

Chapter 1

INTERESTING LISTS

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List 1 Capitonyms

Some words take on a different meaning when they are capitalized (forming a proper noun). These words are called *capitonyms* (cap = head, nym = name). Here are a couple of examples.

August – month
august – grand, majestic

Polish – citizen of Poland
polish – to make shiny

Job – biblical name
job – an occupation

Pound – money in UK
pound – a unit of weight

Frank – a boy's name
frank – open opinion

Yen – money of Japan
yen – desire

Bob – boy's name
bob – to cut shorter

Crow – an Indian tribe
crow – a bird

Chile – a country
chili – a hot spice
(the spice may be spelled either chile or chili)

Pat – a first name
pat – a light tap

Chow – dog type
chow – food

China – a country
china – fine dishes

Major – army officer
major – important or main thing

Caco and Chiro

You might know that *cacophony* is a harsh sound sometimes produced when the teacher is not in the room (caco = bad, phon = sound) or when an orchestra is tuning up. But bad handwriting from your students or your doctor is *cacography* and bad speech either defective or vulgar is *cacology*. Incidentally, the high-class word for handwriting is *chirography* (chiro = hand).

List 2 Very Hard Words

Can kids learn complicated new words? Here is some proof for you. Simply ask almost any kid you know to tell you what these words mean.

Quidditch	Azkaban
Mirror of Erised	Sneakoscope
Hogwarts	Patronus
Wingardium Leviosa	Voldemort
Remembrall	portkeys
Tarantallegra	Dumbledore

List 3 Fun with Words

Richard Lederer is a linguist who writes newspaper columns and talks on the radio (PBS). He likes to have fun with words. Here are a few from his book, *Crazy English*:

There is no **ham** in a hamburger nor **straw** in a strawberry.

There is no **egg** in eggplant nor **apple** in a pineapple.

A Guinea pig is not a **pig**, and a panda bear is related to a **raccoon** not a bear.

Fireflies are beetles, and **greyhounds** can be any color.

Rush hour lasts longer than an hour, and **boxing rings** are square.

Sweetmeat is made of fruit, and **sweetbread** is a meat.

Hot dogs can be cold, and **homework** can be done in school.

If a **vegetarian** eats vegetables, what does a **humanitarian** eat?

Button and **unbutton** are opposites, but **loosen** and **unloosen** are the same.

You **wind up** a watch to start it, but **wind up** a romance to end it.

List 4 Last Names

All last names came from something, and finding out what that something is can be interesting. Last names are also called “surnames” or “family names.” For more names, see List 56, Eponyms.

1. Last names from occupations:

Name	Occupation	Name	Occupation
Bannister	crossbowman	Mercer	merchant of silks
Barker	shepherd	Milner	miller, grain grinder
Black	dyer	Naylor	nail maker
Boyer	one who sold bows	Norris	wet nurse
Carter	delivery person	Ostler	innkeeper
Chamberlain	personal servant	Packard	peddler
Chandler	candle maker	Packman	peddler
Chaplin	clergyman	Parker	park keeper
Chapman	merchant, peddler	Pointer	lace maker
Clark	clerk	Porcher	swineherd
Cooper	barrel maker	Pottinger	soup maker
Coward	cowherd	Proctor	attorney, tax collector
Currier	leather worker	Sanger	singer
Deemer	judge	Sawyer	woodworker
Faber	smith, metalworker	Sellers	saddle maker
Farman	ferryman	Seward	swineherd
Faulkner	hawk keeper	Smith	metalworker
Fisher	fisherman	Stone	stoneworker
Foster	forester	Stringer	bowstring maker
Fowler	bird hunter	Sumner	summoner
Fuller	cloth worker	Tiller	farmer
Furber	polisher of armor	Tucker	cloth worker
Gaylor	jailer	Turner	woodworker on lathe
Grover	woodsman	Wainwright	wagon maker
Hansard	swordmaker	Wakeman	watchman
Harrower	farmer	Wall(er)	mason
Joiner	carpenter	Ward	guard
Kellogg	slaughterer	Weber	weaver
Keefer	seller of vats and bands	Webster	weaver
Kemp	wrestler	Wheeler	wheel maker
Ladd	servant	Woodward	forest warden
Leach, Leech	doctor	Wright	mechanic
Lister	cloth dyer		
Marnier	seaman		

Plus some of the more obvious occupations such as Hunter, Farmer, Baker, Miner, Carpenter, Potter, Butler, Wheelwright (wright = craftsman), Tyler, Mason, Weaver, Cooke, Gardner, and Parson.

List 4 Last Names *(continued)*

2. **Last names from places: (toponyms)**
London, York, Blackwell, Melville (ville = city), Buckingham (ham = hamlet), Thorp (= village), Clinton (ton = town), Longfield, Chillcot (cot = cottage)
3. **Variations on smith: (“smith” means metalworker)**
Goldsmith, Coppersmith, Silversmith, Arrowsmith, Blacksmith (iron) (may be shortened to Gold, Silver, etc.)
4. **Variations on “son of”: (patronyms)**
Mac or Mc as in MacDonald; O’ as in O’Donnel; son or sen as in Williamson, Johnson, Olsen
5. **Names based on regal households: (eponyms)**
King, Duke, Knight, Earl, Pope, Bishop, Baron, Lord, Abbott, Squire, Prince, Noble
6. **Names based on geographical features: (toponyms)**
Mountain, Lake, Moore, Lowe (lowland), Brooks, Rivers, Meadows, Pond, Field, Clifford, Hill, Glen, Ford
7. **Names based on saints or biblical names: (eponyms)**
St. Clair, St. Charles, Gabriel, Adam(s), Peters, Paul, Johns (apostles)
8. **Last names based on first names:**
Williams, Edwards, Arthur, Daniels, Richards, Roberts
9. **Names based on animals:**
Wolfe, Lyons, Bullock, Bird, Crow, Fox, Lamb
10. **Names based on tribes:**
English, German, Frank (French), Irish, Scott, Walsh (Welsh), Norse
11. **Names based on colors:**
White, Black, Brown(e), Grey, Green(e), Blue
12. **Names based on natural things:**
Stone, Waters, Sands, Rains, Day, Woods, Grove, Forest
13. **Names based on directions:**
North, Southern, Eastman, West, High, Lowe
14. **Seasonal names:**
Summers, Winters, Day, Christmas, May
15. **Names based on human characteristics:**
Small, Black*, Long, Whitehead, Cripwell*, Hand*, Heart*, Goodman, Sharp
16. **Most European surnames are patronymic**, that is, inherited from the father; but some are matronymic, inherited from the mother. They tended to be formed in the 12th to the 14th centuries.

*“Black” referred to hair color, whereas “Cripwell,” “Hand,” and “Heart” referred to defining deformities.

List 4 Last Names *(continued)*

17. Of course, I had to look up the origin of my surname. Fry means “free,” as does its related surnames, Frey and Freeman. Those of us who had free ancestors had ancestors somewhere between a serf and a nobleman. Those lucky chaps didn’t have to work for the lord of the manor or pay him taxes on the land.
18. **Names based on foreign names** have similar sources as above, for example, Schmidt is German for Smith.
In the United States, practically every language in the world has contributed last names: Lee (Chinese or Korean), Gonzales (Spanish), Levi (Hebrew), Vandermast (Dutch), Schnitger (German), Czarnecki (Czech), Yamashita (Japanese).
19. **Onomastics is the study of the origin of proper names.** So you are now an amateur onomast. In Europe especially, onomastics is a recognized specialty in a university’s history department.

List 5 SAT Vocabulary Words

Lots of words in this book are apt to appear on the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), so a good general vocabulary is the best way to get a good score. However, some people actually take the SAT, remember some of the words, write them down, and pass them along to future test-takers. Here are some of those words in case you want to do a quick cram or to have some idea of the type of words encountered on the SAT.

<u>SAT Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
aberration	abnormal, highly unusual
abridge	shorten
accessible	available; ready for use
antidote	something that relieves or prevents; a remedy that counteracts the effects of poison
appease	to make tranquil or quiet, especially by giving into demands; to pacify
arable	(land) suitable for farming
arrogant	overbearing; proud; haughty
aspire	to work toward or to have a goal
austere	having great economy; showing self-control when it comes to foregoing luxuries, frills; stern in manner or appearance
autonomous	independent
berate	to rebuke or scold in a harsh tone
bolster	to support; to strengthen
candor	honesty, sincerity
cantankerous	bad-tempered; quarrelsome
cartographer	map maker
cliché	an idea or expression that has become stale due to overuse
coalesce	unite, grow together, combine
cryptic	hidden; hard to understand; mysterious; obscure
cynical	distrusting motives of others, disparaging
effervescent	lively; full of uplifted spirit; vivacious
egotistical	excessively self-absorbed; very conceited
eloquence	artful ease with speaking; speech that can impact people's feelings
expropriated	take (land, etc.) from the owner
exuberant	overflowing with vitality and good spirits
fastidious	very attentive to detail; fussy; meticulous
gratify	to please or indulge
gregarious	sociable, outgoing
hamper	to hinder; to prevent something from happening
hardy	healthy and strong; robust
homogeneous	of the same kind; alike; uniform
integrity	holding firmly to values, such as honesty; completeness
intrepid	fearless

List 5 SAT Vocabulary Words *(continued)*

linger	to hang around; to stay
lofty	very high; towering; grand or noble
malingering	pretend illness (to avoid work)
mock	to make fun of; to imitate
modicum	tiny amount
mundane	commonplace; ordinary
nefarious	very mean and wicked
nurture	to care for; to nourish
ominous	related to feeling that something bad or evil is about to happen; foreboding
opportunist	a person who seeks self-gain, even at the expense of others, without regard to values or moral principles
ostentatious	showy, to attract notice
pariah	outcast, unwelcome person
phlegmatic	slow moving, sluggish
placate	to make calm; to soothe
prodigal	wasteful; lavish, “throws money away”
proximity	nearness
querulous	whining; complaining
recount	to tell a story
redundant	unnecessary repetition
rigor	harshness; severity
saturate	to wet or soak completely; to totally fill up
scrutinize	to read or look at very closely and carefully
stealthy	secretive; sly
surpass	to be better than; to excel
swagger	to walk around in a proud, showy manner; to boast in a loud manner
tentative	hesitant; not definite
thrifty	showing care with how money and resources are spent or used; miserly
thrive	to grow strong; to flourish
tranquility	peacefulness; calmness
uniformity	sameness
verbose	using too many words; wordy; long-winded
vilify	to slander or defame someone’s name
virulent	extremely poisonous; deadly; full of spiteful hatred
whimsical	fanciful
zenith	highest point (opposite of nadir), a point on the celestial sphere corresponding to a point on earth

List 6 SAT Math Words

Mathematics vocabulary usually relates to mathematical concepts that are acquired by taking math courses or studying a math book. To get a respectable score on the SAT, you really need to know what most of these terms mean and be able to manipulate them in problems. See Chapter 2, lists 23 through 27, and Chapter 8, lists 169, 170, and 173 for more math words.

Averages: mean, median, mode

Integers: prime numbers, negative numbers, common factors, prime factors

Rate: time, distance

Number line: order, betweenness, connective numbers

Ratio: proportion, percentage

Signed numbers: plus or minus, exponents

Algebraic expressions: equations, inequalities

Factoring

Exponents, roots

Quadratic equation

Triangles: right, isosceles, equilateral, areas

Pythagorean theorem

Polygons, angles within, periphery

Decimal, fraction equivalents

Weighted average: some numbers given more weight

Quadrilaterals, parallelograms, perimeter

Circles: diameter, radius, circumference, arc, tangent, pi, area

Graphs: bar chart, frequency polygon, relation to table, grid lines, x and y , perpendicular

Odometer: distance measurement


Also see List 173.

Music Notation


The **Staff** are the five lines and four spaces, indicating pitch, on which to place the notes. These are preceded by the staff symbol.




Note symbols indicate the amount of time the note is held.

whole note 

half note 

quarter note 

eighth note 

sixteenth note 

List 7 SAT 9

Don't confuse the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) taken by high school seniors for college entrance purposes with the SAT 9 (Stanford Achievement Test, 9th Edition). Unfortunately, they both have the acronym SAT, but the Stanford Achievement Test is usually followed by a number like 9 or 10 that indicates the edition.

The SAT 9 series tests students from Grade 2 to Grade 11. Here are some of the harder words found at about the 7th grade level in the language arts section of a hypothetical test:

acclimatize	fossilize	prologue
acquisition	gastronomic	promote
adverse	gesticulating	propaganda
alliteration	harmony	proponent
amplify	humanitarian	protagonist
annihilate	hysterical	ravenous
avalanche	illustrious	react
brutalize	implode	rebate
biodegradable	incredible	reduce
cacophony	innocuous	redundant
catalyst	insatiable	remembrance
codify	insecticide	restatement
compassionate	irresistible	retaliate
concentric	itemize	revenge
consensus	launch	reverse
conscientious	legalize	semantics
conscious	magnitude	snippet
contagious	metaphor	sporadically
contiguous	millipede	succinct
deface	misconstrued	superfluous
digitize	monoliths	synonyms
discernable	monotheistic	transaction
distraught	monotony	transformation
enormous	nullify	transmit
exfoliate	omen	tumultuous
excommunicate	ominous	typify
extrapolate	omnipotent	unforeseen
forecast	omnivorous	uninhabited
foretell	pessimistic	unmitigated
fortuitous	probability	verify

List 8 Minimum U.S. History Terms

- abolitionism**—The belief that slavery should be abolished.
- Alamo**—A fort and battle in 1836 where Texans fought Mexicans for independence. Mexicans won the battle. (*Alamo* is also a Spanish word for a cottonwood tree.)
- Alien and Sedition Acts**—Laws passed during the second presidency (John Adams) that restricted public activities of radicals who sympathized with the French (who were fighting the British in Europe).
- antebellum**—Things and houses built before the Civil War (ante = before, bellum = war).
- Articles of Confederation**—The 1782 agreement among the states before the Constitution was signed in 1789.
- Battle of Bull Run**—The first battle of the Civil War. The Confederates won.
- Battle of Bunker Hill**—The first battle of the Revolutionary War. The British won.
- Bill of Rights**—The first ten amendments to the Constitution, giving freedom of speech, press, religion, and assembly and limiting search and criminal laws.
- Boston Tea Party**—In 1773 colonists threw tea shipment into the harbor, an act moving toward **Revolutionary War**.
- Civil War**—1861–1865, between the Union (northern states) and the Confederacy (southern states). The Union won.
- Declaration of Independence**—This declares the U.S. independent of the British king; adopted July 4, 1776.
- Emancipation Proclamation**—President Lincoln declared all slaves to be free, 1863.
- French and Indian War**—British fought French in America 1754–1763. The British won and kept Canada. Some French people moved to Louisiana.
- Gettysburg**—The greatest Civil War battle and a turning point. The Union won.
- Jamestown**—The first English settlement in America; Virginia, 1607.
- Lewis and Clark Expedition**—President Jefferson sent two explorers to the northwest (later Washington state) to see what he bought from France.
- Mason-Dixon Line**—Essentially was the division between northern (free) and southern (slaveholding) states.
- New Amsterdam**—City founded by the Dutch in 17th century; now called New York.
- Plymouth Rock**—Landing site for early Pilgrims on the *Mayflower* in 1620.
- Revolutionary War**—The thirteen American colonies fought the British for independence 1775–1781. The French helped. Official end was the Treaty of Paris in 1783.
- War of 1812**—U.S. versus the British, a second war of independence. U.S. attacked Canada and lost. British burned the White House, but lost the war.

List 9 Reduplication

Reduplication means to double (re = again, du = two, ply = fold or unit). In any event, reduplications are an interesting class of words that have some doubling of a sound such as *dilly-dally*. Here are some more:

hanky-panky

itsy-bitsy

fiddle-faddle

pell-mell

namby-pamby

hoity-toity

bon-bon

shilly-shally

claptrap

hubbub

teetotal

flimflam

geegaw

List 10 Test Scores

Standardized tests frequently tell the student how his raw score (the number right) compares with a standardized group, such as all the 8th graders in his district (**local norms**) or of a random sample of 8th graders in the country (**national norms**).

A **percentile** score means how the student ranks with a hundred typical students in her norm group. This is something like **percent**, except it means “rank placement,” not amount. For example, a student who receives a percentile score of 43 would be ahead of 42 out of 100 typical 8th graders.

This would place that student in the 4th **decile** (tenth) because that decile covers the range of percentile scores from 40 to 49. And it places that student in the second **quartile** (quarter) or percentile scores 25 to 49; or in the third **quintile** (fifth) percentile scores 40 to 59.

One argument for not using percentile is that most tests are really not accurate enough to say a student who scores 43 is worse than a student who scores 44. So some larger grouping might be fairer; for example, he or she scored in the 4th decile or the middle quintile.

Review:

percentile decile quartile quintile local norms

List 11 The Shortest Words

There are only a few regular one-letter words in English, such as **a** as in “a book” or **i** as in “I will.”

You will note that **a** and **i** are both vowels because you cannot have a word shorter than a syllable, and a syllable must contain at least one vowel sound.

Occasionally, single letters are used as words as in “make a **U** turn” or “sit in the **M** section,” but these are not regular words. (See our list of advertising spelling in Chapter 7, List 149.)

Single letters are used in abbreviations with or without a period, as in addresses, such as “403 **N** Elm Street” or in scientific notations such as temperature “72° **F**”.

Whether or not an abbreviation is capitalized is sometimes arbitrary, sometimes mandatory, based on convention and field of use.

Here are some single-letter abbreviations:

M	Monsieur, male	P	page, President
g	gram, gold	O	ocean, October, oxygen
N, S, E, W	directions	C	centigrade, copper
a	area, acre	k	1,000, king

For more abbreviations, see Chapter 7, Spelling, Abbreviations, and Phonics, List 142.

List 12 Set

What English word has the greatest number of different meanings?

The answer is **set**, which has fifty-eight noun meanings or uses, some 126 verb uses, and, finally, ten adjective uses. Here are just a few:

- set** the table (verb meaning *to arrange*)
- a **set** of dishes (noun meaning *group*)
- Are you all **set**? (adjective meaning *ready*)
- set** out = start a journey (beginning)
- set** in = place into (put)
- set** = slang for sit (dialect)
- set** upon = to attack (attack)
- set** a clock = correct time (correct)
- set** apart = save (separate)
- set** a fire = start
- set** a trap = make ready
- set** hair = form shape
- set** the price = determine cost
- set** a time = appoint, state length
- set** your mind on = focus
- set** a fast pace = rate
- set** a gem = mount

List 13 Word Pairs

Some pairs of words we use so often that they act like a separate word. Not only that, but they have a recognized order. For example, we usually say “fun and games,” rather than “games and fun.” Companies post “profit and loss” statements, rather than “loss and profit” statements.

We ask people to dinner to come “rain or shine,” cook it in “pots and pans,” season it with “salt and pepper,” and use a “knife and fork” to eat it, then have coffee in a “cup and saucer” mixed with “cream and sugar.”

The women’s movement has certainly given us the freedom to say “girls and boys” versus “boys and girls,” but it hasn’t changed the master of ceremonies who calls a group to attention by saying “ladies and gentlemen” or the minister who pronounces at a wedding that the happy couple are “man and wife.”

Here are a few more word pairs that usually are not pronounced or written in a reverse order:

sooner or later	up and down
wine and cheese	shoes and socks
ham and eggs	life and death
pen and pencil	dead or alive

Perhaps you can add some pairs of your own.

Acrostic—the first letters of words to form a new word or the first letters of lines in a poem to form a new word. You could also use last letters or any designated letter.

S elf
U nderstanding
C an
C reate
E normous
S elf
S atisfaction

List 14 Affective Connotation

“A word,” says Alice in Wonderland, “means exactly what I intend it to mean.” So words have many kinds of meanings. A **connotative** meaning refers to a secondary and often more emotionally charged meaning. For example, a *weed* is an undesirable *plant*. Biologists classify *plants*, and gardeners destroy *weeds*. **Affective**, incidentally, means “emotional” (af = to, fec = make).

The opposite of connotation is **denotation**. It is the primary meaning or more factual and formal definition. So a **plant** is the denotative word to describe that green thing growing at the edge of your garden. You can declare it a **weed** if you want to get rid of it.

Whenever you start dealing with connotative meanings, you are treading on the Alice problem of meaning, so don't expect the dictionary to always help you out. Dictionaries always have denotative meanings and only sometimes have one or more of the connotative meanings.

Most of the examples below are negative connotations, but keep in mind that there can also be positive connotations; for example, a *house* can be a *home*, the same *road* to nowhere can be a *highway* to success.

Here are a few connotative and denotative meanings. You can probably think of a lot more.

<u>Connotative</u>	<u>Denotative</u>
weed	plant
dumb (person)	retarded, speechless
whore	prostitute, sex worker
shack	house
fat (person)	heavy
Hun	German (enemy in WWI)
wreck	used automobile
wasteland	desert, undeveloped
antique	old furniture
clumsy	unskilled, uncoordinated
slime	liquid, viscous
slimy (person)	repulsive
crippled	handicapped

List 15 Oxymorons

An **oxymoron** is a pair of two terms that seemingly have opposite or noncompatible meanings. The word *oxymoron* itself is an oxymoron (oxy = sharp or keen, moron = foolish, dull). Some common oxymorons are *pretty ugly*, *honest crook*, and *awfully good*. To understand oxymorons, you need to concentrate on one half of the pair, usually the second term, and use the other term as a modifier. A *clever fool* is a fool all right, but he has some cleverness. Sometimes one of the terms has a different meaning: A *jumbo shrimp* is a type of animal called a shrimp, but the term *shrimp* often means someone small. Below are a few more oxymorons that are vocabulary terms encountered in reading and used in writing. You can probably add some of your own.

bankrupt millionaire
clearly misunderstood
global village
graduate student
living dead
black light
Microsoft Works

loud whisper
original copy
random order
student teacher
work party
controlled chaos

List 16 Feminism in Suffixes

In the later half of the 20th century the women's movement caused a great awareness of **gender** (male-female) in words. Many women wished that all or most "feminized" words be dropped or changed. A suffix that indicates gender is *-ess*, hence, a *waitress* is a woman, a *waiter* is a man. Today many cafés employ *wait persons* or *food servers*; the post office employs "mail carriers" not just *mailmen*. A woman who flies an airplane is now a *pilot*, no longer an *aviatrix*, but a woman who administers a will could still be an *executrix*.

Feminizing Suffixes	Examples
-ess	waitress, actress
-ina	ballerina, Wilhelmina, czarina
-ine	heroine, Josephine
-trix	aviatrix, executrix
-enne	comedienne, equestrienne

For more person suffixes, see Chapter 10, List 189. Also see lists 192, 193, and 194.

List 17 Synonyms and Antonyms

A **synonym** (syn = together, nym = name) is a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word. Conversely, an **antonym** (ant = against) means the opposite or nearly the opposite as another word. However, there is a large catch in the word “nearly” the same or opposite. They tend to mean the same or opposite in just one meaning of the word.

For example, if a synonym for *exercise* is *activity*, then an antonym might be *rest*. But using another meaning, a synonym for *exercise* might be *employment* as in the “exercise of a contract,” to put it into effect, then the antonym might be *withhold*. Hence, just what is a *synonym*, or just what is an *antonym*, is often not just about finding a word, but can be a rather complicated or confusing concept.

However, in general, the concept of synonyms and antonyms is a valid and a useful concept for writers. It is also useful in defining, trying to understand, or learning the meaning of new words. Many tests or standardized examinations use a knowledge of synonyms and/or antonyms to test vocabulary or reading skills.

The list of synonyms and antonyms below is by no means exhaustive. There are many whole dictionaries of synonyms and antonyms. The best-known reference books of synonyms and often antonyms are called thesauruses. The original thesaurus was compiled by Peter Roget, an English physician, in 1852. Later editions were done by his son and grandson and today *Roget's Thesaurus* is a rather generic term, something like *Webster's Dictionary*. To give you an idea of the number of synonyms for individual words, the Norman Lewis modernized version of Roget's Thesaurus has over 17,000 entries, plus over 1,000 general categories like Love, Death, and so forth. And that is why this vocabulary book does not attempt to compete with a thesaurus by having a large list of synonyms and antonyms, but here are a few to get you started:

appeal—to ask with special earnestness

Synonyms:	<i>address</i>	<i>call (out or upon)</i>	<i>refer (to)</i>
	<i>apply (for or to)</i>	<i>entreat</i>	<i>request</i>
	<i>ask</i>	<i>invoke</i>	<i>request strongly</i>
	<i>beseech</i>	<i>urge</i>	<i>resort (to)</i>
Antonyms:	<i>abjure, defy, deny, disavow, refuse, repudiate</i>		

convey—delivery to a destination; in law or real estate convey means transferring title

Synonyms:	<i>carry</i>	<i>move</i>	<i>shift</i>	<i>transmit</i>
	<i>change</i>	<i>remove</i>	<i>transfer</i>	<i>transport</i>
	<i>give</i>	<i>sell</i>		
Antonyms:	<i>cling to, hold, keep, possess, preserve, retain</i>			

extemporaneous—done or made with little (if any) preparation

Synonyms:	<i>extemporary</i>	<i>impromptu</i>	<i>offhand</i>
	<i>extempore</i>	<i>improvised</i>	<i>unpremeditated</i>
Antonyms:	<i>elaborated, premeditated, prepared, read, recited, studied, written</i>		

List 17 Synonyms and Antonyms *(continued)*

impatience—lack of patience or intolerance of opposition

Synonyms: *fretfulness* *peevishness* *petulance*
irritation *pettishness* *vexation*

Antonyms: *amiability, benignity, forbearance, gentleness, leniency, lenity, mildness, patience, peace, peaceableness, peacefulness, self-control, self-restraint*

propagate—to have offspring

Synonyms: *beget* *generate* *originate* *sire*
breed *increase* *procreate* *spread*
engender *multiply* *reproduce*

Antonyms: *annihilate, destroy, eradicate, exterminate, extirpate, root out, root up, uproot*

renounce—declare against and give up formally and definitively

Synonyms: *abandon* *disavow* *disown* *recant* *repudiate*
abjure *discard* *forswear* *refuse* *retract*
deny *disclaim* *recall* *reject* *revoke*

Antonyms: *acknowledge, adopt, assert, avow, cherish, claim, defend, hold, maintain, own, proclaim, retain, uphold, vindicate*

subsidy—monetary aid directly granted by government to an individual or commercial enterprise

Synonyms: *aid* *bounty* *pension* *subvention*
allowance *gift* *premium* *support*
appropriation *grant* *reward* *tribute*
bonus *indemnity*

Antonyms: (none)

List 18 Doublespeak

George Orwell wrote an important satirical novel entitled *1984* in which a mythical country controlled by The Party told lies for the truth and used language to control and obfuscate. For example, the Department of War was called the Department of Peace. The United States is not quite that bad, but some decades ago the U.S. government did change the War Department to the Defense Department. In Orwell's cynical view, "Political language . . . is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

William Lutz, a professor of English at Rutgers University, has made quite a career out of Orwell's doublespeak language used in the novel and has encouraged the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) to co-sponsor publications on this issue. Lutz has his own comment, "The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aim, one turns instinctively to long words."

Doublespeak

killing = arbitrary deprivation of life, The Final Solution, capital punishment
car mechanic = automotive internist, member of the vertical transportation corps
used cars = pre-owned, experienced cars
clerks = scanning professionals
product improvement = zero defect goal
budget cut = downward adjustment, efficiency action
lie = misspeak, inoperative statement, nuanced answers
bombing = protective reaction strike
starting a war = preemptive counterattack
tax increase = revenue enhancement, tax base broadening
neutron bomb = enhanced radiation device
invasion = rescue mission, incursion
civilian deaths = collateral damage
parachute = aerodynamic personnel decelerator
jailing = protective custody
retreating = straightening the front, regrouping
recession = period of accelerated negative growth
gambling = gaming
bullet hole = ballistically induced aperture
bad product = mechanical deficiencies
fired = nonretained, placed out, de hired, nonrenewed
cutback = cost reduction action, eliminate marginal outlets, divestment program
stock market fall = retreat, eased, technical adjustment, correction
library = learning resource center
desks = work stations, pupil stations
sea sickness = motion discomfort
overbooking = space planning, capacity management, revenue control
slaughterhouse = meat processor
junk yards = recycle centers, dismantlers
teachers = classroom managers, learning facilitators
testing = evaluation, assessment, analysis, feedback

List 18 **Doublespeak** *(continued)*

Oxymorons (Impossible Combinations)

genuine draft beer in a can

new antiques

natural preservatives

genuine imitation leather

virgin vinyl

(Also see Oxymorons in List 15 in this chapter.)

Weasel Words (Mean Hardly Anything)

Helps relieve cold symptoms (how much? maybe a tiny bit)

Relieve cold symptoms (not cure)

cold **symptoms** (not the cold itself)

Nothing better (it's the same as others)

Nothing faster (perhaps it is equal)

Fights dandruff (but does it do anything?)

Virtually spotless (so there are some spots)

New product (perhaps not better, maybe worse)

Acts **fast** (how fast? ten minutes, two days?)

More flavor (more than what?)

List 19 Popular Science Vocabulary

If you read the newspapers, or a news magazine, or maybe take a test, here are some critical terms:

Fission versus Fusion

Fission refers to splitting, such as the splitting of the nucleus of an atom (uranium), as in the atom bomb. Atomic power plants use controlled fission.

Fusion refers to fusing, such as putting two nuclei (hydrogen) together to form a new, heavier element (helium) as in the hydrogen bomb.

Both processes release extremely large amounts of energy in explosions.

Atom Bomb versus Hydrogen Bomb

The **atom bomb** uses fission and was as powerful as 20,000 tons of TNT. It flattened a city and killed 75,000 people in Hiroshima in 1945.

The **hydrogen bomb** (H-bomb) is a thousand times more powerful. It blew a crater a mile wide and two hundred feet deep in a test on the Pacific Atoll in 1952.

Kiloton versus Megaton

A **kiloton** is a thousand tons.

A **megaton** is a million tons.

Linear versus Nonlinear Mathematics

Linear mathematics essentially means problems that refer to straight line, sequential, numerical modeling; for example, formulas for the orbits of planets, the bouncing of billiard balls, the trajectory of a rifle bullet.

Nonlinear mathematics is much more complicated and has numerous inputs and less certain results; for example, weather patterns, the stock market, and many biological and mental functions.

Nanotechnology

A **nanometer** is one billionth of a meter. A human hair is about 100,000 nanometers wide, or ten hydrogen atoms side-by-side equal one nanometer.

Nanoscience is the study of anything on a scale of one to one hundred nanometers.

Nanotechnology is using nanoscience to make things. A typical application is in chips (tiny circuits) used in computers or other electronic applications.

Sizes change yearly, but the smallest practical wires using photolithographic lenses (conventional) technology can make wires that are ninety nanometers in diameter. Future smaller wires made by combining atoms may shrink the diameter to three nanometers.

For more science words, see Chapter 3, lists 56 and 65.

List 20 Atom Bomb Chart

Type	Atomic Bomb	Hydrogen Bomb (H Bomb)
Atomic Reaction	Fission split atoms Thermonuclear	Fusion
First Exploded	July 16, 1945 White Sands in New Mexico (Almogordo)	November 1, 1952 Elugelab Island in Eniwetok Atoll (Pacific Ocean)
Nickname	Trinity	Ivy Mike
Size	20 kilotons (1 kiloton = 1,000 tons of TNT)	10 megatons (1 megaton = 1 million tons of TNT) (1,000 times Trinity)
Necessary Computers	Friden Calculators IBM punch cards 1942 Herman Hollerath 1890	ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) 18,000 vacuum tubes 1945 U of PA John Von Neumann, Princeton
Project Director	Robert Oppenheimer	George Cowan
Basic Scientists	Edward Teller Enrico Fermi	Edward Teller Enrico Fermi
Results	1st bomb flattened Hiroshima; killed 75,000 people Nuclei of heavier element (Uranium 235) Split into nuclei of lighter elements	Eliminated an island, made a crater a mile wide, 200 feet deep and a cloud 100,000 feet high, 100 miles wide Nuclei of lighter element (hydrogen) Fuse together to form heavier element (helium)

First controlled atomic chain reaction 1942
Enrico Fermi, University of Chicago

List 21 Palindromes

Palindromes are fun words because they can be read forward or backward, like “mom.” Some palindromes are different words when read backward, like “rats” spelled backward is “star.” Here are a few single-word palindromes:

eve	did	sees	Bob
civic	madam	radar	Anna
deed	racecar	noon	Otto

Some people even try to find whole phrases or sentences that can be read backwards. Here are a few:

Rise to vote sir.

net ten

Never odd or even.

Was it a car or a cat I saw?

Flee to me remote elf.

Be on the lookout to see if you can find or think up a few more.

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Paronomasia

Paronomasia has to do with fooling around with words, like making puns or clever remarks using words of similar sounds, like the poor rancher who bragged about having several “cattle acts.” Jokes using homophones would also fall into the paronomasia category.

