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

**61. oligarchy**


-Definition: (n.) a form of government in which all power is vested in a few persons or in a dominant class or clique; government by the few.

-Sentence: Political power was in the hands of the *oligarchy*, democracy was non-existent.

**62. omnipotent**

-Definition: (adj.) almighty or infinite in power, as God; having very great or unlimited authority or power.

-Sentence: The teacher tried to use his *omnipotent* power to get students to wash his car.



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### 63. orthography


-Definition: (n.) 1. the art of writing words with the proper letters, according to accepted usage; correct spelling. 2. the part of language study concerned with letters and spelling.

-Sentence: A word's *orthography* may be different than how we pronounce it.

### 64. oxidize

-Definition: (v.) to convert (an element) into an oxide; combine with oxygen; to cover with a coating of oxide or rust.

-Sentence: I would like to be able to afford a silver garden statue so it does not *oxidize* or rust with age.



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## 65. parabola

- Definition: (n.) a plane curve formed by the intersection of a right circular cone with a plane parallel to a generator of the cone; the set of points in a plane that are equidistant from a fixed line and a fixed point in the same plane or in a parallel plane.
- Sentence: The test score data should be a bell curve, or *parabola*.

## 66. paradigm

- Definition: (n.) an example serving as a model; pattern.
  - Sentence: The feminists worked hard to change the *paradigm* of women being inferior.
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**67. parameter**

-Definition: (n.) 1. one of the independent variables in a set of parametric equations. 2. Usually, **parameters**. limits or boundaries; guidelines.

-Sentence: The *parameters* for the project were vague so we weren't sure what the teacher expected.

**68. pecuniary**

-Definition: (n.) of or relating to money:

-Sentence: The stock broker relied on keen *pecuniary* skills when investing money.



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### 69. photosynthesis

- Definition: (n.) the complex process by which carbon dioxide, water, and certain inorganic salts are converted into carbohydrates by green plants, algae, and certain bacteria, using energy from the sun and chlorophyll.
- Sentence: Plants use *photosynthesis* to turn energy from the sun into food.

### 70. plagiarize

- Definition: (v.) to commit an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author:
  - Sentence: When she *plagiarized* the paper, she had to go in front of the university's Honor Board and defend herself but she was kicked out anyway.
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