

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

91. unctuous

- Definition: (adj.) used to describe someone who speaks and behaves in a way that is meant to seem friendly and polite but that is unpleasant because it is obviously not sincere
- Sentence: The lawyer's *unctuous* personality reminds me of Saul Goodman.

92. usurp

- Definition: (v.) to seize and hold (as office, place, or powers) in possession by force or without right
 - Sentence: *Game of Thrones* fans now have a better understanding of why enemies called Robert Baratheon the *usurper* when they questioned his right to the throne.
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93. vacuous

-Definition: (adj.) having or showing a lack of intelligence or serious thought; lacking meaning, importance, or substance

-Sentence: After one date, it was clear to him that no matter how pretty she was, her *vacuous* intellect would hold back any thoughts of a relationship.

94. vehement

-Definition: (adj.) 1. marked by forceful energy; powerful 2. intensely emotional: impassioned, fervid

-Sentence: He provided a *vehement* denial of her accusations.

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95. vortex

- Definition: (n.) something that resembles a whirlpool; a mass of spinning air, liquid, etc., that pulls things into its center
- Sentence: The sailors were on alert to avoid an encounter with a *vortex*.

96. winnow


- Definition: (v.) 1. to remove (people or things that are less important, desirable, etc.) from a larger group or list : to make (a list of possible choices) smaller by removing the less desirable choices 2 to remove (the unwanted coverings of seeds) from grain by throwing the grain up in the air and letting the wind blow the unwanted parts away
- Sentence: The least qualified applicants were *winnowed* out of the applicant pool.

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97. wrought

- Definition: (v.) worked into shape by artistry or effort
- Sentence: The elaborate *wrought* iron fence posts provided décor for the porch.

98. xenophobe

- Definition: (n.) one unduly fearful of what is foreign and especially of people of foreign origin
 - Sentence: His *xenophobic* tendencies will work against him when he moves to a big city.
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99. yeoman

- Definition: (n.) an attendant or officer in a royal or noble household
- Sentence: The *yeoman's* service helped the Lord get results.

100. ziggurat

- Definition: (n.) an ancient Mesopotamian temple tower consisting of a lofty pyramidal structure built in successive stages with outside staircases and a shrine at the top; *also* : a structure or object of similar form
 - Sentence: His pyramid represented a *ziggurat*.
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