**topography N. physical features of a region**.

Before the generals gave the order to attack, they

ordered a complete study of the topography of the region.

**torpor N.** / **/lethargy; sluggishness; dormancy**

. Throughout the winter, nothing aroused the

bear from his torpor: he would not emerge from hibernation until spring. torpid,**ADJ.**

**torrent N.** / /**rushing stream; flood.**

 Day after day of heavy rain saturated the hillside until the water

ran downhill in torrents. torrential,**ADJ.**

**torrid ADJ. / /passionate;**

hot or scorching. Harlequin Romances publish torrid tales of love

affairs, some set in torrid climates.

**torso N.** / **/trunk of statue with head and limbs missing; human trunk.**

 This torso, found in the

ruins of Pompeii, is now on exhibition in the museum in Naples.

**tortuous ADJ. / /winding;**

full of curves. Because this road is so tortuous, it is unwise to go faster

than twenty miles an hour on it.

**totter V.** /**move unsteadily;**

sway, as if about to fall. On unsteady feet, the drunk tottered down

the hill to the nearest bar.

**touchstone N.** / **stone used to test the fineness of gold alloys; criterion. What *touchstone***

can be used to measure the character of a person?

**touchy ADJ. /sensitive; irascible.**

 Do not mention his bald spot; he's very touchy

about it.

**tout V. /publicize; praise excessively.**

I lost confidence in my broker after he touted some junk bonds to

me that turned out to be a bad investment.

**toxic ADJ. /poisonous.**

 We must seek an antidote for whatever toxic substance he has eaten. toxicity,

**N.**

**tract N.** / /**region of land (often imprecisely described); pamphlet.**

The king granted William Penn

a tract of land in the New World. Penn then printed a tract in which he encouraged settlers to join his

colony.

**tractable ADJ.** / /**docile;**

 easily managed. Although Susan seemed a tractable young

woman, she had a stubborn streak of independence that occasionally led her to defy the powers-thatbe

when she felt they were in the wrong.

**traduce V.** /**expose to slander.**

His opponents tried to traduce the candidate's reputation by

spreading rumors about his past.

**trajectory N.** / **/path taken by a projectile**.

The police tried to locate the spot from which the

assassin had fired the fatal shot by tracing the trajectory of the bullet.

**tranquillity N.** / /**calmness; peace.**

After the commotion and excitement of the city, I appreciate the

*tranquillity* of these fields and forests.

**transcendent ADJ.** / /**surpassing;**

 exceeding ordinary limits; superior. For the amateur chef,

dining at the four-star restaurant was a *transcendent* experience: the meal surpassed his wildest

dreams.

**transcribe V.** / **/copy.**

 When you *transcribe* your notes, please send a copy to Mr. Smith and keep the original

for our files. transcription, **N.**

**transgression N.** / /**violation of a law; sin.**

 Forgive us our *transgressions;* we know not what we do.

**transient ADJ.** / **/momentary; temporary;**

 staying for a short time. Lexy's joy at finding the perfect Christmas

gift for Phil was *transient,* she still had to find presents for the cousins and Uncle Bob. Located near

the airport, this hotel caters to a largely *transient trade.* transience, **N.**

**transition N.** //**going from one state of action to another.**

During the period of *transition* from oil

heat to gas heat, the furnace will have to be shut off.

**transitory ADJ. /impermanent; fleeting. Fame is *transitory:* today's rising star is all too soon tomorrow's**

washed-up has-been. transitoriness, **N.**

**translucent ADJ.** / **/partly transparent.**

We could not recognize the people in the next room because of the

*translucent* curtains that separated us.

**transmute V.** / **/change; convert to something different**.

He was unable to transmute his dreams into

actualities.

**transparent ADJ.** / **/easily detected;**

permitting light to pass through freely. John's pride in

his son is *transparent;* no one who sees the two of them together can miss it.

**transport N. / strong emotion.**

 Margo was a creature of extremes, at one moment in transports of joy

over a vivid sunset, at another moment in transports of grief over a dying bird. also **V.** (secondary

meaning)

**trappings N. /outward decorations; ornaments. He loved the trappings of success:** the limousines, the

stock options, the company jet.

**traumatic ADJ.** / **/pertaining to an injury caused by violence. In his nightmares, he kept on recalling the**

traumatic experience of being wounded in battle.

**travail N.** / /**painful labor.**

How long do you think a man can endure such travail and degradation

without rebelling?

**traverse V.** / /**go through or across.**

 When you traverse this field, be careful of the bull.

**travesty N.** /**comical parody;**

treatment aimed at making something appear ridiculous. The

ridiculous decision the jury has reached is a travesty of justice.

**treacly ADJ. / /sticky sweet;**

 cloyingly sentimental. Irritatingly cheerful, always looking on the bright side,

Pollyanna speaks nothing but treacly sentimentalities. treacle, **N.**

**treatise N.** / /**article treating a subject systematically and thoroughly**

. He is preparing a treatise on the

Elizabethan playwrights for his graduate degree.

**trek N.** / /**travel; journey.**

 The tribe made their trek farther north that summer in search of game. also**V.**

**tremor N.** / **/trembling; slight quiver.**

 She had a nervous tremor in her right hand.

**tremulous ADJ.** / /**trembling; wavering.**

 She was tremulous more from excitement than from fear.

**trenchant ADJ.** / /**cutting; keen.**

I am afraid of his *trenchant* wit for it is so often sarcastic.

**trepidation N.** / /**fear; nervous apprehension.**

 As she entered the office of the dean of admissions, Sharon felt

some *trepidation* about how she would do in her interview.

**trespass V. /unlawfully enter the boundaries of some else's property**.

The wicked baron f**l**ogged any

poacher who trespassed on his private hunting grounds. also **N.**

**tribute N.** /**tax levied by a ruler;**

mark of respect. The colonists refused to pay tribute to a

foreign despot.

**trifling ADJ. / /trivial; unimportant.**

Why bother going to see a doctor for such a trifling, everyday cold?

**trigger V.** / **/set off. John is touchy today;** say one word wrong and you'll trigger an explosion.

**trinket N. / /knickknack; bauble**.

 Whenever she traveled abroad, Ethel would pick up costume

jewelry and other trinkets as souvenirs.

**trite ADJ.** / /**hackneyed; commonplace.**

The trite and predictable situations in many television

programs turn off many viewers, who, in turn, turn off their sets.

**trivial ADJ.** /**unimportant; trifling.**

Too many magazines ignore newsworthy subjects and feature trivial

affairs. trivia, **N.**

**trough N.** / /**container for feeding farm animals;**

 lowest point (of a wave, business cycle, etc.) The

hungry pigs struggled to get at the fresh swill in the trough. The surfer rode her board, coasting along

in the trough between two waves.

**truculence N. /aggressiveness; ferocity. Tynan's reviews were noted for their caustic attacks and**

general tone of truculence. truculent,**ADJ.**

**truism N. / self-evident truth.**

 Many a truism is summed up in a proverb; for example, "Marry in haste,

repent at leisure."

**truncate V.** / /**cut the top off**.

The top of a cone that has been *truncated* in a

plane parallel to its base is

a circle.

**tryst N.** / **/meeting.**

The lovers kept their tryst even though they realized their danger.

**tumult N.** /**commotion; riot; noise.**

 She could not make herself heard over the *tumult* of the mob.

**tundra N. / /rolling, treeless plain in Siberia and arctic North America.**

Despite the cold, many

geologists are trying to discover valuable mineral deposits in the *tundra.*

**turbid ADJ.** / /**muddy;**

having the sediment disturbed. The water was *turbid* after the

children had waded through it.

**turbulence N.** //**state of violent agitation.**

 Warned of approaching *turbulence* in the atmosphere,

the pilot told the passengers to fasten their seat belts.

**turgid ADJ.** / /**swollen; distended.**

The *turgid* river threatened to overflow the levees and flood the

countryside.

**turmoil N.** / /**great commotion and confusion.**

 Lydia running off with a soldier! Mother fainting at the

news! The Bennet household was in *turmoil.*

**turncoat N.**  **/traitor.**

The British considered Benedict Arnold a loyalist; the Americans considered

him a *turncoat.*

**turpitude N.** / /**depravity.**

A visitor may be denied admittance to this country if she has been guilty of

moral *turpitude.*

**tutelage N.** / **/guardianship; training**

. Under the *tutelage* of such masters of the instrument, she made rapid

progress as a virtuoso.

**tycoon N.** / **/wealthy leader.**

 John D. Rockefeller was a prominent *tycoon.*

**typhoon N.** / /**tropical hurricane or cyclone.**

If you liked *Twister, you'll* love *Typhoon!*

**tyranny N.** / /**oppression; cruel government.**

 Frederick Douglass fought against the *tyranny* of slavery

throughout his life.

**tyro N. / /beginner; novice.**

For a mere *tyro, you* have produced some wonderfully expert results.

**ubiquitous ADJ.** / **/being everywhere; omnipresent.**

That Christmas "The Little Drummer Boy" seemed

*ubiquitous;* David heard the tune everywhere.