

A

acclaim | approval and praise

adventure flick | adventure film

ale *ei* | a general name for beer made with a top fermenting yeast, often rich in flavour

a lure *l(j)ʊə* | an attraction, sth arousing *dodać* curiosity and interest

amiable *'eimiəb(ə)* | friendly and pleasant

appalling | terrible

apprentice | someone who works with an expert to learn a trade

apprenticeship | a training period of a young person learning a craft

ardent | strongly enthusiastic and dedicated to sb or sth

as the saying goes | in accordance with the proverb

assassin | sb who is hired to murder sb, often rich or prominent people

at your convenience | literally, at your disposal, but also a play on the word *conveniences*, which can also mean toilets

atonement | compensating for wrongdoing

audition *ɔ:'diʃ(ə)n* | a test performance to get a role in a film or play

avid | having or showing a great interest and enthusiasm

avid | strongly enthusiastic

B

backlash | an adverse reaction

bald *bɔ:ld* | without head hair

barbarian *bɑ:'beəriən* | uncivilised, brutal person

bearer | the owner or possessor of sth

biological agents | bacteria, viruses or toxins used in biological warfare

bitter | a dry sharp-tasting beer with a strong flavour of hops

bitter cold | extreme cold

bizarrely | strangely

blatant *'bleit(ə)nt* | without any attempt at concealment

bloke | informal term for man

bloodthirsty | marked by enthusiasm for violence and bloodshed

blue blood | aristocratic

boarding school | a private school where pupils live permanently during term time

boggs | a play on the word, bog, which is an informal term for toilet

bolt | a type of screw that is fixed with a nut

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breath-taking *'breθteɪkɪŋ* | so impressive as to temporarily stop one from breathing

bric-a-brac | miscellaneous curios

bright | intelligent, quick to learn

bucket | a small metal or plastic container for liquid

burden *'bɜ:d(ə)n* | a heavy weight or load

bustling | full of noise, movement and activity

busty | large breasted

C

cameo appearance | a small part played briefly in a film, often barely noticeable and done for fun

canine spook *'keɪnlɪn/ 'kanlɪn spu:k* | the ghost of a dog

captivating | capturing great interest and attention

carbohydrate | a source of energy and simple sugars found in starchy foods

carol | a religious song sung at Christmas time

cheeky | humorously bold, sometimes to the point of rudeness

chirpy | lively and cheerful

chopsticks | a pair of thin sticks used for eating oriental food

cider | an alcoholic drink made from apples

cleavage *'kli:vɪdʒ* | the line formed by the groove between women's breasts

clump | a small, compact mass, often of a plant

collegiate | of, resembling or having the characteristics of a college

commodity | sth of use and value that can be traded

commonplace | ordinary

conferring of degrees | formal awarding of degrees

confluence | a place where things merge, often rivers

contraption | a device or machine

copper | a reddish-brown metal

cosy | having a warm, comforting atmosphere

countess | female equivalent of a count, a noble person

couplet | two lines together that rhyme

cowpat | a small pile of cow poo

craving | a strong, uncontrollable desire for sth

cribbage | a card game

crimson | a blood-like, purply-red colour

crony | close supporter, often unconditionally loyal

cruelty | the act of causing pain and suffering

cuisine *kwi:'zi:n* | the practice and manner of food preparation, specific to a particular country

culprit *'kʌlprɪt* | the person responsible for wrongdoing

cupboard | a small compartment for storage

curb crawling | driving slowly looking for prostitutes

curfew 'kə:fju: | an imposed time restriction on being outside, or on the street

D

deeply ingrained in sth | strongly fixed and held

dense | having a greater concentration within a given area

descendant | a person who is related to a previous generation

digestion | the process where food is broken down in the stomach

diminutive di'minjʊtɪv | small

disease | an illness of some kind

disreputable | of bad reputation, unreliable

dissolvable | capable of being reduced to a solution in liquid, like some tablets

distinctive | being clearly identifiable and different

distinguished | high in reputation

distorted | badly formed or judged

dodgy | of doubtful honesty or character

drinking hole | pub, bar

dummy | a figure, usually made of material, representing a person

dusky | dimly lit as at twilight

dweller | a person who inhabits a particular place

E

edible | capable of being eaten by humans

electric current | a flow of electricity

endeavour ɪn'devə/ɛn'devə | project, a purposeful effort to produce sth

engrossing | strongly holding attention to the exclusion of all else

ensemble piece | a production involving a group of people

extract | fragment

F

faculty member | member of a division within a university

faking | pretending

fancy | decorative or ornamented

fan-vault | an English gothic architectural design featuring an arch to the ceiling with curved ribs giving the appearance of a fan

farcical | situation involving unlikely, humorous coincidence, reminiscent of a farce

fatigue | extreme tiredness

fertile ground(s) for sth | a rich source of sth

fertile ground(s) for sth | a rich source of sth

fibre | the coarse, indigestible part of a plant beneficial to the body

fierce | intense, very strong

fits of sth | sudden uncontrollable attacks of sth

flawless 'flɔ:ləs | perfect, without blemish

flies | the part on trousers opened and closed by a zip

flourishing | lively and profitable

folk fəʊk | people

fording | crossing a stream or river where the water level is low

forked | divided or separated into two branches

frame of mind | temporary psychological state

futility | hopelessness, pointlessness

G

garments | clothes

garrulous | talkative

gatehouse | a house built as a gateway and home to a gatekeeper

genre 'ʒɔ:rə | a class of art, film or literature

get a glimpse | a quick but incomplete view

ghostly pickpocket | a ghostly thief that steals from pockets

giddiness | impulsive, irrational behaviour

ginger | a plant with aromatic root used for flavouring food

gleaming | shining

gnarled nɑ:lɪd | of wood, covered in knots

graduate | a person who has received an academic degree

gullible | naïve and easily tricked

guppy | a small fish, often found in aquariums

H

half-timbered | a building with exposed wooden beams and frames in the Tudor architectural style

handful | a small number

hapless | unlucky and attracting pity

hazel-eyed | eyes that are a shade of brown with touches of yellow or green

heritage | traditions inherited from the past

hideous 'hɪdiəs | horrific and terrifying

histories of haunting | a history of the presence of ghosts and apparitions

honest-to-goodness | authentic, real and wholesome

horse brass | small, brass plates that originally decorated a horse's bridle

horseradish | a type of plant, the root of which is grated, making a fiery hot sauce

humbug | something considered to be nonsense

I

idle 'aɪd(ə) | lazy or unoccupied

incomprehensible | impossible to make sense of

inevitable | unavoidable, with only one possible outcome

infamous | well known for a negative reason

influx | the process of flowing in

ingredient | an element of something, particularly in cooking or medicine

innuendo ,ɪnju'endəʊ | something with a second meaning, often sexual in nature

insanity | lunacy

instigator | the person who starts something

intimidated | to feel threatened and made to feel timid

intrusive | too strongly noticeable and invading peace and privacy

iodine | a non-metallic element found in seawater

irreverent | without respect

J

junk | apparently worthless, miscellaneous items

L

laced with sth | with something added, often alcohol

lager | a general term for beer made with bottom fermenting yeast, usually with a clear, crisp character

lawn lɔ:n | an area of cultivated grass, often in front of a house or building

leap year | a year in which 29th February occurs

lens | part of the eye or camera through which light passes

lettuce 'lɛtɪs | a round, leafy plant, eaten in salads

lice | bloodsucking, parasitic insects

lingerie 'lɪŋʒ(ə)ri | female underwear

loony | insane, lunatic

M

magnitude | level, extent

maid | a female domestic assistant

maiden | an unmarried young woman, often also a virgin

mason | a craftsman who works with stone

meadow | a field where grass and wild flowers grow

medley | series or collection

memoir 'mɛmwa: | an account of one's personal story

mercenary | somebody who fights purely for money

mere mɪə | nothing more than specified

meticulousness | extreme attention to small details

milestone | a significant event or stage in a process

miserly 'mɪzəli | showing a distinct lack of generosity and meanness of spirit

monk mɒŋk | a male religious person living in a cloister

morbid | relating to death and horror

muddy | having the character of soil that is wet and sticky

mundane 'mʌndeɪn/mʌn'deɪn | ordinary, unremarkable

N

nanotechnology | technology that deals with very small things and molecules

needle | a sharp, pointed implement used in sewing

nomad | a person with no fixed home

notorious | known widely for negative reasons

nutritional | having the quality of providing energy and vitamins

O

odd | strange, unusual

odour | smell

on the house | paid for by the patron originally decorated a horse's bridle

ornate | highly decorated

out of wedlock | outside of marriage

oyster | an edible, coastal, marine mollusc

P

palate | the upper part of the mouth

peasant 'pez(ə)nt | a country person

persevering | working determinedly to overcome difficulties

picturesque | beautiful in a way that would make a subject for a picture

pier arch | an arch supported on pillars on either side

pimp | sb who finds customers for prostitutes

plaque plak/plɑ:k | an inscribed metal plate, often placed on a wall

plaster | a mixture of lime or gypsum with sand and water used to cover walls and ceilings

plight | a difficult situation

plot | a secret plan

ploughman's lunch | a traditional pub lunch of bread and cheese with pickles and an apple

pork scratchings | a cold snack of pieces of fatty pork that have been deep fried until

crisp | typical snack pub in England

posh | elegant and relating to high social status

prejudice *prɛdʒʊdɪs* | a negative opinion formed beforehand, often without proof or justification

prey | the victim of an attack

prolific | very creatively productive

propelled to | to be moved very quickly

prophet *ˈprɒfɪt* | sb who speaks with divine knowledge

proprietor *prəˈpraɪətə* | owner

prosperous | doing well financially

punch line | the concluding line of a joke

punt | an open, flat-bottomed boat for shallow water propelled by a long pole

Q

quadrangle *ˈkwɒdræŋɡ(ə)* | a rectangular area surrounded by walls

quirky | unconventional

R

radiant | glowing, exuding light and attractiveness

rascal | a badly behaved, unreliable person

raw *rɔː* | uncooked, e.g. raw carrot, raw meat

recipe *ˈrɛsɪpi* | directions for making something, often, a particular meal

redhead | sb with red or ginger hair

renowned for sth | widely known and esteemed

repellent *rɪˈpɛl(ə)nt* | a substance that pushes away and discourages sth, usually insects

respective | in relation to their individual characteristics

reviewer | person who reads books or watches films to give opinions

reviled | despised, hated

riot *ˈraɪət* | disorder and violence of an unruly mob

rivet | flat, round, metal fastener

rubber clad | dressed in rubber clothing

S

saddler | a maker of saddles and horse accessories

sagacious *səˈgeɪʃəs* | very wise

sardonic | bitter, sarcastic and ironic

sauciness | playful sexual behaviour or character

scampi | shrimps in batter

scholar | a learned person

screw | a fastener, usually metal, with a helical thread for joining things, such as pieces of wood, together

sculptor *ˈskʌlptə* | an artist that shapes structures from wood, stone or metal

seafood | edible fish including molluscs and crustaceans

seaweed | a plant that grows in the sea

seclusion | out of view or away from others

self-confessed bookworm | a person who openly admits an obsession with reading many books

self-destructible | having the quality of naturally destroying itself

serial killer | someone who commits a number of murders

serviceman | sb who serves in the armed forces

short-grained | a type of grain from cereal grass

shriek | a sharp, high-pitched, loud cry

siblings | brothers and sisters

slaughter *ˈslɔːtə* | the killing of many people, massacre

soybean | a nutritious, oil-rich seed

specimen | an example of its class

spectre | ghostly appearance

spike | a sharp, pointed projection

spire *spaɪə* | a tall tower that tapers on a church

spoiled | having an unpleasant character to parental overindulgence

spot | a particular location

squadron | a fighting airforce unit

stable | a farm building where horses are housed

stall *sto:l* | a counter or booth in the street where something is sold

staple | an essential, basic foodstuff

startled | suddenly surprised

stout | a strong, dark heavy-bodied ale made from pale malt and roasted unmalted barley

strict | severe and inflexible in discipline

stroke | a ruptured blood-vessel leading to a loss of oxygen to the brain and often brain damage

stubbled | having a short growth of facial hair

subsequently *ˈsʌbsɪkwəntli* | as a result

substitute | a thing used to replace something else

sulky-mouthed | having a moody, miserable expression

swan | a very large, white, aquatic bird with a long neck

swirling | turning and spinning

T

telly | informal term for television

testament | proof, evidence of sth

thatched roof | a roof made from dried plant material

the former | the one before

thespian | related or connected to the acting profession

thick | stupid, not intelligent

thread | a fine cord of fibre, such as cotton

thyroid gland ^{ˈθaɪrɔɪd} gland | a gland near the base of the neck

tight | reluctant to part with money

tit for tat | this for that, an equivalent given in return

titillation | mildly sexually arousing

to abandon | to give up

to abstain | to choose not to consume – often in relation to alcohol

to acquaint sb with sb/sth | to make sb familiar with sb/sth

to alter tu ^{ˈɔ:lteɪ/ɒlteɪ} | to change

to attest | to bear witness to, to prove

to axe sth | to end or withdraw sth

to be abundant in sth | to be full of sth

to be blunt | to be direct in manner and speech

(to be) in dire need of sth | to be in great or desperate need of sth

to be pushing up the daisies | to be dead and buried

to be set in motion | started, to come into being

to be snatched from under sb's nose | to be taken away at the last minute

to be well into sth | to have a strong interest and liking for sth

to be/feel peckish | to be little hungry

to behead | to kill by cutting off the head

to bicker | to argue over small points

to boot | also

to breed | to procreate

to brick sb up | to trap sb in a space by building brick walls all around them

to bring up | to raise during childhood

to chart sb's own course | to pursue one's own path

to chime | to make a sound of a bell

to cleanse | to clean, to make fresh

to complement | to embellish, go together with or improve

to dart | to move in a fast, sudden manner

to depict | to show, to demonstrate, to present

to deprive sb of sth | to take away from or keep sth from sb

to despair of doing sth | to fail to have the mental energy or motivation to do sth

to dip | to immerse briefly in a liquid or sauce

to dub sth | to name it, to describe it as such

to emerge | to come into view or to become apparent

to emulate sth | to imitate, to seek to equal

to exasperate sb | to lead somebody to extreme frustration

to expel | to force to leave

to flee | to run away from danger

to get rid of sb | to make sb disappear, usually by killing them

to get to the bottom of sth | to get to the root of sth

to glide | to move smoothly and effortlessly

to go to the whole hog | to do sth to the maximum extent possible

to hand down | to pass on by inheritance

to juggle | to throw and catch several objects at the same time

to keep up appearances | to maintain social status and dignity

to knit together | to be closely tied socially

to leer at sb | to look at in a sexually suggestive manner

to lend sb a hand | to give assistance

to linger | to take one's time, to leave slowly

to live up to sb's expectations | to be equal to what others expect sb to be

to loathe ^{tə ˈləʊð} | to dislike strongly

to lure ^{tə ˈljʊə} | to deceptively draw sb towards sth

to mimic | to imitate, to be like sth

to paw ^{tə ˈpɔː} | to touch clumsily with a paw (dog's foot)

(to play) second fiddle (to sb) | to serve in a secondary or subordinate role

to plunk down | to put down heavily

to preserve | to prevent from rotting or going bad, often by salting, smoking or pickling

to propose to sb | to declare a desire to marry

to ransack | to attack buildings and homes and steal goods

to recur ^{tə ˈriːkəː} | to happen again, often more than once, e.g. a recurring dream

to redeem | get back, recover

to refrigerate | to preserve by chilling in a fridge

to reminisce | to remember the past, often in a nostalgic way

to resemble | to appear to be like or similar

to reveal | to show or disclose

to roam | to move freely and aimlessly

to row ^{tə ˈrəʊ} | to propel a boat with oars

to rule sth | to have authority over

to spill the beans | to divulge a secret

to spot | to notice

to stand up to sb | to speak against, to oppose

to stem from | to arise from

to stroll round | to walk in a leisurely manner

to suffer sexual abuse | to experience unwanted and criminal sexual treatment, often in childhood

to suit | to be agreeable, in accordance with your taste

to take matters into sb's own hands | to take personal control of a situation

to take sth out on sb | to vent one's own frustrations on other people

to tend to do sth | to be inclined to do sth

to throb | to pulsate like the heart, often with pain

to tie the knot | to get married

to twirl *tə twɜːl* | to turn in a twisting movement

to wane | to weaken

to ward off | to prevent, to repel

to wind up | to coil, to pull together in a circular motion

to wrap | to fold around

to zoom | to rise and move rapidly

tranquil | peaceful and calm

trench | a long ditch cut in the soil, often in a battle situation

trial | the determination of somebody's guilt or innocence in a court of law

tribe | a cohesive group of people, often related through blood and marriage

turned down | refused, rejected

U

underdog | the disadvantaged party expected

undergraduate | a student who has not yet gained a degree

unmitigated | without limitation

unpredictable | uncertain, being impossible to anticipate

unspeakably | to an inexpressible degree

usher *ˈʌʃə* | a person who directs customers to seats in a cinema or theatre

utter *ˈʌtə* | complete, absolute, total

V

valet | a manservant

vanity | excessive self-pride and obsession with one's appearance

venue *ˈvenjuː* | the location of an event

virgin | a person who has never had sexual intercourse

vital *ˈvaɪt(ə)l* | important, essential

vivacious *viˈveɪʃəs* | lively and charismatic

vocation | a particular occupation to which one has a natural or divine calling beyond monetary motives – such as teaching or nursing

void | empty space

voluptuous *vəˈlʌptjʊəs* | relating to a curvaceous woman with sex appeal

voyeuristic | having the character of looking secretly, often at people naked or undressing

W

warlord | a military leader accountable to nobody

waterproof | resistant to water

weird | very strange or unusual

where there's a will there's a way | with sufficient determination, sth difficult becomes possible

whirlpool *ˈwɜːlpuːl* | a powerful, circular current of water

wicked *ˈwɪkɪd* | cruel, evil

windswept | open to and affected by wind

wit | mental ability

wrinkle *ˈrɪŋk(ə)l* | a line on facial skin

Y

ye-olde (the old) | a term used to describe something historic in character

Z

zany | extremely silly

