

## DICTION WORDS

1. **pedantic** [*puh-dan-tik*] -overly concerned with minute details or formalisms, esp. in teaching; **ostentatious** (pretentious/intended to attract notice or attention of others) in one's learning
2. **euphemistic**-substituting a mild term for a harsher or distasteful one. "Upset Stomach" instead of puke, barf, up chuck
3. **pretentious**-characterized by assumption of dignity or importance; making an exaggerated outward show; **ostentatious**;
4. **sensuous**-Of, relating to, or derived from the senses; Appealing to or gratifying the senses
5. **exact-precise**; characterized by or using strict accuracy
6. **cultured-enlightened**; **refined**; the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc
7. **plain**-clear to the mind; evident, manifest, or **obvious**; without intricacies or difficulties; with little or no embellishment, decoration, or enhancing elaboration; **ordinary**
8. **literal**-in accordance with, involving, or being the primary or strict meaning of the word or words; not figurative or metaphorical: *the literal meaning of a word*
9. **colloquial**-characteristic of or appropriate to ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing; **informal**
10. **artificial**-lacking naturalness or spontaneity; forced; contrived; **feigned**; **synthetic**, **counterfeit**
11. **detached-impartial** or **objective**; **disinterested**; **unbiased**; not involved or concerned; **aloof**
12. **poetic**-possessing the qualities or charm of poetry: *poetic descriptions of nature*
13. **moralistic**-Characterized by or displaying a concern with morality; marked by narrow-minded morality
14. **slang**-very informal usage in vocabulary and idiom that is characteristically more metaphorical, playful, elliptical, vivid, and ephemeral than ordinary language, as *Hit the road*.
15. **idiomatic**-peculiar to or characteristic of a particular language or dialect: *idiomatic French*. having a distinct style or character, esp. in the arts: *idiomatic writing*; *an idiomatic composer*. containing or using many idioms (idiom=an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements, as *kick the bucket* or *hang one's head*, or from the general grammatical rules of a language; regional speech or dialect *eat crow*)
16. **esoteric**-understood by or meant for only the select few who have special knowledge or interest; **private**; **secret**; **confidential**; belonging to a select few

17. **symbolic**-characterized by or involving the use of symbols
18. **simple**-not grand or sophisticated; unpretentious; not complex or complicated;  
**natural, unembellished; ordinary**
19. **figurative**-of the nature of or involving a figure of speech, esp. a metaphor;  
metaphorical; not literal: *a figurative expression*
20. **bombastic**-of speech, writing, etc.) high-sounding; high-flown; **inflated**;  
**pretentious; pompous; grandiose**,
21. **abstruse**-hard to understand; recondite; esoteric; secret, hidden
22. **grotesque**-odd or unnatural in shape, appearance, or character; fantastically **ugly** or  
absurd; **bizarre, distorted**, deformed, weird
23. **vulgar**-characterized by ignorance of or lack of good breeding or taste; **indecent**;  
**obscene; lewd**
24. **scholarly**-concerned with academic learning; of, like, or befitting a scholar;  
**academic**
25. **insipid**-without distinctive, interesting, or stimulating qualities; vapid: *an insipid  
personality*. **bland**
26. **precise**-definitely or strictly stated, defined, or fixed, carefully distinct, **explicit**
27. **learned**-having much knowledge; **scholarly; erudite**;
28. **picturesque**-strikingly graphic or vivid; creating detailed mental images: *a  
picturesque description of the Brazilian jungle*; having pleasing or interesting  
qualities; strikingly effective in appearance
29. **homespun**-**plain; unpolished; unsophisticated; simple**; rustic: *homespun humor*
30. **provincial**-belonging or peculiar to some particular province; **local**; having or  
showing the manners, viewpoints, etc., considered characteristic of unsophisticated  
inhabitants of a province; rustic; narrow or illiberal; parochial: *a provincial point of  
view*.
31. **trite**-lacking in freshness or effectiveness because of constant use or excessive  
repetition; **hackneyed; stale**: *the trite phrases in his letter*; characterized by  
hackneyed expressions, ideas, etc.: *The commencement address was trite and  
endlessly long*; **ordinary; common; everyday**
32. **obscure**-not clear or plain; **ambiguous, vague**, or **uncertain**: *an obscure sentence  
in the contract*; not clear to the understanding; hard to perceive: *obscure  
motivations*; not expressing the meaning clearly or plainly
33. **archaic**-marked by the characteristics of an earlier period; primitive; **ancient; old**
34. **verbose**-characterized by the use of many or too many words; **wordy**: *a verbose  
report*
35. **abstract**-difficult to understand; abstruse; thought of apart from concrete realities,  
specific objects, or actual instances
36. **biting-cutting, sarcastic**
37. **brusque**-abrupt in manner; **blunt**

38. **cacophonous**-having a harsh or unpleasant sound; **dissonant, strident, grating, raucous**
39. **casual**-without definite or serious intention; careless or offhand; seeming or tending to be indifferent to what is happening; apathetic; unconcerned
40. **caustic**-severely critical or **sarcastic; biting, mordant, bitter, scathing,**
41. **concrete**-constituting an actual thing or instance; real; pertaining to or concerned with realities or actual instances rather than abstractions; **particular**
42. **colorful**-richly eventful or **picturesque**; presenting or suggesting vivid or striking scenes; **spirited**
43. **connotative**-having the power of implying or suggesting something in addition to what is explicit; The set of associations implied by a word in addition to its literal meaning; an idea or meaning suggested by a thing
44. **crisp**-**invigorating, fresh, brisk, bracing**
45. **curt**-rudely brief in speech or **abrupt** in manner; **short, brief, concise**
46. **denotative**-the primary or specific meaning of a word. Dictionary definition
47. **divisive**-creating **dissension** or **discord**; forming or expressing **division**
48. **emotional**-pertaining to or involving emotion or the emotions; appealing to the emotions; showing or revealing strong emotions, **temperamental, effusive, demonstrative, sentimental**
49. **euphonious**-**pleasant** in sound; agreeable to the ear; characterized by euphony
50. **fanciful**-characterized by or showing fancy; **capricious** or **whimsical** in appearance; suggested by fancy; **imaginary; unreal; visionary; illusory**
51. **flowery**-rhetorically ornate or precious; **showy; bombastic**
52. **formal**-of, reflecting, or noting a usage of language in which syntax, pronunciation, etc., adhere to traditional standards of correctness and usage is characterized by the absence of casual, contracted, and colloquial forms
53. **inflammatory**-tending to arouse anger, **hostility, passion; fiery; provocative**
54. **informal**-suitable to or characteristic of casual and familiar, but educated, speech or writing; unconventional
55. **insincere**-not sincere; not honest in the expression of actual feeling; **hypocritical; deceitful; disingenuous**
56. **jargon**-the language, esp. the vocabulary, peculiar to a particular trade, profession, or group
57. **loaded**-charged with emotional or associative significance that hinders rational or unprejudiced consideration of the terms involved in a discourse
58. **lyrical**-characterized by or expressing spontaneous, direct feeling; having the form and musical quality of a song, and esp. the character of a songlike outpouring of the poet's own thoughts and feelings
59. **melodious**-of the nature of or characterized by melody; tuneful; **sweet-sounding**

60. **monosyllabic**-having a vocabulary composed primarily of monosyllables or short, **simple words**.
61. **nostalgic**-a **wistful** desire to return in thought or in fact to a former time in one's life, to one's home or homeland, or to one's family and friends; a sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time
62. **offensive**-causing resentful displeasure; **highly irritating, angering, or annoying; insulting; displeasing, vexatious, vexing, unpleasant**
63. **ornate** –**ostentatious**, elaborately adorned, **showy**, embellished with rhetoric, **high-flown (extravagant in aims/pretentious)**
64. **passionate**- having, compelled by, or ruled by intense emotion or strong feeling; **fervid; zealous; ardent; enthusiastic; glowing; fiery**
65. **patriotic**- expressing or inspired by patriotism; love of one's country
66. **political**- of, pertaining to, or concerned with politics; government
67. **romantic**- of, pertaining to, or of the nature of romance; characteristic or suggestive of the world of romance; fanciful; impractical; unrealistic: *romantic ideas*; imbued with or dominated by **idealism**, a desire for adventure, chivalry; pertaining to, or characteristic of a style of literature and art that subordinates form to content, encourages freedom of treatment, emphasizes **imagination**, emotion, and introspection, and often **celebrates nature, the ordinary person, and freedom of the spirit**
68. **sentimental**- expressive of or appealing to sentiment, esp. the tender emotions and feelings, as love, pity, or nostalgia; weakly **emotional**; mawkishly susceptible or tender; **romantic, tender, nostalgic; maudlin, bathetic**
69. **shocking**- causing intense surprise, disgust, **horror; staggering, astounding, startling, appalling**
70. **sincere**- free of deceit, hypocrisy, or falseness; **earnest; genuine; real; pure; unmixed; unadulterated; frank, candid, honest, open, guileless; straightforward**
71. **subdued**- **quiet; inhibited; repressed; controlled**; lowered in intensity or strength; reduced in fullness of tone, as a color or voice; **muted**
72. **tame**- lacking in excitement; **dull; insipid; softened; meek; subdued**
73. **technical**- peculiar to or characteristic of a particular art, science, profession, trade; using terminology or treating subject matter in a manner peculiar to a particular field, as a writer or a book;
74. **unifying**- to make or become a single unit; unite; **combine, merge, fuse,**
75. **uppity**- affecting an attitude of **inflated self-esteem; haughty; snobbish; presumptuously arrogant**