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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; unrestrained  My 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 force  The 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; vertical  The 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. |