



## Word List

Study the definitions of the words. Then do the exercises that follow.

**audacious**  
ô dā' shəs*adj.* 1. Willing to take risks; daring.Their **audacious** escape plan involved a helicopter landing in the prison yard.

2. Showing disrespect or a lack of courtesy.

Judge Miller admonished the defense lawyer for her **audacious** remarks to the expert witness.**audacity** *n.* (ô das' ə tē) Willingness to take risks by showing excessive boldness.Oliver Twist was the only boy with the **audacity** to ask for more food.**confiscate**  
kən' fi skāt*v.* To seize, by force if necessary; to take possession of.The Miami police **confiscated** the stolen paintings they found stored in a closet of the mansion.**conscientious**  
kən shē en' shəs*adj.* 1. Thorough; careful.Because of our **conscientious** preparations, the science fair was enjoyable and informative for everyone.

2. Honest; principled.

Several of the students made a **conscientious** effort to combat hunger by working with the food bank.**depict**  
dē pikt'*v.* To give a picture of; to describe.Patrick O'Brian's seafaring novels **depict** life aboard a navy sailing ship with great accuracy.**embark**  
em bärk'*v.* 1. To go on board a ship or airplane at the start of a voyage.Around nine o'clock, we **embarked** at Woods Hole for a day of whale watching.

2. To start out; to begin.

Larry Bird **embarked** on his professional basketball career after finishing college.**inkling**  
in'k' lin*n.* A slight suspicion; a vague idea.As she opened the door, Shala had no **inkling** that her friends were hidden in the darkened room, waiting to shout "Surprise!"**lackadaisical**  
lak ə dā' zi kəl*adj.* Showing little spirit or enthusiasm.When the students came after school to work on their reports, the librarian was quite **lackadaisical** about enforcing the no-talking rule.

**mutiny**  
myōōt' n ē

*n.* Deliberate refusal to obey orders given by those in command, especially by sailors.  
The 1917 **mutiny** by French soldiers could have caused France to lose the war.  
*v.* To rebel openly against a commander.  
Captain Vere feared the sailors would **mutiny** if he didn't discipline Billy Budd.

**pilfer**  
pil' fər

*v.* To steal repeatedly small amounts or things that are of little value.  
Pip **pilfered** bread and other bits of food from his sister's kitchen to feed the man in hiding.

**profusion**  
prō fyōō' zhən

*n.* A plentiful supply; a great or generous amount.  
Daffodils grew in **profusion** along the river bank.

**profuse** *adj.* Given or occurring in generous amounts; abundant.  
Jerry's **profuse** apologies convinced me he was sorry he had hurt my feelings.

**prudent**  
prōōd' nt

*adj.* Very careful; showing judgment and wisdom.  
Lost in the forest, Amy argued it was more **prudent** to wait until morning to find the trail than to continue wandering in the dark.

**prudence** *n.* The avoidance of risk; carefulness in what one says or does.  
Although the knight was shaking with anger, he exercised **prudence**, saying nothing to the king who had insulted him.

**rankle**  
raŋ' kəl

*v.* To cause continuing anger or irritation.  
The unfair criticism still **rankled** Deena, even though her friend later apologized.

**rebuke**  
rē byōōk'

*v.* To criticize strongly; to reprimand.  
Mrs. Meyer **rebuked** Ben for his insulting remark in class.  
*n.* A sharp criticism.  
My employer's **rebuke** seemed to include every mistake I had made since beginning the job.

**serene**  
sə rēn'

*adj.* Calm and untroubled; peaceful.  
The nurse's **serene** manner comforted the patients.  
**serenity** *n.* (sə ren' ə tē) A calm and untroubled state.  
One way to achieve **serenity** is to practice yoga.

**slovenly**  
slāv' ən lē

*adj.* Untidy; carelessly done.  
Because of the carpenter's **slovenly** measuring, the floor was one inch higher at the back of the room than at the front.