

Pastor's Classic Ten Friends



excellent words for exceptional students

1. **Abominate** (v) abominable (adj) abominableness (n) He *abominates* (hates, loathes, abhors) slimy creatures like eels.
2. **Accolade** (n) One's appearance in *Who's Who* is commonly regarded as the *accolade* (praise, honor, award) of success.
3. **Acrimonious** (adj) acrimoniousness (n) An *acrimonious* (bitter, harsh, caustic) argument only stirs up bad feelings.
4. **Ambrosial** (adj) ambrosia (n) The delicate perfume gave her hair an *ambrosial* (delicious, delightful, divine) fragrance.
5. **Aplomb** (n) He had too much *aplomb* (assurance, poise, nonchalance) to be easily embarrassed.
6. **Bellicose** (adj) bellicosity (n) Hitler's *bellicose* (quarrelsome, warlike, pugnacious) utterances heightened the tensions of the world.
7. **Bizarre** (adj) bizarreness (n) She attracted attention by wearing *bizarre* (queer, grotesque, eccentric) hats.
8. **Cajole** (v) cajolement (n) The boy did not *want* to come, but she *cajoled* (coaxed, teased, wheedled) him into coming along.
9. **Charlatan** (n) charlatanic (adj) He claimed he could cure all diseases, but he was a *charlatan* (fraud, fake, impostor).
10. **Consternation** (n) The terrible news filled us all with *consternation* (dismay, terror, astonishment).
11. **Convolution** (n) His arguments have as many *convolutions* (turns, windings, circumventions) as a twisting snake.
12. **Daunt** (v) No dangers could *daunt* (frighten, dismay, intimidate) the brave soldier.
13. **Deduce** (v) deducible (adj) deduction (n) One would never *deduce* (assume, infer, conclude by logical inference) from his rough manners that he had been to college.
14. **Didactic** (adj) didacticism (n) His advice is good, but his manner is so *didactic* (preachy, sermonizing, pedantic) that he bores his listeners.
15. **Effete** (adj) effeteness (n) Some people think it is more fashionable to seem *effete* (tired, weak, unproductive) than to act with energy.
16. **Emaciate** (v) emaciation (n) He had once been heavy but his illness left him gaunt and *emaciated* (thinned, wasted, unflashed).
17. **Emetic** (n) One who has swallowed poison should be given an *emetic* (medicine which causes vomiting) immediately.
18. **Ethnic** (adj) The differences between one nation and another are *ethnic* (racial, pertaining to a group, cultural), not biological.
19. **Fallacious** (adj) fallaciousness (n) His argument was weak, being based on *fallacious* (wrong, faulty, erroneous) reasoning.
20. **Fidelity** (n) The *fidelity* (loyalty, faithfulness, devotion) of a dog to his master is a beautiful thing to see.
21. **Germane** (adj) What you say is interesting, but not *germane* (closely related, pertinent, relevant) to the argument.
22. **Heinous** (adj) heinousness (n) His crimes are so *heinous* (terrible, abominable, odious) that we cannot forgive him.
23. **Iconoclast** (n) iconoclastic (adj) John is such an *iconoclast* (attacker of traditional ideas) we are almost afraid to tell him about our beliefs.
24. **Inane** (adj) Her ideas are so *inane* (silly, void of sense) that I think she is a fool.
25. **Injunction** (n) We went to court and obtained an *injunction* (court order, command, enjoining) against our noisy neighbors.
26. **Intrinsic** (adj) Harmony is an *intrinsic* (necessary, essential, inherent) part of the beauty of music.
27. **Lascivious** (adj) lasciviousness (n) The burlesque show displayed the female form in a *lascivious* (lustful, lewd, wanton) manner.
28. **Mendacious** (adj) mendacity (n) Don't believe her remarks; they are all *mendacious* (false, untruthful, prevaricating).
29. **Mulct** (v) They were *mulcted* of (cheated out of, tricked out of, robbed of) their money by a dishonest stranger.
30. **Nugatory** (adj) He had a few *nugatory* (worthless, trifling, ineffectual) suggestions, but he was of no real help.
31. **Objurgatory** (adj) objurgation (n) From the yard next door came the *objurgatory* (rebuking, upbraiding, chiding) voice of a mother scolding her children.
32. **Ossify** (v) ossification (n) Be sure your opinions do not *ossify* (harden, settle, rigidify) into prejudices.
33. **Paragon** (n) He considers her the *paragon* (model, perfect example, type) of beauty.
34. **Parity** (n) Your expenses must be brought closer to *parity* (similarity, equality, equivalence) with your income; you must not spend more than you earn.
35. **Peremptory** (adj) peremptoriness (n) The stern father called his boys in a *peremptory* (commanding, dictatorial, imperious) tone of voice.
36. **Phlegmatic** (adj) The *phlegmatic* (sluggish, imperturbable, torpid) old man sat smoking his pipe, ignoring the quarrel, even though he was the cause of it.
37. **Portentous** (adj) portentousness (n) When the dam broke, we realized how *portentous* (foretelling, presaging, prodigious with news) his warning had been.
38. **Precocious** (adj) precociousness (n) The child was so *precocious* (ahead of her age level, forward, prematurely brilliant) that she learned algebra at the age of four.
39. **Pugnacious** (adj) pugnacity (n) The small wren is so *pugnacious* (quarrelsome, belligerent, combative) that it drives away birds much larger than itself.
40. **Repertoire** (n) His *repertoire* (list of pieces to be performed, inventory) is so enormous that he can sing almost any song you ask for.
41. **Rusticate** (v) rustication (n) We've bought a farm so that we can *rusticate* (stay in the country, become rural) during our vacations.
42. **Scintillate** (v) scintillating (adj) scintillation (n) The Christmas tree ornaments *scintillated* (twinkled, sparkled, shown tremulously) like stars.
43. **Staid** (adj) staidness (n) She is such a *staid* (correct, sober, decorous) person that she would never think of dancing in her stocking feet.
44. **Supercilious** (adj) superciliousness (n) For all her *supercilious* (snobbish, vain, pompous) airs of superiority, she is an unhappy, insecure woman at heart.
45. **Synthesis** (n) For his notebook, the student made a *synthesis* (combination, reconciliation) of what he had read and what the teacher said in class.
46. **Undulate** (v) undulation (n) undulating (adj) The seaweed *undulated* (moved up and down, rippled) in the waves like a slow snake.
47. **Urbane** (adj) urbaneness (n) She was too *urbane* (polite, refined, suave) to let him see that she was shocked by his insolent words.
48. **Vegetate** (v) vegetation (n) vegetative (adj) He does nothing but sit home and *vegetate* (live unthinkingly, merely exist), drawing his pension and chewing tobacco.
49. **Vehement** (adj) vehemence (n) Although he was found at the scene of the crime, he made a *vehement* (violent, passionate, furious) denial of guilt, angrily insisting that he knew nothing about it.
50. **Vindictive** (adj) vindictiveness (n) Did Helen spread that lie about me just because I rebuked her? I didn't know she was so *vindictive* (mean, spiteful, revengeful).