

abhorrence

n. horror; disgust

It was strange, but the thought of her sister marrying one of those terrible Feltons no longer filled her with abhorrence; far better that than bring a child into the world that wasn't wanted and whom her mother had already thrown off for adoption.

Forms: no plural

boisterous

adj. rambunctious; energetic

The Wilkins didn't want the next door neighbor's son over because he was too boisterous for their taste. Part of his spare time was taken up with the marching band of the university, but much of it was given to boisterous evenings drinking and singing with his companion -- always with a view to winning the girls' eyes and hearts.

Forms: more boisterous; most boisterous; less boisterous; least boisterous

civic

adj. municipal; pertaining to citizens or township

The man asked if the trial was going to be civic or corporate. Civic leaders from all parts of North Yorkshire including the High Sheriff, Sir Richard Storey, will be attending the county council's civic service at Melsonby, near Richmond, tomorrow.

Forms: more civic; most civic; less civic; least civic

detain

v. to delay temporarily

The police may detain a person before that person's trial.

Forms: detained; detaining; detains

effect

v. to bring about; to cause; to influence someone or something

He was not sure what the effect of his actions would be.

Forms: effected; effecting; effects

fallible

adj. likely to error; describing the chance of making a mistake

His fallible nature is not what the police department is looking for.

Forms: more fallible; most fallible; less fallible; least fallible

grim

adj. sternly forbidding (e.g. future)

It looked grim for the outnumbered soldiers.

Forms: grimmer; grimmest; less grim; least grim

hale

adj. healthy

She looked quite hale despite her eighty years of age.

Forms: haler; halest; less hale; least hale

impromptu

adj. without any preparation (e.g. remarks); unrehearsed

He gave a nice impromptu speech at his buddy's wedding. No after action reports seem to have been filed for any of these early raids, which is not surprising considering the impromptu nature of their planning and execution.

Forms: more impromptu; most impromptu; less impromptu; least impromptu

jubilant

adj. joyous; ecstatic

He was jubilant when he got a Christmas bonus from work.

Forms: more jubilant; most jubilant; less jubilant; least jubilant

livid

adj. discolored by a bruise; extremely angry (e.g. flesh)

He had a livid scar on his forehead that could be seen from a good distance away.

Forms: more livid; most livid; less livid; least livid

malicious

adj. with harmful intent; spiteful

He was malicious during the divorce proceedings. Laws used to specify offences such as loitering with intent or malicious wounding, so that it was up to the prosecutor to prove the evil character of an act that might be more or less culpable. The men, who are claiming damages for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution, were arrested in the early hours of the morning by officers of the Operational Support Division.

Forms: malicious; more malicious; most malicious; less malicious; least malicious

nominal

adj. describing a small amount paid for a greater service or value

For a nominal charge, chocolate sauce is available with the ice cream. Over the past decade productivity in Singapore has risen fast, but not nearly as fast as nominal wages.

Forms: nominal; more nominal; most nominal; less nominal; least nominal

outright

adj. thorough; complete

He was always outright with his information.

Forms: outright; more outright; most outright; less outright; least outright

picayune

adj. not important; petty

The picayune complaint did little to enhance his popularity at the firm.

Forms: picayune; more picayune; most picayune; less picayune; least picayune

spry

adj. moving easily; nimble

He was amazingly spry for an eighty-year-old man.

Forms: spry; more spry; most spry; less spry; least spry
