



ambivalence (n.)

the state of having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone

*syn.: “mixed emotions,” equivocation, irresolution, vacillation



skepticism (n.)

A questioning attitude or doubt toward knowledge claims that are seen as

***syn.: doubt, dubiousness, suspicion**



grapple with (v.)

**to try to deal with or
understand a difficult
problem**

*syn.: dealing with, coping with,
treating



For good

permanently

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: certainly; completely; always**

Friday

September 6



ruminate about (v.)

to think deeply about; turn something over in one's mind

***syn.: consider, contemplate**



Infer (v.)

to deduce or conclude from evidence and reasoning

*syn.: conclude, deduce, conjecture, surmise, theorize



proponent (n.)

**person who supports a
claim or a course of action**

***syn.: advocate, supporter, champion,
adherent, subscriber, espouser**



detractor (n.)

**person who criticizes a
claim or course of action**

*syn.: critic, attacker, disparager,
denigrator



keep tabs on

monitor or observe closely

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: examine; inspect; track**

Friday

September 13



skeptic (n.)

person who questions or doubts a claim

***syn.: doubter, questioner**



quandary (n.)

a state of uncertainty of what to do in a difficult situation especially when choosing between equally unfavorable options

***syn.: predicament; dilemma; plight**



engage (v.)

to make someone or something involved in an event, activity, conversation or discussion; to participate or get involved in something; to keep someone's interest

***syn.: captivate; engross; immerse; intrigue**

Wednesday

September 18



profuse (adj.)

**excessive; abundant;
pouring forth without
restraint**

*syn.: extravagant; lavish; luxuriant



force one's hand

force someone to take action or make a decision sooner than they prefer

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: prompt; coerce; pressure; browbeat; compel**



ominous (adj.)

having a menacing or threatening aspect; suggesting that something unpleasant is likely to happen

***syn.: portentous; baleful; sinister; inauspicious; dire**



cordial (adj.)

friendly; courteous

*syn.: affable; amiable; hospitable;
welcoming



nuptials (n.)

a wedding ceremony

*syn.: union; marriage; wedlock



pithy (adj.)

**concise and forcefully expressive;
brief; full of vigor, substance, or
meaning; expressing an idea
cleverly in a few words**

***syn.:** laconic; terse; succinct; cogent; trenchant



try one's hand at

try out an activity to see if one is good at it or enjoys it

***syn.: attempt; experiment; endeavor; venture**

**Idiom Of
The Day**

Friday

September 27



vital (adj.)

urgently necessary

*syn.: essential; crucial; requisite



catalyst (n.)

- a. a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction but does not change the outcome of the reaction**
- b. a person or thing that precipitates an event**

***syn.: trigger; stimulus; impetus**



demagogue (n.)

a leader who appeals to the desires and prejudices of ordinary people rather than by using rational argument

***syn.: agitator; firebrand; instigator**



onus (n.)

something that must be borne; a burden

***syn.: duty; mantle; responsibility**



give way to

be replaced by, usually over an extended period

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: yield; succumb; cede; relinquish**



kindle (v.)

- a. to start a fire**
- b. to arouse or inspire (an emotion or feeling)**

***syn.: ignite; inflame; spark; torch or awaken; provoke**



knotty (adj.)

complex; difficult to solve

*syn.: complicated; perplexing;
mystifying



harangue (n.)

- a. a noisy, attacking speech**
- b. to lecture (someone) at length in an aggressive and critical manner**

***syn.: tirade; diatribe; rant or berate; criticize; lambaste; castigate; upbraid**



the best of both worlds

enjoying two different opportunities
at the same time

Idiom Of
The Day

*syn.: ideal; synthesis; union



enigma (n.)

puzzle; mystery

*syn.: conundrum; paradox; quandary;
riddle



tawdry (adj.)

**of little value; gaudy;
cheap**

***syn.: shoddy; tasteless; garish; crass;
trashy**



plethora (n.)

an excess; abundance

*syn.: profusion; myriad; replete;
excess; surfeit; cornucopia



blithe (adj.)

free-spirited; carefree

***syn.: careless; nonchalant; blasé**



Speak of the Devil

when the person you're discussing actually appears at that moment

Idiom Of
The Day

*syn.: speak kindly; speak openly;
acknowledge



cringe (v.)

to recoil; flinch; shy away

***syn.: cower; blanch; shudder**



adjudicate (v.)

to hear and decide judicially; to judge

***syn.: mediate; referee; arbitrate;
resolve**



cerebral (adj.)

- a. relating to the brain or intellect**
- b. appealing to the intellect, as opposed to the emotions**

***syn.: intellectual or cultured;
academic; scholarly; analytical; erudite**



infringe (v.)

- a. To violate**
- b. (used with on or upon) to exceed the limits of; to encroach upon**

***syn.: transgress; breach; contravene or highjack; displace; commandeer**



drag one's feet

delay taking action

Idiom Of
The Day

*syn.: linger; procrastinate; put off



centennial

- a. (n) a one-hundredth anniversary or its celebration**
- b. (adj) of or pertaining to a period of one hundred years**

***syn.: centenary**



countenance

- a. (n) a person's face; the expression on a person's face**
 - b. (n) support or approval**
 - c. (v) to support or approve; to tolerate**
- *syn.: visage; composure or acceptance; applaud; endorsement. accept; advocate**



lassitude (n.)

**a feeling of weariness;
listlessness; a lack of interest in
doing things due to diminished
energy**

***syn.: lethargy; languor; fatigue;
enervation**



effervescent (adj.)

- a. (of a liquid) giving off bubbles; fizzy**
- b. vivacious and enthusiastic**

***syn.: sparkling; carbonated;
carbonated or ebullient; scintillating;
high-spirited; jaunty**



a confluence of factors

many different factors

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: convergence**

Friday

November 8



opulent (adj.)

richly appointed; luxurious

*syn.: lush, upscale; lavish



bane (adj.)

**a person or thing that
destroys, causes harm or
extreme annoyance**

***syn.: scourge; torment; menace;
ruination**



buffoon (n.)

a person who often attempts to be funny; a clown; a fool

***syn.: doit; dunce; ignoramus; simpleton**



doleful (adj.)

**mournful or full of sorrow;
causing grief**

*syn.: dismal; forlorn; morose; woeful



happy place

a place, situation, or activity that makes a person happy

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: paradise; shangri-la; wonderland**



extrovert (n.)

**an outgoing, overly
expressive person**

***syn.: socializer; mingler**



garish (adj.)

**excessively bright and flashy;
crudely or tastelessly colorful**

*syn.: gaudy; ostentatious; ornate;
tacky



instigate (v.)

**to stir up or urge on; to
provoke**

***syn.: incite; inflame; spur**



penchant (n.)

a strong or habitual liking for something; tendency to do something

***syn.: proclivity; inclination; affinity; aptitude**



run something by someone

to tell someone something to
get his/her opinion

*syn.: ask for an opinion

Idiom Of
The Day



rambunctious (adj.)

behaving in a wild and unruly manner

***syn.: boisterous; rollicking; clamorous; rowdy**



repertoire (n.)

the list of pieces an actor, musician, etc., is ready to perform; the skills or accomplishments of a person or group

***syn.: inventory; collection; assemblage**



rudiment (n.)

a. basic principle or skill

b. undeveloped or beginning stage

*syn.: fundamentals; foundation or foundation; elementary; initial; basal



gallimaufry (n.)

**a hodgepodge; confused
medley; jumble**

***syn.: assortment; menagerie; clutter;
salmagundi**



over the top

outrageous; excessive

**Idiom Of
The Day**

***syn.: flamboyant; extravagant.**



sanguine (adj.)

a. of a healthy red color

b. cheerful and optimistic

***syn.: optimistic; buoyant; confident**



disgruntle (v.)

**to make dissatisfied; to put
in a bad mood**

***syn.: annoy; irritate; displease;
disappoint; discontent**



expedite (v.)

to speed up a process; to facilitate

*syn.: accelerate; quicken; ease