**abjure**

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief

**abrogate**

revoke formally

**abstemious**

marked by temperance in indulgence

**acumen**

shrewdness shown by keen insight

**antebellum**

belonging to a period before a war

**auspicious**

auguring favorable circumstances and good luck

**belie**

be in contradiction with

**bellicose**

having or showing a ready disposition to fight

**bowdlerize**

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

**chicanery**

the use of tricks to deceive someone

**chromosome**

a threadlike strand of DNA that carries genes

**churlish**

having a bad disposition; surly

**circumlocution**

an indirect way of expressing something

**circumnavigate**

travel around, either by plane or ship

**deciduous**

shedding foliage at the end of the growing season

**deleterious**

harmful to living things

**diffident**

showing modest reserve

**enervate**

weaken mentally or morally

**enfranchise**

grant freedom to, as from slavery or servitude

**epiphany**

a divine manifestation

**equinox**

when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator

**evanescent**

tending to vanish like vapor

**expurgate**

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

**facetious**

cleverly amusing in tone

**fatuous**

devoid of intelligence

**feckless**

generally incompetent and ineffectual

**fiduciary**

relating to or of the nature of a legal trust

**filibuster**

a tactic for delaying legislation by making long speeches

**gamete**

a mature sexual reproductive cell

**gauche**

lacking social polish

**gerrymander**

divide voting districts unfairly and to one's advantage

**hegemony**

the dominance or leadership of one social group over others

**hemoglobin**

a hemoprotein that gives red blood cells their color

**homogeneous**

all of the same or similar kind or nature

**hubris**

overbearing pride or presumption

**hypotenuse**

the side of a right triangle opposite the right angle

**impeach**

bring an accusation against

**incognito**

without revealing one's identity

**incontrovertible**

impossible to deny or disprove

**inculcate**

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions

**infrastructure**

the basic features of a system or organization

**interpolate**

insert words into texts, often falsifying it thereby

**irony**

incongruity between what might be expected and what occurs

**jejune**

lacking interest or significance or impact

**kinetic**

relating to the motion of material bodies and their forces

**kowtow**

bend the knees and bow in a servile manner

**laissez faire**

a doctrine that government should not interfere in commerce

**lexicon**

a reference book containing an alphabetical list of words

**loquacious**

full of trivial conversation

**lugubrious**

excessively mournful

**metamorphosis**

striking change in appearance or character or circumstances

**mitosis**

the process by which a cell divides into two smaller cells

**moiety**

one of two approximately equal parts

**nanotechnology**

engineering that involves manipulating atoms and molecules

**nihilism**

complete denial of established authority and institutions

**nomenclature**

a system of words used to name things in a discipline

**nonsectarian**

not restricted to one school or party

**notarize**

authenticate by someone empowered to witness signatures

**obsequious**

attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery

**oligarchy**

a political system governed by a few people

**omnipotent**

having unlimited power

**orthography**

representing the sounds of a language by written symbols

**oxidize**

enter into a combination with oxygen

**parabola**

a curve formed by an object thrown in the air and falling

**paradigm**

a standard or typical example

**parameter**

a constant in the equation of a curve that can be varied

**pecuniary**

relating to or involving money

**photosynthesis**

synthesis of compounds in plants aided by radiant energy

**plagiarize**

take without referencing from someone's writing or speech

**plasma**

the watery fluid in which blood cells are suspended

**polymer**

a naturally occurring or synthetic compound

**precipitous**

extremely steep

**quasar**

a starlike object that may send out radio waves

**quotidian**

found in the ordinary course of events

**recapitulate**

summarize briefly

**reciprocal**

concerning each of two or more persons or things

**reparation**

something done or paid in expiation of a wrong

**respiration**

a single complete act of breathing in and out

**sanguine**

confidently optimistic and cheerful

**soliloquy**

speech you make to yourself

**subjugate**

make subservient; force to submit or subdue

**suffragist**

an advocate of the extension of voting rights

**supercilious**

having or showing arrogant superiority to

**tautology**

useless repetition

**taxonomy**

a classification of organisms based on similarities

**tectonic**

pertaining to the structure or movement of the earth's crust

**tempestuous**

characterized by violent emotions or behavior

**thermodynamics**

the branch of physics concerned with the conversion of different forms of energy

**totalitarian**

of a government with an authority exerting absolute control

**unctuous**

unpleasantly and excessively suave or ingratiating

**usurp**

seize and take control without authority

**vacuous**

devoid of matter

**vehement**

marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions

**vortex**

a powerful circular current of water

**winnow**

the act of separating grain from chaff

**wrought**

shaped to fit by altering the contours of a pliable mass

**xenophobia**

a fear of foreigners or strangers

**yeoman**

a free man who cultivates his own land

**ziggurat**

a rectangular tiered temple or terraced mound