

Pastor's Classic Ten Friends



excellent words for exceptional students

1. **Abort** (v) Because we could not raise the money, our plans *aborted* (failed, came to nothing, miscarried).
2. **Affinity** (n) **affined** (adj) Those two get along so well, they seem to have an *affinity* (mutual attraction, magnetism, instinctive liking) for each other.
3. **Amalgamate** (v) **amalgamable** (adj) **amalgamation** (n) The two companies *amalgamated* (joined, combined, consolidated) into one big one.
4. **Apex** (n) The *apex* (high point, climax, vertex) of his musical career came when he played before the king.
5. **Aspersions** (n) She is so bad tempered that she casts *aspersions* (slander, defamation, calumny) even on her friends.
6. **Bovine** (adj) She is so calm and slow, she sometimes seems downright *bovine* (sluggish, slow as an ox, stolid).
7. **Chimerical** (adj) **chimera** (n) To hope for a society in which no one ever quarrels is *chimerical* (fantastic, visionary, absurdly improbable).
8. **Coalesce** (v) **coalescence** (n) By the end of the first practice, the individual players *coalesced* (joined together, merged, united) into a team.
9. **Cogitate** (v) **cogitation** (n) **cogitative** (adj) After *cogitating* (thinking hard, pondering, meditating) for a week, he thought he had found a way out of the difficulty.
10. **Condign** (adj) The judge decreed a severe but *condign* (fit, deserved, merited) punishment.
11. **Coterie** (n) They formed a *coterie* (set, social group, clique) and praised each other's works extravagantly.
12. **Debauch** (v) **debauchment** (n) The glitter of night life has *debauched* (led astray, seduced, corrupted) some of our young people.
13. **Diurnal** (adj) The sun in its *diurnal* (daily, regular, daytime) round shines on rich and poor alike.
14. **Ductile** (adj) **ductility** (n) She is so *ductile* (easily swayed, easily led, tractable) that anyone can change her opinions.
15. **Exiguous** (adj) **exiguousness** (n) The salary they offered was so *exiguous* (small, scanty, meager) that he turned them down.
16. **Fetish** (n) **fetishistic** (adj) Dice and baby shoes are hung in automobiles as *fetishes* (magic sources of power, charms, amulets) to ward off accidents.
17. **Foible** (n) One of the teacher's *foibles* (weaknesses, frailties, shortcomings) is that he will not use white chalk.
18. **Fortitude** (n) **fortitudinous** (adj) In times of grief, we need all our *fortitude* (strength, patience, courage).
19. **Grandiloquent** (adj) **grandiloquence** (n) His *grandiloquent* (lofty, pompous, inflated) claims did not fool anyone.
20. **Imbroglia** (n) She made several dates for the same night; it's a real *imbroglia* (tangled confusion, complicated misunderstanding, embroilment).
21. **Impolitic** (adj) **impoliticness** (n) It was *impolitic* (unwise, injudicious, ill advised) of you to praise blondes to a brunette.
22. **Incipient** (adj) **incipience** (n) *Incipient* (beginning, commencing, coming) despotism often masks as public service.
23. **Ingenuous** (adj) **ingenuousness** (n) Children are too *ingenuous* (innocently frank, candid, artless) to know when to keep quiet.
24. **Innuendo** (n) None of your *innuendoes* (sly hints, intimations, insinuations). Say what you mean!
25. **Irascible** (adj) **irascibleness** (n) Everybody was afraid of arousing the boss' *irascible* (easily angered, irritable) temper.
26. **Limpid** (adj) **limpidness** (n) Mountain rivers are so *limpid* (clear, transparent, pellucid), you can see every pebble on their beds.
27. **Malevolent** (adj) **malevolence** (n) In the story, a *malevolent* (spiteful, malicious, malignant) witch attempts to thwart the hero.
28. **Metamorphosis** (n) **metamorphic** (adj) In her four years at college, the shy country girl underwent a complete *metamorphosis* (basic change, transformation, rebirth), graduating as a sophisticated young woman.
29. **Nadir** (n) His fortunes went from *zenith* to *nadir* (rock bottom, low point, the depths) in one day.
30. **Nuance** (n) The French say truth lies in *nuances* (shades of difference, subtle variations).
31. **Officious** (adj) **officiousness** (n) An *officious* (impertinent, fussy, meddlesome) little man, full of self-importance, bustled up and told us where to stand.
32. **Organic** (adj) A system built on hate has an *organic* (basic, inherent) flaw.
33. **Periphery** (n) **peripheral** (adj) The shy boy stayed on the *periphery* (boundary, edge, outside) of the crowd.
34. **Piquant** (adj) **piquancy** (n) The young woman's *piquant* (stimulating, stirring, provocative) remark made the old man smile.
35. **Plethoric** (adj) He had a *plethoric* (dull, stuffed, turgid) style, full of unnecessary phrases.
36. **Prognosticate** (v) **prognosticative** (adj) Even the weather man can't *prognosticate* (foretell, predict, forecast) our weather accurately.
37. **Pulchritude** (n) **pulchritudinous** (adj) The *pulchritude* (physical beauty, attractiveness, comeliness) of women is one of life's chief delights.
38. **Rapacious** (adj) **rapaciousness** (n) The shark is a *rapacious* (ferociously greedy, ravenous, predatory) creature.
39. **Reconnoiter** (v) The captain sent out two scouts to *reconnoiter* (spy out, examine, explore) the enemy's position.
40. **Reprobation** (n) **reprobate** (adj) The criminal felt the *reprobation* (disapproval, censure, rejection) of society.
41. **Salubrious** (adj) **salubriousness** (n) At the seashore, the very air seems *salubrious* (health giving, wholesome, salutary).
42. **Schism** (n) The *schism* (division, disunion over a difference of opinion) of North and South led inevitably to the Civil War.
43. **Somnolent** (adj) **somnolence** (n) After reading that book for an hour, I became *somnolent* (drowsy, tired, sleepy).
44. **Stratagem** (n) Br'er Rabbit always gets away from Br'er Fox by some *stratagem* (trick, device, scheme).
45. **Supplication** (n) **supplicatory** (adj) The clergyman made a solemn *supplication* (prayer, petition, entreaty) for peace.
46. **Traumatic** (adj) **traumatism** (n) The accident was a *traumatic* (emotionally shocking, psychologically injurious) experience for the child.
47. **Umbrage** (n) **umbrageous** (adj) He takes *umbrage* (resents, takes offense at, gets gloomy) at the slightest criticism.
48. **Vacuity** (n) **vacuous** (adj) During the exam, my mind was in a state of *vacuity* (emptiness, vacancy, inanity).
49. **Virile** (adj) **virility** (n) College football players are popular because they are *virile* (manly, masculine, vigorous).
50. **Voracious** (adj) **voracity** (n) The great vultures are astonishingly *voracious* (all devouring, greedy, ravenous) and will dispose of a carcass in a few minutes.