



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

abroad: in circulation throughout a country or area; widely current.

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academic: of or relating to a school or other educational institutions.

acid test: a final or deciding test to establish value, effectiveness, genuineness, etc. (*Acid* is a strong substance capable of dissolving things such as various metals.) The term dates back to the 1800s, when acid was used to distinguish gold from cheap metal which appeared to be gold. The acid would corrode such metals as iron or copper, but would do nothing to real gold.

adamant: hard; not giving in; unyielding; something which won't break; insistent; refusing any other opinion; surrendering to nothing.

admiration: the sense of wonder, delight and pleased approval inspired by anything fine, skillful, beautiful, etc.

a little (something) goes a long way: a small amount of something can have a great effect or strong influence with somebody or something.

alley: a path or course of action. An *alley* is a narrow passageway or lane, especially one running between or behind buildings.

all manner of: many different kinds of; all sorts of.

all the: to that extent; that much, as in "*Oh, yes, it is true that such people, seeing one improve his lot, can become frantic and attack all the harder.*"

analects: selections from the writings of an author and often used as a title, especially when published as a collection, as in "*the Analects of Confucius.*"

animosity: a feeling of strong dislike or active hatred.



appeal: an earnest or urgent request to somebody for something, such as aid or support.

aristocracy: government by a few with special privileges, ranks or positions; rule by an elite few who are above the general law; a group who by birth or position are “superior to everybody else” and who can make or apply laws to others but consider they themselves are not affected by the laws.

Aristotle: (384–322 B.C.) Greek philosopher, educator and scientist, considered the most scholarly and learned of the ancient Greek philosophers. His works covered all branches of human knowledge known in his time, including logic, ethics, natural science and politics.

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as far (back) as: to the same degree or extent that, as in “*dating as far back as Ancient Egypt and Greece.*”

asylums (insane asylums): institutions for the care of people who are deemed “mentally ill,” e.g., because of harm they brought to self or others.

at every hand: constantly, on every occasion or in every case. *Hand* is used here to mean direction or side and is a reference to the position of the hands—one on either side of the body.

at the mercy of: without any protection against; entirely in the power of, or helpless before.

babyhood: the period of time when someone is a baby, especially before he or she can walk. (*Hood* is added to a word to show a period of time or a state or condition.)

back: in or into the past; ago, as in “*dating as far back as Ancient Egypt and Greece.*”

barbarian: an uncivilized person, one without culture, refinement or education.

barbaric: of, relating to or characteristic of a *barbarian*, one without culture, refinement or education. Also characteristic of people belonging to a wild or cruel group or society.

bear false witness: to tell lies or state something false while under oath or in a court of law; to state falsely. *Bear* means to give or provide. *Witness* means swearing to a fact, statement, etc.; proof or evidence.

bearing: the manner in which one behaves or conducts oneself.

bear out: support, back up or confirm; prove.



bears fruit: produces the intended or desired result or effect. *Bears* means brings forth or produces, as by natural growth, and *fruit* means that which is produced, a result, effect or outcome.

belief: trust or confidence.

benevolence: the quality or state of doing or being inclined to do good; the action of showing kindness or good will, desiring to help others; generosity.

benevolent: showing kindness or goodwill, desiring to help others; generous.

benign: tending to be beneficial in nature or influence or productive of a favorable result.

blank slate: something new, fresh, unmarked or uninfluenced. A *slate* is a sheet of dark colored rock, split into a thin flat plate and used to write on with a sharp pointed instrument or chalk. A *blank slate* is thus one which is without any writing or marking on it and is ready to be written on.

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blasting: criticizing (something or somebody) very strongly; attacking forcefully.

boor: a person with rude, clumsy manners and little refinement.

Boyle's Law: a law stating that the pressure of a gas, at a constant temperature, increases as the volume decreases. For example, when a gas (such as normal air) is put into a container, its volume (how much space it is occupying) and the pressure it exerts against the inside of the container are related to each other. If the volume is reduced by squashing the air into a smaller space, the pressure increases. If the volume is increased, such as by putting the same amount of air into a larger container, the pressure is less. Boyle's Law was named after Irish physicist Robert Boyle (1627–1691) who formulated it in 1662.

brambles: any rough, thorny vines or shrubs.

brink: literally, the extreme edge of something. Hence, the point at which something begins, as in "*from babyhood to the brink of adult life.*"

broken: destroyed, damaged or badly hurt, as if by breaking.

Buddhism: a world religion based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama Buddha (563–483? B.C.) and holding that a state of enlightenment can be attained by overcoming worldly desires. Buddha means "Enlightened One."

building block: literally, a large block of concrete or similar hard material used for building houses and other large structures. Hence, anything thought of as a basic



unit of construction, such as an element or component regarded as contributing to the growth or development of something.

bungling: the activity of careless or clumsy actions or making mistakes.

buy: to gain the support or obedience of, as in “to ‘buy’ the child with an overwhelm of toys and possessions.”

cannot help but: to be impossible or unable to prevent or avoid something, as in “If the child is frank and honest, there cannot help but be an appeal that will reach.”

case(s): 1. the actual state of things, as in “This is not now the case, if it ever was.”

2. an instance of something; an occurrence; an example, as in “some are even born as drug addicts: but such cases are an unusual few.”

3. a matter examined or judged in a court of law, as in “The lawyer who has not drill-drill-drilled on courtroom procedure may not have learned to shift his mental gears fast enough to counter new turns of a case and loses it.”

censure: an expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism.

chaotic: having the character or nature of total disorder or confusion.

cine: abbreviation for *cinematography*, the skill or art of movie (motion picture) photography.

civics: the study of the principles and structure of government (in its relationship to citizens).

codify: arrange and classify, especially laws, into an organized, comprehensible system.

coins: figuratively, things given or offered in exchange for something else; something accepted as having value. From the literal definition, being pieces of metal (gold, silver, copper, etc.) of definite value, used as money.

come to grips with: to begin to understand and deal with directly or firmly. *Grip* means the grasping of something tightly and in this sense refers to a mental or intellectual hold on something.

coming down on: criticizing or punishing someone severely.

commercial: having to do with or engaged in *commerce*, the buying and selling of goods or services, as opposed to religious, educational, charitable, etc.



committing something to memory: learning things well enough to remember them exactly. *Committing* in this sense means transferring something to (a state or place).

commotion: agitated and noisy activity, confusion or disturbance.

communicable: (said of a disease) able to be passed from one person to another; contagious.

compassion: understanding for the sufferings or trouble of another or others, accompanied by an urge to help.

competent: able to do well those things one does; capable; skilled in doing what one does; measuring up to the demands of one's activities.

compromise: a settlement of differences in which each side gives in on some point while retaining others and reaching a mutual agreement thereby.

considerable: large in amount, extent or degree.

consideration: the state or condition of having or showing regard for others and their feelings; thoughtfulness.

consolation: that which comforts or cheers the mind or spirit or alleviates distress or misery.

contention: a state of angry disagreement and disharmony between people.

contentious: causing or likely to cause argument, conflict or severe difference of opinion.

cornerstone: literally, a stone that forms the base of a corner of a building joining two walls. Hence, a fundamentally important basis on which things are constructed or developed.

crafts: activities, professions or occupations that require the application of artistic skill and training, experience or specialized knowledge.

credit: something that is worthy of praise, recognition or acknowledgment.

crude: lacking culture, refinement, etc.; offensive or rude.

cultured: improved by education; having refined taste, speech and manners.

curtain of fear: a *curtain* is something that hides or masks, or which blocks clear perception, understanding or communication. Hence, a *curtain of fear* is a barrier



that makes one afraid to view or understand something or someone directly or accurately.

dawn of the species: the first appearance or beginning of Mankind on Earth. *Dawn* means the beginning (of something) or the initial stage of a developmental process and *species* is the human race.

deference: courteous, respectful regard for another; polite respect, especially putting another's interests first.

deft: demonstrating skill and cleverness. Also, skillful and quick in one's movements.

degraded: reduced far below ordinary standards of civilized life and conduct.

delusion: a fixed false belief; a perception that is perceived in a way different from the way it is in reality. From the word *delude*, which means to mislead the mind or judgment of, and *illusion*, which means something that deceives by producing a false or misleading impression of reality.

Democritus: (460–370 B.C.) Greek philosopher, who developed the atomic theory of the universe, which had been originated by his teacher, the philosopher Leucippus. According to Democritus, all things are composed of minute, invisible, indestructible particles of pure matter which move about eternally in infinite empty space. Democritus believed that our world came about from the chance combination of atoms.

destiny: the apparently predetermined course of events considered as something beyond human power or control.

deter: to prevent or discourage.

dexterity: skill and ease in physical movement, especially in the use of the hands. Also, mental skill; cleverness.

dictator: a ruler whose word is law, and who has total, unrestricted control in a government and typically rules with harsh or cruel actions and ruthless suppression of opposition.

dignity: a proper sense of pride and self-respect.

dilemma: a situation in which one has to make a difficult choice between two, or sometimes more than two, actions none of which seem to be satisfactory solutions.



discharge: to release or free from (a debt, obligation, duty, etc.) by paying or performing some task.

disfigured: having the appearance of being damaged; spoiled or ruined.

disposition: the combination of qualities that form one's normal frame of mind or characteristic attitude.

disservice: an action that causes harm or difficulty; the opposite of service, which is work done for somebody else to help them or as a favor.

dogma: a set of beliefs, opinions, principles, etc., that are laid down and held as true and not subject to question. From the Greek word *dogma*, opinion.

dole: the British term for government relief.

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duress: compulsion to do or not to do something resulting from pressure, force or threats.

ebb and flow: literally, the moving of the tide out to sea (ebb) and its alternate movement towards land (flow). *Tide* is the periodic variation in the surface level of the oceans, most noticeable at the shoreline. Hence, a recurrent or rhythmical pattern of coming and going, or decline and renewed advance, ups and downs, etc.

economic: of or relating to *economics*, the social science that studies the production, distribution and consumption (using) of commodities (things). The word originally meant the science or art of managing a house or household.

ends: the goals, objects or purposes an individual or group intends to achieve.

ends, suit their own: satisfy or please their own intentions or desires (to the exclusion of others). *Suit* means satisfy, please or agree with the views or wishes of, and *ends* means the things an individual or group has for goals or intends to achieve.

engaging (in): involving oneself or becoming occupied (in); participating (in).

enhance: intensify, increase or further improve the quality or extent of.

environment: one's surroundings; the material things around one; the area one lives in; the living things, objects, spaces and forces with which one lives whether close to or far away.

epilogue: a short addition or concluding section at the end of a literary work.



era: a portion or length of time marked by particular circumstances, distinctive characteristics, events, persons, etc.

esteemed: held in high regard; admired, respected or valued.

evolutionary: related to a very ancient theory that all plants and animals developed from simpler forms and were shaped by their surroundings rather than being planned or created.

example: someone or something worthy of imitation or duplication; a pattern, a model.

eyesore: something that is unpleasant or offensively ugly to look at.

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face of, in the: when confronted with.

fairness: the quality of operating according to the rules, being just and honest, impartial and unprejudiced.

far cry: quite some distance; a long way; hence only remotely related; very different.

fare well: used to express good wishes on parting. *Fare* means to get along or experience good fortune.

fashion, in this: in the way or manner indicated.

firm: a company or business.

flagrant: shockingly noticeable or evident; obvious.

floods: very large numbers of things, likened to a *flood*, a large quantity of water overflowing onto land.

flourish: to be in a state of activity and production; expanding in influence; thriving; visibly doing well.

foghorn: a very loud, deep-sounding horn set off on a ship or boat when fog reduces visibility, as a warning to other vessels.

forgivingness: the quality or state of giving up resentment against or desire to punish, stopping being angry with; willingness to pardon.

formula(s): in mathematics, a rule or principle represented in symbols, numbers or letters, often equating one thing to another. Example: To calculate the area of a rectangle (a carpet for instance) one uses the formula of $A \times B = C$, where A stands for the length, B the width and C the area.



foul: make something dirty or impure; pollute.

friendliness: the quality or state of being a friend or of showing kindness. (*A friend* is a person whom one knows well and likes.)

from scratch: from a position of no previous advantage or knowledge; from nothing. A *scratch* is a line or mark drawn as an indication of a starting point in some sporting contest.

fruit, bears: produces the intended or desired result or effect. *Bears* means brings forth or produces, as by natural growth, and *fruit* means that which is produced, a result, effect or outcome.

geared: equipped or adapted so as to make suitable for a particular purpose or situation.

gears, shift (his) mental: change one's ideas, conceptual approach, etc., in handling something such as a problem or situation. The phrase refers to the gears of an automobile which the driver shifts depending upon the speed required due to conditions such as hills, traffic, etc.

gift of heaven: a gift granted to Mankind from a divine power or source. Hence, something very special, significant or important.

gloom: act, look or feel miserable, sad and hopeless, as in "*children gloom to their mother when they have nothing to do.*"

goes a long way, a little (something): a small amount of something can have a great effect or strong influence with somebody or something.

"Golden Rule, The": although this is looked upon by Christians as Christian and is found in the New and Old Testaments, many other races and peoples spoke of it. It also appears in the *Analects* of Confucius (fifth and sixth centuries B.C.) who himself quoted from more ancient works. It is also found in "primitive" tribes. In one form or another it appears in the ancient works of Plato, Aristotle, Isocrates and Seneca. For thousands of years it has been held by Man as a standard of ethical conduct. The versions given in this book are newly worded however, as in earlier wordings it was thought to be too idealistic to be kept. It is possible to keep this version.

go to pieces: become upset or nervous to the extent that one cannot live, work or perform as one should; to be ruined or wrecked, likened to something breaking up into fragments.



got up in the world: became more important, successful or prosperous in society.

grade: a mark or rating on examinations and in school courses, indicating the relative quality of a student's work in school. In US schools, for example, the grade system consists of a scale starting at the bottom with F (failing) and moving up through D (poor or barely passing), C (average or satisfactory), B (good or above average), and A (excellent).

green: young, new, recent or fresh; untrained or inexperienced.

grips with, come to: to begin to understand and deal with directly or firmly. *Grip* means the grasping of something tightly and in this sense refers to a mental or intellectual hold on something.

ground glass (in the soup): a reference to the practice of committing murder by grinding up glass so fine that it is unnoticeable when placed in food and damages the digestive system of the victim beyond repair when ingested.

hand, at every: constantly, on every occasion or in every case. *Hand* is used here to mean direction or side and is a reference to the position of the hands—one on either side of the body.

happiness: a condition or state of well-being, contentment, pleasure; joyful, cheerful, untroubled existence; the reaction to having nice things happen to one.

hardened: firmly established or unlikely to change.

have had it: to be in a state considered beyond remedy, repair or salvage; to have had an (unfavorable) outcome finally decided.

havoc: great confusion, disorder or chaos; destruction.

heavenly mandate: a *mandate* is an authoritative command, instruction or order. A *heavenly mandate* would be a direction or command coming from a god.

heeds: pays attention to; listens to and considers.

henchmen: loyal supporters or followers of criminals or corrupt political leaders.

hide-outs: places where someone can stay out of view or disappear, especially someone wanted by the police, etc.

high road: a direct or certain route or course; the surest path.

Hitler: Adolf Hitler (1889–1945), German political leader of the twentieth century who dreamed of creating a master race that would rule for a thousand years as



the third German empire. Taking over rule of Germany by force in 1933 as a dictator, he began World War II (1939–1945), subjecting much of Europe to his domination and murdering millions of Jews and others considered “inferior.” During his rule, several unsuccessful attempts by German officers were made to assassinate him. Hitler committed suicide in 1945 when Germany’s defeat was close at hand.

hold to: to remain attached or faithful to; refuse to abandon or change (a principle or opinion).

holy: dedicated to God or a religious purpose; living according to a strict or highly moral, religious or spiritual system, as in “*holy men.*”

honesty: the state or quality of being honest; specifically refraining from lying, cheating or stealing; being truthful, trustworthy or upright; sincerity; fairness; straightforwardness.

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honor: to show respect for; to treat with deference and courtesy.

hoodwinked: deceived by false appearance or fooled; prevented from seeing the truth or facts, as if blindfolded mentally. A *hood* is a loose covering placed over the head which sometimes blocks vision. *Hoodwink* originally meant to blindfold.

humanities: branches of learning concerned with human thought and relations, especially literature, philosophy, history, etc., and as distinguished from the physical sciences.

ill-: used in combination with another word with the meaning of badly, wrongly or imperfectly, as in “*ill-tempered*” or “*ill-planned.*”

ill-tempered: having or showing a bad or irritable mood or outlook.

illustrations: examples serving to explain, clarify or prove something.

immoral: not moral; not following good practices of behavior; not doing right; lacking any idea of proper conduct.

imperils: puts at risk of being harmed, injured or destroyed.

implacable: not open to being quieted, soothed or pleased; remorseless; relentless.

incompetence: lacking adequate knowledge or skill or ability; unskilled; incapable; subject to making big errors or mistakes; bungling.



incompetence, trash bin of: figuratively, a place where inability, lack of skill or ineffectiveness are dumped and stored. From *trash bin* meaning a container where refuse, garbage, unwanted or worthless material or objects are disposed of.

incurs: acquires or comes into something, usually undesirable; becomes burdened with something such as a debt.

industrious: applying oneself with energy to study or work; actively and purposefully getting things done; opposite of being idle and accomplishing nothing.

influence: the resulting effect.

influences: has an effect upon.

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inherent: existing in someone's internal character as a permanent and inseparable element, quality or attribute.

in its own time and place: during that specified time period and location. The use of *own* emphasizes the idea of a specific environment and time (in this case, the late 1700s and early 1800s in the United States, France and South America).

in spite of: regardless of; without being affected by the particular factor mentioned.

integrity: the quality of being honest and trustworthy; honesty.

interpersonal: of or having to do with the relations between persons.

in the face of: when confronted with.

in the long run: concerning a longer period in the future; in the end.

in the open: not hidden or secret; so as to be seen.

in this fashion: in the way or manner indicated.

intricate: containing many small parts that are skillfully made or assembled; very complicated.

Isocrates: (436–338 B.C.) Greek author, educator and follower of Plato, known for his many great orations (formal public speeches or lectures) which he published in pamphlet form. He founded a school where he taught young men from all parts of the Greek-speaking world the arts of writing essays and of public speaking (oratory). His pupils included orators, historians, debaters and writers.

justness: the quality of being right or fair, equitable or impartial.



keeps up with: remains informed and up-to-date about something that undergoes continuous change or progress, as in “*The competent engineer keeps up with new ways.*”

kindness: the state, quality or habit of being kind (*kind* means friendly, gentle, tenderhearted, generous, etc.).

law codes: systematically arranged and very thorough collections of laws, rules or regulations.

lay: belong to or are attached to (some thing, person, etc.); exist or can be found in (some thing, person, etc.).

laying down: establishing or formulating definitely a rule, principle, etc.; firmly recommending a course of action, limits, etc.

lay (oneself) open to: expose oneself to or leave oneself without adequate protection from danger or harm.

legendary: very well known, especially over time, likened to a legend, an old, well-known story.

legislative bodies: groups of people, usually elected, who have the responsibility and authority to make, change or abolish laws for a country or state.

Leucippus: Greek philosopher (ca. 450–370 B.C.) who believed that all matter was made up of atoms, that all observable properties of an object result from the behavior of these atoms, and that this behavior of atoms was completely determined in advance. His teachings were further developed by his pupil, the Greek philosopher Democritus.

liberty, at: free to do or be as specified; allowed without restriction.

lies: false statements or pieces of information deliberately presented as being true; a falsehood; anything meant to deceive or give a wrong impression.

long run, in the: concerning a longer period in the future; in the end.

loot: stolen money or valuables, often taken by violence or force.

lost sight of: forgotten, disregarded or ignored.

lot: 1. a large extent, amount or number, as in “*A lot of pleasure and happiness.*”
2. a number of persons or things regarded as a group, as in “*Men without faith are a pretty sorry lot.*”



3. one's fortune in life; fate, as in "Oh, yes, it is true that such people, seeing one improve his lot, can become frantic and attack all the harder."

love: a deep and tender feeling of affection for or attachment or devotion to a person or persons.

low ebb: in a bad state or condition. From the movement of the tide (the periodic rise and fall of the level of water in the ocean), with the *ebb* being the action of the water flowing away from the shore and going back out to sea.

low-income: having a relatively small income or used by people on a relatively small income. *Low-income housing* would be housing for those on a small income and is often specifically developed and built with that public in mind, with financial assistance from the local or federal government.

low-mindedness: the quality or characteristic of tending to think or behave in a hopeless, dispirited or discouraged manner.

loyalty: quality, state or instance of being loyal; faithfulness or faithful adherence to a person, government, cause, duty, etc.

lured: tempted, attracted or persuaded (to do something or go somewhere) with the promise of pleasure.

make nothing out of: to treat with no respect or thoughtful concern; to have a low opinion of; value at a low rate.

malice: a desire to harm others or to see others suffer.

malice aforethought: legally, the intention to commit a wrongful act (such as murder) without just cause or excuse and which was determined upon before it was carried out.

mandate, heavenly: a *mandate* is an authoritative command, instruction or order. A *heavenly mandate* would be a direction or command coming from a god.

map: plan, sketch or draw out, especially in detail as if on a map, as in "there is always a point on the road when one can map a new one."

marketplace: the world or sphere of business and trade where the buying and selling of goods or services takes place.

materialism: any one of a family of metaphysical theories which view the universe as consisting of hard objects such as stones, big or very small. The theories seek to explain away such things as minds by saying they can be reduced to



physical things or their motions. Materialism is a very ancient idea. There are other ideas.

materialist: one who believes in the doctrine of *materialism*, any one of a family of metaphysical theories which view the universe as consisting of hard objects such as stones, big or very small. The theories seek to explain away such things as minds by saying they can be reduced to physical things or their motions. Materialism is a very ancient idea. There are other ideas.

materialistic: the opinion that only physical matter exists.

measure: extent, quantity or degree, as in “*one’s survival and that of one’s family and friends depends in no small measure upon the general competence of others.*”

measures, strong: procedures, laws, courses of action or plans (to achieve a particular purpose) that are forceful and effective.

mechanism: the view that all life is only matter in motion and can be totally explained by physical laws. Advanced by Leucippus and Democritus (460 B.C. to 370 B.C.) who may have gotten it from Egyptian mythology. Upholders of this philosophy felt they had to neglect religion because they could not reduce it to mathematics. They were attacked by religious interests and in their turn attacked religions. Robert Boyle (1627–1691), who developed Boyle’s Law in physics, refuted it by raising the question as to whether or not nature might have designs such as matter in motion.

mechanisms: the means by which something (mental or physical) is accomplished, likened to the structure or system of parts in a mechanical device for carrying out some function or doing something.

mechanist: one who believes in the doctrine of *mechanism*, the view that all life is only matter in motion and can be totally explained by physical laws. *See also mechanism.*

medicinal: of or relating to the properties of a medicine; intended to improve somebody’s physical well-being.

menace: something that threatens to cause evil, harm, injury, etc.

mercy of, at the: without any protection against; entirely in the power of, or helpless before.

metaphysical: of or relating to *metaphysics*, a branch of speculative inquiry or investigation, whose ideas or concepts are not verifiable by logical methods. *Speculative* means of a conclusion, an opinion, or a theory reached by guess



or unfounded theory. The term, *metaphysical*, was first applied to writings of Aristotle (384–322 B.C.), and literally means “after physics,” as these writings were placed by his editors after his books about nature, time, place, etc., known as the *Physics*.

might: the power, force, authority or collective resources held and used by a group or government.

mischance: the occurrence of unfortunate events by chance or bad luck; misfortune.

moral: able to know right from wrong in conduct; deciding and acting from that understanding.

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morale: the mental and emotional attitude of an individual or a group; sense of well-being; willingness to get on with it; a sense of common purpose.

muddle: a confused or disordered mental state.

murder: the unlawful killing of one (or more) human being by another, especially with malice aforethought (intending to do so before the act).

mutual agreement: agreement shared between two or more persons, groups, countries, etc. *Mutual* means possessed in common; of or pertaining to each of two or more; shared.

mutually: done or experienced equally by two or more people.

Napoleon: Napoleon Bonaparte (1767–1821), French military leader who rose to power in France by military force, declared himself emperor and conducted campaigns of conquest across Europe until his final defeat in 1815. He died in exile from poison administered by one of his close associates.

no matter: regardless of; it being of no importance.

novel: of a new kind; different from anything seen or known before.

nurture: to support and encourage, as during a period of training or development.

obligation: 1. the condition or fact of owing another something in return for things, favors or services received.

2. the state, fact or condition of being indebted to another for a special service or favor received; a duty, contract, promise or any other social, moral or legal requirement that binds one to follow or avoid a certain course of action; the sense of owing another.



officers: members of the armed forces who are in a position of authority over soldiers and who hold a *commission*, a document granting authority to military officers issued by the president of the United States.

off the rails: out of the correct, normal or usual condition; not functioning, working or acting correctly. The phrase alludes to a train that has run off the railway tracks and is literally off its rails.

on the other hand: used to indicate two contrasting sides of a subject; in contrast, oppositely.

open, in the: not hidden or secret; so as to be seen.

opened the door: created an opportunity for; provided the means of getting or reaching something.

opinion leaders: the persons in a group to whom others listen, whose opinion they accept, whom they trust and on whom they depend.

out from underfoot: no longer constantly (and annoyingly) present and in one's way or hindering one's progress, likened to something being under one's foot.

parrots: persons who merely repeat the words or imitate the actions of another, especially without understanding them. *Parrot* is the tropical bird that has the ability to mimic human speech or other sounds.

party to: to be involved in an agreement or action such as participating in or aiding another in a crime.

perjury: the deliberate giving of false, misleading or incomplete data while under oath, such as in a court of law.

personify: to be a symbol or perfect example of (some idea, thing, etc.).

phenomenon: an observable fact or event.

physics: the science that deals with matter, energy, motion and force, including what these things are, why they behave as they do and the relationship between them, as contrasted to the life sciences, such as biology which studies and observes living organisms like animals and plants.

pieces, go to: become upset or nervous to the extent that one cannot live, work or perform as one should; to be ruined or wrecked, likened to something breaking up into fragments.

pilloried: exposed to ridicule, public contempt, scorn or abuse.



plain: absolute or total (used for emphasis).

Plato: (427–347 B.C.) Greek philosopher noted for his works on law, mathematics, technical philosophic problems and natural science. In about 387 B.C., near Athens, Plato founded the most influential school of the ancient world, the Academy, where he taught until his death. His most famous pupil there was Aristotle.

plunges: falls or gets thrown suddenly and uncontrollably (downward).

policies: any governing principles, plans or courses of action.

political: of or having to do with *politics*, the science or practice of government; the regulation and management of a nation or state for the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity. *Government* is that controlling body of a nation, state or people which conducts its policy, actions and affairs.

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politeness: the quality or state of having or showing good manners, especially displaying behavior that is courteous, considerate, tactful, etc. (*Tactful* means having a sense of what is the right thing to do or say without causing anger or hurt feelings; skilled in dealing with people.)

practice: to exercise or perform repeatedly in order to acquire or polish a skill.

precautions: actions taken in advance to prevent something dangerous, unpleasant, inconvenient, etc., from happening.

precepts: rules or statements advising or laying down a principle or principles or a course of action regarding conduct; directions meant as a rule or rules for conduct.

prejudice: a judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known; a preconceived idea, favorable or more usually unfavorable.

pretenses: false appearances or actions intended to deceive; false displays of attitude, knowledge, etc.

prevalent: widespread in existence or occurrence; widely or commonly occurring, existing, accepted or practiced.

priests: persons who are trained and have the authority to perform religious duties and ceremonies in certain churches. "*Priests of old*" refers to such persons in past times, who, firmly convinced that they alone knew the truth about the world and religion, enforced their beliefs on others.



private sector, the: the part of the economy of a country that is made up of companies and organizations that are not owned or controlled by the government.

probes, space: unmanned spacecraft designed to explore outer space and transmit data back to Earth.

production: the act of completing something; finishing a task, project or object that is useful or valuable or simply worth doing or having.

promiscuous: casual, random sexual relations.

propaganda: spreading ideas, information or rumor to further one's own cause and/or injure that of another, often without regard to truth; the act of putting lies in the press or on radio and TV so that when a person comes to trial he will be found guilty; the action of falsely damaging a person's reputation so he will not be listened to. (A propagandist is a person or group that does, makes or practices propaganda.)

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propagandist: *see* **propaganda**.

propitiation: the act of trying to please or satisfy someone (such as in making an offering or sacrifice) in a way calculated to win their favor in order to defend or protect oneself against their disapproval, attack, etc.

prosper: to achieve economic success; succeeding at what one does.

public workers: those employed by the government on activities intended for the benefit or use of the general public, such as in schools, public hospitals, public transportation systems, construction projects and the like.

rails, off the: out of the correct, normal or usual condition; not functioning, working or acting correctly. The phrase alludes to a train that has run off the railway tracks and is literally off its rails.

rationalizations: attempts to explain behavior normally considered irrational or unacceptable by offering apparently reasonable or sensible explanations.

read up on: to learn about by reading; gather information on; research by reading.

recommendation(s): something, such as a course of action, that is advised or suggested as appropriate, beneficial or the like.

reconcile: resolve or end a conflict; solve or settle a quarrel or dispute.

refinement: elegance of feeling, taste, manners, language, etc.



relief: goods or money given by a government agency to people because of need or poverty.

repress: to keep down or under by self-control or suppression (of desires, feelings, actions, etc.); prevent from expression.

respect: to feel or show honor for; hold in high regard; admire.

reveled in: took great pleasure, delight or satisfaction in.

revered: felt deep respect or admiration for (something).

revolution: overthrow of a government, a form of government or a social system by those governed and usually by forceful or violent means, with another government or system taking its place.

-ridden: used in combination with another word (placed at the end) meaning full of, burdened with, as in "*crime-ridden*."

right and left: from all directions; on every side.

ripen: come (or improve) to a state or condition of full or maximum development.

ritual dances: a set, ordered and ceremonial way of performing dances, often carried out by primitive societies as part of religious custom, as in "*ritual dances before the hunt*." *Ritual* means the performance of actions or procedures (such as by formal custom, belief, etc.) in a very set and ordered manner.

roadbed: literally, the foundation of soil or crushed rock that supports a road or highway. Hence, the underlying support or foundation along or upon which something can advance.

rule out: exclude something as a possibility.

run its course: complete its natural development without interference. *Course* in this sense means the continuous passage or progress through a succession of stages.

safeguard: prevent from being harmed; protect.

saint(s): somebody who has been particularly holy in life and after death is declared by a Christian church to have a privileged place in heaven and be worthy of worship. Also, someone who is a particularly good or holy person, or one who is extremely kind and patient in dealing with difficult people or situations.



scratch, from: from a position of no previous advantage or knowledge; from nothing. A *scratch* is a line or mark drawn as an indication of a starting point in some sporting contest.

sea: something that suggests the ocean in its extremely large or overpowering vastness; an overwhelming quantity, as in “*In this sea of contention, one bright principle has emerged: the right to believe as one chooses.*”

self-control: control of oneself or of one’s own emotions, desires, actions, etc.

self-reliant: dependent on one’s own efforts, capabilities, judgment or resources.

Seneca: (4 B.C.–A.D. 65) Roman philosopher, playwright and statesman, who was one of the most renowned writers of Latin literature. He wrote numerous philosophical essays and plays, drawing moral lessons and attacking luxury and immorality.

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serpent: a snake, a legless animal with a long, thin, flexible body covered with overlapping scales that often has a poisonous bite. The term is usually applied to the larger, more poisonous snakes.

serve their own ends: promote or advance their own intentions or desires to the exclusion of others. *Serve* means to be of assistance to or promote the interests of, and *ends* means the things an individual or group has for goals or intends to achieve.

serve their own purposes: promote or advance their own intended or desired results without regard for others. *Serve* means to be of assistance to or promote the interests of, and *purposes* means the objects toward which one works or wishes to achieve.

set the stage for: to prepare the way for or to make something likely; to provide the underlying basis or background for something to occur. This expression is from arranging actors and objects on a theatrical stage prior to the beginning of a play or an act in a play.

shadowed: to become clouded over as if with shadows; grow dark or gloomy.

shalt, thou: an old form of *you shall*, normally used in formal writing.

shatter: break apart; disintegrate. Literally, *shatter* means to break into pieces as by a single blow.

shift (his) mental gears: change one’s ideas, conceptual approach, etc., in handling something such as a problem or situation. The phrase refers to the gears of an



automobile which the driver shifts depending upon the speed required due to conditions such as hills, traffic, etc.

shortcomings: faults or failures to meet a certain standard, typically in a person's character or conduct.

shut off (from): put into a state of separation or isolation from.

slop over: to spill over a boundary, typically as a result of careless handling and likened to water spilling over the edge of a container.

smooth the way: to remove obstructions, hindrances or difficulties from a course or path.

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smother: to give someone too much emotion, affection, love, etc., so as to restrict, suppress or prevent expression.

solemnity: the state or character of being deeply serious; lack of joy or humor.

sorry: in a poor or pitiful state or condition; worthless or of little value.

sows: causes some (negative) feeling or belief to arise or become widespread. Literally, *sow* means to plant the seeds of a plant or crop.

space probes: unmanned spacecraft designed to explore outer space and transmit data back to Earth.

special interest group: a group of people or an organization seeking or receiving special advantages or treatment, typically through persuading political representatives or influential persons to issue laws in their favor.

species, dawn of the: the first appearance or beginning of Mankind on Earth. *Dawn* means the beginning (of something) or the initial stage of a developmental process and *species* is the human race.

species, the: the human race, Mankind. A *species* is a group or class of animals or plants having certain common and permanent characteristics which clearly distinguish it from other groups and which can breed with one another.

spite of, in: regardless of; without being affected by the particular factor mentioned.

sportsmanship: appropriate conduct according to principles of fairness, observation of rules, respect for others, good temper in losing, etc.



startles one half out of (his) wits: frightens one extremely; *startle* means to alarm, frighten or surprise suddenly, and *wits* means one's mental composure or ability to think.

state: the government of a country.

stockbroker: one that acts as an agent in the buying and selling of stocks. (To raise money, companies, corporations, etc., sell *shares*, equal parts into which a company is divided and sold. *Stocks* are shares that someone has bought in a company. If the company does well the monetary value of the shares or stock goes up. If it does poorly, the monetary value of the shares or stock goes down.)

strain(s): a specific variety of a disease that has unique characteristics, and which sometimes can develop resistance to treatments that were earlier successful in controlling the original version of the disease.

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streak: an element of a person's character, especially one that is only occasionally evident or that contrasts with other characteristics. (A *streak* is a line, mark, smear or band differentiated by color or texture from its surroundings.)

strings (attached): conditions, limits or restrictions attached to something, such as an agreement, relationship, etc.

strong measures: procedures, laws, courses of action or plans (to achieve a particular purpose) that are forceful and effective.

stuntmen: those men who substitute for actors in scenes involving physical risk.

subterfuges: secret, usually dishonest, ways of behaving or doing something; actions designed to hide, avoid or escape something.

suit their own ends: satisfy or please their own intentions or desires (to the exclusion of others). *Suit* means satisfy, please or agree with the views or wishes of, and *ends* means the things an individual or group has for goals or intends to achieve.

sulfuric acid: a highly corrosive, oily liquid that is used in batteries and in the manufacture of many products such as explosives, detergents, dyes and chemicals. Burning coal (used in many production facilities) produces a mist of sulfuric acid in the air, which turns rain into acid rain, causing harm to plants and fish, corrosion of metals, and deterioration of stone and other building materials.

survival: the act of remaining alive, of continuing to exist, of being alive.

tailor-made: made or adapted for a particular purpose. From the idea of clothes that are "tailor-made" (made by a tailor) rather than in a factory.



take(s): 1. to perform, make or do (an act, action, movement, etc.), as in *“Insist when someone is ill that he or she takes the proper precautions and gets proper care.”*

2. receive something into the body, as by swallowing; consume, as in *“Do not take harmful drugs.”*

3. to end (a life), as in *“Drinking can take lives in more ways than one.”*

4. to obtain or determine, as through measurement or a specified procedure, as in *“take the temperatures.”*

5. (of a task or situation) needs or calls for; requires, as in *“It might take a while.”*

take a hand in: participate or be involved in, as in *“Aside from personal benefit, one can take a hand, no matter how small, in beginning a new era for human relations.”*

take care of: to assume responsibility for the support, treatment or maintenance of; see to the safety or well-being of, as in *“Take care of yourself.”*

taken: 1. performed, made or done (an act, action, movement, etc.), as in *“strong measures should be advocated and taken to defend them and keep them from harm.”*

2. required, as in *“yet it has taken a violent revolution to handle them.”*

3. experienced or felt, as in *“Man, since the dawn of the species, has taken great consolation and joy in his religions.”*

taken away: removed from someone's possession, as in *“taken away from them by brothers, sisters or parents.”*

take over: to assume management, control of or responsibility for, as in *“be readied to take over tomorrow's world.”*

take refuge in: turn to something as a means of escape, comfort or the like, as in *“When one is weak, it is a temptation to take refuge in subterfuges and lies.”*

tangible: real or actual, rather than imaginary or visionary. Literally, capable of being touched or felt.

tattered: torn and ragged.

tedious: tiresome or boring because of being long, dull or repetitive.

temperate: not going to extremes; not overdoing things; controlling one's cravings.

terrain: an area of land, seen in terms of its surface features or general physical character.



thou shalt: an old form of *you shall*, normally used in formal writing.

time and place, in its own: during that specified time period and location. The use of *own* emphasizes the idea of a specific environment and time (in this case, the late 1700s and early 1800s in the United States, France and South America).

tolerance: a willingness to let others have their own beliefs, ways of behaving, etc., even those that are unlike one's own.

tomes: books, especially large heavy (sometimes old) books on serious subjects.

trash bin of incompetence: figuratively, a place where inability, lack of skill or ineffectiveness are dumped and stored. From *trash bin* meaning a container where refuse, garbage, unwanted or worthless material or objects are disposed of.

treacherous: marked by unforeseen hazards; dangerous or deceptive.

trial and error: the process of making repeated trials or tests, improving the methods used based on the errors made, until the right result is found.

trust: belief that someone is honest and sincere and will not deliberately do anything that will hurt another.

truth: that which agrees with the facts and observations; logical answers resulting from looking over all the facts and data; a conclusion based on evidence uninfluenced by desire, authority or prejudice; an inevitable (unavoidable) fact no matter how arrived at.

turns: changes or developments in a particular direction.

tyrannical: the use of cruel, unjust and absolute power; crushing; oppressing; harsh; severe.

tyrannical days of aristocracy: a reference to Europe of the 1500s, 1600s and 1700s when countries were ruled by kings holding complete power. Under the kings were the aristocrats, born to great wealth and holding far greater rights and privileges than the rest of the population. It was against this background that revolutions occurred in the late 1700s and early 1800s in the United States (against the rule of Britain), France (against the rule of the French King and the aristocrats) and in South America (against the rule of Spain).

tyranny: a government in which a single ruler has absolute power and uses it unjustly or cruelly.

unavailing: unsuccessful or ineffective; of no use; producing no result.



underfoot, out from: no longer constantly (and annoyingly) present and in one's way or hindering one's progress, likened to something being under one's foot.

unkempt: having an untidy or disorderly appearance; uncared-for or neglected.

unlooked-for: not anticipated; unexpected; not hoped for.

unscrupulous: not restrained by moral or ethical principles.

untimely: occurring or done at a bad time.

unwittingly: unknowingly; unconsciously; without awareness.

up in the world, got: became more important, successful or prosperous in society.

usurp: to seize and hold (the power or rights of another, for example) by force and in an unjust or illegal manner.

vandalism: the willful and malicious destruction of public or private property, especially anything beautiful or artistic.

verge: 1. either of the two edges or borders along a road, usually unpaved, as in "*the motorist who plunges off onto the verge.*"

2. the extreme edge of something such as an extreme limit beyond which something specified will happen, as in "*seek by various means to push one onto the verge.*"

virtues: the ideal qualities in good human conduct.

waived aside: put aside or dismissed from consideration or discussion.

way, a little (something) goes a long: a small amount of something can have a great effect or a strong influence with (a person).

will: bearing or attitude toward others; disposition. Traditionally, "men of good will" means those who mean well toward their fellows and work to help them.

wind of mischance: an unlucky force or influence. *Wind* in this sense means a force, influence or tendency that drives or carries something along, or to which one is exposed, and *mischance* means the occurrence of unfortunate events by chance or bad luck; misfortune.

wind up: to arrive in a situation after or because of a course of action; end up.

witness, bear false: to tell lies or state something false while under oath or in a court of law; to state falsely. *Bear* means to give or provide. *Witness* means swearing to a fact, statement, etc.; proof or evidence.



wits: mind; powers of thinking and reasoning.

wits, startles one half out of (his): frightens one extremely; *startle* means to alarm, frighten or surprise suddenly, and *wits* means one's mental composure or ability to think.

worthy: deserving; good enough for.

wretched: extremely bad or unpleasant, miserable.

wringing wet: very wet; so wet that liquid may be extracted by or as if by twisting or squeezing (wringing).

zealots: people who show excessive enthusiasm for and devotion to some cause, belief or subject and determinedly try to advance it; fanatics.