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Culinary

(adjective) having to do with cooking and preparing meals

- Our chef went to the Culinary Institute to hone his food preparation skills.
- Airline food is anything but a culinary delight.
- Martha was distressed about how awful the dinner she prepared was. She proclaimed her creation “a culinary disaster.”

Circumspect

(adjective) careful and cautious before acting

- Myra is too personally involved in the case to be circumspect about it.
- Be circumspect when choosing a college; don't get carried away by your emotions.
- Kevin contributes less to class discussions than most other students do, but his thoughtful comments reveal his circumspection.

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Ephemeral

(adjective) lasting a short time; fleeting

- Jodi's romances are usually ephemeral. She just skips from one boy to another.
- Dave has followed baseball steadily since he was nine, but his interest in other sports has been ephemeral.
- To a child, time goes by slowly, but to an old man, time is ephemeral.

Antediluvian

(adjective) extremely old; antiquated

- The shop contains antediluvian machines that ought to be replaced with up-to-date equipment.
- That joke about the chicken crossing the road is antediluvian. Can't you think of a more current one?
- You can buy that farmhouse for a song because it's antediluvian. It even uses gas instead of electricity for lighting.

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Clandestine

(adjective) hidden, secret, concealed

- During the party, Gia and Jason stole away into the woods for a clandestine rendezvous.
- It was important to keep the operation clandestine to protect our undercover agents.
- Hanssen revealed the FBI's clandestine plan to build a tunnel under the Russian embassy in Washington.

Artisan

(noun) a person who is skillful with his or her hands

- In Italy, my grandfather worked as an artisan, specifically a glassblower.
- A group of artisans was hired to build an intricate stone wall around the property.
- Every weekend artisans display and sell their crafts on the village green.

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Frivolous

(adjective) not having substance or a sense of importance or seriousness; silly; trivial; trifling

- Lenny sued the chef because there was a dead fly in his soup, but the judge threw out the complaint on grounds that it was frivolous.
- Forget about looking for a deep meaning in that novel; it's completely frivolous.
- Angela is one of the brightest students in her class, so her constant focus on frivolity distressed her serious teacher.

Acute

(adjective) keen-minded; sharp

- Because it supposedly improves mental acuity, fish is called brain food.
- Natalie's acute intellect contrasts with the lackluster minds of her classmates.
- For weeks Dee suffered from a dull ache in her tooth, but this morning the pain was much more acute.

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Aesthetic

(adjective) having to do with artistic beauty

- To build a house that hideous reveals a lack of aesthetic taste.
- Bertha gets her sense of aesthetics from her mother, who is a successful artist and designer.
- There is something aesthetically wrong with that painting. It pushes one away instead of drawing one in.

Ascetic

(noun) a person who refrains from indulging in earthly pleasures

- Tiffany lives like an ascetic. Her home is a simple one-room cabin in the woods.
- The ascetic gave away all his possessions and went to Central America, where he served in the Peace Corps.
- Why would one who claims to be an ascetic own five wristwatches and ten pairs of sunglasses?

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Imprudent

(adjective) careless; rash

- Quitting her after-school job in a moment of anger proved to be imprudent; as a result, Lindsay would not be able to save enough money to attend her first-choice college.
- Jogging at night without wearing reflective clothing reveals imprudence.
- You are acting imprudently if you wait until the last minute to register for classes because all the best classes fill up quickly.

Impudent

(adjective) rude; disrespectful

- Answering my father in an impudent manner guaranteed that I would lose car privileges for at least a week.
- The teacher decided that she had had enough of the class's impudence and gave them all detention.
- Because they acted impudently at the theater, the usher asked them to leave.

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Abridge

(verb) shorten

- This is the abridged version of *David Copperfield*, containing only 200 pages rather than the original 800 pages.
- Because the school day was shorter to accommodate parent conferences, the teacher had to abridge her lesson.
- In order to fit the film within the two-hour time slot, the director abridged it.

Hamper

(verb) to hinder; to prevent something from happening

- Regular interruptions hampered Roger's effort to finish his lab report.
- His knee injury hampered Jim's rigorous training.
- I could not hear what Manuela said because static hampered our phone conversation.

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Querulous

(adjective) whining; complaining

- The baby gets querulous when she's tired. Her crankiness means she needs a nap.
- Always responding querulously, Zeena made life miserable for Ethan.
- Every time the teacher gives homework the class becomes querulous. Only their indolence is worse than their complaining.

Audacious

(adjective) extremely bold and daring

- More audacious than wise, Marvin daringly told the assistant principal to mind his own business.
- Playing audaciously rather than safely passing the ball to the center, John scored the winning three-pointer at the buzzer.
- Juan struck me as a meek and timid fellow. That he is audacious enough to wrestle with alligators is amazing.

Inception

(noun) the beginning; the earliest stage

- As one of the founders of the society, Lani has been a member since its inception.
- Since the inception of the higher tolls, traffic has declined more than ten percent.
- The inception of new laws banning smoking in public places seems to have had no impact on the number of people who smoke.

Laconic

(adjective) using few words in speech

- Because Bush's laconic reply lacked specificity, it raised more questions than it answered.
- An oral final exam is not the appropriate time to respond laconically.
- Ms. Allen's laconic explanation of her culinary secrets consisted of a single word: paprika.

Colloquial

(adjective) pertaining to common everyday speech; conversational

- The book is filled with colloquial expressions that reflect the speech of people in the deep South.
- Two examples of colloquialisms are "Hey, dude, how's it goin'?" and "What's up?"
- Due to the evolution of the language, a colloquial word can become standard in English usage.

Braggart

(noun) one who boasts a great deal

- Leo is a braggart without the talent to support his boasts; he hardly touches the basketball as he spends most of the game on the bench.
- Anglo-Saxon culture values braggarts. Accordingly, the text of Beowulf is filled with long speeches in which warriors boast of their accomplishments.
- Although Tanya is proud of her vocal aptitude, she is never a braggart.