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## MERRIAM WEBSTER'S 100 WORDS EVERY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE SHOULD KNOW

### 21. equinox

-Definition: (n.) the time when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator, making night and day of approximately equal length all over the earth and occurring about March 21 (vernal equinox or spring equinox) and September 22 (autumnal equinox)

-Sentence: I hope all of our snow is gone by the spring *equinox*.

### 22. euro

-Definition: (n) the official common currency of 17 European Union nations

-Sentence: I needed to convert my dollars to *euros* for my trip.



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**23. evanescent**

- Definition: (adj.) tending to vanish like vapor; brief or short-lived
- Sentence: His joy at the weekend was *evanescent* as he realized he had not started his essay for English class and would need to spend the weekend catching up.

**24. expurgate**

- Definition: (v.) 1: to cleanse of something morally harmful  
offensive, or erroneous; *especially* 2: to expunge objectionable parts from before publication or presentation
  - Sentence: The newspaper had to *expurgate* the expletive-laden speech that the criminal made upon being sentenced to life imprisonment.
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## 25. facetious

-Definition: (adj.) not meant to be taken seriously or literally: a facetious remark; amusing; humorous.

-Sentence: I often make *facetious* remarks when speaking to sophomores.

## 26. fatuous

-Definition: (adj.) foolish or inane, especially in an unconscious, complacent manner; silly.

-Sentence: I do so because I need to mimic their usual *fatuous* behavior.




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**27. feckless**

- Definition: (adj) ineffective, in competent, futile
- Sentence: His father's *feckless* attempts to repair the leaky plumbing left standing water in the kitchen.

**28. fiduciary**

- Definition: (n) a person to whom property or power is entrusted for the benefit of another
  - Sentence: When Grandma couldn't do it for herself anymore, we took over her *fiduciary* responsibilities and paid her bills.
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**29. filibuster**

- Definition: (n.) the use of irregular or obstructive tactics by a member of a legislative assembly to prevent the adoption of a measure generally favored or to force a decision against the will of the majority.
- Sentence: The politician engaged in a *filibuster* that lasted over a week.

**30. gamete**

- Definition: (n.) a mature sexual reproductive cell, as a sperm or egg, that unites with another cell to form a new organism.
  - Sentence: A normal human cell contains 46 chromosomes, so a normal human *gamete* contains 23 chromosomes.
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**31. gauche**

- Definition: (adj.) lacking social grace, sensitivity, or acuteness; awkward; crude; tactless:
- Sentence: My relatives' exquisite manners always make me feel *gauche*.

**32. gerrymander**

- Definition: (n.) the dividing of a state, county, etc., into election districts so as to give one political party a majority in many districts while concentrating the voting strength of the other party into as few districts as possible.
  - Sentence: It has been alleged that the redistricting of congressional boundaries in Kentucky was an act of *gerrymandering*.
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**33. hegemony**

-Definition: (n.) leadership or predominant influence exercised by one nation over others, as in a confederation; leadership; predominance.

-Sentence: They discussed the national government's *hegemony* over the tribal groups.

**34. hemoglobin**

-Definition: (n.) the part of blood that contains iron, carries oxygen through the body, and gives blood its red color

Sentence: The patient required a blood transfusion when her *hemoglobin* levels fell.



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**35. homogeneous**

- Definition: (adj.) corresponding in structure because of a common origin; of the same or a similar kind or nature
- Sentence: The mountains appeared *homogeneous* as they were covered in many of the same trees.

**36. hubris**

- Definition: (n) excessive pride or self-confidence; arrogance.
  - Sentence: Many characters in literature who fail to accomplish something do so due to their *hubris*.
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### 37. hypotenuse

- Definition: (n.) the side of a right-angled triangle that is opposite the right angle
- Sentence: In order to build shelves for my angled closet, we had to measure the *hypotenuse*.

### 38. impeach

- Definition: (v.) **a** : to bring an accusation against **b** : to charge with a crime or misdemeanor to charge (a public official) before a competent tribunal with misconduct in office **c** : to remove from office especially for misconduct
  - Sentence: The House of Representatives has the power to *impeach* the president.
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### 39. **incognito**

- Definition: (adj) having one's identity concealed, as under an assumed name, especially to avoid notice or formal attentions.
- Sentence: The movie star did her grocery shopping *incognito*.

### 40. **incontrovertible**

- Definition: (adj) incapable of being contradicted or disputed; undeniable
  - Sentence: There is *incontrovertible* evidence that proves underage drinking causes long term effects to the brain.
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