

	A	B
464	reciprocal <i>adj.</i> / reciprocity <i>n.</i> / reciprocate <i>v.</i>	done, felt and/or given on two sides, mutual -- <i>Reciprocal gift-giving was and is a crucial gesture in political diplomacy. -- If you host the end-of-year party, next year we'll reciprocate.</i> [usages: " <u>in</u> reciprocity <u>for</u> X action"; " <u>a</u> reciprocity <u>between</u> X and Y"; " <u>to</u> reciprocate X person/organization for X"]
465	inverse <i>adj.</i> / inversion <i>n.</i>	reversed or inverted in order or relation; directly opposite -- <i>A chiasmus is a grammatical inversion of syntax in an elegant phrase, such as JFK's "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."</i> -- <i>She loved him in inverse proportion to his hatred of her, so she was doomed to misery.</i>
466	oblige <i>v.</i> / obligation <i>n.</i> / obligatory <i>adj.</i>	to owe as a duty or requirement -- <i>I'm much <u>obliged to</u> you.</i> -- <i>Graduation requirements oblige students to perform several hours of community service.</i>
467	affront <i>n. & v.</i>	a purposeful and open insult or slight -- <i>If I don't look my mother in the eye when speaking to her, she takes it as a personal affront.</i>
468	gamut <i>n.</i>	1. the whole range or scope of something; 2. the full range of notes which a voice or instrument can produce. -- <i>While ordering, she allowed the waiter to <u>run</u> through <u>the</u> entire <u>gamut</u> of specials before ordering a plain salad.</i> -- <i>There is a wide gamut of skill-levels represented on our tennis team.</i>
469	garish <i>adj.</i>	excessively bright, glaring, tacky; regarded as excessively ornate or elaborate, as buildings or writing, with the effect of cheapening -- <i>The garish porch was complete with three colored rocking chairs, candles, wind chimes, and plastic plants.</i>
470	paragon <i>n.</i>	1. a pattern or model of excellence with respect to some characteristic; 2. a person who is an exemplar of a virtue or a model of a character -- <i>The priest's dedication to his parish made him seem a <u>paragon of</u> virtue; The classical music scene in Boston is a paragon for the nation.</i>
471	euphemism <i>n.</i> / euphemistic <i>adj.</i>	use of a word considered less offensive (sometimes misleadingly so) than the thing it describes, such as "passed away" for died, "remains" for corpse, "differently abled," "correctional facility," "pre-owned," "wardrobe malfunction" -- <i>Most wars are justified using euphemistic language.</i>
472	euphonious <i>adj.</i> / euphony <i>n.</i>	[root: pleasant sounds] characterized by pleasant sounding tones (applied to speech or music) -- <i>After the senior orchestra's euphonious contribution to the winter recital, the audience erupted in cacophonous applause.</i>
473	eulogy <i>n.</i> / eulogize <i>v.</i>	[root: pleasant words] formal speech or statement praising a dead person; funeral sermon -- <i>My father gave/delivered the eulogy at my grandmother's funeral.</i>
474	spry <i>adj.</i> / spryness <i>n.</i>	full of life, active, nimble, brisk [a dated term] -- <i>The flu laid the track star low for a couple of weeks, but soon she was back to her spry self.</i> -- <i>Kenneth, the squeaky-clean NBC page on Tina Fey's 30 Rock, is indefatigably spry.</i> [Note that "spry" tends to be associated with physical action, whereas "plucky" is associated with mental attitude, demeanor]
475	plucky <i>adj.</i> / pluck <i>n.</i>	having or showing energetic courage, determination, self-motivation and good cheer [most often considered a feminine quality] -- <i>The plucky lifeguard sprung into action and rescued the drowning swimmer.</i> -- <i>Katie Couric is stepping down as CBS news anchor since she could not live down her too plucky reputation from her earlier career.</i>
476	confound <i>v.</i> / confounded <i>adj.</i>	1. to mix up or lump together indiscriminately or in a confused fashion; 2. to confuse or bewilder -- <i>When three similarly sounding words appear right next to one another in a vocab. list, keeping them straight can be confounding.</i> -- <i>I am utterly confounded by the chaos of my son's desk, yet he has no trouble finding just what he wants when he wants it.</i>
477	forsake <i>v.</i> / forsook (past tense) / forsaken <i>adj.</i>	to abandon a person or principle to whom or to which one has pledged loyalty -- <i>Jesus famously cried from the cross "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"</i>
478	conjecture <i>n. & v.i.</i>	the formation or expression of an opinion or theory without sufficient evidence for proof -- <i>The candidate dismissed media speculations about the outcome of the election as mere conjecture.</i> -- <i>The archeologists conjectured <u>that</u> the large dinosaur lived in swamps.</i>

	A	B
479	commiserate v.	to feel or express sorrow or sympathy for -- <i>To commiserate one another after their loss, the team members treated themselves to ice cream.</i> -- <i>It's easier to <u>commiserate with</u> someone else once one has experienced grief oneself.</i> [note, "commiserate with" is the common usage in the 2nd sentence, but co- + with is really a redundancy]
480	ephemera n.pl. / ephemeral adj.	things of short-lived interest or use or consequence; impermanent, fading or dissolving away within a brief period of time -- <i>Some antique dealers specialize in ephemera such as mechanical cash registers or rotary-dial telephones.</i> -- <i>My son once worshipped the Yu-gi-oh cards he now regards as worthless ephemera.</i> -- <i>The pleasure of fresh-cut flowers is ephemeral; diamonds are a girl's best friend.</i>
481	exculpatory adj. / exculpate v.	serving to clear a person or party from a charge of fault or guilt -- <i>The insurance company included an exculpatory clause in its policy.</i> -- <i>After my mom accused me of stealing, my dad discovered the missing five bucks--exculpatory evidence--in the kitchen drawer.</i>
482	incontrovertible adj.	not open to question or dispute; indisputable; undeniable -- <i>The jury deemed the evidence incontrovertible and unanimously found the defendant guilty.</i>
483	insidious adj.	intended or serving to entrap or beguile; stealthily treacherous or deceitful; operating or proceeding in an inconspicuous or seemingly harmless way but actually with grave effect -- <i>The insidious disease caused no symptoms until its final stages, when it was too late to do anything.</i>
484	invaluable adj.	of inestimable value; priceless -- <i>Lydia's experience as an architect was invaluable in helping me decide what my "must have" criteria were for my first house.</i>
485	exact v. / exacting adj.	to call for, demand, or require (often as if through unspoken authority); forcing or demanding the payment, yielding, or performance of -- <i>The father was lenient with his children, but always <u>exacted</u> respect from <u>them</u>.</i> -- <i>Her grading criteria are more exacting than most, but still fair.</i>
486	didactic adj.	intended for or characteristic of top-down instruction; teaching or intending to teach a moral lesson; excessively "teacher-like" in one's mannerisms -- <i>The canned errors in the practice sentences are too obviously didactic and won't really help us to write well under everyday conditions.</i> -- <i>Her didactic attitude in telling her friends her opinions was a turn-off.</i> [auto-didact (a self-taught person): <i>The art-school graduates were jealous of the auto-didact whose paintings made millions.</i>]
487	pedantic adj. / pedantry n. / pedant n.	1. paying undue attention to book learning and/or to following specific formal rules (as opposed to learning from or being open to experience and the unexpected) [connotation of "pedantry/pedantic" is consistently negative, whereas "didactic" is not always negative]; 2. a "pedant" is a "pedantic" person or someone inclined to "pedantry." -- <i>To master MLA citation style is to immerse yourself in pedantry.</i> -- <i>One of my medieval literature professors was a dashing Sean Connery lookalike who made allegory come to life, but the other was a pedant who insisted we memorize the exact birthdates and birthplaces of every obscure poet we read.</i>
488	fervent adj. & fervid adj.	fervent: having or showing great emotion or zeal; ardent; glowing; fervid: marked by great passion or zeal; extremely hot; burning -- <i>Her support of Barak Obama was fervent but just shy of fervid--decidedly enthusiastic without coming across as borderline insane.</i>
489	regress v. / regressive adj.	backward in progress/motion or in thinking/behaving [used figuratively far more often than literally in everyday speech] -- <i>Many consider a gas tax to be regressive, because it falls more heavily on the poor than on the wealthy.</i> -- <i>When under stress, he tended to regress to more childish behavior than he would usually display.</i>
490	formidable adj.	of awesome or intimidating or discouraging strength, size, difficulty -- <i>As the field hockey team alighted from the bus, we realized we were up against a formidable opponent.</i>
491	trepidation n.	sensation of <i>tremulous</i> anxiety or uncertain fear -- <i>The beginning of the school year may fill freshmen with trepidation, but sophomores, only dull dread.</i>
492	strident adj. / stridency n.	harshly shrill or grating in sound or effect -- <i>The teacher meant to intimidate us with her strident tone, but her voice was so high-pitched and squeaky it only made us laugh.</i>
493	pariah n.	[orig: a member of one of the formerly oppressed social castes in India]; an outcast, someone despised or rejected by others -- <i>Once it got out that the bully broke his little sister's arm, he became a pariah.</i>