**Word of the Day**

* stridulate
* \STRID-juh-layt\ (verb)

Definition: to make a shrill creaking noise by rubbing together special bodily structures (as cricket or grasshopper)  
Example: From inside my tent, I hear the campfire crackling and the crickets stridulate unlike the city sounds I’m used to.  
2) As my grandpa and I were looking at the shining stars in the meadows behind our yard, we hear the crickets stridulate under the glowing moon.

* doughty
* \DOW-tee\ (adjective)

Definition: marked by fearless resolution: valiant (brave, courageous)  
Example: When little Liza saw the bullies picking on one of the younger boys, the doughty girl marched up to them and demanded that they stop.  
2) A doughty boy decided to step up when he saw the robbers take his grandma’s purse and chased them as if he was going to tear them to pieces.

* hamartia
* \hah-mahr-TEE-uh\ (noun)

Definition: tragic flow  
Example: Greed was the hamartia that ultimately brought down the protagonist (main character in a play, story or novel).  
2) Trevor lost all his friends and was the hamartia that dragged him to doing things he’ll regret for the rest of his life.

* importunate
* \im-POR-chuh-nut\ (adjective)

Definition: troublesomely urgent: overly, persistent in request or demand  
Example: Sylvia was fed up with the importunate phone calls she continued to receive from charities seeking donations.  
2) Janice was so annoyed when she received 22 importunate emails in her inbox about selling precious jewellery.

* impetuous
* \im-PETCH-oo-us\ (adjective)

Definition: marked by impulsive vehemence or passion  
Example: After graduating from university, Tom made the impetuous decision to hitch hike across the country.  
2) Rob made the impetuous decision of ordering one large fries, two cheese burgers, a portion of hot wings, three massive bowls of salad, and a big glass of coke, but he ended up in the hospital, needing a surgery.

* flatfoot
* \FLAT-foot\ (noun)

Definition: slang police officer; especially: a patrolman walking the beat.  
Example: In his latest time movie, the actor plays an earnest flatfoot who is bested by some clever crooks.  
2) The flatfoot ordered the burglar to hand over the expensive watch, but the intelligent robber dashed for the dark alley and suddenly disappeared.

* obsequious
* \ob-SEE-kwee-us\ (adjective)

Definition: marked by or exhibiting a fawning attentiveness.  
Example: The executive brought with her an entourage of obsequious assistants who would do anything she asked of them.  
2) The sensational pop star picked her obsequious stylists from a well known parlor so she would look outstanding when the spotlight is pouring on her.

* optimism
* \AWP-tih-miz-um\ (noun)

Definition: An inclination to anticipate the best possible outcome.  
Example: Even though I never feed my dog at the dinner table, she always watches me eat with great optimism.  
2) When Luke’s football team was beginning to fall apart in the championships, he still played as if with great optimism.

* indenture
* \in-DEN-chur\ (verb)

Definition: to bind (as an apprentice)  
Example: My great-grandfather decided to immigrate to Canada when a wealthy man offered to indenture him as a servant in Ottawa.  
2) The kung fu master promised his most skillful student that he would indenture him as an apprentice, hoping someday he could save the threatened world.

* endearment
* \in-deer-ment\ (noun)

Definition: a word or act expressing affection  
Example: While my husband was serving in Afghanistan, I kept a letter filled with endearments from him in my wallet.  
2) When Lisa’s mom had died in an earthquake in Haiti, Lisa couldn’t stop sobbing and thinking of the songs her mom had sang to her with so much endearments.

* feisty
* \FYE-stee\ (adjective)

Definition: having or showing a lively aggressiveness, spunky  
Example: Elena found success as a stage actress thanks in part to her feisty spirit and strong work ethic.  
2) As we were having a campfire at Assiniboine Park, my uncle told us a fascinating story about the war going on between the two myth creatures; the horrifying vampires and the feisty werewolves.

* rebel
* \re-bel\ (adjective)

Definition: opposing or taking arms against a government or ruler.  
Example: Today’s rebel chefs feel free to ignore classic cooking techniques.  
2) The child labourers tried to rebel against their master, but unfortunately, they ended up punished and chained to their looms.

* prosperity
* \praw-SPARE-ih-tee\ (noun)

Definition: the condition of being successful or thriving  
Example: The result was Panem, a shining Capitol ringed by thirteen districts, which brought peace and prosperity to its citizens.  
2) The new law kept everyone polite and cooperative and brought prosperity to the country and its people.

* thesis
* ‘thee-sis\ (noun)

Definition: The main proposition that a person (usually a scholar) attempts to prove or defend.  
Example: Although I disagreed with the student’s thesis, I was impressed by the eloquence of his writing.  
2) The lawyer tried to defend his client’s thesis, but the evidence was too weak, therefore, his client was announced guilty.

* pique
* “PEEK” (verb)

Definition: to arouse curiosity or interest  
Example: Our curiosity was piqued by the locked chest hidden at the back of the old ship.  
2) My curiosity was piqued by the old, creepy mansion standing right beside the cemetery, which everyone says was haunted by evil spirits, trying to pull anyone who passes it to the darkness.