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| **apropos**  ap-ruh-poh | *adj.* Fitting the occasion; suitable or apt.  The governor’s red, white, and blue blouse seemed quite **apropos** for her post-election celebration. |
| **ascendancy**  uh-sen-duh n-see | *n.* Controlling influence; domination.  The **ascendancy** of the United States as a world power coincided with the decline of the British Empire. |
| **assess**  uh-ses | *v.* To analyze and determine the nature, value, or importance of.  After I **assessed** the difficulties we faced in repairing the storm damage, I proposed a three-part plan.  **assessment** *n.*  Our **assessment** of the water quality of the bay shows that there has been a significant improvement over the last five years. |
| **aver**  uh-vur | *v.*  To declare positively; to state as the truth.  The lawyer **averred** that her client was innocent. |
| **concede**  kuh n-seed | *v.* 1. To admit to be true, often reluctantly.  Bungee jumpers **concede** that the sport can be dangerous.  2. To grant or let have.  When her queen was placed in an indefensible position, Marla **conceded** the chess game to her opponent. |
| **deficient**  dih-fish-uh nt | *adj.* Lacking.  A diet **deficient** in fruits and vegetables won’t provide enough vitamins for good nutrition.  **deficiency** *n.*  Teachers argued that students experienced a serious **deficiency** when schools could not provide music and art education. |
| **dogma**  dog-muh | *n.*  An unproven principle or belief held to be true.  The economic theory that the wealth of large companies will trickle down to others in the society was **dogma** to many in the 1980’s.  **dogmatic** *adj.* Overly positive and assertive about something that cannot be proved.  While we are enthusiastic about our method of teaching dance, we try not to be **dogmatic** in our approach. |
| **embody**  em-bod-ee | *v.* 1. To put an idea into a form that can be seen.  Picasso’s great painting *Guernica* **embodies** his ideas about the barbarity of war.  2. To make part of a system; incorporate.  The Bill of Rights **embodies** the basic freedoms of all Americans. |
| **impart**  im-pahrt | *v.* 1. To make known; disclose.  He **imparted** his views in such a humorous manner that we were unsure whether to take them seriously.  2. To bestow.  The capers **impart** just the right amount of piquancy to the fish sauce. |
| **oratory**  or-uh-tohr-ee | *n.* The art of public speaking.  Ms. Wade’s inspired **oratory** made her address the high point of the convention.  **orator** *n.* A public speaker  Patrick Henry, a contemporary of George Washington, was a brilliant **orator**.  **oratorical** *adj.*  Attending a workshop on public speaking can help sharpen **oratorical** skills. |
| **propagate**  prop-uh-geyt | *v.* 1. To reproduce.  The scientists were puzzled when the frogs that **propagated** in the fall had unusually few offspring.  2. To cause to reproduce.  Begonias are easy plants to **propagate** by cuttings.  3. To foster the spread of.  The professor wrote several articles to **propagate** his theory explaining the causes of sudden climate change.  **propagation** *n.*  The **propagation** of information has been facilitated by the use of computers. |
| **proponent**  pruh-poh-nuh nt | *n.* Someone who proposes or supports an idea; an advocate.  The bill passed easily since its **proponents** were in the majority. |
| **rudimentary**  roo-duh-men-tuh-ree | *adj.* Not yet fully developed; basic.  The **rudimentary** train system of the United States developed rapidly during the second half of the nineteenth century.  2. Elementary.  Julian speaks four languages perfectly and has a **rudimentary** knowledge of several others. |
| **sojourn**  soh-jurn | *n.* A visit or temporary stay.  Our summer **sojourn** with our cousins ended after six wonderful weeks.  *v.* To stay for a while.  We usually **sojourn** for a week or so at our grandparent’s cabin. |
| **vociferous**  voh-sif-er-uh s | *adj.* Making one’s feelings known in a loud way.  The community’s **vociferous** opposition to a stadium in their neighborhood led the governor to abandon the plan. |