

	A	B
435	<b>apathy n. / apathetic adj.</b>	lack of curiosity and/or motivation [HEADS UP to master the nuances of a suite of "What to do?" words that are pseudo-synonyms for "apathy": indifference, ambivalence, disinterest, jadedness, cynicism, vacillation, equivocation, ennui, etc.] -- <i>Once students have acquired an apathetic attitude towards school, it can be difficult to re-invigorate them.</i>
436	<b>lethargy n./ lethargic adj.</b>	1. the quality or state of being drowsy and dull, listless and unenergetic, or indifferent and lazy; apathetic or sluggish inactivity; 2. an abnormal state or disorder characterized by overpowering drowsiness -- <i>The physician received a bonus from the prescription drug company and doled out anti-depressants to any patient complaining of lethargy.</i>
437	<b>valiant adj. / valorous adj.</b>	marked by or showing bravery expressed as impressive physical strength and endurance, and performed in the name of honor; heroic -- <i>The villagers praised Beowulf for his valiant slaying of Grendel.</i> -- <i>Odysseus's blinding of the Cyclops was certainly a clever deed, but I question whether it was valorous.</i>
438	<b>astute adj.</b>	keenly penetrating or discerning; <b>attentive and mindful of significance in one's observations</b> -- <i>While some of the pieces in the op-ed section include astute observations, others are merely biased, ignorant rants.</i> -- <i>When meeting new people at parties, I rely on my best friend for her quick-but-astute judgments of strangers' characters.</i>
439	<b>acute adj.</b>	1. not obtuse (pertaining to angles); <b>2. highly sensitive and/or precise in perception; 3. intense</b> -- <i>Police rely on dogs' acute sense of smell to follow the escape paths of criminals who may still be at large.</i> -- <i>If I lean backward too far, an acute pain drills down my spine.</i>
440	<b>obtuse adj.</b>	1. not acute (pertaining to angles); <b>2. lacking sharp sensibilities, dull, stupid</b> -- <i>Though the kid is a geometry genius, when it comes to social interactions--that's where he's truly obtuse.</i> -- <i>I tried to use my eyes to signal to my sister it was time to leave, but she was too obtuse to grasp what I meant.</i>
441	<b>degenerate adj. &amp; n.</b>	1. degraded; deteriorated; rotten or rotting; 2. a degraded, immoral person (as if dragged down by giving in to bad habits over a long period of time) -- <i>Conservative religious leaders often complain of the degenerate values of the mass media.</i> -- <i>Four years of hard partying left him a degenerate rather than a hireable college graduate.</i>
442	<b>craven adj.</b>	cowardly, abject, <b>unworthy</b> , embarrassingly petty or personal, unreasonably fearful -- <i>The craven freshman was an easy target for aggressive upperclassmen.</i> -- <i>I have a craven favor to ask: can you lend me ten bucks for gas money?</i> -- <i>The teacher was exhausted by the students' craven requests to see their grades, especially since they showed no interest at all in the class content for its own sake.</i>
443	<b>cunning n. &amp; adj.</b>	cleverness that may be marked by devious motives and/or by economy/elegance/creativity -- <i>Ms. McKnight revealed her cunning solution to the physics problem.</i>
444	<b>laden adj.</b>	[archaic: past participle of "lay"]; bearing a heavy burden -- <i>"Come unto me, ye who are tired and heavy-laden."</i> -- <i>The table was <u>laden with</u> wedding presents.</i>
445	<b>tractable adj.</b>	[applied to people] easily managed or controlled; readily reacting to suggestions and influences; yielding -- <i>The student typically had a tractable disposition and complied with all school rules.</i>
446	<b>dissident adj. &amp; n.</b>	1. disagreeing with an established religious or political system, organization, or belief; a person who holds dissident views -- <i>The dissidents were rounded up and carted off to prison.</i> -- <i>The radical dissidents wished to overthrow the current regime, as they disagreed with most of its policies.</i> -- <i>Jane regularly interrupted student council meetings to express her dissident views.</i> [cognate with assent/dissent - a "dissident" tends to be seen as a type, a kind of permanent "dissenter," whereas to express one's "assent to X" or "dissent with Y" on some given occasion will not necessarily define one permanently as a rebellious type]
447	<b>diffident adj. / diffidence n.</b>	lacking confidence in one's own ability, worth, or fitness [often when there's no need to feel this way]; timid, shy, restrained, reserved [tends to be applied to behavior or attitude on a particular instance or occasion] -- <i>Sometimes the brightest students are the most diffident. Ironically, their acute awareness of all there is to know makes them uneasy about hazarding ill-informed opinions or exposing the limits of their knowledge.</i> -- <i>Diffident first-time performers can look awkward and rude rather than gracious when they bow to an audience.</i>

	A	B
448	<b>timorous adj.</b>	full of/subject to fear; fearful; pitifully timid in manner [tends to be applied to traits that reflect a personality or stage in life] – <i>In a timorous voice and shaking like a leaf, the young child admitted to taking the candy.</i>
449	<b>temerity n.</b>	foolish boldness, recklessness, brashness -- <i>He had the unmitigated temerity to insult the boxer to his face.</i>
450	<b>tenuous adj. / attenuate v.</b>	1. thin; weak; unformed; 2. to thin out, dwindle, weaken -- <i>Having lived in Boston less than two years, I still feel my emotional connection to the city is only tenuous.</i> -- <i>I used to be a huge fan of the Simpsons, but as I've grown older, my obsession has attenuated.</i>
451	<b>accede v. / accession n.</b>	to enter upon the duties (of an office); to become a party to an agreement; to come near -- <i>Philip <u>acceded to</u> the throne in 1353.</i> -- <i>Though Sam was initially put off by the seller's terms for purchasing the property, eventually he <u>acceded to</u> them and got that time-share in Boca.</i>
452	<b>succeed v. / succession n.</b>	coming after another in order or sequence to an office or an estate -- <i>In European feudal society, warfare was often sparked by disputes over the rights of hereditary <u>succession to</u> royal office or aristocratic titles and landholdings.</i> -- <i>Pairs of graduates processed onto the football field in close succession.</i>
453	<b>ardor n. / ardent adj.</b>	urgent, heartfelt desire or enthusiasm -- <i>I am an ardent opera fan.</i> -- <i>He felt passionate <u>ardor for</u> Grace Kelley.</i>
454	<b>solace n. [cognate with console]</b>	source of mental or emotional comfort or peace -- <i>Her loyal, attentive nephew was a solace to her in her old age.</i>
455	<b>scourge n. &amp; v.</b>	whip, instrument for flogging; any means of inflicting severe punishment, suffering, or vengeance -- <i>God punished the Egyptians with a <u>scourge of</u> locusts.</i>
456	<b>thwart v. / athwart adj. [archaic]</b>	1. to hinder, obstruct, frustrate or defeat a person, plan, or wishes; 2. lying or extending across something else, as a brace across a canoe or other structure -- <i>Road construction crews thwarted my way at several points on my commute.</i> -- <i>The antique beams athwart our living room ceiling look structural and original, but in fact are purely decorative.</i>
457	<b>raze v.</b>	to level to the ground; demolish -- <i>As punishment for whining, the little girl's nanny razed her dollhouse by sitting on it.</i>
458	<b>vacillate v.</b>	1. to sway from one side to the other; vacillate; 2. to swing indecisively from one course of action or opinion to another -- <i>Having caught one of his football players abusing steroids, Coach Taylor vacillated over whether to turn him in to the authorities or give him a chance to get clean on his own.</i>
459	<b>furtive adj. / furtiveness n.</b>	done in a stealthy, surreptitious, and/or shy manner -- <i>The toddler furtively tucked her peas into her napkin.</i> -- <i>The shy girl stole furtive glances at the boy she had a crush on.</i>
460	<b>admonish v. / admonishment n.</b>	to warn; caution against specific faults; to reprove mildly [one always admonishes someone <b>to</b> do/think/say something] -- <i>My mom is constantly <u>admonishing</u> me not <b>to</b> stay up too late, but I think she gets that if I don't I'll never get my work done.</i> [note usage: admonish SOMEONE to VERB (do something)]
461	<b>entreat v. / entreaty n.</b>	request earnestly, beseech, implore – <i>I tried whining as a means of <u>entreating</u> my mother <b>to</b> let me break my usual curfew. No surprise-- that strategy didn't work.</i> – <i>Negative ads are a common but depressing type of entreaty for the public's attention.</i> [note usage: entreat SOMEONE to VERB (do something)]
462	<b>solicit v. / solicitous adj. / solicitation n. / solicitor n.</b>	1. to ask or seek earnestly or pleadingly, ask or petition on behalf of a cause, beg, entreat; 2. UK usage: a "solicitor" is an attorney other than a barrister (only barristers plead cases in superior court) -- <i>I make it a point not to respond to dubious phone solicitations for donations.</i> -- <i>Students were soliciting volunteers to help [or for help] with the fund drive.</i>
463	<b>convivial adj. / conviviality n.</b>	fond of eating, drinking, and good company; jovial -- <i>The Damroths always host a convivial Christmas party.</i> -- <i>Thank you for your conviviality.</i>