

Pastor's Classic Ten Friends

excellent words for exceptional students



- Abrogate** (v) abrogate (adj) abrogation (n) That law is not in effect anymore; it has been *abrogated* (canceled, repealed, annulled).
- Accost** (v) When I came into the inn, a stranger *accosted* (saluted me, approached me with a greeting) me.
- Adjudicate** (v) adjudication (adj) adjudication (n) Who will *adjudicate* (settle, decide, adjudge) their dispute?
- Ameliorate** (v) ameliorative (adj) amelioration (n) We must *ameliorate* (help, better, improve) the condition of those who live in slums.
- Antithesis** (n) antithetic (adj) Love is the *antithesis* (opposite, contrast) of hate.
- Aquiline** (adj) An *aquiline* (curved, hawk like) nose makes a face look forceful.
- Benignant** (adj) benignity (n) The doctor always greeted children with a *benignant* (kindly, gracious) smile.
- Blund** (adj) blandness (n) His manners were *bland* (mild, smooth, suave), but somehow I did not trust him.
- Cant** (n) His speech was so full of *cant* (insincerity, meaningless phrases, hypocrisy) that his educated listeners could not take him seriously.
- Chauvinism** (n) chauvinistic (adj) He boasts of his race not reasonably but with *chauvinism* (fanatical pride, contempt of another group, jingoism).
- Contemporary** (n) The child is embarrassed by adults, but he gets along well with his *contemporaries* (those of the same age, his coevals).
- Convivial** (adj) conviviality (n) He'll surely come to the party; he is so *convivial* (sociable, jovial, companionable).
- Corpulent** (adj) corpulence (n) She became so *corpulent* (fat, stout, obese) that she could no longer get into the car.
- Decadent** (adj) decadence (n) History shows that in some corrupt periods, morals were *decadent* (declining, decaying, deteriorating).
- Derision** (n) derisive (adj) He tried to get a serious hearing for his ideas, but was greeted with *derision* (scornful laughter, mockery, ridicule).
- Disconcerted** (adj) disconcertedness (n) I was *disconcerted* (confused, taken by surprise, embarrassed) to find that my rival had won the contest so easily.
- Effervescent** (adj) effervescence (n) Jane laughs and chatters; she's as *effervescent* (lively, bubbling, vivacious) as champagne.
- Embroid** (v) embroidery (n) Don't let those women *embroid* (entangle, involve, implicate) you in their quarrels.
- Ennui** (n) People who have everything they wish for often fall into *ennui* (boredom, the blues, melancholy).
- Evanescence** (adj) evanescence (n) A good joke is often an *evanescent* (passing, transitory, ephemeral) thing, utterly incomprehensible to a later generation.
- Frugality** (n) frugal (adj) By great *frugality* (thrift, economy) they managed to save enough money to buy a house.
- Heterogeneous** (adj) heterogeneousness (n) John knows people from so many different groups that his friends are a *heterogeneous* (varied, dissimilar, miscellaneous) lot.
- Ignominious** (adj) ignominy (n) To salute the dictator was an *ignominious* (shameful, dishonorable, despicable) necessity.
- Incongruous** (adj) incongruousness (n) She is so very tall and he is so very short that they make an *incongruous* (unsuitable, inharmonious, ill-assorted) pair.
- Inspid** (adj) insipidness (n) Her talk is so *insipid* (uninteresting, dull, vapid) no one will listen to her.
- Jocose** (adj) jocoseness (n) Is it true that fat people are more *jocose* (jolly, playful, humorous) than others?
- Judicious** (adj) judiciousness (n) It was *judicious* (wise, sensible, well-advised) of Tom to select the best car instead of the most expensive one.
- Levity** (n) The ridicule of religion is a form of *levity* (thoughtlessness, frivolity, flippancy) which most people dislike.
- Magnanimity** (n) magnanimous (adj) His *magnanimity* (great-heartedness, generosity, nobility) was shown by the fact that he always tried to see his opponent's point of view.
- Maladroitt** (adj) maladroitness (n) The embarrassed boy was so *maladroitt* (unskillful, awkward, gauche) in his passing of the refreshments that the girls giggled.
- Metaphysics** (n) metaphysical (adj) Why the universe was created is a question for *metaphysics* (the philosophy of the origin and essential nature of life) rather than science.
- Moot** (adj) Whether we should go or stay is a *moot* (debatable, arguable) point.
- Mundane** (adj) John would rather think of philosophical questions than of such *mundane* (commonplace, practical, earthly) things as paying the rent.
- Obdurate** (adj) obdurateness (n) He is such an *obdurate* (stubborn, inflexible, obstinate) person, so set in his opinions, that no one can reason with him.
- Onerous** (adj) onerousness (n) The work, filing and typing for ten hours a day, was so *onerous* (troublesome, burdensome, oppressive) that no one stayed in that job very long.
- Paranoiac** (n) Because John is *paranoiac* (subject to delusions of hostility) he believes that he has many enemies who are secretly conspiring against him.
- Peccadillo** (n) She loves him so much that she thinks his crimes are only *peccadillos* (trifling errors, faults, weaknesses), trifles to be excused or laughed at.
- Pernicious** (adj) perniciousness (n) The *pernicious* (harmful, destructive, noxious) influence of widespread bribery had corrupted the town's police force.
- Platitude** (n) platitudinous (adj) His advice is more boring than helpful because he speaks in *platitudes* (commonplaces, clichés, truisms); he is always stating in pompous words what everybody knows anyway.
- Potpourri** (n) We present for your amusement a *potpourri* (mixture, medley, miscellany) of songs, dances, and recitations.
- Pristine** (adj) There stood our brand new car in its *pristine* (unspoiled, fresh, uncontaminated) beauty.
- Prosaic** (adj) His ideas are good, but his style is *prosaic* (dull, commonplace, unimaginative).
- Punctilious** (adj) punctiliousness (n) Abraham Lincoln was so *punctilious* (careful, proper, scrupulous) as a storekeeper that he walked miles to give a customer her change.
- Resilient** (adj) resilience (n) Children have such *resilient* (elastic, springy, rebounding) hearts that they often laugh with genuine delight even while the tears of their last sorrow are still wet on their faces.
- Salacious** (adj) salaciousness (n) Should not *salacious* (lustful, obscene, lecherous) novels, with their deliberate exploitation of indecency, be kept away from children?
- Seditious** (n) seditious (adj) Those who actively opposed the war were accused of *seditious* (treason, inciting rebellion).
- Stoic** (adj) stoicalness (n) Mary is *stoic* (calm, brave, unmoved) about pain and endures anything without complaining.
- Superfluous** (adj) superfluousness (n) I have said everything that needs to be said; I shall add no *superfluous* (unnecessary, needless, supererogatory) comments.
- Verity** (n) In *verity* (truth, fact, reality) the matter is exactly as reported.
- Vogue** (n) The *vogue* (fashion, style, mode) in women's clothes is often changed.