

ape

meaning

imitate or mimic

example

He was suspended for a week because he had aped the principal in front of the whole school.

eXamaXe.com

apothegm

meaning

pithy, compact saying

example

Proverbs are apothegms that have become familiar sayings.

eXamaXe.com

askew

meaning

crookedly; slanted; at an angle

example

When he placed his hat askew upon his head, his observers laughed.

eXamaXe.com

avid

meaning

greedy; eager for

example

He was avid for learning and read everything he could get.

eXamaXe.com

bugaboo

meaning

bugbear; object of baseless terror

example

If we become frightened by such bugaboos, we are no wiser than the birds who fear scarecrows.

eXamaXe.com

callous

meaning

hardened; unfeeling

example

He had worked in the hospital for so many years that he was callous to the suffering in the wards.

eXamaXe.com

caricature

meaning

distortion; burlesque

example

The caricatures he drew always emphasized personal weaknesses of the people he burlesqued.

eXamaXe.com

circuitous

meaning

roundabout

example

Because of the traffic congestion on the main highways, she took a circuitous route.

eXamaXe.com

deadlock

meaning

standstill; stalemate

example

The negotiations had reached a deadlock.

eXamaXe.com

detached

meaning

emotionally removed; calm and objective; indifferent

example

A psychoanalyst must maintain a detached point of view and stay uninvolved with her patients' personal lives.

eXamaXe.com

disperse

meaning

scatter

example

The police fired tear gas into crowd to disperse the protesters.

eXamaXe.com

embark

meaning

commence; go on board a boat; begin a journey

example

In devoting herself to the study of gorillas, Dian Fossey embarked on a course of action that was to cost her her life.

eXamaXe.com

espouse

meaning

adopt; support

example

She was always ready to espouse a worthy cause.

eXamaXe.com

expiate

meaning

make amends for (a sin)

example

He tried to expiate his crimes by a full confession to the authorities.

eXamaXe.com

harry

meaning

harass, annoy, torment; raid

example

The guerrilla band harried the enemy nightly.

eXamaXe.com

horde

meaning

crowd

example

Just before Christmas the stores are filled with hordes of shoppers.

eXamaXe.com

illimitable

meaning

infinite

example

Human beings, having explored the far corners of the earth, are now reaching out into illimitable space.

eXamaXe.com

indignation

meaning

anger at an injustice

example

He felt indignation at the ill-treatment of the helpless animals.

eXamaXe.com

indulgent

meaning

humoring; yielding; lenient

example

indulgent parents spoil their children by giving in to their every whim.

eXamaXe.com

interpolate

meaning

insert between

example

She talked so much that I could not interpolate a single remark.

eXamaXe.com

irresolute

meaning

uncertain how to act; weak

example

She had no respect for him because he seemed weak-willed and irresolute.

eXamaXe.com

laconic

meaning

brief and to the point

example

Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are laconic types: strong men of few words.

eXamaXe.com

languor

meaning

lassitude; depression

example

His friends tried to overcome the languor into which he had fallen by taking him to parties and to the theater.

eXamaXe.com

leonine

meaning

like a lion

example

He was leonine in his rage.

eXamaXe.com

lunar

meaning

pertaining to the moon

example

lunar craters can be plainly seen with the aid of a small telescope.

eXamaXe.com

malicious

meaning

dictated by hatred or spite

example

The malicious neighbor spread the gossip.

eXamaXe.com

murkiness

meaning

darkness; gloom

example

The murkiness and fog of the waterfront that evening depressed me.

eXamaXe.com

myriad

meaning

very large number

example

myriads of mosquitoes from the swamps invaded our village every twilight.

eXamaXe.com

nostrum

meaning

questionable medicine

example

No quack selling nostrums is going to cheat me.

eXamaXe.com

pathetic

meaning

causing sadness, compassion, pity; touching

example

Everyone in the auditorium was weeping by the time he finished his pathetic tale about the orphaned boy.

eXamaXe.com

potentate

meaning

monarch; sovereign

example

The potentate spent more time at Monte Carlo than he did at home on his throne.

eXamaXe.com

promulgate

meaning

make known by official proclamation or publication

example

As soon as the Civil Service Commission promulgates the names of the successful candidates, we shall begin to hire members of our staff.

eXamaXe.com

retentive

meaning

holding; having a good memory

example

The pupil did not need to spend much time in study as he had a retentive mind.

eXamaXe.com

rubble

meaning

fragments

example

Ten years after World War II, some of the rubble left by enemy bombings could still be seen.

eXamaXe.com

rummage

meaning

ransack; thoroughly search

example

When we rummaged through the trunk in the attic, we found many souvenirs of our childhood days.

eXamaXe.com

subpoena

meaning

writ summoning a witness to appear

example

The prosecutor's office was ready to serve a subpoena on the reluctant witness.

eXamaXe.com

talon

meaning

claw of bird

example

The falconer wore a leather gauntlet to avoid being clawed by the hawk's talons.

eXamaXe.com

toxic

meaning

poisonous

example

We must seek an antidote for whatever toxic substance he has eaten.

eXamaXe.com

trident

meaning

three-pronged spear

example

Neptune is usually depicted as rising from the sea, carrying his trident on his shoulder.

eXamaXe.com

tumid

meaning

swollen; pompous; bombastic

example

I especially dislike his tumid style; I prefer writing which is less swollen and bombastic.

eXamaXe.com

waif

meaning

homeless child or animal

example

Although he already had eight cats, he could not resist adopting yet another feline waif.

eXamaXe.com

wrangle

meaning

quarrel; obtain through arguing; herd cattle

example

They wrangled over their inheritance.

eXamaXe.com

alcove

meaning

nook; recess

example

Though their apartment lacked a full-scale dining room, an alcove adjacent to the living room made an adequate breakfast nook for the young couple.

eXamaXe.com

amputate

meaning

in a state of rage

example

When the doctors had to amputate Ted Kennedy's leg to prevent the spread of cancer, he did not let the loss of his leg keep him from participating in sports.

eXamaXe.com

animus

meaning

hostile feeling or intent

example

The animus of the speaker became obvious to all when he began to indulge in sarcastic and insulting remarks.

eXamaXe.com