

	A	B
361	secular <i>adj.</i> / secularism <i>n.</i> / secularist <i>n.</i>	1. worldly rather than spiritual; 2. not specifically relating to a religion or to a religious body. -- <i>In the Middle Ages, bishops commanded both religious and secular authority.</i> -- <i>Our church rents out some of its meeting space during the week to secular organizations, like the local music school.</i>
362	orthodoxy <i>n.</i> / orthodox <i>adj.</i> / unorthodox <i>adj.</i>	adhering to an accepted or traditional and established faith or rule or practice, esp. in religion -- <i>Some teachers treat rules specific only to their classrooms as if they were unquestionable orthodoxy.</i> -- <i>Other teachers adopt the unorthodox approach of allowing the students to grade themselves.</i>
363	heterodoxy <i>n.</i> / heterodox <i>adj.</i>	departing from a strict adherence to orthodoxy and curious about or solicitous of a VARIETY of non-orthodox ideas and practices -- <i>College campuses are often hotbeds of heterodoxy, as students from various backgrounds experiment with other's belief systems and challenge their own.</i>
364	doctrine <i>n.</i> / doctrinal <i>adj.</i>	the officially sanctioned, codified, and prescribed (think "doctor") beliefs and tenets of practice held by an established religion or church, frequently referenced and reiterated in its religious services, to which adherents and officers of that religion or church may be required to conform or to formally pledge their adherence in order to retain their status as regular members of a church or religious community -- <i>According to current Catholic doctrine, priests may not marry, whereas most Protestant ministers are unofficially expected to do so.</i>
365	dogma <i>n.</i> / dogmatic <i>adj.</i> / dogmatism <i>n.</i>	1. mainly synonymous with "doctrine," though the terms "dogma" or " dogmatic " will more often be used by outsiders to or critics of an established religion, especially when criticizing either the content of its core beliefs/tenets, and/or when criticizing over-strict or over-literal adherence to these beliefs/ tenets; 2. holding any sort of "official" belief in an over-strict or over-serious way -- <i>The teachers were dogmatic adherents of the virtues of standardized testing.</i> -- <i>I do believe a god exists, but I don't adhere to any specific religious dogma.</i>
366	heresy <i>n.</i> / heretical <i>adj.</i> / heretic <i>n.</i>	1. a religious belief opposed to the orthodox doctrines of a church; esp. a belief sepcifically denounced by the church and regarded as likely to cause schism; 2. any opinion (in philosophy or politics) opposed to official or established view -- <i>Questioning the divinity of Christ within the trinity was considered a heresy by the medieval church.</i> -- <i>Joan of Arc was initially burned at the stake as a heretic, but later canonized as a saint.</i> -- <i>In the house where I grew up, violations of grammar were considered heretical. Thus was I doomed to become an English teacher.</i>
367	penitent <i>adj.</i> & n. / penitence <i>n.</i>	feeling or expressing remorse or regret for one's misdeeds or sins; one who performs penance under the direction of a confessor [A person can be a "penitent" or can demonstrate "penitent" behavior, i.e. "penitence"] -- <i>Enduring an official punishment is hardly the same thing as expressing or feeling true penitence.</i>
368	atone <i>v.</i>	to make ammends or reparation, as for an offense or a crime -- <i>Her boyfriend brought her flowers to <u>atone</u> for standing her up last night.</i> -- <i>The prieset told her to say ten Hail Mary's to atone for her sin.</i>
369	disciple <i>n.</i> / discipleship <i>n.</i>	one who reveres the worldview of another and/or dedicates himself to the service of the other and/or and helps to spread the teachings of the other -- <i>Saint Peter was a <u>disciple</u> of Jesus.</i> -- <i>The graduate students of the famous nobel laureate in physics congregated around him as if they were his disciples.</i> [Notice COGNATES: "discipline" and "disciplinary"]
370	zealot <i>n.</i> / zealous <i>adj.</i>	one who is fanatically devoted to a cause [even more intense than "militant"] -- <i>The protest was led by a zealot who refused to stand away from the historical building that was about to be bulldozed in order to make way for a parking lot.</i>
371	agnostic <i>n.</i> & adj. / agnosticism <i>n.</i>	someone who believes that there can be no proof of the existence of god but does not deny the possibility that god exists -- <i>His agnostic views caused a conflict within his very religious family.</i> -- <i>The British philosopher Bertrand Russell is a famous agnostic.</i>
372	iconic <i>adj.</i> / icon <i>n.</i> / iconography <i>n.</i>	1. characteristic of an image/figure/picture that is so famous or memorably represented as to urge the beholder's uncritical, almost worship-like devotion, or at least his/her instant recognition; 2. [origin] stylized images of religious figures specifically produced to serve as a focus for religious devotion in churches or homes (like an image of a saint or a madonna); 3. types of icons or ways of using icons -- <i>Icons are commonly seen Greek Orthodox churches and homes.</i> -- <i>Marlon Brando's performances in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Godfather" helped make him an iconic movie star.</i> -- <i>The art history student compared subtle differences between Greek and Russian Orthodox iconography.</i>

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373	relic n. / reliquary n.	1. an object, custom, etc., that has survived, wholly or partially, from the past [often something that has historic interest, as in the body or part of the body of, or an object kept and revered as a memorial of, a saint, martyr, etc]; 2. place where relics are kept -- <i>Many European churches and cathedrals claim to house saintly relics, or even a fragment of "the true body" of Christ.</i> -- <i>My father lovingly maintains his 66 Mustang as a treasured relic from his youth.</i>
374	idol n. / idolatry n. / idolater n. / idolotrous adj.	1. an image of a god, used as an object or instrument of worship; 2. any object of ardent or excessive devotion or admiration [idolotry is idol-worship; idolater is an idol-worshipper; idolotrous is characteristic of idolotry/idoloters--all have negative connotations] -- <i>Moses scolded the ancient Israelites for worshipping false idols rather than Yah-weh, the one true g-d "who shall not be named."</i> -- <i>The very reverence of icons that Eastern Orthodox Christians might regard as faith-inspiring was criticized by early Protestants as sinful idolatry distracting them from the direct woship of God.</i>
375	temporal adj. / temporality n.	1. lasting only for a time; to do with time; 2. to do with life on earth or "worldiness" [vs. the spiritual, the eternal, or sometimes, the spatial] -- <i>Easy for her to act unconcerned with temporal matters: her dad's a millionaire.</i>
376	eternal adj / eternity n.	lasting forever; outside of time -- <i>In entering monastic life, monks and nuns vow to attend more to eternal than to temporal motives.</i>
377	transcend v. / transcendence n. / transcendent adj. / Transcendentalism n.	1. to pass (or to influence someone or someone's thoughts to pass) beyond the limits of; to be greater than "X" in intensity or power or significance; to exist above and independent of -- <i>Initially, I was reluctant to watch "Friday Night Lights," but once I saw the show, it totally transcended my expectations.</i> -- <i>I just don't get opera, but my mom finds it transcendent.</i> -- <i>Grow up, Jane. Just because Jill called you a "Barbie" in 4th grade shouldn't prevent you from transcending your differences and cooperating on the food drive.</i> -- 2. "Transcendentalism" is a mid-19th century philosophical "movement" that was an offshoot of European Romanticism, that promoted the virtues of individualism, ethical contemplation, and spirituality-detached-from-religious orthodoxy. Transcendentalists tended to be wary of the influences that industrialization, urbanism, and commercialism were having on American culture. Geographically centered in Concord MA and made famous by Ralph Waldo Emerson.
378	apparition n. / apparent adj. / apparently adv.	1. anything that appears suddenly or unexpectedly, so as to lend the impression that it is a ghost or a phantom; 2. appearing obvious or evident [but often used as a set-up to suggest that what is actually going on is something other than the obvious] -- <i>In her dreams she was visited by apparitions of her grandmother; dead these thirty years.</i> -- <i>"The apparation of these faces in the crowd/Petals on a wet, black bough" is a famous two-line poem by Ezra Pound entitled "In the Station of the Metro."</i> -- <i>Apparently the cop assumed Prof. Gates was a thief, when in fact he was merely entering his own house.</i>
379	exorcism n./ exorcize v.	to drive a (supposed) evil spirit out or away by ritual charms or incantations -- <i>The Salem witch trials were a misbegotten form of collective exorcism.</i>
380	ecclesiastical adj.	to do with the church (usually Catholic or Anglican) as an institution and organization -- <i>In ecclesiastical hierarchy, the office of bishop is higher than that of a priest or deacon.</i> -- <i>It is easy to distinguish ecclesiastical from domestic architecture.</i>
381	cleric or clergyman n. / clergy n. pl. / clerical adj. / clerk n.	1. ordained minister/ministers of a religion; to do with ordained ministers; 2. to do with menial office work; menial office worker or copyist -- <i>The application of the word "clerical" to both the work of priests and the work of secretaries must originate with the fact that so many medieval clergymen spent most of their time as scribes who copied manuscripts.</i> -- <i>In today's economy, many college graduates must reconcile themselves to the likelihood that their first jobs could be limited to clerical work.</i>
382	lay adj. / "the laity" n. / layman n.	1. [in religious contexts] to do with non-clergy members of a church-going population; 2. [in general contexts] a "layman" is a non-professional, a non-expert -- <i>Though the food pantry uses several rooms in the church, it is strictly a lay organization.</i> -- <i>I was bewildered by the doctor's initial diagnosis. He had to translate what he had said <u>into layman's terms.</u></i>

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383	ritual n. / ritualized adj. / ritualistic adj.	1. an established procedure for a religious rite; 2. a practice or pattern of behavior regularly performed in a set manner [to say some practice is "ritualized" is fairly neutral, as if you are merely commenting on the fact that it is marked by set, predictable steps; to say some practice is "ritualistic" <i>may</i> be to imply a criticism that the practice or the persons sustaining the practice are too rigid, stuck-in-the-mud, over-reverent, etc.] -- <i>Her daily make-up ritual takes a full half hour.</i>
384	revere v. / reverent adj. / reverently adv. / reverential adj.	to regard with profound respect tinged with awe -- <i>I think the reverential atmosphere cultivated by some art museums doesn't do art any favors, but can intimidate neophytes.</i> -- <i>She revered her father; in her eyes, he could do no wrong.</i>
385	venerate v. / veneration n. [cognate venereal, Venus]	to regard or behave towards with reverential respect or with admiring deference . . . just shy of "worship" ["venerate" is less common parlance than "revere"; "venerate" usually implies the performance of some kind of outwardly visible gesture, whereas "revere" tends to imply a way of thinking] -- <i>It is primarily Catholic and Orthodox Christians who <u>venerate</u> saints; but nearly all Christians <u>worship</u> Christ.</i> -- <i>For my grandfather, hand-washing his mint 1965 Mustang was not simply a weekly chore; it was an act of veneration.</i>
386	venerable adj.	of someone or something that has garnered deep respect and appreciation among significant numbers of persons over a prolonged period of time (usually a "venerable" person will be old, or even deceased, like a Lincoln or MLK who are "venerated" on annual holidays) -- <i>Sunday night Scrabble games are a venerable tradition in our family.</i>
387	adulate v./ adulation n.	to flatter servilely, praise extravagantly or excessively -- <i>Eager to share his spoils, Charlemagne's vassals missed no opportunity to publicly adulate the king's military prowess.</i> -- <i>My atheist friend considers all forms of religious practice to be acts of naive adulation.</i>
388	rapturous adj. / rapture n. / enrapture v.	marked by ecstatic joy or delight, as if one were seized up by a heavenly force -- <i>The rapturous sermon hushed the congregation.</i> -- <i>The conclusion of "Extreme Home Makeover" is the same every week: a formerly deprived family is enraptured once their new house is revealed.</i>
389	base adj.	morally low, dishonorable, disgraceful, vile, menial -- <i>The students capitulated to base instincts when they teased the newcomer.</i>
390	abase v.	to lower (often oneself) in rank, prestige, or esteem -- <i>It's depressing to see grown men and women abase themselves nightly on reality shows like "Fear Factor."</i> -- <i>Dobby the House elf snivvelingly <u>abases himself</u> to his masters.</i>
391	consecrate v. / consecration n.	to make or designate as "sacred" (of religious or otherwise profound emotional value) by means of some ceremonial gesture; to solemnly dedicate to some special purpose; to ordain to a sacred office; an official blessing by a priest -- <i>Once the construction was complete, the priests consecrated the new church before holding services.</i>
392	saint n. VS. martyr n.	In Catholic and Orthodox christianity, a " canonized " saint is officially recognized for having been a hero of the faith during his/her lifetime, who after death has become entitled to public veneration and is capable of interceding in heaven for souls still on earth ; In Protestant christianity, the term "saint" applies to all believers . . . A " martyr ," strictly speaking, is someone who suffers death as a direct consequence of their commitment to their religion or to some other cause to which they are dedicated. More loosely (and pejoratively), "martyr" can be used to describe/criticize someone who appears to seek persecution-as-recognition for their commitments , in a combined attitude of self-punishment and vanity. Many, but not all, canonized saints are also martyrs.
393	sanctify v. / sanctity n.	1. to purify or cleanse or release from the taint or habits of sin (sin considered as pollution); 2. holiness, "purity" or spotlessness in a religious or moral/reputational sense -- <i>Catholic tradition holds that worshippers should go to confession to sanctify themselves before receiving communion.</i> -- <i>She was obsessed with preserving the sanctity of her reputation.</i>
394	sanctuary n. / sacrosanct adj.	1. a safe or holy place, as of the chancel of a church; a place of refuge; 2. especially holy or inviolable (i.e., to violate the "sacrosanct" would be a major sin, not just an incidental mistake) -- <i>Thomas à Beckett took refuge in the sanctuary of Canterbury Cathedral.</i> -- <i>The privacy of personal financial records should be sacrosanct.</i>

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395	pulpit n.	raised lectern/podium in a church, facing the congregation, from which sermons are preached
396	altar n.	raised table in a place of worship, facing the congregation, upon which religious rites are performed [such as, in ancient times, animal sacrifice, but in modern times, more commonly, the blessing and distribution of ritual meals, as in the Christian eucharist, and the receiving of monetary or other offerings from the congregation]
397	scapegoat n. & v.	someone or something made to bear blame or suffer punishment in the name of some cause, though not guilty; to place blame on another as a means of deflecting attention from who or what is actually responsible -- <i>Adolf Hitler notoriously scapegoated the Jews for all of Germany's economic problems during the Depression.</i>
398	vocation n. / vocational adj.	1. an occupation or profession to which one feels especially dedicated or meant for; originally, "a calling"; a sensation meant to be felt especially by persons entering the priesthood; 2. to do with blue-collar trades and technical skills rather than "professions" requiring post-graduate study [get the distinction "to be called" VS. "to talk to others"?] -- <i>It took me a long time to figure out what my vocation is.</i> -- <i>Nashoba and Minuteman are vocational schools.</i>
399	denomination n. / denominational adj.	[root: a name set down; difference-within-sameness] 1. a particular group of religious congregations having its own organization, history, and a particular set of inherited beliefs and practices, yet still sharing broader beliefs and practices with other religious groups; 2. a class of units having a specific name or value (as in a country's system of cash specie) -- <i>Three Protestant denominations—Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist--were represented at the interfaith conference.</i> -- <i>I need twenty dollars worth of change, but in small denominations—five and one-dollar bills only.</i> -- <i>Through the 19th century, there was often extreme friction between mainline Protestant denominations, but now their differences can seem merely incidental relics of the past.</i>
400	shroud n.&v.	1. a cloth in which a corpse is wrapped; 2. something that covers or shields, to protect from contamination or to preserve privacy or dignity -- <i>When the family goes on an extended vacation, they shroud all of their furniture under dust protectors.</i>