

Pastor's Classic Ten Friends



excellent words for exceptional students

1. *Aborigine* (n) aboriginal (adj) Columbus was greeted by friendly *aborigines* (natives, first inhabitants).
2. *Adroit* (adj) adroitness (n) This *adroit* (clever, skillful, dexterous) turning of a blunder into a joke eased the tension in the room.
3. *Altruism* (n) altruistic (adj) Far from being self-centered, he has a sincere *altruism* (thoughtfulness, unselfishness, concern for others).
4. *Animosity* (n) John has an *animosity* (ill will, hostility, enmity) toward all foreigners.
5. *Apposite* (adj) appositeness (n) The scholar has an *apposite* (fitting, appropriate, apt) quotation for any occasion.
6. *Bourgeois* (adj) The *bourgeois* (conventional, middle-class, respectable) customs of our society have been scorned by the socialists.
7. *Cerebration* (n) Athletics is good for a college boy, but there has to be a little *cerebration* (thinking, using the brain) too.
8. *Coadjutor* (n) The executive's work was so heavy that we appointed a *coadjutor* (helper, assistant, co-operator).
9. *Concomitant* (adj) concomitance (n) He wants the job but not the *concomitant* (accompanying, involved, attendant) responsibility.
10. *Corroboration* (n) corroborative (adj) One ought not to accept such dangerous figures without some *corroboration* (confirmation, without making certain).
11. *Culpable* (adj) culpability (n) The permitting of a bad act is as *culpable* (much to blame, deserving of censure, deserving of reproach) as doing it.
12. *Dichotomy* (n) dichotomous (adj) Man and woman; the ceaselessly interesting *dichotomy* (division into two parts, split, dualism) of the human race.
13. *Dotage* (n) At the age of ninety-two, he was clearly in his *dotage* (feeble old age, second childhood, senility).
14. *Enigma* (n) enigmatic (adj) I can't figure him out; he's a real *enigma* (puzzle, mystery, riddle).
15. *Fecundity* (n) fecund (adj) In its lush *fecundity* (production, fruitfulness, prolificness), the land bore three crops a year.
16. *Flamboyant* (adj) flamboyance (n) His speech was too *flamboyant* (showy, flowery, bombastic) to sound sincere.
17. *Forte* (n) Let John do the entertaining; that's his *forte* (strong point, specialty, what he excels in).
18. *Gamut* (n) The actress displayed the whole *gamut* (scale, range, extent) of human passions.
19. *Hypothetical* (adj) A *hypothetical* (theoretical, logical, conjectural) solution will not always work in actual practice.
20. *Impetus* (n) He is still running under the *impetus* (energy or motion, push, stimulus) of his mother's ambitions for him.
21. *Inchoate* (adj) inchoateness (n) The suburb was still *inchoate* (just beginning, rudimentary, incipient); there were not even any sidewalks yet.
22. *Indolence* (n) indolent (adj) In his *indolence* (laziness, inertia, relaxed inaction), he reminded me of a well-fed cat.
23. *Innocuous* (adj) innocuousness (n) His *innocuous* (harmless, mild, uninjurious) remarks were mistaken for harsh insults.
24. *Invidious* (adj) invidiousness (n) It's *invidious* (offensive, unjust, unfair) to praise one child and ignore another.
25. *Licentious* (adj) licentiousness (n) The *licentious* (immoral, lewd, libertine) entertainments of the Roman emperors are notorious.
26. *Maimed* (adj) His hand was so *maimed* (disabled, mutilated, crippled) in an accident that the fingers were missing.
27. *Meretricious* (adj) meretriciousness (n) The peddler's *meretricious* (false, flashy, specious) claims tricked us into buying.
28. *Nadir* (n) His fortunes went from zenith to *nadir* (rock bottom, low point, the depths) in one day.
29. *Nexus* (n) The *nexus* (binding force, link, tie) of a family should be love.
30. *Nonentity* (n) A *nonentity* (nobody, person of no influence, unnoticed person) has at least a quieter life than a popular hero.
31. *Obviate* (v) obviation (n) His immediate granting of our request *obviated* (prevented, made unnecessary, avoided) all further schemes for forcing his hand.
32. *Opulent* (adj) opulence (n) He longs for the *opulent* (luxurious, sleek, affluent) life of a millionaire.
33. *Paucity* (n) The hunters finding nothing, were disheartened by the *paucity* (insufficiency, lack, scarcity) of game.
34. *Petulant* (adj) petulance (n) The tired child grew *petulant* (bad-tempered, peevish, irritable) and began to whine.
35. *Placid* (adj) placidness (n) No wind ruffled the *placid* (still, calm, tranquil) lake.
36. *Profligate* (adj) profligateness (n) Though they once had money, they were *profligate* (wasteful, careless, extravagant) and therefore poor.
37. *Puissant* (adj) puissance (n) The sun shone forth in its *puissant* (strong, mighty, potent) majesty.
38. *Querulous* (adj) querulousness (n) The child was so tired he became *querulous* (peevish, fretful, nagging) and began to cry when he could not have his way.
39. *Recondite* (adj) reconditeness (n) Atomic physics is a *recondite* (complicated, difficult to grasp, abstruse) science.
40. *Retinue* (n) She swept into the hotel with a *retinue* (escort, attentive group, suite) of servants.
41. *Salient* (adj) salience (n) One of the most *salient* (noticeable, outstanding, important) features of the city is its frontage on the lake.
42. *Saturnine* (adj) You are wasting your jokes on that *saturnine* (grave, morose, taciturn) man; he never laughs.
43. *Sonorous* (adj) sonorousness (n) The *sonorous* (deep, rich, resonant) organ music filled the cathedral.
44. *Spurious* (adj) spuriousness (n) The *spurious* (false, fake, counterfeit) duke was finally exposed.
45. *Succulent* (adj) succulence (n) Fresh asparagus is crisp and *succulent* (juicy, pleasant, delicious).
46. *Torpid* (adj) torpidness (n) Even though it perceived its danger, the snake, *torpid* (sluggish, inactive, lethargic) in the cold weather, could only move slowly to one side.
47. *Turbid* (adj) turbidness (n) The motor boat, crossing the shallow pond, left a *turbid* (muddy, cloudy) wake.
48. *Uxorious* (adj) uxoriousness (n) He is as *uxorious* (fond of his wife, demonstrative towards his wife, doting on his wife) as a bridegroom.
49. *Virago* (n) Xanthippe, wife of Socrates, is the world's most infamous *virago* (scolding, ill-tempered wife, shrew).
50. *Voluble* (adj) volubleness (n) She is so *voluble* (talkative, glib, loquacious) no one else can talk.