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Ambiguous

n. ambiguity

adj. ambiguously

adj. unclear meaning; something that can be understood in more than one way

syn. vague

The men received an **ambiguous** message from their boss.
Her letter was full of **ambiguities**.

Arbitrary

adv. arbitrarily

n. arbitrariness

adj. an action or decision made with little thought

syn. haphazard

Her choice of clothing seemed **arbitrary**.
The teacher **arbitrarily** decided to give the class a test.

Assert

adv. assertively

n. assertiveness

n. assertion

n. assertive

v. to express or defend oneself strongly; to state positively

syn. declare

The government **asserted** its control over the banking system.
The company president is an **assertive** individual.

Astounding

v. astound

adv. astoundingly

adj. very surprising

syn. astonishing

The scientists made an **astounding** discovery.
The fans were **astounded** by their team's success.

Astute

adv. astutely

n. astuteness

adj. very intelligent, smart, clever

syn. perceptive

He was an **astute** worker, finishing in half the time it took the others to finish. They **astutely** determined that there would be no chance to finish on time.

Concur v. to have the same opinion or draw the same conclusion

n. concurrence **syn. agree**

The director **concurred** with the conclusions of the committee's report. Do you **concur** with the details of the business plan?

Deceptively adv. making something appear true or good when it is false or bad

adj. deceptive **syn. misleadingly**

v. deceive

n. deception

The magician **deceptively** made the rabbit disappear. Richard **deceived** Joe about the cost of the coat.

Designate v. to specify or select to do a task; to indicate

n. designator **syn. assign**

n. designation

The president **designated** the vice president to represent him at the meeting. The **designated** driver drove everyone home after the party.

Determined adj. strong in one's opinion, firm in conviction, to find out

n. determination **syn. resolute**

v. determine

They were **determined** to go to graduate school. The judge **determined** that the man was lying.

Elicit v. to get the facts or draw out the truth

n. elicitation **syn. extract**

A lawyer will **elicit** all the facts necessary to prove her case. **Elicitation** of the truth can be difficult at times.

Embody v. to be a good example of a concept or idea

n. embodiment **syn. exemplify**

The constitution is an **embodiment** of American ideals. Charlotte **embodies** all of the qualities of a good leader.

Instigate

v. to cause a conflict or argument

n. instigator

adj. instigative

syn. initiate

No one knew who had **instigated** the demonstration.

Dissatisfaction with government policies **instigated** the revolution.

Mundane

adj. common or routine

n. mundanity

adv. mundanely

syn. ordinary

The student's **mundane** summer job frustrated her.

His mother asked him to do all the **mundane** household chores.

Petition

v. to make a request

n. petition

syn. appeal

Canada **petitioned** the United Nations to consider its case.

The student's **petition** was denied.

Relinquish

v. to give up control

n. relinquishment

syn. abdicate

The troubled executive **relinquished** her control of the company.

The **relinquishment** of his claim to the building will allow the building to be sold.

Resilient

adj. strong enough to recover from difficulty or disease

n. resilience

adv. resiliently

syn. tenacious

She has a **resilient** personality and will soon feel better.

The doctor was surprised by his patient's **resilience**.

Tempt

v. to make it attractive to do something, usually something not good

adv. temptingly

n. temptation

adj. tempting

syn. entice

The idea of getting rich quickly **tempted** him to invest his life savings.

Desserts are more **tempting** when one is on a diet.
