

condole

meaning

express sympathetic sorrow

example

His friends gathered to condole with him over his loss.

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contempt

meaning

scorn; disdain

example

Even if you feel superior to others, it is unwise to show your contempt for them.

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crestfallen

meaning

dejected; dispirited

example

We were surprised at his reaction to the failure of his project; instead of being crestfallen, he was busily engaged in planning new activities.

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derision

meaning

ridicule

example

They greeted his proposal with derision and refused to consider it seriously.

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dexterous

meaning

skillful

example

The magician was so dexterous that we could not follow his movements as he performed his tricks.

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disavowal

meaning

denial; disclaiming

example

His disavowal of his part in the conspiracy was not believed by the jury.

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distant

meaning

reserved or aloof; cold in manner

example

His distant greeting made me feel unwelcome from the start.

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elated

meaning

overjoyed; in high spirits

example

Grinning from ear to ear, Bonnie Blair was clearly elated by her Olympic victory.

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entrance

meaning

put under a spell; carry away with emotion

example

Shafts of sunlight on a wall could entrance her and leave her spellbound.

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ephemeral

meaning

short-lived; fleeting

example

The mayfly is an ephemeral creature.

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equine

meaning

resembling a horse

example

His long, bony face had an equine look to it.

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equipoise

meaning

balance; balancing force; equilibrium

example

The high-wire acrobat used his pole as an equipoise to overcome the swaying caused by the wind.

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firebrand

meaning

hothead; troublemaker

example

The police tried to keep track of all the local firebrands when the President came to town.

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hatch

meaning

deck opening; lid covering a deck opening

example

The latch on the hatch failed to catch, so the hatch remained unlatched.

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infiltrate

meaning

pass into or through; penetrate (an organization) sneakily

example

In order to infiltrate enemy lines at night without being seen, the scouts darkened their faces and wore black coveralls.

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inherent

meaning

firmly established by nature or habit

example

His inherent love of justice compelled him to come to their aid.

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intellect

meaning

higher mental powers

example

He thought college would develop his intellect.

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inter

meaning

bury

example

They are going to inter the body tomorrow at Broadlawn Cemetery.

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irreparable

meaning

not able to be corrected or repaired

example

Your apology cannot atone for the irreparable damage you have done to her reputation.

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migratory

meaning

wandering

example

The return of the migratory birds to the northern sections of this country is a harbinger of spring.

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mores

meaning

customs

example

The mores of Mexico are those of Spain with some modifications.

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mortician

meaning

undertaker

example

The mortician prepared the corpse for burial.

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nicety

meaning

precision; minute distinction

example

I cannot distinguish between such niceties of reasoning.

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obese

meaning

excessively fat

example

It is advisable that obese people try to lose weight.

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obliterate

meaning

destroy completely

example

The tidal wave obliterated several island villages.

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optometrist

meaning

one who fits glasses to remedy visual defects

example

Although an optometrist is qualified to treat many eye disorders, she may not use medicines or surgery in her examinations.

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panegyric

meaning

formal praise

example

The modest hero blushed to hear the speakers delivering panegyrics about his valorous act.

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perquisite

meaning

any gain above stipulated salary

example

The perquisites attached to this job make it even more attractive than the salary indicates.

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plasticity

meaning

ability to be molded

example

When clay dries out, it loses its plasticity and becomes less malleable.

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pluck

meaning

courage

example

Even the adversaries of young Indiana Jones were impressed by the boy's pluck in trying to rescue the archeological treasure they had stolen.

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pragmatist

meaning

practical person

example

No pragmatist enjoys becoming involved in a game that he can never win.

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proselytize

meaning

induce someone to convert to religion or belief

example

In these interfaith meetings, there must be no attempt to proselytize; we must respect all points of view.

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rarefied

meaning

made less dense [of a gas]

example

The mountain climbers had difficulty breathing in the rarefied atmosphere.

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replicate

meaning

reproduce; duplicate

example

To the chagrin of the scientists, they were unable to replicate the results of their controversial experiment.

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ruminare

meaning

chew the cud; ponder

example

We cannot afford to wait while you ruminate upon these plans.

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sanctimonious

meaning

displaying ostentatious or hypocritical devoutness

example

You do not have to be so sanctimonious to prove that you are devout.

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sherbet

meaning

flavored dessert ice

example

I prefer raspberry sherbet to ice cream since it is less fattening.

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surreptitious

meaning

secret

example

News of their surreptitious meeting gradually leaked out.

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swill

meaning

drink greedily

example

Singing, "Yo, ho, ho, and a bottle of rum," Long John Silver and his fellow pirates swilled their grog.

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tantamount

meaning

equal

example

Your ignoring their pathetic condition is tantamount to the murder.

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tantrum

meaning

fit of petulance; caprice

example

The child learned that he could have almost anything if he went into tantrums.

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viper

meaning

poisonous snake

example

The habitat of the horned viper, a particularly venomous snake, is in sandy regions like the Sahara or the Sinai peninsula.

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amicable

meaning

friendly

example

The dispute was settled in an amicable manner with no harsh words.

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celestial

meaning

heavenly

example

She spoke of the celestial joys that awaited virtuous souls in the hereafter.

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cognate

meaning

related linguistically; allied by blood; similar or akin in nature

example

The English word "mother" cognate to the Latin word "mater," whose influence is visible in the words "maternal" and "maternity."

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