

WOD 1st Semester

2025-2026



garish (adj.)

gaudy, in bad taste; overly bright and showy

*Her dress was made of garish colors.

*syn.: tawdry, brazen



medley (n.)

a mixture of various items

*The vocalist performed a medley of popular songs.

*syn.: mixture; miscellany



denounce (v.)

to condemn; to complain about publicly

*The negative review denounced the committee's work.

*syn.: criticize, condemn, attack, discredit



lament (v.)

to mourn a person's death; to complain about something as unsatisfactory

*We lamented the end of our summer break.

*syn.: regret; grieve



reminisce (v.)

to indulge in remembering
past events

*Grandpa often reminisced about
his youth.

*syn.: recollect, muse



nostalgic (adj.)

feeling warmly sentimental about the past; regret for something that is gone

*When I heard my mother's favorite song on the radio, I grew nostalgic as I remembered the nights that she used to sing to me.

*syn.: sentimental, wistful, homesick



apprehensive (adj.)

worried; fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen

*With recent job cuts, Kate is apprehensive about losing her job.

*syn.: anxious, concerned, stressed



concur (v.)

to agree

*Local feelings or views do not necessarily concur with the press reports.

*syn.: accord; consent; acquiesce



flourish (v.)

grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way

*Wild plants flourish on the banks of the lake.

*syn.: proliferate; thrive; prosper



astute (adj.)

having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and this to one's advantage

*He was an astute businessman and soon turned his new business into a profitable one.

**syn.: clever; shrewd; perceptive*



ubiquitous (adj.)

Present, appearing, or found everywhere

*Because the police presence was **ubiquitous** at the parade, everyone felt safe.

**syn.: everywhere, omnipresent, universal*



lucrative (adj.)

producing a great deal of profit;
making large amounts of money

*The sale of the property was very
lucrative.

**syn.: profitable*



poignant (adj.)

deeply affecting; emotionally moving; evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret

*The photograph awakened poignant memories of happy days with my brother.

**syn.: touching; emotional*



refute (v.)

prove (a statement or theory)
to be wrong; disprove

*These claims have not been
convincingly refuted.

*syn.: deny; contradict; repudiate



eclectic (adj.)

consisting of a diverse variety

*Universities offer an eclectic mix of courses.

*syn.: broad; varied; assorted



mar (v.)

disfigure; to inflict damage

*No wrinkles marred her face.

*syn.: spoil



terminate (v.)

to end; to end abruptly

*The CEO terminated the lazy employee.

*syn.: stop; end; arrest; foil



implacable (adj.)

incapable of being satisfied, calmed, or soothed

*Even after being offered a free gift card, the angry customer remained implacable.

**syn.: uncompromising, unyielding, unforgiving*



tenacious (adj.)

stubborn; holding tightly

*The story of the headless horseman is a tenacious local legend.

**syn.: persevering; persistent*



adversary (n.)

opponent; enemy

*Batman finally defeated his old adversary, the Joker.

**syn.: rival; nemesis; antagonist*



disdain (n.)

the feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's consideration or respect

*The arrogant shopkeeper viewed the ragged and dirty child with disdain.

**syn.: contempt; derision; scorn*



eschew (v.)

to shun; to deliberately avoid;
abstain from

*Some vegetarians are also vegan,
meaning that they eschew all food that
comes from living animals.

**syn.: renounce; forgo*



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Labor Day Holiday

MONDAY

1-Sep



reciprocate (v.)

to give in return; respond to (a gesture or action) by making a corresponding one

*The favor was reciprocated.

**syn.: repay*



harrowing (adj.)

greatly distressing; extremely
unsettling or disturbing;
provoking feelings of fear

*His book tells of the harrowing
experience of climbing Mt. Everest.

**syn.: agonizing; excruciating; tortuous*



impudent (adj.)

marked by cocky boldness or disregard of others; casually rude; lacking modesty

*The impudent guest was finally removed from the party.

**syn.: impertinent; audacious; brazen; insolent*



hapless (adj.)

unlucky

*After the storm, the hapless passengers were stranded at the airport for three days.

**syn.: unfortunate; jinxed*



bilk (v.)

to cheat, to defraud

*There are many “get-rich-quick” schemes that bilk unsuspecting investors.

**syn.: swindle; exploit; fleece*



myriad (adj.)

extremely great in number

*I will never be able to count the myriad blessings I have received.

**syn.: countless; innumerable; unlimited*



myriad (n.)

a countless number

*Seeing the myriad of city lights, I was reminded of the lights of Paris.

**syn.: multitude; mass*



desiccated (adj.)

dried up, dehydrated

*The withered, desiccated landscape appeared empty of any living thing.

**syn.: deplete; shrivel; parch*



expurgate (v.)

to remove offensive or incorrect parts, usually of a book

*The songwriter was told he must expurgate the offensive lyrics from his latest song if he wanted it to be published.

**syn.: edit; purge; censor*



aspersion (n.)

a curse; an expression of ill-will; a disrespectful or scornfully abusive remark

*Even though I am angry at you, I will not cast an aspersion upon your character.

**syn.: vilification; defamation; denigration*



daunting (adj.)

intimidating; causing one to lose courage

*Janet is so shy that she finds it daunting to attend a party.

**syn.: formidable; ominous; fearsome*



hardy (adj.)

robust; capable of surviving through adverse conditions

*Trees in the northern woodlands are hardy withstanding cold winters and severe weather in the spring.

**syn.: robust; sturdy*



forbearance (n.)

patience; restraint; toleration

*Due to health issues the woman was granted a forbearance for the repayment of her loan.

**syn.: endurance; fortitude; leniency*



vocation (n.)

the work in which someone is employed; profession especially in a religious capacity or in an area of service

*Jan knew from an early age that her vocation would be in the medical field.

**syn.: mission; niche; calling*



ephemeral (adj.)

short-lived; fleeting; lasting a very short time

*The thunderstorm was ephemeral, starting suddenly and gone within minutes.

**syn.: transient; evanescent*



crescendo (n.)

a steady increase in intensity or volume

*As the star receiver scored the touchdown, a roar rose in a crescendo from the crowd of football fans.

**syn.: apex; climax; apogee*



inception (n.)

the starting point of existence

*Since its inception in 1837, Tiffany's has become the standard in jewelry and fine goods.

**syn.: genesis; nascent*



implore (v.)

to beg

*In his letters, Edward implored his sister to visit.

**syn.: plead; entreat*



audacious (adj.)

bold; openly showing a desire to take risks

*She made an audacious decision to quit her job.

**syn.: blatant; flagrant; conspicuous; brazen*



clandestine (adj.)

secretive and hidden; hard to see

*While doing clandestine research,
Betsy discovered the bookkeeper's
stealing.

**syn.: stealthy; surreptitious; furtive*



vociferous (adj.)

loud; boisterous; crying out noisily

*He is her most vociferous critic when remarking on her poor performance.

**syn.: vehement; insistent; emphatic; clamorous*



implacable (adj.)

incapable of being satisfied, calmed, or soothed

*Even after being offered a free gift card, the angry customer remained implacable.

**syn.: uncompromising, unyielding, unforgiving*



restive (adj.)

restless; agitated

*The citizens became restive in the weeks after the storm.

**syn.: unruly; uncontrollable*



peruse (v.)

to read carefully

*It is always advisable to peruse legal documents.

**syn.: scrutinize; inspect*



imminent (adj.)

about to happen; likely to occur at any moment

*We are awaiting their imminent arrival.

**syn.: impending; forthcoming; looming*



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FALL BREAK

MONDAY -FRIDAY

*October 06
– October
10*



empirical (adj.)

based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic.

*This theory is grounded in empirical support.

**syn.: data-driven; verifiable*



perennial (adj.)

lasting for a long time;
enduring

*His wholesale nursery focuses on perennial plants.

**syn.: perpetual; eternal*



pernicious (adj.)

creating enormous harm,
especially when done gradually

*The pernicious weed has spread all
through the flower bed.

**syn.: detrimental; adverse*



divert (v.)

to turn or redirect something

*We tried to divert the toddlers' attention to a quieter game.

**syn.: deflect; avert; reroute*



emulate (v.)

to strive to equal or surpass a person or achievement; imitate

*That is not a hairstyle I wish to emulate.

**syn.: mimic; echo; parrot; simulate*



inundate (v.)

to overwhelm or flood

*The dean was inundated with angry phone calls from parents.

**syn. : glut; saturate; deluge*



reconcile (v.)

to bring together

*The two countries could not reconcile their differences over trade policy.

**syn.: resolve*



pedestrian (adj.)

lacking wit and imagination;
boring

*The movie was average, and it followed a pedestrian plot.

**syn.: prosaic; banal; conventional; trite*



acclaimed (adj.)

enthusiastically approved or
applauded

*The new museum exhibit is an
acclaimed exhibition of indigenous art.

**syn.: hailed, lauded, commended*



apathetic (adj.)

uninterested, bored, showing no emotion

*There was an apathetic response to our request for volunteers.

**syn.: indifferent, nonchalant, complacent, impassive*



efficacious (adj.)

effective

*Yoga is very efficacious at reducing stress.

**syn.: effectual; potent; worthwhile*



verbose (adj.)

using an excessive number of words; wordy

*We became bored by the speaker's verbose presentation.

**syn.: loquacious; repetitious; talkative*



succinct (adj.)

concise; brief to the point

*Everyone was happy with the politician's succinct speech.

**syn.: terse; laconic; pithy*



ambiguity (n.)

open to more than one
interpretation; inexactness

*We can detect no ambiguity in this
section of the protocol.

**syn.: ambivalence; vagueness*



enmity (n.)

deep-seated, often mutual,
hatred

*Because both women wanted the same position, their friendship dissolved into enmity.

**syn.: animosity; hostility*



susceptible (adj.)

easily influenced

*Tom was highly susceptible to scams offering “get-rich-quick” schemes.

**syn.: impressionable; malleable; credulous*



prudent (adj.)

wise in handling practical matter;
good judgment

*It is not prudent to swim when riptide warnings are posted.

**syn.: circumspect; astute; expedient*



surreal (adj.)

having an oddly dreamlike quality; seeming unreal

*Driving through the total darkness was a surreal experience.

**syn.: uncanny; bizarre*



subterfuge (n.)

a strategy meant to deceive or trick; deceit used to achieve one's goal

*Pinocchio's lies and subterfuge caused his nose to grow longer and longer.

**syn.: intrigue; cunning; scheme*



oust (v.)

to eject from a position or place; to force out

*The dictator was ousted by the rebels.

**syn.: expel; evict; topple*



fervor (n.)

intense feelings of passion

*The patriotic fervor spread throughout the nation.

**syn.: yearning; passion; ardor; zeal*



florid (adj.)

flushed with rosy color; very ornate or flowery

*After running for two miles, the soldier's face was florid.

**syn.: ruddy; flamboyant*



exoneration (n.)

the act of showing that someone is not guilty

*Because he believed in his innocence, Michael fought for his exoneration.

**syn.: vindication; acquittal*



acuity (n.)

sharpness of vision or perception

*In order to qualify for the program,
Luke had to take a mental acuity test.

**syn.: acuteness; astuteness;
discernment*



flippant (adj.)

showing disrespectful levity or casualness; not taking a situation or person in a serious manner

*If you are flippant during your interview, you may not get the job.

**syn.: frivolous; glib*



arduous (adj.)

difficult and tiring

*This dictionary represents decades of arduous work.

**syn.: onerous; formidable; laborious*



ameliorate (v.)

to make or become better; improve

*The priest wanted to ameliorate suffering in his parish by offering free food, job training, and school supplies.

**syn.: mitigate; ease; alleviate; remediate; abate*



elocution (n.)

the art of public speaking;
speaking in a dignified manner

*The elocution of the actress was magnificent.

**syn.: articulation; diction*



amorphous (adj.)

lacking definite form; shapeless

*The painting was full of amorphous images, making it difficult to understand.

**syn.: nebulous; formless*



impugn (v.)

to dispute validity; to attack as false or questionable

*In an attempt to impugn her credibility, the team fabricated the evidence.

**syn.: impeach; assail; traduce*



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THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

MONDAY – FRIDAY

*November
24 –
November
28*



august (adj.)

esteemed; revered; impressive

*We met with an august group of writers.

**syn.: distinguished; venerable; prestigious*



appropriate (v.)

to set aside for a specific purpose.

*Five million dollars has been appropriated for this research.

**syn.: secure; acquire; allocate; earmark*



exemplary (adj.)

very good; serving as a model;
worthy of imitation

*As exemplary citizens, they participate in community events.

**syn.: irreproachable; indisputable; pristine*



innate (adj.)

possessed at birth, possessing naturally rather than through experience

*Charles has an innate ability to lead.

**syn.: intuitive; inherent; intrinsic*



malodorous (adj.)

having a bad odor

*A malodorous smell filled the room,
causing people to leave.

**syn.: foul*



pragmatic (adj.)

dealing with things in a sensible and realistic way

*Before spending any money on the research, he tried to make a very pragmatic prediction of the outcome.

**syn.: feasible; sound; cogent*



acumen (n.)

quickness, accuracy, and keenness of judgment; insight

*John's business acumen, along with his computer skills, made him a good candidate for the job.

**syn.: awareness; shrewdness; intuition; ingenuity*



eminent (adj.)

of high rank, station, or quality;
noteworthy

*Everyone was looking forward to taking a class with such an eminent professor.

**syn.: prominent; renowned; esteemed*



garrulous (adj.)

using excessive and often trivial or
rambling talk; wordy; tiresomely
talkative

*Desperate for peace and quiet, Amanda told
the garrulous man seated next to her to “Shut
up!”

**syn.: loquacious; effusive; bombastic*



amicable (adj.)

showing goodwill, especially in an agreement; neighborly

*After much debate, they came to an amicable conclusion.

**syn.: friendly; cordial; harmonious; congenial*



confluence (n.)

the flowing together of two or more things, such as streams, ideas, etc.

*The confluence of warm and cold temperatures is going to create a powerful storm.

**syn.: convergence; junction*



effervescent (adj.)

to emit small bubbles; bubbly;
high spirits or excitement

*Her effervescent personality was a
needed addition to the cast.

**syn.: vivacious; ebullient; scintillating*



ruminate (v.)

to contemplate; reflect

*At graduation, many students ruminated on the next steps in their lives.

**syn.: meditate; ponder; deliberate*



fabricate (v.)

to make up; invent

*The novelist was able to fabricate a story based on ideas submitted by her fans.

**syn.: contrive; construct; compose*



esoteric (adj.)

understood by only a select few

*Reading the computer manual is difficult because of its esoteric vocabulary.

**syn.: obscure; arcane; difficult to understand*