

	A	B
401	<b>irony n.</b>	saying one thing, yet meaning another, often its direct opposite (usually, it is hard to determine whether any statement or scenario is or is meant to be ironic unless one is highly aware of what would be "normal" for the context) -- <i>Looking out the window at the cold rain, the man ironically quipped, "Beautiful weather, isn't it?"</i>
402	<b>idiosyncrasy n. / idiosyncratic adj.</b>	a characteristic, habit, mannerism, or the like, that is peculiar to an individual -- <i>While most people are annoyed by her habit of skipping to work, her husband seems to find her idiosyncratic behavior endearing.</i>
403	<b>idiom n. / idiomatic adj.</b>	an expression whose meaning is arbitrarily specific to a given culture, and hence not predictable from the denotative meanings of its words, as in "kick the bucket" or "hang one's head," or from the general grammatical rules of a language, as "the table round" for "the round table." -- <i>Non-native speakers of English often have difficulty learning idiomatic preposition use.</i>
404	<b>ideology n. / ideological adj. / ideologue n. (person who is strictly committed to his/her worldview)</b>	[context for term is cultural, philosophical, and political discussions] <b>Consciously- or unconsciously-held, formal or informal cultural or political worldview; a system of ideas or way of thinking about the way "things" "are" or "should be"</b> ("Things" in this case could potentially mean power relationships, economics, religion, gender, family life, national identity, education, etc.). Such systems of ideas or ways/habits of thinking may be upheld by classes of persons or by individuals, esp. as a basis of some economic or political theory. Such systems, ways, habits are often regarded as justifying or explaining thoughts and actions based on values. -- <i>Many scholars contend that an ideological link exists between Protestantism and capitalism. -- The idea that all persons are entitled to equal political representation is part of the official ideology of most western democracies, even if this idea is rarely realized in practice. -- Within the Republican party, social conservatives and civil libertarians hold different ideological positions on issues like abortion and censorship. -- The Internet has spawned ideological conflict between those who wish to protect children from exposure to offensive content, and those who advocate for freedom of speech.</i>
405	<b>rationale n.</b>	the reasoning or justification or basis (spoken or unspoken) that underlies a given action or viewpoint -- <i>I didn't understand the rationale for changing the game schedule at the last minute. -- The Bush administration's rationale for launching the Iraq war--WMDs--proved to be entirely false. [A "rationale" is usually explicitly stated, whereas the terms "premise" and "warrant" are more often used to address implied meaning.]</i>
406	<b>premise n. / premised adj.</b>	1. in logic, a working and often unspoken ASSUMPTION that is reflective of shared values between the arguer and his/her audience--these shared values provide an unspoken ground for making a case; 2. in a verbal or visual narrative, the "given" key facts of a scenario crucial to making sense of the plot as it gets underway -- <i>If you didn't buy the <u>premise</u> of her argument that women are entitled to earn as much on the dollar as men, you would not be apt to support her plans for action. -- The counter-intuitive premise of <u>Seinfeld</u> was that you could based an entire sitcom on "nothing." -- The design of public education is become ever more <u>premised upon</u> the quest for higher test scores.</i>
407	<b>warranted adj. / warrant v. / warrant n.</b>	1. JUSTIFIED, deserving, authorized or sanctioned (as in a warrant for an arrest issued by a judge); 2. in argument, virtually synonymous with "premise," in the sense of being the sometimes explicit, but sometimes unspoken assumption that would make the thesis seem rational or plausible to the primary audience -- <i>At the time, all present agreed that the crime warranted the punishment . . . -- Yet most modern readers, who reject the entire context of slavery, could never warrant the notion that any, slave or free, should hang simply for stealing food. -- The politician provided no rational <u>warrant for</u> his premise that military spending was more critical than spending on education.</i>
408	<b>surmise v. &amp; n.</b>	form an idea or suspect that something may be the case, but without proof or certainty; infer conjecturally or guess -- <i>Walking by the out-of-control classroom, one could easily <u>surmise that</u> the students were "breaking in" a new substitute teacher.</i>
409	<b>manifest adj. &amp; v. / manifestation n.</b>	1. readily perceived by the eye or the understanding; evident; obvious; 2. To make clear or apparent through a physical display or symptom (rather than through verbal communication). -- <i>The suspect's guilt was manifested in her initial reaction: she flinched every time the victim entered the courtroom. - While smog is an obvious and immediate external manifestation of air pollution, lung cancer and climate change are even more serious long-term effects.</i>

	A	B
410	<b>eccentric</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>eccentricity</b> <i>n.</i>	1. <b>deviating from the recognized or customary character, practice, etc.; irregular; erratic; peculiar; odd</b> ; 2. not having the same center; not concentric -- <i>My eccentric aunt wears her fur coat year round and refuses to check it at restaurants.</i>
411	<b>esoteric</b> <i>adj.</i>	intended for or understood by only a selective group of experts or disciples -- <i>The slang that is common to any given generation of teenagers usually becomes esoteric by the time they are adults.</i> -- <i>Joining a fraternity or sorority involves initiation into a host of esoteric rituals.</i>
412	<b>whim</b> <i>n.</i> / <b>whimsical</b> <i>adj.</i>	a sudden fancy, an idle and passing notion; freakish idea; caprice -- <i>On a whim, they flew to London for the weekend.</i> -- <i>The wealthy can afford to indulge their whims at any time.</i> -- <i>She decorated her house in a whimsical style, with jokey pictures and decorations in every room.</i>
413	<b>pragmatic</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>pragmatism</b> <i>n.</i> / <b>pragmatist</b> <i>n.</i> ( <b>pragmatic person</b> )	dealing or concerned with facts, actual occurrences and practical solutions, rather than with absolute faithfulness to a theoretical principle; practical [us. applied to decision-making or motives] -- <i>Voters hoped that politicians from both parties would come together to offer bi-partisan, pragmatic solutions to the BP oil spill, but instead the parties were stymied by partisan bickering.</i> -- <i>Since I plan to live in New England in the long run, I guess it will be more pragmatic to go to college in Boston than in Texas.</i>
414	<b>predicament</b> <i>n.</i>	an unpleasantly difficult, perplexing, difficult-to-escape, and/or dangerous situation. -- <i>Stranded on the highway in the middle of nowhere, the woman could see no easy way out of her predicament.</i>
415	<b>utilitarian</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>utilitarianism</b> <i>n.</i>	exhibiting or stressing utility of function or cost over other values (such as beauty or longevity); practical [us. applied to designs or ways of acting/functioning] -- <i>The man was interested in the utilitarian aspect of the boots rather than their style.</i> -- <i>A reductive quote commonly used as a catchphrase for political Utilitarianism is "the greatest good for the greatest number."</i> -- <i>The chairs and desks in our school are utilitarian for the district, but uncomfortable for the students. They may be inexpensive and sturdy, but sitting in them all day makes our backs ache and our butts sore.</i>
416	<b>aural</b> <i>adj.</i>	to do with the ear or the sense of hearing -- <i>Poetry is meant to be an aural as much as an intellectual experience.</i>
417	<b>mellifluous</b> <i>adj.</i>	pleasantly, flowingly melodious in tone and rhythm -- <i>The mellifluous rhythm suited the love poem.</i> -- <i>Southern accents tend to be more mellifluous than midwestern accents.</i>
418	<b>syncopated</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>syncopation</b> <i>n.</i>	a shift of accent in a musical passage or composition that occurs when a normally weak beat is stressed -- <i>Jazz is famous for its syncopated rhythms.</i>
419	<b>dissonant</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>dissonance</b> <i>n.</i>	1. characterized by inharmonious sound or combination of sounds; discord; 2. any lack of harmony or agreement; incongruity -- <i>No, I don't want to go to that restaurant; it's too dissonant in there to hold a normal conversation.</i> -- <i>To accept a paradox is to tolerate "cognitive dissonance."</i>
420	<b>cacophonous</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>cacophony</b> <i>n.</i>	harsh, chaotic, loud, and grating sounds [up a notch from dissonance] -- <i>Heavy Metal music and high school cafeterias specialize in cacophony.</i>
421	<b>sonorous</b> <i>adj.</i>	loud, deep, and resonant -- <i>The sound of the flute is hardly sonorous, but rather high-pitched, even shrill.</i>
422	<b>lilt</b> <i>n.</i> / <b>lilting</b> <i>adj.</i>	a cheerful or lively manner of speaking in which the pitch or rhythm of the voice varies pleasantly; having lightness or resilience in manner of moving or walking -- <i>The student's lilting recitation of the poem suited its water imagery and uplifted the entire class.</i>
423	<b>halt</b> <i>v. &amp; n.</i> / <b>halting</b> <i>adj.</i>	1. abrupt stop; 2. [UK usage] Bus-stop or train-stop or taxi-stand; 3. [adj.] characterized by an abrupt stopping-and-starting rhythm, hobbling, limping -- <i>The halting rhythm of her speech grated on my nerves.</i>
424	<b>lyrical</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>lyricism</b> <i>n.</i>	1. pleasantly songlike; 2. characteristic of poetry that expresses the speaker's personal emotion(s) or sentiment(s) rather than a narrative (includes sonnets, odes, hymns) -- <i>The musician's lyricism earned him admiration from a variety of audiences.</i> -- <i>Walt Whitman's poetry is more famous for its lyricism than its logic; it begs to be read aloud to deliver the full emotional impact of its rhythms.</i>

	A	B
425	<b>pastoral</b> <i>adj.</i> / <b>"the pastoral"</b> <i>n.</i>	1. having the simplicity, charm, serenity, health, peace, or other characteristics generally attributed to rural areas, bucolic; 2. an aesthetic "convention" for setting, plot, and characters that originates in classical Greece -- "the pastoral" features idealized shepherds living in a pleasant rural landscape -- <i>Ironically, literature that features pastoral imagery is typically directed at courtly or urban audiences.</i> -- <i>The Bostonian couple moved to Littleton in search of a somewhat pastoral environment for raising their children.</i>
426	<b>elegy</b> <i>n.</i> / <b>elegiac</b> <i>adj.</i>	a song of mourning and remembrance, esp. for the dead; a formal poem written in elegiac meter (a classical metrical form) -- <i>Milton's Lycidas is the most famous pastoral elegy in English.</i> -- <i>Her reminiscences at Senior Sendoff took on an elegiac tone.</i>
427	<b>cadence</b> <i>n.</i>	rhythmic pattern of a brief sequence of sounds or of words, such as might be repeated at several points within a speech, poem, or song to enhance emphasis, generate a sense of unity or drama, etc. -- <i>The speaker underestimated the importance of attending to cadence; her flat, monotonous voice put everyone to sleep.</i>
428	<b>repertoire</b> <i>n.</i>	the stock of plays, parts, songs that a company, actor, or musician, etc. is familiar with and ready to perform -- <i>My uncle is a brilliant cook and has dozens of dishes in his dinner party repertoire.</i>
429	<b>balk</b> <i>v.</i>	to stop suddenly, as at an unanticipated obstacle, and refuse to proceed or to do something specified -- <i>He balked at her request to make the speech in her place.</i>
430	<b>bleak</b> <i>adj.</i>	bare, desolate, and often windswept; cold and piercing, raw; without hope or encouragement, depressing, dreary -- <i>Antonia's father became depressed by both the bleak Nebraska plains and his bleak economic future.</i>
431	<b>dank</b> <i>adj.</i>	unpleasantly moist or humid; damp, and often chilly -- <i>Poe sets "The Cask of Amontidillo" in a dank and dreary wine cellar that turns out to be a burial chamber.</i>
432	<b>meager</b> <i>adj.</i>	scant, paltry, insufficient -- <i>She put only a meager effort into studying for the vocabulary quiz.</i>
433	<b>somber</b> <i>adj.</i>	dark, depressed, or mournful in mood or color or tone -- <i>The somber palette of her wardrobe should earn her a spot on "What Not to Wear."</i>
434	<b>augment</b> <i>v.</i> / <b>augmentation</b> <i>n.</i>	to improve or attempt to improve by increasing in strength or quantity -- <i>Pasta and other staples can cheaply augment a meal when you've run out of fresh ingredients.</i> -- <i>TV actresses frequently undergo breast augmentation surgery.</i>