

**ostentatious** ah sten TAY shus  
*describing a showy or pretentious display*

Whenever the millionaire gave a party, the elaborate decorations and enormous amounts of food were always part of his ostentatious display of wealth.

**poignant** POYN yunt  
*profoundly moving; touching*

The most poignant part of the movie was when the father finally made peace with his son.

## \* OVERKILL

**ebullience** ih BOOL yuns  
*intense enthusiasm*

A sense of ebullience swept over the crowd when the matador defeated the bull.

**effusive** eh FYOO siv  
*emotionally unrestrained; gushy*

Gwyneth Paltrow was effusive in her thanks after winning the Oscar; she even burst into tears.

**egregious** uh GREE jus  
*conspicuously bad or offensive*

Forgetting to sterilize surgical tools before an operation would be an egregious error.

**flagrant** FLAY grunt  
*extremely or deliberately shocking or noticeable*

His throwing the pie at his teacher was a flagrant sign of disrespect.

**frenetic** freh NEH tik  
*wildly excited or active*

The pace at the busy office was frenetic; Megan never had a moment to catch her breath.

**gratuitous** gruh TOO ih tus  
*given freely; unearned; unwarranted*

The film was full of gratuitous sex and violence that was not essential to the story.

**superfluous** soo PER floo us  
*extra; unnecessary*

If there is sugar in your tea, adding honey would be superfluous.

## \* IT'S GETTING BETTER

**alleviate** uh LEEV ee ayt  
*to ease a pain or burden*

John took aspirin to alleviate the pain from the headache he got after taking the SAT.

**asylum** uh SY lum  
*a place of retreat or security*

The soldiers sought asylum from the bombs in the underground shelter.

**auspicious**      aw SPISH us

*favorable; promising*

Our trip to the beach had an auspicious start; the rain stopped just as we started the car.

**benevolent**      buh NEH vuh lunt

*well-meaning; generous*

She was a kind and benevolent queen who was concerned about her subjects' well-being.

**benign**      buh NINE

*kind and gentle*

Uncle Charlie is a benign and friendly man who is always willing to help.

**mollify**      MAHL uh fy

*to calm or soothe*

Anna's apology for scaring her brother did not mollify him; he was mad at her all day.

**reclamation**      rek luh MAY shun

*the act of making something useful again*

Thanks to the reclamation project, the once unusable land became a productive farm.

**sanction**      SANK shun

*to give official authorization or approval*

The students were happy when the principal agreed to sanction the use of calculators in math classes.

## **LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE**

*Next week*

**dubious**      DOO bee us

*doubtful; of unlikely authenticity*

Jerry's claim that he could fly like Superman seemed dubious—we didn't believe it.

**fabricated**      FAB ruh kay tid

*made; concocted to deceive*

Fabio fabricated the story that he used to play drums for Metallica; he had never actually held drumsticks in his life.

**hypocrisy**      hih POK ruh see

*the practice of pretending to be something one is not; insincerity*

People who claim to be vegetarian but eat chicken and fish are guilty of hypocrisy.

**slander**      SLAN der

*false charges and malicious oral statements about someone*

After the radio host stated that Monica was a space alien, she sued him for slander.

**spurious**      SPUR ee us

*not genuine*

The sportscaster made a spurious claim when he said that the San Antonio Spurs were undefeated.