

K.D. Sullivan

A Cure for the Common

WORD

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**Remedy Your
Ailing Vocabulary
with 3,000+
Vibrant Alternatives
to the Most
Overused Words**

A Cure for the Common **WORD**

K.D. Sullivan



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Professional



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Contents

1 Introduction

6	absolutely	ADVERB	54	do	VERB
8	activity	NOUN	56	easy	ADJECTIVE
10	affect	VERB	58	effective	ADJECTIVE
12	amazing	ADJECTIVE	60	emphasize	VERB
14	awesome	ADJECTIVE	62	end	VERB
16	bad	ADJECTIVE	64	energy	NOUN
18	basic	ADJECTIVE	66	enjoy	VERB
20	beautiful	ADJECTIVE	68	enough	ADJECTIVE
22	begin	VERB	70	excellent	ADJECTIVE
24	better	ADJECTIVE	72	exciting	ADJECTIVE
26	big	ADJECTIVE	74	fast	ADJECTIVE
28	boring	ADJECTIVE	76	feel	VERB
30	bring	VERB	78	fill	VERB
32	certain	ADJECTIVE	80	final	ADJECTIVE
34	change	VERB	82	fine	ADJECTIVE
36	choose	VERB	84	finish	VERB
38	common	ADJECTIVE	86	funny	ADJECTIVE
40	correct	ADJECTIVE	88	get	VERB
42	correct	VERB	90	give	VERB
44	decent	ADJECTIVE	92	go	VERB
46	develop	VERB	94	good	ADJECTIVE
48	difficult	ADJECTIVE	96	good	ADJECTIVE
50	difficult	ADJECTIVE	98	great	ADJECTIVE
52	direct	ADJECTIVE	100	grow	VERB

102	happy	ADJECTIVE	154	plan	NOUN
104	hard	ADJECTIVE	156	plan	VERB
106	help	VERB	158	pleasant	ADJECTIVE
108	important	ADJECTIVE	160	problem	NOUN
110	interesting	ADJECTIVE	162	prove	VERB
112	keep	VERB	164	put	VERB
114	kind	ADJECTIVE	166	quick	ADJECTIVE
116	know	VERB	168	quick	ADJECTIVE
118	leave	VERB	170	ready	ADJECTIVE
120	look	NOUN	172	regular	ADJECTIVE
122	love	NOUN	174	short	ADJECTIVE
124	main	ADJECTIVE	176	simple	ADJECTIVE
126	make	VERB	178	small	ADJECTIVE
128	mean	ADJECTIVE	180	special	ADJECTIVE
130	more	ADJECTIVE	182	stay	VERB
132	need	NOUN	184	strange	ADJECTIVE
134	new	ADJECTIVE	186	take	VERB
136	next	ADJECTIVE	188	take	VERB
138	nice	ADJECTIVE	190	thin	ADJECTIVE
140	old	ADJECTIVE	192	think	VERB
142	old	ADJECTIVE	194	try	VERB
144	open	ADJECTIVE	196	use	VERB
146	part	NOUN	198	usual	ADJECTIVE
148	perfect	ADJECTIVE	200	want	VERB
150	piece	NOUN	202	weird	ADJECTIVE
152	plain	ADJECTIVE	204	well	ADVERB

Introduction

I'm reading a very interesting book.

Can you tell from the preceding sentence exactly what I mean by *interesting*? Not really. But what if I say, "I'm reading a very *helpful* book" or "I'm reading a very *comprehensive* book"? By changing just one word in this sentence to a more specific word, I convey a different meaning and give you more information about what I want to say. That's the goal of *A Cure for the Common Word*—to help you learn to more precisely convey your intended meaning when you write and when you speak.

Many of us tend to use the same words over and over. Even though it is estimated that the average person knows more than twenty thousand words, he or she uses only about 10 percent of those in daily life. Often it's out of habit or because it's easier to use the same old words, but sometimes it's because we don't fully understand the nuance of some alternative words or when it might be appropriate—and more powerful—to use them.

Granted, sometimes a vague or ambiguous word is just what you want—for example, when you are being discreet or want to leave your words open to interpretation. For example, if friends set you up on a less-than-stellar blind date, you can gracefully get out of giving a negative opinion by vaguely describing your date as a "nice" guy.

If you do want to be specific, then by expanding your repertoire of words, when you write and speak you will be able to use the most precise word for your meaning, not just the first word that comes to mind. And by using these more precise words, you will be able to communicate *exactly* what you mean and will do so in a quick and concise manner.

Using the same example of our blind date—and assuming this time that the date with Rich was a positive one—see what happens when we use different alternatives for our "nice" guy?

Rich has a nice personality.

Substitute an alternative remedy for *nice*:

Rich has a(n) _____ personality.

cordial	Rich is warm, sincere, and friendly.
cultured	Rich is refined in his manner and enlightened and knowledgeable in the arts.
gentle	Rich is never severe or harsh in any way.
gracious	Rich is kind and courteous and has a compassionate nature.

A Cure for the Common Word is for anyone from middle-school age to adult, for those who write and speak in their profession and those eager to improve their vocabulary to be more effective in what they say.

For example, did you know that in the preceding sentence, *eager* is exactly the right word, rather than *anxious*, which many people would have used? That's because *eager* means having or showing keen interest or intense desire, whereas *anxious* means uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event.

How to Use This Book

This book includes one hundred of the most commonly overused words in the English language, based on research from several sources. Because these common words can often be vague, limiting, or confusing in a sentence, we'll show you how choosing specific alternatives to these common words helps you to more precisely convey your intended meaning.

Before we describe the elements of this book, let's take a brief look at the definitions of a few terms used throughout the book:

connotation—the associated or secondary meaning of a word or an expression in addition to its explicit or primary meaning

definition—a statement of the meaning of a word, phrase, or term, as in a dictionary entry

impression—a strong effect produced on the intellect, feelings, conscience, etc.

meaning—what is intended to be, or actually is, expressed or indicated

nuance—a subtle difference or distinction in expression, meaning, response, etc.

Each of these refers to going beyond the definition of a word, to the subtleties of what you mean—or what is perceived.

Now a guide to help you with the symptoms of and cures for the common words in this book.

A number of elements are associated with each of the one hundred common words in this book. The following descriptions will help you gain the most use of the alternatives offered in this book.

On each left-hand page, you'll see

- **The common word.** Be alert because of the one hundred common words, a few are the same word in spelling but not in definition. You're not seeing double.
- **The common word's part of speech.**
- **A brief definition or definitions of the common word.** Some common words are given only one definition, but other common words can be defined more than one way, all similar in nature.
- **Seven alternatives to the common word.** The meanings of these will all appear on the right-hand page.
- **A more thorough list of alternatives for the common word.** Though this list may not include all synonyms, we've listed the most relevant and/or powerful alternatives. A traditional thesaurus—in print or online—may list more words in all their forms, including their parts of speech.
- **And for fun, a famous quote.** The quote gives an example in which one of the alternatives was just the right word—the precise cure for what the speaker wanted to say.

On each right-hand page, you'll find

- **The diagnosis.** Each of the common words has some symptoms that need a cure. The diagnosis of the problem will be *vague*, *limiting*, or *confusing*.
- **A sentence using the common word.** Think of this as our “patient.” Here’s where you’ll see how the common word may not convey clearly what you want to say (vague), doesn’t say enough of what you’d like to convey (limiting), or could have different meanings (confusing).
- **The sentence’s meaning.** Here are the “symptoms” of the common word—what the sentence means as written and how using the common word may keep us from understanding what’s truly meant.
- **Expanded alternatives and meanings.** These “remedies” to our diagnosis are just a few of the many options you can choose from to highlight a primary point you want to make or a meaning you want to imply. Note that these alternative meanings and explanations are not definitions. Some alternatives are very similar and offer only slight nuances—subtle connotations or implications that evoke slightly different feelings or perceptions of what’s meant. Others show how changing the word can dramatically change the actual meaning of the sentence. So look for key words to differentiate the implications of using each alternative.
- **A second quote.** Another fun, inspirational, or witty quote illustrates how choosing one of the alternative words gives a sentence—or sentiment—power and precise meaning.

A Wealth of Words

Because English has welcomed influences from so many other languages, you have a wealth of word choices to consider. Here are a few statistics you may not be aware of:

- The English language consists of more than a million words, if you include technical and scientific terms.

- The *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED), Second Edition, contains approximately 291,500 main entries with a total of more than 600,000 definitions, and *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Eleventh Edition, contains approximately 25,000 main entries and more than 400,000 definitions!
- Experts estimate that the average educated person knows about 20,000 words and uses about 2,000 in a week.

It's actually pretty great that we have so many ways to express ourselves, and it can be fun discovering and using just the right word to say so precisely/exactly/perfectly/ideally/eloquently what we want to say/express/convey/write/communicate.

One of the very best ways that you can improve your vocabulary and develop your writing and speaking skills is to read, read, read. As you do, be aware of how effective writers present their ideas in ways that enable you to know and feel exactly what they're saying, as if you're right in the middle of the action.

I hope that the examples and alternatives to the common words in this book give you a great deal of information of what's possible. And I hope that this is a springboard for you to try new words, not only with the common overused words in this book, but in all your writing and speaking.

This book is for all those who are eternally curious, who have a joy in learning, and who ask and seek when they don't know.

Have fun!

absolutely

PART OF SPEECH *adverb*

DEFINITION *positively; certainly; having no restriction, exception, or qualification*



cures for the common word

actually
categorically
completely
conclusively
consummately
decidedly
decisively
def
definitely
doubtless

easily
entirely
exactly
fully
ideally
positively
precisely
purely
really
right on

straight out
sure enough
surely
thoroughly
truly
unambiguously
unconditionally
unquestionably
utterly
wholly

CURED!

Frodo: "You're late." Gandalf: "A wizard is never late, Frodo Baggins. Nor is he early. He arrives **precisely** when he means to."

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Bob is **absolutely** the right person for the job.

We know from this sentence that Bob is a good choice, but we'd like more information on how that was determined or why he is so right for the job.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *absolutely*:

Bob is _____ the right person for the job.

conclusively	There were some questions as to whether Bob was right for the job, and this puts an end to any debate.
consummately	Bob has the highest degree of qualifications for the job.
decidedly	There was never any hesitation that Bob was right for the job.
easily	Neither discussion nor considering other candidates was even necessary, because Bob is without question right for the job.
fully	Bob is right for the job in every manner and degree.
precisely	For some or many reasons, Bob is exactly the right choice—even if he doesn't match an original profile of who would be right.
unconditionally	Bob is right for the job, with no conditions or limits on that perspective.

CURED!

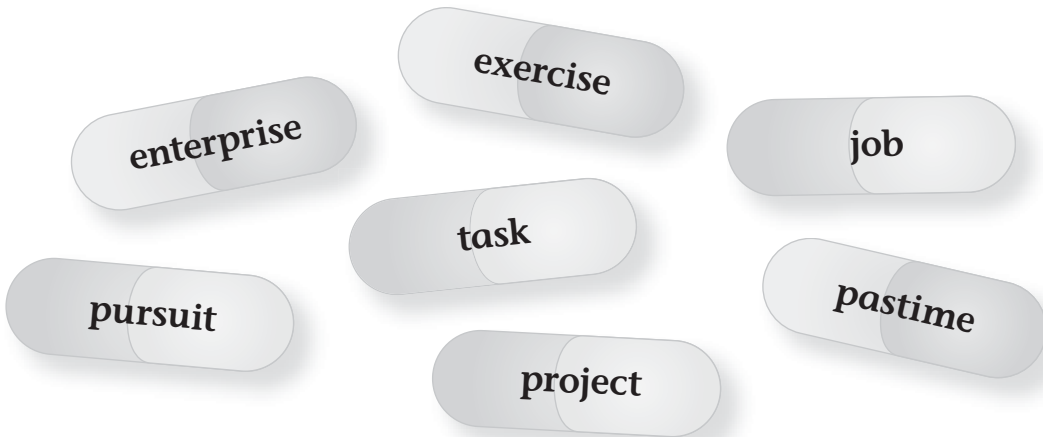
Effort only **fully** releases its reward after a person refuses to quit.

NAPOLEON HILL

activity

PART OF SPEECH *noun*

DEFINITION *a specific deed, action, or function*



cures for the common word

act
avocation
bag
ball game
bit
deed
endeavor
enterprise
entertainment

exercise
game
hobby
interest
job
labor
occupation
pastime
project

pursuit
racket
scene
scheme
stunt
task
undertaking
venture
work

CURED!

*There are some **enterprises** in which a careful disorderliness is the true method.*

HERMAN MELVILLE

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Matt stayed after school to spend time on his **activity**.

We're unsure whether Matt is spending time on something fun—or not fun. The following alternatives give us more information.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *activity*:

Matt stayed after school to spend time on his _____.

enterprise	Matt is doing something that involves his ingenuity or is related to something entrepreneurial.
exercise	Matt is doing something as a means of practice or training.
job	Matt is performing work as part of the routine of his occupation, possibly for pay.
pastime	Matt is enjoying a hobby or something that amuses him.
project	Matt is working on something he has contemplated or devised either for fun or to meet an obligation, such as a science project.
pursuit	Matt is putting in an effort to attain something that meets special criteria for him, a quest, such as practicing and honing a particular skill.
task	Matt has a commonly assigned piece of work to be finished within a certain time.

CURED!

*Defining and analyzing humor is a **pastime** of humorless people.*

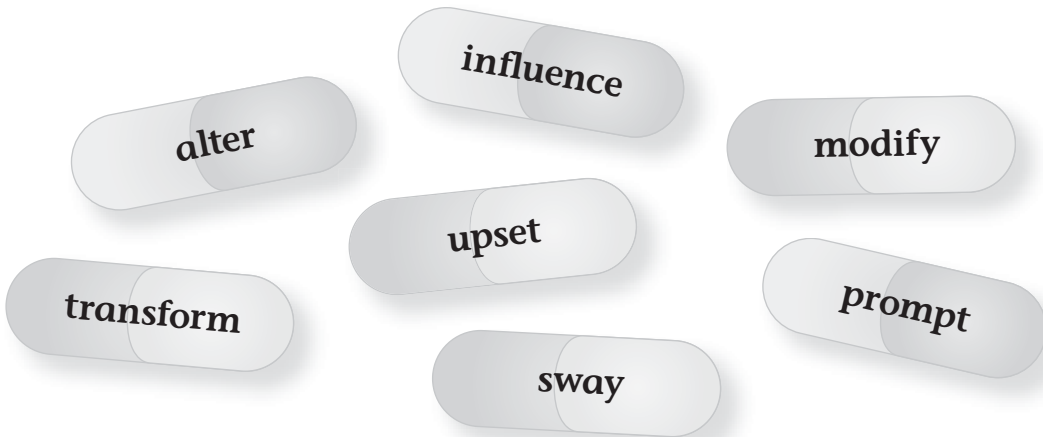
ROBERT BENCHLEY

affect

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to produce a material influence upon or alteration in

cures for the common word

act on

alter

change

disturb

impinge

impress

incline

induce

influence

inspire

interest

involve

moderate

modify

motivate

move

overcome

perturb

prevail

prompt

regard

relate

stir

sway

touch

transform**upset**

CURED!

Some painters **transform** the sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the sun.

PABLO PICASSO

Your decision will **affect** the outcome.

We know the outcome will be altered, but not how much your decision will be an influence, or if it will be positive or negative or to your advantage or the advantage of others.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *affect*:

Your decision will _____ the outcome.

alter	The outcome will be different in some ways, but without completely changing it into something new.
influence	You have the power or capacity to cause a change in indirect or intangible ways—presumably in your favor—and this may indicate negative interference.
modify	Your decision will cause fundamental changes to the outcome and may even give a new orientation to the end.
prompt	Your decision will spur on action.
sway	Your decision will have a controlling influence, possibly in a way that benefits you but not necessarily others.
transform	Your decision will greatly change the outcome in a positive way.
upset	Your decision will unexpectedly defeat an anticipated outcome.

CURED!

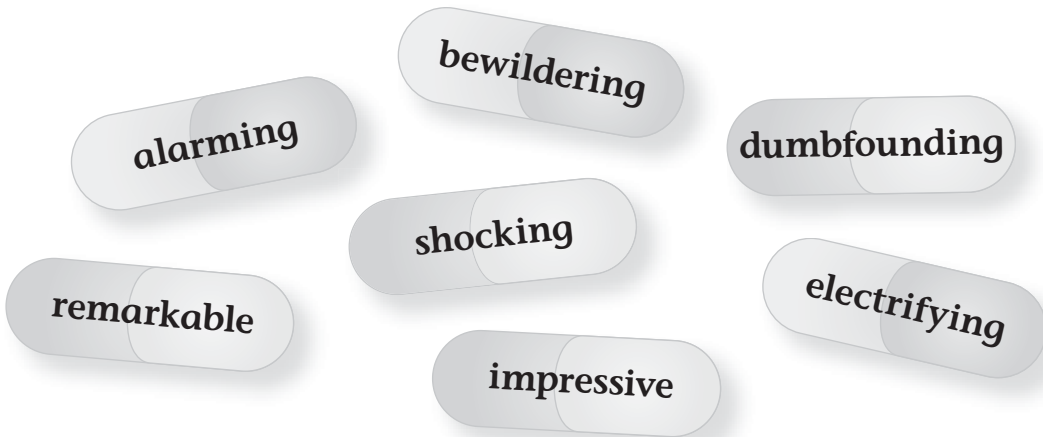
*We write frankly and freely but then we “**modify**” before we print.*

MARK TWAIN

amazing

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *causing great surprise or sudden wonder*



cures for the common word

affecting
alarming
 astonishing
 astounding
bewildering
 blown away
 bowled down
 bowled over
 dazing

dazzling
dumbfounding
electrifying
 flabbergasting
impressive
 moving
 overwhelming
 perplexing
 put away

remarkable
shocking
 staggering
 startling
 striking
 stunning
 stupefying
 touching
 unexpected

CURED!

*Love is the only **shocking** act left on the face of the earth.*

SANDRA BERNHARD

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The magician performed **amazing** tricks.

We were all amazed at the wonder of the magician's tricks, but *amazing* doesn't specify whether the experience was intellectual or emotional, positive or negative. There are different ways to be amazed.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *amazing*:

The magician performed _____ tricks.

alarming	The tricks were startling and caused a sudden fear or panic.
bewildering	The tricks confused us, especially because of their complexity, variety, and multitude of objects and considerations.
dumbfounding	The tricks were so remarkable that we didn't know what to say.
electrifying	The tricks startled us and thrilled us.
impressive	The tricks made such an impression on us that we marveled at how the magician was able to accomplish them.
remarkable	The tricks were uncommon in an extraordinary way.
shocking	The tricks were extremely startling, distressing, or offensive.

CURED!

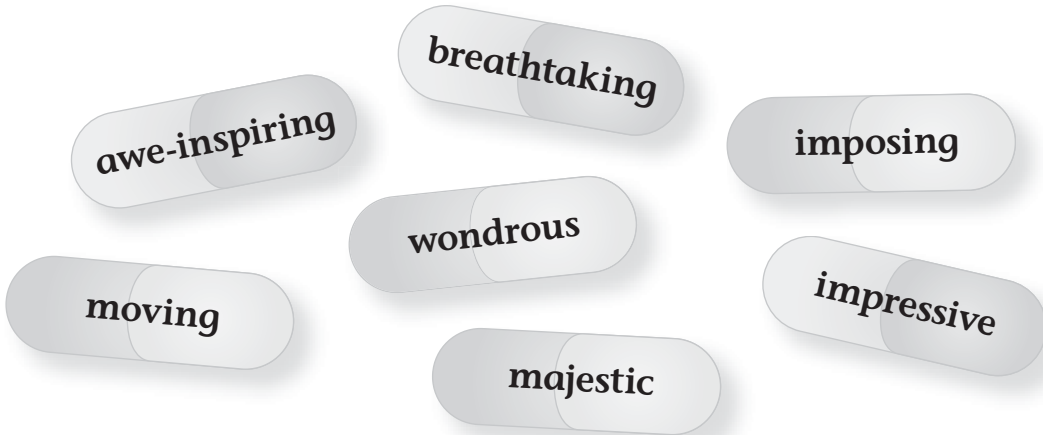
*I deny the lawfulness of telling a lie to a sick man for fear of **alarming** him.
You have no business with consequences; you are to tell the truth.*

SAMUEL JOHNSON

awesome

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *very impressive; inspiring; terrific, extraordinary*



cures for the common word

alarming
astonishing
awe-inspiring
awful
beautiful
breathtaking
daunting
dreadful
exalted
fabulous
fearful
fearsome

formidable
frantic
frightening
grand
horrifying
imposing
impressive
intimidating
magnificent
majestic
mind-blowing
moving

nervous
outstanding
overwhelming
shocking
striking
stunning
stupefying
stupendous
terrible
terrifying
wonderful
wondrous

CURED!

*Thunder is good, thunder is **impressive**; but it is lightning that does the work.*

MARK TWAIN

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The view of Bryce Canyon's rock formations was **awesome**.

Awesome is an all-encompassing description of the rock formations, which made a significant impression on us, but limits us from knowing just how the view impacted us.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *awesome*:

The view of Bryce Canyon's rock formations was _____.

awe-inspiring	The view inspired awe by its exceptional beauty.
breathtaking	The view was exciting, thrilling, and astonishing, figuratively taking our breath away, because we'd never seen anything like this before.
imposing	The formations were very impressive because of their great size, dignity, and stately appearance.
impressive	The view gave us a feeling of respect and admiration for what nature had created.
majestic	The view had an air of authority and dignity—superior to mundane matters.
moving	The view was stirring and evoked strong feelings or emotions.
wondrous	The view is to be marveled at, and we appreciated its wonder, uniqueness, or other special qualities.

CURED!

*The speed of communications is **wondrous** to behold. It is also true that speed can multiply the distribution of information that we know to be untrue.*

EDWARD R. MURROW

bad

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *of poor or inferior quality; defective; deficient*



cures for the common word

abominable
 amiss
atrocious
 awful
 bad news
 beastly
 bottom out
 bumper
 careless
cheap
 corrupt
 crummy
defective
 deficient

disagreeable
 dissatisfactory
 dreadful
 erroneous
 fallacious
 faulty
 harmful
 imperfect
 inadequate
 incorrect
inferior
 injurious
 lousy
 off

offensive
 poor
 repulsive
 rough
 sad
 skuzzy
sleazy
slipshod
 stinking
 substandard
 synthetic
 unacceptable
 unfavorable
 unsatisfactory

CURED!

*You'd be surprised how much it costs to look this **cheap**.*

DOLLY PARTON

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

One of the judges felt the contestant's **bad** costume ruined the performance.

Using *bad* doesn't indicate what the judge thought was so awful about the costume, and the alternatives tell us more about how the quality of a costume could ruin a whole performance.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *bad*:

One of the judges felt the contestant's _____ costume ruined the performance.

atrocious	The contestant's costume was shockingly dreadful, abominable—extremely awful.
cheap	Nothing negative about something being inexpensive, but <i>cheap</i> gives the implication that it is also of poor quality.
defective	The costume wasn't working properly during the performance.
inferior	The contestant's costume didn't meet high enough expectations to make a good impression.
offensive	The contestant's costume was disagreeable and repugnant to the senses, morally or otherwise.
sleazy	The costume was flimsy, and the connotation is that it didn't show the class or sophistication it probably should have.
slipshod	The costume was sloppy, and the judge could tell it was put together carelessly.

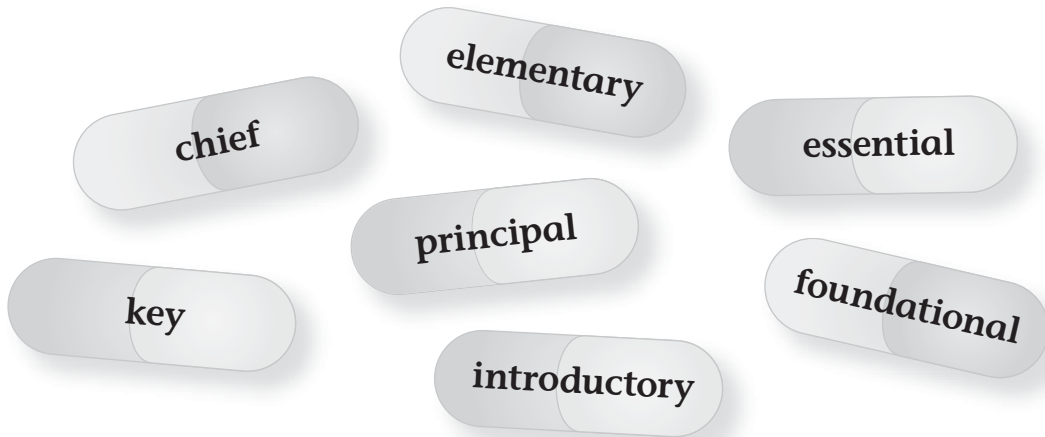
CURED!

*Revenge is not always sweet, once it is consummated we feel **inferior** to our victim.*

EMILE M. CIORAN

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *elementary; of, being, or serving as a starting point; fundamental*



cures for the common word

basal
beginning
capital
central
chief
easy
elemental
elementary
essential

foundational
fundamental
indispensable
inherent
intrinsic
introductory
key
main
necessary

primary
primitive
principal
radical
rudimentary
simplified
substratal
underlying
vital

CURED!

*In the television age, the **key** distinction is between the candidate who can speak poetry and the one who can only speak prose.*

RICHARD M. NIXON

Our textbook covered the **basic** concepts of advertising.

We can tell that the concepts in the book are necessary in any study of advertising, but the definition of what is considered *basic* isn't clear.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *basic*:

Our textbook covered the _____ concepts of advertising.

chief	These are the most important concepts, though there are different perspectives on what is most important.
elementary	The concepts covered pertain to the rudimentary principles of advertising.
essential	The concepts covered are indispensable and should not be disregarded.
foundational	These concepts represent the groundwork on which more advanced study will be based.
introductory	The concepts covered serve as only a starting point, with much more to be learned.
key	The major and pivotal concepts are covered; <i>key</i> may also mean the concepts are presented in a brief or condensed manner.
principal	Concepts of highest importance are covered.

CURED!

*All men who have turned out worth anything have had the **chief** hand in their own education.*

SIR WALTER SCOTT

beautiful

PART OF SPEECH

adjective

DEFINITION

having qualities that give great pleasure or satisfaction to the senses or mind

cures for the common word

alluring**angelic**

appealing

attractive

beauteous

bewitching

charming

classy

comely

cute

dazzling

delicate

delightful

divine

elegant

enticing

excellent

exquisite

fair

fascinating

fine

foxy

good-looking

gorgeous

graceful

grand

handsome

ideal

lovely

magnificent

marvelous

pleasing

pretty

radiant

ravishing

refined

resplendent

shapely

splendid

statuesque

stunning

sublime

superb

taking

wonderful

CURED!

*To love for the sake of being loved is human, but to love for the sake of loving is **angelic**.*

ALPHONSE DE LEMARTINE

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The **beautiful** statue caught our attention.

We know the statue is appealing and attention grabbing, but we're not sure exactly in what way.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *beautiful*:

The _____ statue caught our attention.

alluring	The statue has a tempting, enticing, or seductive quality.
angelic	The statue is befitting an angel, especially in beauty or in expressing virtue.
delicate	The details or craftsmanship of the statue is exquisitely fine or dainty.
elegant	The statue is luxurious in style or design.
fascinating	There's something about the look or meaning of the statue that is of great interest or attraction.
graceful	The statue is pleasing or attractive in line, proportion, or movement.
stunning	The statue is strikingly impressive, especially in beauty or excellence.

CURED!

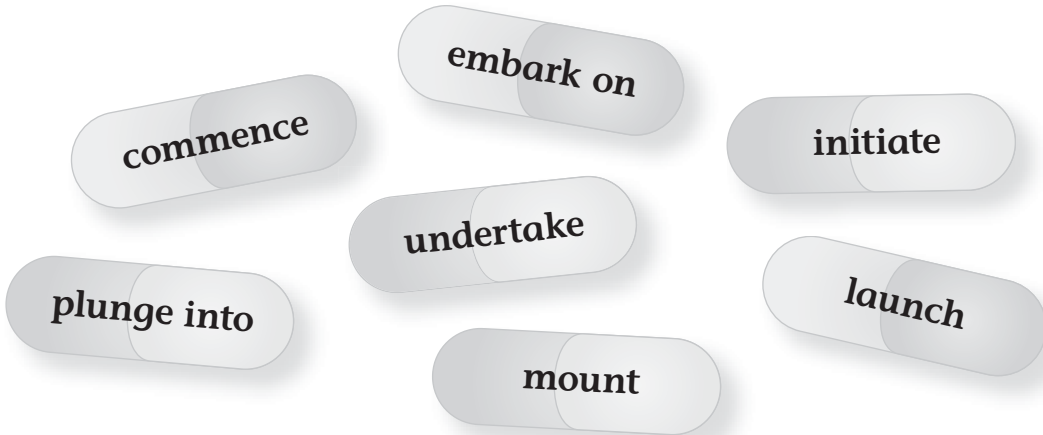
Grow *graceful*, growing old.

ANONYMOUS

begin

PART OF SPEECH *verb*

DEFINITION *to perform the first or earliest part of some action; to commence; to start*



cures for the common word

activate
actualize
break ground
bring about
cause
commence
create
effect
embark on
enter on
enter upon
establish
eventuate
found

generate
get going
give impulse
go ahead
go into
impel
inaugurate
induce
initiate
instigate
institute
introduce
launch
lead

make
make active
motivate
mount
occasion
open
originate
plunge into
prepare
produce
set about
set up
trigger
undertake

CURED!

*Two of the most difficult tasks a writer can **undertake**, to write the truth about himself and about his mother.*

TIME MAGAZINE

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The military will **begin** the offensive in twenty-four hours.

The use of *begin* tells us when the action will start, but it doesn't give us a clear idea of the military's role and intent.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *begin*:

The military will _____ the offensive in twenty-four hours.

commence The military is taking the first step to set the offensive in motion.

embark on The military is about to begin a major offensive.

initiate The military will take the lead in the offensive.

launch The military will enter enthusiastically into the offensive.

mount The military will be increasing the amount or intensity of the offensive.

plunge into The military will forcibly thrust into the offensive, or perhaps it is moving ahead suddenly.

undertake The military is taking it upon itself to achieve its objective.

CURED!

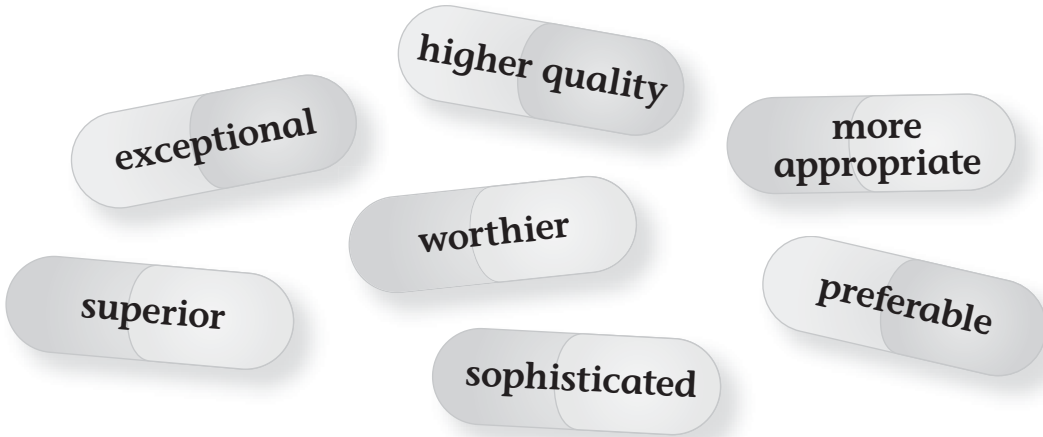
*Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues **mount**.*

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE

better

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *greater in excellence or higher in quality*



cures for the common word

bigger
choice
exceeding
exceptional
finer
fitter
greater
higher quality

improved
larger
more appropriate
more desirable
more fitting
more select
more suitable
more useful

more valuable
preferable
preferred
prominent
sophisticated
superior
surpassing
worthier

CURED!

*The qualities of an **exceptional** cook are akin to those of a successful tight-rope walker: an abiding passion for the task, courage to go out on a limb and an impeccable sense of balance.*

BRYAN MILLER

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

George is a **better** choice for lead guitarist.

We'd like to know what particular quality makes George the better choice and why better than someone else.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *better*:

George is a _____ choice for lead guitarist.

exceptional	George is an unusually excellent lead guitarist, making him one of a select, exclusive group.
higher quality	George's talents are above those of others who were compared.
more appropriate	George is the better choice for reasons beyond his playing skills; for example, he may look better for the part or have good connections in the industry.
preferable	George is the choice over others, but <i>preferable</i> still doesn't tell us exactly why.
sophisticated	George's music appeals to the tastes of a more discerning or knowledgeable audience.
superior	George's talents are above those of the average guitarist.
worthier	George is more deserving of the gig of lead guitarist.

CURED!

*The risk of a wrong decision is **preferable** to the terror of indecision.*

MAIMONIDES

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *large, as in size, height, width, or amount*

cures for the common word

ample
brimming
bulky
burly
capacious
chock-full
colossal
commodious
considerable
copious
enormous
extensive
fat
full

gigantic
heavy-duty
heavyweight
hefty
huge
hulking
humungous
husky
immense
jumbo
king-sized
mammoth
massive
monster

oversize
ponderous
prodigious
roomy
sizable
spacious
strapping
stuffed
substantial
thundering
vast
voluminous
walloping
whopping

CURED!

*Old age is like climbing a mountain. You climb from ledge to ledge. The higher you get, the more tired and breathless you become, but your views become more **extensive**.*

INGMAR BERGMAN

Casey stood beside the **big** marble columns of the Acropolis.

We all have different perspectives on size, and *big* in this sentence doesn't give us a familiar frame of reference, whereas some of the alternatives give us a much better sense of the columns' enormity.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *big*:

Casey stood beside the _____ marble columns of the Acropolis.

colossal	Generally meaning "extraordinarily great in size," in architecture <i>colossal</i> can also pertain to a classical order whose columns span two or more stories of a building.
extensive	The columns extend over a great area.
hefty	The columns are clearly heavy and weighty.
massive	The columns are large and bulky.
prodigious	Many things can be big, but <i>prodigious</i> gives the sense that to you they are unusually great in size.
substantial	Not only are the columns big in size, but they are also of solid and strong construction.
whopping	An informal way to say, "Those columns are huge!"

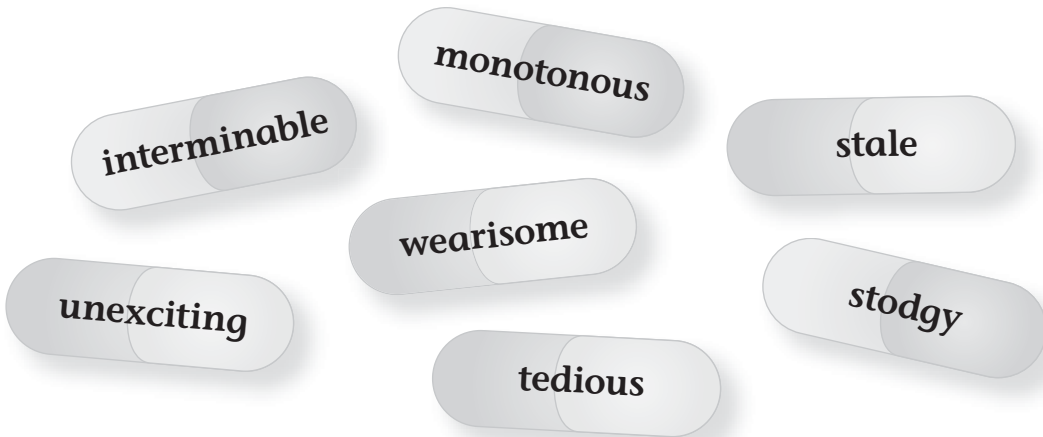
CURED!

Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a **substantial** tax cut save you thirty cents?

PEG BRACKEN

boring

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *uninteresting and tiresome; dull*



cures for the common word

bomb
 bromidic
 characterless
 colorless
 commonplace
 drab
 drag
 drudging
 dull
 flat
 ho-hum
 humdrum
 insipid

interminable
 irksome
 lifeless
monotonous
 platitudinous
 plebeian
 prosaic
 repetitious
 routine
 spiritless
stale
 stereotypical
stodgy

stuffy
 stupid
 tame
tedious
 threadbare
 tiresome
 tiring
 trite
unexciting
 vapid
wearisome
 well-worn
 zero

CURED!

*Poetry is like fish: if it's fresh, it's good; if it's **stale**, it's bad; and if you're not certain, try it on the cat.*

OSBERT SITWELL

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Michael and Beth sat through a **boring** movie.

From this sentence, it's likely a safe bet that Michael and Beth didn't enjoy the movie, but we don't know what specific qualities made it so dull.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *boring*:

Michael and Beth sat through a _____ movie.

interminable	The movie was so monotonously or annoyingly long that they thought it would never end.
monotonous	The movie was severely lacking in variety.
stale	The movie had no novelty; it was just like movies they'd seen over and over before.
stodgy	The movie was unduly formal and traditional.
tedious	The movie was tiresome because it was so long, slow, or dull.
unexciting	The movie wasn't at all stimulating or thought-provoking.
wearisome	The movie was so lacking in interest that Michael and Beth were mentally tired out.

CURED!

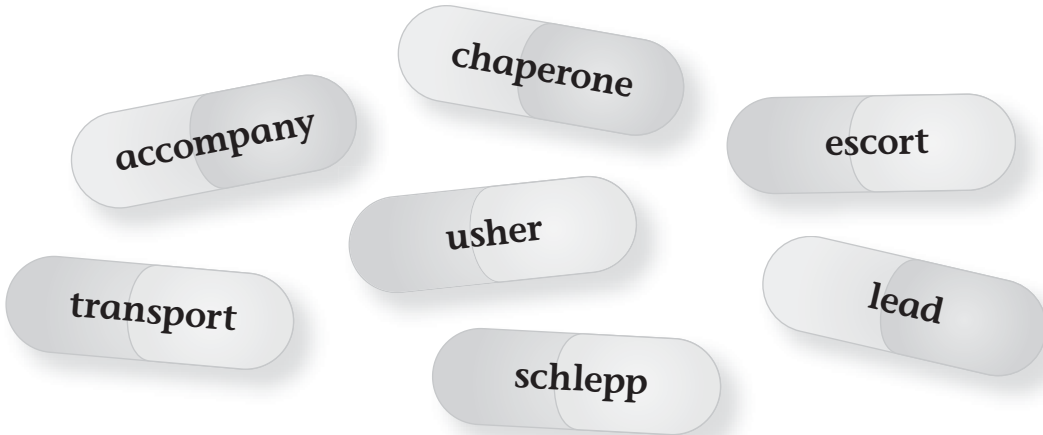
Golf without bunkers and hazards would be tame and **monotonous**. So would life.

B. C. FORBES

bring

PART OF SPEECH *verb*

DEFINITION *to carry, convey, lead, or cause to go along to another place*



cures for the common word

accompany

attend
back
bear
carry
chaperone
companion
conduct
consort
convey
deliver

escort

fetch
gather
guide
heel
hump
import
lead
lug
pack
pick up

piggyback

ride
schlepp
shoulder
take
take along
tote
transfer
transport
truck
usher

CURED!

You can **lead** a man to Congress, but you can't make him think.

MILTON BERLE

Please **bring** the stars of the show backstage.

Choosing *bring* in this sentence is very neutral and doesn't tell us much about the speaker's perspective or opinion—about you or the stars of the show.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *bring*:

Please _____ the stars of the show backstage.

accompany	You're being asked to come backstage along with the stars, suggesting you are a welcome participant as opposed to someone doing a job.
chaperone	As part of your task, you may need to ensure propriety or restrict the activity of the stars or others in some way.
escort	Choosing <i>escort</i> can give a sense of respect for the stars or can suggest that the stars require some supervision.
lead	In this case, you will go before the stars in order to show the way.
schlepp	<i>Schlepp</i> gives the sense that the person speaking isn't very impressed or thrilled about accompanying the stars backstage.
transport	This implies you'll need to use some sort of car, cart, etc., to convey the stars, since it's doubtful you'll need to physically carry them.
usher	You will lead the stars backstage and possibly introduce them to the appropriate person or people.

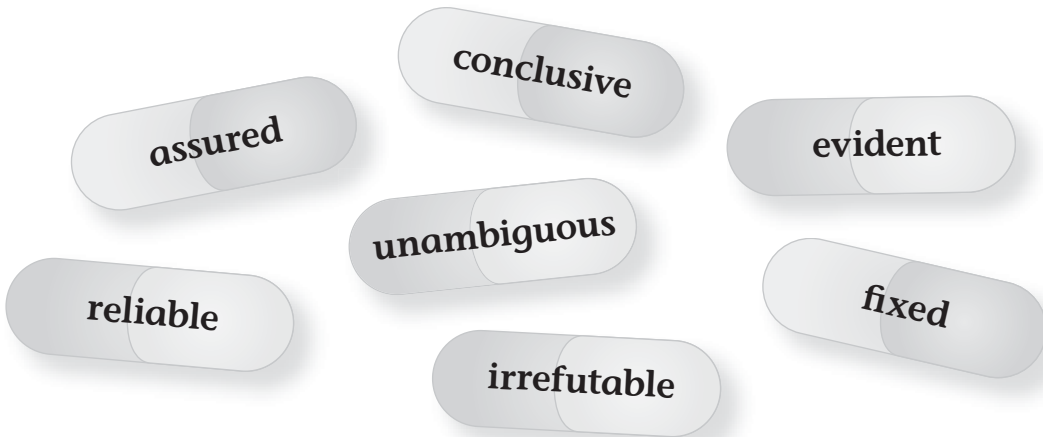
CURED!

When you **escort** someone, escort him all the way to his destination; if you help someone, help him thoroughly.

CHINESE PROVERB

certain

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *confident; free from doubt or reservation*



cures for the common word

absolute
assured
 believing
 calm
 clear
conclusive
 convinced
 definite
evident
 firm
fixed
 guaranteed

incontrovertible
 indubitable
 infallible
irrefutable
 known
 plain
 positive
 predestined
 real
reliable
 safe
 sanguine

secure
 set
 sound
 sure
 true
unambiguous
 undeniable
 unequivocal
 unerring
 unmistakable
 unquestionable
 verifiable

CURED!

*We have no **reliable** guarantee that the afterlife will be any less exasperating than this one, have we?*

NOEL COWARD

The outcome of the election was **certain**.

In this sentence, we can't clearly tell whether the certainty of the election was perceived in a positive or negative light.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *certain*:

The outcome of the election was _____.

assured	The sense is that the outcome was promised or guaranteed in advance, and this can have either a positive or a negative connotation.
conclusive	The outcome served to settle a question.
evident	The outcome of the election is obvious and easily seen or understood.
fixed	This offers a negative connotation, implying that the outcome was arranged in advance privately and possibly dishonestly.
irrefutable	It would be impossible to deny or disprove the outcome.
reliable	People will be confident that the outcome is dependable, accurate, and honest.
unambiguous	The outcome has a single clearly defined meaning.

CURED!

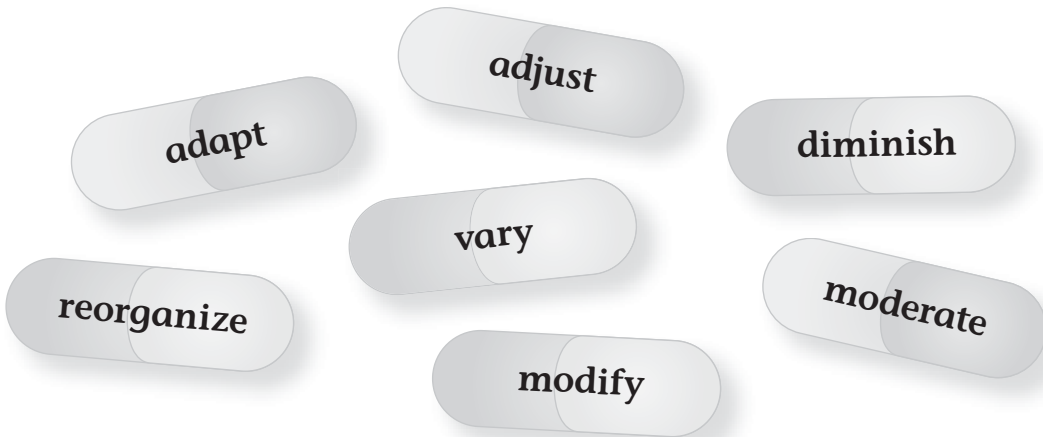
*If you think of paying court to the men in power, your eternal ruin is **assured**.*

STENDHAL [MARIE-HENRI BEYLE]

change

PART OF SPEECH *verb*

DEFINITION *to make different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone*



cures for the common word

accommodate

adapt

adjust

alter

alternate

commute

convert

diminish

diverge

diversify

evolve

fluctuate

make over

make innovations

moderate

modify

modulate

mutate

naturalize

recondition

redo

reform

regenerate

remake

remodel

renovate

reorganize

replace

resolve

restyle

revolutionize

shape

shift

substitute

tamper with

transfigure

transform

translate

transmute

transpose

turn

vacillate

vary

veer

warp

CURED!

Age does not **diminish** the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice cream fall from the cone.

JIM FIEBIG

Martha always wants to **change** the rules in the middle of the game.

We can infer from this sentence that the speaker is not happy about the rule changing, but how unhappy may be better clarified by how and how much Martha wants to change the rules.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *change*:

Martha always wants to _____ the rules in the middle of the game.

adapt	Martha wants to make logical or fitting changes that make sense.
adjust	Now Martha wants to change the rules so they fit or conform—but to her perspective and not necessarily to anyone else's.
diminish	Martha wants to put less emphasis on the rules of the game, perhaps because it's not going well for her.
moderate	Martha feels there are too many rules or they are too strict, so she wants to reduce the excessiveness of them.
modify	Martha wants to change the form or quality of the rules, but only slightly.
reorganize	Martha wants to completely rearrange the rules.
vary	Martha wants to change the rules slightly to avoid monotony.

CURED!

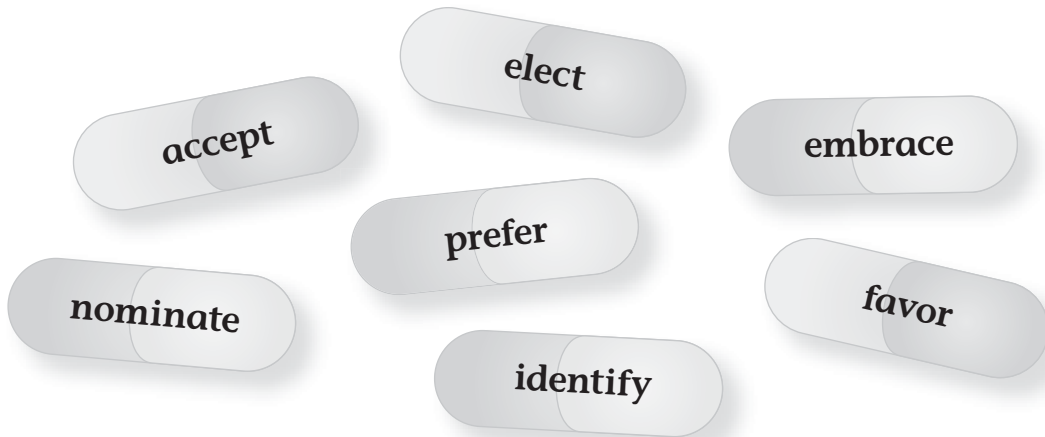
*Not being able to control events, I control myself, and I **adapt** myself to them, if they do not adapt themselves to me.*

MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE

choose

PART OF SPEECH *verb*

DEFINITION *to select from a number of possible alternatives; to decide on and pick out*



cures for the common word

accept
adopt
appoint
cast
co-opt
crave
cull
decide on
designate
desire
determine
elect
embrace
excerpt
extract

fancy
favor
finger
fix on
glean
identify
judge
love
name
nominate
opt for
predestined
prefer
see fit
select

set aside
settle upon
sift out
single out
slot
sort
tag
take
tap
want
weigh
will
winnow
wish
wish for

CURED!

*History will never **accept** difficulties as an excuse.*

JOHN F. KENNEDY

This year the foundation will **choose** two charities to support.

Using *choose* in this sentence gives complete information but doesn't give us the sense of how the members of the foundation feel or think about the two charities.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *choose*:

This year the foundation will _____ two charities to support.

accept	The charities were suggested or offered (as opposed to sought out), and the foundation will respond affirmatively to supporting them.
elect	In this case, the charities were voted on and won the votes.
embrace	The foundation willingly and eagerly wants to support these two charities.
favor	The foundation prefers these two charities and may have treated them with partiality in comparison to other charities.
identify	This tells us that the foundation recognized these two charities; the connotation is that the foundation recognized <i>and</i> chose them.
nominate	The foundation is proposing these two charities to support.
prefer	The foundation members like these two charities better and value them more highly than others.

CURED!

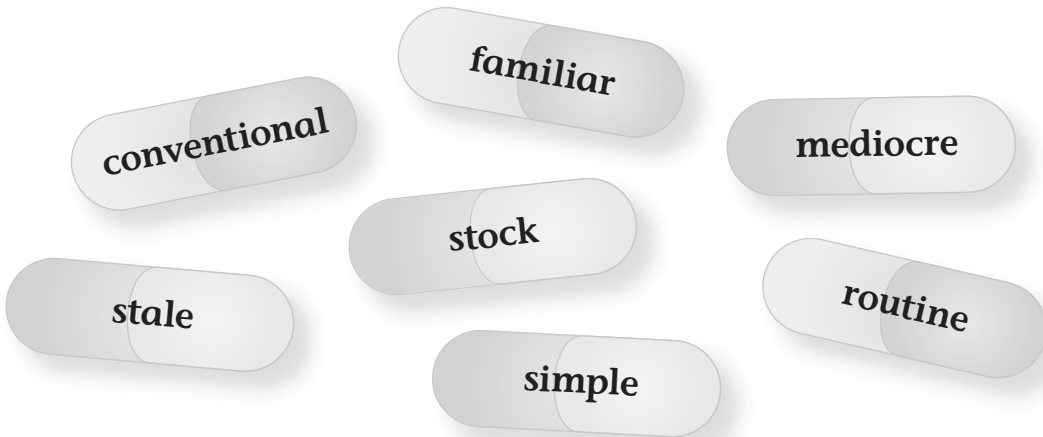
*People say that life is the thing, but I **prefer** reading.*

LOGAN PEARSALL SMITH

common

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *ordinary; widespread; general; of frequent occurrence; usual; familiar*



cures for the common word

accepted
average
banal
bourgeois
casual
characteristic
colloquial
conventional
current
customary
daily
everyday
familiar
frequent
general

habitual
hackneyed
homely
humdrum
informal
mediocre
monotonous
natural
obscure
passable
plain
prevailing
prevalent
prosaic
regular

routine
run-of-the-mill
simple
stale
standard
stereotypical
stock
trite
typical
undistinguished
universal
unvaried
usual
wearisome
workaday

CURED!

*Great spirits have always faced violent protest from **mediocre** minds.*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Claire selected a **common** theme for her term paper.

As the multiple definitions of this word indicate, *common* can mean such a wide variety of things—some positive and some negative—so we are unclear as to what it means in this sentence.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *common*:

Claire selected a _____ theme for her term paper.

conventional	The theme is ordinary rather than different or original, but this doesn't usually have a negative connotation.
familiar	The theme is one known by many people.
mediocre	The theme is of only ordinary or moderate quality; it is barely adequate.
routine	The theme is unimaginative and in this sentence has a negative connotation—likely indicating the professor has seen this theme over and over.
simple	The theme is easy to understand, and we're not sure in this case if that's good or bad.
stale	The theme lacks originality or spontaneity or presents a perspective that many have presented before.
stock	Since <i>stock</i> means something kept regularly on hand, this theme might have been taken from a list online or some overused resource.

CURED!

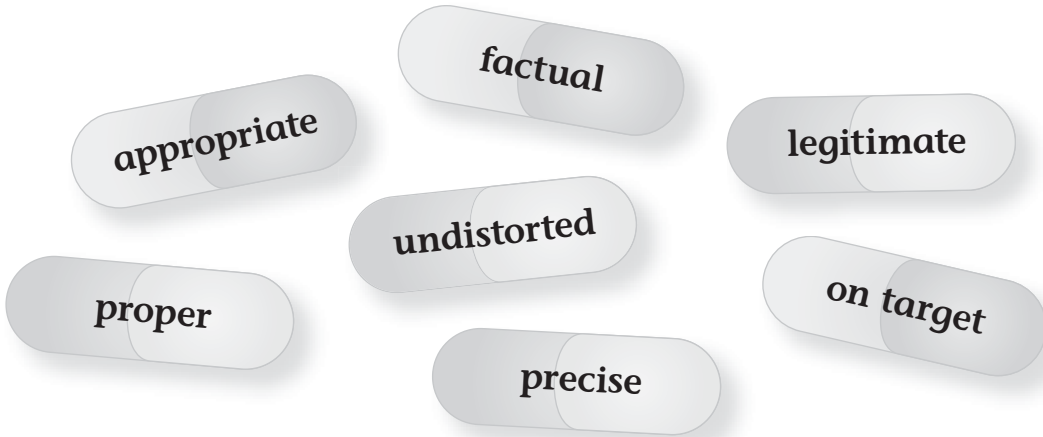
My religion is very **simple**. My religion is kindness.

THE DALAI LAMA

correct

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *free from error; especially conforming to fact or truth*



cures for the common word

actual
amen
appropriate
equitable
exact
factual
faithful
faultless
flawless
for sure

impeccable
just
legitimate
nice
OK
on target
perfect
precise
proper
regular

right
righteous
rigorous
stone
strict
true
undistorted
unmistaken
veracious
veridical

CURED!

*Cyberspace: a consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of **legitimate** operators, in every nation.*

WILLIAM GIBSON

Be sure to use the **correct** details in the brochure.

Especially in business, *correct* can mean much more than just the facts—it can refer to etiquette or tone—so we need more description of what *correct* means for the brochure.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *correct*:

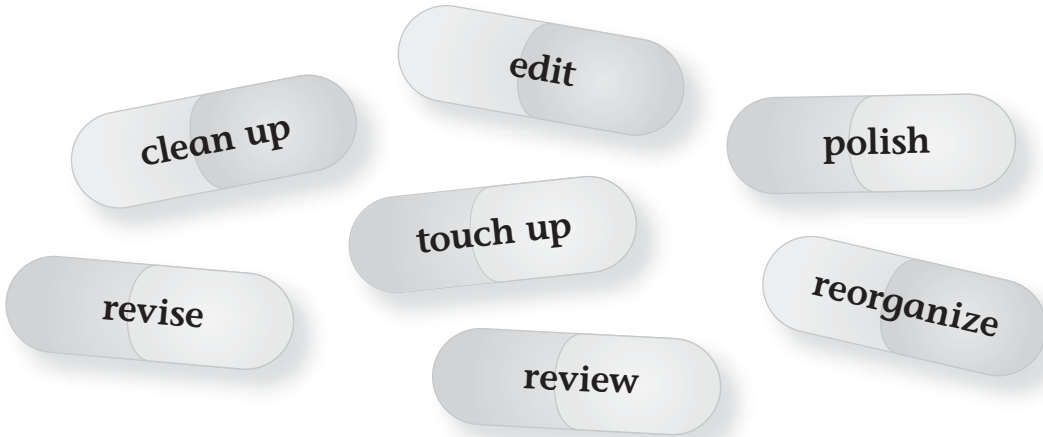
Be sure to use the _____ details in the brochure.

appropriate	The details should be suitable or fitting for this particular brochure.
factual	Be sure all details pertain to accurate facts.
legitimate	The details need to be in accordance with established or accepted patterns and standards.
on target	This is a slang way to say that the details should reach a particular audience or substantiate a point.
precise	The details should be exactly what you want to say, neither more nor less.
proper	The details should strictly belong or be applicable to the brochure, company, and/or image.
undistorted	The details should not be altered or misrepresented.

CURED!

*In suggesting gifts: money is **appropriate**, and one size fits all.*

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

PART OF SPEECH *verb*DEFINITION *to set or make true, accurate, or right; to remove the errors or faults from*

cures for the common word

alter
ameliorate
amend
better
change
clean up
cure
debug
do over
doctor
edit
emend
fiddle with
fix up
go over

help
improve
launder
make over
make right
mend
pay dues
pick up
polish
reclaim
reconstruct
rectify
redress
reform
regulate

remedy
remodel
reorganize
repair
retouch
review
revise
right
set right
set straight
shape up
straighten out
touch up
turn around
upgrade

CURED!

*He who does not get fun and enjoyment out of every day . . . needs to **reorganize** his life.*

GEORGE M. ADAMS

Lois will **correct** the article before it's published.

We know Lois will fix the article in some way, but using a more precise word will help us understand to what level or degree.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *correct*:

Lois will _____ the article before it's published.

clean up	Lois will correct errors as well as look to rid the article of small details or wording that is considered undesirable.
edit	Now an accepted term to mean to revise or correct, <i>edit</i> may also imply a professional editor's review of the article.
polish	In addition to correcting errors, Lois will aim to refine and add elegance to the article.
reorganize	The article needs to undergo changes in organization.
review	Lois will examine the article with an eye to criticism or correction.
revise	Lois will fix or improve the article, or simply only update the information.
touch up	There may not even be errors in the article, but it could benefit from slight changes.

CURED!

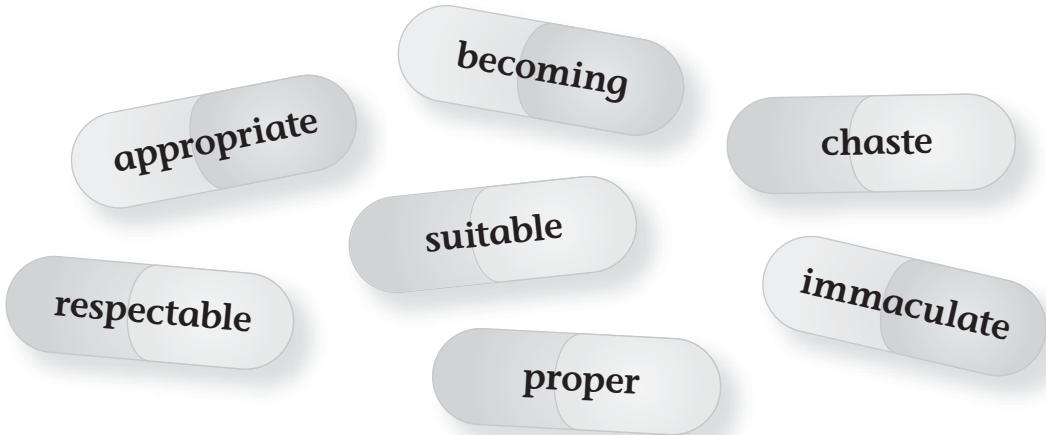
*I **edit** out the bad stuff and deliver the good stuff. Seventy-five percent of all wine is awful.*

PETER MORRELL

decent

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *respectable; suitable; conforming to a recognized standard of good taste*



cures for the common word

adequate
appropriate
approved
becoming
befitting
chaste
clean
comely
conforming
continent
correct
decorous
delicate
ethical
fair

fit
fitting
good
honest
honorable
immaculate
mannerly
modest
moral
nice
noble
presentable
proper
prudent
pure

reserved
respectable
right
spotless
stainless
standard
straight
suitable
trustworthy
unblemished
undefiled
untarnished
upright
virtuous
worthy

CURED!

*The great artists of the world are never Puritans, and seldom even ordinarily **respectable**.*

HENRY LOUIS MENCKEN

Pat needs a **decent** dress for the party.

In this sentence, it's unclear if Pat's dress needs to be in good shape, in morally good taste, or something completely different.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *decent*:

Pat needs a(n) _____ dress for the party.

appropriate	Pat's dress needs to be suitable and just right for this particular type of party.
becoming	Pat wants a dress that will have a pleasing effect and give her an attractive appearance.
chaste	Pat feels her dress should be conservative in style and not excessively ornamented.
immaculate	Pat needs her dress to be spotlessly clean, with every aspect of it in perfect condition.
proper	Pat's dress needs to conform to established standards for the occasion.
respectable	Pat hopes her dress will make a certain, esteemed impression on the attendees.
suitable	Pat would like her dress to be appropriate for the occasion and also fitting for her character.

CURED!

*I present myself to you in a form **suitable** to the relationship I wish to achieve with you.*

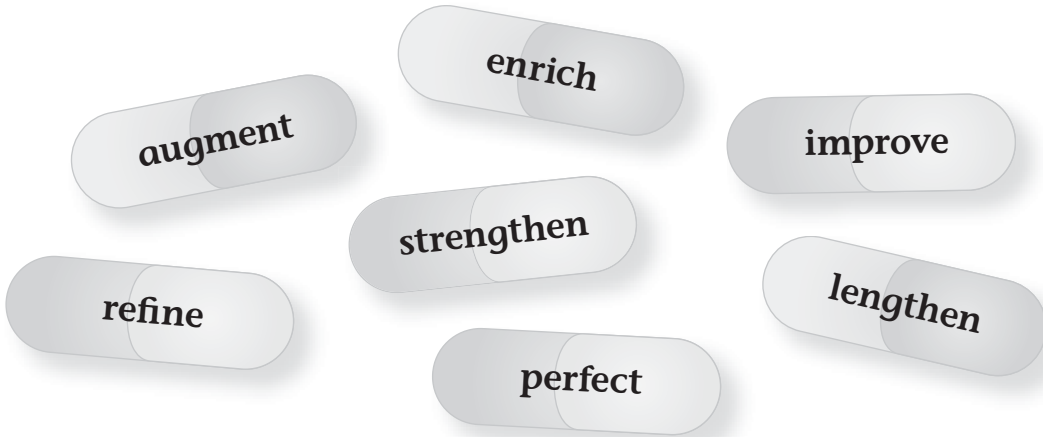
LUIGI PIRANDELLO

develop

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; to cause to grow or expand

cures for the common word

actualize
advance
amplify
augment
beautify
broaden
build up
cultivate
deepen
dilate
elaborate

enlarge
enrich
evolve
exploit
extend
finish
heighten
improve
intensify
lengthen
magnify

materialize
perfect
polish
promote
realize
refine
strengthen
stretch
unfold
widen
work out

CURED!

*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to **improve** the world.*

ANNE FRANK

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

The loan committee asked us to **develop** our business plan.

In order to provide the committee with exactly what they want, we need to know exactly what they want, and *develop* doesn't give us enough information.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *develop*:

The loan committee asked us to _____ our business plan.

augment	The committee likes what we have but wants us to give more detail to the information we already have included.
enrich	We need to add or change information to make our plan more desirable.
improve	We need to raise the quality of the information in the business plan.
lengthen	The committee feels our plan is too slight and wants a more substantial document.
perfect	Our plan is pretty good, but the committee wants us to make it flawless—or as close as possible—to give us the best opportunity of approval.
refine	Our plan needs to be more precise or in clearer form.
strengthen	To increase our chances for a loan, the bank wants us to make our plan stronger—for example, by giving more information on our financial status.

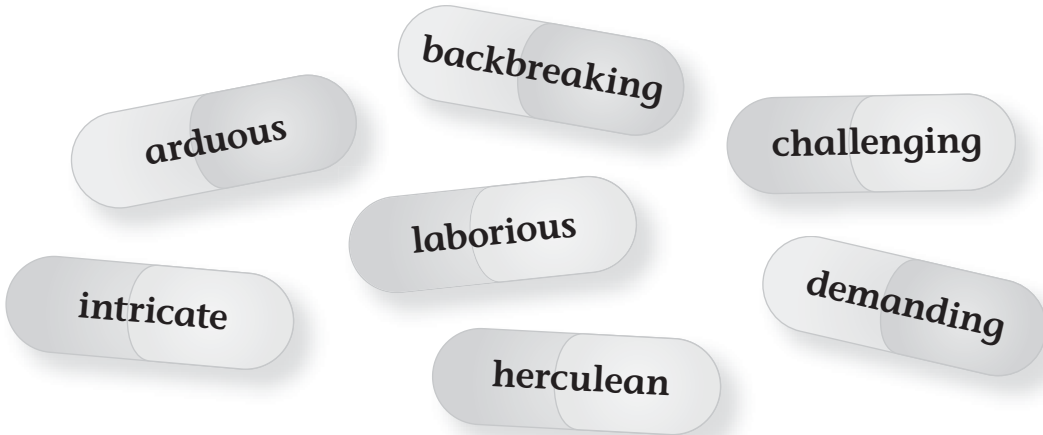
CURED!

*One thousand days to learn; ten thousand days to **refine**.*

JAPANESE PROVERB

difficult

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *not easily or readily done*



cures for the common word

ambitious
arduous
backbreaking
 bothersome
 burdensome
challenging
 crucial
demanding
 effortful
 exacting
 formidable
 galling
 gargantuan

hard
 hard-won
 heavy
herculean
 immense
intricate
 irritating
 labored
laborious
 onerous
 painful
 problem
 problematic

prohibitive
 rigid
 severe
 strenuous
 titanic
 toilsome
 tough
 troublesome
 trying
 unyielding
 uphill
 upstream
 wearisome

CURED!

*To build may have to be the slow and **laborious** task of years.
 To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.*

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

A **difficult** job can wear you out, or it can be satisfying.

From this use of *difficult*, it's unclear whether we are talking about a job that is hard physically or mentally and in what way it is not easy.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *difficult*:

A(n) _____ job can wear you out, or it can be satisfying.

arduous	The job is physically strenuous, requiring a great deal of energy and vigor.
backbreaking	The job is an exhausting physical task, demanding great effort and endurance.
challenging	Though the job is not easy, it's an undertaking that is stimulating.
demanding	The job requires more effort and time than is generally considered to be due.
herculean	The job is very hard to perform, requiring great physical or mental strength.
intricate	The job is complicated and hard to understand.
laborious	The job requires a lot of work, exertion, or perseverance either physically or mentally.

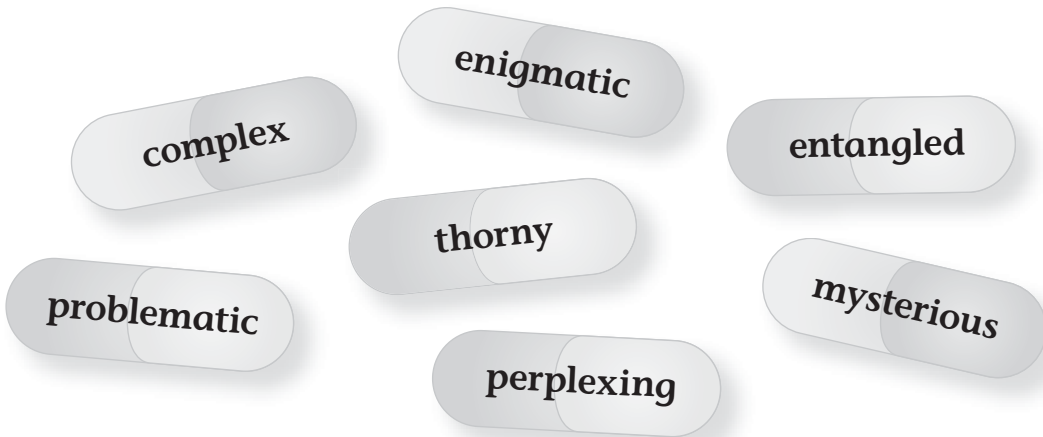
CURED!

*The story of civilization is, in a sense, the story of engineering—that long and **arduous** struggle to make the forces of nature work for man's good.*

L. SPRAGUE DE CAMP

difficult

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *complicated; hard to comprehend*



cures for the common word

abstract
 abstruse
 baffling
 bewildering
complex
 confounding
 confusing
 dark
 deep
 delicate
enigmatic
 enigmatical
entangled
 esoteric

formidable
 hard
 hidden
 inexplicable
 intricate
 involved
 knotty
 labyrinthine
 loose
 meandering
mysterious
 mystifying
 obscure
 obstinate

paradoxical
perplexing
problematic
 profound
 puzzling
 rambling
 subtle
 tangled
thorny
 ticklish
 troublesome
 unclear
 unfathomable
 unintelligible

CURED!

*Some problems are so **complex** that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them.*

LAURENCE JOHNSTON PETER

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Romantic relationships can be **difficult**.

Difficult in this case is a little ambiguous. It has a negative connotation, but it doesn't give us the full picture of how the relationship is challenging.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *difficult*:

Romantic relationships can be _____.

complex	Some relationships can be so complicated or intricate that they're hard to understand or deal with.
enigmatic	Relationships can be baffling, puzzling, and mysterious, which may be a positive to some people.
entangled	Relationships can be intertwined with difficulties, including anything from emotional to logistical complications.
mysterious	Relationships can involve secrets or unexplained aspects, which may have a positive or negative connotation.
perplexing	Relationships can be confusing and marked with uncertainty or doubt.
problematic	Relationships can make great mental demands that seem hard to comprehend, solve, or even believe.
thorny	Relationships can be full of difficulties or complexities; <i>thorny</i> clearly has a much more negative connotation.

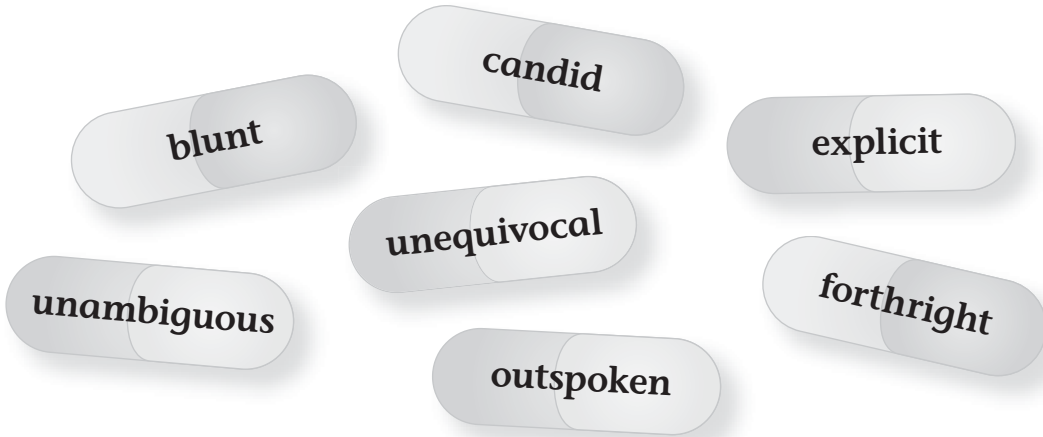
CURED!

*The way of the troublemaker is **thorny**.*

AMERICAN UMPQUA INDIAN PROVERB

direct

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *honest; straightforward; frank; candid*



cures for the common word

absolute
 bald
blunt
candid
 categorical
 downright
explicit
 express
forthright

frank
 genuine
 guileless
 matter-of-fact
 open
outspoken
 plain
 plain-spoken
 point-blank

sincere
 straight
 straightforward
 truthful
unambiguous
 unconcealed
 undisguised
unequivocal
 unreserved

CURED!

*He was always smoothing and polishing himself, and in the end he became **blunt** before he was sharp.*

G. C. (GEORG CHRISTOPH) LICHTENBERG

Betty was very **direct** in all her remarks.

Being *direct* can be considered admirable or impolite, so using a more precise alternative will let us know how we feel about Betty's remarks.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *direct*:

Betty was very _____ in all her remarks.

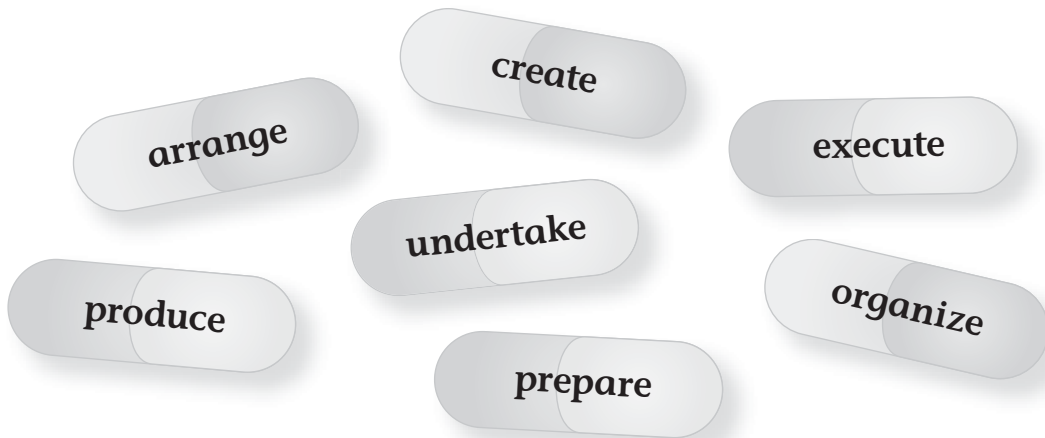
blunt	Betty spoke abruptly, which is not usually considered a positive way to speak.
candid	Betty seemed to speak free from reservation or disguise, meaning she was being honest; candid often has the connotation of the honesty being refreshing.
explicit	Betty fully and clearly expressed her remarks, leaving nothing she thought as merely implied.
forthright	Betty's remarks were characterized by her direct manner or speech, without subtlety or evasion.
outspoken	Betty was free and unreserved in her remarks; <i>outspoken</i> often has a negative connotation.
unambiguous	There was no doubt about what Betty's remarks meant, because they expressed a single, clearly defined meaning.
unequivocal	Betty's remarks were not subject to conditions or exceptions, leaving no doubt about her meaning.

CURED!

George Orwell's contention was that it is a sure sign of trouble when things can no longer be called by their right names and described in plain, **forthright** speech.

CHRISTOPHER LASCH

PART OF SPEECH *verb*
 DEFINITION *to perform, execute, carry out*



cures for the common word

accomplish
 achieve
 act
arrange
 bring about
 cause
 complete
 conclude
 cook
create
 determine
 discharge
 effect

end
 engage in
execute
 finish
 fix
 fulfill
 get ready
 look after
 make
 make ready
 move
 operate
organize

perform
 perk
prepare
produce
 pull off
 see to
 succeed
 take on
 transact
undertake
 wind up
 work
 wrap up

CURED!

*Don't agonize, **organize**.*

FLORYNCE KENNEDY

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

If you want to have a successful event, John at On Board Entertainment can **do** it.

We know that John is the right person to go to, but since the verb *do* can stand in for hundreds of actions, we don't have enough information about John's specific role in the successful event.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *do*:

If you want to have a successful event, John at On Board Entertainment can _____ it.

arrange	<i>Arrange</i> can mean that John will plan the overall aspects or the details of the event.
create	The event will evolve from John's own thought and imagination.
execute	John will ensure that the event is carried out in accordance with an established plan—his, the client's, or both.
organize	John will coordinate each of the interdependent parts of the plan for united action—in this case, a successful event.
prepare	John may actually get ready each aspect of the event—from the smallest detail to the largest.
produce	John will supervise the entire event, contributing creatively and possibly also financially.
undertake	John has agreed to take it upon himself to work on this event and is committed to making it a success.

CURED!

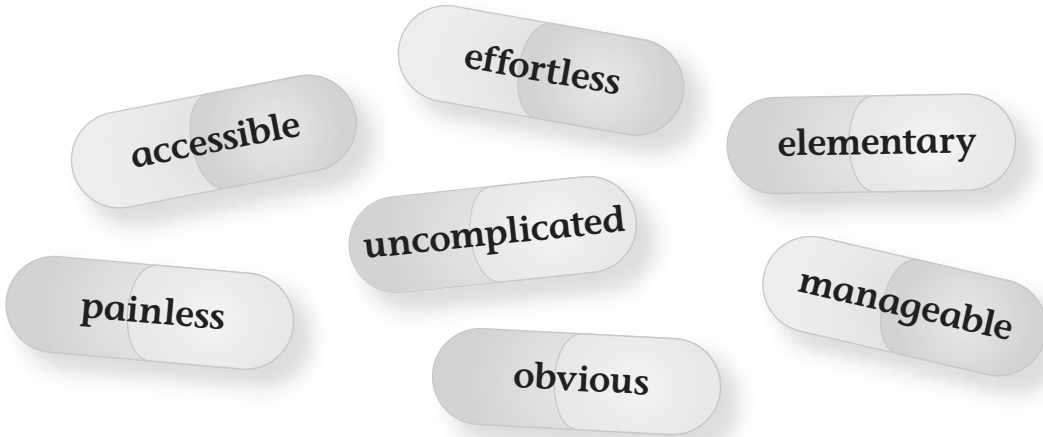
*The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we **created** them.*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

easy

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *capable of being accomplished or acquired with ease; posing no difficulty*



cures for the common word

accessible

apparent
basic
child's play
cinch
clear
comfortable
effortless
elementary
evident
facile
inconsiderable
light
little

manageable

manifest
mere
natural
no bother
no problem
no sweat
no trouble
obvious
painless
paltry
picnic
plain
plain sailing

pleasant

pushover
relaxed
royal
simple
slight
smooth
snap
straightforward
uncomplicated
undemanding
uninvolved
untroublesome
yielding

CURED!

*The world is full of **obvious** things which nobody by any chance ever observes.*

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Professor Waddingham made the new math seem **easy**.

Thank goodness someone can make the new math seem easy, but in this sentence we're not sure exactly *how* the professor managed to make it less difficult.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *easy*:

Professor Waddingham made the new math seem _____.

accessible	She showed us how to easily approach and use the math.
effortless	She taught us a way to learn the math that required little or no effort.
elementary	She helped us learn by showing us the fundamental and simplest aspects of the math.
manageable	She found a way to make us feel in control of learning the math instead of lost by it.
obvious	She was able to show us the math in a way that we easily understood.
painless	This is an informal way to say that she made learning the math seem like it required little or no hard work.
uncomplicated	She was able to make the math seem simple instead of complex or involved.

CURED!

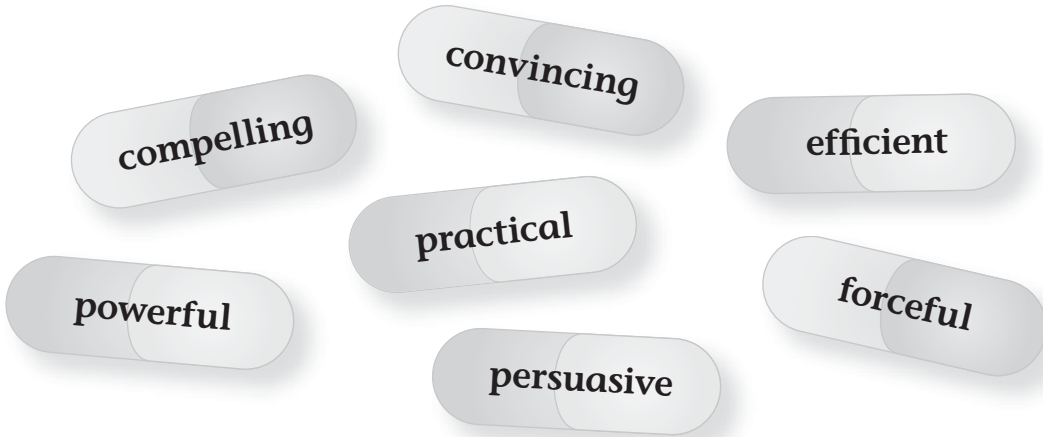
*Suffering, once accepted, loses its edge, for the terror of it lessens, and what remains is generally far more **manageable** than we had imagined.*

LESLEY HAZELTON

effective

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *producing the intended or expected result; adequate to accomplish a purpose*



cures for the common word

able
active
adequate
capable
cogent
compelling
competent
convincing
direct
effectual
efficacious
efficient
emphatic

energetic
forceful
forcible
impressive
live
moving
operative
persuasive
potent
powerful
powerhouse
practical
producing

resultant
serviceable
serving
sound
striking
successful
sufficient
telling
trenchant
useful
valid
virtuous
yielding

CURED!

*It's pretty hard to be **efficient** without being obnoxious.*

KIN HUBBARD

The speechwriter used very **effective** language.

We can infer that the language was successful in getting the writer's point across well, or it evoked in the reader the writer's desired effect, but it's not clear how the language was used to accomplish the writer's goal.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *effective*:

The speechwriter used very _____ language.

compelling	The language had a powerful and irresistible effect, engaging us to keep reading.
convincing	By the use of argument or evidence, the language brought us to a firm belief the writer intended for us.
efficient	The language functioned in the best possible manner with the least waste of time and effort; however, <i>efficient</i> doesn't lend itself toward a creative feel.
forceful	The writing was powerful and vigorous, as opposed to soft or gentle and coercing.
persuasive	The language was able to persuade us into thinking, seeing, or feeling just as the writer intended.
powerful	The writer used language with great reason, authority, or influence and impacted us—an ideal goal for a speech.
practical	The language used achieved the intended effect, but <i>practical</i> doesn't give the impression of a speech that was outstanding or that moved people to action.

CURED!

*Being **powerful** is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.*

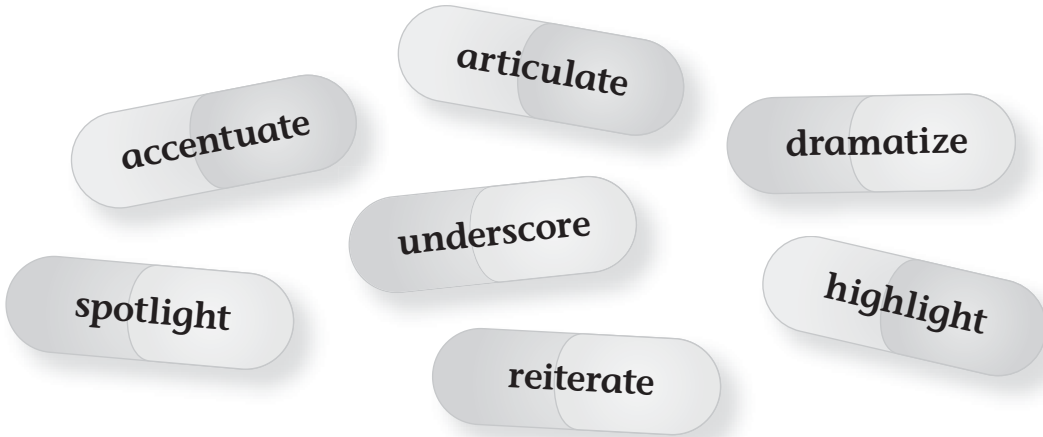
MARGARET THATCHER

emphasize

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to lay stress upon; to single out as important

cures for the common word

accent
accentuate
 affirm
articulate
 assert
 charge
dramatize
 enlarge
 enunciate
 headline
highlight

impress
 indicate
 insist on
 italicize
 maintain
 make clear
 mark
 pinpoint
 play up
 point out
 press

prioritize
 pronounce
 punctuate
reiterate
 repeat
 rub in
 spot
spotlight
 underline
underscore
 weight

CURED!

*A talent for drama is not a talent for writing, but is an ability to **articulate** human relationships.*

GORE VIDAL

Emphasize your work experience when applying for a job.

You always want to present yourself at your best when applying for a job, but in this sentence we don't have enough information about *how* exactly to best present your work experience.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *emphasize*:

_____ your work experience when applying for a job.

accentuate	In addition to your other qualities, single out your work experience to present as important.
articulate	Formulate what you want to say about your work experience, and express your thoughts with clarity and effectiveness.
dramatize	Represent your work experience vividly, emotionally, or strikingly.
highlight	You want to present all of your positive attributes, but you want your work experience to be the most interesting or memorable part of your application.
reiterate	You want to mention your work experience repeatedly for emphasis.
spotlight	You have so many qualifications for the job, your work experience may be overshadowed, and you want to call particular attention to your experience.
underscore	Especially if you think your work experience is the key to winning the job—or you might not fully have other qualities the company is looking for—give extra weight to your experience.

CURED!

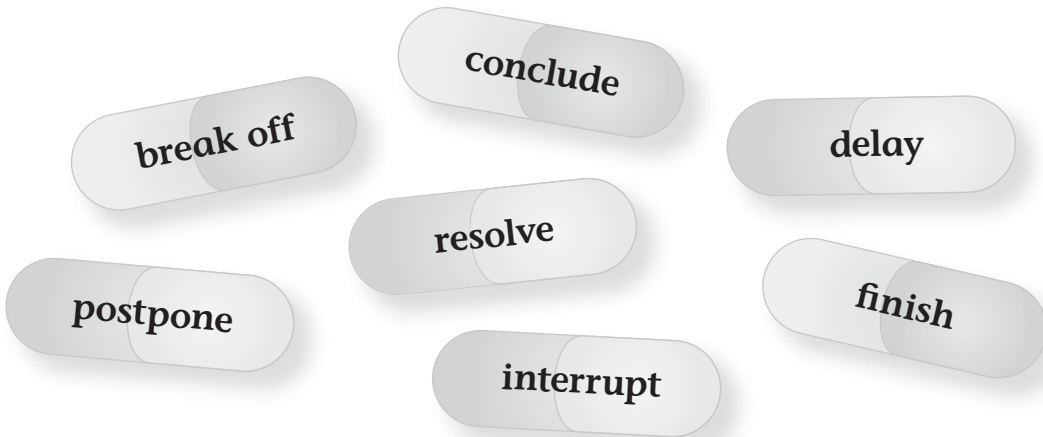
Hard work **spotlights** the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.

SAM EWIG

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to come to a conclusion; to terminate or cease

cures for the common word

abolish
abort
accomplish
achieve
break off
break up
call off
cease
close
close out
complete
conclude
consummate
crown

culminate
cut short
delay
determine
discontinue
dispose of
dissolve
drop
expire
finish
get done
give up
halt
interrupt

perorate
postpone
quit
relinquish
resolve
settle
sew up
shut down
stop
terminate
ultimate
wind up
wrap
wrap up

CURED!

*Never **interrupt** your enemy when he is making a mistake.*

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

We need to **end** the negotiations today.

Unfortunately, choosing *end* here doesn't give us any inclination as to whether the negotiations will end positively or negatively and successfully or not.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *end*:

We need to _____ the negotiations today.

break off	Meaning to “stop suddenly,” <i>break off</i> gives the impression that it was not a positive end of the day for either side in the negotiations.
conclude	The impression is not only that the negotiations will finish but also that the two sides will finally come to a decision or settlement.
delay	The negotiations will be put off to a later time, which may be OK, but sometimes <i>delay</i> can imply someone is hindering the progress.
finish	This is a neutral term—neither positive or negative—to say the two sides need to complete the negotiations.
interrupt	The negotiations will cease before they are complete, and the interruption may be for a reason that is not the fault of either side.
postpone	This indicates delaying the negotiations to another time, but it can also imply that they are delayed because one or both sides find the negotiations less important than originally thought.
resolve	This implies that the negotiators will reach a conclusion after a deliberation—hopefully one that's beneficial and satisfactory to both sides.

CURED!

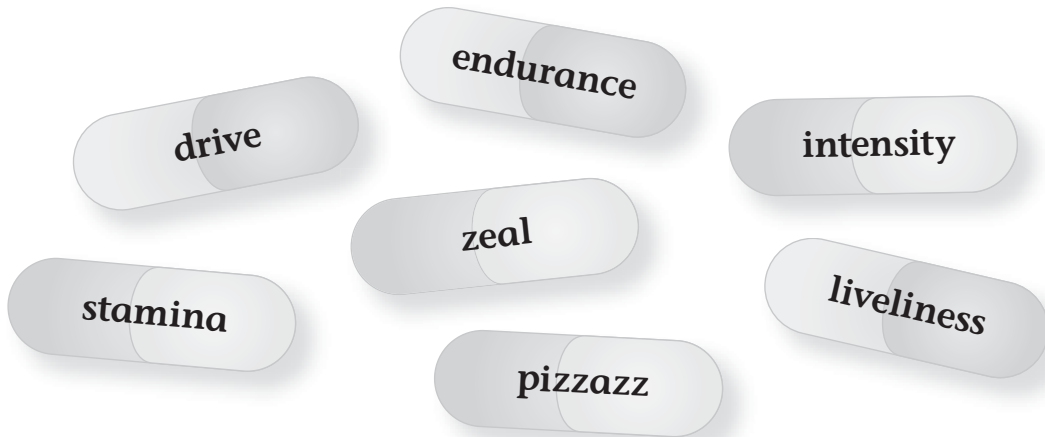
You may **delay**, but time will not.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

energy

PART OF SPEECH *noun*

DEFINITION *the capacity for vigorous activity; abundant available power*



cures for the common word

animation
ardor
brr
dash
drive
dynamism
élan
endurance
enterprise
exertion
fire
force
forcefulness
fortitude
get-up-and-go

go
initiative
intensity
juice
life
liveliness
might
moxie
muscle
pep
pizzazz
pluck
potency
power
puissance

punch
spirit
spontaneity
stamina
steam
strength
toughness
tuck
vehemence
verve
vigor
vim
vitality
zeal
zest

CURED!

*Human kindness has never weakened the **stamina** or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough.*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Our yoga instructor Rada exhibits boundless **energy**.

The use of *energy* in this sentence doesn't firmly convey what impresses us about Rada—maybe her physical skills, her mental outlook, or her attitude.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *energy*:

Our yoga instructor Rada exhibits boundless _____.

drive	Rada is highly motivated and focused on a course toward her goals.
endurance	Rada has the ability and strength to go on and on, despite fatigue.
intensity	Rada has great energy, strength, and concentration during the yoga class—and likely outside of class also.
liveliness	Rada is animated in her action and expression, which helps keep us all upbeat.
pizzazz	Beyond lively, Rada has a downright dazzling style, flair, and energetic personality.
stamina	Rada has a strength of physical constitution to endure fatigue and just about anything else.
zeal	Rada has such an enthusiastic and tireless devotion to yoga as an ideal, which can be contagious.

CURED!

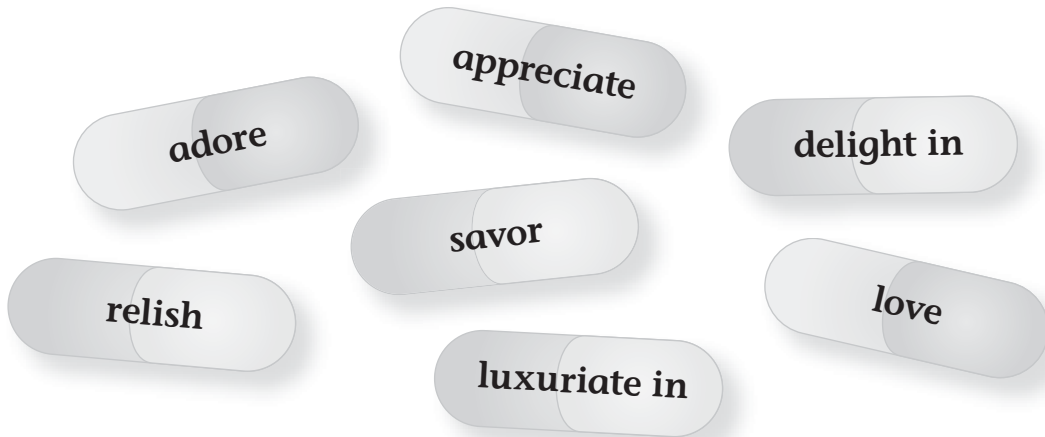
Endurance is patience concentrated.

THOMAS CARLYLE

enjoy

PART OF SPEECH *verb*

DEFINITION *to experience joy or satisfaction from; to take pleasure in*



cures for the common word

adore

appreciate

be entertained

be pleased

delight in

dig

dote on

drink in

eat up

fancy

flip for

flip over

funk

go

groove on

have fun

like

love

luxuriate in

mind

pleasure in

rejoice in

relish

revel in

savor

savvy

take to

CURED!

*The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to **appreciate** it.*

FRANKLIN P. JONES

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

I **enjoy** a break in my sunny backyard.

Choosing *enjoy* doesn't fully convey how much or why exactly I look forward to this break.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *enjoy*:

I _____ a break in my sunny backyard.

adore	Choosing <i>adore</i> comes closer to telling you how much I deeply love this escape.
appreciate	I'm grateful to have the time for and I truly value this break in the sunny yard.
delight in	Beyond simply liking my break in the yard, it gives me great joy.
love	Meaning "to like or desire enthusiastically," <i>love</i> is now a casual way to say how much I really, really enjoy my break in the sunny yard.
luxuriate in	This conjures up an image of lounging, reveling in my experience.
relish	This break is so wonderful that I eagerly look forward to it.
savor	I enjoy every minute of my break, knowing it's back to responsibilities when break time is over.

CURED!

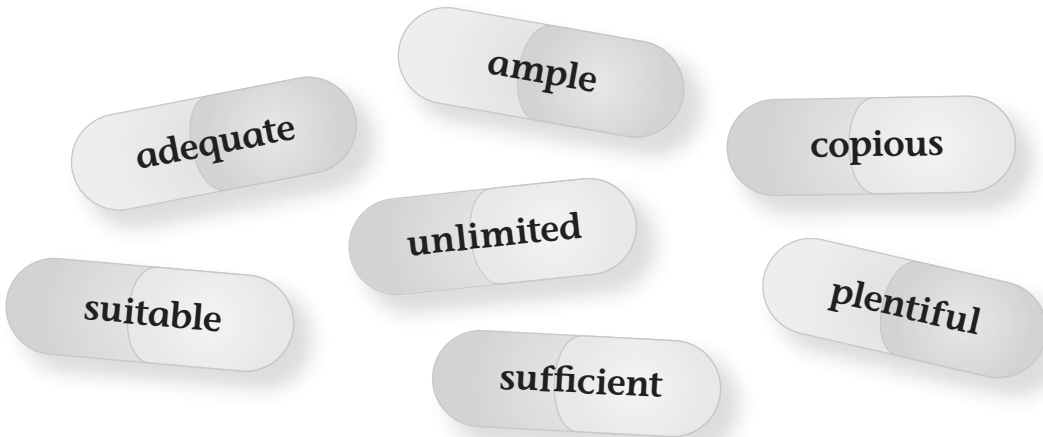
A little nonsense now and then is **relished** by the wisest men.

ROALD DAHL

enough

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *adequate for the want or need; sufficient for the purpose or to satisfy desire*



cures for the common word

abundant
acceptable
adequate
ample
bellyful
bounteous
bountiful
comfortable
competent

complete
copious
decent
fed up
full
had it
last straw
lavish
plenteous

plentiful
replete
satisfactory
satisfying
sufficient
sufficing
suitable
tolerable
unlimited

CURED!

*To be witty is not enough. One must possess **sufficient** wit to avoid having too much of it.*

ANDRE MAUROIS

We have **enough** earthquake supplies for three people for a week.

In this sentence, *enough* for one person can be starvation (or excess) for others, so choosing a more precise word gives more information—or at least a better indication of how many supplies are stored.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *enough*:

We have _____ earthquake supplies for three people for a week.

adequate	We're confident that we have supplies necessary for the basic requirements.
ample	We have more than enough supplies, which means we may be able to accommodate more people or for a longer duration.
copious	We have large quantities of supplies, more than ample, so we can invite in whoever needs help.
plentiful	We have a great quantity of supplies, but perhaps only if we stick to the prescribed number of people and/or duration anticipated.
sufficient	We have a quantity of supplies that can fulfill our need or requirement, but without being abundant.
suitable	Choosing <i>suitable</i> indicates that in addition to a proper amount of supplies, they are ones appropriate to the purpose.
unlimited	Not only do we have supplies immediately available, but we have a resource to provide an infinite amount for as many and as long as we need.

CURED!

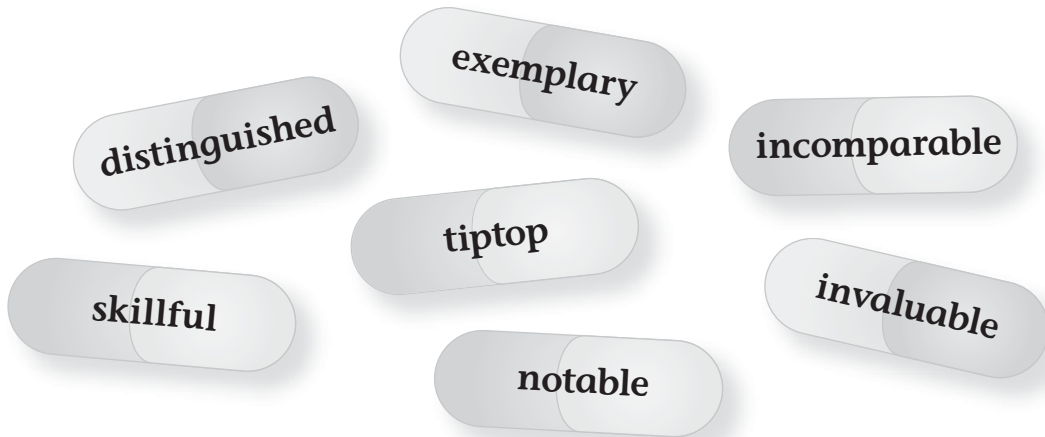
*The supply of words in the world market is **plentiful** but the demand is falling.
Let deeds follow words now.*

LECH WALESIA

excellent

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *of the highest or finest quality; exceptionally good of its kind*



cures for the common word

accomplished
admirable
attractive
champion
choice
desirable
distinctive
distinguished
estimable
exceptional
exemplary
exquisite
fine
first
first-class

first-rate
good
great
high
incomparable
invaluable
magnificent
meritorious
notable
noted
outstanding
peerless
premium
priceless
prime

remarkable
select
skillful
splendid
sterling
striking
superb
superior
superlative
supreme
tiptop
top-notch
transcendent
unsurpassed
wonderful

CURED!

*In every phenomenon the beginning remains always the most **notable** moment.*

THOMAS CARLYLE

Katie has proved to be an **excellent** CEO.

When Katie took the position of CEO, we anticipated she would be excellent—an expectation she lived up to—but *excellent* doesn't give us a clear idea of the criteria on which we're basing our assessment.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *excellent*:

Katie has proved to be a(n) _____ CEO.

distinguished	Katie stands above others in her character, achievements, and reputation.
exemplary	Katie is commendable and worthy of high praise and imitation.
incomparable	Katie's performance is beyond comparison—matchless and unequalled.
invaluable	Katie has done such a fine job that she has proved to be priceless, and the company would suffer greatly if she ever left.
notable	Katie is worthy of notice because of her outstanding work.
skillful	Katie has shown great knowledge, skill, and aptitude at her position as CEO.
tiptop	This is an informal way to say that Katie's work is of the highest quality.

CURED!

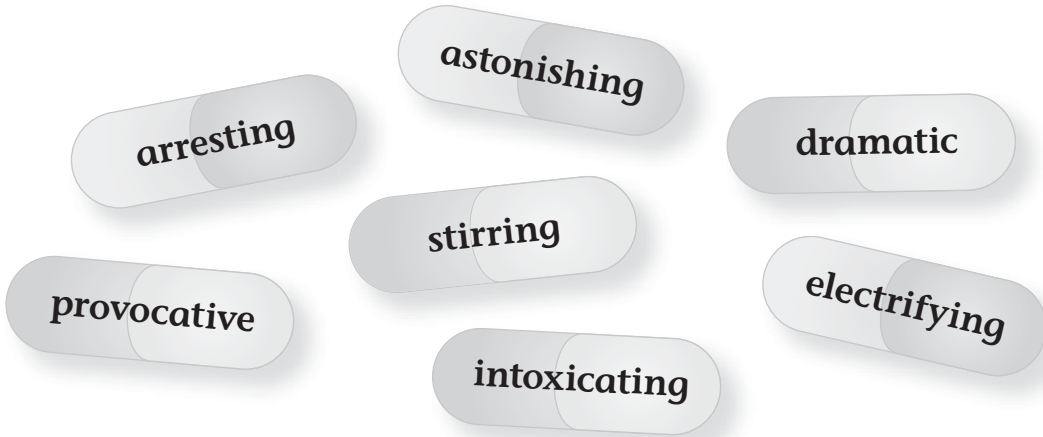
Jackie Robinson, as an athlete and as someone who was trying to make a stand for equality, he was **exemplary**.

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

exciting

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *producing excitement or strong feeling in; stirring; thrilling; exhilarating*



cures for the common word

animating
appealing
arousing
arresting
astonishing
bracing
breathtaking
dangerous
dramatic
electrifying
exhilarating
eye-popping
far-out
fine

flashy
heady
hectic
impelling
impressive
interesting
intoxicating
intriguing
lively
melodramatic
mind-blowing
moving
neat
overpowering

overwhelming
provocative
racy
rip-roaring
rousing
sensational
showy
spine-tingling
stimulating
stirring
thrilling
titillating
wild
zestful

CURED!

*Perhaps of all the creations of man language is the most **astonishing**.*

LYTTON STRACHEY

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

President Kennedy was an **exciting** speaker.

Almost anyone who ever heard Kennedy speak—in person or on tape—likely felt strong emotion, but *exciting* doesn't specifically describe how you or I might have been affected by hearing him speak.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *exciting*:

President Kennedy was a(n) _____ speaker.

arresting	He had a way of attracting and holding—practically commanding—the attention of a crowd.
astonishing	He was a great and impressive speaker, to the surprise of his detractors.
dramatic	He spoke in a way that was sensational and thrilling.
electrifying	His speaking was sometimes shocking but definitely caused a surge of emotion.
intoxicating	Listening to him speak made people enthusiastic and exhilarated, almost light-headed.
provocative	He sometimes said things that were controversial, tending to stimulate—or provoke—discussion.
stirring	As well as rousing stimulating discussion, he could also rouse people to strong action.

CURED!

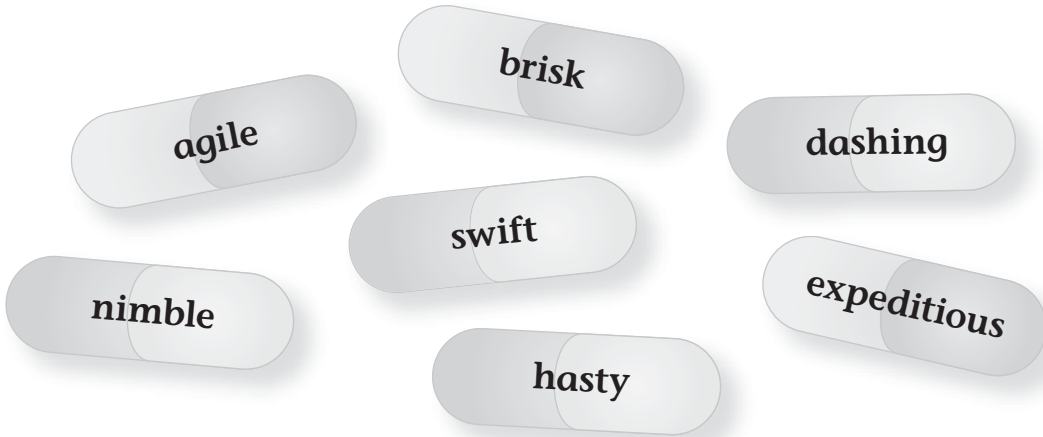
*Beauty is often worse than wine; **intoxicating** both the holder and beholder.*

JOHN ZIMMERMAN

fast

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *quick; swift; moving or able to move, operate, function, or take effect quickly*



cures for the common word

accelerated
active
agile
breakneck
brisk
chop-chop
dashing
double time
electric
expeditious
expeditive
flashing
fleet

fleeting
flying
hair-trigger
hasty
hot
hurried
hypersonic
instant
lickety-split
like crazy
mercurial
nimble
PDQ

posthaste
presto
pronto
quick
racing
rapid
ready
screamin'
snap
snappy
swift
velocious
winged

CURED!

*The race is not always to the **swift**, nor the battle to the strong but that's the way to bet.*

DAMON RUNYON

Everyone agreed that Boomer ran the dog course at a **fast** pace.

Choosing to use *fast* gives a pretty vivid image of Boomer racing the course, but there are a few instances where *fast* isn't the best way to run a course. The following alternatives tell us more.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *fast*:

Everyone agreed that Boomer ran the dog course at
a(n) _____ pace.

agile	Boomer was quick and well coordinated in his movements, and he also displayed an ability to think quickly, reacting well to course changes.
brisk	Boomer's movements were marked by speed and vigor.
dashing	As Boomer ran, he exhibited a spirited and lively energy as well as elegance.
expeditious	Boomer acted with speed and efficiency, though <i>expeditious</i> gives us no clue as to how gracefully he performed.
hasty	Boomer ran fast, but choosing <i>hasty</i> often carries a negative connotation, implying he was unduly quick and rash in his movements and choices.
nimble	Boomer was quick and light on his feet, moving with rapid ease.
swift	Not only was Boomer moving with great speed, acting and reacting quickly and cleverly, <i>swift</i> can also invoke a wonderful image of joy and freedom.

CURED!

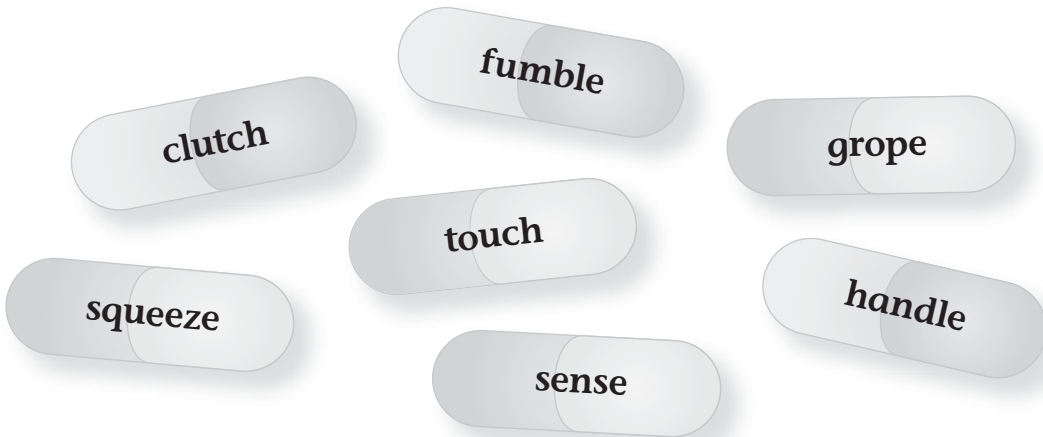
*One cool judgment is worth a thousand **hasty** counsels. The thing to do is to supply light and not heat.*

WOODROW WILSON

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to perceive or examine by touch

cures for the common word

caress
clasp
clutch
explore
finger
fondle
frisk
fumble
grapple
grasp
grip

grobe
handle
manipulate
maul
palm
palpate
paw
perceive
pinch
ply
poke

press
sense
squeeze
stroke
test
thumb
tickle
touch
try
twiddle
wield

CURED!

*Gentlemen, it is better to have died as a small boy than to **fumble** this football.*

JOHN HEISMAN

Finally, Eric could **feel** the rescue rope.

Choosing *feel* here doesn't tell us anything about the circumstances of why Eric is feeling for the rope; whereas, the following alternatives give us a much more vivid image of the situation.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *feel*:

Finally, Eric could _____ the rescue rope.

clutch	Eric is holding the rope tightly, or attempting to grasp it, indicating he may be about to fall if he doesn't seize it quickly.
fumble	Eric is feeling about clumsily for the rope; perhaps he just can't reach it.
grope	Eric is blindly feeling about with his hands with some uncertainty because he can't see the rope.
handle	Even if the rope might be difficult to grasp, Eric is able to manage it.
sense	Eric has so much experience climbing that he has an intuitive or acquired perception of where the rope is.
squeeze	Eric is able to press the rope gently, maybe just to be sure it's really there if needed.
touch	Eric can feel the rope, and this is more a matter of information than giving us any clue to his situation.

CURED!

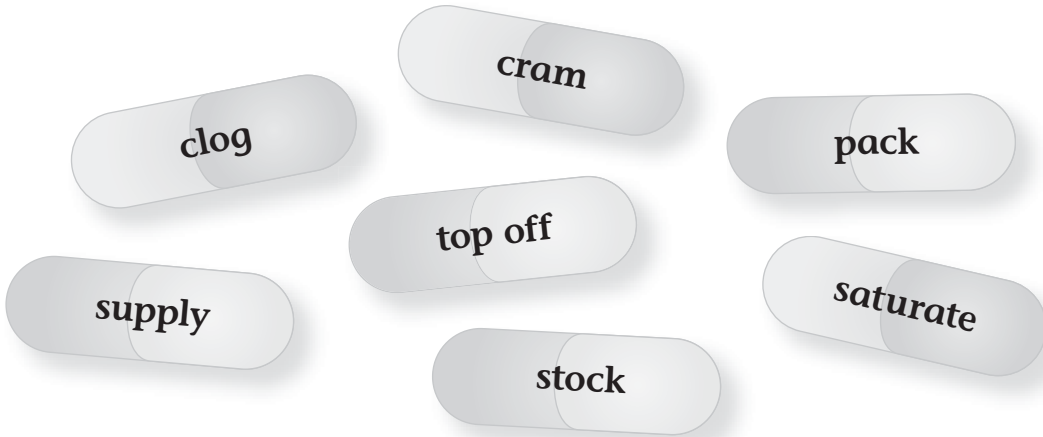
Love is blind. That is why he always proceeds by touch.

FRENCH PROVERB

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to occupy to the full capacity

cures for the common word

block
brim over
bulge out
charge
choke
clog
close
congest
cram
crowd
distend
fulfill
furnish
glut
gorge

heap
impregnate
inflate
jam-pack
lade
load
meet
occupy
overflow
pack
permeate
pervade
plug
pump up
ram

replenish
sate
satisfy
saturate
shoal
stock
store
stretch
stuff
suffuse
supply
swell
take up
top off

CURED!

*The first forty years of life give us the text; the next thirty **supply** the commentary on it.*

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The local parks departments **fill** the streams with fish.

We know that fish are being added to the streams, but surprisingly, *fill* doesn't tell us to what degree, nor does it tell us if this is a good or bad thing.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *fill*:

The local parks departments _____ the streams with fish.

clog	They put in so many fish that the streams are choked up, and it's hard to swim or boat in them.
cram	They have forced in more fish than the streams can easily hold, which is not healthy for the fish or the environment.
pack	The departments have crowded the fish together, perhaps in one set-off area of each stream.
saturate	This implies that the streams are completely packed, but <i>saturate</i> doesn't carry the same negative connotation as <i>cram</i> .
stock	The parks departments have added fish to the streams to have an appropriate number available.
supply	The departments have added fish to the streams, but the connotation here is that the streams were lacking the requisite amount.
top off	This is an informal term to indicate that the departments added just a few fish, because the streams were almost full to begin with.

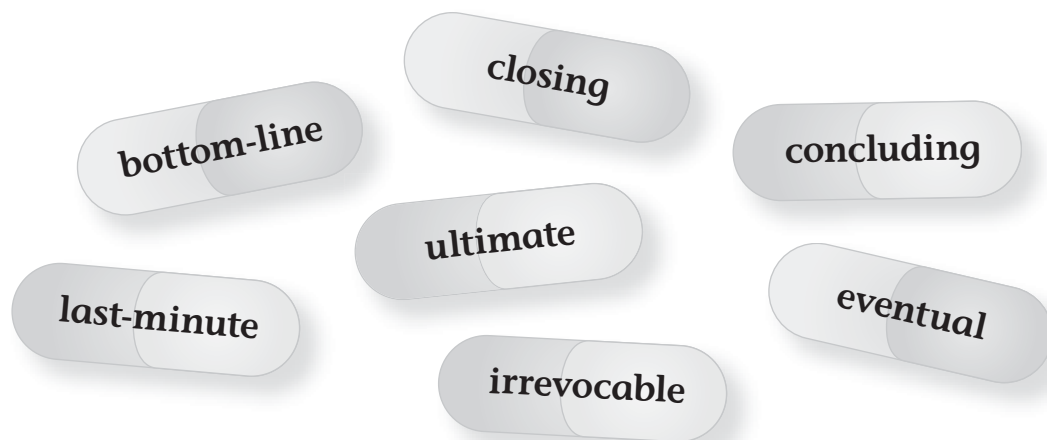
CURED!

Next to a circus there ain't nothing that **packs** up and tears out faster than the Christmas spirit.

KIN HUBBARD

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *conclusive or decisive; coming to the end; last in place, order, or time*



cures for the common word

absolute
bottom-line
closing
concluding
crowning
decided
decisive
definite
definitive
determinate

determinative
ending
eventual
finished
finishing
hindmost
incontrovertible
irrefutable
irrevocable
last-minute

latest
latter
settled
supreme
swan song
terminal
terminating
ultimate
unanswerable
unappealable

CURED!

*Final thoughts are so, you know, final. Let's call them **closing** words.*

CRAIG ARMSTRONG

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

The company's **final** decision regarding pay increases surprised us.

Though it's clear we were surprised by the decision, *final* doesn't indicate much about what was involved in the decision or how we feel about it.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *final*:

The company's _____ decision regarding pay increases surprised us.

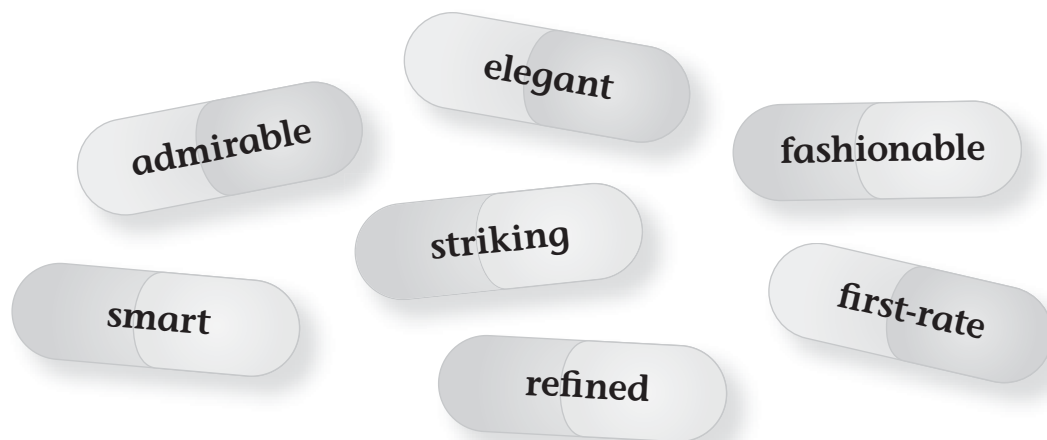
bottom-line	Whether we like the decision or not, it isn't going to change.
closing	There were negotiations or discussion on the topic, and the decision concludes those negotiations.
concluding	This implies that the decision was determined by reasoning, and the connotation is that we believe careful consideration was given to the decision.
eventual	Even though we were surprised, we knew a decision was expected at some point due to a process already begun and ongoing.
irrevocable	The company's decision is unalterable, so it cannot be changed or recalled.
last-minute	The company's decision was made just prior to a deadline.
ultimate	The company's decision was the final conclusion, ending a series of discussions.

CURED!

*It is easy to answer the **ultimate** questions—it saves you bothering with the immediate ones.*

JOHN OSBORNE

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *of superior or best quality; excellent*



cures for the common word

accomplished
 aces
admirable
 attractive
 beautiful
 capital
 choice
 dandy
elegant
 exceptional
 expensive
 exquisite
fashionable

first-class
first-rate
 five-star
 good-looking
 great
 handsome
 lovely
 magnificent
 ornate
 outstanding
 pleasant
 rare
refined

select
 showy
 skillful
smart
 spiffy
 splendid
striking
 subtle
 superior
 supreme
 top-notch
 well-made
 wicked

CURED!

*I sometimes give myself **admirable** advice, but I am incapable of taking it.*

MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Dorothy's parents thought Ray was a **fine** choice as their daughter's date to the country club dinner.

In this sentence, we're unsure if Dorothy's parents found their daughter's date as merely adequate or an excellent surprise—we need more information.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *fine*:

Dorothy's parents thought Ray was a(n) _____ choice as their daughter's date to the country club dinner.

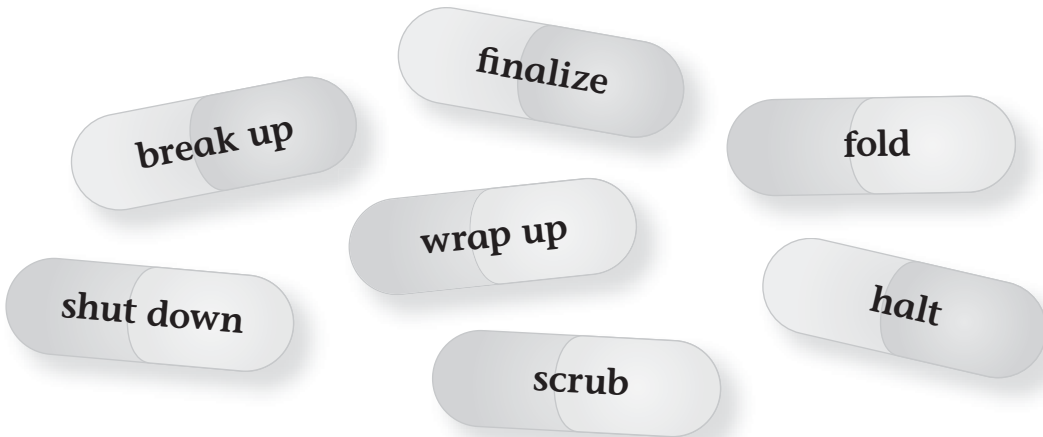
admirable	Ray is a young man who inspires approval and respect—by his character or his actions.
elegant	Ray is gracefully refined and dignified.
fashionable	Ray has a stylish way of dressing.
first-rate	Ray is foremost in quality above other young men Dorothy (or her parents) might have considered as her date.
refined	Ray shows a well-bred character, manner, and feelings.
smart	Ray has a dashing, neat, and trim appearance.
striking	Ray has an impressively attractive appearance.

CURED!

One of the most **striking** differences between a cat and a lie is that the cat has only nine lives.

MARK TWAIN

PART OF SPEECH *verb*
 DEFINITION *to get done*



cures for the common word

accomplish
 achieve
 bag it
break up
 carry through
 cease
 chuck
 clinch
 close
 complete
 conclude
 consume
 cool it

crown
 culminate
 deplete
 determine
 discharge
 end
 execute
 exhaust
finalize
fold
 fulfill
halt
 make

mop up
 perfect
 round off
 scratch
scrub
 settle
 sew up
shut down
 shutter
 stop
 terminate
 wrap
wrap up

CURED!

*The United Nations is presently unable to **break up** a skirmish between two warring Girl Scout factions, so how they're supposed to aid the world is an even bigger conundrum.*

ARTHUR LOTTI

Karen and her crew had to **finish** filming at midnight.

Though we know filming had to cease, *finish* doesn't tell us whether the filming was completed or only interrupted.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *finish*:

Karen and her crew had to _____ filming at midnight.

break up	The filming was disrupted for some reason—and not in a good way.
finalize	They were in the process of putting the entire filming of a movie in final form.
fold	This is an informal way to say that they were forced to close down filming.
halt	They had to stop filming for the evening, though we don't know if it's temporarily or permanently.
scrub	This is a slang way to say the filming has been done away with—just plain canceled.
shut down	This is a more traditional way of saying the filming was ended but not completed.
wrap up	This is the movie and TV term for completing the filming of the final scene.

CURED!

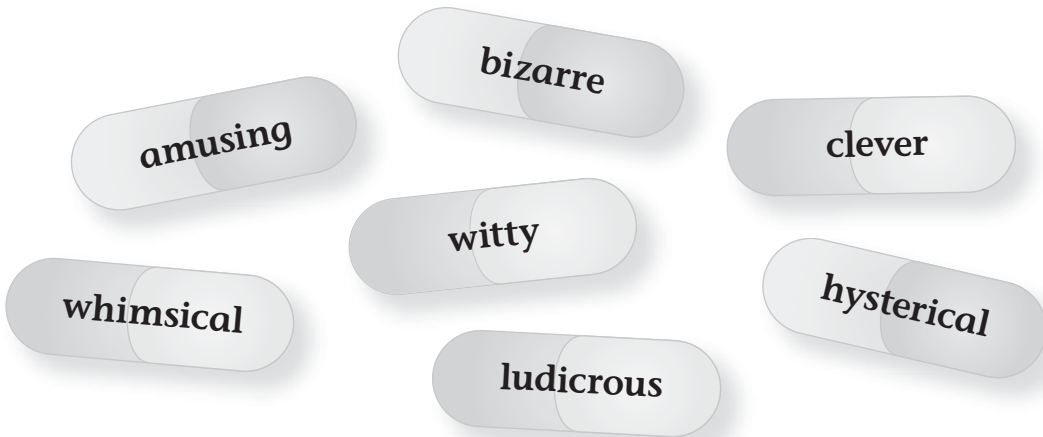
*We are not so much concerned if you are slow as when you come to a **halt**.*

CHINESE PROVERB

funny

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *humorous; causing amusement or laughter; comical*



cures for the common word

absurd
amusing
antic
a scream
bizarre
blithe
capricious
clever
comical
diverting
droll
entertaining
facetious
farcical

gay
good-humored
hilarious
humorous
hysterical
jocular
joking
jolly
killing
knee-slapping
laughable
ludicrous
merry
mirthful

playful
priceless
rich
ridiculous
riotous
risible
side-splitting
silly
slapstick
sportive
uncommon
unusual
whimsical
witty

CURED!

*The desire to seem **clever** often keeps us from being so.*

FRANÇOIS VI DUKE (DUC) DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Michael told us a **funny** story.

In this sentence, *funny* doesn't tell us what exactly was funny about Michael's story—whether it made us laugh, was unusual, or something different.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *funny*:

Michael told us a(n) _____ story.

amusing	The story was entertaining or diverting, so it raised a smile but wasn't uproarious.
bizarre	The story was strikingly unconventional and far-fetched, and it led us to wonder if it was true or not.
clever	The details or plot of the story were original, and the connotation is that the story was intriguing.
hysterical	The story was so extremely funny we were laughing uncontrollably.
ludicrous	The story was laughable because of some obvious absurdity or incongruity.
whimsical	The story was lighthearted and given to whimsy or fancy.
witty	The story was quick and clever in its amusing insights.

CURED!

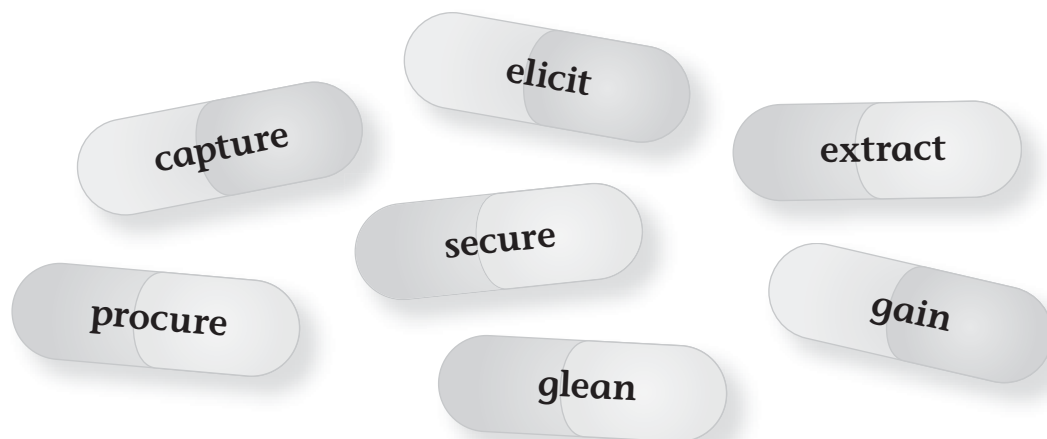
A *witty* saying proves nothing.

FRANÇOIS-MARIE AROUET VOLTAIRE

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to come into possession or use of; to acquire as a result of action or effort

cures for the common word

access
accomplish
achieve
acquire
annex
attain
bag
build up
buy out
capture
clean up
come by
cop
draw
earn

educate
elicit
evoke
extort
extract
fetch
gain
glean
grab
inherit
land
lock up
make
net
obtain

parlay
pick up
procure
pull
rack up
realize
reap
receive
score
secure
snag
snap up
take
wangle
win

CURED!

*The good we **secure** for ourselves is precarious and uncertain—until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.*

JANE ADDAMS

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

I'd like to **get** more information from the president before I accept his proposal.

We're unsure of the nature of the proposal as well as how to go about getting more information from the president.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *get*:

I'd like to _____ more information from the president before I accept his proposal.

capture	In a different context, this might mean obtaining the information by force or skill, but now it can also imply that I'm going to gather or record the information from different sources.
elicit	I'm going to draw the information from somewhere or someone, which still has a negative connotation.
extract	Though this might indicate drawing out by force, it can also mean to deduce or interpret information based on several factors.
gain	I'm going to acquire the information by my devoted research.
glean	I'm discovering information, a little at a time, from being alert to different resources I've investigated or things people have said.
procure	I'm going to obtain the information by some special means; the connotation is that it may be by unscrupulous and indirect means.
secure	I'm going to get possession of information from a dependable source.

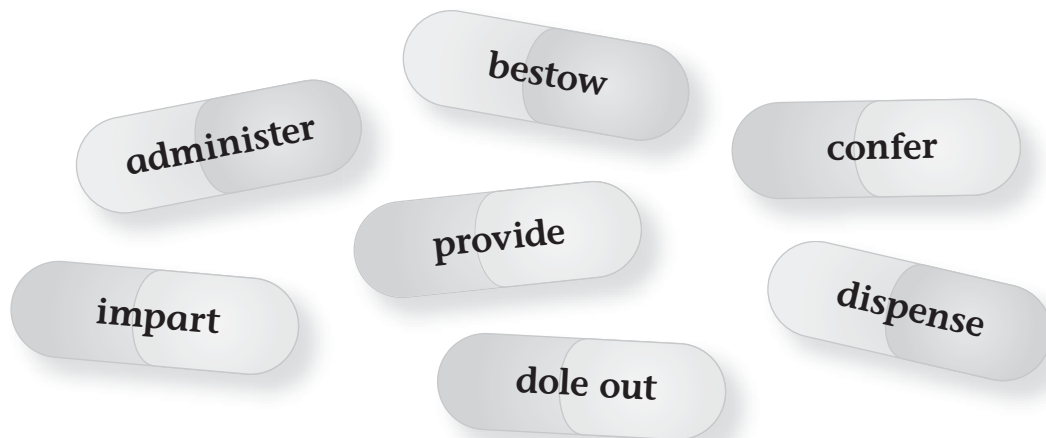
CURED!

Who has confidence in himself will **gain** the confidence of others.

LEIB LAZAROW

give

PART OF SPEECH *verb*
 DEFINITION *to impart or communicate*



cures for the common word

accord
administer
 ante up
 award
 bequeath
bestow
 cede
 commit
confer
 consign
 convey
 deed
 deliver
 dish out
dispense

distribute
dole out
 donate
 endow
 entrust
 fork over
 furnish
 grant
 hand
impart
 lease
 let have
 parcel out
 part with
 pass out

permit
 pony up
 present
provide
 relinquish
 remit
 sell
 shell out
 subsidize
 supply
 throw in
 transfer
 transmit
 vouchsafe
 will

CURED!

*Sometimes I need what only you can **provide**—your absence.*

ASHLEIGH BRILLIANT

Give advice sparingly.

This is usually a good idea, but choosing *give* is very neutral, and doesn't tell us much about the intent behind the advice given and the reaction of the advisee.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *give*:

_____ advice sparingly.

administer	The advice is intended to contribute assistance, perhaps in a formal way.
bestow	The advice is being presented as a gift—or that is the intention of the giver, even if the receiver may not feel that way.
confer	The advice is being offered as a favor or honor, which may or may not be received with appreciation.
dispense	The advice is being distributed in parts or portions and has a connotation of being given without much emotion.
dole out	This is an informal way of saying the advice will be given in portions.
impart	Meaning “to tell, relate, and pass down,” <i>impart</i> gives the sense of someone wise and knowledgeable sharing their wisdom—and it's gratefully received.
provide	The advice—almost like simple facts and information—is made available.

CURED!

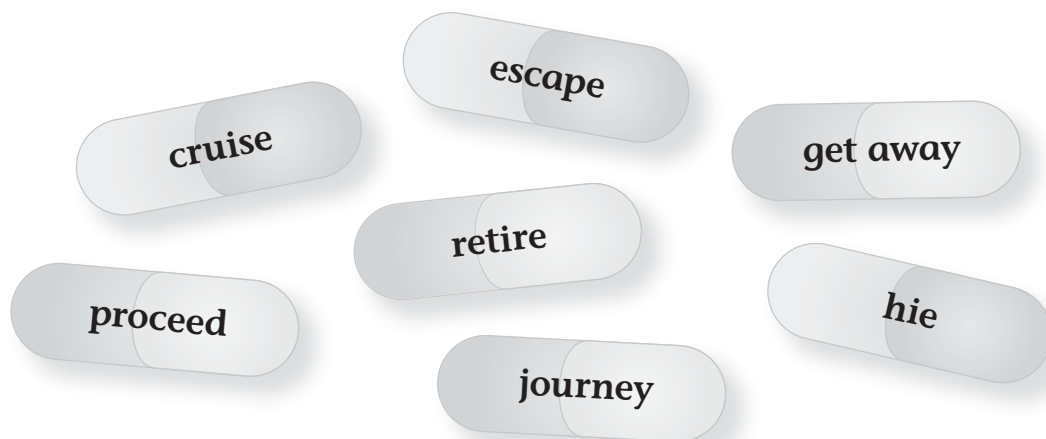
*People who have given us their complete confidence believe that they have a right to ours. The inference is false; a gift **confers** no rights.*

FRIEDRICH WILHELM NIETZSCHE

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to move or proceed, especially to or from something

cures for the common word

abscond
advance
approach
beat it
bug out
cruise
decamp
depart
escape
exit
fare
flee
fly
get away

get going
hie
hightail
journey
lam
leave
light out
mosey
move
pass
proceed
progress
pull out
push on

quit
repair
retire
run away
shove off
skip out
split
take flight
take off
tool
travel
vamoose
wend
withdraw

CURED!

*In what other business can a guy my age drink martinis, smoke cigars and sing? I think all people who **retire** ought to go into show business. I've been retired all my life.*

GEORGE BURNS

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

In the morning, we'll **go** to the tropical island by boat.

Choosing *go* for this sentence doesn't give us much information about the speed or urgency of our journey or the motivations for it.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *go*:

In the morning, we'll _____ to the tropical island by boat.

cruise	This gives us the feeling of a leisurely pleasure trip to the island.
escape	We are going to slip away to that tropical refuge, probably from the daily routine or problems we'd like a break from.
get away	We're going to take a vacation to the island.
hie	We're in a hurry to get to the sunny beaches on that island.
journey	Beyond heading for our destination, we're going to take our time as we go the long distance.
proceed	We're heading to the island, after an interruption of our trip.
retire	This implies we are going to the island for some privacy—or are now going to be enjoying a work-free life.

CURED!

To travel is to take a **journey** into yourself.

DENA KAYE

good

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *pleasant; enjoyable*



cures for the common word

acceptable
 ace
 admirable
 agreeable
 bully
 capital
 choice
commendable
 competent
 congenial
 deluxe
 excellent
 exceptional
 favorable

first-class
 functional
gratifying
 great
honorable
 marvelous
 nice
 pleasing
 positive
 precious
 prime
 reputable
satisfying
 select

serviceable
 shipshape
 sound
 spanking
 splendid
 sterling
 stupendous
 super
 superb
 superior
 tip-top
valuable
welcome
wonderful

CURED!

*Say encouraging words to young people, make them feel **welcome** on the planet Earth (many do not). Show by example that we don't need all we have in order to be happy and productive.*

PAUL LUTUS

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Volunteering gives most people a **good** feeling.

It's true that most people feel they receive more from volunteering than they give, but *good* doesn't adequately express how volunteering makes most people feel.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *good*:

Volunteering gives most people a(n) _____ feeling.

commendable	Our volunteering is perceived by others as praiseworthy.
gratifying	Volunteering gives us a pleasing feeling of satisfaction.
honorable	We feel we are doing something creditable based on high principles and character.
satisfying	Our volunteering fulfills our expectations, giving a sense of full contentment.
valuable	We feel we're contributing in a helpful way, one we hope is worthy of respect.
welcome	Volunteering gives us an agreeable feeling of pleasure or satisfaction—a feeling maybe we don't often experience.
wonderful	Volunteering is beyond good, it's great, excellent, marvelous—so true.

CURED!

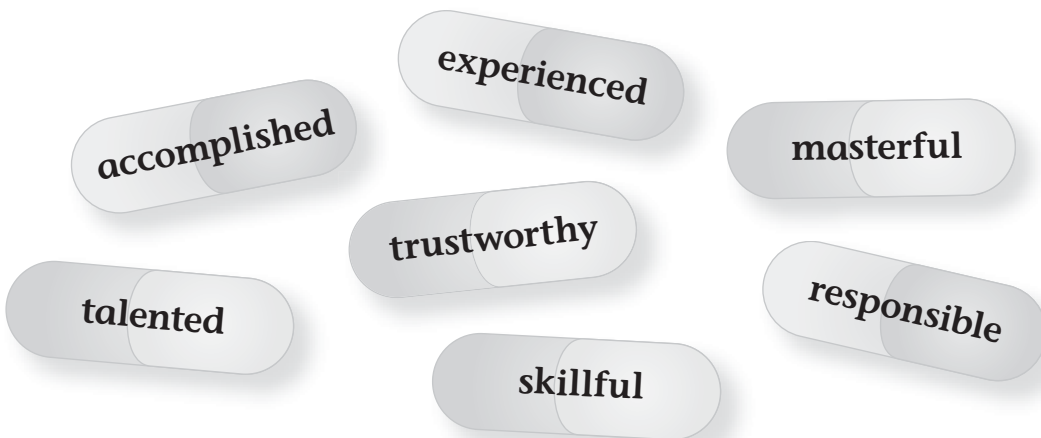
*Education is a **wonderful** thing. If you couldn't sign your name you'd have to pay cash.*

RITA MAE BROWN

good

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *having the qualities that are desirable or distinguishing in a particular thing; skilled*



cures for the common word

able
accomplished
adept
adroit
au fait
capable
clever
competent
dexterous
efficient

experienced
expert
first-rate
masterful
proficient
proper
qualified
reliable
responsible
satisfactory

serviceable
skillful
suitable
suited
talented
thorough
trained
trustworthy
useful
wicked

CURED!

***Responsible** artists try to affect you sensually in a way that enlarges your experience.*

PAULINE KAEI

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Jack is a **good** canoe builder.

In this sentence, we understand that Jack is capable of building an outrigger, but it doesn't give us a clear idea of the extent of his training and skills.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *good*:

Jack is a(n) _____ canoe builder.

accomplished	Jack is good at what he does as the result of his practice or training, and the implication is that his work is much above average.
experienced	Jack's skill or wisdom comes through his experience.
masterful	Jack's skills are beyond good, having and reflecting the power and skill of a master.
responsible	Without indicating his skill level, Jack has shown that we can depend on him in terms of honesty in his work and his dealings with us.
skillful	Jack is very good at his trade.
talented	Beyond skilled, Jack is creative or artistic in his work.
trustworthy	Jack's skills and performance are deserving of trust or confidence.

CURED!

*The only way to make a man **trustworthy** is to trust him.*

HENRY STIMSON

great

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *important; eminent; distinguished; remarkable or outstanding*



cures for the common word

august
capital
celebrated
chief
commanding
dignified
distinguished
eminent
exalted
excellent
famous
glorious
grand
heroic

highly regarded
honorable
idealistic
illustrious
impressive
leading
lofty
lordly
magnanimous
major
noble
notable
noted
outstanding

paramount
primary
principal
prominent
puissant
regal
remarkable
renowned
royal
stately
sublime
superior
superlative
talented

CURED!

The most **heroic** word in all languages is revolution.

EUGENE DEBS

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

As a **great** leader, Nelson Mandela listens as well as he speaks.

In this sentence, *great* doesn't give us enough information to explain why Nelson Mandela is so highly thought of.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *great*:

As a(n) _____ leader, Nelson Mandela listens as well as he speaks.

commanding	President Mandela has an imposing and authoritative presence.
distinguished	President Mandela is a wise man of great dignity, as well as an eminent and distinctive leader, as evidenced in part by his great accomplishments.
heroic	President Mandela has displayed the character and attributes of a hero, showing his boldness and daring under extreme measures.
highly regarded	President Mandela is held in high esteem and respect.
idealistic	President Mandela's beliefs are of high and noble principles, though <i>idealistic</i> can carry a connotation of unrealistic.
magnanimous	President Mandela is generous in his forgiving of insult and injury, free from petty resentment or vindictiveness.
talented	President Mandela exhibits special skills and abilities.

CURED!

Nothing is more **idealistic** than a journalist on the defensive.

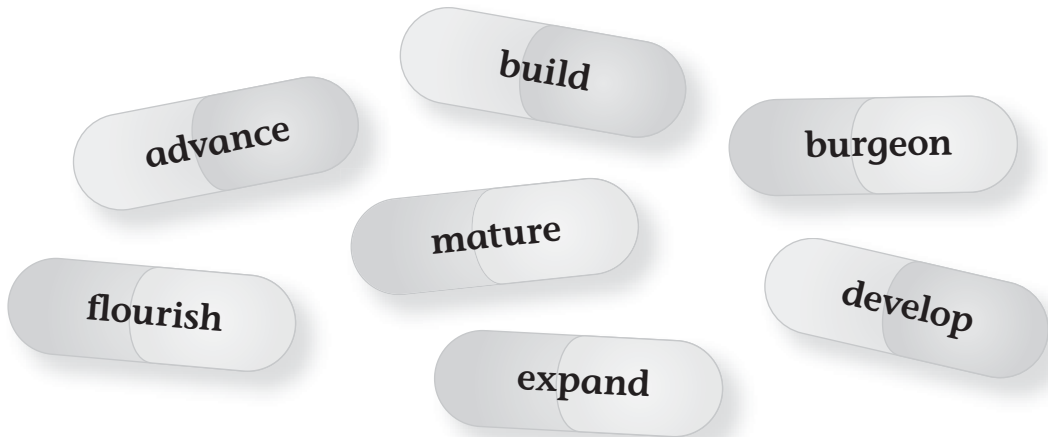
MELVIN MADDOCKS

grow

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to expand or increase gradually by concerted effort

cures for the common word

abound
advance
 age
 amplify
 arise
 augment
 breed
build
burgeon
 cultivate
develop
 dilate
 enlarge
expand
 extend

fill out
flourish
 gain
 germinate
 heighten
 increase
 issue
 luxuriate
 maturate
mature
 mount
 multiply
 originate
 produce
 propagate

pullulate
 raise
 ripen
 rise
 shoot
 spread
 sprout
 stem
 stretch
 swell
 thicken
 thrive
 turn
 wax
 widen

CURED!

*I hate the man who **builds** his name on the ruins of another's fame.*

JOHN GAY

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

In going back to school, Christine knows both her knowledge and experience will **grow**.

We know that Christine's growth will be a positive experience, but *grow* doesn't clearly tell us what she is hoping for.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *grow*:

In going back to school, Christine knows both her knowledge and experience will _____.

advance	Christine knows her education will move her forward in life.
build	Christine realizes her knowledge and experience will increase and strengthen.
burgeon	This implies Christine's knowledge and experience will develop quickly.
develop	Christine is hoping to build her skills to a more advanced level.
expand	Christine realizes she is extending both the volume and the scope of her knowledge.
flourish	Christine's hoping she'll thrive in a period of her highest productivity.
mature	Christine believes her knowledge and experience will evolve toward fuller development.

CURED!

*You can't say civilization don't **advance** . . . in every war they kill you in a new way.*

WILL ROGERS

happy

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *enjoying or showing joy or pleasure or good fortune*



cures for the common word

blessed
blissful
blithe
captivated
cheerful
chipper
content
convivial
delighted
delightful
ecstatic
elated
exultant
flying high

gay
glad
gleeful
gratified
hopped up
intoxicated
jolly
joyous
jubilant
laughing
light
lively
merry
mirthful

overjoyed
peaceful
peppy
perky
playful
pleasant
pleased
satisfied
sparkling
sunny
thrilled
tickled pink
up
upbeat

CURED!

*To be seventy years young is sometimes far more **cheerful** and hopeful than to be forty years old.*

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES JR.

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

My granddaughter Taevin is such a **happy** child.

In this sentence, *happy* is just too mild a word and not expressive enough to tell us the ways Taevin displays her happiness.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *happy*:

My granddaughter Taevin is such a(n) _____ child.

cheerful	She is always in good spirits.
delightful	She gives us all great pleasure and delight and is very entertaining.
lively	She is full of life and vital energy—and very active.
mirthful	She is full of gladness and gaiety, so joyous.
peaceful	She is rarely argumentative or quarrelsome.
playful	She loves to play and have fun—and can find play in the simplest of things.
upbeat	She is happy, cheerful, and optimistic.

CURED!

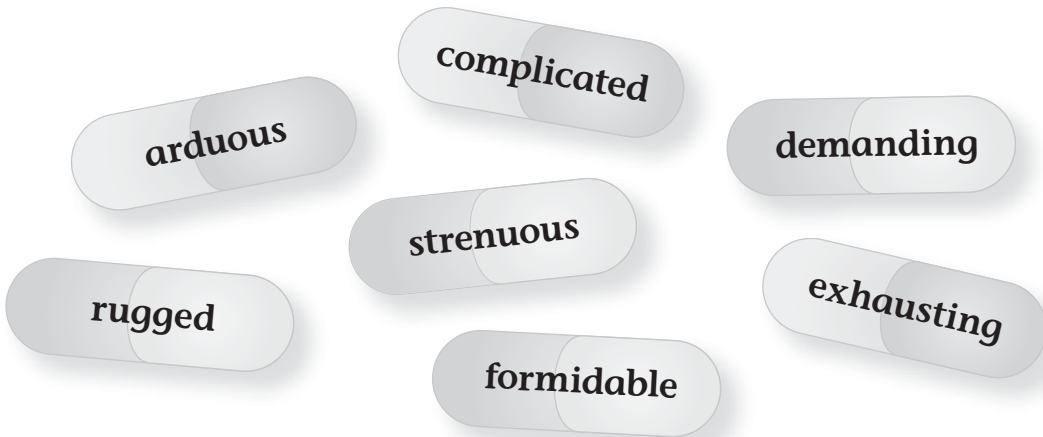
Make the expectations ***lively*** enough, and action will follow.

MASON COOLEY

hard

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *difficult to do or accomplish; fatiguing; troublesome*



cures for the common word

arduous

backbreaking
ball-breaking
bothersome
burdensome
complex
complicated
demanding
distressing
exacting
exhausting
fatiguing
formidable
grinding
hairy

harsh

heavy
herculean
intricate
involved
irksome
knotty
laborious
mean
merciless
murderous
onerous
operose
rigorous
rough

rugged

scabrous
serious
severe
slavish
sticky
strenuous
terrible
tiring
toilsome
tough
troublesome
unsparing
wearing
wearisome

CURED!

*In ballet a **complicated** story is impossible to tell. . . . We can't dance synonyms.*

GEORGE BALANCHINE

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

The **hard** hike up Mount Tam took us the whole day.

We can't tell from the use of *hard* if the hike was more than we would have hoped for or a welcome challenge.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *hard*:

The _____ hike up Mount Tam took us the whole day.

arduous	The hike was laborious and steep and required great exertion.
complicated	The hike had aspects that were elaborate, complex, and intricate.
demanding	The hike called for more intensive effort, attention, and skill than we expected.
exhausting	By the end of the hike, we were extremely fatigued and weary.
formidable	The hike proved to be somewhat discouraging because of Mount Tam's intimidating size and difficulty.
rugged	The terrain was rocky or hilly, with jagged surfaces.
strenuous	The hike was characterized by vigorous exertion, but the connotation is that it was a positive and enjoyable workout.

CURED!

Golf seems to be an **arduous** way to go for a walk. I prefer to take the dogs out.

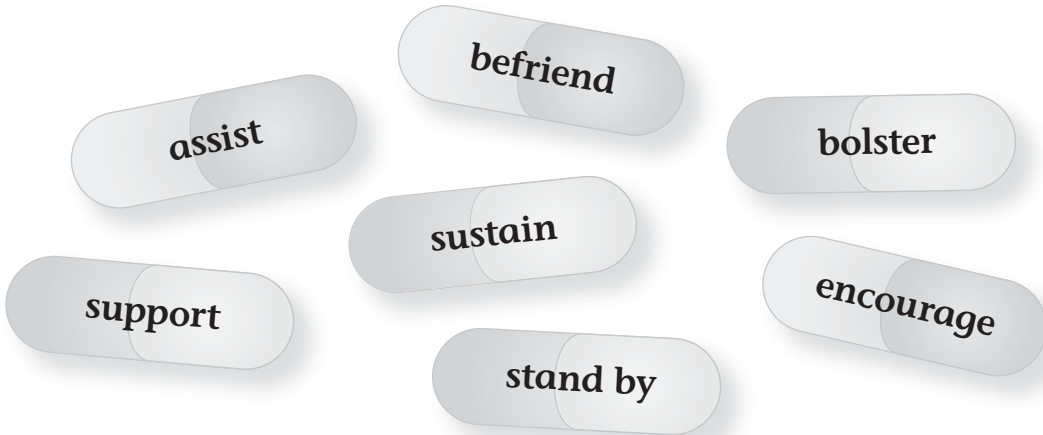
PRINCESS ANNE

help

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to give aid; to be of service or advantage; to assist

cures for the common word

abet
accommodate
advocate
aid
assist
back
ballyhoo
befriend
benefit
bolster
boost
buck up
cheer

cooperate
encourage
endorse
further
intercede
maintain
open doors
patronize
plug
promote
prop
puff
push

relieve
root for
sanction
save
second
serve
stand by
stimulate
stump for
succor
support
sustain
uphold

CURED!

*We all of us need assistance. Those who **sustain** others themselves want to be **sustained**.*

MAURICE HULST

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Helga was kind enough to **help** me through a tough time.

Help can come in many ways, and *help* doesn't tell us much about the ways Helga's showed her kindness.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *help*:

Helga was kind enough to _____ me through a tough time.

assist	Helga offered me aid—financially, emotionally, and in other ways.
befriend	Helga and I weren't as close before this tough time, and now she's become much more friendly.
bolster	I was a little shaky, and Helga offered me her strength—she was someone to lean on.
encourage	Helga has inspired me with courage, spirit, and confidence.
stand by	Even when things got really rough, I knew I could rely on Helga.
support	Helga not only offered me financial aid but also held me up emotionally.
sustain	Helga helped me keep going without either of us giving way or yielding to how tough the time was.

CURED!

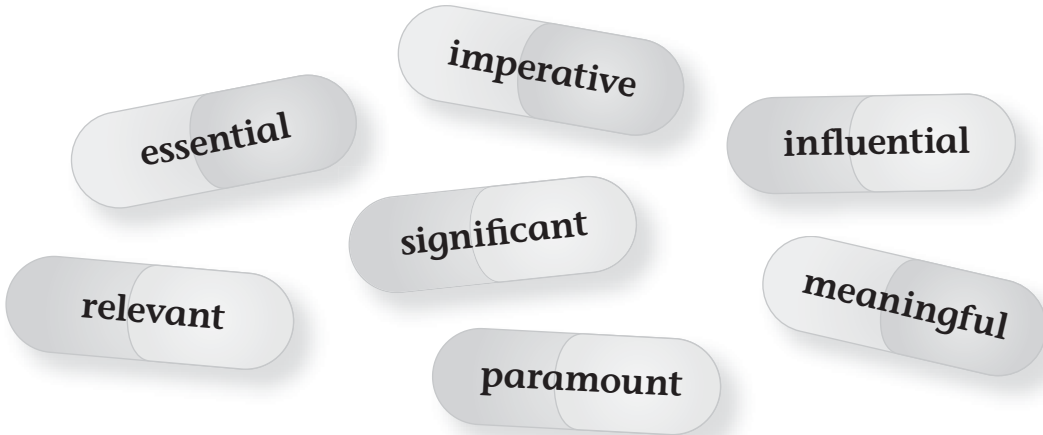
*A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the **support** of Paul.*

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

important

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *substantial; of much or great significance or consequence*



cures for the common word

big-league
chief
considerable
conspicuous
critical
crucial
decisive
earnest
essential
exceptional
exigent
extensive
far-reaching
foremost
front-page

grave
great
heavy
imperative
importunate
influential
large
marked
material
meaningful
momentous
notable
of note
of substance
paramount

ponderous
pressing
primary
principal
relevant
salient
serious
signal
significant
something
standout
substantial
urgent
vital
weighty

CURED!

*Only Irish Coffee provides in a single glass all four **essential** food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, fat.*

ALEX LEVINE

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Community approval of the new clinic is **important** to the developer.

We can't tell from the use of *important* in this sentence if the approval is something the developer cares about or if it's required for construction of the new clinic.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *important*:

Community approval of the new clinic is _____ to the developer.

essential	The approval is necessary to the actual continuance of the project, and without it, the project will not move forward.
imperative	In addition to being absolutely necessary or required, the community's input is unavoidable.
influential	The community's input will influence the developer's plans.
meaningful	This gives the impression that the developer cares about the wishes of the community.
paramount	The community's approval could have a chief impact on the developer's plans.
relevant	The community's input should have significant and demonstrable bearing on the issues.
significant	The community's approval matters, but there's no indication the approval—or not—will have any bearing on the developer's plan.

CURED!

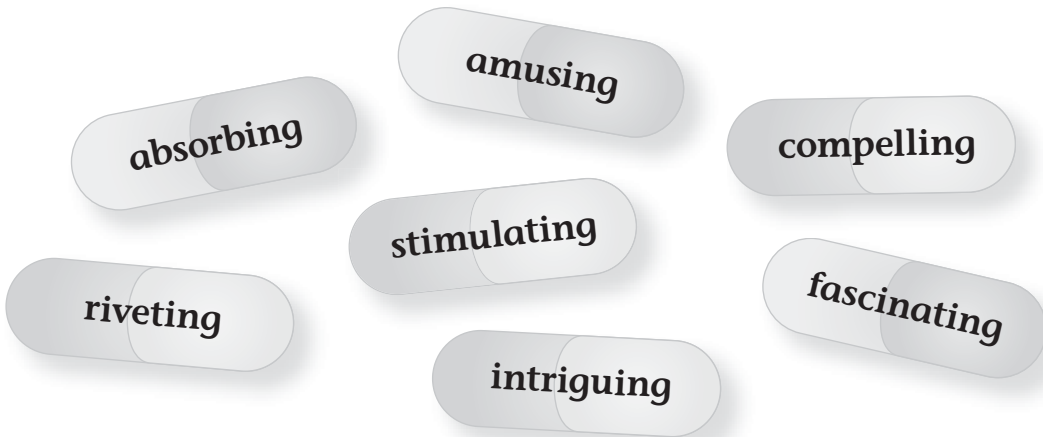
The most **influential** of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home.

WILLIAM TEMPLE

interesting

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *arousing the curiosity or engaging the attention*



cures for the common word

absorbing

affecting
alluring
amusing
arresting
captivating
charismatic
compelling
curious
delightful
elegant
enchanted
engaging

engrossing
entertaining
enthraling
entrancing
exceptional
exotic
fascinating
gracious
gripping
impressive
inspiring
intriguing
inviting

magnetic
pleasing
pleasurable
provocative
refreshing
riveting
stimulating
stirring
striking
suspicious
thought-provoking
unusual
winning

CURED!

*I enjoyed the courtroom as a stage—but not so **amusing** as Broadway.*

MAE WEST

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

My mom and I saw a very **interesting** play.

It is hard to know exactly what this means—if the play was good, bad, or something else entirely.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *interesting*:

My mom and I saw a very _____ play.

absorbing	The play was engaging and engrossing and occupied our full attention or interest.
amusing	The play was entertaining in a light, playful, or pleasant manner and caused us to laugh.
compelling	The play irresistibly kept our attention and urged, almost forced, us to think about its message.
fascinating	The play was irresistibly charming and captivating and caused us to see a point with a different perspective.
intriguing	The play aroused our interest—and our curiosity.
riveting	The play held our attention and kept us engrossed in the action, dialogue, or message.
stimulating	The play was exciting and invigorating.

CURED!

Good communication is as **stimulating** as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.

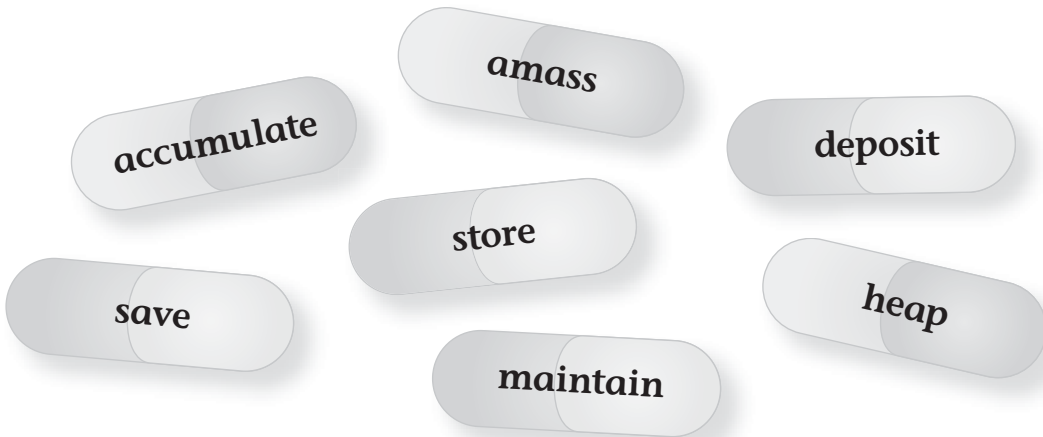
ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH

keep

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to hold or retain in one's possession

cures for the common word

accumulate**amass**

cache

care for

carry

conduct

conserve

control

deposit

detain

direct

enjoy

garner

grasp

grip

have

heap

hold back

maintain

manage

own

pile

place

possess

preserve

put up

reserve

retain

save

stack

stock

store

withhold

CURED!

*We **accumulate** our opinions at an age when our understanding is at its weakest.*

G. C. (GEORG CHRISTOPH) LICHTENBERG

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

There's room for Chris to **keep** his entire antique ski collection in the new garage.

In this sentence, *keep* doesn't tell us precisely what Chris is doing with the collection and what the main advantage is of the new garage.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *keep*:

There's room for Chris to _____ his entire antique ski collection in the new garage.

accumulate	Chris will be able to collect his skis in gradual degrees.
amass	Chris will have plenty of room to collect a large quantity of his skis.
deposit	Choosing <i>deposit</i> implies that it's not Chris's garage, but that someone is letting Chris leave his collection there.
heap	Chris is going to pile up his collection in the garage.
maintain	The new garage gives Chris a place to work on and keep his collection in good condition.
save	Chris's collection will now be safe in the new garage.
store	Chris may not get to enjoy his collection all the time, but now he can place it in the new garage for future use.

CURED!

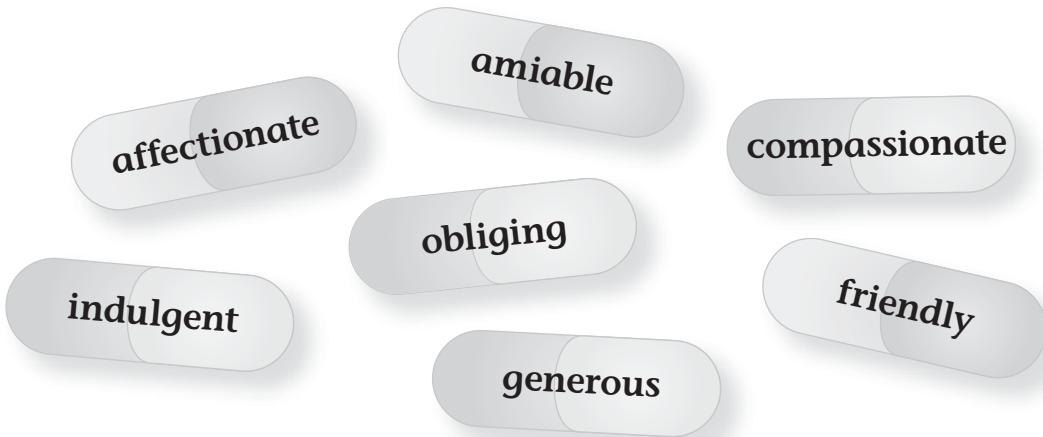
*It is possible to **store** the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducated.*

ALEC BOURNE

PART OF SPEECH

adjective

DEFINITION

of a good or benevolent nature or disposition

cures for the common word

affectionate

all heart
altruistic

amiable

amicable
beneficent
benevolent
big
bounteous
charitable
clement

compassionate

congenial

considerate

cordial
courteous

friendly

generous
gentle
good-hearted
gracious
humane
humanitarian

indulgent

kindhearted
kindly

lenient

loving
mild

neighborly

obliging

philanthropic
propitious
softhearted
sympathetic
tenderhearted
thoughtful
tolerant
understanding

CURED!

*Always when I see a man fond of praise I always think it is because he is an **affectionate** man craving for affection.*

J. B. YEATS

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Everyone likes the **kind** nanny.

There are many facets of being *kind*, and the following alternatives tell us more about the different ways in which she might be a great nanny.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *kind*:

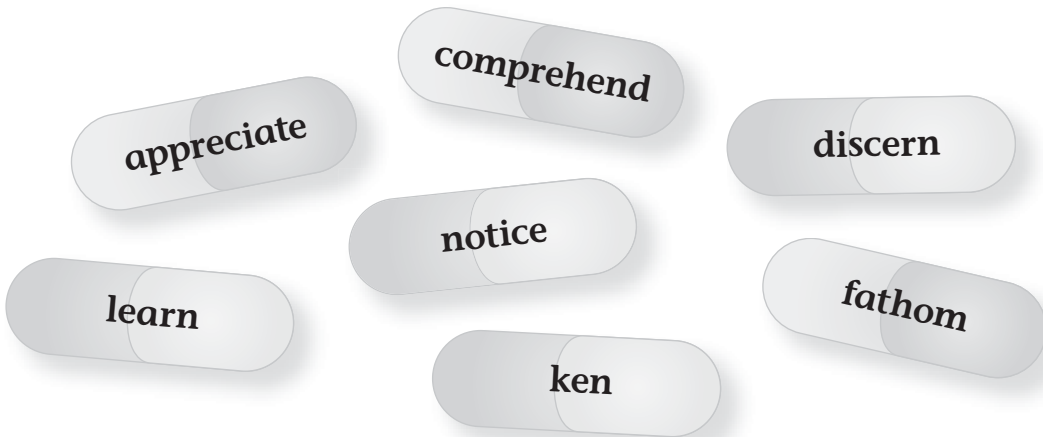
Everyone likes the _____ nanny.

affectionate	She shows love and affection and is fondly tender.
amiable	She is very agreeable and willing to accept the wishes, decisions, or suggestions of others.
compassionate	She is sympathetic and feels and shows compassion.
friendly	She is kind and pleasant, not antagonistic or hostile.
generous	She is unselfish and liberal in giving and sharing—of her time, creativity, and attention.
indulgent	She's lenient and permissive; <i>indulgent</i> carries a somewhat negative connotation of her giving in too much.
obliging	She is often willing or eager to do favors for people and is very accommodating.

CURED!

Conrad Hilton was very **generous** to me in the divorce settlement. He gave me 5,000 Gideon Bibles.

ZSA ZSA GABOR

PART OF SPEECH *verb*DEFINITION *to perceive or understand as fact or truth; to apprehend clearly and with certainty*

cures for the common word

apperceive
appreciate
 apprehend
 be acquainted
 be cognizant
 be informed
 be read
 be versed
 cognize

comprehend
 differentiate
discern
 discriminate
 distinguish
 experience
fathom
 feel certain
 grasp

have
ken
learn
notice
 perceive
 realize
 recognize
 see
 understand

CURED!

*The movies are so rarely great art, that if we can't **appreciate** great trash, there is little reason for us to go.*

PAULINE KAEI

It took me a while to **know** the local customs.

Being familiar with local customs can be very helpful, but this sentence doesn't clearly indicate whether I understand or accept the customs.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *know*:

It took me a while to _____ the local customs.

appreciate	I became fully aware of the customs and was able to acknowledge that they are true for the area.
comprehend	Even though some of the customs were unfamiliar to me, I grasped their nature and meaning.
discern	By observing, I became able to recognize certain actions as local customs—as opposed to unfamiliar individual behavior.
fathom	I was finally able to comprehend and perceive the truth of the customs.
ken	I was already acquainted with some of the customs, because someone had told me about some of them, and now I understand them even more.
learn	I came to know about the customs from my own study and experience.
notice	It took me a while even to become aware of the local customs.

CURED!

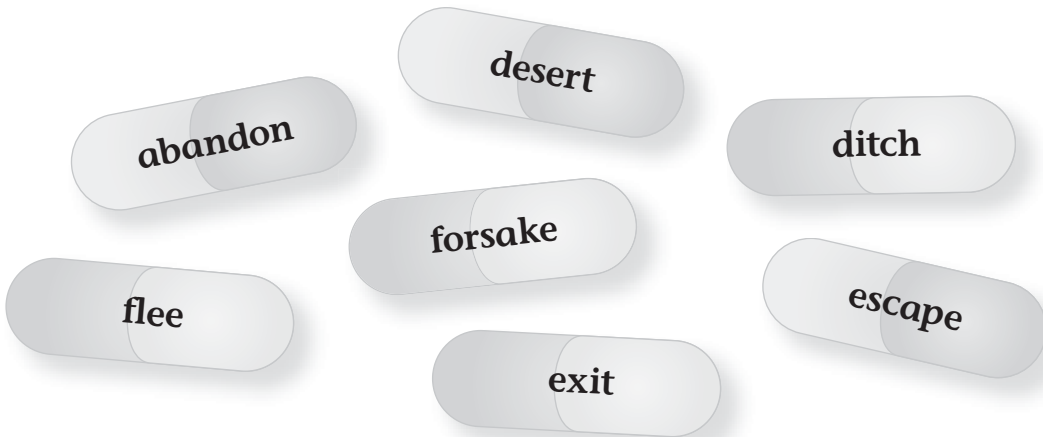
Learn from the mistakes of others—you can never live long enough to make them all yourself.

JOHN LUTHER

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to depart from permanently; to quit

cures for the common word

abandon

abscond
break away
cast off
clear out
cut out
decamp
defect

desert

disappear

ditch

embark
emigrate

escape**exit****flee**

flit
fly

forsake

go away
go forth
head out
migrate
move out
part
pull out
push off
quit
relinquish
retire

ride off

run along
sally
scram
set out
slip out
split
step down
take leave
take off
vacate
vamoose
vanish
walk out
withdraw

CURED!

*A poem is never finished, only **abandoned**.*

PAUL VALERY

Darrel had to **leave** his car at the side of the road.

No doubt there was something wrong for Darrel to have to leave his car, but *leave* in this sentence doesn't give an indication of just why, and the following alternatives tell a bit more of the story.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *leave*:

Darrel had to _____ his car at the side of the road.

abandon	Darrel needed to leave and completely give up on the car, which was perhaps broken beyond repair.
desert	Darrel left the car without intending to return; the implication is that he left contrary to a promise or commitment not to.
ditch	This is an informal way to say that Darrel had to get rid of the car for some reason.
escape	Darrel got away from the car—after being confined or restrained in it for some reason—perhaps because of some impending danger.
exit	Darrel gave up possession of the car; the implication is that he was able to walk away calmly as opposed to hurrying away.
flee	Darrel quickly ran away from the car, but we still don't know why.
forsake	Darrel adored that classic car, but for some reason he sadly had to give it up.

CURED!

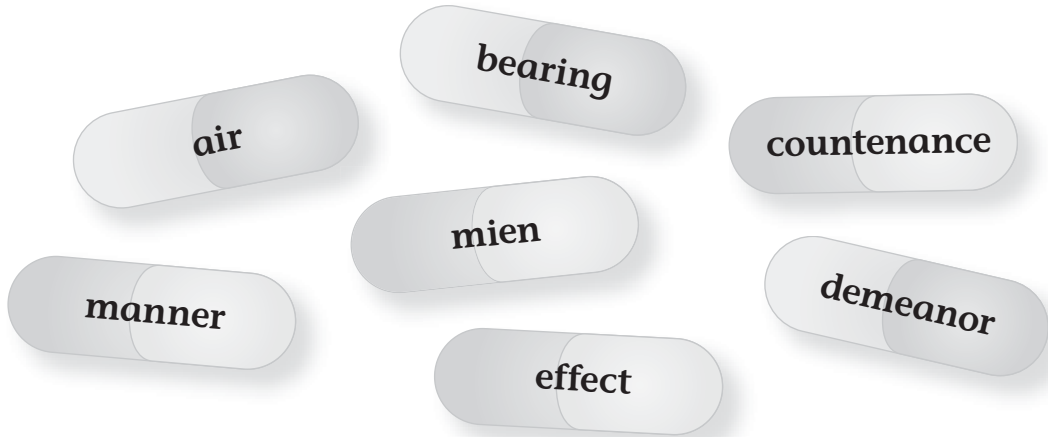
*Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by **deserting** our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.*

SAMUEL ULLMAN

look

PART OF SPEECH *noun*

DEFINITION *the way in which a person or thing appears to the eye or to the mind*



cures for the common word

air

aspect
attitude
bearing
cast
character
complexion
countenance
demeanor

effect

expression
face
fashion
feature
form
guise
image
manner

mien

mug
physiognomy
posture
presence
seeming
semblance
shape
visage

CURED!

A man's own **manner** and character is what most becomes him.

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The woman in the park had a sad **look** about her.

In this sentence, it's unclear exactly what gave us the sense that the woman was sad, and the alternatives give us a clearer explanation of how she is demonstrating her sadness.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *look*:

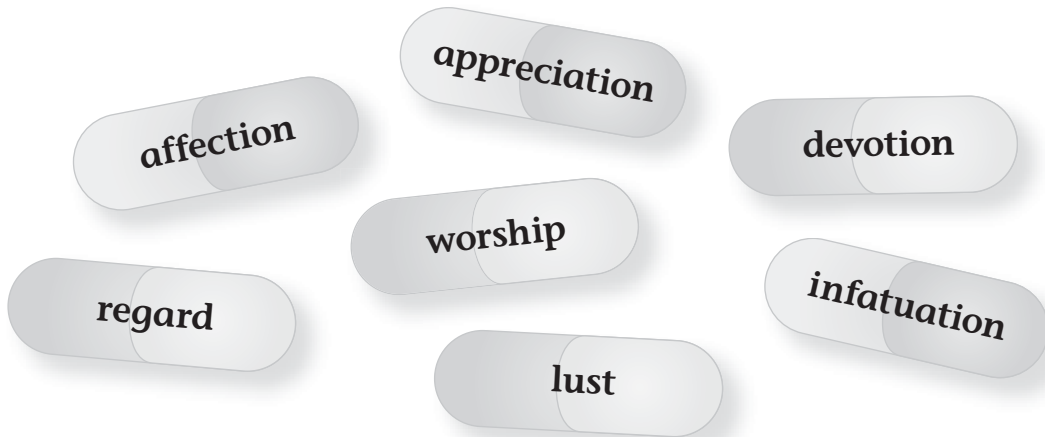
The woman in the park had a sad _____ about her.

air	It was her appearance or manner that gave the impression of being sad.
bearing	Her posture and the way she conducted herself, maybe even her gestures, made her appear sad.
countenance	The look or expression on her face was sad.
demeanor	Her conduct and behavior—perhaps crying—told us she was sad.
effect	By her look or manner, she was causing those around her to be sad.
manner	The way she was speaking with and treating others told us of her sadness.
mien	Some aspect of her manner revealed her inner state of sadness.

CURED!

*Excess on occasion is exhilarating. It prevents moderation from acquiring the deadening **effect** of a habit.*

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

PART OF SPEECH *noun*DEFINITION *a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person or an object*

cures for the common word

adulation

affection

allegiance

amity

amour

appreciation

ardor

attachment

crush

delight

devotion

emotion

enchantment

enjoyment

fervor

fidelity

fondness

friendship

hankering

idolatry

inclination

infatuation

involvement

liking

lust

partiality

passion

rapture

regard

relish

respect

sentiment

soft spot

taste

tenderness

weakness

worship

yearning

zeal

CURED!

*After a semester or so, my **infatuation** with computers burnt out as quickly as it had begun.*

ERIC ALLIN CORNELL

DIAGNOSIS *confusing*

Taylor realized that her feelings for Thorne were actually **love**.

Love can have a broad spectrum of meanings, and in this sentence, *love* doesn't give us much clarity on the level of Taylor's feelings.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *love*:

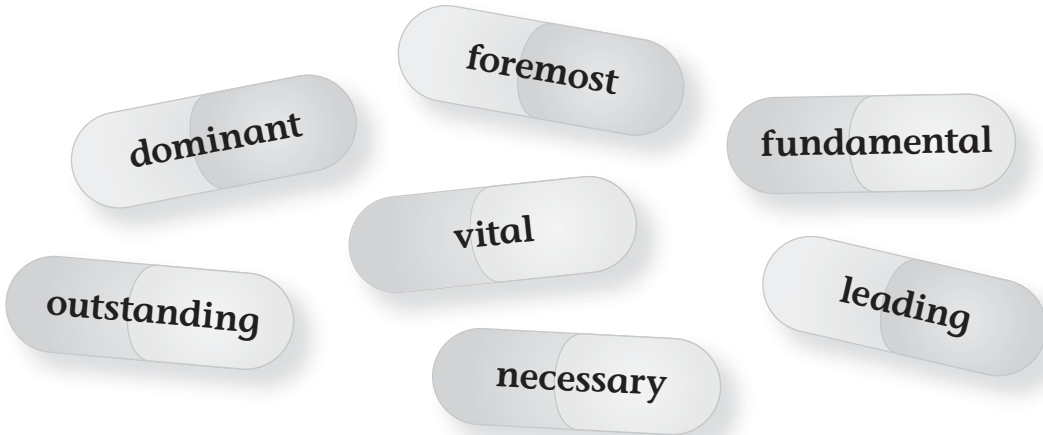
Taylor realized that her feelings for Thorne were actually _____.

affection	Taylor had a tender fondness for Thorne, but it wasn't really true love.
appreciation	Taylor felt great gratitude to Thorne, but not necessarily an affection for him.
devotion	Taylor was thankful to Thorne to a degree that caused an earnest attachment to him.
infatuation	Taylor had a foolish, all-absorbing passion for Thorne, which probably won't last.
lust	Taylor realized she really only had an intense sexual desire for Thorne.
regard	Taylor had great respect for Thorne and held him in high esteem.
worship	Taylor had an adoring reverence for Thorne.

CURED!

Perpetual **devotion** to what a man calls his business, is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *chief in size, extent, or importance; principal; leading*

cures for the common word

capital
cardinal
central
chief
controlling
critical
crucial
dominant
essential
first

foremost
fundamental
head
leading
major
necessary
outstanding
paramount
particular
predominant

preeminent
premier
prevailing
primary
prime
special
star
stellar
supreme
vital

CURED!

*Start by doing what is **necessary**, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

The article's **main** point concerned increased global warming.

We know that *main* implies importance of some kind, but we're not sure in what way or on what the importance is based.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *main*:

The article's _____ point concerned increased global warming.

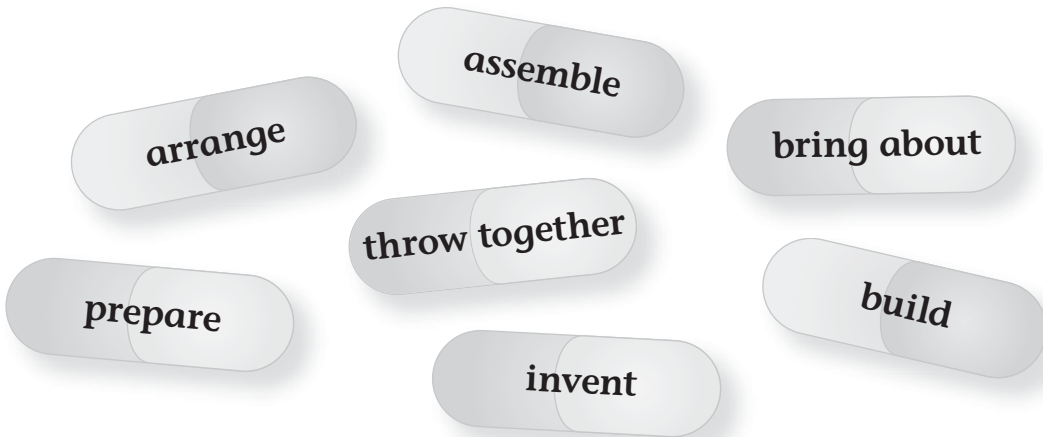
dominant	There were many points in the article, and increased global warming is the one that most influenced the information or perspective of the article.
foremost	Increased global warming was the article's most important point, ahead of all others.
fundamental	Increased global warming was the primary point upon which the rest of the article was based.
leading	Increased global warming was the first point of the article.
necessary	The point of increased global warming was essential and requisite to the entire article.
outstanding	The point of increased global warming was most prominent and striking; it stood out.
vital	Getting across the truth of increased global warming was of critical importance.

CURED!

*Love and freedom are **vital** to the creation and upbringing of a child.*

SYLVIA PANKHURST

make

PART OF SPEECH *verb*DEFINITION *to cause to exist or happen; to bring about; to create*

cures for the common word

accomplish
adjust
arrange
assemble
beget
brew
bring about
build
cause
compile
compose
conceive
constitute
construct
cook up

dream up
effect
engender
fabricate
fashion
father
forge
form
frame
generate
hatch
initiate
invent
knock out
manufacture

mold
occasion
originate
parent
prepare
procreate
produce
put together
secure
shape
sire
spawn
synthesize
throw together
whip up

CURED!

*The first qualification for a historian is to have no ability to **invent**.*

STENDHAL [MARIE-HENRI BEYLE]

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Jason is working to **make** a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic.

This is certainly a noble cause, but *make* doesn't clearly tell us what Jason's role will be in bringing the clinic into existence.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *make*:

Jason is working to _____ a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic.

arrange	Jason is bringing about an agreement to create the clinic, but we don't know if he will be involved with putting together the clinic.
assemble	Jason is going to bring together all the components needed for the entire clinic.
bring about	This is an informal way to say that Jason will do everything necessary to accomplish the goal of bringing the clinic into existence.
build	This could mean that Jason will actually help to construct the building, but it may mean that he will be instrumental in assembling all the parts needed to establish the clinic.
invent	This implies there has never been such a clinic and Jason is creating it based on his own ingenuity—and maybe some experimentation.
prepare	This implies a clinic is in existence and Jason is going to be sure it is duly state-of-the-art equipped in proper condition and readiness.
throw together	Jason is putting together the clinic in a hurried way, and although this can have a connotation of being haphazard, in today's world it can imply admiration for doing something so big so quickly.

CURED!

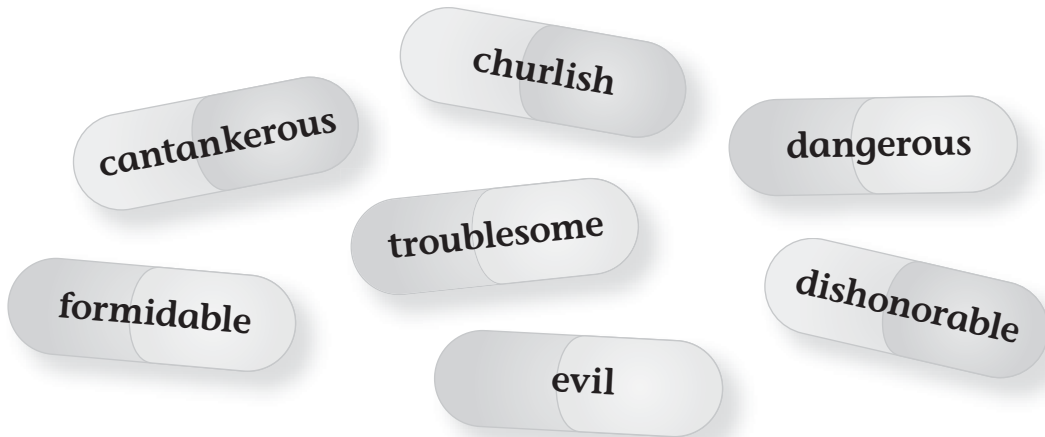
*It takes twenty years to **build** a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently.*

WARREN BUFFET

mean

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *hostile, offensive, selfish, or unaccommodating; nasty; malicious*



cures for the common word

bad-tempered
bitchy
callous
cantankerous
churlish
contemptible
dangerous
despicable
difficult
dirty
disagreeable
dishonorable
evil
formidable
hard

hard-nosed
ignoble
ill-tempered
infamous
knavish
liverish
lousy
malicious
malign
nasty
perfidious
pesky
rotten
rough
rude

rugged
scurrilous
shameless
sinking
snide
sour
the lowest
treacherous
troublesome
ugly
unfriendly
unpleasant
unscrupulous
vexatious
vicious

CURED!

*May the forces of **evil** become confused on the way to your house.*

GEORGE CARLIN

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The wicked stepmother in *Cinderella* was downright **mean**.

Well, she sure was, but *mean* is too limiting when there are so many other words to use that describe the horrid ways she showed that meanness.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *mean*:

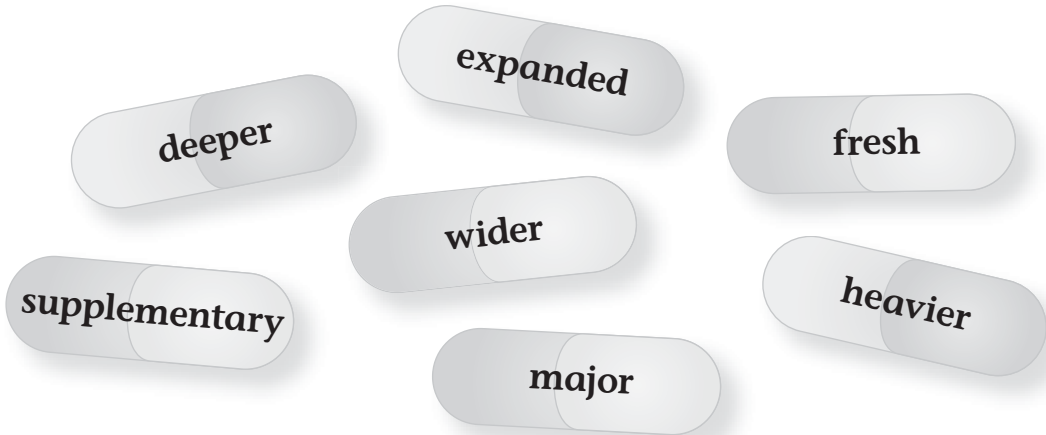
The wicked stepmother in *Cinderella* was downright _____.

cantankerous	She was constantly disagreeable and argumentative.
churlish	She was rude, crude, ill-mannered, coarse, and contemptible in behavior and appearance.
dangerous	She caused Cinderella great physical and emotional injury, to say the least.
dishonorable	She was clearly unprincipled and disreputable.
evil	Her entire personality was characterized by anger and spite.
formidable	For years she managed to cause fear and apprehension—in everyone.
troublesome	She caused trouble for everyone and was constantly annoying.

CURED!

*Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's **troublesome**.*

ISAAC ASIMOV

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *additional or further; in greater quantity, amount, measure, degree, or number*

cures for the common word

added
additional
amassed
another
augmented
bounteous
deeper
enhanced
exceeding
expanded

extended
extra
farther
fresh
further
greater
heavier
higher
increased
innumerable

larger
likewise
major
massed
new
numerous
other
replenishment
supplementary
wider

CURED!

*One should never criticize his own work except in a **fresh** and hopeful mood.
The self-criticism of a tired mind is suicide.*

CHARLES HORTEN COOLEY

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

I need to conduct **more** research for my report.

In this sentence, *more* is clear in indicating additional research but doesn't tell us much about what kind of research.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *more*:

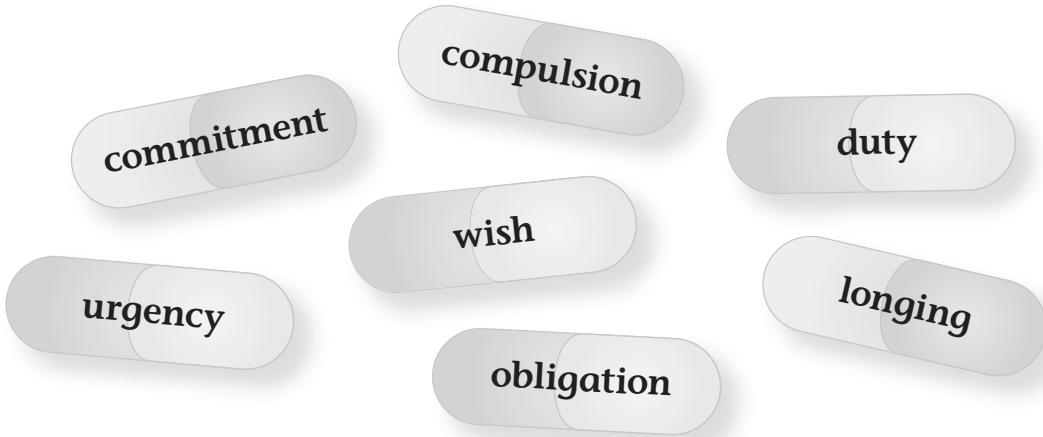
I need to conduct _____ research for my report.

deeper	I need to continue my research extending far down from the surface meaning of my topic.
expanded	I need to look beyond the current scope of my research to increase the length and detail of my report.
fresh	I need to look at my topic in a novel and different way than I have so far.
heavier	I've been a little light on my research and need to do much more than before.
major	I haven't done any research so far, and I have a lot to do!
supplementary	I need to add something to my research to make it complete—perhaps to make up for a deficiency or to extend or strengthen the whole report.
wider	I need to look at a much greater variety of subjects or cases to give me more thorough information.

CURED!

*The responsibility of tolerance lies in those who have the **wider** vision.*

GEORGE ELIOT

PART OF SPEECH *noun*DEFINITION *urgent want, as of something required or wanted*

cures for the common word

ache
charge
commitment
committal
compulsion
craving
demand
desire
devoir

duty
exigency
extremity
hunger
itch
longing
must
obligation
occasion

requirement
requisite
right
thirst
urge
urgency
use
weakness
wish

CURED!

*I write of the **wish** that comes true—for some reason, a terrifying concept.*

JAMES M. CAIN

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Parents may feel a **need** to protect even their adult children.

In this sentence, *need* doesn't give us a clear indication as to whether the desire to protect is appropriate or not.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *need*:

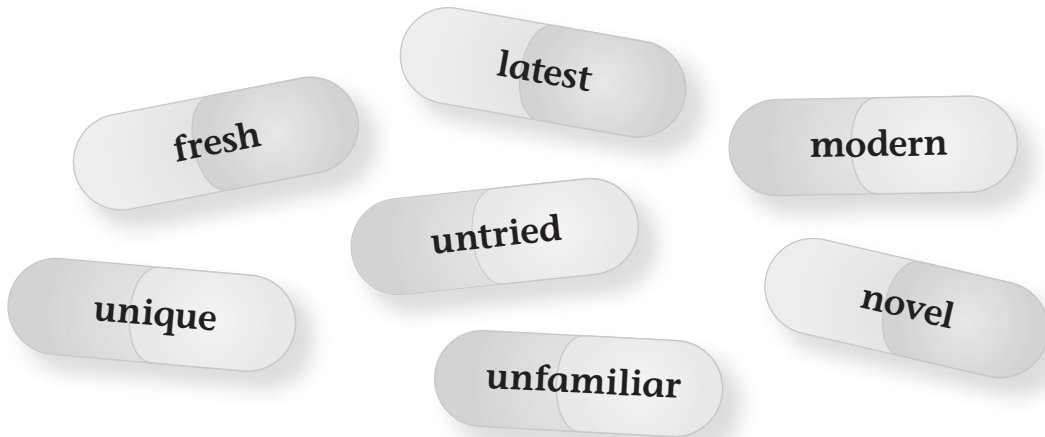
Parents may feel a _____ to protect even their adult children.

commitment	Parents may feel bound emotionally to protect their children with a sincere and steadfast pledge, which tends to give us a positive sense.
compulsion	Some parents have an irresistible impulse to protect their children, regardless of the rationality of the motivation; <i>compulsion</i> tells us that the feeling is probably not appropriate.
duty	Parents may feel they are doing what they are required to do by moral or legal obligation.
longing	Some parents have a strong, persistent desire or craving to protect their adult children.
obligation	Parents may feel bound by duty, custom, or law to protect their children; the connotation is that perhaps they are doing so because they <i>have to</i> rather than because they <i>want to</i> .
urgency	There may be an earnest and pressing importance for the parents to protect their children; the implication is that there is real danger.
wish	Parents often have a continuing want and desire to protect their children.

CURED!

The **duty** of youth is to challenge corruption.

KURT COBAIN

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *of recent origin, production, purchase, etc.*

cures for the common word

dewy
different
dissimilar
distinct
edgy
fashionable
fresh
inexperienced
just out
latest
modern
modernistic
modish

neoteric
newfangled
novel
now
original
recent
strange
topical
ultramodern
uncontaminated
unfamiliar
unique
unknown

unlike
unseasoned
unskilled
unspoiled
untouched
untrained
untried
untrodden
unused
unusual
up-to-date
virgin
youthful

CURED!

*I think **modern** science should graft functional wings on a pig, simply so no one can ever use that stupid saying again.*

ANONYMOUS

The detergent manufacturer introduced a **new** formula.

In this example, *new* could have a host of different meanings—both positive and negative.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *new*:

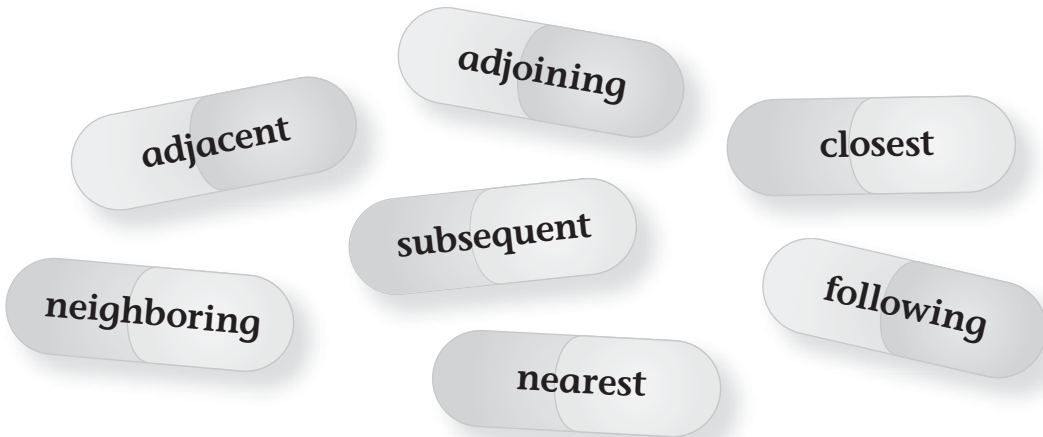
The detergent manufacturer introduced a _____ formula.

fresh	The formula is newly made or obtained.
latest	The formula may have been created at any time, and this is the most recent formula the manufacturer is introducing.
modern	The formula is characteristic or expressive of recent times.
novel	The formula is of a new kind, different from anything seen or known before.
unfamiliar	The formula may have been around for some time but is not known or well known.
unique	This could have two slightly different meanings: the formula is the only one of its kind, or it is not the typical formula.
untried	The formula possibly has not ever been tried or at least has not been adequately tested or proved.

CURED!

Create your own visual style . . . let it be **unique** for yourself and yet identifiable for others.

GEORGE ORSON WELLES

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *immediately following in time, order, importance, etc.*

cures for the common word

abutting
adjacent
adjoining
 after
 alongside
 attached
 beside
 bordering
 close

closest
 coming
 connecting
 consecutive
 consequent
 contiguous
 ensuing
following
 immediate

later
 nearby
nearest
neighboring
 proximate
subsequent
 succeeding
 thereafter
 touching

CURED!

*Arrogance and snobbism live in **adjoining** rooms and use a common currency.*

MORLEY SAFER

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Rosie's best friend lives in Brewster, the **next** town on Highway 1.

Choosing *next* here actually gives us sufficient information, but the following alternatives broaden our understanding of where Brewster is in relation to where Rosie lives.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *next*:

Rosie's best friend lives in Brewster, the _____ town on Highway 1.

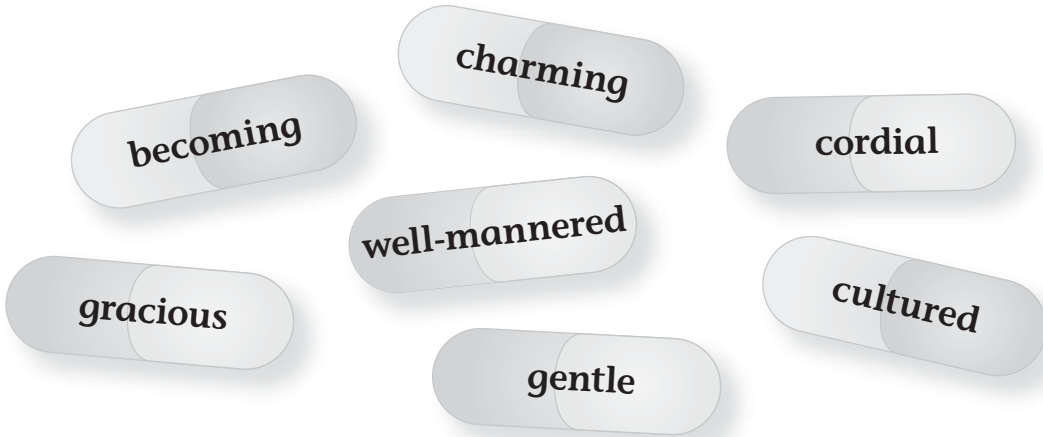
adjacent	Brewster is close to Rosie's town, but <i>adjacent</i> doesn't give us an indication of in which direction or if it's a bordering town or simply nearby.
adjoining	Brewster is bordering the town where Rosie lives, in direct contact at some point.
closest	There are several towns nearby, but Brewster is most near to Rosie's town.
following	Continuing on Highway 1, Brewster is a town we'll come to—though it doesn't tell us how close or in which direction.
nearest	Brewster is within the shortest distance or interval of time from Rosie's house.
neighboring	Since we're talking of towns, this is an ideal word for a nearby or adjacent town.
subsequent	On Highway 1, Brewster is the town that comes after Rosie's town—again, though, it doesn't tell us in which direction or how far it is.

CURED!

At a formal dinner party, the person nearest death should always be seated closest to the bathroom.

GEORGE CARLIN

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *pleasing and agreeable in nature*



cures for the common word

admirable
 agreeable
 amiable
 approved
 attractive
becoming
charming
 commendable
 considerate
 copacetic
cordial
 courteous
cultured
 decorous

delightful
 favorable
 friendly
 genial
gentle
 good
gracious
 helpful
 hunky-dory
 ingratiating
 inviting
 kind
 kindly
 lovely

nifty
 obliging
 OK
 peachy
 pleasant
 pleasurable
 polite
 seemingly
 swell
 unpretentious
 welcome
well-mannered
 winning
 winsome

CURED!

Being **cultured** is the least expensive form of respectability.

MASON COOLEY

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Rich has a **nice** personality.

We know that this means something positive (unless being used facetiously), but we'd like to know more precisely what is pleasant about Rich.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *nice*:

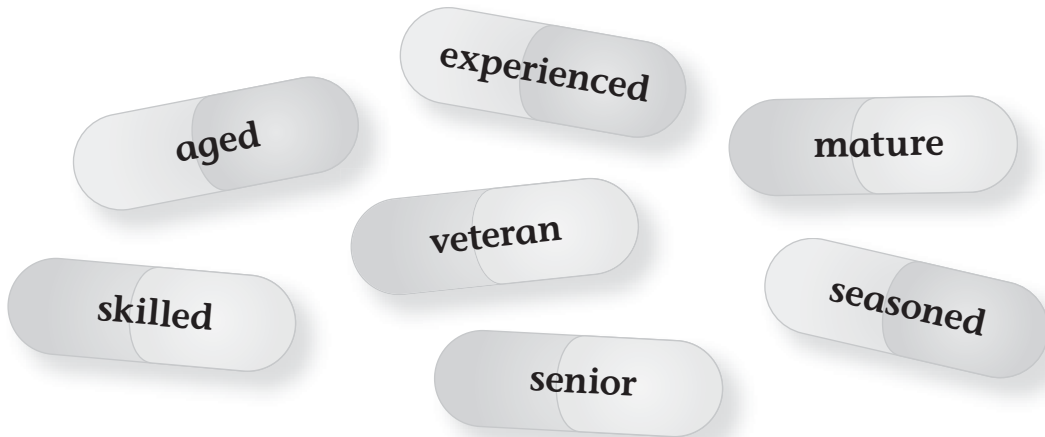
Rich has a(n) _____ personality.

becoming	Rich's personality is pleasing and appropriate, and he presents himself in the best light.
charming	Rich is a delight and can induce an action using his strong attractiveness or personal skills.
cordial	Rich is warm, sincere, and friendly.
cultured	Rich is refined in his manner and enlightened and knowledgeable in the arts.
gentle	Rich is never severe or harsh in any way.
gracious	Rich is kind and courteous and has a compassionate nature.
well-mannered	Rich is polite and courteous and is considered to be socially "correct" in his behavior.

CURED!

*I'm a **charming** coward; I fight with words.*

CARL REINER

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *having lived or existed for a relatively long time; far advanced in years or life*

cures for the common word

aged

ancient
broken down
debilitated
decrepit
deficient
doddering
elderly
enfeebled
exhausted
experienced
fossil

geriatric

getting on
gray-haired
grizzled
hoary
impaired
inactive
infirm
mature
matured
olden
patriarchal

seasoned

senile
senior
skilled
superannuated
tired
used
venerable
versed
veteran
wasted
worn

CURED!

*Imagination grows by exercise, and contrary to common belief, is more powerful in the **mature** than in the young.*

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Jim is an **old** member of the cast.

When *old* is used in this context, it would probably be kinder to look for an alternative—one that has a more diplomatic and more precise connotation.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *old*:

Jim is a(n) _____ member of the cast.

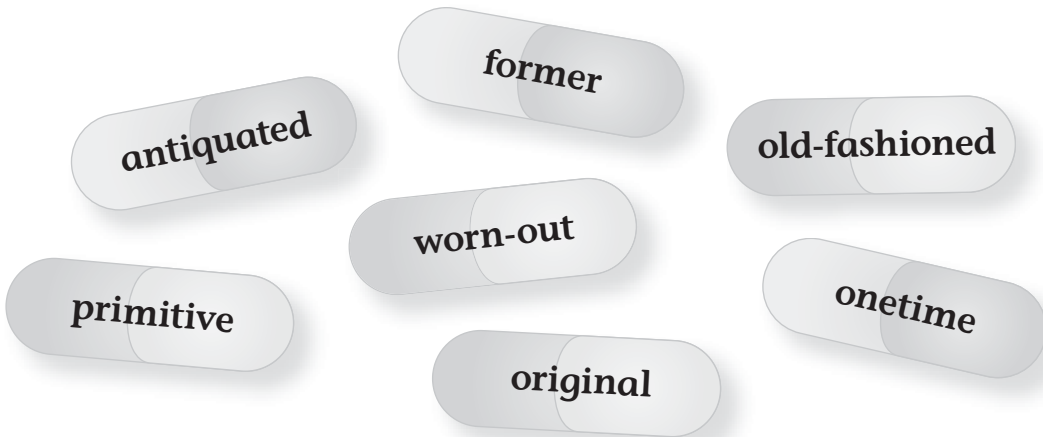
aged	We don't know how long Jim has been with the cast, but he is advanced in age.
experienced	Whether it's with this cast or just in the industry, Jim has gained a level of skill or knowledge based on his past experience.
mature	Jim—or at least his skills—are fully developed in body or mind.
seasoned	Jim is competent because of his trial and experience.
senior	Though this could relate to Jim's chronological age, it would more often imply he is of higher or the highest rank or standing in the cast.
skilled	Jim's skill is either from experience or from training.
veteran	Jim has long service with the cast.

CURED!

*I was very, very naive for a **veteran** guy. I thought I was going to be a place where dissent could be heard.*

PHIL DONAHUE

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *obsolete; no longer in general use*



cures for the common word

aboriginal
 age-old
 antediluvian
antiquated
 antique
 archaic
 bygone
 cast-off
 crumbling
 dated
 decayed
 démodé
 early
 erstwhile
former

hackneyed
 immemorial
 late
 moth-eaten
 of yore
 olden
 oldfangled
old-fashioned
 old-time
onetime
original
 outdated
 outmoded
 passé
 past

previous
 primeval
primitive
 primordial
 quondam
 remote
 rusty
 stale
 superannuated
 time-worn
 traditional
 unfashionable
 unoriginal
 venerable
worn-out

CURED!

An **original** writer is not one who imitates nobody, but one whom nobody can imitate.

FRANÇOIS-RENÉ DE CHATEAUBRIAND

The manuscript files are on my **old** computer.

For a second printing of my book, I need the original manuscript files, and we can't tell from the use of *old* in this sentence whether I'm going to be able to get those files or not.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *old*:

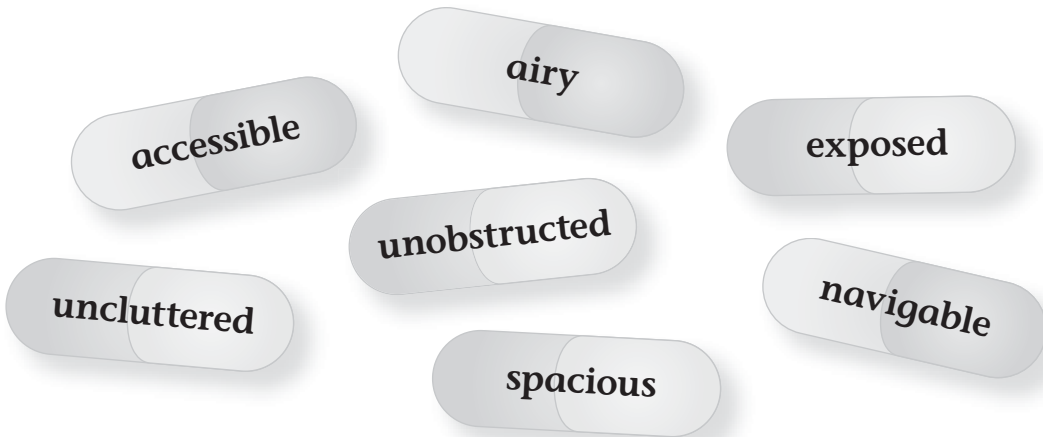
The manuscript files are on my _____ computer.

antiquated	The files are on a computer that is so obsolete I no longer use it.
former	I'm referring to the computer I used before my current one, and it doesn't necessarily mean there was or is anything wrong with it.
old-fashioned	The computer is out of style but still may work just fine.
onetime	The connotation is that the files are on the computer I used at one time and may no longer have access to.
original	The files are on my very first computer.
primitive	The computer is rather simple and unsophisticated and probably can't even perform the way I need it to today.
worn-out	My beloved computer is no longer working; it is so damaged by use that it's beyond repair.

CURED!

*Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the **former**.*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *not closed or barred; relatively free of obstructions*

cures for the common word

accessible
agape
airy
ajar
bare
clear
cleared
dehiscent
disclosed
emptied
expansive
exposed
extended
free

gaping
naked
navigable
patent
patulous
peeled
revealed
rolling
spacious
spread out
stripped
susceptible
unbarred
unblocked

unbolted
unburdened
uncluttered
uncovered
unfolded
unfurled
unimpeded
unlocked
unobstructed
unsealed
unstopped
vacated
wide
yawning

CURED!

*We're an ideal political family, as **accessible** as Disneyland.*

MAUREEN REAGAN

We're creating an **open** path from the house to the garden.

Because *open* as an adjective has almost eighty definitions, many of which could apply in this sentence, we definitely need to narrow our meaning to have a clearer picture about the path to the garden.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *open*:

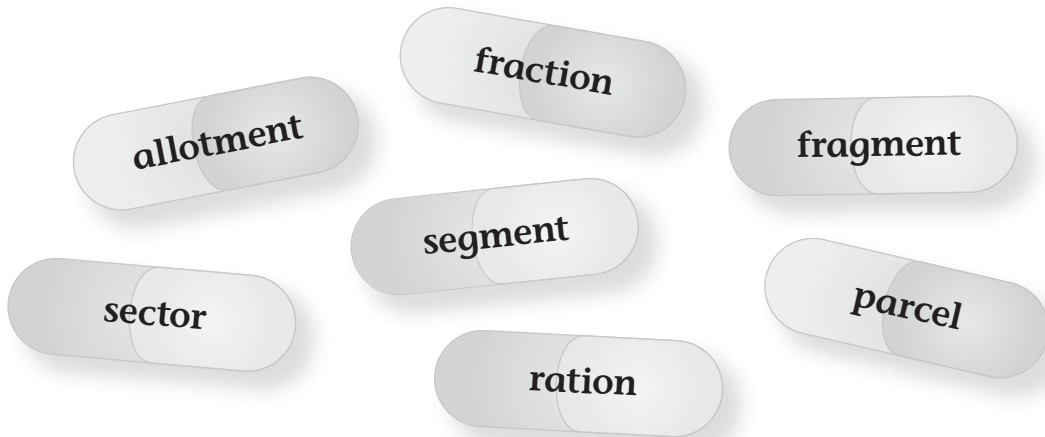
We're creating a(n) _____ path from the house to the garden.

accessible	We'll now have a path that can be easily reached and used.
airy	The path may be covered, but it is open to a free current of fresh air.
exposed	The path won't be sheltered from the elements.
navigable	The path will now be wide enough to provide us easy passage to the garden.
spacious	Our path will have a great vast area.
uncluttered	The path now will be orderly and neat.
unobstructed	We're clearing any and all impediments or hindrances to create a clear path.

CURED!

*I would rather be **exposed** to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it.*

THOMAS JEFFERSON

PART OF SPEECH *noun*DEFINITION *a portion or division of a whole that is separate or distinct*

cures for the common word

allotment
 apportionment
 articulation
 bit
 branch
 chunk
 component
 constituent
 department
 detail
 division
 element
 factor
fraction
fragment

helping
 hunk
 ingredient
 installment
 item
 limb
 lot
 measure
 member
 module
 moiety
 molecule
 organ
parcel
 particle

piece
 portion
 quantum
ration
 scrap
 section
sector
segment
 share
 side
 slice
 sliver
 splinter
 subdivision
 unit

CURED!

*To me, photography is the simultaneous recognition, in a **fraction** of a second, of the significance of an event.*

HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON

A **part** of the population was evacuated early.

In this sentence, we aren't given enough information to know how many people were evacuated or if the early evacuation was a positive or negative situation.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *part*:

A(n) _____ of the population was evacuated early.

allotment	A predetermined number of people, or specific people, had been chosen for early evacuation should the need arise.
fraction	Only a minute number of people were evacuated early, and in this case, the implication is that the number was far too few.
fragment	Only a small, isolated group of people were evacuated early.
parcel	The people in a specific geographic portion of the city were evacuated early; <i>parcel</i> implies a relatively small geographic area.
ration	Only a set amount of people were set apart for early evacuation; the implication with <i>ration</i> is that it was a small number of people.
sector	A geographic section or zone of the population was evacuated early, though we have no indication how small or large that section was.
segment	Though <i>segment</i> could refer to a geographic location, the connotation is more that a certain group determined by some other factor (perhaps need or, unfortunately, economic status) was evacuated early.

CURED!

*It is unconscionable that we **ration** health care by the ability to pay. . . . Your heart breaks. Health care should be a given.*

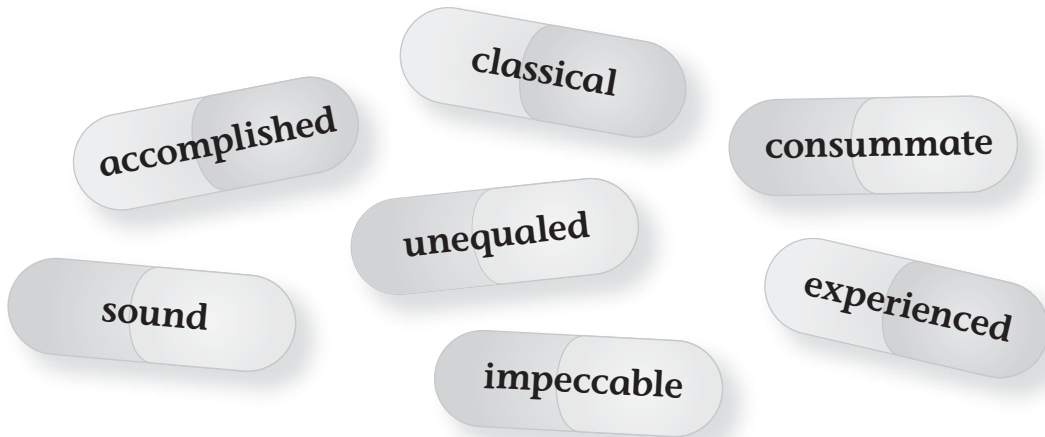
KATHRYN ANASTOS

perfect

PART OF SPEECH

adjective

DEFINITION

entirely without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings

cures for the common word

absolute

accomplished

aces

adept

beyond compare

blameless

classical**consummate**

crowning

culminating

defectless

excellent

excelling

experienced

expert

faultless

finished

flawless

foolproof

ideal

immaculate

impeccable

indefectible

masterful

masterly

matchless

paradisiacal

peerless

pure

skilled

skillful

sound

splendid

spotless

stainless

sublime

superb

supreme

ten

unblemished

unequaled

unmarred

untainted

untarnished

utopian

CURED!

*The advantage of a **classical** education is that it enables you to despise the wealth which it prevents you from achieving.*

RUSSELL GREEN

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Susan is a **perfect** first-chair violinist.

Susan is an ideal choice, but this doesn't give us much information as to what specifically makes her so right for the position.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *perfect*:

Susan is a(n) _____ first-chair violinist.

accomplished	Susan is highly skilled as a violinist; she is an expert.
classical	<i>Classical</i> in this sentence could have two meanings: Susan's talents are of the highest quality, or she plays more enduring types of music.
consummate	Susan can superbly perform a complete range of music.
experienced	Susan is certainly skillful through her experience, but this may refer instead to her experience at being first chair.
impeccable	Susan's playing is considered faultless.
sound	Susan is competent and reliable, which may be fine but doesn't indicate an advanced skill.
unequaled	Susan's talents as a violinist are matchless and cannot be surpassed.

CURED!

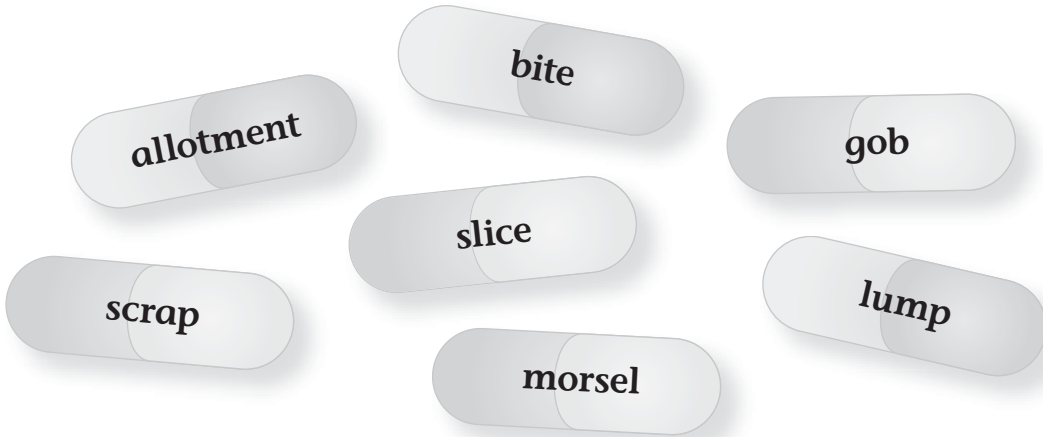
John Wayne was a **consummate** gentleman. Bigger than life.

JENNIFER O'NEILL

piece

PART OF SPEECH *noun*

DEFINITION *a separate or limited portion or quantity of something*



cures for the common word

allotment

bit

bite

case

chomp

chunk

cut

division

example

fraction

fragment

gob

half

hunk

instance

interest

item

length

lot

lump

member

moiety

morsel

mouthful

parcel

percentage

portion

quantity

quota

sample

scrap

section

segment

share

shred

slice

smithereens

snack

specimen

CURED!

*Sculpture is the art of the hole and the **lump**.*

AUGUSTE RODIN

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

When I got home from work, I saw that the family had left me one **piece** of pie.

In this sentence, I'm not sure just how big—or small—a *piece* of pie I'm going to get to enjoy.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *piece*:

When I got home from work, I saw that the family had left me one _____ of pie.

allotment	There are five in the family and five pieces of pie, so they kindly set aside my equal share.
bite	Well, it's not a lot, but at least they left a mouthful.
gob	Using <i>gob</i> here is an informal way to say they left me a huge quantity of pie.
lump	It was an irregularly shaped mass on the plate, so they probably had all picked away at it.
morsel	There was such a small portion left, I could barely get a good taste.
scrap	Unfortunately, all that was left were bits and pieces of leftovers.
slice	Ah, a standard cut of pie—in this case big enough to enjoy fully.

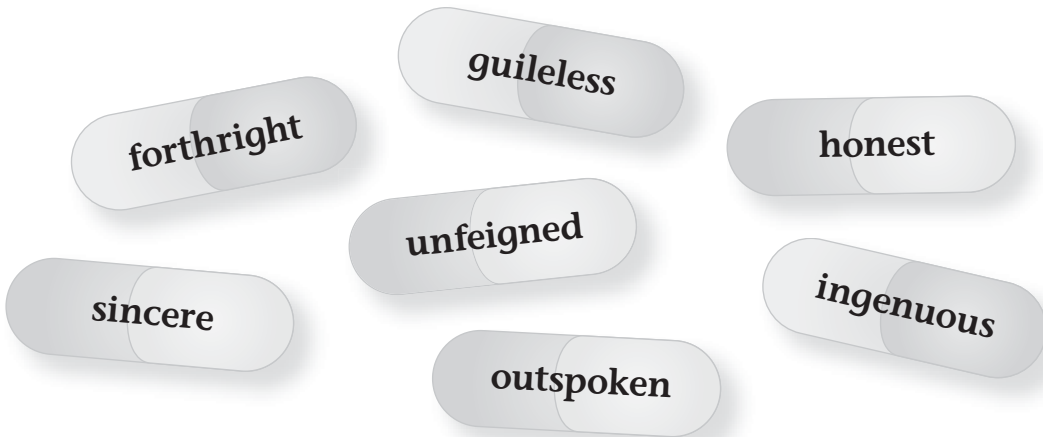
CURED!

Right now, I'm as single as a *slice* of American cheese.

NICK CANNON

plain

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *straightforward; frank or candid*



cures for the common word

abrupt
 artless
 blunt
 candid
 direct
 downright
forthright
 frank
 genuine

guileless
honest
 impolite
ingenuous
 open
outspoken
 rude
sincere
 straight arrow

straightforward
 true
 unconcealed
 undisguised
unfeigned
 uninhibited
 unreserved
 unrestricted
 unvarnished

CURED!

Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.

FRANKLIN P. JONES

Robert is known for his **plain** speaking.

We can't be sure what's meant by *plain* here nor whether Robert's speaking style is considered positive or negative.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *plain*:

Robert is known for his _____ speaking.

forthright	Robert goes straight to the point, without any subtlety or evasion.
guileless	What Robert says is free of deceit.
honest	Robert always speaks with honorable, upright, and fair intentions.
ingenuous	Robert speaks sincerely and without reservation.
outspoken	This means Robert speaks with frankness and without reservation, but <i>outspoken</i> has a connotation that this may be unwelcome or may be considered inappropriate.
sincere	Robert speaks in a genuine and earnest way—with the added connotation that he speaks with emotion.
unfeigned	Robert is genuine and says what he sincerely feels.

CURED!

*I can see clearly now . . . that I was wrong in not acting more decisively and more **forthrightly** in dealing with Watergate.*

RICHARD M. NIXON

plan

PART OF SPEECH *noun*

DEFINITION *a scheme or method of acting, doing, proceeding, making, etc.*



cures for the common word

aim
angle
 animus
 arrangement
 big picture
 contrivance
 deal
 design
 device
 disposition
 expedient
game plan
gimmick
 idea

intendment
 intention
 layout
 machination
 means
method
 outline
 pattern
 picture
platform
 plot
 policy
 procedure
 program

project
 proposal
 proposition
 purpose
 scenario
 scheme
stratagem
strategy
 suggestion
 system
 tactic
 treatment
 undertaking
 way

CURED!

*Art and science have their meeting point in **method**.*

EDWARD ROBERT BULWER-LYTTON

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

For his extreme-sports training start-up company, Sam considered a bold marketing **plan**.

We expect something in a field like extreme sports to be bold, and the alternatives give us a much better feel for what Sam wants to accomplish with his marketing.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *plan*:

For his extreme-sports training start-up company, Sam considered a bold marketing _____.

angle	The plan is based on a certain viewpoint or attitude Sam has; <i>angle</i> can imply there is some secret motive to the plan.
game plan	Sam is considering a carefully thought-out course of action.
gimmick	Sam is considering an ingenious or novel approach designed to attract attention and increase appeal.
method	Knowing that most basics of marketing apply to all industries, Sam is considering techniques in accordance with traditional marketing procedures.
platform	Sam decided to base his approach on a body of principles in which he believes.
stratagem	Sam is thinking of an elaborate maneuver to gain an advantage over his competitors.
strategy	Sam is considering a series of maneuvers aimed at a specific goal.

CURED!

*We will never try to develop a **strategy** that wins on price. There is nothing unique about pricing.*

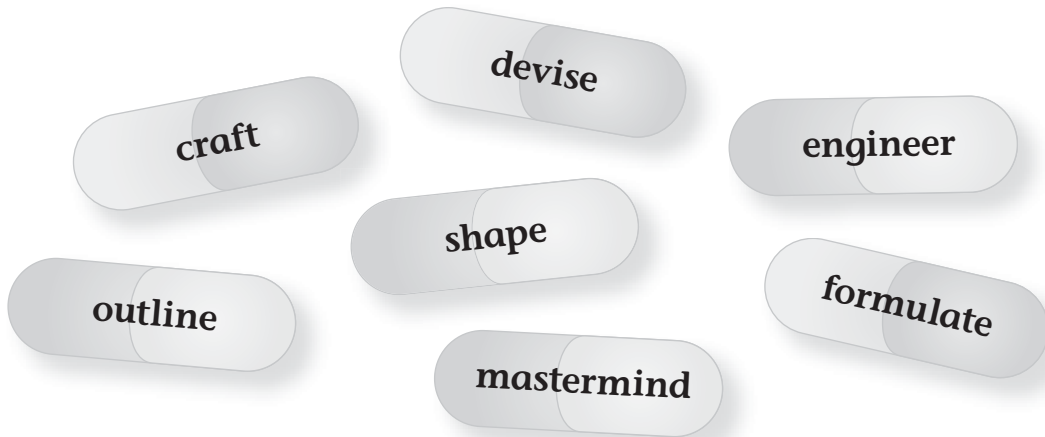
JOSH S. WESTON

plan

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to think out; to arrange a method or scheme to accomplish an objective

cures for the common word

arrange
 bargain for
 block out
 blueprint
 brainstorm
 calculate
 concoct
 conspire
 contemplate
 contrive
 cook up
craft
 design
devise
 draft

engineer
 figure out
 fix to
 form
formulate
 frame
 hatch
 intrigue
 invent
 line up
 map
mastermind
 meditate
 organize
outline

plot
 prepare
 project
 quarterback
 ready
 reckon on
 represent
 rough in
 scheme
 set out
shape
 sketch
 steer
 trace
 work out

CURED!

*A man of personality can **formulate** ideals, but only a man of character can achieve them.*

SIR HERBERT READ

The committee met to **plan** the next election campaign.

Choosing *plan* here is vague and limits our understanding of the committee's intentions.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *plan*:

The committee met to _____ the next election campaign.

craft	The committee devoted great care and ingenuity to construct a successful campaign.
devise	The committee is aiming to elaborate on existing principles or ideas.
engineer	The committee intends to arrange and manage the campaign by some expedient scheme, which leans toward a negative connotation.
formulate	The committee is working to invent a method or system for a successful campaign.
mastermind	The committee wants to skillfully plan and also direct the campaign, though <i>mastermind</i> can have a negative connotation.
outline	The committee is in the beginning stages of summarizing and sketching out the main features of the campaign.
shape	The committee wants to give definite form and organization to the campaign; <i>shape</i> has a positive connotation.

CURED!

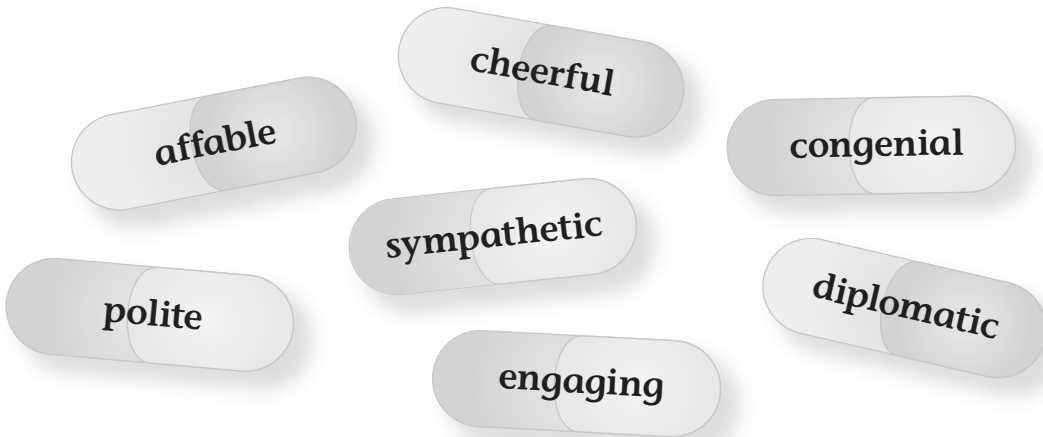
We continue to **shape** our personality all our life. If we knew ourselves perfectly, we should die.

ALBERT CAMUS

pleasant

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *socially acceptable or adept; polite; amiable; agreeable*



cures for the common word

affable
agreeable
amiable
amusing
bland
charming
cheerful
cheery
civilized
congenial
convivial
copacetic
cordial
delightful
diplomatic

enchancing
engaging
enjoyable
fine
friendly
fun
genial
genteel
good-humored
gracious
gratifying
jolly
jovial
kindly
likable

lovely
mild-mannered
nice
obliging
pleasing
pleasurable
polite
refreshing
satisfying
social
soft
sweet
sympathetic
urbane
welcome

CURED!

*The most **engaging** powers of an author are to make new things familiar, familiar things new.*

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

My manager, Alexa, is always **pleasant**.

What a joy to work with a pleasant manager, so using the following alternatives allow me to elaborate on the degree of her good nature.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *pleasant*:

My manager, Alexa, is always _____.

affable	Alexa is easy to approach and talk to, and she's warmly polite.
cheerful	Alexa is always in good spirits, inspiring us to also be cheerful.
congenial	Alexa is agreeable, friendly, and sociable.
diplomatic	Alexa is tactful and very skilled in dealing with sensitive matters and people.
engaging	Alexa is always willing to involve herself and participate—in conversations or in what needs to be done.
polite	Alexa is always courteous, showing good manners toward others.
sympathetic	Alexa is compassionate and shows sympathy and understanding in a wide range of issues and to many people.

CURED!

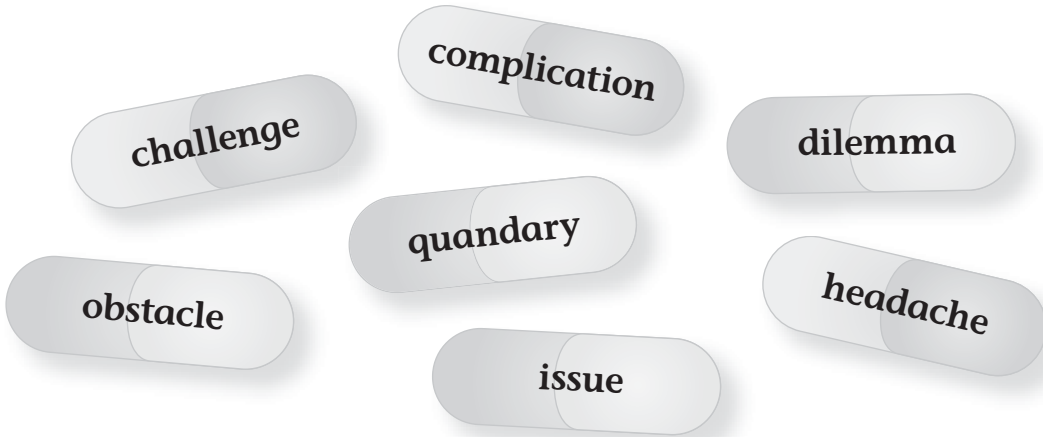
Polite conversation is rarely either.

FRAN LEBOWITZ

problem

PART OF SPEECH *noun*

DEFINITION *situation, matter, or person that presents perplexity or difficulty*



cures for the common word

box
challenge
complication
 count
 crunch
dilemma
 disagreement
 dispute
 disputed point

doubt
headache
 hitch
 holy mess
 hot potato
 hot water
issue
 mess
 nut

obstacle
 pickle
 predicament
quandary
 question
 scrape
 squeeze
 trouble
 worriment

CURED!

*I really resent being liked openly. I don't find any **challenge** in being liked.*

JOHN CASSAVETES

Our **problem** is whether to add a new room on a tight budget or wait.

This sentence doesn't make it clear how we are viewing the problem of whether to add on the new room now or be crowded for a while longer and wait until we have more money.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *problem*:

Our _____ is whether to add a new room on a tight budget or wait.

challenge	Our tight budget is certainly a difficulty, but we consider the process of figuring it out to be stimulating.
complication	We thought we had enough money for the remodel, but unexpected things happened to present a problem with the original situation.
dilemma	The need to remodel and the tight budget pose a situation requiring a choice between equally undesirable alternatives.
headache	<i>Headache</i> in this example is an informal—but clear—way of saying that not being able to reach a decision is annoying and bothersome and gives us both a need to head for the aspirin.
issue	Deciding which option is most important will determine our choice.
obstacle	The tight budget is hindering our progress, but it won't stop us from making a sound decision.
quandary	We're in a state of uncertainty about what to do, caught between equally unfavorable options.

CURED!

*The greatest **obstacle** to discovering the shape of the earth, the continents, and the oceans was not ignorance but the illusion of knowledge.*

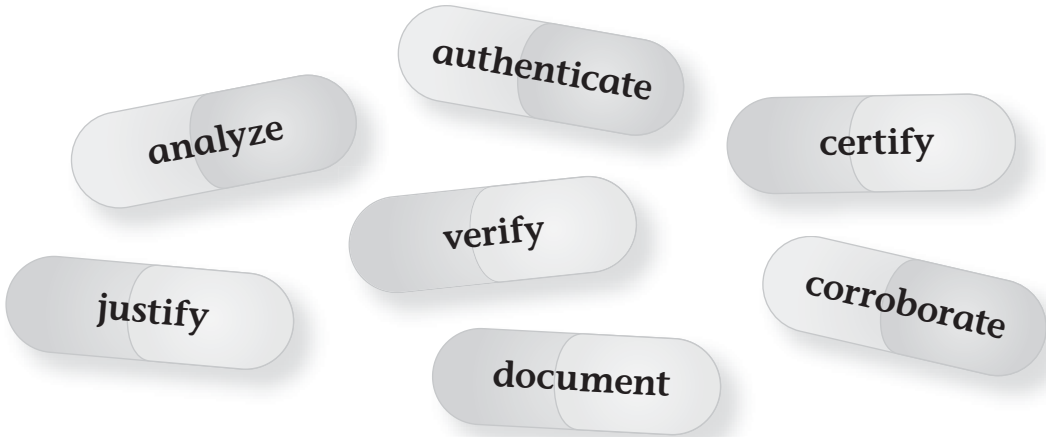
DANIEL BOORSTIN

prove

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to establish the truth or genuineness of, as by evidence or argument

cures for the common word

affirm

analyze

ascertain

assay

attest

authenticate

back

bear out

certify

check

confirm

convince

corroborate

declare

demonstrate

determine

document

end up

establish

evidence

evinced

examine

experiment

explain

find

fix

justify

make evident

manifest

pan out

result

settle

show

substantiate

sustain

test

testify

trial

try

turn out

uphold

validate

verify

warrant

witness

CURED!

Golfers have **analyzed** the game in order to find "the secret." There is no secret.

HENRY COTTON

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The defense attorney was determined to **prove** his client's story.

Even if we assume his client is being honest, *prove* doesn't give us much information as to how the attorney will show his client's story to be true.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *prove*:

The defense attorney was determined to _____ his client's story.

analyze	The attorney is going to examine the evidence critically, to bring out the essential elements so as to identify causes and key factors.
authenticate	The attorney is going to establish the story as genuine, with the help of an expert in the field.
certify	The attorney will present reliable information to attest to the truth of the story.
corroborate	The attorney has evidence, facts, or a person who can establish or strengthen his client's story.
document	The attorney will furnish specific references, citations, and so on, in support of the statements his client made.
justify	Even if his client might have broken a law, the attorney wants to show that his client's actions were just or right.
verify	The attorney will substantiate the truth of his client's story by use of a combination of evidence and testimony.

CURED!

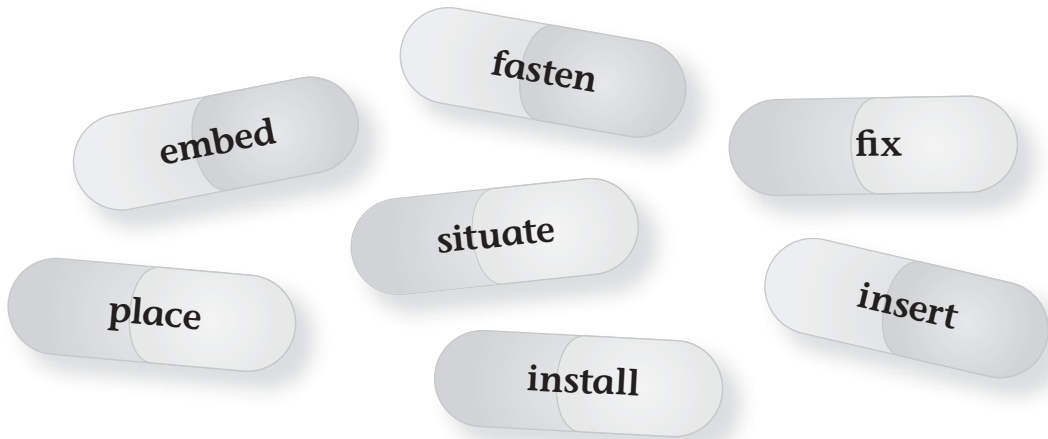
*The first thing any comedian does on getting an unscheduled laugh is to **verify** the state of his buttons.*

W. C. FIELDS

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to move or place anything into or out of a specific location or position

cures for the common word

bring
concenter
concentrate
deposit
embed
establish
fasten
fix
fixate
focus

insert
install
invest
lay
nail
park
peg
place
plank
plant

plop
plunk
quarter
repose
rest
rivet
seat
settle
situate
stick

CURED!

“COFFEE.EXE missing. *Insert* cup and press any key.”

ANONYMOUS”

Safely **put** the battery in its correct engine compartment.

We know the battery needs to be in the appropriate engine compartment but not specifically how the battery needs to be placed.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *put*:

Safely _____ the battery in its correct engine compartment.

embed	The battery needs to be placed in a compartment that completely surrounds it.
fasten	The battery needs to be attached securely to something else—like the compartment hatch.
fix	The battery needs to be stable in the compartment.
insert	The battery needs to be set into, between, or among the appropriate location in the engine compartment.
install	The battery needs to be placed in position and connected for proper use.
place	The battery needs to be put in the compartment in the proper position.
situate	We need to be sure the battery is put in the correct compartment.

CURED!

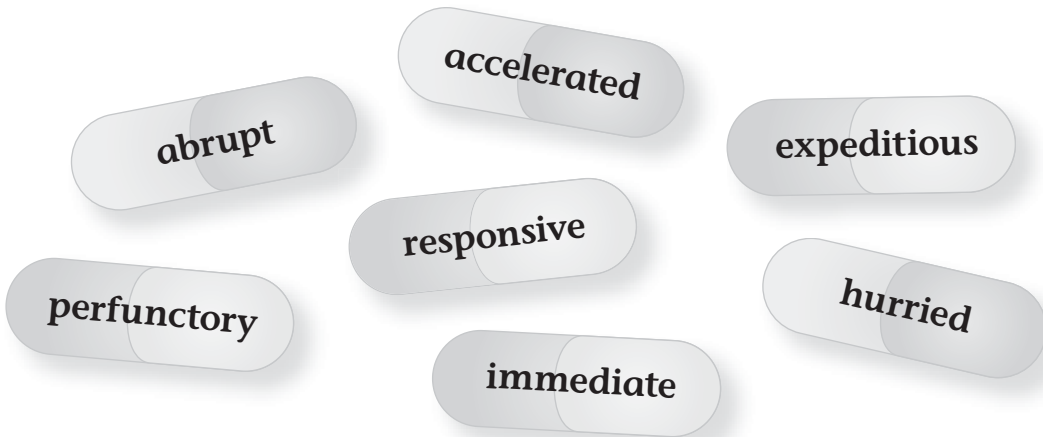
*Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to **place** it, and I shall move the world.*

ARCHIMEDES

quick

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *done, proceeding, or occurring with promptness or rapidity*



cures for the common word

abrupt
accelerated
 active
 agile
 alert
 animated
 ASAP
 breakneck
 brief
 brisk
 cursory
 curt
 double time
 energetic

expeditious
 express
 fleet
 hasty
 headlong
hurried
immediate
 impatient
 impetuous
 instantaneous
 keen
 lively
 mercurial
 nimble

perfunctory
 posthaste
 prompt
 pronto
 rapid
responsive
 snappy
 speedy
 spirited
 sprightly
 sry
 sudden
 swift
 winged

CURED!

*The difficult can be done **immediately**, the impossible takes a little longer.*

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

We received a **quick** response from the loan committee—"declined."

Though we're not thrilled that the answer was no, the following alternatives give a clearer indication of how we felt about the committee's decision process.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *quick*:

We received a(n) _____ response from the loan committee—"declined."

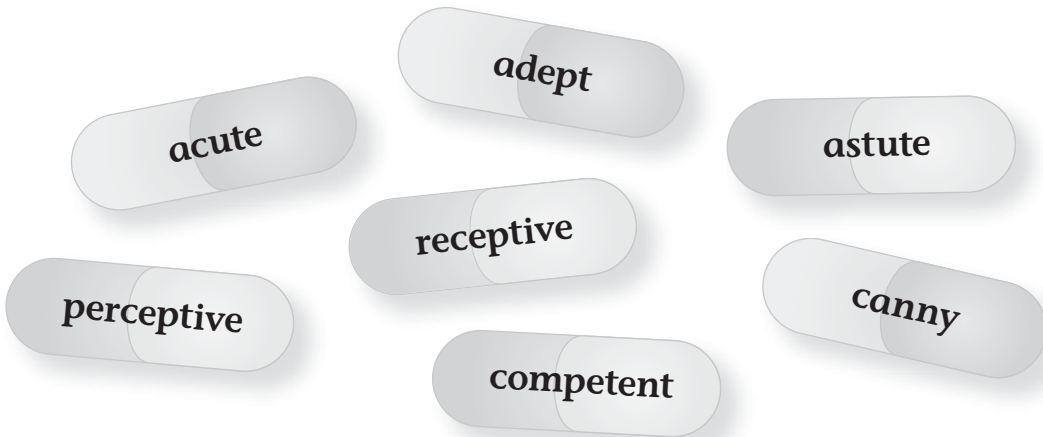
abrupt	The decision was fast and also delivered in a brusque manner, as if from the surface facts, we didn't fit in a formula and they wouldn't consider us beyond the easy formula.
accelerated	The decision came in less time than required, and some of the detail to be considered might have been eliminated.
expeditious	Though the decision came with speed and efficiency, the connotation is that the facts were considered thoroughly.
hurried	We feel the committee was pushed—for some reason or by someone—to make a rapid decision and possibly did not give our request its fully due review.
immediate	The decision occurred without delay.
perfunctory	The committee made a hasty decision without thorough attention to detail.
responsive	The committee readily reacted to our appeals and efforts.

CURED!

*The **hurried** are not competent; the competent are not hurried.*

CHINESE PROVERB

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *prompt to understand, learn, etc.*



cures for the common word

able
 active
acute
adept
 adroit
 all there
 apt
astute
 bright
canny
 capable
 clever

competent
 deft
 dexterous
 discerning
 effective
 effectual
 intelligent
 keen
 knowing
 nimble-witted
perceptive
 perspicacious

prompt
 quick-witted
 ready
receptive
 savvy
 sharp
 shrewd
 skillful
 slick
 vigorous
 whiz
 wise

CURED!

*Any event, once it has occurred, can be made to appear inevitable by a **competent** historian.*

LEE SIMONSON

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

Caitlin is a **quick** learner.

She's always been fast at learning in several areas, but *quick* doesn't give us much specific information about her particular learning skills.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *quick*:

Caitlin is a(n) _____ learner.

acute	Caitlin has a sharp intellect, a keen sense of perception, or both.
adept	Caitlin is very skilled in her method of learning.
astute	Caitlin is clever and observant in her learning.
canny	Caitlin shows keen and sound judgment in what and how she studies or learns.
competent	Caitlin learns adequately for whichever topic she's studying.
perceptive	Caitlin shows keen insight, understanding, or intuition about the topic she's studying.
receptive	Caitlin has a wonderful ability to easily receive knowledge, ideas, etc.

CURED!

*What helps me go forward is that I stay **receptive**, I feel that anything can happen.*

ANOUK AIMEE

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *prepared or available for service, action, or progress*

cures for the common word

accessible
adjusted
all set
anticipating
apt
arranged
at hand
available
bagged
completed
convenient

covered
equipped
expectant
fit
fixed for
handy
in line
in order
in place
in position
near

on call
on hand
on tap
open to
organized
primed
qualified
ripe
set
waiting
wired

CURED!

*Television is the first truly democratic culture, the first culture **available** to everybody and entirely governed by what the people want. The most terrifying thing is what people do want.*

CLIVE BARNES

The boat is **ready** for launch.

This sentence doesn't give us clear information about the boat's readiness to launch.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *ready*:

The boat is _____ for launch.

available	Perhaps it's a rental boat, and now it's ready for our use.
equipped	The boat is supplied with the necessities, such as tools or provisions.
fit	I'm glad to know the boat is in good physical condition.
handy	The boat is within easy reach or conveniently available when I am.
on call	The boat is available on short notice—all I have to do is call.
qualified	The boat has all the qualities and features required by law or custom.
waiting	The boat is remaining inactive or stationary—in anticipation of being ready when I am.

CURED!

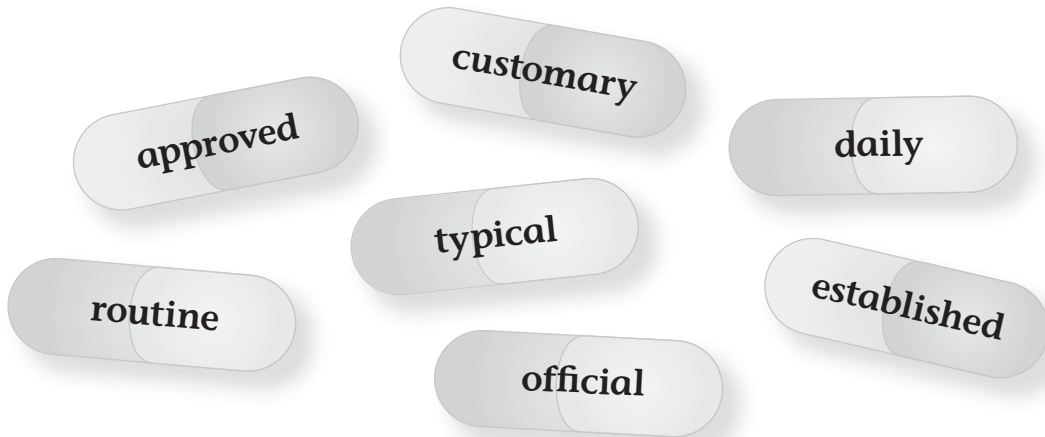
Somewhere, something incredible is **waiting** to be known.

BLAISE PASCAL

regular

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *usual; normal; customary; recurring at fixed times; periodic*



cures for the common word

approved

bona fide
classic
common
commonplace
correct
customary
daily
established
everyday
formal

general

habitual
lawful
legitimate
natural
normal
official
ordinary
orthodox
prevailing
prevalent

proper

routine
run-of-the-mill
sanctioned
standard
time-honored
traditional
typical
unexceptional
unvarying
usual

CURED!

*It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the **established** authorities are wrong.*

FRANÇOIS-MARIE AROUET VOLTAIRE

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

The driver followed his **regular** route, despite the heavy snows.

There are several definitions for *regular*, so the alternatives tell us more precisely about the driver's route.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *regular*:

The driver followed his _____ route, despite the heavy snows.

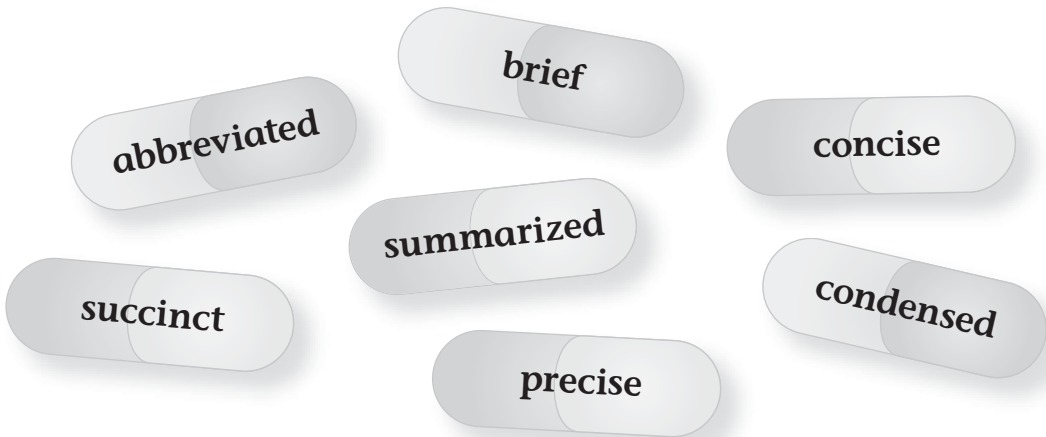
approved	The driver followed the route that was agreed to by the company he works for, his customers, or the laws—even though it isn't his preferred route.
customary	The driver followed his usual, habitual route.
daily	The driver took the same route he does every single workday.
established	The driver followed a route that is not necessarily required but conforms to accepted standards.
official	The driver took the route that was authorized and dictated by the company he works for.
routine	Like <i>customary</i> , <i>routine</i> indicates an unvarying and habitual route but with the connotation of it being unimaginative or rote procedure for the driver.
typical	The driver can take different routes, and the route he takes is representative or characteristic of the route most drivers take.

CURED!

*The FBI, to its credit in a self-serving sort of way, rejects the **routine** use of the polygraph on its own people.*

ALDRICH AMES

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *abridged; brief or concise*



cures for the common word

abbreviated
 aphoristic
 bare
 boiled-down
 brevilouquent
brief
 compendary
 compendious
 compressed
concise
condensed
 curtailed

curtate
 cut short
 decreased
 decurtate
 diminished
 epigrammatic
 fleeting
 laconic
 lessened
 little
 momentary
 pithy

pointed
precise
 sententious
 shortened
 short-lived
 short-term
succinct
summarized
 summary
 terse
 undersized
 unsustained

CURED!

*Vigorous writing is **concise**.*

WILLIAM STRUNK JR.

I had time before the meeting to read the **short** report.

We can't tell from the use of *short* if the report started out by being brief or was cut down—and if so, appropriately or not.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *short*:

I had time before the meeting to read the _____ report.

abbreviated	The report has been shortened to a smaller version of the original—and we don't know if important parts of it have been omitted.
brief	The full report is of short duration.
concise	The full report is successful in being comprehensive in scope while using few words.
condensed	The report has been reduced to a shorter form but retains all the pertinent information.
precise	The report is sharply exact and accurate, though <i>precise</i> doesn't give any indication of its length.
succinct	The report is characterized by its verbal brevity, with no wasted words.
summarized	The report includes all of the primary points of a larger report, expressed in a concise form—with the connotation that none of the vital information has been lost.

CURED!

*There is no more difficult art to acquire than the art of observation, and for some men it is quite as difficult to record an observation in **brief** and plain language.*

WILLIAM OSLER

simple

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *clear; easy to understand, deal with, use, etc.*



cures for the common word

child's play

clean

easy

effortless

elementary

facile

incomplex

intelligible

light

lucid

manageable

mild

no problem

no sweat

picnic

plain

quiet

royal

self-explanatory

smooth

snap

straightforward

transparent

uncomplicated

understandable

uninvolved

unmistakable

unmixed

untroublesome

vanilla

CURED!

*Unless one is a genius, it is best to aim at being **intelligible**.*

ANTHONY HOPE

Daisy hoped the test questions would be **simple**.

In this sentence, it's not clear if Daisy might be worried that she didn't study sufficiently for the test or if her concern is based on the difficulty of the test subject itself.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *simple*:

Daisy hoped the test questions would be _____.

child's play	This is an informal way to say that Daisy hopes she can easily answer the questions, because the questions are easy or because Daisy studied so well she knows the content.
effortless	Daisy hopes the questions will require no effort to answer.
elementary	Daisy hopes the questions relate to the fundamental or simplest aspects of the subject.
intelligible	Daisy hopes the questions are written in a clear way that she can easily understand.
self-explanatory	Daisy hopes that what the questions are asking for is obvious, needing no further explanation.
straightforward	Daisy hopes the questions are free from ambiguity.
uncomplicated	Daisy hopes the questions are not complex or involved.

CURED!

Nothing so completely baffles one who is full of trick and duplicity himself, than **straightforward** and simple integrity in another.

CHARLES CALEB COLTON

small

PART OF SPEECH

adjective

DEFINITION

*of limited size; of comparatively restricted dimensions; not big***cramped****humble****inadequate****modest****minuscule****insufficient****miniature**

cures for the common word

baby

bantam

bitty

cramped

diminutive

humble

immature

inadequate

inconsequential

inconsiderable

insignificant

insufficient

limited

little

meager

microscopic

mini

miniature**minuscule**

minute

modest

narrow

paltry

petite

petty

picayune

pint-sized

pitiful

pocket-sized

poor

puny

pygmy

runty

scanty

short

slight

small-scale

stunted

teeny

toy

trifling

trivial

undersized

wee

young

CURED!

*It's hard to be **humble**, when you're as great as I am.*

MUHAMMAD ALI

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

The **small** house down the block is for sale.

For some, *small* would be ideal, and for others it wouldn't be, and in this sentence we're not sure whether the house being small is positive or negative.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *small*:

The _____ house down the block is for sale.

cramped	The house is severely limited in space.
humble	The house is not one considered high in quality—in reference to its “rank” in relation to others in the neighborhood, as opposed to in reference to its stability.
inadequate	The house doesn't offer us enough room or other features to be suitable for the wants of our family.
insufficient	The house is lacking in what we absolutely require.
miniature	This indicates the house is a small-scale representation of a full-sized house.
minuscule	It's a very tiny house, maybe just studio sized.
modest	The house is a nice one, just free from ostentation or showy extravagance.

CURED!

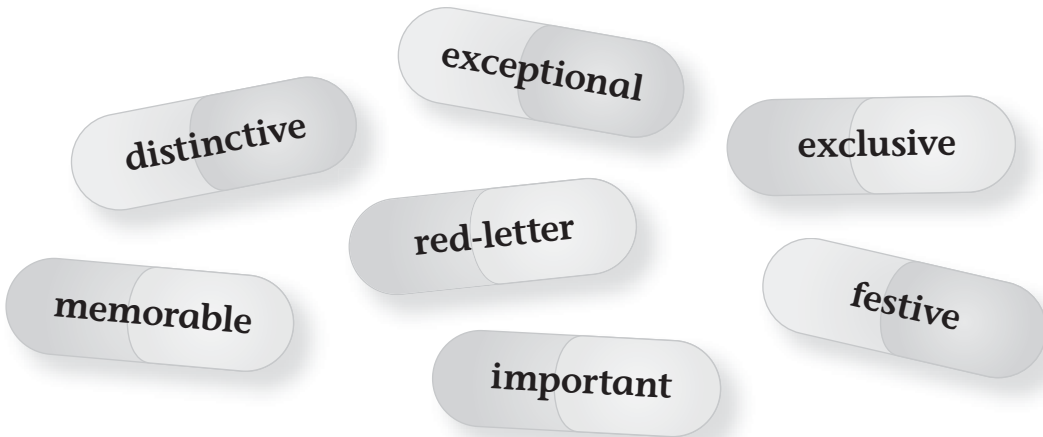
*Nobody who takes on anything big and tough can afford to be **modest**.*

GEORGE ORSON WELLES

PART OF SPEECH

adjective

DEFINITION

distinguished or different from what is ordinary or usual

cures for the common word

certain
characteristic
chief
choice
defined
definite
designated
determinate
different
distinctive
earmarked
exceptional
exclusive
express
extraordinary

festive
first
gala
important
individual
limited
main
major
marked
memorable
momentous
particular
peculiar
personal
primary

primo
proper
rare
red-letter
reserved
restricted
select
set
significant
smashing
specialized
specific
uncommon
unique
unusual

CURED!

*Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more **important** than fear.*

AMBROSE REDMOON

John and Tawni want to plan a **special** day together.

Special implies that John and Tawni are planning a wonderful day, but it doesn't tell us enough about in what way it will not be a typical day.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *special*:

John and Tawni want to plan a(n) _____ day together.

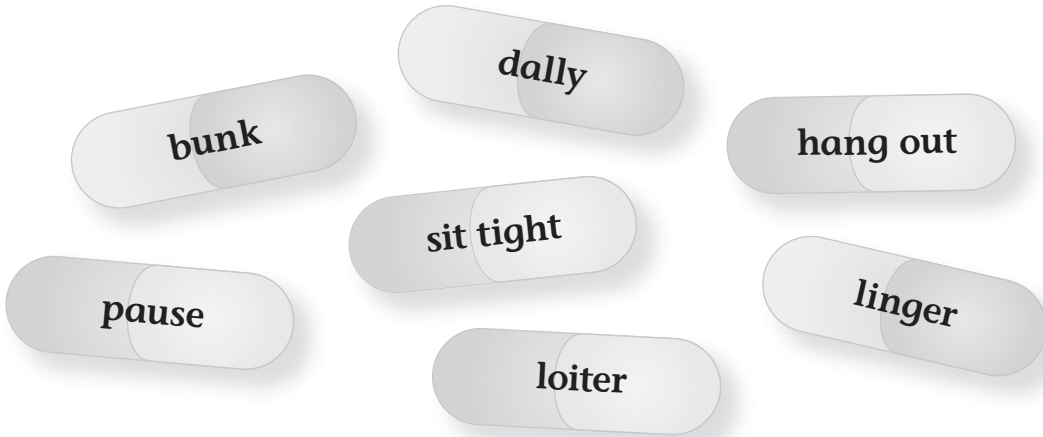
distinctive	They want the day to have a unique and different quality, implying in a positive way.
exceptional	They are planning something for their day that will be a rare instance and/or unusually excellent.
exclusive	The connotation is that they want a day together alone—omitting anyone else from their plans.
festive	They are planning a day that's joyous, full of fun and gaiety.
important	They want to do something of great significance to them both.
memorable	It will be a day worth remembering.
red-letter	This is an informal way to say it will be a memorable day that is especially important or happy for them.

CURED!

Good design is making something intelligible and **memorable**. Great design is making something memorable and meaningful.

DIETER RAMS

stay

PART OF SPEECH *verb*DEFINITION *to spend some time in a place, in a situation, with a person or group, etc.*

cures for the common word

abide
bide
bunk
continue
dally
delay
dillydally
endure
establish oneself
halt
hang
hang about
hang around
hang in

hang out
hover
lag
last
linger
loiter
nest
outstay
pause
perch
procrastinate
remain
reprieve
reside

respite
roost
settle
sit tight
sojourn
squat
stand
stay out
stay put
stick around
stop
sweat
sweat it
tarry

CURED!

Now and then it's good to **pause** in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

GUILLAUME APOLLINAIRE

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

Bert wanted to **stay** at Ernie's house after school.

This sentence doesn't tell us much about why and for how long Bert wants to stay at Ernie's house.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *stay*:

Bert wanted to _____ at Ernie's house after school.

bunk	Bert wants to sleep over at Ernie's.
dally	Bert may be having fun, but choosing <i>dally</i> means to waste time, so maybe he's supposed to be doing homework or chores.
hang out	Bert wants to spend time at Ernie's because he likes Ernie and the things they do there.
linger	Bert is reluctant to leave, so he's staying longer than expected.
loiter	Bert is lingering aimlessly at Ernie's—and Ernie isn't even home.
pause	Bert just wanted to stop for a short time at Ernie's on his way home.
sit tight	This is a slang expression meaning Bert has decided to stay at Ernie's for a while, biding his time and taking no action.

CURED!

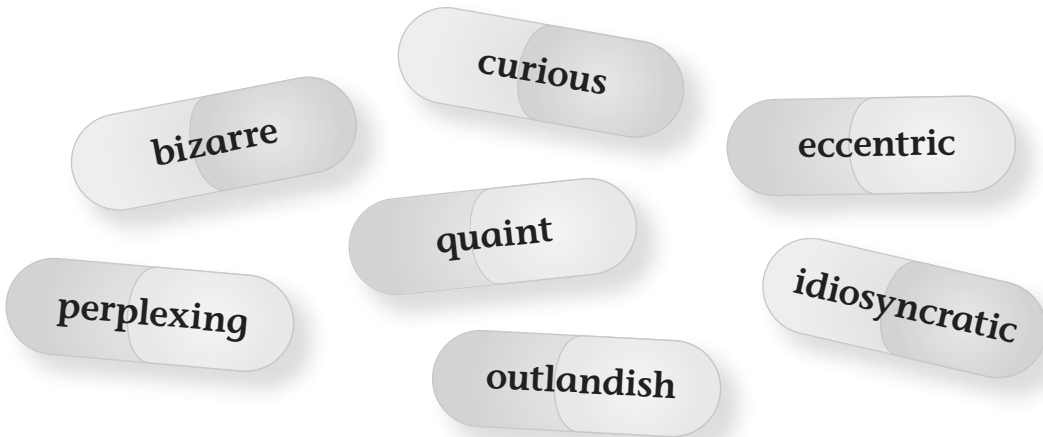
Why hurry over beautiful things? Why not **linger** and enjoy them?

CLARA SCHUMANN

strange

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*

DEFINITION *deviating; unusual, extraordinary, or curious; odd*



cures for the common word

aberrant
abnormal
astonishing
astounding
atypical
bizarre
curious
different
eccentric
erratic
exceptional
extraordinary
fantastic
far-out
funny

idiosyncratic
ignorant
inexperienced
irregular
marvelous
mystifying
new
newfangled
odd
oddball
off
offbeat
outlandish
out-of-the-way
peculiar

perplexing
quaint
queer
rare
remarkable
singular
unaccountable
unaccustomed
uncanny
uncommon
unfamiliar
unheard of
unseasoned
unusual
weird

CURED!

*Middle Age is that **perplexing** time of life when we hear two voices calling us, one saying, "Why not?" and the other, "Why bother?"*

SYDNEY J. HARRIS

The man's **strange** clothes made him stand out.

There are a lot of different types of clothes that could be considered strange, partially determined by the viewer, and *strange* in this sentence doesn't indicate what about the man's clothes made him stand out.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *strange*:

The man's _____ clothes made him stand out.

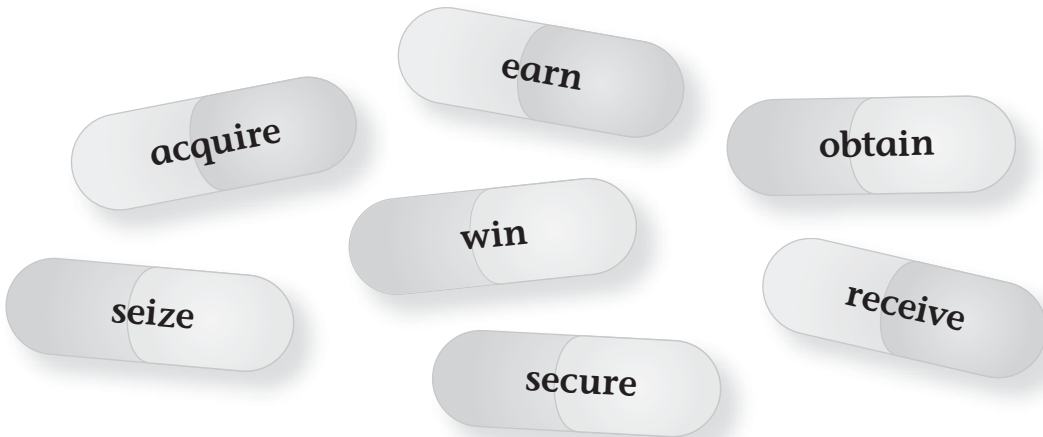
bizarre	His clothing was markedly unusual in appearance—in fact, outrageously or whimsically odd.
curious	His clothes aroused attention, being inexplicable or highly unusual—for example, a football uniform as he walked his dog.
eccentric	His way of dressing deviated from the conventional—for example, a top hat with his workout clothes.
idiosyncratic	Though we don't have a clue as to why he's dressing that way, it likely makes perfect sense to him.
outlandish	His clothing was freakishly odd in appearance, but the connotation is that it is simply wildly inappropriate for the occasion.
perplexing	His clothing is confusing—for example, wearing a heavy wool coat on a hot and sunny day.
quaint	His clothing has an old-fashioned attractiveness or charm and is oddly picturesque in a pleasing or amusing way.

CURED!

Eccentric behavior is not routinely noticed around a movie set.

GENE TIERNEY

take

PART OF SPEECH *verb*DEFINITION *to get into one's hold or possession by voluntary action or by force, skill, or artifice*

cures for the common word

abduct
accept
acquire
arrest
attain
bag
capture
carry off
carve out
catch
choose
clasp
clutch
collar
collect

earn
ensnare
entrap
gain possession
gather up
glom
grab
grasp
grip
handle
haul in
have
hold
nab
nail

obtain
overtake
pick up
pull in
reach
reap
receive
secure
seize
select
snag
snatch
strike
take in
win

CURED!

*Happiness is like those palaces in fairy tales . . . we must fight in order to **obtain** it.*

ALEXANDRE DUMAS

The investors will **take** control of the company next week.

Though *take* often has a very neutral meaning—neither positive or negative—in this sentence it gives the sense that the takeover may have been hostile; whereas, the following alternatives give us a truer picture.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *take*:

The investors will _____ control of the company next week.

acquire	The investors will come into possession or ownership of the company, possibly simply by purchase.
earn	The investors will deservedly have control.
obtain	The investors will come into possession of the company either through their efforts or by a request.
receive	Possession of the company was offered to the investors—most likely for a price or an exchange of some kind—and the investors have agreed.
secure	The investors thought they would be taking control, and now they will be able to ensure this.
seize	The investors have found a way to take possession by force; the connotation is that it may happen in an underhanded and partially secretive way.
win	The investors will gain control through their labor or through a successful competition, such as winning a bidding war for the company.

CURED!

*What a child doesn't **receive** he can seldom later give.*

P. D. JAMES

PART OF SPEECH *verb*DEFINITION *to accept, handle, or deal with in a particular way; to endure*

cures for the common word

abide

accept

accommodate

bear

bear with

brave

brook

contain

give access

go

go through

hack

hang in

hang on

hang tough

hold

let in

live with

lump it

receive

ride out

stand

stand for

stomach

submit to

suffer

swallow

take it

tolerate

undergo

weather

welcome**withstand**

CURED!

*I respect those who resist me; but I cannot **tolerate** them.*

CHARLES DEGAULLE

My boyfriend can **take** the cold weather much better than I can.

We can't tell from this use of *take* much about his attitude toward cold weather—if he loves the cold or just puts up with it.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *take*:

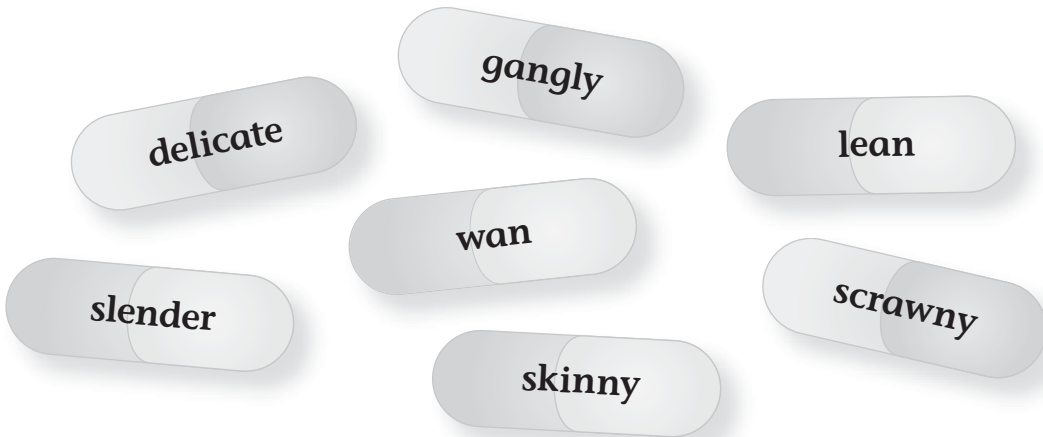
My boyfriend can _____ the cold weather much better than I can.

abide	He can tolerate and withstand the cold without yielding or submitting to freezing or to finding a way to get warm.
accommodate	He manages to adapt to make being cold suitable for him.
brave	He faces the cold courageously.
live with	He can accept the cold weather perhaps as a trade-off for other advantages that go with a cold-weather climate.
tolerate	He can endure the cold without even being upset by being cold.
welcome	He actually accepts the cold with pleasure.
withstand	He successfully resists and endures the cold, whereas I just have to find a fireplace or a heater.

CURED!

*Fortune favors the **brave**.*

VIRGIL

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*DEFINITION *of relatively slight consistency; scant; not abundant or plentiful*

cures for the common word

attenuated
beanpole
bony
cadaverous
delicate
emaciated
ethereal
featherweight
fine
fragile
gangly
gaunt
haggard
lanky
lean

lightweight
meager
narrow
peaked
pinched
puny
rangy
rarefied
rawboned
reedy
rickety
scrawny
shriveled
skeletal
skinny

slender
slight
slim
small
spare
spindly
starved
subtle
threadlike
twiggy
undernourished
underweight
wan
wasted
wizened

CURED!

*A wise child pleases his father; a **skinny** dog shames his master.*

CHINESE PROVERB

As a teenager, Nicole was always **thin**.

Thin can very easily have either positive or negative connotations, so we want to be more specific—and perhaps more “gentle” when describing Nicole’s appearance.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *thin*:

As a teenager, Nicole was always _____.

delicate	Nicole had such a slight build that she looked fragile and might easily be susceptible to illness.
gangly	Nicole was awkwardly tall and spindly.
lean	Nicole didn’t have much fat and looks healthy.
scrawny	Nicole was so excessively thin, she looked like she was starving.
skinny	<i>Skinny</i> is a less-than-flattering way of saying that Nicole is thin.
slender	Nicole’s slight figure gave the impression of her being light and graceful.
wan	Nicole’s weight gave her the appearance of being ill, fatigued, and even unhappy.

CURED!

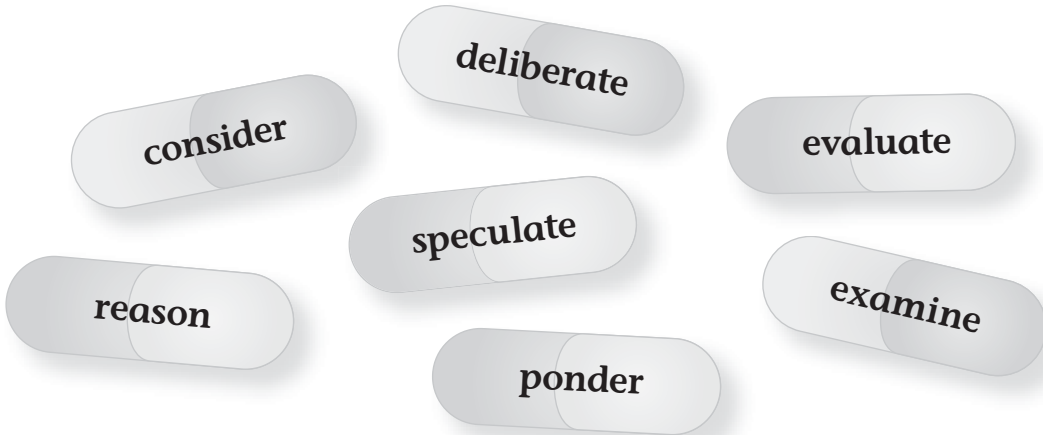
The **delicate** and infirm go for sympathy, not to the well and buoyant, but to those who have suffered like themselves.

CATHERINE E. BEECHER

think

PART OF SPEECH *verb*

DEFINITION *to contemplate; to employ one's mind rationally and objectively*



cures for the common word

analyze
appraise
appreciate
brood
cerebrate
chew
cogitate
comprehend
conceive
consider
deduce
deliberate
estimate

evaluate
examine
figure out
ideate
imagine
infer
intellectualize
judge
logicalize
meditate
mull
mull over
muse

noodle
ponder
rationalize
reason
reflect
resolve
ruminate
sort out
speculate
stew
study
turn over
weigh

CURED!

When in charge, **ponder**. When in trouble, delegate. When in doubt, mumble.

SOLWAY COMMUNITY PRESS

Think long and hard about the consequences before you quit school.

Good advice, though choosing *think* for this sentence doesn't tell us how carefully and thoroughly you're considering the consequences.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *think*:

_____ long and hard about the consequences before you quit school.

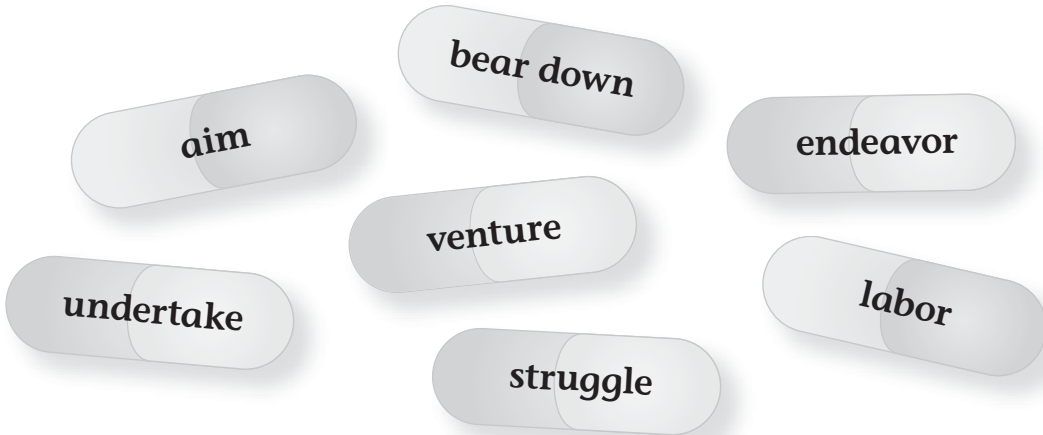
consider	It's important to reflect carefully about the decision you're about to make; the connotation is that you're taking the situation seriously.
deliberate	You will think carefully and slowly about the choice to be made and may consult with another or others in the process of reaching a decision.
evaluate	You're judging the significance, worth, or quality of your decision.
examine	You're taking time to carefully inspect, scrutinize, and investigate the possible sequences.
ponder	You're considering your decision deeply and thoroughly.
reason	You are aiming to form conclusions based on the facts you know.
speculate	You're casually talking over the consequences conjecturally without sufficient reason to reach a conclusion.

CURED!

*I don't **consider** myself bald, I'm just taller than my hair.*

TOM SHARPE

PART OF SPEECH *verb*
 DEFINITION *to attempt to do or accomplish*



cures for the common word

aim

aspire
 attack
 attempt
bear down
 buckle down
 compete
 contend
 contest
 drive for

endeavor

essay
 exert oneself
 go after
 hump it
labor
 lay to
 propose
 risk
 seek

shoot for
 speculate
 strive

struggle

tackle
undertake
venture
 vie for
 work
 wrangle

CURED!

Let us **endeavor** to live, so that when we die, even the undertaker will be sorry.

MARK TWAIN

DIAGNOSIS *vague*

I'm going to **try** to learn French before our family vacation.

Try doesn't indicate the strength of my commitment or say how hard I'm going to try or how successful I think I'll be.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *try*:

I'm going to _____ to learn French before our family vacation.

aim	The key point is that I'm directing my efforts to learning <i>before</i> our vacation.
bear down	I'm going to work harder than I have in the past to learn, intensifying my efforts.
endeavor	I'm going to dedicate real effort in attempting to learn, but the implication is that I feel I may not be completely successful.
labor	I'm going to work hard toward my goal of learning French.
struggle	I'll be strenuously engaged in what I consider the problem of learning French.
undertake	I'm going to take it upon myself to learn French for all of us, maybe because they've left it to me to be the family translator.
venture	I'm going to work to learn French, even if some of my friends doubt I'll be successful.

CURED!

*In the **struggle** between the stone and the water, in time, the water wins.*

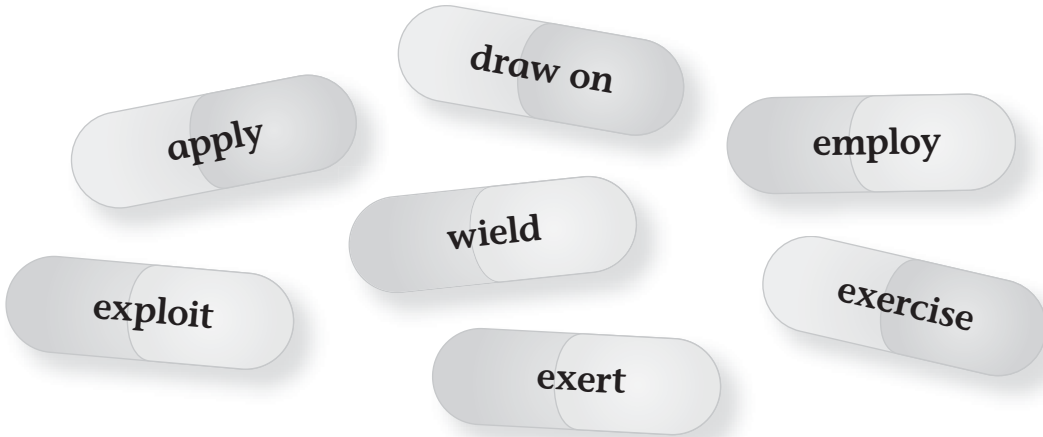
CHINESE PROVERB

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to employ for some purpose; to put into service



cures for the common word

accept
adopt
apply
bestow
capitalize
consume
control
do with
draw on
employ
exercise
exert

exhaust
expend
exploit
govern
handle
make do
make use
make with
manage
manipulate
operate
play on

ply
practice
put forth
regulate
relate
run
run through
spend
utilize
waste
wield
work

CURED!

*Under Capitalism, man **exploits** man. Under Communism, it's exactly the opposite.*

JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH

Mr. and Mrs. Doors **use** their influence when fund-raising.

We'd like to think their influence is used in a good way, but we can't be sure in this sentence, whereas the alternatives tell us more about their intentions.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *use*:

Mr. and Mrs. Doors _____ their influence when fund-raising.

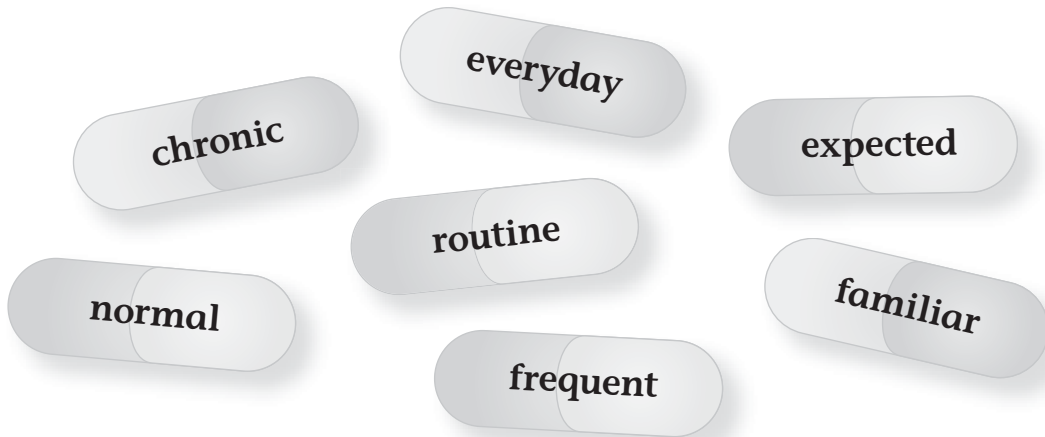
apply	Their intention is to use their influence in a positive way when engaging with potential donors, though <i>apply</i> can have somewhat of a negative connotation.
draw on	They consider their influence a source to encourage donors—perhaps offering something in exchange for donations.
employ	They consider their influence a tool to achieve their goal.
exercise	They are putting their influence to use to have a desired effect.
exert	The implication when choosing <i>exert</i> is that they may be using their influence to try to force donors to contribute.
exploit	There's no doubt when choosing <i>exploit</i> that they are using their influence selfishly for their own ends.
wield	It's for a good cause, but they're exercising their power in a dominating way.

CURED!

*The less people know about what is really going on, the easier it is to **wield** power and authority.*

CHARLES, PRINCE OF WALES

PART OF SPEECH *adjective*
 DEFINITION *commonplace; everyday*



cures for the common word

accepted
 accustomed
 average
chronic
 commonplace
 constant
 conventional
 current
 customary
everyday
expected
familiar
 fixed

frequent
 garden variety
 general
 grind
 groove
 habitual
 mainstream
 matter-of-course
 natural
normal
 ordinary
 plain
 prevailing

prevalent
 quotidian
 regular
 rife
routine
 so-so
 standard
 stock
 typical
 unremarkable
 vanilla
 wonted
 workaday

CURED!

*Romance is the glamour which turns the dust of **everyday** life into a golden haze.*

ELINOR GLYN

We discussed the **usual** problems at the meeting.

There's no way to tell from the use of *usual* in this sentence whether the problems are new or recurring, daunting or manageable.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *usual*:

We discussed the _____ problems at the meeting.

chronic	They are continuing and recurring problems we've been discussing for a long time.
everyday	They are problems that occur on a very regular basis.
expected	They are problems we considered were likely or probable to occur.
familiar	They are problems that are commonly known or seen.
frequent	They are problems that occur either quite often or at close intervals.
normal	The problems are the standard or common type.
routine	The problems either are ordinary and unvarying or are often repeated.

CURED!

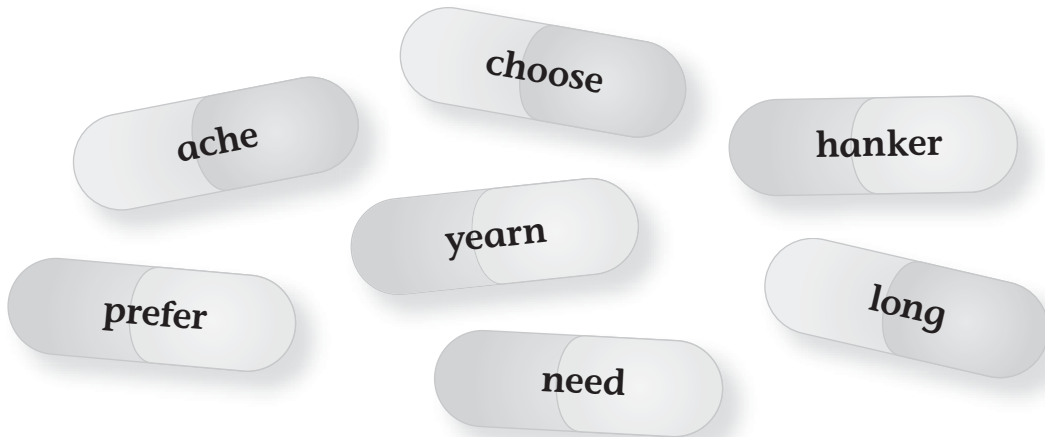
No one realizes how beautiful it is to travel until he comes home and rests his head on his old, **familiar** pillow.

LIN YUTANG

PART OF SPEECH

verb

DEFINITION

to feel a need or a desire for; to wish for

cures for the common word

ache

aspire
be greedy
choose
covet
crave
cream for
desiderate
die over

fancy

hanker
have ambition
hunger
incline toward
itch for
lech for
long
lust

need

pine
prefer
require
spoil for
thirst
wish
yearn
yen for

CURED!

*The last of the human freedoms is to **choose** one's attitude in any given set of circumstances.*

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

I **want** to get away from all computers and phones this weekend.

It's time for a break from technology, but *want* doesn't give a clear enough idea of the degree of my get-away urgency.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *want*:

I _____ to get away from all computers and phones this weekend.

ache	I'm very eager to get away; in fact, the thought of not getting away is painful.
choose	I have a number of possibilities for what to do this weekend, and I pick getting away.
hanker	I have a restless longing to get away.
long	I have a heartfelt desire, stronger than hoping, to get away, but for this weekend, it's probably beyond my reach.
need	This is beyond a wish—I require relief!
prefer	If given a choice for this weekend, I'd select going away.
yearn	I have such a strong and earnest desire to get away, I'm practically dreaming of it.

CURED!

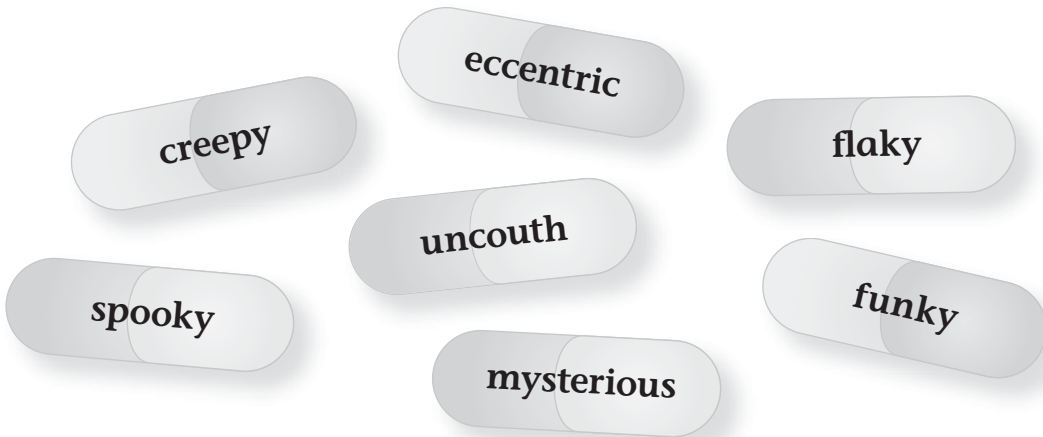
*After four years at the United Nations I sometimes **yearn** for the peace and tranquillity of a political convention.*

ADLAI E. STEVENSON

PART OF SPEECH

adjective

DEFINITION

of a strikingly odd or unusual character, strange

cures for the common word

awful
creepy
 curious
 dreadful
eccentric
 eerie
 far-out
flaky
 freaky
funky
 ghastly
 ghostly

grotesque
 haunting
 horrific
 kinky
 kooky
 magical
mysterious
 occult
 odd
 oddball
 ominous
 outlandish

peculiar
 preternatural
 queer
 secret
 singular
spooky
 strange
 supernatural
 uncanny
uncouth
 unearthly
 unnatural

CURED!

*That so few now dare to be **eccentric** marks the chief danger of the time.*

JOHN STUART MILL

I just met my **weird** new neighbors.

We know *weird* indicates that the neighbors are out of the ordinary, but we're not sure in what way or if *weird* here means they're good, bad, or neither—just different.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *weird*:

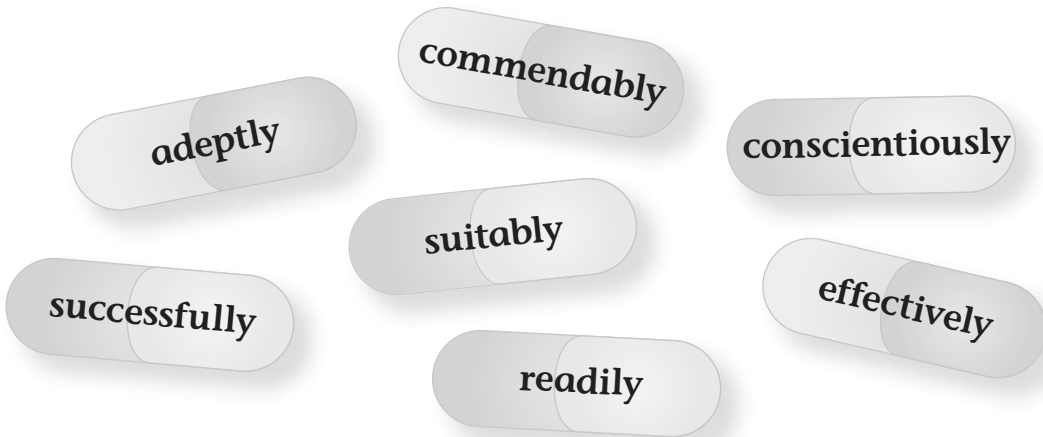
I just met my _____ new neighbors.

creepy	My neighbors give me a sensation of uneasiness or fear or seem annoyingly unpleasant.
eccentric	The neighbors' behavior is a bit odd and unconventional, departing from an established "norm."
flaky	My neighbors are nice enough but not very reliable.
funky	They're unconventional but in a modish, humorous, tongue-in-cheek way.
mysterious	There's something about the neighbors that seems to elude explanation, leaving me wondering and wanting to find out more.
spooky	Ooh, these people are a little scary.
uncouth	My neighbors' habits are unrefined, to say the least.

CURED!

*The most beautiful thing we can experience is the **mysterious**. It is the source of all art and science.*

ALBERT EINSTEIN

PART OF SPEECH *adverb*DEFINITION *in a good, proper, commendable, or satisfactory manner; excellently; skillfully*

cures for the common word

ably
accurately
adeptly
adequately
admirably
agreeably
attentively
capably
capitally
carefully
closely
commendably
competently
completely

conscientiously
correctly
effectively
efficiently
effortlessly
excellently
expertly
famously
favorably
fully
irreproachably
nicely
pleasantly
proficiently

profoundly
properly
readily
rightly
satisfactorily
skillfully
smoothly
soundly
splendidly
strongly
successfully
suitably
thoroughly
with skill

CURED!

*People will accept your ideas much more **readily** if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first.*

DAVID H. COMINS

DIAGNOSIS *limiting*

For a few months, the conservatives and the liberals worked **well** together.

Though it's clearly a positive way they were working together, *well* doesn't tell us what we consider good about this accomplishment, nor does it tell us much about what made their cooperation possible.

powerful remedies

Substitute an alternative remedy for *well*:

For a few months, the conservatives and the liberals worked _____ together.

adeptly	They worked together in a very skilled and expert manner.
commendably	They worked together in a way worthy of special praise.
conscientiously	Guided by and in accordance with the dictates of their consciences, they worked in a principled way.
effectively	They worked together adequately to accomplish the intended or expected result—but probably not much beyond that.
readily	They actually worked together willingly.
successfully	They worked together to a favorable outcome.
suitably	They worked in an appropriate and fitting way.

CURED!

*The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with **successfully**.*

WALTER LIPPMANN

Minicapsules

absolutely ADVERB 6

positively; certainly; having no restriction, exception, or qualification

actually, categorically, completely, **conclusively**, **consummately**, **decidedly**, decisively, def, definitely, doubtless, **easily**, entirely, exactly, **fully**, ideally, positively, **precisely**, purely, really, right on, straight out, sure enough, surely, thoroughly, truly, unambiguously, **unconditionally**, unquestionably, utterly, wholly

activity NOUN 8

a specific deed, action, or function

act, avocation, bag, ball game, bit, deed, endeavor, **enterprise**, entertainment, **exercise**, game, hobby, interest, **job**, labor, occupation, **pastime**, **project**, **pursuit**, racket, scene, scheme, stunt, **task**, undertaking, venture, work

affect VERB 10

to produce a material influence upon or alteration in

act on, **alter**, change, disturb, impinge, impress, incline, induce, **influence**, inspire, interest, involve, moderate, **modify**, motivate, move, overcome, perturb, prevail, **prompt**, regard, relate, stir, **sway**, touch, **transform**, **upset**

amazing ADJECTIVE 12

causing great surprise or sudden wonder

affecting, **alarming**, astonishing, astounding, **bewildering**, blown away, bowled down, bowled over, dazing, dazzling, **dumbfounding**, **electrifying**, flabbergasting, **impressive**, moving, overwhelming, perplexing, put away, **remarkable**, **shocking**, staggering, startling, striking, stunning, stupefying, touching, unexpected

awesome ADJECTIVE 14

very impressive; inspiring; terrific, extraordinary

alarming, astonishing, **awe-inspiring**, awful, beautiful, **breathhtaking**, daunting, dreadful, exalted, fabulous, fearful, fearsome, formidable, frantic, frightening, grand, horrifying, **imposing**, **impressive**, intimidating, magnificent, **majestic**, mind-blowing, **moving**, nervous, outstanding, overwhelming, shocking, striking, stunning, stupefying, stupendous, terrible, terrifying, wonderful, **wondrous**

bad ADJECTIVE 16

of poor or inferior quality; defective; deficient

abominable, amiss, **atrocious**, awful, bad news, beastly, bottom out, bummer, careless, **cheap**, corrupt, crummy, **defective**, deficient, disagreeable, dissatisfactory, dreadful, erroneous, fallacious, faulty, harmful, imperfect, inadequate, incorrect, **inferior**, injurious, lousy, off, **offensive**, poor, repulsive, rough, sad, skuzzy, **sleazy**, **slipshod**, stinking, substandard, synthetic, unacceptable, unfavorable, unsatisfactory

basic ADJECTIVE 18

elementary; of, being, or serving as a starting point; fundamental

basal, beginning, capital, central, **chief**, easy, elemental, **elementary**, **essential**, **foundational**, fundamental, indispensable, inherent, intrinsic, **introductory**, **key**, main, necessary, primary, primitive, **principal**, radical, rudimentary, simplified, substratal, underlying, vital

beautiful ADJECTIVE 20

having qualities that give great pleasure or satisfaction to see, hear, think about; delighting the senses or mind

alluring, **angelic**, appealing, attractive, beauteous, bewitching, charming, classy, comely, cute, dazzling, **delicate**, delightful, divine, **elegant**, enticing, excellent, exquisite, fair, **fascinating**, fine, foxy, good-looking, gorgeous, **graceful**, grand, handsome, ideal, lovely, magnificent, marvelous, pleasing, pretty, radiant, ravishing, refined, resplendent, shapely, splendid, statuesque, **stunning**, sublime, superb, taking, wonderful

begin VERB 22

to perform the first or earliest part of some action; to commence; to start

activate, actualize, break ground, bring about, cause, **commence**, create, effect, **embark on**, enter on, enter upon, establish, eventuate, found, generate, get going, give impulse, go ahead, go into, impel, inaugurate, induce, **initiate**, instigate, institute, introduce, **launch**, lead, make, make active, motivate, **mount**, occasion, open, originate, **plunge into**, prepare, produce, set about, set up, trigger, **undertake**

better ADJECTIVE 24

greater in excellence or higher in quality

bigger, choice, exceeding, **exceptional**, finer, fitter, greater, **higher quality**, improved, larger, **more appropriate**, more desirable, more fitting, more select, more suitable, more useful, more valuable, **preferable**, preferred, prominent, **sophisticated**, **superior**, surpassing, **worthier**

big ADJECTIVE 26

large, as in size, height, width, or amount

ample, brimming, bulky, burly, capacious, chock-full, **colossal**, commodious, considerable, copious, enormous, **extensive**, fat, full, gigantic, heavy-duty, heavyweight, **hefty**, huge, hulking, humungous, husky, immense, jumbo, king-sized, mammoth, **massive**, monster, oversize, ponderous, **prodigious**, roomy, sizable, spacious, strapping, stuffed, **substantial**, thundering, vast, voluminous, wallowing, **whopping**

boring ADJECTIVE 28

uninteresting and tiresome; dull

bomb, bromidic, characterless, colorless, commonplace, drab, drag, drudging, dull, flat, ho-hum, humdrum, insipid, **interminable**, irksome, lifeless, **monotonous**, platitudinous, plebeian, prosaic, repetitious, routine, spiritless, **stale**, stereotypical, **stodgy**, stuffy, stupid, tame, **tedious**, threadbare, tiresome, tiring, trite, **unexciting**, vapid, **wearisome**, well-worn, zero

bring VERB 30

to carry, convey, lead, or cause to go along to another place

accompany, attend, back, bear, carry, **chaperone**, companion, conduct, consort, convey, deliver, **escort**, fetch, gather, guide, heel, hump, import, **lead**, lug, pack, pick up, piggyback, ride, **schlepp**, shoulder, take, take along, tote, transfer, **transport**, truck, **usher**

certain ADJECTIVE 32

confident; free from doubt or reservation

absolute, **assured**, believing, calm, clear, **conclusive**, convinced, definite, **evident**, firm, **fixed**, guaranteed, incontrovertible, indubitable, infallible, **irrefutable**, known, plain, positive, predestined, real, **reliable**, safe, sanguine, secure, set, sound, sure, true, **unambiguous**, undeniable, unequivocal, unerring, unmistakable, unquestionable, verifiable

change VERB 34

to make different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone

accommodate, **adapt**, **adjust**, alter, alternate, commute, convert, **diminish**, diverge, diversify, evolve, fluctuate, make innovations, make over, **moderate**, **modify**, modulate, mutate, naturalize, recondition, redo, reform, regenerate, remake, remodel, renovate, **reorganize**, replace, resolve, restyle, revolutionize, shape, shift, substitute, tamper with, transfigure, transform, translate, transmute, transpose, turn, vacillate, **vary**, veer, warp

choose VERB 36

to select from a number of possible alternatives; to decide on and pick out

accept, adopt, appoint, cast, co-opt, crave, cull, decide on, designate, desire, determine, **elect**, **embrace**, excerpt, extract, fancy, **favor**, finger, fix on, glean, **identify**, judge, love, name, **nominate**, opt for, predestine, **prefer**, see fit, select, set aside, settle upon, sift out, single out, slot, sort, tag, take, tap, want, weigh, will, winnow, wish, wish for

common ADJECTIVE 38

ordinary; widespread; general; of frequent occurrence; usual; familiar

accepted, average, banal, bourgeois, casual, characteristic, colloquial, **conventional**, current, customary, daily, everyday, **familiar**, frequent, general, habitual, hackneyed, homely, humdrum, informal, **mediocre**, monotonous, natural, obscure, passable, plain, prevailing, prevalent, prosaic, regular, **routine**, run-of-the-mill, **simple**, **stale**, standard, stereotypical, **stock**, trite, typical, undistinguished, universal, unvaried, usual, wearisome, workaday

correct ADJECTIVE 40

free from error; especially conforming to fact or truth

actual, amen, **appropriate**, equitable, exact, **factual**, faithful, faultless, flawless, for sure, impeccable, just, **legitimate**, nice, OK, **on target**, perfect, **precise**, **proper**, regular, right, righteous, rigorous, stone, strict, true, **undistorted**, unmistakable, veracious, veridical

correct VERB 42

to set or make true, accurate, or right; to remove the errors or faults from

alter, ameliorate, amend, better, change, **clean up**, cure, debug, do over, doctor, **edit**, emend, fiddle with, fix up, go over, help, improve, launder, make over, make right, mend, pay dues, pick up, **polish**, reclaim, reconstruct, rectify, redress, reform, regulate, remedy, remodel, **reorganize**, repair, retouch, **review**, **revise**, right, set right, set straight, shape up, straighten out, **touch up**, turn around, upgrade

decent ADJECTIVE 44

respectable; suitable; conforming to a recognized standard of good taste

adequate, **appropriate**, approved, **becoming**, befitting, **chaste**, clean, comely, conforming, continent, correct, decorous, delicate, ethical, fair, fit, fitting, good, honest, honorable, **immaculate**, mannerly, modest, moral, nice, noble, presentable, **proper**, prudent, pure, reserved, **respectable**, right, spotless, stainless, standard, straight, **suitable**, trustworthy, unblemished, undefiled, untarnished, upright, virtuous, worthy

develop VERB 46

to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; to cause to grow or expand

actualize, advance, amplify, **augment**, beautify, broaden, build up, cultivate, deepen, dilate, elaborate, enlarge, **enrich**, evolve, exploit, extend, finish, heighten, **improve**, intensify, **lengthen**, magnify, materialize, **perfect**, polish, promote, realize, **refine**, **strengthen**, stretch, unfold, widen, work out

difficult ADJECTIVE 48*not easily or readily done*

ambitious, **arduous**, **backbreaking**, bothersome, burdensome, **challenging**, crucial, **demanding**, effortful, exacting, formidable, galling, gargantuan, hard, hard-won, heavy, **herculean**, immense, **intricate**, irritating, labored, **laborious**, onerous, painful, problem, problematic, prohibitive, rigid, severe, strenuous, titanic, toilsome, tough, troublesome, trying, unyielding, uphill, upstream, wearisome

difficult ADJECTIVE 50*complicated; hard to comprehend*

abstract, abstruse, baffling, bewildering, **complex**, confounding, confusing, dark, deep, delicate, **enigmatic**, enigmatical, **entangled**, esoteric, formidable, hard, hidden, inexplicable, intricate, involved, knotty, labyrinthine, loose, meandering, **mysterious**, mystifying, obscure, obstinate, paradoxical, **perplexing**, **problematical**, profound, puzzling, rambling, subtle, tangled, **thorny**, ticklish, troublesome, unclear, unfathomable, unintelligible

direct ADJECTIVE 52*honest; straightforward; frank; candid*

absolute, bald, **blunt**, **candid**, categorical, downright, **explicit**, express, **forthright**, frank, genuine, guileless, matter-of-fact, open, **outspoken**, plain, plain-spoken, point-blank, sincere, straight, straightforward, truthful, **unambiguous**, unconcealed, undisguised, **unequivocal**, unreserved

do VERB 54*to perform, execute, carry out*

accomplish, achieve, act, **arrange**, bring about, cause, complete, conclude, cook, **create**, determine, discharge, effect, end, engage in, **execute**, finish, fix, fulfill, get ready, look after, make, make ready, move, operate, **organize**, perform, perk, **prepare**, **produce**, pull off, see to, succeed, take on, transact, **undertake**, wind up, work, wrap up

easy ADJECTIVE 56*capable of being accomplished or acquired with ease; posing no difficulty*

accessible, apparent, basic, child's play, cinch, clear, comfortable, **effortless**, **elementary**, evident, facile, inconsiderable, light, little, **manageable**, manifest, mere, natural, no bother, no problem, no sweat, no trouble, **obvious**, **painless**, paltry, picnic, plain, plain sailing, pleasant, pushover, relaxed, royal, simple, slight, smooth, snap, straightforward, **uncomplicated**, undemanding, uninvolved, untroublesome, yielding

effective ADJECTIVE 58*producing the intended or expected result; adequate to accomplish a purpose*

able, active, adequate, capable, cogent, **compelling**, competent, **convincing**, direct, effectual, efficacious, **efficient**, emphatic, energetic, **forceful**, forcible, impressive, live, moving, operative, **persuasive**, potent, **powerful**, powerhouse, **practical**, producing, resultant, serviceable, serving, sound, striking, successful, sufficient, telling, trenchant, useful, valid, virtuous, yielding

emphasize VERB 60*to lay stress upon; to single out as important*

accent, **accentuate**, affirm, **articulate**, assert, charge, **dramatize**, enlarge, enunciate, headline, **highlight**, impress, indicate, insist on, italicize, maintain, make clear, mark, pinpoint, play up, point out, press, prioritize, pronounce, punctuate, **reiterate**, repeat, rub in, spot, **spotlight**, underline, **underscore**, weight

end VERB 62

to come to a conclusion; to terminate or cease

abolish, abort, accomplish, achieve, **break off**, break up, call off, cease, close, close out, complete, **conclude**, consummate, crown, culminate, cut short, **delay**, determine, discontinue, dispose of, dissolve, drop, expire, **finish**, get done, give up, halt, **interrupt**, perorate, **postpone**, quit, relinquish, **resolve**, settle, sew up, shut down, stop, terminate, ultimate, wind up, wrap, wrap up

energy NOUN 64

the capacity for vigorous activity; abundant available power

animation, ardor, birr, dash, **drive**, dynamism, élan, **endurance**, enterprise, exertion, fire, force, forcefulness, fortitude, get-up-and-go, go, initiative, **intensity**, juice, life, **liveliness**, might, moxie, muscle, pep, **pizzazz**, pluck, potency, power, puissance, punch, spirit, spontaneity, **stamina**, steam, strength, toughness, tuck, vehemence, verve, vigor, vim, vitality, **zeal**, zest

enjoy VERB 66

to experience joy or satisfaction from; to take pleasure in

adore, **appreciate**, be entertained, be pleased, **delight in**, dig, dote on, drink in, eat up, fancy, flip for, flip over, funk, go, groove on, have fun, like, **love**, **luxuriate in**, mind, pleasure in, rejoice in, **relish**, revel in, **savor**, savvy, take to

enough ADJECTIVE 68

adequate for the want or need; sufficient for the purpose or to satisfy desire

abundant, acceptable, **adequate**, **ample**, bellyful, bounteous, bountiful, comfortable, competent, complete, **copious**, decent, fed up, full, had it, last straw, lavish, plenteous, **plentiful**, replete, satisfactory, satisfying, **sufficient**, sufficing, **suitable**, tolerable, unlimited

excellent ADJECTIVE 70

of the highest or finest quality; exceptionally good of its kind

accomplished, admirable, attractive, champion, choice, desirable, distinctive, **distinguished**, estimable, exceptional, **exemplary**, exquisite, fine, first, first-class, first-rate, good, great, high, **incomparable**, **invaluable**, magnificent, meritorious, **notable**, noted, outstanding, peerless, premium, priceless, prime, remarkable, select, **skillful**, splendid, sterling, striking, superb, superior, superlative, supreme, **tiptop**, top-notch, transcendent, unsurpassed, wonderful

exciting ADJECTIVE 72

producing excitement or strong feeling in; stirring; thrilling; exhilarating

animating, appealing, arousing, **arresting**, **astonishing**, bracing, breathtaking, dangerous, **dramatic**, **electrifying**, exhilarant, eye-popping, far-out, fine, flashy, heady, hectic, impelling, impressive, interesting, **intoxicating**, intriguing, lively, melodramatic, mind-blowing, moving, neat, overpowering, overwhelming, **provocative**, racy, rip-roaring, rousing, sensational, showy, spine-tingling, stimulating, **stirring**, thrilling, titillating, wild, zestful

fast ADJECTIVE 74

quick; swift; moving or able to move, operate, function, or take effect quickly

accelerated, active, **agile**, breakneck, **brisk**, chop-chop, **dashing**, double time, electric, **expeditious**, expeditive, flashing, fleet, fleeting, flying, hair-trigger, **hasty**, hot, hurried, hypersonic, instant, lickety-split, like crazy, mercurial, **nimble**, PDQ, posthaste, presto, pronto, quick, racing, rapid, ready, screamin', snap, snappy, **swift**, velocious, winged

feel VERB 76*to perceive or examine by touch*

caress, clasp, **clutch**, explore, finger, fondle, frisk, **fumble**, grapple, grasp, grip, **grope**, **handle**, manipulate, maul, palm, palpate, paw, perceive, pinch, ply, poke, press, **sense**, **squeeze**, stroke, test, thumb, tickle, **touch**, try, twiddle, wield

fill VERB 78*to occupy to the full capacity*

block, brim over, bulge out, charge, choke, **clog**, close, congest, **cram**, crowd, distend, fulfill, furnish, glut, gorge, heap, impregnate, inflate, jam-pack, lade, load, meet, occupy, overflow, **pack**, permeate, pervade, plug, pump up, ram, replenish, sate, satiate, satisfy, **saturate**, shoal, **stock**, store, stretch, stuff, suffuse, **supply**, swell, take up, **top off**

final ADJECTIVE 80*conclusive or decisive; coming to the end; last in place, order, or time*

absolute, **bottom-line**, **closing**, **concluding**, crowning, decided, decisive, definite, definitive, determinate, determinative, ending, **eventual**, finished, finishing, hindmost, incontrovertible, irrefutable, **irrevocable**, **last-minute**, latest, latter, settled, supreme, swan song, terminal, terminating, **ultimate**, unanswerable, unappealable

fine ADJECTIVE 82*of superior or best quality; excellent*

accomplished, aces, **admirable**, attractive, beautiful, capital, choice, dandy, **elegant**, exceptional, expensive, exquisite, **fashionable**, first-class, **first-rate**, five-star, good-looking, great, handsome, lovely, magnificent, ornate, outstanding, pleasant, rare, **refined**, select, showy, skillful, **smart**, spiffy, splendid, **striking**, subtle, superior, supreme, top-notch, well-made, wicked

finish VERB 84*to get done*

accomplish, achieve, bag it, **break up**, carry through, cease, chuck, clinch, close, complete, conclude, consume, cool it, crown, culminate, deplete, determine, discharge, end, execute, exhaust, **finalize**, **fold**, fulfill, **halt**, make, mop up, perfect, round off, scratch, **scrub**, settle, sew up, **shut down**, shutter, stop, terminate, wrap, **wrap up**

funny ADJECTIVE 86*humorous; causing amusement or laughter; comical*

absurd, **amusing**, antic, a scream, **bizarre**, blithe, capricious, **clever**, comical, diverting, droll, entertaining, facetious, farcical, gay, good-humored, hilarious, humorous, **hysterical**, jocular, joking, jolly, killing, knee-slapping, laughable, **ludicrous**, merry, mirthful, playful, priceless, rich, ridiculous, riotous, risible, side-splitting, silly, slapstick, sportive, uncommon, unusual, **whimsical**, **witty**

get VERB 88*to come into possession or use of; to acquire as a result of action or effort*

access, accomplish, achieve, acquire, annex, attain, bag, build up, buy out, **capture**, clean up, come by, cop, draw, earn, educate, **elicit**, evoke, extort, **extract**, fetch, **gain**, **glean**, grab, inherit, land, lock up, make, net, obtain, parlay, pick up, **procure**, pull, rack up, realize, reap, receive, score, **secure**, snag, snap up, take, wangle, win

give VERB 90*to impart or communicate*

accord, **administer**, ante up, award, bequeath, **bestow**, cede, commit, **confer**, consign, convey, deed, deliver, dish out, **dispense**, distribute, **dole out**, donate, endow, entrust, fork over, furnish, grant, hand, **impart**, lease, let have, parcel out, part with, pass out, permit, pony up, present, **provide**, relinquish, remit, sell, shell out, subsidize, supply, throw in, transfer, transmit, vouchsafe, will

go VERB 92*to move or proceed, especially to or from something*

abscond, advance, approach, beat it, bug out, **cruise**, decamp, depart, **escape**, exit, fare, flee, fly, **get away**, get going, **hie**, hightail, **journey**, lam, leave, light out, mosey, move, pass, **proceed**, progress, pull out, push on, quit, repair, **retire**, run away, shove off, skip out, split, take flight, take off, tool, travel, vamoose, wend, withdraw

good ADJECTIVE 94*pleasant; enjoyable*

acceptable, ace, admirable, agreeable, bully, capital, choice, **commendable**, competent, congenial, deluxe, excellent, exceptional, favorable, first-class, functional, **gratifying**, great, **honorable**, marvelous, nice, pleasing, positive, precious, prime, reputable, **satisfying**, select, serviceable, shipshape, sound, spanking, splendid, sterling, stupendous, super, superb, superior, tip-top, **valuable**, **welcome**, **wonderful**

good ADJECTIVE 96*having the qualities that are desirable or distinguishing in a particular thing; skilled*

able, **accomplished**, adept, adroit, au fait, capable, clever, competent, dexterous, efficient, **experienced**, expert, first-rate, **masterful**, proficient, proper, qualified, reliable, **responsible**, satisfactory, serviceable, **skillful**, suitable, suited, **talented**, thorough, trained, **trustworthy**, useful, wicked

great ADJECTIVE 98*important; eminent; distinguished; remarkable or outstanding*

august, capital, celebrated, chief, **commanding**, dignified, **distinguished**, eminent, exalted, excellent, famous, glorious, grand, **heroic**, **highly regarded**, honorable, **idealistic**, illustrious, impressive, leading, lofty, lordly, **magnanimous**, major, noble, notable, noted, outstanding, paramount, primary, principal, prominent, puissant, regal, remarkable, renowned, royal, stately, sublime, superior, superlative, **talented**

grow VERB 100*to expand or increase gradually by concerted effort*

abound, **advance**, age, amplify, arise, augment, breed, **build**, **burgeon**, cultivate, **develop**, dilate, enlarge, **expand**, extend, fill out, **flourish**, gain, germinate, heighten, increase, issue, luxuriate, mature, **mature**, mount, multiply, originate, produce, propagate, pullulate, raise, ripen, rise, shoot, spread, sprout, stem, stretch, swell, thicken, thrive, turn, wax, widen

happy ADJECTIVE 102*enjoying or showing joy or pleasure or good fortune*

blessed, blissful, blithe, captivated, **cheerful**, chipper, content, convivial, delighted, **delightful**, ecstatic, elated, exultant, flying high, gay, glad, gleeful, gratified, hopped up, intoxicated, jolly, joyous, jubilant, laughing, light, **lively**, merry, **mirthful**, overjoyed, **peaceful**, peppy, perky, **playful**, pleasant, pleased, satisfied, sparkling, sunny, thrilled, tickled pink, up, **upbeat**

hard ADJECTIVE 104

difficult to do or accomplish; fatiguing; troublesome

arduous, backbreaking, ball-breaking, bothersome, burdensome, complex, **complicated**, **demanding**, distressing, exacting, **exhausting**, fatiguing, **formidable**, grinding, hairy, harsh, heavy, herculean, intricate, involved, irksome, knotty, laborious, mean, merciless, murderous, onerous, operose, rigorous, rough, **rugged**, scabrous, serious, severe, slavish, sticky, **strenuous**, terrible, tiring, toilsome, tough, troublesome, unsparing, wearing, wearisome

help VERB 106

to give aid; to be of service or advantage; to assist

abet, accommodate, advocate, aid, **assist**, back, ballyhoo, **befriend**, benefit, **bolster**, boost, buck up, cheer, cooperate, **encourage**, endorse, further, intercede, maintain, open doors, patronize, plug, promote, prop, puff, push, relieve, root for, sanction, save, second, serve, **stand by**, stimulate, stump for, succor, **support**, **sustain**, uphold

important ADJECTIVE 108

substantial; of much or great significance or consequence

big-league, chief, considerable, conspicuous, critical, crucial, decisive, earnest, **essential**, exceptional, exigent, extensive, far-reaching, foremost, front-page, grave, great, heavy, **imperative**, importunate, **influential**, large, marked, material, **meaningful**, momentous, notable, of note, of substance, **paramount**, ponderous, pressing, primary, principal, **relevant**, salient, serious, signal, **significant**, something, standout, substantial, urgent, vital, weighty

interesting ADJECTIVE 110

arousing the curiosity or engaging the attention

absorbing, affecting, alluring, **amusing**, arresting, captivating, charismatic, **compelling**, curious, delightful, elegant, enchanting, engaging, engrossing, entertaining, enthralling, entrancing, exceptional, exotic, **fascinating**, gracious, gripping, impressive, inspiring, **intriguing**, inviting, magnetic, pleasing, pleasurable, provocative, refreshing, **riveting**, **stimulating**, stirring, striking, suspicious, thought-provoking, unusual, winning

keep VERB 112

to hold or retain in one's possession

accumulate, **amass**, cache, care for, carry, conduct, conserve, control, **deposit**, detain, direct, enjoy, garner, grasp, grip, have, **heap**, hold back, **maintain**, manage, own, pile, place, possess, preserve, put up, reserve, retain, **save**, stack, stock, **store**, withhold

kind ADJECTIVE 114

of a good or benevolent nature or disposition

affectionate, all heart, altruistic, **amiable**, amicable, beneficent, benevolent, big, bounteous, charitable, clement, **compassionate**, congenial, considerate, cordial, courteous, **friendly**, **generous**, gentle, good-hearted, gracious, humane, humanitarian, **indulgent**, kindhearted, kindly, lenient, loving, mild, neighborly, **obliging**, philanthropic, propitious, softhearted, sympathetic, tenderhearted, thoughtful, tolerant, understanding

know VERB 116

to perceive or understand as fact or truth; to apprehend clearly and with certainty

apperceive, **appreciate**, apprehend, be acquainted, be cognizant, be informed, be read, be versed, cognize, **comprehend**, differentiate, **discern**, discriminate, distinguish, experience, **fathom**, feel certain, grasp, have, **ken**, **learn**, **notice**, perceive, realize, recognize, see, understand

leave VERB 118

to depart from permanently; to quit

abandon, abscond, break away, cast off, clear out, cut out, decamp, defect, **desert**, disappear, **ditch**, embark, emigrate, **escape**, **exit**, **flee**, flit, fly, **forsake**, go away, go forth, head out, migrate, move out, part, pull out, push off, quit, relinquish, retire, ride off, run along, sally, scram, set out, slip out, split, step down, take leave, take off, vacate, vamoose, vanish, walk out, withdraw

look NOUN 120

the way in which a person or thing appears to the eye or to the mind

air, aspect, attitude, **bearing**, cast, character, complexion, **countenance**, **demeanor**, **effect**, expression, face, fashion, feature, form, guise, image, **manner**, **mien**, mug, physiognomy, posture, presence, seeming, semblance, shape, visage

love NOUN 122

a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person or an object

adulation, **affection**, allegiance, amity, amour, **appreciation**, ardor, attachment, crush, delight, **devotion**, emotion, enchantment, enjoyment, fervor, fidelity, fondness, friendship, hankering, idolatry, inclination, **infatuation**, involvement, liking, **lust**, partiality, passion, rapture, **regard**, relish, respect, sentiment, soft spot, taste, tenderness, weakness, **worship**, yearning, zeal

main ADJECTIVE 124

chief in size, extent, or importance; principal; leading

capital, cardinal, central, chief, controlling, critical, crucial, **dominant**, essential, first, **foremost**, **fundamental**, head, **leading**, major, **necessary**, **outstanding**, paramount, particular, predominant, preeminent, premier, prevailing, primary, prime, special, star, stellar, supreme, **vital**

make VERB 126

to cause to exist or happen; to bring about; to create

accomplish, adjust, **arrange**, **assemble**, beget, brew, **bring about**, **build**, cause, compile, compose, conceive, constitute, construct, cook up, dream up, effect, engender, fabricate, fashion, father, forge, form, frame, generate, hatch, initiate, **invent**, knock out, manufacture, mold, occasion, originate, parent, **prepare**, procreate, produce, put together, secure, shape, sire, spawn, synthesize, **throw together**, whip up

mean ADJECTIVE 128

hostile, offensive, selfish, or unaccommodating; nasty; malicious

bad-tempered, bitchy, callous, **cantankerous**, **churlish**, contemptible, **dangerous**, despicable, difficult, dirty, disagreeable, **dishonorable**, **evil**, **formidable**, hard, hard-nosed, ignoble, ill-tempered, infamous, knavish, liverish, lousy, malicious, malign, nasty, perfidious, pesky, rotten, rough, rude, rugged, scurrilous, shameless, sinking, snide, sour, the lowest, treacherous, **troublesome**, ugly, unfriendly, unpleasant, unscrupulous, vexatious, vicious

more ADJECTIVE 130

additional or further; in greater quantity, amount, measure, degree, or number

added, additional, amassed, another, augmented, bounteous, **deeper**, enhanced, exceeding, **expanded**, extended, extra, farther, **fresh**, further, greater, **heavier**, higher, increased, innumerable, larger, likewise, **major**, massed, new, numerous, other, replenishment, **supplementary**, **wider**

need NOUN 132

urgent want, as of something required or wanted

ache, charge, **commitment**, committal, **compulsion**, craving, demand, desire, devoir, **duty**, exigency, extremity, hunger, itch, **longing**, must, **obligation**, occasion, requirement, requisite, right, thirst, urge, **urgency**, use, weakness, **wish**

new ADJECTIVE 134

of recent origin, production, purchase, etc.

dewy, different, dissimilar, distinct, edgy, fashionable, **fresh**, inexperienced, just out, **latest**, **modern**, modernistic, modish, neoteric, newfangled, **novel**, now, original, recent, strange, topical, ultramodern, uncontaminated, **unfamiliar**, **unique**, unknown, unlike, unseasoned, unskilled, unspoiled, untouched, untrained, **untried**, untrodden, unused, unusual, up-to-date, virgin, youthful

next ADJECTIVE 136

immediately following in time, order, importance, etc.

abutting, **adjacent**, **adjoining**, after, alongside, attached, beside, bordering, close, **closest**, coming, connecting, consecutive, consequent, contiguous, ensuing, **following**, immediate, later, nearby, **nearest**, **neighboring**, proximate, **subsequent**, succeeding, thereafter, touching

nice ADJECTIVE 138

pleasing and agreeable in nature

admirable, agreeable, amiable, approved, attractive, **becoming**, **charming**, commendable, considerate, copacetic, **cordial**, courteous, **cultured**, decorous, delightful, favorable, friendly, genial, **gentle**, good, **gracious**, helpful, hunky-dory, ingratiating, inviting, kind, kindly, lovely, nifty, obliging, OK, peachy, pleasant, pleasurable, polite, seemly, swell, unpresumptuous, welcome, **well-mannered**, winning, winsome

old ADJECTIVE 140

having lived or existed for a relatively long time; far advanced in years or life

aged, ancient, broken down, debilitated, decrepit, deficient, doddering, elderly, enfeebled, exhausted, **experienced**, fossil, geriatric, getting on, gray-haired, grizzled, hoary, impaired, inactive, infirm, **mature**, matured, olden, patriarchal, **seasoned**, senile, **senior**, **skilled**, superannuated, tired, used, venerable, versed, **veteran**, wasted, worn

old ADJECTIVE 142

obsolete; no longer in general use

aboriginal, age-old, antediluvian, **antiquated**, antique, archaic, bygone, cast-off, crumbling, dated, decayed, démodé, early, erstwhile, **former**, hackneyed, immemorial, late, moth-eaten, of yore, olden, oldfangled, **old-fashioned**, old-time, **onetime**, **original**, outdated, outmoded, passé, past, previous, primeval, **primitive**, primordial, quondam, remote, rusty, stale, superannuated, time-worn, traditional, unfashionable, unoriginal, venerable, **worn-out**

open ADJECTIVE 144

not closed or barred; relatively free of obstructions

accessible, agape, **airy**, ajar, bare, clear, cleared, dehiscent, disclosed, emptied, expansive, **exposed**, extended, free, gaping, naked, **navigable**, patent, patulous, peeled, revealed, rolling, **spacious**, spread out, stripped, susceptible, unbarred, unblocked, unbolted, unburdened, **uncluttered**, uncovered, unfolded, unfurled, unimpeded, unlocked, **unobstructed**, unsealed, unstopped, vacated, wide, yawning

part NOUN 146

a portion or division of a whole that is separate or distinct

allotment, apportionment, articulation, bit, branch, chunk, component, constituent, department, detail, division, element, factor, **fraction**, **fragment**, helping, hunk, ingredient, installment, item, limb, lot, measure, member, module, moiety, molecule, organ, **parcel**, particle, piece, portion, quantum, **ration**, scrap, section, **sector**, **segment**, share, side, slice, sliver, splinter, subdivision, unit

perfect ADJECTIVE 148

entirely without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings

absolute, **accomplished**, aces, adept, beyond compare, blameless, **classical**, **consummate**, crowning, culminating, defectless, excellent, excelling, **experienced**, expert, faultless, finished, flawless, foolproof, ideal, immaculate, **impeccable**, indefectible, masterful, masterly, matchless, paradisiacal, peerless, pure, skilled, skillful, **sound**, splendid, spotless, stainless, sublime, superb, supreme, ten, unblemished, **unequaled**, unmarred, untainted, untarnished, utopian

piece NOUN 150

a separate or limited portion or quantity of something

allotment, bit, **bite**, case, chomp, chunk, cut, division, example, fraction, fragment, **gob**, half, hunk, instance, interest, item, length, lot, **lump**, member, moiety, **morsel**, mouthful, parcel, percentage, portion, quantity, quota, sample, **scrap**, section, segment, share, shred, **slice**, smithereens, snack, specimen

plain ADJECTIVE 152

straightforward; frank or candid

abrupt, artless, blunt, candid, direct, downright, **forthright**, frank, genuine, **guileless**, **honest**, impolite, **ingenuous**, open, **outspoken**, rude, **sincere**, straight arrow, straightforward, true, unconcealed, undisguised, **unfeigned**, uninhibited, unreserved, unrestricted, unvarnished

plan NOUN 154

a scheme or method of acting, doing, proceeding, making, etc.

aim, **angle**, animus, arrangement, big picture, contrivance, deal, design, device, disposition, expedient, **game plan**, **gimmick**, idea, intendment, intention, layout, machination, means, **method**, outline, pattern, picture, **platform**, plot, policy, procedure, program, project, proposal, proposition, purpose, scenario, scheme, **stratagem**, **strategy**, suggestion, system, tactic, treatment, undertaking, way

plan VERB 156

to think out; to arrange a method or scheme to accomplish an objective

arrange, bargain for, block out, blueprint, brainstorm, calculate, concoct, conspire, contemplate, contrive, cook up, **craft**, design, **devise**, draft, **engineer**, figure out, fix to, form, **formulate**, frame, hatch, intrigue, invent, line up, map, **mastermind**, meditate, organize, **outline**, plot, prepare, project, quarterback, ready, reckon on, represent, rough in, scheme, set out, **shape**, sketch, steer, trace, work out

pleasant ADJECTIVE 158

socially acceptable or adept; polite; amiable; agreeable

affable, agreeable, amiable, amusing, bland, charming, **cheerful**, cheery, civilized, **congenial**, convivial, copacetic, cordial, delightful, **diplomatic**, enchanting, **engaging**, enjoyable, fine, friendly, fun, genial, genteel, good-humored, gracious, gratifying, jolly, jovial, kindly, likable, lovely, mild-mannered, nice, obliging, pleasing, pleasurable, **polite**, refreshing, satisfying, social, soft, sweet, **sympathetic**, urbane, welcome

problem NOUN 160

situation, matter, or person that presents perplexity or difficulty

box, **challenge**, **complication**, count, crunch, **dilemma**, disagreement, dispute, disputed point, doubt, **headache**, hitch, holy mess, hot potato, hot water, **issue**, mess, nut, **obstacle**, pickle, predicament, **quandary**, question, scrape, squeeze, trouble, worryment

prove VERB 162

to establish the truth or genuineness of, as by evidence or argument

affirm, **analyze**, ascertain, assay, attest, **authenticate**, back, bear out, **certify**, check, confirm, convince, **corroborate**, declare, demonstrate, determine, **document**, end up, establish, evidence, evince, examine, experiment, explain, find, fix, **justify**, make evident, manifest, pan out, result, settle, show, substantiate, sustain, test, testify, trial, try, turn out, uphold, validate, **verify**, warrant, witness

put VERB 164

to move or place anything into or out of a specific location or position

bring, concenter, concentrate, deposit, **embed**, establish, **fasten**, **fix**, fixate, focus, **insert**, **install**, invest, lay, nail, park, peg, **place**, plank, plant, plop, plunk, quarter, repose, rest, rivet, seat, settle, **situate**, stick

quick ADJECTIVE 166

done, proceeding, or occurring with promptness or rapidity

abrupt, **accelerated**, active, agile, alert, animated, ASAP, breakneck, brief, brisk, cursory, curt, double time, energetic, **expeditious**, expeditive, express, fleet, flying, harefooted, hasty, headlong, **hurried**, **immediate**, impatient, impetuous, instantaneous, keen, lively, mercurial, nimble, **perfunctory**, posthaste, prompt, pronto, rapid, **responsive**, snappy, speedy, spirited, sprightly, spry, sudden, swift, winged

quick ADJECTIVE 168

prompt to understand, learn, etc.

able, active, **acute**, **adept**, adroit, all there, apt, **astute**, bright, **canny**, capable, clever, **competent**, deft, dexterous, discerning, effective, effectual, intelligent, keen, knowing, nimble-witted, **perceptive**, perspicacious, prompt, quick-witted, ready, **receptive**, savvy, sharp, shrewd, skillful, slick, vigorous, whiz, wise

ready ADJECTIVE 170

prepared or available for service, action, or progress

accessible, adjusted, all set, anticipating, apt, arranged, at hand, **available**, bagged, completed, convenient, covered, **equipped**, expectant, **fit**, fixed for, **handy**, in line, in order, in place, in position, near, **on call**, on hand, on tap, open to, organized, primed, **qualified**, ripe, set, **waiting**, wired

regular ADJECTIVE 172

usual; normal; customary; recurring at fixed times; periodic

approved, bona fide, classic, common, commonplace, correct, **customary**, **daily**, **established**, everyday, formal, general, habitual, lawful, legitimate, natural, normal, **official**, ordinary, orthodox, prevailing, prevalent, proper, **routine**, run-of-the-mill, sanctioned, standard, time-honored, traditional, **typical**, unexceptional, unvarying, usual

short ADJECTIVE 174

abridged; brief or concise

abbreviated, aphoristic, bare, boiled-down, breviloquent, **brief**, compendary, compendious, compressed, **concise**, **condensed**, curtailed, curtate, cut short, decreased, decurtate, diminished, epigrammatic, fleeting, laconic, lessened, little, momentary, pithy, pointed, **precise**, sententious, shortened, short-lived, short-term, **succinct**, **summarized**, summary, terse, undersized, unsustained

simple ADJECTIVE 176

clear; easy to understand, deal with, use, etc.

child's play, clean, easy, **effortless**, **elementary**, facile, incomplex, **intelligible**, light, lucid, manageable, mild, no problem, no sweat, picnic, plain, quiet, royal, **self-explanatory**, smooth, snap, **straightforward**, transparent, **uncomplicated**, understandable, uninvolved, unmistakable, unmixed, untroublesome, vanilla

small ADJECTIVE 178

of limited size; of comparatively restricted dimensions; not big

baby, bantam, bitty, **cramped**, diminutive, **humble**, immature, **inadequate**, inconsequential, inconsiderable, insignificant, **insufficient**, limited, little, meager, microscopic, mini, **miniature**, **minuscule**, minute, **modest**, narrow, paltry, petite, petty, picayune, pint-sized, pitiful, pocket-sized, poor, puny, pygmy, runty, scanty, short, slight, small-scale, stunted, teeny, toy, trifling, trivial, undersized, wee, young

special ADJECTIVE 180

distinguished or different from what is ordinary or usual

certain, characteristic, chief, choice, defined, definite, designated, determinate, different, **distinctive**, earmarked, **exceptional**, **exclusive**, express, extraordinary, **festive**, first, gala, **important**, individual, limited, main, major, marked, **memorable**, momentous, particular, peculiar, personal, primary, primo, proper, rare, **red-letter**, reserved, restricted, select, set, significant, smashing, specialized, specific, uncommon, unique, unusual

stay VERB 182

to spend some time in a place, in a situation, with a person or group, etc.

abide, bide, **bunk**, continue, **dally**, delay, dillydally, endure, establish oneself, halt, hang, hang about, hang around, hang in, **hang out**, hover, lag, last, **linger**, **loiter**, nest, outstay, **pause**, perch, procrastinate, remain, reprieve, reside, respite, roost, settle, **sit tight**, sojourn, squat, stand, stay out, stay put, stick around, stop, sweat, sweat it, tarry

strange ADJECTIVE 184

deviating; unusual, extraordinary, or curious; odd

aberrant, abnormal, astonishing, astounding, atypical, **bizarre**, **curious**, different, **eccentric**, erratic, exceptional, extraordinary, fantastic, far-out, funny, **idiosyncratic**, ignorant, inexperienced, irregular, marvelous, mystifying, new, newfangled, odd, oddball, off, offbeat, **outlandish**, out-of-the-way, peculiar, **perplexing**, **quaint**, queer, rare, remarkable, singular, unaccountable, unaccustomed, uncanny, uncommon, unfamiliar, unheard of, unseasoned, unusual, weird

take VERB 186

to get into one's hold or possession by voluntary action or by force, skill, or artifice

abduct, accept, **acquire**, arrest, attain, bag, capture, carry off, carve out, catch, choose, clasp, clutch, collar, collect, **earn**, ensnare, entrap, gain possession, gather up, glom, grab, grasp, grip, handle, haul in, have, hold, nab, nail, **obtain**, overtake, pick up, pull in, reach, reap, **receive**, **secure**, **seize**, select, snag, snatch, strike, take in, **win**

take VERB 188

to accept, handle, or deal with in a particular way; to endure

abide, accept, **accommodate**, bear, bear with, **brave**, brook, contain, give access, go, go through, hack, hang in, hang on, hang tough, hold, let in, **live with**, lump it, receive, ride out, stand, stand for, stomach, submit to, suffer, swallow, take it, **tolerate**, undergo, weather, **welcome**, **withstand**

thin ADJECTIVE 190

of relatively slight consistency; scant; not abundant or plentiful

attenuated, beanpole, bony, cadaverous, **delicate**, emaciated, ethereal, featherweight, fine, fragile, **gangly**, gaunt, haggard, lanky, **lean**, lightweight, meager, narrow, peaked, pinched, puny, rangy, rarefied, rawboned, reedy, rickety, **scrawny**, shriveled, skeletal, **skinny**, **slender**, slight, slim, small, spare, spindly, starved, subtle, threadlike, twiggy, undernourished, underweight, **wan**, wasted, wizened

think VERB 192

to contemplate; to employ one's mind rationally and objectively

analyze, appraise, appreciate, brood, cerebration, chew, cogitate, comprehend, conceive, **consider**, deduce, **deliberate**, estimate, **evaluate**, **examine**, figure out, ideate, imagine, infer, intellectualize, judge, logicalize, meditate, mull, mull over, muse, noodle, **ponder**, rationalize, **reason**, reflect, resolve, ruminate, sort out, **speculate**, stew, study, turn over, weigh

try VERB 194

to attempt to do or accomplish

aim, aspire, attack, attempt, **bear down**, buckle down, compete, contend, contest, drive for, **endeavor**, essay, exert oneself, go after, hump it, **labor**, lay to, propose, risk, seek, shoot for, speculate, strive, **struggle**, tackle, **undertake**, **venture**, vie for, work, wrangle

use VERB 196

to employ for some purpose; put into service

accept, adopt, **apply**, bestow, capitalize, consume, control, do with, **draw on**, **employ**, **exercise**, **exert**, exhaust, expend, **exploit**, govern, handle, make do, make use, make with, manage, manipulate, operate, play on, ply, practice, put forth, regulate, relate, run, run through, spend, utilize, waste, **wield**, work

usual ADJECTIVE 198

commonplace; everyday

accepted, accustomed, average, **chronic**, commonplace, constant, conventional, current, customary, **everyday**, **expected**, **familiar**, fixed, **frequent**, garden variety, general, grind, groove, habitual, mainstream, matter-of-course, natural, **normal**, ordinary, plain, prevailing, prevalent, quotidian, regular, rife, **routine**, so-so, standard, stock, typical, unremarkable, vanilla, wonted, workaday

want VERB 200

to feel a need or a desire for; wish for

ache, aspire, be greedy, **choose**, covet, crave, cream for, desiderate, die over, fancy, **hanker**, have ambition, hunger, incline toward, itch for, lech for, **long**, lust, **need**, pine, **prefer**, require, spoil for, thirst, wish, **yearn**, yen for

weird ADJECTIVE 198

of a strikingly odd or unusual character, strange

awful, **creepy**, curious, dreadful, **eccentric**, eerie, far-out, **flaky**, freaky, **funky**, ghastly, ghostly, grotesque, haunting, horrific, kinky, kooky, magical, **mysterious**, occult, odd, oddball, ominous, outlandish, peculiar, preternatural, queer, secret, singular, **spooky**, strange, supernatural, uncanny, **uncouth**, unearthly, unnatural

well ADVERB 200

in a good, proper, commendable, or satisfactory manner; excellently; skillfully

ably, accurately, **adeptly**, adequately, admirably, agreeably, attentively, capably, capitally, carefully, closely, **commendably**, competently, completely, **conscientiously**, correctly, **effectively**, efficiently, effortlessly, excellently, expertly, famously, favorably, fully, irreproachably, nicely, pleasantly, proficiently, profoundly, properly, **readily**, rightly, satisfactorily, skillfully, smoothly, soundly, splendidly, strongly, **successfully**, **suitably**, thoroughly, with skill