

abaft

adv. on; toward the rear of a ship

The passengers moved abaft of the ship so as to escape the fire in the front of the ship.

baleful

adj. harmful; malign; sinister; malicious

After she was fired, she realized it was a baleful move to point the blame at her superior. The strange liquid could be baleful if ingested.

cabal

n. group of people joined by a secret; group of conspirators

The very idea that there could be a cabal cast suspicion on the whole operation.

dais

n. raised platform at one end of a room; stage

The dais was lowered to make the speaker look taller.

earthy

adj. unrefined; made of earth

The earthy-looking table was bare.

facetious

adj. joking in an awkward or improper manner;
entertaining amusing

His facetious sarcasm was inappropriate during his first staff meeting.

gaffe

n. blunder; mistake

Calling the woman by the wrong name was a huge gaffe.

hackneyed

adj. commonplace; trite; banal; unoriginal

Just when you thought neckties were becoming a hackneyed gift item, along comes the Grateful Dead collection. Have a nice day has become something of a hackneyed expression.

impeccable

adj. pure; perfect; faultless

If you really want to become a journalist, your English has to be simply impeccable.

jaded

adj. worn-out; fatigued; tired

A person may become jaded if forced to work too many hours.

ken

v. to recognize; to perceive; to grasp; to comprehend

It was difficult to ken exactly what she had in mind.

labyrinth

n. maze; complicated network of passages; something confusing or bewildering

Be careful not to get lost in the labyrinth of vegetation.

macerate

v. to soften by steeping in liquid; to disintegrate

It was necessary to macerate the food before the elderly man could eat it. They placed her foot in the solvent to macerate the cement she had stepped in.

narcissistic

adj. egotistical; self-centered; excessive interest in ones appearance, comfort, abilities, etc.

The narcissistic actor was difficult to get along with.

oaf

n. clumsy or dumb person; simpleton

The waiter has been called an oaf ever since he dropped the tray.

paean

n. song of praise or triumph

A paean was written in honor of the victorious warrior.

quaff

v. to drink quickly

A dog will quaff if he becomes overheated.

rabid

adj. infected with rabies; extreme fanatical

The insult made him rabid. Discovering that the dog was rabid, the mail carrier knew he'd have to get a shot.

saga

n. legend; long story of adventure or heroic deed

The saga of King Arthur and his court has been told for generations.

table

n. systematic list of details; chart

The train schedule was set up as a table.

ubiquitous

adj. omnipresent; present everywhere

A ubiquitous spirit followed the man wherever he went.

Water may seem ubiquitous, until a drought comes along.

waft

v. to move gently by wind; to breeze; to carry in the air

The smoke wafted out of the chimney.

xenophobia

n. fear of foreigners or strangers

Xenophobia kept the townspeople from encouraging any immigrants to move into the neighborhood.

yoke

n. harness; collar; bond; connection

The jockey led her horse by the yoke around its neck and face.

zealot

n. believer; enthusiast; fan; radical

Stockman was obviously a key figure; a supply-side zealot with an impressive grasp of the complexities of the budgetary process, he dazzled both colleagues and adversaries. To judge from what little evidence survives, there seems to have been a strong dynastic element involved in Zealot leadership.
