

**fresco** N. painting on plaster (usually fresh). The cathedral is visited by many tourists who wish to admire the *frescoes* by Giotto.

**fret** V. to be annoyed or vexed. To *fret* over your poor grades is foolish; instead, decide to work harder in the future.

**friction** N. clash in opinion; rubbing against. At this time when harmony is essential, we cannot afford to have any *friction* in our group.

**frigid** ADJ. intensely cold. Alaska is in the *frigid* zone.

**fritter** V. waste. He could not apply himself to any task and *frittered* away his time in idle conversation.

- **frivolity** N. lack of seriousness. We were distressed by his *frivolity* during the recent grave crisis. frivolous, ADJ.

**frolicsome** ADJ. prankish; gay. The *frolicsome* puppy tried to lick the face of its master.

**frond** N. fern leaf; palm or banana leaf. After the storm the beach was littered with the *fronds* of palm trees.

- **frugality** N. thrift; economy. In these economically difficult days businesses must practice *frugality* or risk bankruptcy. frugal, ADJ.

**fruition** N. bearing of fruit; fulfillment; realization. This building marks the *fruition* of all our aspirations and years of hard work.

**frustrate** V. thwart; defeat. We must *frustrate* this dictator's plan to seize control of the government.

**fulcrum** N. support on which a lever rests. If we use this

stone as a *fulcrum* and the crowbar as a lever, we may be able to move this boulder.

**fulsome** ADJ. disgustingly excessive. His *fulsome* praise of the dictator annoyed his listeners.

**fundamental** V. basic; primary; essential. The committee discussed all sorts of side issues without ever getting down to addressing the *fundamental* problem.

**funereal** ADJ. sad; solemn. I fail to understand why there is such a *funereal* atmosphere; we have lost a battle, not a war.

**furor** N. frenzy; great excitement. The story of her embezzlement of the funds created a *furor* on the Stock Exchange.

- **furtive** ADJ. stealthy; sneaky. The boy gave a *furtive* look at his classmate's test paper.

**fusion** N. union; coalition. The opponents of the political party in power organized a *fusion* of disgruntled groups and became an important element in the election.

**futile** ADJ. ineffective; fruitless. Why waste your time on *futile* pursuits?

**gadfly** N. animal-biting fly; an irritating person. Like a *gadfly*, he irritated all the guests at the hotel; within forty-eight hours, everyone regarded him as an annoying busybody.

**gaffe** N. social blunder. According to Miss Manners, to call your husband by your lover's name is worse than a mere *gaffe*; it is a tactical mistake.

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## Word List 21 gainsay-gossamer

**gainsay** V. deny. She was too honest to *gainsay* the truth of the report.

**gait** N. manner of walking or running; speed. The lame man walked with an uneven *gait*.

**galaxy** N. the Milky Way; any collection of brilliant personalities. The deaths of such famous actors as Clark Gable, Gary Cooper and Spencer Tracy demonstrate that the *galaxy* of Hollywood superstars is rapidly disappearing.

**gall** N. bitterness; nerve. The knowledge of his failure filled him with *gall*.

**gall** V. annoy; chafe. Their taunts *galled* him.

**galleon** N. large sailing ship. The Spaniards pinned their hopes on the *galleon*, the large warship; the British, on the smaller and faster pinnace.

**galvanize** V. stimulate by shock; stir up. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor *galvanized* the nation into strong military action.

**gambit** N. opening in chess in which a piece is sacrificed. The player was afraid to accept his opponent's *gambit* because he feared a trap which as yet he could not see.

**gambol** V. skip; leap playfully. Watching children *gamboling* in the park is a pleasant experience. also N.

**gamely** ADV. bravely; with spirit. Because he had fought *gamely* against a much superior boxer, the crowd gave him a standing ovation when he left the arena.

**gamut** N. entire range. In this performance, the leading lady was able to demonstrate the complete *gamut* of her acting ability.

**gape** V. open widely. The huge pit *gaped* before him; if he stumbled, he would fall in.

- **garbled** ADJ. mixed up; based on false or unfair selection. The *garbled* report confused many readers who were not familiar with the facts. garble, V.

**gargantuan** ADJ. huge; enormous. The *gargantuan* wrestler was terrified of mice.

**gargoyle** V. waterspout carved in grotesque figures on building. The *gargoyles* adorning the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris are amusing in their grotesqueness.

**garish** ADJ. gaudy. She wore a *garish* rhinestone necklace.

- garner** v. gather; store up. She hoped to *garner* the world's literature in one library.
- garnish** v. decorate. Parsley was used to *garnish* the boiled potato. also n.
- garrulity** n. talkativeness. The man who married a dumb wife asked the doctor to make him deaf because of his wife's *garrulity* after her cure.
- garrulous** ADJ. loquacious; wordy. Many members avoided the company of the *garrulous* old gentleman because his constant chatter on trivial matters bored them.
- gastronomy** n. science of preparing and serving good food. One of the by-products of his trip to Europe was his interest in *gastronomy*; he enjoyed preparing and serving foreign dishes to his friends.
- gauche** ADJ. clumsy; boorish. Such remarks are *gauche* and out of place; you should apologize for making them.
- gaudy** ADJ. flashy; showy. Her *gaudy* taste in clothes appalled us.
- gaunt** ADJ. lean and angular; barren. His once round face looked surprisingly *gaunt* after he had lost weight.
- gazette** n. official periodical publication. He read the *gazettes* regularly for the announcement of his promotion.
- genealogy** n. record of descent; lineage. He was proud of his *genealogy* and constantly referred to the achievements of his ancestors.
- generality** n. vague statement. This report is filled with *generalities*; you must be more specific in your statements.
- generic** ADJ. characteristic of a class or species. You have made the mistake of thinking that his behavior is *generic*; actually, very few of his group behave the way he does.
- genesis** n. beginning; origin. Tracing the *genesis* of a family is the theme of *Roots*.
- geniality** n. cheerfulness; kindness; sympathy. This restaurant is famous and popular because of the *geniality* of the proprietor who tries to make everyone happy.
- genre** n. particular variety of art or literature. Both a short story writer and a poet, Langston Hughes proved himself equally skilled in either *genre*.
- genteel** ADJ. well-bred; elegant. We are looking for a man with a *genteel* appearance who can inspire confidence by his cultivated manner.
- gentility** n. those of gentle birth; refinement. Her family was proud of its *gentility* and elegance.
- gentry** n. people of standing; class of people just below nobility. The local *gentry* did not welcome the visits of the summer tourists and tried to ignore their presence in the community.
- genuflect** v. bend the knee as in worship. A proud democrat, he refused to *genuflect* to any man.
- germane** ADJ. pertinent; bearing upon the case at hand. The lawyer objected that the testimony being offered was not *germane* to the case at hand.
- germinal** ADJ. pertaining to a germ; creative. Such an idea is *germinal*; I am certain that it will influence thinkers and philosophers for many generations.
- germinate** v. cause to sprout; sprout. After the seeds *germinate* and develop their permanent leaves, the plants may be removed from the cold frames and transplanted to the garden.
- gestate** v. evolve, as in prenatal growth. While this scheme was being *gestated* by the conspirators, they maintained complete silence about their intentions.
- gesticulation** n. motion; gesture. Operatic performers are trained to make exaggerated *gesticulations* because of the large auditoriums in which they appear.
- ghastly** ADJ. horrible. The murdered man was a *ghastly* sight.
- gibber** v. speak foolishly. The demented man *gibbered* incoherently.
- gibe** v. mock. As you *gibe* at their superstitious beliefs, do you realize that you, too, are guilty of similarly foolish thoughts?
- giddy** ADJ. light-hearted; dizzy. He felt his *giddy* youth was past.
- gingerly** ADV. very carefully. To separate egg whites, first crack the egg *gingerly*.
- girth** n. distance around something; circumference. It took an extra-large cummerbund to fit around Andrew Carnegie's considerable *girth*.
- gist** n. essence. She was asked to give the *gist* of the essay in two sentences.
- glacial** ADJ. like a glacier; extremely cold. Never a warm person, when offended John could seem positively *glacial*.
- glaze** v. cover with a thin and shiny surface. The freezing rain *glazed* the streets and made driving hazardous. also n.
- glib** ADJ. fluent. He is a *glib* and articulate speaker.
- gloat** v. express evil satisfaction; view malevolently. As you *gloat* over your ill-gotten wealth, do you think of the many victims you have defrauded?
- glossary** n. brief explanation of words used in the text. I have found the *glossary* in this book very useful; it has eliminated many trips to the dictionary.
- glossy** ADJ. smooth and shining. I want this photograph printed on *glossy* paper, not matte.
- glower** v. scowl. The angry boy *glowered* at his father.
- glut** v. overstock; fill to excess. The many manufacturers *glutted* the market and could not find purchasers for the many articles they had produced. also n.
- glutinous** ADJ. sticky; viscous. Molasses is a *glutinous* substance.
- **glutton** n. someone who eats too much. When Mother saw that Bobby had eaten all the cookies, she called him a little *glutton*. gluttonous, ADJ.
- gnarled** ADJ. twisted. The *gnarled* oak tree had been a landmark for years and was mentioned in several deeds.
- gnome** n. dwarf; underground spirit. In medieval mythol-

ogy, *gnomes* were the special guardians and inhabitants of subterranean mines.

**goad** v. urge on. He was *goaded* by his friends until he yielded to their wishes. also N.

**gorge** N. small, steep-walled canyon. The white-water rafting guide warned us about the rapids further downstream, where the river cut through a narrow *gorge*.

**gorge** v. stuff oneself. The gluttonous guest *gorged* himself with food as though he had not eaten for days.

**gory** ADJ. bloody. The audience shuddered as they listened to the details of the *gory* massacre.

**gossamer** ADJ. sheer; like cobwebs. Nylon can be woven into *gossamer* or thick fabrics. also N.

## Word List 22 gouge-hiatus

**gouge** v. tear out. In that fight, all the rules were forgotten; the adversaries bit, kicked, and tried to *gouge* each other's eyes out.

**gourmand** N. epicure; person who takes excessive pleasure in food and drink. The *gourmand* liked the French cuisine.

**gourmet** N. connoisseur of food and drink. The *gourmet* stated that this was the best onion soup she had ever tasted.

**graduated** ADJ. arranged by degrees (of height, difficulty, etc.). Margaret loved her *graduated* set of Russian hollow wooden dolls; she spent hours happily putting the smaller dolls into their larger counterparts.

**grandiloquent** ADJ. pompous; bombastic; using high-sounding language. The politician could never speak simply; she was always *grandiloquent*.

**grandiose** ADJ. imposing; impressive. His *grandiose* manner impressed those who met him for the first time.

**granulate** v. form into grains. Sugar that has been *granulated* dissolves more readily than lump sugar. granule, N.

**graphic** ADJ. pertaining to the art of delineating; vividly described. I was particularly impressed by the *graphic* presentation of the storm.

**grapple** v. wrestle; come to grips with. He *grappled* with the burglar and overpowered him.

**grate** v. make a harsh noise; have an unpleasant effect; shred. The screams of the quarreling children *grated* on her nerves.

**gratify** v. please. Her parents were *gratified* by her success.

**gratis** ADJ. free. The company offered to give one package *gratis* to every purchaser of one of their products. also ADJ.

**gratuitous** ADJ. given freely; unwarranted. I resent your *gratuitous* remarks because no one asked for them.

**gratuity** N. tip. Many service employees rely more on *gratuities* than on salaries for their livelihood.

■ **gravity** N. seriousness. We could tell we were in serious trouble from the *gravity* of her expression. (secondary meaning) grave, ADJ.

■ **gregarious** ADJ. sociable. She was not *gregarious* and preferred to be alone most of the time.

**grievance** N. cause of complaint. When her supervisor ignored her complaint, she took her *grievance* to the union.

**grill** v. question severely. In violation of the Miranda law, the

police *grilled* the suspect for several hours before reading him his rights. (secondary meaning)

**grimace** N. a facial distortion to show feeling such as pain, disgust, etc. Even though he remained silent, his *grimace* indicated his displeasure. also v.

**grisly** ADJ. ghastly. She shuddered at the *grisly* sight.

**grouse** v. complain; fuss. Students traditionally *grouse* about the abysmal quality of "mystery meat" and similar dormitory food.

**grotesque** ADJ. fantastic; comically hideous. On Halloween people enjoy wearing *grotesque* costumes.

**grotto** N. small cavern. The Blue *Grotto* in Capri can be entered only by small boats rowed by natives through a natural opening in the rocks.

**grovel** v. crawl or creep on ground; remain prostrate. Even though we have been defeated, we do not have to *grovel* before our conquerors.

**grudging** ADJ. unwilling; reluctant; stingy. We received only *grudging* support from the mayor despite his earlier promises of aid.

**gruel** v. liquid food made by boiling oatmeal, etc., in milk or water. Our daily allotment of *gruel* made the meal not only monotonous but also unpalatable.

**grueling** ADJ. exhausting. The marathon is a *grueling* race.

**gruesome** ADJ. grisly. People screamed when her *gruesome* appearance was flashed on the screen.

**gruff** ADJ. rough-mannered. Although he was blunt and *gruff* with most people, he was always gentle with children.

**guffaw** N. boisterous laughter. The loud *guffaws* that came from the closed room indicated that the members of the committee had not yet settled down to serious business. also v.

■ **guile** N. deceit; duplicity. She achieved her high position by *guile* and treachery.

**guileless** ADJ. without deceit. He is naive, simple, and *guileless*; he cannot be guilty of fraud.

**guise** N. appearance; costume. In the *guise* of a plumber, the detective investigated the murder case.

■ **gullible** ADJ. easily deceived. He preyed upon *gullible* people, who believed his stories of easy wealth.

**gustatory** ADJ. affecting the sense of taste. The Thai restaurant offered an unusual *gustatory* experience for those used to a bland cuisine.

**gusto** N. enjoyment; enthusiasm. He accepted the assignment with such *gusto* that I feel he would have been satisfied with a smaller salary.

**gusty** ADJ. windy. The *gusty* weather made sailing precarious.

- **hackneyed** ADJ. commonplace; trite. The English teacher criticized her story because of its *hackneyed* and unoriginal plot.

**haggard** ADJ. wasted away; gaunt. After his long illness, he was pale and *haggard*.

**haggle** V. argue about prices. I prefer to shop in a store that has a one-price policy because, whenever I *haggle* with a shopkeeper, I am never certain that I paid a fair price for the articles I purchased.

**halcyon** ADJ. calm; peaceful. In those *halcyon* days, people were not worried about sneak attacks and bombings.

**hale** ADJ. healthy. After a brief illness, he was soon *hale*.

**hallowed** ADJ. blessed; consecrated. She was laid to rest in *hallowed* ground.

**hallucination** N. delusion. I think you were frightened by a *hallucination* you created in your own mind.

- **hamper** V. obstruct. The minority party agreed not to *hamper* the efforts of the leaders to secure a lasting peace.

**hap** N. chance; luck. In his poem *Hap*, Thomas Hardy objects to the part chance plays in our lives.

- **haphazard** ADJ. random; by chance. His *haphazard* reading left him unacquainted with the authors of the books.

**hapless** ADJ. unfortunate. This *hapless* creature had never known a moment's pleasure.

**harangue** N. noisy speech. In her lengthy *harangue*, the principal berated the offenders. also v.

**harass** V. to annoy by repeated attacks. When he could not pay his bills as quickly as he had promised, he was *harassed* by his creditors.

**harbinger** N. forerunner. The crocus is an early *harbinger* of spring.

**harbor** V. provide a refuge for; hide. The church *harbored* illegal aliens who were political refugees.

- **hardy** ADJ. sturdy; robust; able to stand inclement weather. We asked the gardening expert to recommend particularly *hardy* plants that could withstand our harsh New England winters.

**harping** N. tiresome dwelling on a subject. After he had reminded me several times about what he had done for me, I told him to stop *harping* on my indebtedness to him. harp, v.

**harrow** V. break up ground after plowing; torture. I don't want to *harrow* you at this time by asking you to recall the details of your unpleasant experience.

**harry** V. raid. The guerrilla band *harried* the enemy nightly.

- **haughtiness** N. pride; arrogance. I resent his *haughtiness*

because he is no better than we are.

**hazardous** ADJ. dangerous. Your occupation is too *hazardous* for insurance companies to consider your application.

**hazy** ADJ. slightly obscure. In *hazy* weather, you cannot see the top of this mountain.

**heckler** N. person who harasses others. The *heckler* kept interrupting the speaker with rude remarks. heckle, v.

- **hedonism** N. belief that pleasure is the sole aim in life. *Hedonism* and asceticism are opposing philosophies of human behavior.

- **heed** V. pay attention to; consider. We hope you *heed* our advice and get a good night's sleep before the test. also N.

**heedless** ADJ. not noticing; disregarding. He drove on, *heedless* of the danger warnings placed at the side of the road.

**heinous** ADJ. atrocious; hatefully bad. Hitler's *heinous* crimes will never be forgotten.

**herbivorous** ADJ. grain-eating. Some *herbivorous* animals have two stomachs for digesting their food.

- **heresy** N. opinion contrary to popular belief; opinion contrary to accepted religion. He was threatened with excommunication because his remarks were considered to be pure *heresy*.

**heretic** N. person who maintains opinions contrary to the doctrines of the church. She was punished by the Spanish Inquisition because she was a *heretic*.

**hermetically** ADV. sealed by fusion so as to be airtight. After these bandages are sterilized, they are placed in *hermetically* sealed containers.

**hermitage** N. home of a hermit. Even in his remote *hermitage* he could not escape completely from the world.

**herpetologist** N. one who studies reptiles. As a boy, Indiana Jones had a traumatic experience involving snakes; sensibly enough, he studied to be an archaeologist, not a *herpetologist*.

**heterodox** ADJ. unorthodox; unconventional. To those who upheld the belief that the earth did not move, Galileo's theory that the earth circled the sun was disturbingly *heterodox*.

**heterogeneous** ADJ. dissimilar. In *heterogeneous* groupings, we have an unassorted grouping, while in homogeneous groupings we have people or things that have common traits.

**hew** V. cut to pieces with ax or sword. The cavalry rushed into the melee and *hewed* the enemy with their swords.

**heyday** N. time of greatest success; prime. In their *heyday*, the San Francisco Forty-Niners won the Super Bowl two years running.

**hiatus** N. gap; pause. Except for a brief two-year *hiatus*, during which she enrolled in the Peace Corps, Ms. Clements has devoted herself to her medical career.

## Word List 23 hiberna-imbibe

- hibernal** ADJ. wintry. Bears prepare for their long *hibernal* sleep by overeating.
- hibernate** v. sleep throughout the winter. Bears are one of the many species of animals that *hibernate*. hibernation, N.
- hierarchy** N. body divided into ranks. It was difficult to step out of one's place in this *hierarchy*.
- hieroglyphic** N. picture writing. The discovery of the Rosetta Stone enabled scholars to read the ancient Egyptian *hieroglyphics*.
- hilarity** N. boisterous mirth. This *hilarity* is improper on this solemn day of mourning.
- hindmost** ADJ. furthest behind. The coward could always be found in the *hindmost* lines whenever a battle was being waged.
- hindrance** N. block; obstacle. Stalled cars along the highway are a *hindrance* to traffic that tow trucks should remove without delay. hinder, v.
- hireling** N. one who serves for hire [usually used contemptuously]. In a matter of such importance, I do not wish to deal with *hirelings*; I must meet with the chief.
- hirsute** ADJ. hairy. He was a *hirsute* individual with a heavy black beard.
- histrionic** ADJ. theatrical. He was proud of his *histrionic* ability and wanted to play the role of Hamlet. histrionics, N.
- hoard** v. stockpile; accumulate for future use. Whenever there are rumors of a food shortage, many people are tempted to *hoard* food. also N.
- hoary** ADJ. white with age. The man was *hoary* and wrinkled when he was 70.
- hoax** N. trick; practical joke. Embarrassed by the *hoax*, he reddened and left the room. also v.
- holocaust** N. destruction by fire. Citizens of San Francisco remember that the destruction of the city was caused not by the earthquake but by the *holocaust* that followed.
- holster** N. pistol case. Even when he was not in uniform, he carried a *holster* and pistol under his arm.
- homage** N. honor; tribute. In her speech she tried to pay *homage* to a great man.
- homespun** ADJ. domestic; made at home. *Homespun* wit like *homespun* cloth was often coarse and plain.
- **homogeneous** ADJ. of the same kind. Educators try to put pupils of similar abilities into classes because they believe that this *homogeneous* grouping is advisable. homogeneity, N.
- hone** v. sharpen. To make shaving easier, he *honed* his razor with great care.
- hoodwink** v. deceive; delude. Having been *hoodwinked* once by the fast-talking salesman, he was extremely cautious when he went to purchase a used car.
- horde** N. crowd. Just before Christmas the stores are filled with *hordes* of shoppers.
- horticultural** ADJ. pertaining to cultivation of gardens. When he bought his house, he began to look for flowers and decorative shrubs, and began to read books dealing with *horticultural* matters.
- hovel** N. shack; small, wretched house. He wondered how poor people could stand living in such a *hovel*.
- hover** v. hang about; wait nearby. The police helicopter *hovered* above the accident.
- hubbub** N. confused uproar. The marketplace was a scene of *hubbub* and excitement; in all the noise, we could not distinguish particular voices.
- hue** N. color; aspect. The aviary contained birds of every possible *hue*.
- **humane** ADJ. kind. His *humane* and considerate treatment of the unfortunate endeared him to all.
- humdrum** ADJ. dull; monotonous. After his years of adventure, he could not settle down to a *humdrum* existence.
- humid** ADJ. damp. She could not stand the *humid* climate and moved to a drier area.
- humility** N. humbleness of spirit. He spoke with a *humility* and lack of pride that impressed his listeners.
- humus** N. substance formed by decaying vegetable matter. In order to improve his garden, he spread *humus* over his lawn and flower beds.
- hurtle** v. crash; rush. The runaway train *hurtled* towards disaster.
- husbandry** N. frugality; thrift; agriculture. He accumulated his small fortune by diligence and *husbandry*. husband, v.
- hybrid** N. mongrel; mixed breed. Mendel's formula explains the appearance of *hybrids* and pure species in breeding. also ADJ.
- hydrophobia** N. rabies; fear of water. A dog that bites a human being must be observed for symptoms of *hydrophobia*.
- hyperbole** N. exaggeration; overstatement. This salesman is guilty of *hyperbole* in describing his product; it is wise to discount his claims. hyperbolic, ADJ.
- hypercritical** ADJ. excessively exacting. You are *hypercritical* in your demands for perfection; we all make mistakes.
- hypochondriac** N. person unduly worried about his health; worrier without cause about illness. The doctor prescribed chocolate pills for his patient who was a *hypochondriac*.
- **hypocritical** ADJ. pretending to be virtuous; deceiving. I resent his *hypocritical* posing as a friend for I know he is interested only in his own advancement. hypocrisy, N.
- **hypothetical** ADJ. based on assumptions or hypotheses. Why do we have to consider *hypothetical* cases when we have actual case histories that we may examine? hypothesis, N.
- ichthyology** N. study of fish. Jacques Cousteau's programs about sea life have advanced the cause of *ichthyology*.
- icon** N. religious image; idol. The *icons* on the walls of the church were painted in the 13th century.
- iconoclastic** ADJ. attacking cherished traditions. George

Bernard Shaw's *iconoclastic* plays often startled more conventional people. *iconoclasm*, N.

**ideology** N. ideas of a group of people. That *ideology* is dangerous to this country because it embraces undemocratic philosophies.

**idiom** N. special usage in language. I could not understand their *idiom* because literal translation made no sense.

**idiosyncrasy** N. peculiarity; eccentricity. One of his personal *idiosyncrasies* was his habit of rinsing all cutlery given him in a restaurant.

**idiosyncratic** ADJ. private; peculiar to an individual. Such behavior is *idiosyncratic*; it is as easily identifiable as a signature.

**idolatry** N. worship of idols; excessive admiration. Such *idolatry* of singers of country music is typical of the excessive enthusiasm of youth.

**idyllic** ADJ. charmingly carefree; simple. Far from the city, she led an *idyllic* existence in her rural retreat.

**igneous** ADJ. produced by fire; volcanic. Lava, pumice, and other *igneous* rocks are found in great abundance around Mount Vesuvius near Naples.

**ignoble** ADJ. of lowly origin; unworthy. This plan is inspired by *ignoble* motives and I must, therefore, oppose it.

**ignominious** ADJ. disgraceful. The country smarted under the *ignominious* defeat and dreamed of the day when it would be victorious. *ignominy*, N.

**illicit** ADJ. illegal. The defense attorney maintained that his client had never performed any *illicit* action.

**illimitable** ADJ. infinite. Man, having explored the far corners of the earth, is now reaching out into *illimitable* space.

**illuminate** V. brighten; clear up or make understandable; enlighten. Just as a lamp can *illuminate* a dark room, a perceptive comment can *illuminate* a knotty problem.

**illusion** N. misleading vision. It is easy to create an optical *illusion* in which lines of equal length appear different.

**illusory** ADJ. deceiving. This is only a mirage; let us not be fooled by its *illusory* effect.

**illusory** ADJ. deceptive; not real. Unfortunately, the costs of running the lemonade stand were so high that Tom's profits proved *illusory*.

**imbalance** N. lack of balance or symmetry; disproportion. Because of the great *imbalance* between the number of males and females invited, the dance was unsuccessful.

**imbecility** N. weakness of mind. I am amazed at the *imbecility* of the readers of these trashy magazines.

**imbibe** V. drink in. The dry soil *imbibed* the rain quickly.

## Word List 24 immaculate-incessant

**immaculate** ADJ. pure; spotless. The West Point cadets were *immaculate* as they lined up for inspection.

**imminent** ADJ. impending; near at hand. The *imminent* battle will soon determine our success or failure in this conflict.

**immobility** N. state of being immovable. Modern armies cannot afford the luxury of *immobility*, as they are vulnerable to attack while standing still.

**immune** ADJ. exempt. He was fortunately *immune* to the disease and could take care of the sick.

■ **immutable** ADJ. unchangeable. Scientists are constantly seeking to discover the *immutable* laws of nature.

■ **impair** V. worsen; diminish in value. This arrest will *impair* her reputation in the community.

**impale** V. pierce. He was *impaled* by the spear hurled by his adversary.

**impalpable** ADJ. imperceptible; intangible. The ash is so fine that it is *impalpable* to the touch but it can be seen as a fine layer covering the window ledge.

**impartial** ADJ. not biased; fair. As members of the jury, you must be *impartial*, showing no favoritism to either party but judging the case on its merits.

**impasse** N. predicament from which there is no escape. In this *impasse*, all turned to prayer as their last hope.

■ **impassive** ADJ. without feeling; not affected by pain. The American Indian has been incorrectly depicted as an

*impassive* individual, undemonstrative and stoical.

**impeach** V. charge with crime in office; indict. The angry congressman wanted to *impeach* the President for his misdeeds.

**impeccable** ADJ. faultless. He was proud of his *impeccable* manners.

**impecunious** ADJ. without money. Now that he was wealthy, he gladly contributed to funds to assist the *impecunious* and the disabled.

■ **impede** V. hinder; block; delay. A series of accidents *impeded* the launching of the space shuttle.

**impediment** N. hindrance; stumbling-block. She had a speech *impediment* that prevented her speaking clearly.

**impenetrable** ADJ. not able to be pierced or entered; beyond understanding. How could the murderer have gotten into the locked room? To Watson, the mystery, like the room, was *impenetrable*.

**impending** ADJ. nearing; approaching. The entire country was saddened by the news of his *impending* death.

**impenitent** ADJ. not repentant. We could see by his brazen attitude that he was *impenitent*.

**imperial** ADJ. like an emperor; related to an empire. When hotel owner Leona Helmsley appeared in ads as Queen Leona standing guard over the Palace Hotel, her critics mocked her *imperial* fancies.

- imperious** ADJ. domineering. His *imperious* manner indicated that he had long been accustomed to assuming command.
- impermeable** ADJ. impervious; not permitting passage through its substance. This new material is *impermeable* to liquids.
- impertinent** ADJ. insolent. I regard your remarks as *impertinent* and I resent them.
- imperturbable** ADJ. calm; placid. He remained *imperturbable* and in full command of the situation in spite of the hysteria and panic all around him.
- impervious** ADJ. not penetrable; not permitting passage through. You cannot change their habits for their minds are *impervious* to reasoning.
- impetuous** ADJ. violent; hasty; rash. We tried to curb his *impetuous* behavior because we felt that in his haste he might offend some people.
- impetus** N. moving force. It is a miracle that there were any survivors since the two automobiles that collided were traveling with great *impetus*.
- impiety** N. irreverence; wickedness. We must regard your blasphemy as an act of *impiety*.
- impinge** V. infringe; touch; collide with. How could they be married without *impinging* on one another's freedom?
- impious** ADJ. irreverent. The congregation was offended by her *impious* remarks.
- implacable** ADJ. incapable of being pacified. Madame Defarge was the *implacable* enemy of the Evremonde family.
- implausible** ADJ. unlikely; unbelievable. Though her alibi seemed *implausible*, it in fact turned out to be true.
- **implement** V. put into effect; supply with tools. The mayor was unwilling to *implement* the plan until she was sure it had the governor's backing. also N.
- **implication** N. that which is hinted at or suggested. If I understand the *implications* of your remark, you do not trust our captain.
- **implicit** ADJ. understood but not stated. It is *implicit* that you will come to our aid if we are attacked.
- implore** V. beg. He *implored* her to give him a second chance.
- imply** V. suggest a meaning not expressed; signify. Even though your statement does not declare that you are at war with that country, your actions *imply* that that is the actual situation.
- impolitic** ADJ. not wise. I think it is *impolitic* to raise this issue at the present time because the public is too angry.
- imponderable** ADJ. weightless. I can evaluate the data gathered in this study; the *imponderable* items are not so easily analyzed.
- import** N. significance. I feel that you have not grasped the full *import* of the message sent to us by the enemy.
- importunate** ADJ. urging; demanding. He tried to hide from his *importunate* creditors until his allowance arrived.
- importune** V. beg earnestly. I must *importune* you to work for peace at this time.
- impostor** N. someone who assumes a false identity. Holmes exposed the doctor as an *impostor*.
- impotent** ADJ. weak; ineffective. Although he wished to break the nicotine habit, he found himself *impotent* in resisting the craving for a cigarette.
- impoverished** ADJ. poor. The loss of their farm left the family *impoverished* and without hope.
- impregnable** ADJ. invulnerable. Until the development of the airplane as a military weapon, the fort was considered *impregnable*.
- impromptu** ADJ. without previous preparation. Her listeners were amazed that such a thorough presentation could be made in an *impromptu* speech.
- impropriety** N. state of being inappropriate. Because of the *impropriety* of his costume, he was denied entrance into the dining room.
- improvident** ADJ. thriftless. He was constantly being warned to mend his *improvident* ways and begin to "save for a rainy day." *improvidence*, N.
- improvise** V. compose on the spur of the moment. She would sit at the piano and *improvise* for hours on themes from Bach and Handel.
- imprudent** ADJ. lacking caution; injudicious. It is *imprudent* to exercise vigorously and become overheated when you are unwell.
- impugn** V. doubt; challenge; gainsay. I cannot *impugn* your honesty without evidence.
- impunity** N. freedom from punishment. The bully mistreated everyone in the class with *impunity* for he felt that no one would dare retaliate.
- impute** V. attribute; ascribe. If I wished to *impute* blame to the officers in charge of this program, I would come out and state it definitely and without hesitation.
- **inadvertently** ADV. carelessly; unintentionally; by oversight. She *inadvertently* omitted two questions on the examination and mismarked her answer sheet.
- inalienable** ADJ. not to be taken away; nontransferable. The Declaration of Independence mentions the *inalienable* rights that all of us possess.
- **inane** ADJ. silly; senseless. Such comments are *inane* because they do not help us solve our problem. *inanity*, N.
- inanimate** ADJ. lifeless. She was asked to identify the still and *inanimate* body.
- inarticulate** ADJ. speechless; producing indistinct speech. He became *inarticulate* with rage and uttered sounds without meaning.
- **inaugurate** V. start; initiate; install in office. The airline decided to *inaugurate* its new route to the Far East with a special reduced fare offer. *inaugural*, ADJ.
- incandescent** ADJ. strikingly bright; shining with intense heat. If you leave on an *incandescent* light bulb, it quickly grows too hot to touch.
- incantation** N. singing or chanting of magic spells; magical formula. Uttering *incantations* to make the brew more potent, the witch doctor stirred the liquid in the caldron.
- incapacitate** V. disable. During the winter, many people were *incapacitated* by respiratory ailments.

**incarcerate** v. imprison. The warden will *incarcerate* the felon after conviction.

**incarnate** ADJ. endowed with flesh; personified. Your attitude is so fiendish that you must be a devil *incarnate*.

**incarnation** N. act of assuming a human body and human nature. The *incarnation* of Jesus Christ is a basic tenet of Christian theology.

**incendiary** N. arsonist. The fire spread in such an unusual manner that the fire department chiefs were certain that it had been set by an *incendiary*. also ADJ.

**incense** v. enrage; infuriate. Unkindness to children *incensed* her.

**incentive** N. spur; motive. Students who dislike school must be given an *incentive* to learn.

**inception** N. start; beginning. She was involved with the project from its *inception*.

■ **incessant** ADJ. uninterrupted. The crickets kept up an *incessant* chirping that disturbed our attempts to fall asleep.

## Word List 25 inchoate-ingenious

**inchoate** ADJ. recently begun; rudimentary; elementary. Before the Creation, the world was an *inchoate* mass.

**incidence** N. rate of occurrence; particular occurrence. Health professionals expressed great concern over the high *incidence* of infant mortality in major urban areas.

■ **incidental** ADJ. not essential; minor. The scholarship covered his major expenses at college and some of his *incidental* expenses as well.

**incipient** ADJ. beginning; in an early stage. I will go to sleep early for I want to break an *incipient* cold.

■ **incisive** ADJ. cutting; sharp. His *incisive* remarks made us see the fallacy in our plans.

■ **incite** v. arouse to action. The demagogue *incited* the mob to take action into its own hands.

**inclement** ADJ. stormy; unkind. I like to read a good book in *inclement* weather.

**incline** N. slope; slant. The architect recommended that the nursing home's ramp be rebuilt because its *incline* was too steep for wheelchairs.

**inclined** ADJ. tending or leaning toward; bent. Though I am *inclined* to be skeptical, the witness's manner *inclines* me to believe his story. also v.

■ **inclusive** ADJ. tending to include all. This meeting will run from January 10 to February 15 *inclusive*.

**incognito** ADV. with identity concealed; using an assumed name. The monarch enjoyed traveling through the town *incognito* and mingling with the populace. also ADJ.

**incoherent** ADJ. unintelligible; muddled; illogical. The bereaved father sobbed and stammered, his words becoming almost *incoherent* in his grief. *incoherence*, N.

**incommodious** ADJ. not spacious. In their *incommodious* quarters, they had to improvise for closet space.

**incompatible** ADJ. inharmonious. The married couple argued incessantly and finally decided to separate because they were *incompatible*. *incompatibility*, N.

■ **incongruous** ADJ. not fitting; absurd. Dave saw nothing *incongruous* about wearing sneakers with his tuxedo; he couldn't understand why his date took one look at him and started to laugh. *incongruity*, N.

■ **inconsequential** ADJ. of trifling significance. Your objections are *inconsequential* and may be disregarded.

**incontinent** ADJ. lacking self-restraint; licentious. His *incontinent* behavior off stage shocked many people and they refused to attend the plays and movies in which he appeared.

■ **incontrovertible** ADJ. indisputable. We must yield to the *incontrovertible* evidence which you have presented and free your client.

**incorporeal** ADJ. immaterial; without a material body. We must devote time to the needs of our *incorporeal* mind as well as our corporeal body.

■ **incorrigible** ADJ. uncorrectable. Because he was an *incorrigible* criminal, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

**incredulity** N. a tendency to disbelief. Your *incredulity* in the face of all the evidence is hard to understand.

**incredulous** ADJ. withholding belief; skeptical. The *incredulous* judge refused to accept the statement of the defendant.

**increment** N. increase. The new contract calls for a 10 percent *increment* in salary for each employee for the next two years.

**incriminate** v. accuse. The evidence gathered against the racketeers *incriminates* some high public officials as well.

**incubate** v. hatch; scheme. Inasmuch as our supply of electricity is cut off, we shall have to rely on the hens to *incubate* these eggs.

**incumbent** N. officeholder. The newly elected public official received valuable advice from the present *incumbent*. also ADJ.

**incur** v. bring upon oneself. His parents refused to pay any future debts he might *incur*.

**incursion** N. temporary invasion. The nightly *incursions* and hit-and-run raids of our neighbors across the border tried the patience of the country to the point where we decided to retaliate in force.

**indefatigable** ADJ. tireless. He was *indefatigable* in his constant efforts to raise funds for the Red Cross.

**indemnify** v. make secure against loss; compensate for loss. The city will *indemnify* all home owners whose property is spoiled by this project.



- indenture** v. bind as servant or apprentice to master. Many immigrants could come to America only after they had *indentured* themselves for several years. also n.
- indicative** ADJ. suggestive; implying. A lack of appetite may be *indicative* of a major mental or physical disorder.
- **indict** v. charge. If the grand jury *indicts* the suspect, he will go to trial. indictment, n.
- **indifferent** ADJ. unmoved; lacking concern. Because she felt no desire to marry, she was *indifferent* to his constant proposals.
- indigenous** ADJ. native. Tobacco is one of the *indigenous* plants the early explorers found in this country.
- indigent** ADJ. poor. Because he was *indigent*, he was sent to the welfare office. indigence, n.
- indignation** n. anger at an injustice. He felt *indignation* at the ill-treatment of helpless animals.
- indignity** n. offensive or insulting treatment. Although he seemed to accept cheerfully the *indignities* heaped upon him, he was inwardly very angry.
- **indiscriminate** ADJ. choosing at random; confused. She disapproved of her son's *indiscriminate* television viewing and decided to restrict him to educational programs.
- indisputable** ADJ. too certain to be disputed. In the face of these *indisputable* statements, I withdraw my complaint.
- indissoluble** ADJ. permanent. The *indissoluble* bonds of marriage are all too often being dissolved.
- **indolent** ADJ. lazy. The sultry weather in the tropics encourages tourists to lead an *indolent* life. indolence, n.
- indomitable** ADJ. unconquerable. The founders of our country had *indomitable* willpower.
- indubitably** ADV. beyond a doubt. Because her argument was *indubitably* valid, the judge accepted it.
- **induce** v. persuade; bring about. After the quarrel, Tina said nothing could *induce* her to talk to Tony again. inducement, n.
- inductive** ADJ. pertaining to induction or proceeding from the specific to the general. The discovery of the planet Pluto is an excellent example of the results that can be obtained from *inductive* reasoning.
- **indulgent** ADJ. humoring; yielding; lenient. *Indulgent* parents spoil their children by giving in to their every whim.
- inebriety** v. habitual intoxication. Because of his *inebriety*, he was discharged from his position as family chauffeur.
- ineffable** ADJ. unutterable; cannot be expressed in speech. Such *ineffable* joy must be experienced; it cannot be described.
- ineffectual** ADJ. not effective; weak. Because the candidate failed to get across his message to the public, his campaign was *ineffectual*.
- inept** ADJ. unsuited; absurd; incompetent. The constant turmoil in the office proved that she was an *inept* administrator.
- inequity** n. unfairness. In demanding equal pay for equal work, women protest the basic *inequity* of a system that gives greater financial rewards to men.
- **inert** ADJ. inactive; lacking power to move. Faced with the growing corruption scandal, the bureaucracy was *inert* and did nothing.
- inertia** n. state of being inert or indisposed to move. Our *inertia* in this matter may prove disastrous; we must move to aid our allies immediately.
- inevitable** ADJ. unavoidable. Death and taxes are both *inevitable*.
- inexorable** ADJ. relentless; unyielding; implacable. After listening to the pleas for clemency, the judge was *inexorable* and gave the convicted man the maximum punishment allowed by law.
- infallible** ADJ. unerring. We must remember that none of us is *infallible*; we all make mistakes.
- **infamous** ADJ. notoriously bad. Jesse James was an *infamous* outlaw.
- infantile** ADJ. childish; infantile. When will he outgrow such *infantile* behavior?
- **infer** v. deduce; conclude. We must be particularly cautious when we *infer* that a person is guilty on the basis of circumstantial evidence.
- inference** n. conclusion drawn from data. I want you to check this *inference* because it may have been based on insufficient information.
- infernal** ADJ. pertaining to hell; devilish. They could think of no way to hinder his *infernal* scheme.
- informal** ADJ. lacking ceremony; casual. The English teacher preferred *informal* discussions to prepared lectures.
- infidel** n. unbeliever. The Saracens made war against the *infidels*.
- **infiltrate** v. pass into or through; penetrate (an organization) sneakily. In order to be able to *infiltrate* enemy lines at night without being seen, the scouts darkened their faces and wore black coveralls. infiltrator, n.
- infinitesimal** ADJ. very small. In the twentieth century, physicists have made their greatest discoveries about the characteristics of *infinitesimal* objects like the atom and its parts.
- infirmity** n. weakness. Her greatest *infirmity* was lack of willpower.
- inflated** ADJ. exaggerated; pompous; enlarged (with air or gas). His claims about the new product were *inflated*; it did not work as well as he had promised.
- influx** n. flowing into. The *influx* of refugees into the country has taxed the relief agencies severely.
- infraction** n. violation. Because of his many *infractions* of school regulations, he was suspended by the dean.
- infringe** v. violate; encroach. I think your machine *infringes* on my patent and I intend to sue.
- ingenious** ADJ. clever. He came up with an *ingenious* use for styrofoam packing balls and marketed his idea successfully. ingenuity, n.