

# Pastor's Classic Ten Friends



*excellent words for exceptional students*

1. *Acumen* (n) A man with his *acumen* (keen insight) is not easily imposed on.
2. *Adamant* (adj) He was *adamant* (unyielding, absolutely firm) in his refusal to reveal the name of his accomplice.
3. *Anomaly* (n) anomalous (adj) His coonskin cap was an *anomaly* (a deviation from the usual, out of the ordinary) in the Congressional cloakroom.
4. *Antipathy* (n) antipathetic (adj) My *antipathy* (dislike of, hatred for, aversion to) for communism was no secret.
5. *Apathy* (n) apathetic (adj) His *apathy* (lack of feeling, absence of emotion) about the injured child was shocking.
6. *Assiduous* (adj) assiduity (n) An *assiduous* (constant, persistent) reader often makes a good scholar.
7. *Autonomous* (adj) autonomy (n) Although the store carried the name of a chain, it was really *autonomous* (self-governing, independent of outside control).
8. *Banal* (adj) banality (n) The pompous speaker bored his audience with *banal* (trite, commonplace, uninspired) remarks.
9. *Candor* (n) candid (adj) The senator talked about political issues with surprising *candor* (frankness, outspokenness).
10. *Caprice* (n) capricious (adj) It was simply *caprice* (a whim, an unmotivated decision) which made him order the promotion of all red-headed men in the platoon.
11. *Castigate* (v) castigation (n) Editors love to *castigate* (severely criticize) crooked politicians.
12. *Chicanery* (n) Many people assume that there is always a certain amount of *chicanery* (trickery, subterfuge) in the letting of city contracts.
13. *Depraved* (adj) depravity (n) The Judge found the young hoodlum to be *depraved* (incorrigibly evil).
14. *Discursive* (adj) discursiveness (n) John simply could not stick to the point; he always told a story in a *discursive* (rambling, digressive) manner.
15. *Dissonance* (n) dissonant (adj) Musical composers often use *dissonance* (discord, unharmonious effects) to suggest a state of restlessness.
16. *Dour* (adj) The *dour* (sour, sullen, gloomy) expression on his face discouraged people from making gay conversation.
17. *Ebullient* (adj) ebullience (n) Since he was basically *ebullient* (full of enthusiasm, bubbling with energy) nothing discouraged him for long.
18. *Ecstatic* (adj) ecstasy (n) The reunited lovers were *ecstatic* (overpowered by delight).
19. *Enervate* (v) enervation (n) Hiking up the mountain will *enervate* (deprive of nervous energy, weaken) all but the toughest of men.
20. *Engender* (v) Such violent language is more likely to *engender* (cause, produce) resentment than remove it.
21. *Ephemeral* (adj) ephemera (n) The popularity of rock and roll will probably be *ephemeral* (short-lived, fleeting).
22. *Esoteric* (adj) The *esoteric* (hidden, secret) meaning of the parables was revealed by the Master to only a few.
23. *Expiate* (v) To *expiate* (atone for, make amends for) his terrible crime is impossible.
24. *Fiasco* (n) An early rocket launching attempt was a *fiasco* (complete, utter failure).
25. *Flaccid* (adj) flaccidity (n) A long illness results in *flaccid* (flabby, weak) muscles.
26. *Laconic* (adj) laconism (n) He opened his mouth just enough to let out his few, *laconic* (brief, terse) remarks.
27. *Latent* (adj) latency (n) Although he has not yet produced a masterpiece, we believe he has *latent* (unrevealed, unused) genius.
28. *Lethargic* (adj) lethargy (n) Because of the heat, people felt *lethargic* (sluggish, drowsily lazy).
29. *Lugubrious* (adj) lugubriousness (n) He kept the dead dog's collar on his desk, a *lugubrious* (ridiculously sorrowful, mournful) reminder of his departed friend.
30. *Moribund* (adj) moribundity (n) He tried to revive the bridge club, but it was already *moribund* (dying, ending).
31. *Myopic* (adj) myopia (n) His favorite cartoon character was the *myopic* (near-sighted) Mr. Magoo.
32. *Obstreperous* (adj) obstreperousness (n) The longer the teacher was out of the room, the more *obstreperous* (boisterous, unruly) the children became.
33. *Parsimonious* (adj) parsimony (n) The belief that the Scottish people are *parsimonious* (excessively frugal, penny pinching) is the basis of many jokes.
34. *Perfidious* (adj) perfidy (n) Benedict Arnold is usually remembered as a *perfidious* (traitorous, treacherous) soldier.
35. *Perfunctory* (adj) perfunctoriness (n) The clerk performed his duties in a *perfunctory* (mechanical, indifferent) manner.
36. *Perspicuity* (n) The *perspicuity* (clearness, lucidity) of his arguments made his opponents see his side of the issue.
37. *Polemic* (n) The argument was one long, noisy *polemic* (controversy, argumentative debate) and nothing was decided.
38. *Procrastinate* (v) procrastination (n) Don't *procrastinate* (postpone, put off, delay); do it today.
39. *Prototype* (n) prototypic (adj) Napoleon is the *prototype* (model, pattern) of modern dictators.
40. *Regressive* (adj) A *regressive* (going backward) tendency is one that seeks to return to some previous condition.
41. *Sagacity* (n) sagacious (adj) His *sagacity* (wisdom) is so well known that people come for miles to get his opinions.
42. *Sententious* (adj) sententiousness (n) You call him wise, but I think he's only *sententious* (full of old sayings, maxims, or proverbs).
43. *Tacit* (adj) tacitness (n) They had a *tacit* (unexpressed but understood) agreement never to talk about religion at meals.
44. *Tenuous* (adj) tenuousness (n) John's *tenuous* (thin, unsubstantial, flimsy) arguments did not aid his debating team.
45. *Turgid* (adj) turgidity (n) His *turgid* (swollen, bombastic) eloquence made some of his listeners yawn and some laugh.
46. *Ubiquitous* (adj) ubiquitousness (n) Freedom cannot flourish in spots; it must be *ubiquitous* (everywhere at the same time).
47. *Unctuous* (adj) unctuousness (n) The waiter's *unctuous* (oily, overly suave) manners made the customers suspicious.
48. *Vapid* (adj) vapidness (n) His conversation is so *vapid* (empty, dull) it puts me to sleep.
49. *Voluptuous* (adj) voluptuousness (n) The actress's *voluptuous* (sensual, pleasure loving and giving) charms had made her a popular favorite.
50. *Wry* (adj) wryness (n) His quiet but *wry* (indirect, twisted) wit made it a delight to listen to him.