

ATLAS

Abhor - hate

Abstruse - difficult to understand; obscure

Acuity - sharpness (mental or visual)

Adamant - forceful; inflexible

Adroit - skillful

Adulation - strong admiration; worship

Adversity - hardship

Advocate - support

Aesthetic - concerning art or beauty

Affable - friendly; social; easygoing

Alacrity - eagerness; enthusiasm; quickness

Alchemy - medieval chemistry; attempt to change base metal into gold

Alibi - an excuse that shows someone was not at a crime scene

Allay - to lessen

Alleviate - make less severe

Aloof - distant; detached; cold

Altruism - putting others first; being self-sacrificing

Amass - accumulate

Ambiguity - uncertainty; vagueness

Ambiguous - unclear in meaning; can be interpreted in different ways

Ambivalence - lack of clarity; wavering; being undecided

Ambulatory - able to walk around (used of hospital patients)

Ameliorate - make better

Amelioration - improvement

Amiable - friendly

Amity - friendship

ATLAS

Amorphous - lacking in shape

Analgesic - medicine to combat pain

Analogous - comparable

Anarchy - chaos; lack of government

Anecdote - a brief amusing story

Animosity - hatred; antagonism

Annex (n) - a building which is an addition to an existing building

Annex (v) - take possession of; seize; capture

Anomaly - something which does not fit in a pattern; irregularity

Antagonism - hostility; strong opposition

Antagonistic - opposed; hostile; aggressive

Antediluvian - outdated; prehistoric; very old-fashioned

Anthology - a book which is a collection of poems or stories

Anthropocentrism - putting man at the center of one's philosophy

Antiquated - outdated; old fashioned

Apathetic - Indifferent; uninterested; lethargic

Apathy - lack of interest or emotion

Apocryphal - of doubtful origin

Appease - pacify; soothe; calm down; make peace with

Apprehensive - worried; fearful

Arable - can be cultivated

Arbitrary - random; for no definite reason

Arcane - obscure; known only to a few people

Archaic - ancient; outdated; old fashioned

Archetype - classic example of

Archives - collections of old records; place of storage of old documents

ATLAS

Articulate - clear; lucid; eloquent

Artifice - deception; trickery

Artisan - craftsman

Ascetic - without luxuries; severely simple

Assiduous - thorough; diligent

Assuage - to calm

Astute - perceptive; sharp-witted

Asylum - place of refuge or safety

Atheist- person who does not believe in God

Atrophy - waste away from lack of use

Attenuate - weaken

Augment - increase; make bigger

Auspicious - favorable; promising to turn out well

Austere - severely plain

Aversion - a dislike of

Balk - hinder and prevent; hesitate over

Banal - common; dull

Banality - ordinariness; dullness

Bane - troublesome influence

Bard - poet

Bastion - fortress; stronghold

Befuddle - confuse

Begrudge - resent

Beguile - mislead; lure

Belabor - explain in unnecessary detail

Beleaguer - besiege; attack

ATLAS

Belie - contradict
Belittle - to demean
Bellicose - war-like; aggressive
Belligerent - aggressive; ready to fight
Bemoan - complain about
Benevolent - kindly
Benign- kindly; harmless
Benignity - compassion; gentleness; fondness
Bequeath - leave something in one's will to be given after one's death
Berate - scold; criticize
Beret - type of cap
Bestial - behaving like a beast; brutal
Bigot - narrow-minded, prejudiced person
Bilk - cheat; defraud
Billowing - swelling; fluttering; waving
Blasphemy - speech which offends religious sentiments
Blatant - obvious
Blighted - damaged; destroyed; ruined
Blithe - free-spirited; carefree
Blunderbuss - 1. ancient weapon (type of gun); 2. a clumsy person
Bolster - support; prop up
Bombast - arrogant, pompous language
Boorish - ill-mannered
Bourgeois - middle class
Braggart - someone who boasts
Brawny - muscular

ATLAS

Brevity - being brief
Bristle - to show irritation
Broach - start to discuss; approach
Brusque - blunt; abrupt
Bulwark - fortification; barricade; wall
Bureaucracy - officialdom
Burgeon - grow; flourish; put forth new shoots
Burnish - polish
Buttress - strengthen; support
Byline - the line that tells you who wrote an article
Cacophony - discordant loud noises
Cajole - coax
Caldron - huge cooking pot
Callow - immature
Candid - frank; honest
Candor - frankness; openness
Cantankerous - bad-tempered; quarrelsome
Capacious - spacious
Capitulate - surrender; give in to
Carping - constant criticism
Cartographer - person who makes maps
Castigate - scold strongly
Catharsis - purging of pent-up emotions
Caucus - type of private political meeting
Caustic - burning
Cavalcade - procession of vehicles

ATLAS

Celerity - speed
Censorious - disapproving; critical
Censure - blame
Cerebral - intellectual
Certitude - certainty
Charlatan - trickster who claims knowledge he doesn't have
Chary - wary of; cautious about; reluctant to give
Chastises - punishes
Chicanery - trickery
Chimerical - changeable; unstable
Choleric - easily angered
Chronicler- person who records historical information
Circuitous - indirect
Circumlocution - using too many words; long-windedness
Circumscribe - limit
Circumspect - cautious; considering all sides
Circumvent - avoid
Clairvoyant - psychic; mystic
Clamor - shout; scream
Clandestine - secret; covert; stealthy
Clemency - mercy
Cliché - overused expression; something unoriginal
Clientele - customers
Coalesce - come together; merge
Coddle - pamper; fuss over; indulge
Coercion - force

ATLAS

Cogent - lucid; well argued

Cogitate - think over something; ponder

Collage - picture made from fragments of other pictures

Collate - arrange in order

Colloquial - local and informal (used of language)

Collusion - plotting and planning

Commandeer - take possession of

Complacent - self-satisfied; smug

Compliant - easy to control; submissive

Concatenate - link together

Concatenation - linking into chains

Conciliate - to bring together; end a dispute

Concise - stated in few words

Condescend - talk down to

Condone - tacitly support; overlook

Condoning - overlooking; disregarding; ignoring

Conflagration - big fire

Confound - confuse

Congeval - to solidify

Congenital - present from birth

Connoisseur - person with refined taste and good judgment

Consecrate - dedicate

Consensus - general agreement

Conspicuous - easily seen; prominent

Consummate - complete; total; supremely good

Contemporary - living or happening at the same time

ATLAS

Contrite - sorry

Contrition - sorrow and repentance

Contumacious - stubborn

Contusion - a bruise

Conundrum - a puzzle

Conventional - usual; customary; common

Corpulent - fat

Corrugated - highly folded

Counterfeit - fake; false

Covert hidden; - undercover

Cower - recoil in fear or servility; shrink away from

Credible - believable

Creditable - praiseworthy

Credulous - gullible; ready to believe anything

Crepuscular - active at dawn and dusk

Cringe - recoil; flinch; shy away

Cryptic - puzzling; enigmatic

Curtail - cut short

Cynical - believing that people act only out of selfish motives

Debility - weakness; incapacity

Debunking - exposing false claims or myths

Decathlon - an athletic competition with ten events

Decorum - dignified, correct behavior [decorous (a)]

Decoy - lure; trap; trick

Deference - respect

Defoliate - cause leaves to fall off

ATLAS

Defunct - no longer in existence

Degradation - deprivation; poverty; debasement

Deleterious - harmful

Deliberate - to think over deeply

Delineation - demarcation; explanation; definition; outlining

Demur - hesitate; refuse

Denounce - condemn; speak out against

Deplete - use up; lessen

Deplore - regret

Depravity - moral corruption

Deprecate - criticize; denounce

Deride - ridicule; make fun of; mock

Derogatory - uncomplimentary

Desecrate - to damage or pollute a holy place

Desecration - spoiling something holy

Desist - stop; discontinue; cease

Despondent - having no hope; miserable

Destitution - hardship; poverty; misery

Deter - put off; prevent

Deteriorate - worsen; decline

Detrimental - harmful

Devoured - greedily eaten/consumed

Dexterous - skilful with hands

Dichotomy - a division into two parts

Didactic - intended to teach; instructive

Diffident - lacking confidence

ATLAS

Digress - wander off the subject
Dike - dam; embankment
Dilatory - slow; falling behind with one's work
Dilemma - puzzling situation
Dilettante - person who dabbles in a subject without serious study
Diligent - hard-working
Diorama - model of a scene
Dirge - mournful song
Disapprobation - disapproval
Discern - to distinguish one thing from another
Discord - disagreement
Discordancy - cacophony; harshness; jarring
Discrepancy - something which does not match up; inconsistency
Discriminate - to make a clear distinction; see the difference
Discursiveness - long windedness; indirectness
Disdain - contempt; strong dislike
Disinterested - unbiased
Disparage - criticize; belittle
Disparity - an inequality
Dispassionate - neutral; objective
Disseminating - circulating; broadcasting; spreading (information)
Diurnal - active in daytime
Divert - 1. entertain; 2. distract; 3. cause a detour
Docile - gentle and easily lead
Dogmatic - having stubbornly held opinions
Dolt - stupid person

ATLAS

Dotard - foolish old man
Drawl - speak slowly with words running together
Drivel - nonsense
Droll - dryly amusing
Drone - 1. monotonous noise (n); 2. to speak with no emotion (v); 3. male bee
Dubious - doubtful
Dupe - to fool someone
Dynamic- lively; vibrant; energetic
Ebullient - very lively; cheerful; jovial; happy
Eccentric - unusual; quirky; odd
Eclectic - taking things from different sources
Edifice - building; structure; construction
Efface - wipe out; remove all trace of
Effigy - a model of a person
Effusive - gushing; demonstrative
Egalitarianism - belief in equality
Egregious - outstandingly, obviously bad
Egress - exit
Eloquent - fluent and persuasive in speech
Elucidate - make clear
Elusive - hard to pin down
Emaciated -very thin; withered
Emancipate - set free
Embezzle - defraud; steal
Embroider - involve in hostility or argument
Emerge - come out; appear

ATLAS

Emulate - to imitate something admired
Endorse - give support or approval to
Endurance - staying power; patience; stamina
Enduring - lasting
Enfranchise - give voting rights
Engender - cause
Enhance - improve; make better or clearer
Enigma - puzzle; mystery
Ensnare - establish firmly in a position
Enshroud - cover
Enunciation - clear pronunciation; accent; articulation
Envenom - to cause bitterness and bad feeling
Ephemeral - short-lived
Epicure - someone who appreciates good food and drink
Epistle - a letter (form of communication)
Epistolary - concerned with letters; through correspondence
Epitomized - typified; characterized; personified
Equivocate - speak ambiguously; avoid telling the truth
Err - make a mistake
Erratic - wandering; irregular
Esoteric - obscure and difficult to understand
Espouse - promote; take up; support
Etymology - the study of word origins
Eulogy - praise
Euphemism - a polite phrase to cover something unpleasant
Euphony - pleasant sounds

ATLAS

Evacuate - vacate; empty; abandon

Exacerbate - make worse

Exasperated - frustrated; annoyed

Exceptionable - very bad (something which we should object to)

Exculpate - free someone from blame; pardon; acquit

Execrable - very, very bad

Exegesis - scholarly explanation or interpretation

Exemplary - outstandingly good; setting a fine example

Exemplify - to serve as a good example

Exhaustive - complete and thorough

Exonerates - acquits; absolves; removes blame

Exorcism - getting free/rid of; eliminating (especially demons)

Expatriate - refugee; emigrant; someone living away from his own country

Expedient - convenient; practical

Expedite - make faster

Exposition - clear explanation

Extol - praise

Extradite - deport from one country back to the home country

Extraneous - irrelevant

Extrapolate - extend; predict on the basis of known data

Extrinsic - irrelevant; on the outside

Fallacious - false

Falter - hesitate; waver

Fanatical - obsessive; fixated

Fanaticism - passion; excessive devotion

Fastidious - overly particular; finicky

ATLAS

Fatuous - silly; foolish

Feasible - possible and practicable

Fecund - fertile

Felicitous - apt

Fervor - passion; enthusiasm

Fickle - unpredictable; whimsical; easily swayed

Finesse - skill

Fitful - not continuous; stopping and starting

Flagrant - clearly wrong

Flamboyant - showy; ornate

Flaunt - show off; display in a showy manner

Flippant - making jokes about serious matters

Flout - defy; reject

Flustered - worked-up; not calm

Fly-by-night - unreliable; disreputable

Forensic - concerned with argument or debate (esp. for legal evidence)

Fortitude - bravery

Fortuitous - happening by chance

Fractious - irritable; difficult to control

Fraudulent - fake; false

Frivolous - not serious

Frugal - economical; not wasting anything

Furrow - groove

Furtive - hidden and secret

Futile - useless; hopeless

Galleon - ancient type of sailing ship

ATLAS

Gambol - frolic; leap; bound

Garble - distort; confuse; muddle

Garish - gaudy

Garner - gather; collect

Garrulous- talkative

Gaunt - emaciated; bony and angular

Genre - a category; type

Germane - relevant

Germinal - just growing; not developed; immature

Gibbering - making meaningless noises

Glacial - hostile; unfriendly; cold; icy

Goad - prod; urge

Grate- (v) 1. to annoy; aggravate; vex; 2. shred

Gratis - free of charge; without payment

Gratuitous - unwarranted

Gravity - seriousness

Gregarious - extroverted; sociable; outgoing

Gritty - coarse; granular

Guffaw - sudden loud laughter

Guile - cunning; craftiness

Guileless - frank; straightforward; honest

Gullibility - unwariness; trustfulness; being easily fooled

Gullible - easily fooled

Gustatory - concerned with the sense of taste

Hackneyed - common and over-used

Hallowed - worshipped; consecrated

ATLAS

Hamper - hinder; obstruct
Hangar - storage area (like garage) for a plane
Harangue - noisy, attacking speech
Harbingers - indicators; bringers of warnings
Hasten - hurry; accelerate; rush
Haughtiness - arrogance; pride
Headstrong - stubborn; willful
Hedonism - self indulgence; pleasure-seeking
Hedonist - a pleasure seeker
Heed - listen to
Heresy - against orthodox opinion
Hiatus - interruption; pause
Hidebound - rigid in opinions
Hieroglyphics - 1. picture writing; 2. writing which is difficult to read or enigmatic
Hinder - obstruct
Histrionic - theatrical; exaggerated
Hoary - old
Hone - sharpen; increase; whet
Hyperbole - grossly exaggerated speech
Hypochondriac - a person obsessed with health; having imaginary illnesses
Hypocritical - insincere
Iconoclast - person who opposes orthodoxy
Idiosyncrasy - a personal peculiarity; something unique to an individual
Ignominious - shameful
Ignominy - shame [ignominious (α) = shameful]
Illuminate - to light up or make clear

ATLAS

Illusory - deceptive; false; misleading

Immoderate - excessive; extreme

Immutable - unchanging; permanent

Impartial - unbiased; neutral

Impecunious - having no money

Impious - wicked; profane

Impoverished - destitute; poor

Impromptu - unrehearsed; spontaneous

Inadvertent - not intentional

Incantation - chant; invocation; prayer

Incarceration - putting in prison

Incessant - without stopping

Incipient - just beginning

Inclination - tendency; a leaning toward

Incoherent - not clear

Incongruous - not fitting in; out of place

Inconsequential - unimportant; insignificant; negligible

Inconspicuous - not easily seen; subtle; not noticeable

Indelible - cannot be wiped out

Indifferent - 1. neutral; 2. not outstanding

Indigenous - native to a particular area

Indolence - laziness

Inductee - novice; beginner

Indulgent - pampering; satisfying desires

Inebriation - drunkenness; intoxication

Ineffable - cannot be expressed in words

ATLAS

Inept - incompetent; unskilled; useless

Inertia - inactivity; lethargy

Inevitable - cannot be avoided

Inexorable - relentless

Inexpedient - not advisable

Infallible - perfect; flawless; cannot make mistakes

Infamous- famous for something bad

Infer - deduce; conclude

Ingénue - naïve, unsophisticated person

Ingrate - ungrateful person

Inimical - hostile

Innate - inherited; inborn

Innocuous - harmless; inoffensive

Innovate - create; introduce something new

Inscrutable - mysterious; impenetrable

Insentient - unfeeling

Insipid - dull; bland; boring

Instigate- to start; provoke

Instigator- troublemaker; person who entices others to do something

Insurgent - a rebel

Interminable - never-ending

Intermittent - sporadic; irregular

Intransigence - stubbornness

Intransigent - stubborn; unyielding

Intrepid - brave

Inveterate - habitual

ATLAS

Invidious - arousing envy

Inviolable - cannot be invaded

Irascible - easily angered

Ire - anger [irate (a) = very angry]

Irksome - annoying; infuriating

Ironic - satiric; unexpected

Irrational - unreasonable; absurd

Irreproachable - cannot be criticized; perfect

Irrevocable - cannot be cancelled; unchangeable

Itinerant - nomadic; wandering from place to place

Jaded - tired; bored; worn out

Jargon - specialized language used by experts

Jaundiced - cynical; pessimistic

Jaunt - short pleasure trip

Jeopardize - put at risk; endanger

Jingoistic - extremely patriotic; nationalistic

Jocular - in a joking manner

Jollity - gaiety; happiness

Jubilant - ecstatic; delighted; rejoicing

Judicious - correct in judgment; wise

Jurisprudence - science or study of law

Juxtapose - place next to

Kindle - to start a fire

Knotty - complex; difficult to solve

Labyrinth - a maze

Labyrinthine - complicated; highly convoluted

ATLAS

Laceration - a cut

Lachrymose - tearful; sad

Lackluster - dull; monotonous; bland

Laconic - using few words; brief; to the point

Lamentation - expression of regret or sorrow

Lampoon - ridicule; spoof

Lance - spear; spike; javelin

Languid - tired; slow

Languish - decay; fade away; get weaker

Larceny - theft; robbery; stealing

Largess - generosity

Laud - praise

Lavish - on a grand scale; wasteful

Lax - careless; not strict

Legend - 1. key to map; 2. myth or story

Legion - in large numbers

Lethargic - tired; without energy

Levity flippancy; - joking about serious matters

Libertarian - someone who opposes tyranny

Liniment - soothing lotion

Lithe - flexible; supple

Livid - very angry

Lobbyist - person who tries to persuade someone to support a particular cause

Lofty - snooty; arrogant; haughty

Longevity- long life

Loquacious - talkative

ATLAS

Lucid - clear

Ludicrous - ridiculous; silly

Lukewarm - 1. unenthusiastic; 2. neither hot nor cold

Lummox - clumsy person

Luscious - juicy; moist; succulent

Lynch - assassinate; kill; illegal hanging

Machinations- plots and plans

Maelstrom - whirlpool; storm in the ocean

Magnanimous - generous; big-hearted

Magnate - powerful businessman

Maladroit - clumsy; unskillful

Malady - illness

Malediction - a curse

Malefactor - a wrong-doer

Malingering - deliberately avoid work; shirk

Malingerer - person who deliberately tries to avoid work

Malleable - flexible; can be shaped

Mallet - 1. wooden hammer; 2. stick used for polo

Manipulatable - influencable; controllable

Marred - damaged; spoiled

Marshal- to gather together

Marsupial - pouched mammal (like a kangaroo)

Martinet - person who believes in strict discipline

Masochist - person who intentionally inflicts pain on himself

Matriarchy - society governed by women

Maverick - a loner

ATLAS

Meager - in short supply

Meander - wander from side to side

Mellow - soft; melodious; ripe

Menagerie - collection of animals

Mendacious - given to lying

Mercenary - concerned only with money

Mercurial - volatile; changeable

Merge - come together

Metaphorically - symbolically; figuratively

Meticulous - very careful; painstaking

Mettle - courage; bravery; valor

Milieu - environment

Mire - swamp; muddy ground

Misanthrope - hater of the rest of mankind

Misnomer - wrong name

Misogynist - hater of women

Misrepresentation - deliberately deceiving

Mitigate - lessen; make less severe

Modicum - small amount

Momentous - very important

Monotonous - dull; unvarying

Moratorium - temporary prohibition or halt to activity

Moribund - on the point of death

Morose - gloomy; bad tempered

Mundane - ordinary; worldly

Munificent - generous; charitable

ATLAS

Mutinous - very rebellious
Myriad - in large numbers
Navigable - suitable for sailing
Nebulous - vague
Nefarious - wicked; immoral; disreputable
Negate - cancel; deny
Negligence - carelessness
Neologism - newly coined word
Nettle - annoy
Niggardly - miserly; stingy
Nomadic - wandering from place to place
Nonchalance - an appearance of indifference; calm and composed
Nondescript - having no special features; dull and ordinary
Nonentity - a person of no importance; not famous
Nostalgia- longing for the past
Notoriety - infamy; known for wrong doing
Novel - new; unusual
Novice - a beginner; tyro
Noxious - harmful; poisonous; lethal
Nuance - something subtle; a fine shade of meaning
Nullify - to counter; make unimportant
Nuzzle - cuddle; snuggle
Obdurate - stubborn
Obfuscate - deliberately make something difficult to understand
Objective - unbiased; not subjective
Oblique- indirect; slanting

ATLAS

Obliterate - destroy; demolish; eradicate

Oblivious - totally unaware

Obscure - difficult to understand; partially hidden

Obscured - hidden; covered; buried

Obsequious - servile; submissive

Obsession - a dominating concern

Obsolete - no longer valid

Obstreperous - noisy and boisterous

Obtuse - mentally dull

Obviate - avoid; make unnecessary

Odious - hateful

Officious - domineering; intrusive; meddlesome

Ogle - stare at; observe in an obvious manner

Olfactory - concerned with the sense of smell

Ominous - threatening

Omnipotent - all-powerful

Omniscient - all-knowing

Onerous - burdensome; hard to undertake

Onus - burden

Opaque - does not let light through

Opulent - wealthy; rich; magnificent

Ordain - 1. destine; 2. confer holy orders on a priest

Ornate - highly decorated

Orthodox - conventional

Ossify - 1. turn to bone; 2. become fixed and rigid

Ostentatious - showy

ATLAS

Oust - push out of a position
Overt - obvious; not hidden
Overwrought - worked up; in an emotional state
Palatable - good to eat; agreeable
Palisade - fence made of posts
Palliative - a remedy that improves but doesn't cure
Pallid - pale
Palpable - easily felt; easily perceived
Panacea - remedy for all ills
Paradigm - 1. example; 2. model; 3. way of looking at things
Paradox - apparently contradictory statement
Paragon - a perfect example
Paramount - of supreme importance
Parasite - 1. scrounger; 2. animal which takes digested food from another
Parched - dried up
Pariah - an outcast from society
Parity - equality
Parochial - narrow-minded; concerned only with local matters
Parody- a mockery; imitation for ridicule; spoof
Parry - ward off; avoid
Parsimonious- economical; frugal; thrifty
Parsimony - stinginess; frugality; cost-cutting
Partisan - biased; one-sided; committed to one group
Pathos - evoking sadness or pity
Patron - one who give support (usually financial)
Patronize - condescend to; behave in an arrogant manner towards

ATLAS

Paucity - shortage

Peccadillo - minor weakness; trivial offense

Pedant - person who insists on strict adherence to rules or narrow learning

Pedestrian - common; mundane; banal

Peerless - without equal

Pejorative - derogatory

Pellucid - transparently clear

Pensive- in a thoughtful mood; thinking deeply

Penury - poverty

Perceptive - observant

Percipient - perceptive; insightful

Perdition - damnation

Peremptory - in a commanding manner

Perfidy- treachery

Perfunctory - superficial; cursory

Peripatetic - nomadic; moving from place to place

Peripheral - on the edge; not important

Perjury - telling lies under oath

Pernicious - destructive; harmful

Perpetuated - caused to continue

Perpetuity - eternity

Persnickety - fastidious; fussy

Personable - attractive

Perspicacious - insightful; sharp; wise

Perspicacity - insight

Pertinent - relevant

ATLAS

Peruse - read carefully
Pervasive - spreading everywhere
Petrify - 1. terrify; 2. turn to stone
Petulant - sulky; peevish
Phenomenon - an event or happening (plural: phenomena)
Philanthropy - charity; love of mankind
Philistine - uncultured person
Phlegmatic - calm; imperturbable
Pillage - plunder
Pinnacle - topmost point
Pious - very religious
Pivotal - of central importance
Placate - pacify; soothe; calm
Placid - calm; peaceful
Plagiarism - taking credit for someone else's writing or ideas
Plaintiff - petitioner (in court of law)
Plaudit - statement giving strong praise
Plausible - can be believed; reasonable
Plethora - an excess
Pliable - flexible; not stubborn
Plumage - feathers of a bird
Plummet - fall suddenly and steeply
Podium - raised platform
Poignant - deeply moving; strongly affecting the emotions
Poised - calm; collected; self-possessed
Polemical - causing debate or argument

ATLAS

Ponderous- weighty; slow and heavy

Pontificate - speak pompously or dogmatically

Portend - foretell

Portent - a warning sign; omen

Poseur - someone who puts on an act

Posterity - future generations

Posthumous - after death

Postulate - hypothesize; propose

Potable - suitable for drinking

Potent - powerful; compelling; strong

Pragmatic - practical

Pragmatist - practical person; one who is concerned with usefulness

Preamble - introductory material

Precarious - unstable; risky

Precedent - a previous occurrence used as a guide

Precept - guiding principle

Precinct - district of a city

Precipice- steep slope

Precipitous- done in a hurry

Preclude - prevent or make impossible

Precocious - developing early

Predecessor - one who came before

Predicament - dilemma; difficult situation

Preeminent- famous; outstanding

Prerogative - right or privilege

Prescient - having fore-knowledge

ATLAS

Presentiment - a feeling that something might happen

Presumptuous - assuming too much; arrogant

Pretentious - pompous; self-important

Prevaricate - speak misleadingly and evasively

Pristine - unspoiled

Proclivity - tendency towards

Procrastinate - delay; put off

Prodigal - wasteful; extravagant

Prodigious - very large

Profane - unholy

Profanity - swearing; cursing

Profound - having deep meaning

Profundity - depth

Proletarian - member of the working class

Prolific - producing a lot

Proponents - promoters; supporters

Prosaic - dull; boring; ordinary

Proscribe - forbid

Prosody - study of versification

Prostration - 1. lying face down; 2. be overcome with extreme weakness

Protagonist - main character in film, book, play etc.

Protean - changeable

Protégé - person under protection of, or guided by another

Protocol - procedure; code of behavior

Provincial - unsophisticated; narrow-minded

Prudent - cautious; wise

ATLAS

Puerile c- hildish
Punctilious- paying attention to small details
Purloin - steal
Pusillanimous - cowardly
Pyromania - compulsion to start fires
Quaff - drink down quickly
Quagmire - marsh; bog
Quaint - picturesque
Quandary - dilemma; puzzle
Quarantine - isolation to prevent the spread of disease
Quarry - 1. something that is hunted; 2. mine for stone
Querulous- always complaining
Quirk - oddity
Ramble - wander aimlessly
Ramifications - branches; subdivisions of a complex system; outcomes
Rancor - resentment; animosity; bad feeling
Rant - use bombastic language
Ratify - approve; consent
Raucous - rough and unpleasant (of sounds)
Raze - destroy; demolish; tear down
Rebuttal - denial
Recant - disclaim; retract statement
Recapitulate - summarize
Receptacle - container; vessel; holder
Recluse - someone who cuts himself off from life
Recuperate - get better after illness

ATLAS

Red tape - formalities; paperwork; official procedure

Redolent - smelling of; giving off odors

Redress - put right something that was wrong

Redundant - unnecessary; superfluous

Referendum - public vote

Refute - disprove

Regale - entertain

Relegate - dismiss to a lower position

Remuneration - payment for work done

Renown - fame

Replete - full

Reprehensible - shameful; very bad

Reprieve - a respite; postponement of a sentence

Repudiate - renounce; eschew

Rescind - retract; repeal

Resignation - acceptance of fate

Resolution - determination

Resonant - echoing

Respite - a break; intermission

Resplendent - shining; glowing

Restorative - a tonic

Retention - preservation; withholding

Reticent - restrained; holding something back; uncommunicative

Retraction - withdrawal; cancellation of a statement

Revere - worship

Riddled - full of (usually full of holes)

ATLAS

Rife - common
Rigor - thoroughness
Robust - strong; healthy; tough
Rotund - round
Ruminate- think over something; ponder
Ruse - trick; stratagem
Saccharin - falsely sweet
Sacrosanct - very holy; inviolable
Sagacious - wise
Sage - wise
Salacious - lecherous; erotic
Sallow - yellowish
Salubrious - health-giving
Salutary - something which teaches you a lesson; beneficial
Sanctimonious - hypocritically holy
Sanction - give approval to
Sanguinary - bloodthirsty; bloody
Sanguine - optimistic; cheerful
Sardonic - mocking
Savant - person with knowledge
Scale - to climb
Scapegoat - person on whom blame is placed for faults of others
Scrupulous - careful; diligent; painstaking
Scrutinize - examine carefully
Scuttle - sink
Seminary - an institution in which priests are trained

ATLAS

Sensuous - appealing to the senses
Sentinel - guard; sentry
Sequester - isolate
Serendipity - fortunate coincidence; unsought discovery
Serene - calm; peaceful
Serrated - jagged; saw-like
Servile - overly submissive; groveling
Skeptical - doubting; not gullible
Skirmish - minor battle
Sluggard - slow-moving; lethargic person
Smelt - refine an ore
Smorgasbord - a Swedish buffet of cold dishes
Solace - comfort for grief
Solicit - to ask for; seek
Somnambulist - sleepwalker
Soothsayer - fortuneteller
Sophomoric - juvenile; immature
Soporific - inducing sleep
Sparse - spare; bare; meager
Specious - false
Speckled - spotted; freckled; dotted
Sporadic - not continuous; intermittent
Spurious- false
Stagnant - still; not moving
Staid - dull; sober; serious
Stanza - section of a poem

ATLAS

Staunch - loyal; faithful; dependable
Stereotype - fixed image
Stevedore - dockworker
Stifle - suppress
Stoic - known for fortitude; indifferent to pleasure or pain
Stoke - add fuel to; strengthen
Stolid - impassive; dull; indifferent
Stratagem - plot; plan; trick
Strident- loud and harsh
Stringent - strict or severe
Strut - swagger; show off
Stupefying - astonishing; shocking; stunning into silence
Subpoena - summons to court
Substantiate- give supporting evidence
Subterfuge - a trick
Subtle - not obvious
Subversive - rebellious; revolutionary
Succinct - concise
Suffragist - someone who campaigns for voting rights
Supercilious - proud and haughty
Superlative - extremely good; the best
Surly - grumpy; rude
Surreptitious - secret; sneaky; stealthy
Surreptitiously - secretly; furtively; stealthily
Susceptible - vulnerable
Suspect - doubtful

ATLAS

Sybarite - lover of luxury
Sycophant - bootlicker; flatterer
Taciturn - quiet; saying little
Talisman - lucky charm
Tangent - going off the main subject
Tangible - can be touched
Tardy - slow; late; overdue; delayed
Tawdry - of little value; gaudy
Tedium - boredom
Temper - to moderate; soften
Tenacious - stubborn; resolute; holding firm to a purpose
Tentative- not certain
Tenuous - flimsy; not solid
Terse - concise; to the point
Therapeutic - medicinal; curative
Thwart - prevent; frustrate
Timorous - cowardly; fearful
Tirade - stream of verbal abuse
Titter - giggle quietly
Tome - large book
Torpid - inactive; lazy; stagnant
Torpor - dormancy; sluggishness; inactivity
Totter - walk unsteadily
Tractable - obedient; dutiful; polite
Tranquil - peaceful
Transcribe - copy

ATLAS

Transgress - go astray; disobey; commit a sin

Transient - short-lived; ephemeral

Traverse - to move across

Trepidation - fear

Trinket - something of little value; knick-knack

Trite - unoriginal; dull

Trivial - unimportant

Truant - shirker; someone absent without permission

Truncate - cut short

Tumult - uproar; noise

Turpitude - depravity

Tyro - novice; beginner

Ubiquitous - found everywhere; omnipresent

Unalloyed - undiluted; total

Unctuous - oily; using excessive flattery

Undermined- damaged; attacked

Underscore - emphasize

Unequivocal - clear; obvious

Unfetter - set free

Unfrock - to remove a priest from his position

Unprecedented - never having happened before

Unscathed - unharmed; intact; without a scratch

Unwitting - not deliberate; unconscious

Upbraid - scold; tell off; reprimand

Uproarious - hilarious; hysterical; very funny

Upshot - outcome

ATLAS

Urbane - sophisticated; suave

Usurp - take someone's position (usually by force)

Utilitarian - useful

Utopian - a believer in an ideal world

Vacillate - waver; hesitate

Vacuous - empty; silly; meaningless

Vagrant - person wandering without a home

Vapid - dull; uninspiring

Variegated - multicolored; speckled

Vehemence - violence; fervor; forcefulness

Vehement - forceful

Venal - corrupt; can be bribed

Veneer - surface coating

Venerate - revere; worship

Venial - minor; unimportant

Veracity - truthfulness

Verbose - talkative; long-winded; rambling

Verbosity - using too many words

Vertigo - dizziness

Vestigial - not developed

Vignette - small sketch

Vilification- blackening someone's name

Vindicate - prove right; remove blame

Virtuoso - an accomplished musician

Virulent - dangerous; harmful

Vital - essential; alive; important

ATLAS

Vitriolic - corrosive; strongly attacking

Vivacity - liveliness; animation

Vivify - enliven

Vociferous - noisy; loud in speech

Volatile - dangerously unstable; evaporates easily

Voluble - talkative

Voluminous - very large; spacious

Voracious - ravenous

Waive - surrender; give up

Wane - grow less

Wary - hesitant; cautious

Wax - to increase; to grow

Waylay - accost; stop; approach; hinder

Weighty - serious

Whelp - young dog

Whet - sharpen

Whimsical - capricious; changeable

Willful - stubborn

Wily - cunning

Wispy - flimsy; frail; delicate

Wistful - melancholy; pensive; expressing a longing for

Zany - crazy; wacky

Zeal - enthusiasm

Zealot - fanatic