

Pastor's Classic Ten Friends



excellent words for exceptional students

1. *Acerbity* (n) He spoke with such *acerbity* (harshness, bad temper, severity) that he chilled the salesman's hopes.
2. *Aggrandize* (v) aggrandizement (n) He was a publicity seeker. His every thought was to *aggrandize* (increase, swell prosperously, magnify) his reputation.
3. *Aphorism* (n) aphoristic (adj) Remember Ben Franklin's *aphorism* (wise saying, maxim, adage): "The empty drum makes the most noise."
4. *Austere* (adj) austerity (n) His *austere* (severe, sober, grave) expression discouraged all attempts to be familiar.
5. *Broach* (v) The subject is so delicate I don't know how to *broach* (start, bring it up, introduce) it.
6. *Circumvent* (v) circumvention (n) Some people try to *circumvent* (get around, evade, overreach) the law.
7. *Complacent* (adj) complacency (n) The canary was missing, and the cat wore a *complacent* (self-satisfied, smug, contented) expression.
8. *Contumacious* (adj) contumaciousness (n) The teen-aged gangster was *contumacious* (stubborn, insubordinate, haughty) and merely laughed at the judge's admonition.
9. *Covenant* (n) Marriage is a solemn *covenant* (agreement, mutual pledge, mutual promise) between man and woman.
10. *Dolorous* (adj) dolorousness (n) I had to tell her the *dolorous* (distressing, painful, grievous) news of the accident.
11. *Duress* (n) I agree to your terms, but only under *duress* (pressure, compulsion, coercion).
12. *Extraneous* (adj) extraneousness (n) You confuse the argument by bringing in *extraneous* (off-the-point, not pertinent, irrelevant) subjects.
13. *Extricate* (v) extricable (adj) extrication (n) The paratrooper *extricated* (disentangled, freed, disengaged) the cords of his parachute from the tree.
14. *Finical* (adj) finicality (n) He's so *finical* (fussy, particular, fastidious) there's no pleasing him.
15. *Foment* (v) fomentation (n) Though he seemed loyal in public, he worked behind the scenes to *foment* (stir up, arouse, incite) revolution.
16. *Fortuitous* (adj) fortuitousness (n) His success was *fortuitous* (accidental, unplanned, casual). It just came. He had not planned it that way.
17. *Fulmination* (n) fulminatory (adj) This violent *fulmination* (explosive denunciation, sudden attack) against his former friend left his hearers shocked and silent.
18. *Hiatus* (n) The film broke, causing a *hiatus* (pause, gap, lacuna) in the show.
19. *Immutable* (adj) immutableness (n) The planets move in *immutable* (unchangeable, unvarying, steadfast) orbits.
20. *Impugn* (v) impugnable (adj) impugnation (n) If you *impugn* (question, challenge, deny) my honesty we cannot be friends.
21. *Increment* (n) incremental (adj) The dividend is a periodic *increment* (addition, growth, increase) to your savings.
22. *Ingratiate* (v) ingratiation (n) ingratiating (adj) Don't try to *ingratiate* yourself with (flatter, curry favor with, be servily friendly to) the boss; he's unsentimental.
23. *Insidious* (adj) insidiousness (n) The *insidious* (sly, treacherous, stealthy) disease had seemed of no importance while it was in the curable stage.
24. *Lucent* (adj) lucency (n) The *lucent* (bright, shining, alight) edges of the storm clouds have given us our proverbs about the silver linings.
25. *Malign* (v) Because she hates him, she *maligns* (slanders, speaks evil of, defames) him.
26. *Misanthrope* (n) misanthropic (adj) His misfortunes had made him a *misanthrope* (hater of people, distrusting person, cynic) and he wished to have no further association with anyone.
27. *Nefarious* (adj) nefariousness (n) The villain's *nefarious* (wicked, evil, iniquitous) schemes brought boos from the audience.
28. *Nocturnal* (adj) The night-blooming cactus, as its name implies, is *nocturnal* (active at night, functioning at night, blooming at night).
29. *Nurture* (v) Education *nurtures* (feeds, nourishes, develops) the mind.
30. *Opaque* (adj) opaqueness (n) His glasses were so dirty they were *opaque* (dark, not transparent, solid looking).
31. *Overt* (adj) The boy's *overt* (open, expressed, unconcealed) admiration flattered me.
32. *Perspicacity* (n) perspicacious (adj) With his usual *perspicacity* (quick understanding, acuteness, perceptiveness) he saw what must be done.
33. *Pique* (n) In a fit of *pique* (resentment, hurt pride, offense), he began to sulk.
34. *Predatory* (adj) predatoriness (n) Most strong nations have been *predatory* (plundering, preying, rapacious) in dealing with their weaker neighbors.
35. *Predilection* (n) Children have a *predilection* (preference, prejudice in favor of, partiality) for ice cream.
36. *Proscribe* (v) He *proscribed* (forbade, prohibited, interdicted) all smoking in his house.
37. *Pundit* (n) The boy knew all the facts; he was a regular *pundit* (authority, wise man, sage).
38. *Rationalize* (v) rationalization (n) rationalistic (adj) Instead of admitting her faults, she *rationalizes* (excuses them, explains them away, justifies) them.
39. *Recumbent* (adj) recumbency (n) There we saw her, *recumbent* (reclining, reposing, lazily lying) on a sofa.
40. *Rhetorical* (adj) rhetoric (n) The question was *rhetorical* (concerned solely with style, with effect); no answer was expected or even wanted.
41. *Risible* (adj) risibility (n) The exchange of compliments by rival politicians is one of the most *risible* (laughable, ludicrous) scenes in the farce of life.
42. *Sanguine* (adj) sanguineness (n) He is so *sanguine* (hopeful, cheerful, optimistic) that he always expects good luck.
43. *Sedulous* (adj) sedulousness (n) He is *sedulous* (diligent, steadily busy, persistent) in his studies.
44. *Specious* (adj) speciousness (n) His *specious* (deceptive, glittering, superficially plausible) arguments convinced us for a while, but we soon saw through them.
45. *Subjective* (adj) subjectiveness (n) A *subjective* (personal, colored by feelings, unobjective) judgment merely refers the matter to our own personal prejudices and is therefore neither fair nor intelligent.
46. *Temporize* (v) temporization (n) When the payment came due, he found a way to *temporize* (put it off, delay, procrastinate).
47. *Truism* (n) That honest people don't steal is a *truism* (a truth not needed to be stated, self-evident truth).
48. *Unmitigated* (adj) That man is an *unmitigated* (absolute, unqualified, unconditional) rascal!
49. *Vertex* (n) To be a senator was the *vertex* (height, summit, apex) of his ambition.
50. *Visage* (n) The mother's *visage* (look, appearance, aspect), as she smiled at her baby, was charming to behold.