**Abhorrent**: *(adjective)* feeling, causing, or deserving strong dislike or hatred

*[abhor (verb), abhorrently (adverb)]*

-The triple-murder was considered an **abhorrent** crime in the small town.

-I long ago learned to **abhor** crowded and noisy rooms.

-He was **abhorrently** opposed to the new law and criticized the council for passing it.

**Auspicious:** *(adjective)* showing or suggesting that future success is likely; attended by good fortune

*[auspiciously (adverb), auspiciousness (noun).* Antonym*: inauspicious]*

- After the **auspicious** release of his first book, Stephen King became a world-renowned horror writer.

-The game began **auspiciously**, but ended in a devastating defeat.

-The **inauspicious** dawn of Caesar’s reign brought meteor showers, tempests, ghosts, and other supernatural events to Shakespeare’s recreation of Ancient Rome.

**Contention:** *(noun)* something that is argued or debated; an argument or rivalry

*[contend (verb), contending (adverb)]*

-It was NASA’s **contention** that the program needed additional funding to continue the Space Program beyond the Apollo 17 mission.

-“Do you **contend** you were nowhere near the scene of the crime on the morning of June 29th?” the attorney asked.

-After years of **contending** the energy crisis could be averted, the senator bought his own wind farm and began providing wind energy to much of the Midwest.

**Dissent:** *(noun* or *verb)* to withhold approval; difference of opinion

*[dissension (noun), dissented (verb), dissenting (adjective)]*

- A wave of **dissent** rolled through the crowd and several people began shouting and throwing things.

-Often, **dissension** within political parties can prevent officials from taking action on important issues.

-Two of the Supreme Court judges dissented from the Court’s ruling, writing their own briefs justifying their disagreement with the judgment.

-In the 1600s, **dissenting** members of the church were often fined, jailed, or executed.

**Formidable:** *(adjective)* causing fear, dread, or apprehension; having qualities that discourage approach or attack; tending to inspire awe or wonder

*[formidably (adverb), formidableness (noun), formidability (noun)]*

-King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain proved themselves to be **formidable** military leaders, conquering much land from the Moors, including the Alhambra Palace fortress.

-With the **formidableness** of a thousand warriors, the bees circled the front of the house and prevented anyone from passing onto the porch.

-The opposing team’s **formidability** proved intimidating and made victory seem nearly impossible, but our players persevered and won the game despite all odds.

**Perspicacity:** *(noun)* of acute mental vision or discernment; keen

*[perspicacious (adjective), perspicaciously (adverb), perspicaciousness (noun)]*

-The NASA engineers’ **perspicacity** pushed the space program forward in a time when prolonged space flight seemed impossible.

-A **perspicacious** teacher can generally tell when a student is lying about studying for the vocabulary test.

-A **perspicaciously** written essay will score well in college classes.

**Sententious:** *(adjective)* given to or abounding in excessive moralizing; terse in expression; having meaning

*[sententiously (adjective), sententiousness (noun)]*

-The writer often lapsed into **sententious** reverie, making the plot of the novel drag on at a snail’s pace.

-The speaker droned on **sententiously**, angering half of the audience and putting the rest to sleep.

**Transcend:** *(verb)* to rise above or go beyond the limits of; to overcome

*[transcends, transcended, transcending]*

-The literature of Shakespeare **transcends** time; therefore, it is still a major focus of the literary canon.

**Triumvirate:** *(noun)* a group or association of three

-General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler make up the **triumvirate** of Detroit automakers who often use lobbyists to influence Congressional decisions.

**Vile:** *(adjective)* morally despicable; disgustingly or utterly bad

*[viley (adverb), vileness (noun)]*

-There is hardly anything so **vile** in the world of academia as plagiarism.

-The stench from the garbage cans rose **vilely** in the alley behind the courtroom window.