a *universal* human trait.*
*n. universality* *adv. universally*

---

good, not negative

*The new rules should have a *positive* effect on safety.*
*adv. positively*
visible
adjective

essential
adjective
able to be seen
*The fish were visible through the clear water.*
n. visibility adv. visibly

absolutely necessary, crucial
*Good water is essential for making good tea.*
n. essence adv. essentially
enormous
    adjective

domestic
    adjective
immensely large; huge
*The fossil is an *enormous* footprint that may have been made by a dinosaur.

*n.* enormity *adv.* enormously

---

1. relating to the home or housework; 2. existing, originating or taking place within a particular country
*Women and men today are likely to share the burden of *domestic* tasks.*
*Voters tend to be more interested in *domestic* issues than in foreign affairs.*

*n.* domesticity, domestic *adv.* domestically
final
adjective

accurate
adjective
last

Tomorrow is the **final** day of classes for the fall semester.
v. finalize  n. finality, finalization, final  adv. finally

... 

perfectly correct, without errors

*He always checks his bill before paying to make sure it is **accurate.***

*  n. accuracy  adv. accurately
Hidden page
Hidden page
strict, demanding

*Hospitals must maintain rigorous standards of cleanliness.*

*n. rigor adv. rigorously*

---

extremely intense, meaningful or thoughtful

*He has a profound understanding of the plight of the poor.*

*n. profundity adv. profoundly*
coherent

adjective

passive

adjective
logical, reasonable and consistent
To get an A on a paper, you need to have a **coherent** argument and support it with facts.
n. coherence  adv. coherently

not actively participating, inactive
They weren’t involved in the vandalism; they were just **passive** witnesses.
n. passivity  adv. passively
conceivable

adj

adequate

adj
able to be thought of, imaginable

*We used every *conceivable* method to raise money for the project.*

*V. conceive* *adv. conceivably*

---

of as much quantity or quality as is needed, sufficient, enough

*The climbers left base camp with *adequate* supplies for a three-day journey.*

*n. adequacy* *adv. adequately*
rapid
adjective

sufficient
adjective
fast, quick
*The ambulance crew has to provide a **rapid** response in emergencies.*

*n. rapidity* 
*adv. rapidly*

---

enough

*The oxygen in the tank is **sufficient** for a one-hour dive.*

*v. suffice* 
*n. sufficiency* 
*adv. sufficiently*
Hidden page
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compatible

*adjective*

medical

*adjective*
Hidden page
automatic
adjective

familiar
adjective
Hidden page
main, major, most important or significant
*Taxes were one of the *primary reasons that the American colonies declared independence.*

*n. primacy adj. prime adv. primarily*


*nervous, worried that something bad will happen
*He is *apprehensive about the interview.*

*n. apprehensiveness adv. apprehensively*
mature

*adjective*

---

annual

*adjective*
fully grown; aged; adult
*He has become much more mature since he went away to college.*
v. mature n. maturity, maturation

occurring once each year; yearly
*I'm taking my car to the mechanic for its annual inspection.*
adv. annually
isolated

*adjective*

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mental

*adjective*
solitary, alone
*The cabin was completely isolated in the middle of the forest.*
v. isolate n. isolation, isolationism

relating to the mind, intellectual or psychological
*Her strange behavior led doctors to suspect she was suffering from a mental illness.*
n. mentality adv. mentally
Hidden page
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prior

descriptive

remarkable

descriptive
Hidden page
beneficial

*adjective*

infinite

*adjective*
good, having a positive effect
*Vitamin A is said to be beneficial for the eyes.*
n. benefit adv. beneficially

endless, limitless, innumerable, so great as to be impossible to measure or count
*The universe is so immensely large that many consider it to be infinite.*
n. infinity adv. infinitely
unique
adjective

secure
adjective
Hidden page
Hidden page
readily obtained, possible to get
*This chair is available in six different colors.*
*n. availability*

able to do something, competent
*Many scientists still doubt that apes are capable of using complex language.*
*n. capability*
normal
adjective

integral
adjective
Hidden page
comprehensive

*adjective*

objective

*adjective*
complete, thorough
*With this comprehensive collection of recipes you’ll never need another cookbook.*
*adv. comprehensively*

unbiased; unprejudiced
*We need an objective judge to tell us whose singing is better.*
n. objectivity *adv. objectively*
temporary
*adjective*

significant
*adjective*
maximum

adjective

minimum

adjective
of the greatest possible amount or degree, most
*I got a ticket for driving over the maximum speed.*
v. maximize *n.* maximum, maximization *adj.* maximal *adv.*
maximally

of the least possible amount or degree
*They set a minimum GPA of 3.5 for applicants to the honors program.*
v. minimize *n.* minimum, minimization *adj.* minimal *adv.*
minimally
considerable

*adjective*

ethnic

*adjective*
great in amount or extent, sizable, substantial, significant
The first European colonists in North America faced considerable hardships during the cold winter months.
adv. considerably

cultural, united or defined by culture, tradition, or nationality
The event was intended to promote understanding between members of different ethnic groups.
n. ethnicity adv. ethically
Hidden page
allowed by or relating to the law, lawful
Alcoholic beverages were banned in the United States from 1919 until 1933, when prohibition ended and they became legal again.

v. legalize n. legalization, legality adj. legalized adv. legally

prior
Do you have any previous experience?
adv. previously
characteristic, special, unique
Asparagus has a **distinctive** taste.
n. distinction  adj. distinct  adv. distinctively, distinctly

opposite, contradictory, conflicting
No matter what I say, you always argue the **contrary** position.
n. contrary  adv. contrarily
unlikely to change or shift, secure
*It is best for children to grow up in stable homes.*
v. stabilize  n. stability, stabilization  adv. stably

impossible to prevent, unavoidable
*He was a dangerous driver, and it was inevitable that he would eventually get into an accident.*
n. inevitability  adv. inevitably
obvious
*adjective*

mutual
*adjective*
Hidden page
brief
adjecive

fundamental
adjecive
Hidden page
random
*adjective*

rational
*adjective*
without order or organization
*The seating assignments were random.*
n. random, randomness adv. randomly

consistent with logic and reason, reasonable, logical
*A good judge must be rational, and not easily swayed by emotion.*
v. rationalize n. rationality, rationalization, rationalist adv. rationally
similar

*adjective*

incredible

*adjective*
strongest or most prevalent, foremost, main, primary
The cake is supposed to be chocolate mocha, but the **predominant** flavor is coffee.
*v. predominate  n. predominance  adv. predominantly*

legally responsible
*Parents are **liable** for damage caused by their children.  
n. liability*
identical
*adjective*

neutral
*adjective*
exactly the same
We hoped the other airline would be cheaper, but the ticket prices were **identical**.
*adv.* identically

---

belonging to neither of two opposing categories, impartial, unaffiliated
*I am liberal, but my brother is conservative, so to avoid offending either of us my mother tries to be politically **neutral**.*
*v.* neutralize *n.* neutrality, neutralization *adj.* neutralized *adv.* neutrally
appropriate

adj

global

adj
Hidden page
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deceptive

adjective

intrinsic

adjective
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contemporary

adjacive

complex

adjacive
1. existing or happening at the same time; contemporaneous; 
2. existing or happening in the present, modern 
His childhood was contemporary with the First World War. 
Their house is filled with fashionable contemporary furniture. 
n. contemporary

difficult to understand, complicated 
The problem was too complex to be solved in a single meeting. 
n. complexity
Hidden page
extremely important, indispensable
The helicopter is delivering crucial supplies to a remote hospital.
n. crux adv. crucially

situated between two stages, in the middle
Before moving on to the advanced class, I am going to try the intermediate level.
glib
adj

stoic
adj
said in an insincere manner; offhand, casual
*The slimy politician managed to continue gaining supporters because he was a glib speaker.*

---

indifferent to or unaffected by emotions
*While most of the mourners wept, the dead woman's husband kept up a stoic, unemotional facade.*
potential

noun

overview

noun
ability or promise

*Her coach thinks she has the **potential** to be a world-class athlete.*

*adv. potentially*

---

a general survey

*This book offers an **overview** of the major developments in astronomy since the time of Galileo.*
plural: phenomena
something that exists or occurs, especially something remarkable, an occurrence, a wonder
*The annual migration of the monarch butterflies is an incredible natural phenomenon.*
adj. phenomenal adv. phenomenally

the base that something is built on; basis; underpinning
*Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection is the foundation of modern biology.*
adj. foundational
Hidden page
facts that support a theory or assertion
Although many believed she was guilty, there wasn’t enough evidence to prosecute her for the crime.
adj. evident, evidential, evidenced adv. evidently

a choice or possibility
There are several different options for getting Internet access.
adj. optional adv. optionally
insight
noun

logic
noun
understanding or appreciation
This book gave me greater **insight** into modern politics.
*adj.* insightful *adv.* insightfully

reason; rational thinking
The problem has to be solved with **logic**.
*n.* logician *adj.* logical *adv.* logically
statistic

noun

publication

noun
information derived from numerical analysis

*The latest statistics show an increase in the rate of population growth.*

*n. statistician adj. statistical adv. statistically*

1. the act of publishing a text; 2. a published book, journal, magazine, etc.

*He is excited about the publication of his first novel.*

*She has written articles for several different publications.*
error

noun


method

noun
a mistake

*This report contains an unacceptable number of errors.*

v. err  
adj. erroneous  
adv. erroneously

•

a way of doing something, a technique

*They are developing a new method for learning to read music.*

n. methodology  
adj. methodical, methodological  
adv. methodically; methodologically
revolution

noun

commerce

noun
1. a circular movement, a rotation or turn; 2. a dramatic change, especially the overthrow of a government

*Earth* completes a **revolution** around the sun every 365½ days. *The American* **Revolution** overthrew an English colonial government; *the French* **Revolution** unseated a native ruling class.

*v.* revolve, revolutionize  
*n.* revolutionary, revolt  
*adj.* revolutionary

---

economic activity, trade, business

*The new policies are supposed to encourage** commerce by helping small businesses.*

*adj.* commercial  
*adv.* commercially
administration

definition

conflict

definition
1. the group of people responsible for managing a company, government, etc.; management; 2. the act of administering
The proposal has to be approved by the University administration.
She is going to business school to get a degree in administration.
v. administer, administrate n. administrator adj. administrative adv. administratively

a state or incident of disagreement or hostility, a clash
There is often a conflict between one's personal desires and the best interest of society.
v. conflict adj. conflicting, conflicted

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partner
	noun

innovation
	noun
one who shares an activity, business, etc.
*She's looking for a new tennis partner.*
*n. partnership*

---

a new way of doing something, an invention
*The VCR was a major innovation in the way people watched films.*
v. innovate n. innovator adj. innovative adv. innovatively
Hidden page
prerequisite

noun

phase

noun
Hidden page
knowledge and good judgment based on experience; good sense

The decision demonstrated her wisdom.

adj. wise adv. wisely

a person seeking a position, especially a person running for election to public office

She is one of three candidates for Governor.
status
noun

ideology
noun
importance in relation to others, rank
People often judge the social status of others based on the way they dress.

a strong and rigid system of belief; dogma
The Communist ideology was very influential during the twentieth century.

n. ideologue adj. ideological adv. ideologically
location

noun

controversy

noun
a position or site, a place
They still haven’t found a good location for their new restaurant.
v. locate  adj. located

intense public disagreement about something, a debate
A controversy arose over the school’s new science curriculum.
adj. controversial  adv. controversially
a reward for doing something

*To attract new members, the gym is offering *incentives* such as free yoga classes.*

---

a result

*The *outcome* of the election was a surprise to everyone.*
proficiency

noun

instance

noun
ability, skill, competence
Before studying abroad, students are expected to achieve basic proficiency in a foreign language.
adj. proficient adv. proficiently

an example of an action or phenomenon; an occurrence; an occasion
It was just one more instance of personal failure.
gender

noun

concept

noun
the sex (male or female) of a person

*Discrimination based on gender is illegal.*

*adj. gendered*

---

an idea, especially one that is abstract and general

*As an introduction, she explained the major concepts that would be covered in the class.*

*v. conceptualize n. conception, conceptualization adj. conceptual, conceptualized adv. conceptually*
diversity

noun

leeway

noun
Hidden page
resource

proof
a stock of information, skill, money, etc., that can be used to make or accomplish something

*Do you have enough resources to carry out this project?*

*adj.* resourceful

---

evidence showing that a statement or fact is true, verification

*New customers are required to show proof that they live in the neighborhood.*
opportunity
noun

alternative
noun
a chance to do something
The recital will give her an opportunity to demonstrate her talent.
adj. opportune adv. opportunely

any of multiple options, another possibility
Whole grains such as barley are exciting and healthy alternatives to pasta.
adj. alternative adv. alternatively
majority

noun

minority

noun
the largest part of a whole, over half
The **majority** of Americans prefer coffee to tea.

1. a small part of a whole, less than half; 2. a member of a group that accounts for less than half of a population
*Atheists are a **minority** in the United States.*
*The company is recruiting **minorities** for positions on its board of directors.*
talent

noun

data

noun
Hidden page
media
noun

narrative
noun
singular: *medium*
the news and entertainment outlets such as the press, television, radio, and film
*The politician was unhappy with the way he had been depicted in the media.*

a story, an account of connected events
*The Odyssey is a long narrative in the form of a poem.*
v. narrate n. narration adj. narrative adv. narratively
Hidden page
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duration

noun

expert

noun
the length of time that something lasts
*Please remain seated for the duration of the flight.*

a person who has special knowledge or experience in a particular field
*The museum called in an expert to determine if the painting was a forgery.*
*n. expertise adj. expert adv. expertly*
Hidden page
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trend
noun

function
noun
Hidden page
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a remark that expresses an observation or opinion
*We never had a chance to give our comments on the proposal.*
* v. comment  n. commentary, commentator

---

a speech intended to teach something
*Are you going to Professor Smith’s lecture on the Cold War?*
* v. lecture  n. lecturer
emphasis
noun

analysis
noun
plural: *emphases*

special attention, stress, prominence

*The new laws put emphasis on protecting the environment.*

*v. emphasize adj. emphatic adv. emphatically*


plural: *analyses*

a detailed interpretation of information

*An analysis of the test results showed gradual improvement in math scores.*

*n. analyst v. analyze adj. analytical, analyzed adv. analytically*
hypothesis
noun

circumstance
noun
plural: hypotheses
an unproven theory, especially a scientific one
*Her hypothesis was that the mice eating the special diet would grow twice as fast.*
v. hypothesize adj. hypothetical adv. hypothetically

---

a condition or fact that affects an event or creates a situation
*The room was cold and dark, and she hadn’t slept the night before; it is difficult to take a test under those circumstances.*
adj. circumstantial
strategy
noun

tradition
noun
Hidden page
regime
noun

target
noun
era
noun

authority
noun
Hidden page
generation

noun

hierarchy

noun
Hidden page
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money that is paid to a person or company; salary; earnings
*If she gets promoted, her income will increase substantially.*

---

a belief that is not based on proof
*Historians must be careful not to make assumptions about the past based on today's values.*

v. assume adj. assumed
priority

noun

summary

noun
something considered to be of the highest importance
We will eventually paint the house, but right now our **priority**
is to finish the roof.
v. prioritize n. prioritization

---

a short description of the content of a longer piece of writing,
film, etc.
We were asked to write a one-page **summary** of the book.
v. summarize n. summarization adj. summarized
Hidden page
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income; money that is earned
*The store has had much higher revenues this year.*

---

the way something looks
*It is a beautiful old house, but the broken windows ruin its appearance.*

v. appear  *adj. apparent adv. apparently*
climate
noun

research
noun
weather conditions over a long period of time; the environment
Scientists are studying the forces causing changes in the **climate**.
adj. climatic

... 

intensive study of a particular topic
*She is doing* **research** *on local history.*
v. research  n. researcher
impact

noun

challenge

noun
an impression, an effect
*The film had a great **impact** on me; I was really moved.*
v. impact adj. impacted

---

1. a difficult task or undertaking; 2. a questioning of authority
*The marathon is a **challenge** even for experienced runners.*
*Impressionist paintings were seen as a **challenge** to traditional artistic standards.*
v. challenge n. challenger adj. challenging, challenged
Hidden page
sequence

noun

exception

noun
Hidden page
a subject for study or discussion
*The topic of her paper is animal life in rainforests.*
*adj.* topical *adv.* topically

---

an idea that forms the foundation of a theory or of a system of morality
*The principle of equality is an important part of true democracy.*
*adj.* principled
Hidden page
blessing, something to be thankful for

Dirk realized that his new coworker’s computer skills would be a real boon to the company.


noisy dispute

When the players discovered that the other team was cheating,
a violent fracas ensued.
Hidden page
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nevertheless

*adverb*

initially

*adverb*
in spite of that, nonetheless
Educational opportunities for women were limited in the nineteenth century; nevertheless, women contributed to that era's scientific accomplishments.

in the beginning, to begin with, at the start
The cost of owning a car turned out to be much higher than we initially expected.

adj. initial
Hidden page
in addition, additionally, moreover
*She likes the biology program at that university, and furthermore, they offered her a scholarship.*

---

on the whole, in general
*Sally's Pizza has great crust, but I think Pepe's pizza is better overall.*
likewise
*adverb*

approximately
*adverb*
similarly; in the same way; also
*I couldn’t afford to fly home, and a train ticket was *likewise
beyond my means.

*

close to but not precisely, nearly, about
*Approximately 5 percent of Americans commute to work using
public transportation.*

v. approximate n. approximation adj. approximate, approxi-
mated
hence
*adverb*

via
*adverb*
as a result, therefore, consequently
Filtering the water in the aquarium will make it cleaner and
**hence** healthier for your fish.

by way of
*We flew back from Los Angeles **via** Chicago.*
eventually

*adverb*

recently

*adverb*
chiefly
adverb

thereby
adverb
mostly, mainly, primarily

*The book focuses *chiefly* on social history.*

in this way; as a result of this

*He came in second in the race and *thereby* earned a spot on the national team.*
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