

Pastor's Classic Ten Friends

excellent words for exceptional students



- Abject** (adj) abjection (n) With all hope gone, the *abject* (cast down, spiritless) prisoners sat waiting in the detention camp.
- Aesthetic** (adj) It would take an *aesthetic* (sensitive to beauty) person to fully appreciate that classical piece of music.
- Alacrity** (n) alacritous (adj) When John was in a good mood, he performed his chores with *alacrity* (a cheerful briskness).
- Auspicious** (adj) auspiciousness (n) The sunny day seemed an *auspicious* (lucky, promising, favorable) one for the picnic.
- Blatant** (adj) blatancy (n) He posed as a scientist, but his *blatant* (obvious, obtrusive) ignorance of science gave him away.
- Capitulate** (v) capitulation (n) To prevent further bloodshed, the commanding officer decided to *capitulate* (surrender on terms agreed upon, yield).
- Cogent** (adj) cogency (n) His *cogent* (persuasive, brilliantly compelling) presentation of the facts won quick approval for the project.
- Conjecture** (n) conjecturable (adj) Unable to obtain the facts, he had to base his decision on *conjecture* (supposition, opinion).
- Cursory** (adj) cursorness (n) The student reviewed his lessons in a *cursory* (hurried, rapid, superficial) manner.
- Decorous** (adj) decorousness (n) The neat, modest housewife dressed in a *decorous* (proper, becoming, suitable) manner.
- Diffident** (adj) diffidence (n) It will take a *diffident*, not a *diffident* (shy, timid) person to succeed in this job.
- Disdain** (v) disdainful (adj) disdainfulness (n) I *disdain* (despise, think him unworthy) him because of his dishonesty.
- Docile** (adj) docility (n) She always bosses her *docile* (obedient, manageable, unresisting)-husband around.
- Equanimity** (n) The entertainer retained his *equanimity* (composure, calm temper, evenness of mind) despite the hostile audience.
- Facade** (n) He looked calm, but the apparent calmness was only a *facade* (front, false exterior) hiding his concern.
- Facetious** (adj) facetiousness (n) His *facetious* (inappropriately witty) remark embarrassed some of the guests.
- Fastidious** (adj) fastidiousness (n) The waiter lost patience with the *fastidious* (particular, meticulous, hard to please) customer.
- Fatuous** (adj) fatuousness (n) Bill's *fatuous* (silly, comically foolish) ideas were rarely taken seriously.
- Flaunt** (v) flauntily (adj) Don't *flaunt* (display, show off, coast off) your knowledge, even if you are sure of yourself.
- Furtive** (adj) furtiveness (n) The robbery was planned and executed in a *furtive* (sly, stealthy, shifty) manner.
- Glib** (adj) glibness (n) He could talk about anything, he was so *glib* (thoughtlessly talkative, suspiciously fluent), even subjects he knew nothing about.
- Gregarious** (adj) gregariousness (n) The chairman of the membership committee should be a *gregarious* (good mixer, enjoy meeting people) person.
- Harangue** (n) The orators long *harangue* (noisy, pompous speech) irritated the audience.
- Idiosyncrasy** (n) idiosyncratic (adj) Don't mind his fussy odd little habits; in spite of his *idiosyncrasy* (oddness, eccentricity) he is a wise man.
- Illicit** (adj) illicitness (n) His *illicit* (unlawful, furtive) dealings in the black market were suspected by his colleagues.
- Impertune** (v) The young man *impertuned* (insistently begged, persistently urged) the girl to marry him.
- Incredulous** (adj) incredulosity (n) Additional proof was needed to change his *incredulous* (skeptical, disbelieving) attitude.
- Inexorable** (adj) inexorableness (n) His *inexorable* (inflexible, unyielding) stand threatened to stalemate further bargaining.
- Invective** (n) He was so angry at John that he couldn't talk about him without using *invective* (abuse, angry reproach).
- Loquacious** (adj) loquacity (n) Due to his *loquacious* (talkative, garrulous) nature, he found it difficult to limit the speech to fifteen minutes.
- Ludicrous** (adj) ludicrousness (n) His excuse for the loss could only be termed *ludicrous* (laughable, ridiculous).
- Martinet** (n) The colonel was a *martinet* (strict disciplinarian) but was held in wide respect.
- Maudlin** (adj) When he drinks, he talks about the past in a *maudlin*, *maudlin* (weakly sentimental) tone.
- Nebulous** (adj) nebulosity (n) After a few years, John was telling the story in a *nebulous* (vague, hazy) and distorted manner.
- Obsequious** (adj) obsequiousness (n) The *obsequious* (servily attentive, fawning) manner of the waiter irritated the customer.
- Ostracize** (v) ostracism (n) He should be *ostracized* (banned from social and political favor) for his inexcusable rudeness.
- Panacea** (n) panacean (adj) The simple solution came as a *panacea* (cure-all) to his problems.
- Pander** (v) The niece *pandered* to her uncle's vanity until the old man altered his will in her favor.
The niece (appealed to her uncle's vice), his vanity, until the old man altered his will in her favor.
- Placate** (v) placation (n) placative (adj) It was difficult to *placate* (appease, pacify) the hot-tempered manager.
- Prodigious** (adj) prodigiousness (n) The bomb exploded with a *prodigious* (huge, monstrous, mighty) roar.
- Prolific** (adj) prolificness (n) His *prolific* (inventive, fertile, productive) mind came up with many new ideas.
- Propensity** (n) He had a great *propensity* (leaning, bent, natural inclination) toward the field of medicine.
- Prudent** (adj) prudence (n) Because the intelligent, young prince was careful and not impulsive, he became a *prudent* (wisely cautious) ruler.
- Redundant** (adj) redundancy (n) The governor's statement to the press was too *redundant* (overly wordy); it said the same thing over and over.
- Surreptitious** (adj) surreptitiousness (n) The material was acquired by *surreptitious* (without proper authority, by sly, clandestine) methods.
- Taciturn** (adj) taciturnity (n) A *taciturn* (reserved, habitually silent) person will not contribute much to a conversation.
- Truculent** (adj) truculence (n) When John drank, he became very *truculent* (fierce, savage, cruel).
- Vacillate** (v) vacillating (adj) vacillation (n) His tendency to *vacillate* (hesitate, waver, change) caused the men to lose confidence in him.
- Vilify** (v) vilification (n) The desperate politician *vilified* (slandered, maligned) his opponent.
- Vituperate** (n) vituperative (adj) The frustrated, furious woman heaped *vituperation* (verbal abuse) on her faithless husband.