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| **bewail**bih-weyl | *v.* To express deep regret or sorrow over.Many footballs **bewailed** the replacement of real grass by AstroTurf when the new stadium was built. |
| **destitute**des-ti-toot | *adj.* 1. Without resources or possessions, especially the necessities of life. Winter is especially painful for **destitute** people in the cities of the Northeast.2. Lacking; devoid of.Staring at the blank sheet of paper on which I was supposed to write a poem, I found myself **destitute** of ideas.**destitution** *n.***Destitution** cause by the mid-nineteenth-century potato famine forced many Irish families to see better lives in the United States. |
| **detract**dih-trakt | *v.* To take away, especially from the value, beauty, or importance of.The addition of a modern family room **detracted** from the cozy style of the bungalow.**detractor** *n.*The plan’s **detractors** were especially critical of the expected cost of the new town hall. |
| **emancipate**ih-man-suh-peyt | *v.* To set free from slavery; to liberate.Some teenagers feel **emancipated** when they get a driver’s license.**emancipation** *n.*In 1863, Abraham Lincoln’s **Emancipation** Proclamation stated that all slaves in the Confederacy were, from then on, free. |
| **extol**ik-stohl | *v.* To praise highly.The scout leader **extolled** the virtues of truth and honor. |
| **flamboyant**flam-boi-*uh* nt | *adj.* Excessively showy; unrestrainedMy conservative aunt considered her husband’s brightly colored, boldly patterned necktie too **flamboyant** for the governor’s reception.**flamboyance** or **flamboyancy**  *n.*With an air of **flamboyance,** the actor flung out her arm and pointed to the door. |
| **impetus**im-pi-*tuh* s | *n.* 1. A driving force; anything that causes an action.Her hope of winning an athletic scholarship provided the **impetus** for years of grueling training on the swim team.2. Increased activity resulting from a driving forceThe drop in interest rates gave **impetus** to the real estate market after last year’s slump in sales. |
| **insuperable**in-soo-per-*uh-*b*uh* l | *adj.* Incapable of being overcome or defeated.During my senior year, passing Greek seemed an **insuperable** obstacle to my graduating with my class. |
| **intermittent**in-ter-mit-nt | *adj.* Not continuous; happening at intervals.Showers were **intermittent** throughout the day, although the forecast had promised sunshine. |
| **maxim**mak-sim | *n.* A general truth or rule of conduct; a short saying.Remember the **maxim** “Haste makes waste” and slow down! |
| **obligatory***uh*-blig-*uh*-tohr-ee | *adj.* Required or demanded.Physical education is **obligatory** unless you have a medical excuse for skipping gym class. |
| **plumb**plum | *v.* 1. To measure the depth of water.The lake was too deep for us to **plumb.**2. To reach the deepest part of.The bathyscaphe is a vessel designed to **plumb** the oceans of the world.3. To understand by examining closely; to solve.Her latest book of poems is a valiant attempt to **plumb** the human soul.*adj.* Straight up and down; verticalThe bricklayer keeps checking to make sure that the wall being built is **plumb.** |
| **vagabond**vag-*uh*-bond | *n.* A person who wanders from place to place.He spent a few years as a **vagabond** before settling in a city and getting a job in a factory.*adj.* The **vagabond** life of travelling musicians suited the members of the band. |
| **visage**viz-ij | *n.* A face, especially one that expresses feelings.The smiling **visage** of a young girl looked out from the portrait. |
| **wheedle**hweed-l | *v.* 1. To coax by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.He tried to **wheedle** his father into lending him the new sports car.2. To gain by using sly persuasion or insincere praise.The agent **wheedled** several thousand dollars from the couple for a life insurance policy that was practically worthless. |