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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 speakerPatrick 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. |