

Word of the
week
5th Sept

Aberration

Word type

noun

Definition

A departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically an unwelcome one.

In a
sentence

They described the outbreak of violence in the area as an aberration.

Shelley's angry retort was an aberration from her normally quiet demeanor.

synonyms

oddity
peculiarity

antonyms

normality
sameness

Word of the
week
12th Sept

Callow

Word type

adjective

Definition

Inexperienced or immature

In a
sentence

The callow youth was annoying the crowd with his careless comments.

At the age of 50, Mr. T should know better than to make such callow remarks.

synonyms

inexperienced
naive

antonyms

sophisticated
mature

Word of the
week
19th Sept

Abhor

Word type

verb

Definition

To detest utterly (to really hate)

In a
sentence

It was clear that Harry abhorred Malfoy.

synonyms

loathe
despise

antonyms

admire
love

Word of the
week
26th Sept

Acquiesce

Word type

verb

Definition

To accept something reluctantly but without protest.

In a
sentence

I acquiesced to his order immediately; I was keen for him to admire my good behaviour.

synonyms

conform
accept

antonyms

deny
refuse

Word of the
week
3rd Oct

Avaricious

Word type

adjective

Definition

Extreme greed for riches

In a
sentence

Scrooge is one of Dickens' most avaricious characters.

Some say Simon Cowell's involvement in Britain's Got Talent is driven purely by his avaricious nature.

synonyms

greedy
covetous

antonyms

generous

Word of the
week
10th Oct

Brazen

Word type

adjective

Definition

To be shameless and bold in the way you behave.

In a
sentence

Miley Cyrus' latest, and rather brazen, dance routine raised a few eyebrows.

Curley's Wife's brazen behaviour caused tension on the ranch.

synonyms

bold
blatant

antonyms

modest
meek

Word of the
week
17th Oct

Ambiguous

Word type

adjective

Definition

Open to more than one interpretation.

In a
sentence

Her account was deliberately ambiguous.

synonyms

Unclear
Confusing

antonyms

Clear

Word of the
week
31st Oct

Anecdote

Word type

noun

Definition

A short account of an incident or event of an interesting or amusing nature, often biographical.

In a
sentence

The anecdote supported her view point that mobile phones should be banned.

synonyms

Story
Narrative

antonyms

Memoir

Word of the
week
9th January

Paradox

Word type

noun

Definition

A statement that seems to contradict itself but may nonetheless be true.

In a
sentence

There were many paradoxes in the science text book.

synonyms

Irony
Absurdity

antonyms

Normality

Word of the
week
7th Nov

Hyperbole

Word type

noun

Definition

A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect.

In a
sentence

Hyperbole is the opposite of understatement.

synonyms

Exaggeration
Embellishment

antonyms

Understatement

Word of the
week
14th Nov

Perception

Word type

noun

Definition

Becoming aware of something through the senses.

In a
sentence

Hollywood's perception of what women should look like is damaging to young people.

synonyms

Insight
Awareness

antonyms

Ignorance
misconception

Word of the
week
21st Nov

Embedded

Word type

verb

Definition

To fix firmly in a solid mass.

In a
sentence

The quotation should be embedded
within the paragraph.

synonyms

Entrenched
Fixed

antonyms

Detach
Disconnect

Word of the
week
28th Nov

Uncouth

Word type

adjective

Definition

To be crude; unrefined.

In a
sentence

The lady could be considered uncouth due to her lack of manners.

synonyms

Coarse
Vulgar

antonyms

Couth
Sophisticated

Word of the
week
5th Dec

Tedious

Word type

adjective

Definition

Tiresome by reason of length, slowness, or dullness; boring.

In a
sentence

The lecture was tedious.

synonyms

Dreary
Dull

antonyms

Interesting
Eventful

Word of the
week
12th Dec

Resemble

Word type

verb

Definition

To exhibit similarity or likeness to.

In a
sentence

The child resembled his mother in looks and manner.

synonyms

Similar to
Look like

antonyms

Contrast to
Differ

Word of the
week
19th Dec

Implied

Word type

adjective

Definition

To make evident/suggest indirectly.

In a
sentence

She was aware of his implied criticism.

synonyms

Suggested
Inferred

antonyms

Explicit
Direct

Word of the
week
16th Jan

Connotation

Word type

noun

Definition

An idea or meaning suggested by or associated with a word or thing.

In a
sentence

A possible connotation of the word
home is a place of warmth and love.

synonyms

Suggestion
Subtext

antonyms

Denotation

Word of the
week
23rd Jan

Procrastinate

Word type

verb

Definition

To put off doing something, especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness.

In a
sentence

His first tip was to avoid procrastination.

synonyms

Delay
Postpone

antonyms

Proactive

Word of the
week
30th Jan

Concise

Word type

adjective

Definition

Expressing much in a few words.

In a
sentence

His explanation was clear and concise.

synonyms

Brief
Succinct

antonyms

Long-winded

Word of the
week
6th Feb

Jeopardise

Word type

verb

Definition

To pose a threat to; present a danger to.

In a
sentence

Their lack of revision jeopardised his chances of achievement.

synonyms

Risk
Threaten

antonyms

Safeguard

Word of the
week
20th Feb

Futile

Word type

adjective

Definition

Having no useful result; ineffectual.

In a
sentence

His argument was futile.

synonyms

Useless
Pointless

antonyms

Useful

Word of the
week
27th Feb

Initiate

Word type

verb

Definition

To begin or originate.

In a
sentence

She initiated conversation to make the new student feel comfortable.

synonyms

Start
Recruit

antonyms

Finish
Expel

Word of the
week
6th March

Tenacious

Word type

adjective

Definition

Extremely persistent in adhering to or doing something; stubborn or relentless.

In a
sentence

The student was tenacious and was not going to take no for an answer.

synonyms

Stubborn
Persistent

antonyms

Irresolute

Word of the
week
13th March

Magnanimous

Word type

adjective

Definition

Highly moral, especially in showing kindness or forgiveness, as in overlooking insults or not seeking revenge.

In a
sentence

She should have been magnanimous in victory.

synonyms

Worthy
Upright

antonyms

Petty

Word of the
week
20th March

Insipid

Word type

adjective

Definition

Lacking qualities that excite, stimulate, or interest; dull.

In a
sentence

The artist had produced a piece of insipid work that did not engage the students.

synonyms

Dull
Uninteresting

antonyms

Exciting

Word of the
week
27th March

Distraught

Word type

adjective

Definition

Deeply agitated, as from worry or grief.

In a
sentence

The children were distraught when they discovered why Jesus was crucified.

synonyms

Distressed
Hysterical

antonyms

Calm

Word of the
week
17th April

Poignant

Word type

adjective

Definition

Arousing deep emotion, especially pity or sorrow.

In a
sentence

Looking through the photograph album was a poignant reminder of the passing of time.

synonyms

Emotional
Heartbreaking

antonyms

Unemotional

Word of the
week
24th April

Disingenuous

Word type

adjective

Definition

Not straightforward.
Pretending to be unaware.

In a
sentence

The journalist was being disingenuous.

synonyms

Untruthful
Misleading

antonyms

Honest
Straightforward

Word of the
week
1st May

Oblivious

Word type

adjective

Definition

Lacking conscious awareness; unmindful.

In a
sentence

The child was oblivious to the consequences of not revising thoroughly.

synonyms

Unaware
Ignorant

antonyms

Conscious

Word of the
week
8th May

Demeanour

Word type

noun

Definition

The way in which a person behaves.

In a
sentence

His happy demeanour was a breath of fresh air.

synonyms

Attitude
Manner

antonyms

Word of the
week
15th May

Protagonist

Word type

noun

Definition

The main character in a drama or other literary work.

In a
sentence

Is Heathcliff the protagonist or antagonist?

synonyms

Leading role
Hero

antonyms

Supporting role
Antagonist

Word of the
week
22nd May

Trepidation

Word type

noun

Definition

A state of alarm or dread; apprehension.

In a
sentence

The student entered the exam hall filled with trepidation.

synonyms

Fear
Unease

antonyms

Equanimity
Ease

Word of the
week
5th June

Frugal

Word type

adjective

Definition

Practicing or marked by economy, as in the expenditure of money or the use of material resources.

In a
sentence

Scrooge was very frugal with his money.

synonyms

Thrifty
Careful (with
money)

antonyms

Spendthrift
Profligate

Word of the
week
12th June

Analogy

Word type

noun

Definition

A similarity in some respects between things that are otherwise dissimilar.

In a
sentence

I see no analogy between your story and mine.

synonyms

Similarity
Comparison

antonyms

Contrast

Word of the
week
19th June

Melancholy

Word type

adjective

Definition

Sadness or depression of the spirits; gloom.

In a
sentence

A melancholy mood.

synonyms

Depressed
Miserable

antonyms

Cheerful

Word of the
week
26th June

Allegory

Word type

noun

Definition

A symbolic representation.

In a
sentence

The allegory of Robin Hood.

synonyms

Symbol
Tale

antonyms

Word of the
week
3rd July

Contentious

Word type

adjective

Definition

Tending to argue or quarrel.

In a
sentence

The student council discussed
contentious issues.

synonyms

Argumentative
Antagonistic

antonyms

Easy-going

Word of the
week
10th July

Cantankerous

Word type

adjective

Definition

Ill-tempered and quarrelsome; disagreeable.

In a
sentence

Some teachers were cantankerous as they approached the summer holidays.

synonyms

Irritable
Unreasonable

antonyms

Good-natured

Word of the
week
17th July

Bathos

Word type

noun

Definition

An anticlimax. Sudden change from normal to the ridiculous.

In a
sentence

His epic poem had passages of almost embarrassing bathos.

synonyms

Anticlimax
Let down

antonyms

Climax