

WOD 2nd Semester

2025-2026



auspicious (adj.)

showing or suggesting that future success is likely; favorable

*He made an auspicious debut in the school play.

**syn.: worthwhile; encouraging; optimistic; propitious*



euphoria (n.)

a feeling of great happiness or excitement

* Michigan State fans were thrilled with their win against Michigan, but that euphoria could turn to concern as a strong showing by the Spartans could entice other schools to make a serious run at MSU coach Mel Tucker.

**syn.: ecstasy; exhilaration; elation; rapture.*



anomaly (n.)

something that deviates from the general or common order; different; abnormal

*With his quiet nature, he was an anomaly in his exuberant family.

**syn.: aberration, exception, deviation*



insubstantial (adj.)

lacking material form or substance

*Their contribution to the scholarship fund was insubstantial.

**syn.: flimsy; filmy*



bantering (adj.)

cleverly amusing in tone; to speak or address in a clever or teasing manner

*He's much better at comedy, and the humorous banter between him and his costars has a nice zing to it.

**syn.: jest, quip*



retrospective (adj.)

concerned with or related to the past

*These prose works touch on retrospective topics from the twentieth century.

**syn.: reflective, historical*



endearment (n.)

a word or act of showing affection

*What endearment do you call your pet?

**syn.: attachment, fondness*



iota (n.)

a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

*There's not an iota of doubt about the defendant's guilt.

**syn.: modicum, minute*



rendezvous (n.)

a meeting planned at a certain time and place; a secret meeting

*They failed to make the agreed rendezvous at the headquarters.

**syn.: gathering, retreat, tryst*



bevy (n.)

a flock of birds; a large gathering or collection

*The bevy of pass interference penalties against the home team showed their lack of focus on this game.

**syn.: assembly, crowd*



acme (n.)

the highest point

*Beating last year's state champ was the acme of their basketball season.

**syn.: apex, apogee, crest, pinnacle, summit, zenith*



escapade (n.)

any carefree episode; usually an adventurous action that runs counter to approved or conventional conduct

*As a teenager, he embarked on a number of ill-advised escapades.

**syn.: antic, caper*



assuage (v.)

to ease, lessen pain or intensity

*I did what little I could to assuage my guilt.

**syn.: alleviate, mitigate, mollify, allay*



epic (adj.)

very imposing or impressive;
surpassing the ordinary

*The football game was an epic battle
between two great teams.

**syn.: imposing, majestic, monumental*



opulent (adj.)

luxurious, sleek, affluent

*He lives in an opulent mansion filled with priceless art and antiques.

**syn.: prosperous, profuse, lavish, palatial*



elicit (v.)

to draw out by discussion or questioning

*Her enthusiastic remarks will elicit cheers from the crowd.

**syn.: evoke*



disparity (n.)

a noticeable and usually significant difference

*The disparity between the dwarf's height and the giant's height is obvious.

**syn.: inequality, discrepancy, gap*



optimal (adj.)

best; most effective; most desirable
or satisfactory

*He keeps his engine tuned for optimal performance.

**syn.: superlative, unsurpassed*



erroneous (adj.)

containing an error; incorrect

*Blaine received erroneous information and was the only one wearing a costume.

**syn.: mistaken, inaccurate*



ardent (adj.)

having intense or passionate feeling

*Mike is such an ardent fan; he has a copy of every song the Beatles ever recorded.

**syn.: enthusiastic, committed, fervent*



scathing (adj.)

bitterly severe; harshly critical

*The cruel girls shouted scathing insults at each other.

**syn.: caustic, cutting, acerbic*



fabricate (v.)

to create or make something up; to lie

*Mark has a list of excuses he fabricated to explain late homework.

**syn.: create; prevaricate; equivocate; palter*



impecunious (adj.)

having little or no money

*After buying his car, Stewart was so impecunious he couldn't afford to drive it.

**syn.: poor, penniless, impoverished, indigent, penurious, insolvent*



languid (adj.)

lacking energy or vitality; sluggish in character or disposition; lacking force or quickness of movement

*On hot days, Carrie likes to take languid strolls on the beach,

**syn.: lethargic, enervated, indolent, listless*



erudite (adj.)

learned or scholarly

*The erudite professor sometimes had trouble speaking so that others could understand him.

**syn.: educated, highbrow*



malevolent (adj.)

showing ill will; evil; spiteful

*There was a malevolent force in the haunted house.

**syn.: malicious, vicious, virulent*



nonchalant (adj.)

coolly unconcerned; not worried about anything

*Melanie tried to be nonchalant about winning the scholarship, but we knew she was excited.

**syn.: casual, indifferent, lackadaisical*



precarious (adj.)

unsure; not safe, steady, or strong;
dependent on chance circumstances,
unknown conditions, or uncertain
developments

*Dolly was in a precarious position, with two of the five votes already against her.

**syn.: unstable, perilous, risky*



renowned (adj.)

celebrated, famous, well-known

*That restaurant is renowned for its decadent desserts.

**syn.: acclaimed, distinguished, eminent, esteemed*



havoc (n.)

great destruction or devastation;
confusion and disorder

*The tornado wreaked havoc on the town,
leaving rubble where houses once stood.

**syn.: ruin, chaos, disarray*



myriad (n.)

a great number of people or things

*I don't need to explain the myriad of reasons not to jump out of a moving car.

**syn.: plethora, profusion, multitude*



repudiate (v.)

to reject as false or unjust; to refuse to acknowledge or pay

*Olivia's consistent high scores repudiate the idea that girls aren't good at math.

**syn.: deny, renounce, refute*



facetious (adj.)

not meant seriously or literally;
meant to be funny but regarded as
annoying, silly, or not proper

*I was being facetious when I said I loved your acid-wash jeans.

**syn.: comic; sarcastic; flippant*



slovenly (adj.)

untidy or unclean

*Amanda's slovenly appearance keeps her from making a good impression on future employers.

**syn.: sloppy, unkempt, messy*



flippant (adj.)

frivolously disrespectful; lacking proper respect or seriousness

*Sandy's flippant comments covered up her disappointment in losing her race.

**syn.: glib, irreverent*



tractable (adj.)

easily managed or controlled

*The tractable group of kids was talked into staying out after curfew.

**syn.: docile, amenable, compliant*



transient (adj.)

not lasting or permanent

*The manager rents his apartments month-to-month because many of his tenants are transient.

**syn.: transitory, ephemeral, evanescent*



estrangement (n.)

state of being separated or kept at a distance

*His estrangement from his family made Lance realize how much he missed them all.

**syn.: alienation, divorce*



uniformity (adj.)

the state of being the same or
homogenous

*School dress codes are meant to encourage
uniformity.

**syn.: similarity, equality*



futile (adj.)

incapable of producing results;
pointless or useless

*Callie made a futile attempt to eat three entire pizzas by herself.

**syn.: ineffective; frivolous, unsuccessful, vain*



veiled (adj.)

disguised; concealing; hidden;
covered or concealed as if by a veil

*Andrea asked to borrow my phone in a veiled attempt to get Seth's number.

**syn.: shrouded, obscured*



nostalgia (n.)

a longing for the past; sentimental yearning for some aspect of the past

*Hallmark Christmas movies create a feeling of nostalgia.

**syn.: wistfulness, sentimentality, reminiscence*



verbose (adj.)

having or using too many words;
wordy

*I got lost in his verbose explanation and never heard its conclusion.

**syn.: garrulous, loquacious*



austere (adj.)

severe in manner or appearance

*Ms. Kenney's austere nature made her students fearful.

**syn.: uncompromising, strict*



fallacy (n.)

a deceptive or false notion or idea

*It's a fallacy that butter heals a burn.

**syn.: misconception; delusion; illusion*



lassitude (n.)

weariness of body or mind

*After our long day, a feeling of lassitude overcame us, so we napped instead of hiked.

**syn.: listlessness, languor*



vigilant (adj.)

carefully observant or attentive;
watching for danger

*They were vigilant about protecting their children.

**syn.: heedful; circumspect*



copious (adj.)

large in quantity or number

*June took copious notes in preparation for the test.

**syn.: plentiful, abundant, profuse, ample*



evasive (adj.)

intentionally vague or ambiguous

*You can always tell when Tony is lying; his answers become evasive and shifty.

**syn.: equivocal; indefinite*



clandestine (adj.)

done with secrecy or concealment

*The cat burglar's clandestine crimes were virtually unsolvable.

**syn.: covert, surreptitious, stealthy, furtive.*



gregarious (adj.)

enjoying the company of others

*Billy's gregarious personality makes him the favorite at any party.

**syn.: sociable; outgoing; convivial*



spurious (adj.)

of a deceitful nature or quality

*Thomas's spurious gossip ended his friendship with Andrew.

**syn.: fake, false, specious*



laud (v.)

to praise

*Fans laud great athletes by carrying them around on their shoulders.

**syn.: extol*



convoluted (adj.)

intricately involved

*Marcy's convoluted explanation of cell reproduction left me even more confused.

**syn.: complex, complicated*



gullible (adj.)

easily deceived or cheated

*Jack is so gullible; we convinced him he could fly if he jumped off the roof.

**syn.: trusting, naïve, unwary*



iconoclastic (adj.)

pertaining to image breaking or an attack on beliefs

*The church youth group was offended by the iconoclastic pamphlet.

**syn.: irreligious, nonconforming, radical*



mandate (n.)

a command or authorization to act in a certain way; an official order to do something

*The cell phone company issued a mandate that any minutes not used would be lost.

**syn.: directive*



demeanor (n.)

conduct, behavior

*Walt's calm demeanor puts everyone at ease.

**syn.: attitude, poise, deportment*



fervent (adj.)

having or showing intensity of spirit or feeling

*Joan has a fervent hope that her ACT score will lead to a scholarship for college.

**syn.: zealous, ardent, passionate, vehement, torrid*



ebullient (adj.)

overflowing with excitement

*The ebullient crowd went crazy when John took the stage.

**syn.: enthusiastic, cheerful*



impede (v.)

to stop or hinder progress; to interfere with

*The clown's gigantic feet impede his progress when he tries to run.

**syn.: encumber, obstruct, hamper, inhibit*



tentative (adj.)

not definite or positive; uncertain or hesitant; subject to change

*Pat's tentative handshake makes him seem unsure.

**syn.: timid, irresolute, conditional*



dubious (adj.)

doubtful

*Rachel is dubious about the addition of a new judge to the singing competition.

**syn.: uncertain, suspicious*



astute (adj.)

having practical intelligence

*The detective's astute observations helped solve the crime.

**syn.: ingenious, shrewd*



benign (adj.)

having a kind disposition

*The old man's benign manner was masked by his creepy appearance.

**syn.: gracious, caring*



impudent (adj.)

having or showing offensive boldness;
disrespectful; rude

*Randy's impudent comments got him sent to his room without dinner.

**syn.: impertinent, audacious, brash, insolent, brazen*



acquiesce (v.)

to submit without protest

*Aaron rarely stands up to his wife; he acquiesces to her every whim.

**syn.: assent, agree*



unparalleled (adj.)

unequaled or unmatched

*Phillip's skill on the tightrope is unparalleled by other performers.

**syn.: matchless, peerless, unsurpassed*



enigmatic (adj.)

mysterious or perplexing

*Layla was at once popular and enigmatic; no one knew much about her.

**syn.: unknowable, puzzling*



dilatory (adj.)

tending to delay or procrastinate

*Dilatory students will be given an office referral.

**syn.: dallying, delaying, tardy*



flamboyant (adj.)

strikingly bold or brilliant; elaborate or colorful display or behavior

*Elvis's flamboyant jumpsuits are as famous as his music.

**syn.: flashy, showy, conspicuous, dramatic, ostentatious*



banal (adj.)

lacking originality

*Watching scary movies on Halloween is too banal; let's hang out at the graveyard.

**syn.: unoriginal, ordinary, prosaic, vapid, trite, insipid, tedious*



idiosyncratic (adj.)

belonging to one's character or temperament; an individualizing characteristic or quality

*Her use of “like” in every sentence was just one of her idiosyncratic speech habits.

**syn.: peculiar, quirky, eccentric*



squander (v.)

to spend or use wastefully; to lose through negligence or inaction

*Danny squanders every penny he earns and so has no retirement savings.

**syn.: waste, misuse, dissipate, “fritter away”*



daunting (adj.)

discouraging through fear; seemingly impossible

*Climbing Mt. Everest is a daunting task.

**syn.: intimidating, fazing, dismaying, stressful, ominous, formidable, harrowing, dire*



terse (adj.)

abruptly concise; using few words

*Dad's terse response made it clear he wasn't going to listen to my excuses.

**syn.: curt, brusque, blunt, succinct, pithy, laconic*



diffident (adj.)

lacking self-confidence

*Pam's diffident demeanor is characterized by her shuffling walk and lack of eye contact.

**syn.: hesitant, unconfident, timorous, abashed*



ambivalent (adj.)

relating to uncertainty, fluctuation, or mixed feelings

*Gretchen was ambivalent about going to the beach on a windy day.

**syn.: unsure, indecisive, equivocal, irresolute.*



evoke (v.)

to call up or produce

*Disco music evokes memories of polyester leisure suits.

**syn.: elicit; suggest, summon, kindle, conjure*



cacophony (n.)

harsh, loud discordant sounds

*The music recital was more cacophony than concert.

**syn.: dissonance, discord*



prodigious (adj.)

extraordinary in size, amount, or degree

*Nate's prodigious backpack rose well over his head when he put it on.

**syn.: epic, immense, mammoth, enormous, colossal, herculean*



capricious (adj.)

subject to or led by whim

*Candy's capricious behavior keeps even her best friend guessing.

**syn.: erratic, whimsical, changeable*



Impetuous (adj.)

having sudden or rash action;
impulsive

*Jane made an impetuous decision to quit soccer and join the debate team.

**syn.: spontaneous*



cavalier (adj.)

showing arrogant disregard

*Lisa's cavalier attitude about the group project frustrated her classmates.

**syn.: dismissive, disdainful, offhand*



strident (adj.)

having a harsh, grating sound

*Minnie's strident voice could be heard from across the street.

**syn.: shrill, discordant*



impugn (v.)

to challenge as false; to question the validity or truthfulness of a statement

*To win the popularity contest, Lisa had to impugn her opponent's charitable deeds.

**syn.: denounce, accuse, assail*



venerable (adj.)

demanding respect due to dignity or age

*Many cultures see the elderly as wise and venerable.

**syn.: revered, honorable, admirable, august*



gaffe (n.)

a social blunder; a noticeable mistake

*Anita made the embarrassing gaffe of publicly mispronouncing the director's name.

**syn.: faux pas, error*



spurious (adj.)

not genuine, authentic, or true

*Joe's spurious hundred-dollar bill didn't fool the bank teller.

**syn.: false, fake, bogus*



ardent (adj.)

having intense or passionate feeling

*Mike is such an ardent fan; he has a copy of every song the Beatles ever recorded.

**syn.: enthusiastic, committed, fervent*