

Word of the Day

Affray
(noun)

A fight, public quarrel or brawl

Example

Who struck the first blow in the affray on the pier with Thornton?

Breaking Away by Oliver Optic

Word of the Day

Amble
(verb)

to go at a slow, easy pace; stroll

Example

"Well, I reckon I'll amble, sheriff," he said as he opened the door.

Hopalong Cassidy's Rustler Round-Up by Clarence Edward Mulford

Word of the Day

Arable

(adjective)

capable of producing crops; suitable for farming

Example

The Reservation contains 2,800 acres of woodland and arable soil.

On a Donkey's Hurricane by Deck R. Pitcher Woodward

Word of the Day

Banal
(adjective)

devoid of freshness or originality

Example

“Incomprehensible is no better than banal – it’s just its flip-side.”

Satin Island by Tom McCarthy

Word of the Day

Chauvinist

(noun)

Aggressively or blindly patriotic/ or a person who believes one gender is superior to the other

Example

He was not a chauvinist, nor had he any sympathy with the intolerantly patriotic.

The Wild Olive Basil King

Word of the Day

Concede

(verb)

to acknowledge as true, just, or proper; admit

Example

If you want Bush to concede medium to minor errors, you will find that in this book.

A Democrat's Guide to Bush's Book by Bryan Curtis

Word of the Day

Coup
(noun)

a highly successful, unexpected stroke, act, or move; a clever action or accomplishment

Example

Let this man show himself, and the success of his coup was assured.

The Traitors E. Phillips (Edward Phillips) Oppenheim

Word of the Day

Demure
(adjective)

characterized by shyness and modesty;
reserved

Example

I don't know how we are to make a demure young lady of her.'

Echoes of the War J. M. Barrie

Word of the Day

Din
(noun)

a loud, confused noise

Example

The din and roar of life was to him what the voice of the sea is to the sailor.

The Slave Of The Lamp Henry Seton Merriman

Word of the Day

Frank
(adjective)

direct and unreserved in speech; straightforward;
sincere

Example

The old man was looking at her with frank and friendly apology for his intrusion.

The Spenders Harry Leon Wilson

Word of the Day

Hue
(noun)

a gradation or variety of a color; tint

Example

Its waters were mostly deep blue in color, although they had a changeable effect and constantly shifted from one hue to another.

Policeman Bluejay L. Frank Baum

Word of the Day

Iconic
(adjective)

relating to, or characteristic of an icon

Example

Nor will it ever feel natural to gaze upon Hogwarts, flanked by its iconic boars—and the palm trees that surround it—from afar.

My Sneak Peek at Harry Potter World by Melissa Anelli

Word of the Day

Insidious (adjective)

intended to entrap or beguile/ stealthily
treacherous or deceitful

Example

The strong man must at all times be alert to the attack of insidious disease.

United States Presidents' Inaugural Speeches

Word of the Day

Irksome

(adjective)

annoying; irritating; exasperating; tiresome

Example

But to keep his chin raised off the ground was irksome, and not much use either.

A Set of Six Joseph Conrad

Word of the Day

Jovial
(adjective)

joyous humor or a spirit of good-fellowship

Example

All his jovial manner and fulsome courtesy was gone

A Stable for Nightmares J. Sheridan Le Fanu

Word of the Day

Lame
(adjective)

crippled or physically disabled, especially in the foot or leg so as to limp or walk with difficulty

Example

It was not likely any one would want to marry a lame girl, and the others were too kind to make it a matter of embarrassment.

A Little Girl of Long Ago Amanda Millie Douglas

Word of the Day

Lament

(verb)

to feel or express sorrow or regret

Example

I did not lament him, for I knew his spirit was in the embrace of the loved ones who went before him.

Continental Monthly, Vol. I. February, 1862, No. II.

Word of the Day

Misdemeanour

(noun)

a criminal offence/ an instance of misbehaviour

Example

Malicious injury to other animals is a misdemeanour punishable on summary conviction.

Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition, Volume 17, Slice 4

Word of the Day

Misogynist

(noun)

a person who hates, dislikes, mistrusts, or mistreats women

Example

How often before and since the misogynist has asserted that women have no conscience.

Balzac Frederick Lawton

Word of the Day

Mutiny

(noun)

Rebellion against any authority

Example

The first stirrings of mutiny are heard—and Daphne tries to draw Walter into the plot.

Crisis On The Right
David Frum

Word of the Day

Narcissist

(noun)

A person who is overly self-involved and often vain and selfish

Example

For the narcissist, his or her internal world is more real than the external world.

Palin's Ego Trip

Michelle Goldberg

November 17, 2009

Word of the Day

Nuance

(noun)

A subtle difference or distinction in expression, meaning, response, etc.

Example

Of course I don't expect you, just at first, to feel the difference, to see the nuance.

The Reef
Edith Wharton

Word of the Day

Philanthropist

(noun)

A person who practices philanthropy (concern for human welfare)

Example

For the philanthropist, and for the Christian missionary, they constitute a wonderful field of activity.

The Nation Behind Prison Bars
George L. Herr

Word of the Day

Pincer

(noun)

A claw resembling such a tool, as of a lobster or scorpion

Example

The lobster moved slowly, opening and closing its pincers

Anon

Word of the Day

Rapt

(adjective)

Deeply engrossed or absorbed

Example

Every woman will read the story of my life with rapt attention because of the Secret.

The Bacillus of Beauty
Harriet Stark

Word of the Day

Senile

(adjective)

A decline or deterioration of physical strength or mental functioning, especially short-term memory and alertness, as a result of old age or disease.

Example

She resented this indignantly; felt that they regarded her as senile.

Gigolo
Edna Ferber

Word of the Day

Surrepous

(adjective)

obtained, done, made, etc., by stealth;
secret or unauthorized

Example

Was he about to witness the surreptitious departure of the unwelcome guest?

Anderson Crow, Detective
George Barr McCutcheon

Word of the Day

Tedious

(adjective)

marked by monotony or tedium; long and
r esome

Example

The hunt was tedious and the teamsters murmured at the delay to their camp work.

The Mountain Divide
Frank H. Spearman

Word of the Day

Tenacious

(adjective)

holding fast; characterised by keeping a firm hold

Example

She seldom showed any anger; but when she did it was tenacious, and slow to be appeased.

The Fat and the Thin
Emile Zola

Word of the Day

Traverse

(verb)

to pass or move over, along, or through

Example

Never had a walk seemed longer than the few blocks which he had to traverse to reach his home.

Damaged Goods
Upton Sinclair

Word of the Day

Vain

(adjective)

excessively proud of or concerned about
one's own appearance, qualities,
achievements, etc

Example

He was considered handsome by some and vain by others
Anon

Word of the Day

Vilified

(verb)

to speak ill of; defame; slander

Example

To strike or even to vilify the slaves of another was a very serious thing.

Appletons' Popular Science Monthly, Vol. 56, March 1900

Word of the Day

Wench

(noun)

a country lass or working girl

Example

And there was the wench too—he had fairly forgotten her name.

The Armourer's Prentice

Charlotte M. Yonge

Word of the Day

Wit`y
(adjective)

possessing wit in speech or writing; amusingly
clever in perception and expression

Example

Wild Thing By Josh Bazell A raucous, witty new novel from Josh Bazell.

This Week's Hot Reads: Feb. 15, 2012
Lizzie Crocker, Malcolm Jones

Word of the Day

Wrath

(noun)

strong, stern, or fierce anger

Example

Mrs. Latimer's sobs only roused his wrath at all the misery she had wrought.

A Man of Two Countries
Alice Harriman

Word of the Day

Xenophobia

(noun)

an unreasonable fear or hatred of foreigners
or strangers

Example

This is a path that treads a thin line, as history should remind us,
between economic nationalism and xenophobia.

The New Co-op Capitalism

Noreena Hertz

February 22, 2009

Word of the Day

Yomp
(verb)

to walk or trek laboriously, heavily laden and
over difficult terrain

Example

They were exhausted following the lengthy yomp across the
uneven fields.

Anon

Word of the Day

Zootomy

(noun)

the dissection of animals

Example

For further study of the nervous system see Parker's "zootomy," pp. 122-130.

Elementary Zoology, Second Edition
Vernon L. Kellogg