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APPREHENSIVE fearful
ARBITRARY determined by impulse or chance, without reason
ARCHAIC outdated; really old
ARDOR energy, intensity, enthusiasm
ARID dry
ARTICULATE characterized by clear and expressive language
ASCERTAIN to discover
ASPIRE to have a great ambition
ASSESS to make a judgment about
ASSIDUOUS hard working
ASTUTE having sharp judgment
ATROPHY to waste away
AUDACITY disrespectful boldness
AUGMENT to make greater in size or quantity
AUSPICIOUS favorable; successful
AUSTERE strict or severe in discipline
AUTONOMY independence
AVERSIVE resistant
AWE a mixed emotion of respect, wonder, and dread
BANAL ordinary and commonplace
BANE a cause of death or ruin
BELIE to represent falsely
BELITTLE to speak of in an insulting way
BELLIGERENT eager to fight
BEMUSE to confuse, stun, or stump
BENEVOLENT inclined to perform kind acts
BENIGN kind; beneficial
BERATE to criticize severely or angrily
BOISTEROUS noisy; disorderly
BOLSTER to support; to reinforce
BOMBASTIC using arrogant or pretentious speech
BRAZEN rudely bold
BRUSQUE rudely brief
BUOYANT cheerful
BURGEON to grow
BUTTRESS to support or strengthen
CACOPHONY jarring, disagreeable sound
CAJOLE to persuade by flattery
CALLOUS emotionally hardened or unfeeling
CAMARADERIE goodwill among friends

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CONSTRUE to interpret
CONTEMPT a lack of respect and intense dislike
CONTEND to compete; to argue
CONTRITE feeling or expressing remorse
CONTRIVED obviously planned or made up
CONVIVIAL sociable
CONVOLUTED complicated
COPIOUS plentiful, abundant
CORDIAL friendly, warm, polite
CORROBORATE to strengthen or support with evidence
CREDIBLE believable
CUNNING clever, sneaky
CURSORY performed with haste and little attention to detail
CURTAIL to cut short
CYNICAL believing that people are motivated by selfishness; pessimistic
DAUNT to intimidate or lessen one's courage
DEARTH a scarce supply
DEBILITATE to weaken
DEBUNK to disprove or expose the falseness of
DECORUM correct or appropriate behavior
DECRY to condemn openly
DEFER to submit or yield to another's wish or opinion
DELETERIOUS harmful
DELINEATE to depict or describe
DEMEAN to lower in status or worth
DENIGRATE to attack the reputation of
DENOUNCE to condemn openly
DEPRECATE to mildly insult or belittle
DERIDE to speak of or treat with cruelty
DESPAIR a complete loss of hope
DESPONDENT depressed, having no hope
DETER to prevent or discourage from acting
DIFFIDENCE a lack of self-confidence, shyness
DIGRESS to stray from the main subject
DILATORY tending to delay; late or slow
DILIGENT hard working
DIMINUTIVE tiny
DISCERN to detect or perceive
DISCORD lack of agreement, quarreling
DISCREDIT to bring shame or dishonor on
DISCREET careful in one's conduct or speech
DISCREPANCY an unexpected difference
DISCRETE separate; distinct
DISDAIN intense dislike
DISGRUNTLED unhappy
DISMISS to reject
DISPARAGE to speak of in an insulting way
DISPARITY the state of being different
DISPASSIONATE not influenced by emotion or bias
DISPEL to rid of
DISPOSITION one’s usual mood
DISSEMBLE to conceal behind a false appearance
DISSEminate to spread out
DISSENT disagreement
DISSIPATE to disappear
DIVERGENT drawing apart from a common point; differing from another
DIVISCIVE creating disagreement or dissent
DIVULGE to make known, reveal
DOCILE easily managed or taught
DOGGED stubbornly persevering
DOGmatic stubbornly and arrogantly opinionated
DOUR gloomy
DUBIOUS doubtful, questionable
DUPLICITY deception, deceit
EARNEST showing deep sincerity or seriousness
EBULLIENT enthusiastic, lively
ECCENTRIC strange; unconventional
ECLECTIC having elements from a variety of sources
ECSTASY intense joy or delight
EFFACE to erase
EFFICACIOUS effective
EFFUSIVE overflowing (usually referring to emotions)
ELATED filled with delight
ELITE superior in status
ELOQUENT well spoken
ELUCIDATE to make clear
ELUSIVE tending to escape
EMBELLISH to add fictitious details to
EMINENT outstanding; distinguished
EMPIRICAL based on observation or experiment
EMULATE to equal through imitation
ENCOMPASS to enclose; to include
ENCROACH to advance beyond limits
ENERVATE to weaken or drain of energy
ENHANCE to make greater or better
ENIGMATIC puzzling
ENMITY hatred
ENTHRALL to hold spellbound, captivate
ENTICE to lure
ENTRENCH to fix firmly or securely
ENUMERATE to specify individually; to count
ENUNCIATE to pronounce with clarity
EPHEMERAL lasting for a brief time
EQUANIMITY calmness
EQUIVOCAL uncertain, vague, misleading
ERADICATE to eliminate
ERRATIC irregular
ERUDITE scholarly, well educated
ESOTERIC understood by only a few
ESPOUSE to give one's support to
ESTEEM to value highly, to respect
ESTRANGE to cause to become unfriendly or hostile
EULOGY a written or spoken tribute (usually for someone who has died)
EUPHEMISM the substitution of inoffensive term for one considered offensive
EUPHORIA a feeling of great happiness
EVANESCENT fading away
EVASIVE tending to escape
EVOKE to summon or call forth
EXACERBATE to make more severe
EXACTING requiring great care or effort
EXALT to elevate, glorify, or praise
EXASPERATE to anger or irritate
EXEMPLARY worthy of imitation
EXONERATE to free from blame or responsibility
EXORBITANT excessive
EXPEDITE to speed the progress of
EXPLOIT to utilize fully or advantageously (often selfishly or unethically)
EXTOL to praise
EXTRAVAGANT excessive
EXUBERANT lively
FACILE simple; easy
FACILITATE to make easier
FATUOUS foolish, ridiculously stupid
FEASIBLE possible, workable, practical
FELICITY great happiness
FERVENT greatly emotional or enthusiastic
FLAGRANT obviously bad or offensive
FLAMBOYANT highly elaborate; showy
FLORID elaborately or excessively ornamented; flowery
FLOURISH to grow well
FORTHRIGHT honest, direct, straightforward
FOSTER to promote the development of
FRENETIC wildly excited; frenzied; frantic
FRIVOLOUS unworthy of serious attention
FRUGAL careful with money, stingy
FUTILE having no useful result
GALVANIZE to stimulate
GARISH flashy, tastelessly loud and brightly colored
GARRULOUS talkative
GENIAL friendly, cheerful
GRANDIOSE falsely exaggerating one’s worth
GRATE to irritate
GRATUITOUS unnecessary
GREGARIOUS sociable
GUILE skillful deceit
HACKNEYED overused
HAIL to salute or greet
HAMPER to prevent the movement or action of
HARANGUE a long, angry speech
HAUGHTY snobbish; overly proud
HEED to pay close attention to
HERETICAL characterized by departure from accepted beliefs or standards
HINDER to be or get in the way of
HOMOGENEOUS all of the same or similar kind
IDIOSYNCRATIC peculiar to an individual
ILLICIT not permitted by custom or law
ILLUSORY based on or producing illusion; deceptive
IMPARTIAL not biased
IMPASSIONED filled with passion
IMPASSIVE having or showing little emotion
IMPECCABLE perfect
IMPEDE to be or get in the way of
IMPERIOUS arrogantly authoritative or overbearing
IMPETUOUS impulsive, unthinking
IMPUGN to attack as false or wrong, to challenge or question
INACCESSIBLE not easily approached, entered, or obtained
INCISIVE penetrating, clear and sharp
INCONGRUOUS inappropriate; inconsistent
INCONSEQUENTIAL lacking importance
INCONTROVERTIBLE impossible to dispute
INCORRIGIBLE incapable of being corrected or reformed
INCREDOUS disbelieving
INDICT to accuse of wrongdoing
INDIFFERENT having no preference
INDIGENOUS native
INDIGNATION anger (over something unjust)
INDUCE to bring about the occurrence of;
INDULGE to please or satisfy
INFLAMMATORY arousing strong emotion, esp. anger
INGENUOUS innocent; honest and straightforward
INHERENT naturally occurring; essential
INHIBIT to hold back; to restrain
INNATE inborn
INNOCUOUS harmless
INNOVATIVE new and creative
INQUIRING showing curiosity
INSINUATE to suggest subtly; to hint
INSIPID lacking flavor or zest; dull
INSOLENT disrespectfully arrogant
INSTIGATE to stir up
INSULAR isolated; narrow-minded
INTELLIGIBLE capable of being understood
INTRANSIGENT uncompromising
INUNDATE to overwhelm with, to flood
INVIGORATE to give life or energy to
INVOKE to enforce or put into operation
IRATE enraged
JADED weary, worn out
JUDICIOUS having good judgment, prudent
JUXTAPOSE to place side by side
KEEN sharp, perceptive
LACONIC using few words (often rudely or mysteriously)
LAMENT to regret; to show grief for
LANGUID lacking energy or spirit
LATENT existing in hidden or dormant form
LAUD to praise
LAVISH excessive; plentiful
LUCID clear
LUXURIOUS rich and superior in quality
MAGNANIMOUS noble and generous in spirit
MANDATE an authoritative command
MANIFEST to make evident or certain by displaying or demonstrating
MEAGER small, inadequate, or insufficient
MEDIocre ordinary; so-so
MELANCHOLY sad; gloomy
MERCENARY motivated solely by a desire for monetary or material gain
MERCURIAL changeable, erratic
METICULOUS extremely careful
MIRTH gladness, amusement, laughter
MITIGATE to lessen in force or intensity
MOLLIFY to soften, to ease the anger of
MOROSE gloomy
MUNDANE ordinary, commonplace
MUTABLE subject to change
NEBULOUS hazy, vague, or confused; lacking defined form
NEGLIGENT guilty of neglect
NEGLIGIBLE insignificant; really small
NONCHALANT casually unconcerned (sometimes falsely)
NOSTALGIA a bittersweet longing for the past
NOTORIOUS known widely and unfavorably; famous for something bad
NOVEL strikingly new or different
NURTURE to help develop, to nourish
OBDURATE stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing
OBLIVIOUS forgetful; unaware
OBSCURE no longer in use or current
OBSTINATE stubborn
OBSTREPEROUS noisily and stubbornly defiant
OBTRUSIVE sticking out, noticeable; brash, meddling
OBTUSE lacking intellect
OFFICIAL overly eager in offering unwanted help
OMINOUS menacing; threatening
OPAQUE not clearly understood, dense
OPPORTUNE suitable, occurring at an appropriate time
OPULENT rich or superior in quality
ORNATE excessively decorated
ORTHODOX commonly accepted; traditional
PARADOX a seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true
PARTISAN devoted to or biased in support of a group
PATRONIZE to treat condescendingly
PENITENT feeling or expressing remorse
PERNICIOUS deadly or destructive
PERPETUAL continuing forever or indefinitely
PERSEVERE to be persistent, refuse to stop
PERSPICACITY a high level of perception or understanding
PERTINENT exactly relevant
PERVASIVE spread throughout
PLACID calm, quiet
PLAUSIBLE believable
PLIABLE easily bent or shaped
POIGNANT touching
POLARIZE to set at opposite ends or extremes
POMPOUS exaggeratedly self-important
PRAGMATIC practical
PRECARIOUS dangerously unstable or insecure
PRECIPITOUS extremely steep
PREDILECTION a preference; a tendency toward favoring
PRETENTIOUS claiming unjust standing
PREVALENT widely occurring
PRISTINE unspoiled, completely pure
PRODIGIOUS enormous; extraordinary
PROFOUND deep; far-reaching
PROLIFERATE to increase or spread at a rapid rate
PROLIFIC producing abundant works or results
PROPAGATE to transmit or cause to broaden or spread
PROPENSITY tendency
PROPRIETY the quality of being proper
PROSAIC lacking in imagination; dull
PROSPERITY success; being well-off
PROVINCIAL narrow-minded
PROVOCATIVE tending to stir to anger or action
PRUDENT wise; careful
PUGNACIOUS eager to fight
QUELL to put down forcibly
RANCOR hostility
RAVENOUS violently hungry or greedy
REBUKE to criticize or find fault with
RECIPROCATE to show or give in return

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RECLUSIVE seeking or preferring isolation
RECONCILE to reestablish a close relationship between
REFUGE protection or shelter
REFUTE to prove to be false
REITERATE to repeat
RELINQUISH to give up; to release
REMINISCE to recollect and tell of the past
REJECT to reject, disown, or formally give up
REPREHENSIBLE deserving of criticism or disapproval
REPROACH to criticize or express disappointment
REPUTATE to reject the validity of
RESENT to feel angry and bitter about
RESIGNATION acceptance of something as inescapable; submission
RESILIENT able to recover promptly
RESOLUTE firm or determined
RESOLVE to make a firm decision about
RETICENT restrained or reserved
REVERE to respect, honor or admire
REVOKE to void by recalling, reversing, or withdrawing
RUDIMENTARY being or involving basic facts or principles
SAGACIOUS insightful and wise
SANCTION to give official authorization or approval to
SANGUINE cheerful
SCATHING harshly critical
SCOFF to express or treat with disrespectful disregard
SCORN intense hatred or disrespect
SCRUPULOUS thorough and careful
SCRUTINIZE to examine carefully
SERENE calm
SHREWD smart in a sneaky or tricky manner
SKEPTICAL doubting, questioning, not believing
SMUG self-satisfied (especially in a mocking way)
SOLEMN serious and sober
SOLICITOUS anxious or concerned
SOMBER gloomy
SPECIOUS seemingly true but actually logically false
SPORADIC occurring at irregular intervals
SPURIOUS not genuine; false
SPURN to reject with disrespect
SQUANDER to waste
STAGNANT not moving, flowing, or developing

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STEADFAST firm and dependable  
STOIC seemingly unaffected by pleasure or pain  
SUBDUED to bring under control  
SUBSTANTIATE to support with proof  
SUBVERT to ruin; to overthrow  
SUCCINCT precise expression using few words  
SUPERFLUOUS extra, unnecessary  
SUPPLANT to take the place of  
SUPPRESS to put down; to hold back  
SURREPTITIOUS done or made by secret or stealthy means  
TACT sensitivity in dealing with others  
TEDIOUS tiresomely long or boring  
TEMPER to soften or moderate  
TENACITY persistence, determination  
TERSE expressing much in few words  
THERAPEUTIC having healing powers  
THWART to stop or prevent  
TORPOR inactivity  
TRACTABLE easily managed, led, or taught  
TRANQUIL calm  
TRANSIENT existing only briefly  
TRANSITORY existing only briefly  
TREACHERY deliberate betrayal of trust  
TRITE uninteresting because of overuse  
TRIVIAL insignificant, unimportant  
TUMULTUOUS disorderly or noisy  
UNASSUMING not showy or arrogant; modest; plain  
UNDERMINE to weaken  
UNDERSCORE to emphasize  
UNIFORM always the same  
URBANE polite, suave, and cultivated in manner  
USURP to seize and take control without authority and possibly with force  
UTILITARIAN having only a useful function; practical  
VACILLATE to be undecided, to hesitate  
VAPID lacking liveliness or interest; dull  
VEILED concealed or disguised  
VENERATE to respect  
VERBOSE using more words than necessary  
VERSATILE capable of doing many things competently  
VICARIOUS felt or undergone as if one were taking part in the experience or feelings of another  
VIGILANT alert; watchful
VILIFY to say bad things about, to make into a villain
VINDICATE to clear of blame or suspicion
VINDICTIVE seeking revenge
VIVACIOUS lively
VOLATILE explosive, tending to change
VOLUBLE characterized by ready and rapid speech
VOLUMINOUS big; having large volume
VULNERABLE not protected against harm; easily injured
WARRANT to justify
WARY on guard, cautious, watchful
WAVER to be unsure or weak
WHIMSICAL impulsive, fanciful
ZEALOUS filled with or motivated by enthusiastic devotion