

# Pastor's Classic Ten Friends

excellent words for exceptional students



- Abhor** (v) abhorrence (n) abhorrent (adj) The good man *abhors* (hates, loathes, detests) corrupt dealings.
- Abstraction** (n) abstractive (adj) To form an idea from many examples is to make an *abstraction* (a deduction, an idea separate from specific objects).
- Acme** (n) The drill team's marching was the *acme* (top, highest point of perfection) of precision.  
**Affluence** (n) affluent (adj) He inherited enough money to live in *affluence* (riches, abundance, opulence).  
**Amnesty** (n) After the war, an *amnesty* (a general pardon for offenses against a government, a grant of immunity) was given to enemy prisoners.
- Assuage** (v) assuasive (adj) assuagement (n) We must try to *assuage* (lessen, pacify, mitigate) her sorrow.
- Bilious** (adj) biliousness (n) Her old uncle had a *bilious* (sour, bad-tempered, crabbed) personality.
- Blasé** (adj) I have heard that kind of music so often that now it leaves me *blasé* (bored, uninterested, satiated).
- Captious** (adj) captiousness (n) She is so *captious* (quibbling, sophistical, carping) that no one wants to discuss anything with her.
- Circumspect** (adj) circumspectness (n) A man in public office should be *circumspect*; (cautious, careful, unobjectionable) he is always being watched.
- Contraband** (n) He traveled back and forth across the border, dealing in *contraband* (smuggled goods, prohibited goods).
- Countenance** (n) His *countenance* (face, expression, features) brightened up at the good news.  
... **Deleterious** (adj) deleteriousness (n) Overeating can be *deleterious* (bad, harmful, injurious) to your health.
- Despot** (n) despot (adj) In the old days, the father frequently ruled his family like a *despot* (bully, dictator, tyrant).
- Dissident** (adj) dissidence (n) In a democracy, not only the majority opinion, but even the *dissident* (disagreeing, dissenting) opinion, can be expressed.
- Effrontery** (n) The man had the *effrontery* (nerve, boldness, presumption) to break right in on our conversation.
- Erudite** (adj) eruditeness (n) All the professors were learned, but Dr. Smith was the most *erudite* (well read, scholarly) of all.
- Expatriate** (v) expatriation (n) That's an interesting subject; let's *expatriate* (expand, enlarge) on it.
- Felicitous** (adj) felicitousness (n) His *felicitous* (fitting, apt, appropriate) remarks pleased everybody.
- Garrulous** (adj) garrulousness (n) He was such a *garrulous* (talkative, chatty, loquacious) old fellow that if anyone would listen, he'd talk all night.
- Gesticulate** (v) gesticulative (adj) gesticulation (n) Some people can hardly talk without *gesticulating* (making motions, making gestures) with their hands.
- Hue** (n) In the meadows are many different *hues* (shades, tints) of green.
- Impasse** (n) Neither of the men will listen to the other; their dispute has reached an *impasse* (standstill, deadlock, an insoluble difficulty).
- Ineluctable** (adj) ineluctability (n) The evidence was so clear that the conclusion was *ineluctable* (certain, unavoidable, inevitable).
- Intransigent** (adj) intransigence (n) No use asking him to change his mind; he's *intransigent* (stubborn, uncompromising, irreconcilable).
- Ken** (n) I'm only a scientist; political matters are beyond my *ken* (knowing, field of knowledge, cognizance).
- Lucid** (adj) lucidity (n) His explanation of the invention was so *lucid* (clear, enlightening, comprehensible) that we could all understand how it worked.
- Malingering** (v) The sergeant thought they were *malingering* (shirking their work, evading duty, feigning incapacity), but actually they were coming down with the measles.
- Mnemonic** (adj) mnemonics (n) Your memory is so bad you should go to a *mnemonic* (memory-improvement) expert.
- Myriad** (adj) The *myriad* (crowds of, very numerous, innumerable) subway riders were crammed together in the cars.
- Narcissistic** (adj) narcissism (n) He had a *narcissistic* (self-centered, self-adoratory, egoistic) habit of staring at his own face in a mirror.
- Odious** (adj) odiousness (n) He is such an *odious* (hateful, disgusting, offensive) person, with his sneers and his bad habits, that no one can stand him.
- Palpitate** (v) palpitation (n) At the sight of the famous actor, the young girl's heart *palpitated* (beat quickly, pounded) with excitement.
- Paraphrase** (n) paraphrastic (adj) I can't remember her exact words, but I'll give you a *paraphrase* (restatement, a statement in other words).
- Pedant** (n) pedantic (adj) John is such a *pedant* (narrow-minded person, trivial person) that he obeys all the rules whether they make sense or not.
- Peroration** (n) John brought his speech to a close with an emotion-packed *peroration* (conclusion, summary, recapitulation).
- Platonic** (adj) His idea of love was too *platonic* (idealistic, spiritual, unsensual) for her, too cold and high-minded.
- Pragmatic** (adj) Never mind the theory; let's be *pragmatic* (practical, businesslike, factual)—will the idea work?
- Promiscuous** (adj) promiscuousness (n) In her respectable marriage, she has lived down her *promiscuous* (loose, sexually uncontrolled) past.
- Recalcitrant** (adj) recalcitrancy (n) The witness is *recalcitrant* (resisting authority, uncooperative, refractory) and will not tell what we know he knows, but we shall try to make him testify.
- Restive** (adj) restiveness (n) What makes you so *restive* (nervous, uneasy, restless) that you can't sit still with us for a minute?
- Sardonic** (adj) His *sardonic* (sarcastic, biting, ironic), sneering wit is sometimes more stinging than amusing.
- Sensuous** (adj) sensuousness (n) The feeling of the warm sun on your bare legs is one of the *sensuous* (physical, sensory) pleasures of summer.
- Stolid** (adj) stolidness (n) The *stolid* (not easily excited, unemotional, impassive) farmer plodded along in spite of the storm.
- Sybarite** (n) sybaritic (adj) Exotic music! Incessant! Cushions on the floor! Why, the man is a regular *sybarite* (lover of luxury, voluptuary)!
- Tirade** (n) Whenever he drank too much, he would go into a long *tirade* (antagonistic speech, outburst, denunciation) against the government.
- Vagary** (n) Some *vagary* (whim, quirk, capriciousness) which no one could understand, made him turn around and go the other way after all.
- Venal** (adj) venality (n) A *venal* (corrupt, purchasable, mercenary) politician, whose vote can be bought, is worse than a traitor!
- Vicarious** (adj) vicariousness (n) He is too small to play football, but he gets a *vicarious* (second-hand, substitute empathetic) pleasure from watching others play.
- Vitiated** (adj) vitiation (n) His strength was *vitiated* (weakened, spoiled, marred) by late hours and heavy drinking.