

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

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.

SHE'S CRAFTY

astute uh STOOT

shrewd; clever

Kevin is financially astute; he never falls for the tricks that credit card companies play.

clandestine klan DES tin

secretive

The spies planned a clandestine maneuver that depended on its secrecy to work.

coup KOO

a brilliantly executed plan

It was quite a coup when I talked the salesperson into selling me this valuable cuckoo clock for five dollars.

disingenuous dis in JEN yoo us

not straightforward; crafty

Mr. Gelman was rather disingenuous; although he seemed to be simply asking about your health, he was really trying to figure out why you'd been absent.

ruse ROOZ

a crafty trick

The offer of a free cruise was merely a ruse to get people to listen to their sales pitch.

stratagem STRAT uh jem

a clever trick used to deceive or outwit

Planting microphones in the gangster's home was a clever, but illegal, stratagem.

surreptitiously sur ep TISH us lee

done by secretive means

Matt drank the cough syrup surreptitiously because he didn't want anyone to know that he was sick.

wary WAIR ee

on guard

My father becomes wary whenever a salesman calls him on the phone; he knows that many crooks use the phone so that they can't be charged with mail fraud.

wily WY lee

cunning

Each year, a new batch of wily campers devised ways to torture the cabin leader.