

Topicwise words

MANIA

(Mania means a severe addiction to or an uncontrollable obsession for something. Mania = noun, maniac = noun, maniacal/manic = adjective.)

ABLUTOMANIA – washing or bathing

ACROMANIA/ALTOMANIA – heights, high places

AGORAMANIA – open or public places

AGRIOZOOMANIA – wild animals

AILUROMANIA – cats

ALGOMANIA – pain

AMBULOMANIA – walking

ANDROMANIA – men

ANGLOMANIA – things English

ARACHNEMANIA, ARACHNOMANIA – spiders

ARITHMOMANIA – numbers

ATAXOMANIA – disorder or untidiness

AUROMANIA – gold

BATHYMANIA – depth or deep water

BIBLIOMANIA – books

BRONTOMANIA – thunder and lightning

CACOMANIA – ugliness

CALIGYNEMANIA – beautiful women

CENOMANIA – empty spaces

CHIROMANIA – hands

CHROMATOMANIA – colors

CHROMETOMANIA – money

CLAUSTROMANIA – confinement

CYNOMANIA – dogs or rabies

DENDROMANIA – trees

DIPSOMANIA – drinking (spirits, alcohol)

DROMOMANIA – the road: travel, wandering, journeys

ENOCHLOMANIA – crowds

FIBRIOMANIA – fevers

GAMOMANIA – marriages

GEPHYROMANIA – crossing bridges

GERONTOMANIA – old people

GNOSIOMANIA – knowledge

GRAPHOMANIA – writing or script

HELIOMANIA – the sun or sunlight

HIPPOMANIA – horses (Better than equinomania)

HOMOMANIA – people/sameness/homosexuals

HYGROMANIA – liquid or moisture

HYPNOMANIA – sleep or hypnosis

IATROMANIA – doctors

ICHTHYOMANIA – fishes

ILLYNGOMANIA – vertigo

KAINOMANIA – novelty, innovation

KATAGELOMANIA – ridicule

KLEPTOMANIA – stealing

KONIOMANIA – dust

LACHANOMANIA – vegetables

LALOMANIA – speaking

LEUKOMANIA – white, the color

LOGOMANIA – words

LOUTROMANIA – washing or bathing

MEGALOMANIA – large things

MELANOMANIA – black, the color

MISOMANIA – hatred

NECROMANIA – death or dead things

NEPHOMANIA – clouds

NOSOMANIA – illness or disease

NYCTOMANIA – night, dark

OCHLOMANIA – crowds or mobs

OENOMANIA – wines

OPIOMANIA – medicine

PANTOMANIA – everything

PLUTOMANIA – wealth

PYREXIOMANIA – fever

PYROMANIA – fire

SELENOMANIA – the moon

SINISTROMANIA – things to the left or left-handedness

THALASSOMANIA – sea, ocean

THANATOMANIA – death or dying

TOMOMANIA – surgical operations

TOXOMANIA – poison or being poisoned

TYPHLOMANIA – blindness

VESTIMANIA – clothing

XANTHOMANIA – the colour yellow

XENOMANIA – strangers or foreigners

XEROMANIA – dryness

PHOBIA

(Phobia means an excessive and irrational fear of or a morbid dread of something. Phobia = noun, phobic = adjective, phobist = noun.)

- AEROPHOBIA** – fear of air
ANTHOPHOBIA – fear of flowers
ANTHROPOPHOBIA – fear of people
ANUPTAPHOBIA – fear of remaining unmarried or single
ATELOPHOBIA – fear of imperfection
ATYCHIPHOBIA – fear of failure
AUTOPHOBIA – fear of being by oneself or of being in solitude
AVIOPHOBIA, AVIATOPHOBIA – fear of flying
BATHYPHOBIA – fear of depths
BATRACHOPHOBIA – fear of amphibians such as frogs
BELONEPHOBIA – fear of sharp, pointed objects
BRONTOPHOBIA – fear of thunder and lightning
CACOPHOBIA – fear of ugliness
CALLOPHOBIA – fear of beauty
CATAPEDOPHOBIA – fear of jumping
CENOPHOBIA – fear of empty spaces
CHIONOPHOBIA – fear of snow
CHROMOPHOBIA / CHROMATOPHOBIA – fear of colours
CHROMETOPHOBIA – fear of money
CLAUSTROPHOBIA – fear of closed spaces, confinement
DEMOPHOBIA – fear of crowds
DEMONOPHOBIA – fear of ghosts and spirits
DENDROPHOBIA – fear of trees
DIKEPHOBIA – fear of justice, lawsuits
ECCLESOPHOBIA – fear of churches, religion
EISOPTROPHOBIA – fear of mirrors
EMETOPHOBIA – fear of vomiting
ENTOMOPHOBIA – fear of insects
ERGOPHOBIA – fear of work
FRANCOPHOBIA – fear of France, all things French
GAMOPHOBIA – fear of marriage
GERAPHOBIA – fear of old age
GERONTOPHOBIA – fear of old men
GNOSIOPHOBIA – fear of knowledge
GYMNOPHOBIA – fear of nudity
GYNEPHOBIA – fear of women
HAEMATOPHOBIA – fear of blood
HAGIOPHOBIA – fear of saints / holy things
HAPHEPHOBIA / HAPTEPHOBIA – fear of being touched
HARPAXOPHOBIA – fear of being robbed
HELIOPHOBIA – fear of sun / sunlight
HERPETOPHOBIA – fear of reptiles like snakes etc.
HODOPHOBIA – fear of travel by road
ICHTHYOPHOBIA – fear of fish
ISOLOPHOBIA – fear of being alone, solitude
KAKORRHAPIOPHOBIA – fear of failure or defeat
KOPOPHOBIA – fear of fatigue
LIGYROPHOBIA – fear of loud or shrill noises
LYGOPHOBIA – fear of darkness
LYSSOPHOBIA – fear of rabies or madness
MAGEIROCOPHOBIA – fear of cooking
MAIEUSIOPHOBIA – fear of childbirth
MICROPHOBIA – fear of small things
MYSOPHOBIA – fear of dirt or contamination
NEOPHOBIA – fear of change
NOSOCOMEPHOBIA – fear of hospitals
OCHLOPHOBIA – fear of crowds
OCHOPHOBIA – fear of vehicles
OMBROPHOBIA – fear of rain
ONEIROPHOBIA – fear of dreams
PANOPHOBIA / PANTOPHOBIA – fear of everything
PHARMACOPHOBIA – fear of medicine
PHASMOPHOBIA – fear of ghosts
PHONOPHOBIA – fear of sounds including one's own voice
PODOPHOBIA – fear of feet
PORNOPHOBIA – fear of prostitutes
POTAMOPHOBIA – fear of rivers or running water
RHYTOPHOBIA – fear of wrinkles or getting wrinkles
SCIOPHOBIA – fear of shadows
SCOPOPHOBIA – fear of being looked at
SELACHOPHOBIA – fear of sharks
SOCIOPHOBIA – fear of society or people in general
SPECTROPHOBIA – fear of mirrors
STYGIOPHOBIA – fear of hell
TACHOPHOBIA – fear of speed
THALASSOPHOBIA – fear of seas and oceans
TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA – fear of the number 13
TRICHOPHOBIA – fear of hair
XENOPHOBIA – fear of foreigners or strangers
ZOOPHOBIA – fear of animals

PERSONALITY TYPES / PERSONALITY TRAITS

ADONIS – a handsome young man loved by the Greek goddess of love; any handsome young man

ADROIT – quick and skilful in thought or action

AESTHETE – a person who studies and enjoys beauty

AGNOSTIC – a person who is not sure whether God exists

ALTER EGO – the side of one's personality usually not seen by others

ALTRUIST – one willing to help others even it causes disadvantage to oneself

AMAZON – a tall, strong, masculine woman

AMBIDEXTROUS – able to use both hands with equal ease

AMBIVERT – a person who has qualities of an introvert as well as an extrovert

ASCETIC – one who leads a life of self-denial, avoiding physical pleasures

ATHEIST – one who does not believe that God exists

BIGAMIST – one who illegally marries a person while already legally married to another

CHAUVINIST – a person with a prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own race, cause or nation

CIRCE – the enchantress in Greek mythology who lured sailors to her island and turned them into pigs

CLAIRVOYANT – a person who claims to see the future or things others cannot see

COMPLACENT – one who feels satisfied in one's condition or situation, not feeling any need to try harder

CONNOISSEUR – an expert, especially in judging excellence in food, arts etc.

CONSERVATIVE – one who has old ideas; resistant to change

COQUETTE – a seductive woman who uses sex appeal to exploit men

DEMAGOGUE – a person who wins support by exciting emotions and prejudices

DEXTEROUS – ability to think or act skilfully or quickly

DILETTANTE – a person who appears interested but has a shallow understanding of a subject, especially arts

EGOCENTRIC – with a great feeling of one's own importance and ability

EGOIST – self-centred person with little regard for others

EGOTIST – one who talks excessively about oneself; conceited and self-centred

ELITE – the socially superior part of a society; the creamy layer; best of a class

EPICUREAN – one who is devoted to the best forms of sensuous enjoyment

ERUDITE – having or showing profound knowledge

EXTROVERT – an energetic, happy, outgoing person who enjoys being with others

FUTILITARIAN – one who believes that human efforts are futile

GAUCHE – young, inexperienced, awkward and uncomfortable with other people

GLUTTON – one who eats and drinks in excess

GOURMAND – someone greatly interested in good food and drink

GOURMET – a connoisseur of food and drink

GREGARIOUS – a person who seeks and enjoys the company of others

GULLIBLE – someone who is too trusting and easily deceived

ICONOCLAST – one who strongly opposes generally accepted beliefs and traditions

INDEFATIGABLE – determined, energetic and never willing to admit defeat

INHIBITED – a person who is too shy to say or do what he wants to

INTELLIGENTSIA – highly educated and especially interested in arts and politics

INTROVERT – someone who is shy, quiet and unable to make friends easily

JINGOIST – strong believer in one's own nation's superiority

JUDAS – a person who can betray anyone

LIBERAL – someone who favours reform and progress; tolerant; broad-minded

MAGNANIMOUS – very large-hearted, extremely forgiving by nature

MARTINET – strict disciplinarian; someone who demands absolute conformity to rules and forms

MASOCHIST – a person who enjoys receiving punishment

MAUDLIN – feeling sad and very sorry for oneself

MISANTHROPE – one who dislikes other human beings and avoids involvement with society

MISOGAMIST – a person who hates marriage

MISOGYNIST – one who hates women

MODEST – simple; humble in spirit or manner

MONOGAMIST – one who believes in and practises being married to one person at a time

NUMISMATIST – a collector of coins

OBSEQUIOUS – excessively servile

OPINIONATED – a person who stubbornly sticks to his or her own opinions

PANDERER – a person who caters to the vulgar passions or plans of others; a pimp

PARVENU – someone who has newly acquired wealth and position but does not have the social skills to go with the new status

PEDAGOGUE – a teacher who is too formal and not very interesting

PEDANT – one who gives too much attention to formal rules or minor details

PERSPICACIOUS – one quick in noticing, understanding or judging things accurately; a very brilliant person

PHILANTHROPIST – one who helps poor people; lover of mankind

PHILATELIST – a collector of stamps

PHLEGMATIC – a person who stays calm and does not get emotional or excited in any situation

POLYGAMIST – one who believes in and practises being married to more than one person at a time

POLYGLOT – a person who can speak many languages

POMPOUS – too serious about and full of oneself

PUERILE – immature, silly, trivial, childish

PUNCTILIOUS – very particular about correct behaviour and attention to detail

PUSILLANIMOUS – one who lacks courage, strength and resolution; ridiculously fearful

SADIST – a person who enjoys causing pain to others

SCEPTIC – a person who habitually doubts values or beliefs

SINISTER – evil; wicked; dishonourable

SOLITARY – one who prefers to stay alone or in solitude

STOIC – a person indifferent to emotions, pain as well as pleasure

SUAVE – smoothly agreeable and courteous, sophisticated

SUPERCILIOUS – showing arrogant superiority; contemptuous of views and opinions of others

SYCOPHANT – a servile person who flatters someone in position or power for personal gain

TYRO – someone new to a field or activity

VAPID – a person without any sparkle, flavour; lacks intelligence or imagination

VERSATILE – competent in many areas

VINDICTIVE – revengeful; unwilling to forgive

VIRAGO – fierce, unpleasant woman who shouts a lot

VIRTUOSO – extremely skilled at something, especially playing an instrument or performing

VIVACIOUS – attractively energetic and enthusiastic

VULGARIAN – a vulgar person; crude; lacking taste; ostentatious

WANTON – a person indulging in every passion, lewd and lustful

WORKAHOLIC – someone with a compulsive need to work and finds it difficult not to work

TYPES OF SPEAKERS

BANAL – boring, ordinary and not original

COGENT – powerful and persuasive; able to influence or convince

GARRULOUS – in the habit of talking a lot, usually about unimportant things

GRANDILOQUENT – deliberate use of complicated words in order to attract attention and admiration

INARTICULATE – unable to express feelings or ideas clearly

LACONIC – brief and to the point

LOQUACIOUS – too full of trivial talk

TACITURN – habitually reserved, speaking very little

VERBOSE – using more words than necessary

VENTRILQUIST – someone who speaks without moving lips to give the impression that the voice is coming from somewhere else

VOLUBLE – very fluent and rapid

VOCIFEROUS – offensively loud

ADJECTIVES OF RELATION

(There are many terms which refer to a state of relating to or pertaining to a certain thing or category of things. Instead of using a phrase such as "pertaining to buttercups", you can substitute the adjective "ranunculaceous". We have compiled some such terms below. We use many of these words every day without realizing that they are part of this larger category.)

ABECEDARIAN – of, like or pertaining to the order of the alphabet; rudimentary

AESTIVAL – of, like or pertaining to summer

AGRESTIC – of the fields; rural; unpolished

ALAR – of, like or pertaining to the wing or shoulder

ALVEOLATE – of or like a honeycomb

AURICULAR – of, like or pertaining to the ear; spoken secretly

AVUNCULAR – like an uncle; of, like or pertaining to uncles

BATHYSMAL – of, like or pertaining to the depths of the ocean

BIBITORY – of, like or pertaining or pertaining to drinking

BUCCAL – of, like or pertaining to the mouth or cheek

BUCOLIC – of, like or pertaining to the tending of cattle; rustic; rural

BURSAL – of, like or pertaining to a state's revenues

CARPAL – of, like or pertaining to the wrist

CHTHONIAN – of, like or pertaining to the earth or the underworld

CONNUBIAL – of, like or pertaining to marriage

CREPUSCULAR – of, like or pertaining to twilight

CRETACEOUS – of or resembling chalk; of a whitish colour

DISTAFF – of, like or pertaining to the female branch of a family or women's work

EDACIOUS – voracious; gluttonous; pertaining to eating

EPISTOLARY – of, like or pertaining to letters

FENESTRAL – of, like or pertaining to windows

FUNICULAR – of, like or pertaining to a string or cable

GALACTIC – of, like or pertaining to or obtained from milk

HERMENEUTIC – of, like or pertaining to the interpretation of passages

HIBERNAL – of, like or pertaining to winter

HISTRIONIC – of, like or pertaining to the stage or actors

HYPOTHECARY – of, like or pertaining to mortgages

INTERSTITIAL – of, like or pertaining to the space between things

LITTORAL – of, like or pertaining to the shore of a body of water

MAGISTRAL – of, like or pertaining to a master or teacher

MARMOREAL – of or like marble

MATINAL – of, like or pertaining to the morning

MAXILLARY – of, like or pertaining to a jaw

MERETRICIOUS – of, like or pertaining to prostitution; superficially attractive but lacking value

OCCIPITAL – of, like or pertaining to the back of the head

OLEIC – of, like or pertaining to or derived from oil
OSCLAR – of, like or pertaining to the mouth or to kissing
PARIETAL – of a wall or walls, especially anatomical walls
PECUNIARY – of, like or pertaining to money; consisting of money
PLEBEIAN – of the common people or vulgar classes
PRANDIAL – of, like or pertaining to dinner
PROCEPHALIC – of, like or pertaining to the front of the head
PUERPERAL – of, like or pertaining to childbirth
PYRETIC – of, pertaining to or for the cure of fevers
RISIBLE – laughable
SARTORIAL – of, like or pertaining to a tailor or tailored clothes
SCIATIC – of, like or pertaining to the hip
SIDEREAL – of, like or pertaining to the stars
STOCHASTIC – of, like or pertaining to a sequence of random events
SULPHOROUS – of, like or pertaining to hellfire; infernal; blasphemous
SUPERCILIARY – of, on or near the eyebrow
TECTONIC – of, like or pertaining to building; structural
TERPSICHOEAN – of, like or pertaining to dancing
UMBILICAL – of, like or pertaining to the navel; related on the mother's side
UXORIAL – of, like or pertaining to a wife
VACCINE – of, like or pertaining to cows; preparation conferring immunity to disease
VALETUDINARIAN – of, like or pertaining to ill-health; anxious about health
VERNAL – of, like or pertaining to spring
VISCERAL – of the organs of the body
VOLITIVE – of, like or pertaining to the will

BEARING AND CARRYING

The following table is a relatively complete listing of words relating to the bearing, exuding, carrying, emitting, or containing of things by other things. Note that almost all of them end in "ferous" or "gerous" (from the Latin ferre and gerere, both meaning 'to bear').

ALIGEROUS – winged
AURIFEROUS – bearing gold
BELLIFEROUS – bringing war
BRACHIFEROUS – bearing or having branches or arms
BRANCHIFEROUS – having or bearing gills
CALCIFEROUS – bearing lime
CARBONIFEROUS – bearing carbon
CARNIFEROUS – bearing flesh; fleshy
CLAVIGEROUS – keeping keys

CONCHIFEROUS – bearing a shell
CONIFEROUS – bearing cones
CRUCIFEROUS – bearing a cross
DIAMANTIFEROUS – bearing diamonds
FLORIFEROUS – bearing flowers
FRIGIFEROUS – bearing or bringing cold
FRUCTIFEROUS – bearing fruit
FRUGIFEROUS – bearing fruit
LUCIFEROUS – light-bringing; light-giving
MORTIFEROUS – death-bringing; fatal
ODORIFEROUS – emitting a usually pleasant smell
SACCHARIFEROUS – bearing sugar
SACCIFEROUS – bearing a sac or sacs
TOXIFEROUS – producing or bearing poison
VASIFEROUS – bearing a vessel or vas

CARRIAGES AND CHARIOTS

Each of the vehicles listed here is wheeled and non-motorized – a carriage, chariot, cart, buggy or similar thing. In general, this means that they will be horse-drawn (or donkey-drawn, or ... well, you get the picture). A number of these terms are foreign.

BROUGHAM – one-horse closed carriage
CABRIOLET – two-wheeled carriage
CHAISE – light open carriage for one or two people
CHARABANC – open tourist coach with benches
COUPE – four-wheeled closed horse-drawn carriage
DOG CART – light two-wheeled carriage with seats back-to-back
DROSKHY – low four-wheeled open carriage
EKKA – small one-horse carriage
GHARRY – box-like Middle Eastern horse-drawn cab
GIG – light two-wheeled one-horse carriage
HACKNEY – four-wheeled two-horse carriage
HANSOM – light two-wheeled cab
LANDAU – horse-drawn carriage with folding top
PHAETON – open four-wheeled carriage
SULKY – light two-wheeled, one-person horse-drawn carriage
TANDEM – two-seated carriage with horses harnessed in series
TONGA – light two-wheeled carriage
TRAP – light one-horse carriage with springs
TROIKA – carriage drawn by three horses
TUM-TUM – dog-cart
VICTORIA – light open two-seated four-wheeled carriage
WAGONETTE – carriage with one crosswise seat in front, two seats in back

CAUSATION AND FORMATION

These words refer to causation, formation, origination, production, growth, development or generation. While this might seem like a pretty broad category, all of the words in the list derive from the single Greek word genesis, which can have all of the above meanings. Of course, Genesis is also the name of the first book of the Bible, in which the causation, origin and development of the world is described.

ABIOTENESIS – spontaneous generation of living matter
ALLERGENIC – producing allergies
ANTHROPOGENESIS – origin of human beings
CARCINOGENESIS – causing cancer
COSMOGENIC – produced by interaction of cosmic rays with earth's surface
CRYPTOGENIC – of unknown origin
CYTOGENESIS – formation of cells
EMBRYOGENESIS – production of an embryo
ENDOGENOUS – having no external cause
ETHNOGENY – study of origins of races or ethnic groups
EXOGENOUS – having an external origin
HAEMATOGENESIS – production of blood
HALLUCINOGENIC – causing hallucinations
HETEROGENESIS – spontaneous or alternate generation
HYPOALLERGENIC – causing few allergies
IATROGENIC – induced inadvertently by medical treatment
IMMUNOGENIC – producing an immune response
LACTOGENIC – producing milk
MEROGENESIS – segmentation
MYOGENIC – having a muscular origin
NONPATHOGENIC – not causing disease
NOOGENESIS – evolution of the mind
ONTOGENESIS – origin and development of a single individual organism
OGENESIS – production of eggs or ova
PHYTOGENESIS – origin and development of plants
PROTOGENIC – formed at the beginning
PSYCHOGENESIS – origin and development of the mind
RADIOGENIC – produced by radioactive disintegration
SCHIZOGENESIS – reproduction by division
SOLIGENOUS – produced by the sun
THAUMATOGENY – doctrine of the miraculous origin of life
VIRIDIGENOUS – producing greenness
XYLOGENOUS – growing on wood

COLOUR TERMS

This list contains definitions of obscure colour terms using combinations of 'normal' colours of the rainbow and descriptive adjectives; e.g. cardinal = deep scarlet red; russet = reddish brown.

ATROUS – jet black
AUBERGINE – eggplant; a dark purple colour
AZURE – light or sky blue; the heraldic colour blue
BEIGE – light creamy white-brown
BURNET – dark brown; dark woollen cloth
CARDINAL – deep scarlet red colour
CELESTE – sky blue
CERULEAN – sky-blue; dark blue; sea-green
CHARTREUSE – yellow-green colour
CINNABAR – red crystalline mercuric sulfide pigment; deep red or scarlet colour
CITRINE – dark greenish-yellow
CLARET – dark red-purple colour; a dark-red wine
CRETACEOUS – of or resembling chalk; of a whitish colour
FLAVESCENT – yellowish or turning yellow
HELIOTROPE – purplish hue; purplish-flowered plant; ancient sundial; signalling mirror
HOARY – pale silver-grey colour; grey with age
INDIGO – deep blue-violet colour; a blue-violet dye
JACINTHE – orange colour
KHAKI – light brown or tan
LURID – red-yellow; yellow-brown
MAGENTA – reddish purple
MAROON – brownish crimson
MAUVE – light bluish purple
OCHRE – yellowish or yellow-brown colour
PERIWINKLE – a bluish or azure colour; a plant with bluish flowers
PRIMROSE – pale yellow
PUCE – brownish-purple; purplish-pink
RUSSET – reddish brown
SABLE – black; dark; of a black colour in heraldry
SAFFRON – orange-yellow
SAGE – grey-green colour
SANGUINEOUS – bloody; of, like or pertaining to blood; blood-red
SAPPHIRE – deep pure blue
SEPIA – fine brown
SLATE – dull dark blue-grey
SORREL – reddish-brown; light chestnut
SUEDE – light beige
SULPHUREOUS – bright yellow
TAN – tawny brown

TAWNY – brownish-yellow
TEAL – greenish-blue
TERRACOTTA – reddish-brown
TITIAN – red-gold or reddish-brown
TOPAZ – dark yellow
TURQUOISE – blue-green
ULTRAMARINE – deep blue
UMBER – brownish red
VERMILION – bright red
VIRIDIAN – chrome green
WHEY – off-white

DANCE STYLES

This list of dances won't actually turn you into a master of the ballroom, but it may help you recognize and understand the differences between certain dances. It's rather difficult to define a complex dance in one line, and so we've avoided a lot of detail about specific steps, etc.

BOLERO – Spanish dance with sudden pauses and sharp turns
BOSSA-NOVA – Brazilian dance similar to samba
CANCAN – French woman's dance involving high kicks while holding up front of skirt
CHA-CHA – fast rhythmic ballroom dance
CHARLESTON – fast-paced 1920s dance characterized by energetic kicking
COTILLION – elaborate ballroom dance with frequent changes of partner
FANDANGO – lively Spanish dance performed by a couple
FLAMENCO – vigorous rhythmic dance originating with Gypsies
FOX-TROT – slow and complex ballroom dance
HABANERA – slow and seductive Cuban dance
HULA – sinuous Polynesian dance with rhythmic hip movements
HUSTLE – lively disco dance derived from swing elements with a plus-like pattern
JIG – springy and sprightly dance
JITTERBUG – jazz dance featuring vigorous acrobatic feats
JIVE – fast dance done to jazz or swing music
LIMBO – dance of the West Indies where dancers pass under horizontal pole
MAMBO – Cuban ballroom dance resembling the rumba or cha-cha
MAZURKA – Polish folk dance in moderate triple measure
PASSACAGLIA – slow solemn Italian or Spanish dance
POLKA – lively Bohemian dance for a couple
QUADRILLE – square dance for four couples
REEL – lively dance of the Scottish Highlands
ROUND – dance in a ring
RUMBA – Cuban ballroom dance with pronounced hip movements
SALSA – fast Latin American jazz-influenced dance
SAMBA – Brazilian dance of African origin

SHIMMY – jazz dance featuring rapid shaking of the body
SHUFFLE – dance featuring sliding or scraping of the feet
STOMP – jazz dance featuring heavy stamping of the feet
TANGO – Latin-American (orig. Argentinian) ballroom dance with long pauses
TARANTELLA – fast violent Italian folk dance
TWIST – dance featuring many gyrations of the hips
WALTZ – ballroom dance in 3/4 time
ZOUK – Caribbean disco dance and corresponding type of fast rhythmic music

FABRIC AND CLOTH

This rather odd category, lists the different kinds of fabric and cloth. There is an enormous variety in fabrics, with many different national, historical and regional varieties. It is interesting to note, however, that almost all of the types of fabric listed below are variants or blends of just five basic fabric types viz. silk, cotton, linen, wool and worsted.

ALPACA – fine wool made from alpaca hair
ANGORA – silk-like fabric made from wool of angora goats
BAIZE – coarse napped cotton or wool fabric
BROADCLOTH – dense twilled wool or worsted fabric
BROCADE – rich silk fabric with raised patterns
BURLAP – coarse plain-woven jute or hemp fabric
CALICO – plain white cotton
CAMBRIC – fine thin white cotton or linen fabric
CASHMERE – soft twilled fabric made of fine goat's wool
CHAMBRAY – lightweight fabric with coloured warp and white filling
CHAMOIS – cotton fabric made in imitation of chamois leather
CHIFFON – sheer silk fabric
CHINO – strong twilled cotton cloth
CHINTZ – glazed printed cotton fabric
CORDUROY – durable cotton piled fabric with vertical ribs
CREPE – light crinkled fabric
DAMASK – fine lustrous fabric with flat patterns and a satin weave
DENIM – firm and durable twilled cotton
DRILL – durable twilled cotton
DUFFEL – fabric of thick, low-quality woolen cloth
DUNGAREE – heavy coarse durable twilled cotton, usually coloured
FLANNEL – light woollen fabric
GABARDINE – closely woven cotton or wool twill
GEORGETTE – thin silk
GINGHAM – striped cotton cloth
HERRINGBONE – twilled fabric woven in rows of parallel sloping lines
JACQUARD – intricately-woven variegated fabric; loom for making jacquard

JERSEY – plain weft-knitted fabric of wool, cotton, nylon or silk
KALAMKARI – fabric coloured by repeated dyeing
KHADDAR – homespun cotton cloth
MACKINTOSH – lightweight rubberized waterproof cotton
MADRAS – fine plain-woven cotton or silk
MERINO – soft wool of the merino sheep; any soft merino-like wool or wool and cotton cloth
MOHAIR – fabric made from silky hair of angora goats
MOLESKIN – heavy durable cotton
MUSLIN – plain-woven fine cotton
ORGANDIE – fine translucent cotton
ORGANZA – transparent thin silk or nylon
PAISLEY – soft wool fabric with ornamental pattern
PASHMINA – fine goat's wool fabric used for making shawls
PIQUÉ – stiff durable corded fabric of cotton, rayon or silk
POPLIN – corded woven silk and worsted
ROMAL – handkerchief or headcloth; silk or cotton fabric
SATIN – closely woven silk with lustrous face
SEERSUCKER – light puckered cotton or linen fabric
SERGE – strong twilled worsted
SHETLAND – lightweight loosely twisted wool fabric
TAFFETA – thin glossy silk
TULLE – sheer and delicate thin silk
TWEED – rough twilled wool
VELOUR – piled velvety cotton
VELVET – soft piled fabric of silk, cotton or synthetic material
VOILE – soft fine sheer fabric
WOOLSEY – cotton and wool blend
WORSTED – fine closely-woven wool

FIGHTING AND COMBAT

These words, all very obscure, refer to fighting, combat or conflict, whether actual or metaphorical, using the suffix "machy" (from the Greek mache, a fight).

ALECTRYOMACHY – cock-fighting
CYNARTOMACHY – bear-baiting using dogs
DUOMACHY – duel or fight between two people
GIGANTOMACHY – war of giants against the gods
HIEROMACHY – fight or quarrel between priests
HOPLOMACHY – fighting while heavily armoured
ICONOMACHY – opposition to the worship of images or icons
LOGOMACHY – contention about words or in words
MONOMACHY – single combat; a duel
NAUMACHY – mock sea-battle
PNEUMATOMACHY – denial of the divinity of the Holy Ghost
POETOMACHIA – contest or quarrel among poets
PSYCHOMACHY – conflict between the body and the soul

PYGMACHY – boxing; fighting with clubs
PYROMACHY – use of fire in combat
SKIAMACHY – sham fight; shadow boxing
SYMMACHY – fighting jointly against a common enemy
TAUROMACHY – bullfighting
THEOMACHY – war amongst or against the gods
TITANOMACHY – war of the Titans against the gods

KILLING AND KILLERS

Anyone who has looked at the news lately knows that the human species seems to have an inordinate propensity for killing things. Similarly, anyone looking at this list of terms relating to killing will quickly realize that humans also have an inordinate propensity for making up words about killing things. All of these words end in 'cide', from Latin caedere, to kill. Of all of these, though, perhaps the greatest crime of all is verbicide, the brutal slaughter of our language by incompetents and ignoramuses. Will the atrocities never end?

ABORTICIDE – killing of a foetus; abortion; foeticide
AMICIDE – murder of a friend
BIOCID – killing living material
DEICIDE – destruction or killing of a god
ECOCIDE – destruction of the environment
FILICIDE – killing of one's own child
FRATRICIDE – killing of one's brother
FUNGICIDE – killing of fungus
GENOCIDE – killing of a race or ethnic group
GERMICIDE – substance that kills germs
GYNAECIDE – killing of women
HERBICIDE – killing of plants
HERETICIDE – killing of heretics
HOMICIDE – killing of a human being
INFANTICIDE – killing of an infant
INSECTICIDE – killing of insects
MARITICIDE – killing or killer of one's husband
MATRICIDE – killing of one's mother
PARASUICIDE – harmful act appearing to be an attempt at suicide
PARRICIDE – killing of parents or a parent-like close relative
PATRICIDE – killing of one's father
REGICIDE – killing of a monarch
SIBLICIDE – killing or killer of a sibling
SORORICIDE – killing of one's own sister
TAURICIDE – killing or killer of a bull
TYRANNICIDE – killing or killer of a tyrant
URBICIDE – destruction of a city
UXORICIDE – killing of one's own wife
VATICIDE – killing or killer of a prophet
VERBICIDE – destroying the meaning of a word
VERMICIDE – killing of worms

PHILOSOPHICAL ISMS

Here is a list of different isms, each representing a philosophical, political or moral doctrine or a belief system.

ABSOLUTISM – doctrine of government by a single absolute ruler; autocracy

AESTHETICISM – doctrine that beauty is central to other moral principles

ANARCHISM – doctrine that all governments should be abolished

ANIMISM – attribution of soul to inanimate objects

ANTHROPOMORPHISM – attribution of human qualities to non-human things

ANTHROPOTHEISM – belief that gods are only deified men

ANTINOMIANISM – doctrine of the rejection of moral law

ASCETICISM – doctrine that self-denial of the body permits spiritual enlightenment

CAPITALISM – doctrine that private ownership and free markets should govern economies

COLLECTIVISM – doctrine of communal control of means of production

CONSERVATISM – belief in maintaining political and social traditions

DEISM – belief in God but rejection of religion

DUALISM – doctrine that the universe is controlled by one good and one evil force

EGALITARIANISM – belief that humans ought to be equal in rights and privileges

EGOISM – doctrine that the pursuit of self-interest is the highest good

EGOTHEISM – identification of oneself with God

EMPIRICISM – doctrine that the experience of the senses is the only source of knowledge

EXISTENTIALISM – doctrine of individual human responsibility in an unfathomable universe

EXPERIENTIALISM – doctrine that knowledge comes from experience

FATALISM – doctrine that events are fixed and humans are powerless

GEOCENTRISM – belief that Earth is the centre of the universe

GNOSTICISM – belief that freedom derives solely from knowledge

HEDONISM – belief that pleasure is the highest good

HISTORICISM – belief that all phenomena are historically determined

HUMANISM – belief that human interests and mind are paramount

HUMANITARIANISM – doctrine that the highest moral obligation is to improve human welfare

IDEALISM – belief that our experiences of the world consist of ideas

INTELLECTUALISM – belief that all knowledge is derived from reason

LIBERALISM – doctrine of social change and tolerance

LIBERTARIANISM – doctrine that personal liberty is the highest value

MATERIALISM – belief that matter is the only extant substance

MONISM – belief that all things can be placed in one category

MONOTHEISM – belief in only one God

NIHILISM – denial of all reality; extreme scepticism

OBJECTIVISM – doctrine that all reality is objective

OPTIMISM – doctrine that we live in the best of all possible worlds

PANTHEISM – belief that the universe is God; belief in many gods

PESSIMISM – doctrine that the universe is essentially evil

PLURALISM – belief that reality consists of several kinds of entities

POSITIVISM – doctrine that that which is not observable is not knowable

PRAGMATISM – doctrine emphasizing practical value of philosophy

PRIMITIVISM – doctrine that a simple and natural life is morally best

PYRRHONISM – total or radical skepticism

RACISM – belief that race is the primary determinant of human capacities

RATIONALISM – belief that reason is the fundamental source of knowledge

REALISM – doctrine that objects of cognition are real

REDUCTIONISM – belief that complex phenomena are reducible to simple ones

REPUBLICANISM – belief that a republic is the best form of government

ROMANTICISM – belief in sentimental feeling in artistic expression

SCIENTISM – belief that the methods of science are universally applicable

SELF-DETERMINISM – doctrine that the actions of a self are determined by itself

SKEPTICISM – doctrine that true knowledge is always uncertain

SOCIALISM – doctrine of centralized state control of wealth and property

SPIRITUALISM – belief that nothing is real except the soul or spirit

STOICISM – belief in indifference to pleasure or pain

SUBJECTIVISM – doctrine that all knowledge is subjective

THEISM – belief in the existence of God without special revelation

THEOCENTRISM – belief that God is central fact of existence

THEOPANTISM – belief that God is the only reality

TRANSCENDENTALISM – theory that emphasizes that which transcends perception

UTILITARIANISM – belief that utility of actions determines moral value

SCIENCES AND STUDIES

This list defines sciences, arts and studies of various degrees of respectability and rarity, ranging from the common and esteemed to the obscure and quirky. Over the past century, the range and scope of scientific endeavours has expanded exponentially, so that practically any field of study has a name associated with it. Most of these terms end in 'ology', from the Greek logos, meaning 'word'.

ACOUSTICS – science of sound

AERODYNAMICS – dynamics of gases; science of movement in a flow of air or gas

AEROLOGY – study of the atmosphere

AERONAUTICS – study of navigation through air or space

AGROBIOLOGY – study of plant nutrition; soil yields

AGRONOMICS – study of productivity of land

ASTROLOGY – study of influence of stars on people

ASTRONOMY – study of celestial bodies

ASTROPHYSICS – study of behaviour of interstellar matter

AVIONICS – the science of electronic devices for aircraft

BIOMETRICS – study of biological measurement

BOTANY – study of plants

CACOGENICS – study of racial degeneration

CALORIFICS – study of heat

CARTOGRAPHY – the science of making maps and globes

CATECHETICS – the art of teaching by question and answer

CHALCOGRAPHY – the art of engraving on copper or brass

CHEMISTRY – study of properties of substances

CHIROGRAPHY – study of handwriting or penmanship

CHIROLOGY – study of the hands

CHIROPODY – medical science of feet

CRYOBIOLOGY – study of life under cold conditions

DACTYLOLOGY – study of sign language

DENDROLOGY – study of trees

DIAGRAPHICS – art of making diagrams or drawings

ENTOMOLOGY – study of insects

EPISTEMOLOGY – study of grounds of knowledge

ERGONOMICS – study of people at work

ETIOLOGY – the science of causes; especially of disease

ETYMOLOGY – study of origin of words

EUTHENICS – science concerned with improving living conditions

GASTRONOMY – study of fine dining

GEOPONICS – study of agriculture

HARMONICS – study of musical acoustics

HERALDRY – study of coats of arms

HOROGRAPHY – art of constructing sundials or clocks

HOROLOGY – science of time measurement

HYDROPATHY – study of treating diseases with water

ICHTHYOLOGY – study of fish

KINEMATICS – study of motion

KINESICS – study of gestural communication

KTENOLOGY – science of putting people to death

LIMNOLOGY – study of bodies of fresh water

MATHEMATICS – study of magnitude, number, and forms

METALLURGY – study of alloying and treating metals

METAPHYSICS – study of principles of nature and thought

METEOROLOGY – study of weather

METRICS – study of versification

METROLOGY – science of weights and measures

MORPHOLOGY – study of forms and the development of structures

OBSTETRICS – study of midwifery

OENOLOGY – study of wines

OPHTHALMOLOGY – study of eye diseases

OPTICS – study of light

OPTOMETRY – science of examining the eyes

ORTHOEPY – study of correct pronunciation

ORTHOGRAPHY – study of spelling

PAEDOTROPHY – art of rearing children

PATHOLOGY – study of disease

PHARMACOLOGY – study of drugs

PHILOSOPHY – science of knowledge or wisdom

PHYSIOLOGY – study of processes of life

PROXEMICS – study of man's need for personal space

PSEPHOLOGY – study of election results and voting trends

SEISMOLOGY – study of earthquakes

SEMIOTICS – study of signs and symbols

SOCIOLOGY – study of society

SPELEOLOGY – study and exploration of caves

SYNTAX – study of sentence structure

TAXIDERMY – art of curing and stuffing animals

TECTONICS – science of structure of objects, buildings and landforms

THEOLOGY – study of religion; religious doctrine

TOPOLOGY – study of places and their natural features

TOXOPHILY – love of archery; archery; study of archery

XYLOGRAPHY – art of engraving on wood

ZYMURGY – branch of chemistry dealing with brewing and distilling

STYLES OF SPEECH

Here we have a list of words referring to manners or styles of speaking, words that use the suffix '-loquent', '-loquence', or '-loquy', from Latin loqui (to speak). While in an age of text-messaging, public speaking has lost its once-vaunted status as a communication medium, as long as people meet face to face, others will judge them on their manner of speech.

- ALLOQUY** – speaking to another or many others; an address
- ALTILOQUENCE** – pompous or high speech
- AMBILOQUOUS** – using dubious or ambiguous expressions
- ANTELOQUY** – a preface
- ANTILOQUY** – speaking against some idea; contradicting or gainsaying
- BILOQUIST** – one capable of speaking with two distinct voices
- BLANDILOQUENCE** – complimentary speech; flattery
- BLESILOQUENT** – speaking with a stammer or lisp
- BREVILOQUENCE** – short-windedness; tendency towards brevity in speech
- COLLOQUY** – speaking together; mutual discourse
- DENTILOQUENT** – speaking with clenched teeth
- DIVERSILOQUENT** – speaking in different ways; speaking on different subjects
- DOCTILOQUENT** – speaking learnedly
- DULCILOQUENT** – speaking sweetly
- ELOQUENCE** – forceful and appealing speech
- FATILOQUENT** – speaking prophetically; declaring fate
- GRANDILOQUENT** – bombastic
- INANILOQUENT** – prone to foolish or empty babbling
- INELOQUENCE** – unappealing speech
- MENDACILOQUENCE** – lying speech
- OBLOQUY** – censure; calumny; slander; disgrace
- PARCILOQUY** – laconic speech
- PAUCILOQUENT** – of few words; speaking little
- POLYLOQUENT** – speaking much; loquacious
- SANCTILOQUENT** – speaking on heavenly or holy matters
- SOLILOQUY** – talking or conversing with oneself; dramatic production of this nature
- SOMNILOQUENCE** – talking in one's sleep
- STULTILOQUENT** – foolish or senseless talk
- VENTRILQUISM** – speaking so that the voice appears to come from elsewhere
- VERILOQUENT** – speaking truthfully; truthful

WORDS OF WISDOM

This group of 'sophy' and 'sopher' words has in common an etymological derivation from the Greek sophia, meaning 'wisdom'. They refer to an odd group of systems of knowledge, esoteric doctrines, and philosophical practices, most of which are obsolete or extremely rare, with philosophy being the only major exception. Not quite sciences or studies, nor are they isms, they tend to refer to mystical or occult concepts rather than strictly religious or scientific canons of knowledge.

- ANTHROPOSOPHY** – knowledge of the nature of humanity; human wisdom
- CHIROSOPHY** – knowledge of palm-reading
- COSMOSOPHY** – knowledge of the cosmos
- DEIPNOSOPHY** – learned dinner-conversation
- DEMONOSOPHER** – one who is inspired by a demon or devil
- GASTROSOPHER** – a person skilled in matters of eating
- HELICOSOPHY** – geometry that deals with spirals
- HYPNOSOPHY** – knowledge of phenomena relating to sleep
- MISOSOPHY** – hatred of knowledge or wisdom
- MOROSOPHY** – foolish pretence of wisdom
- MYSTERIOSOPHY** – system of knowledge concerning secrets and mysteries
- NEUTROSOPHY** – study of the origin and nature of philosophical neutralities
- ONTOSOPHY** – knowledge of being or existence
- PALAEOSOPHY** – ancient learning or thought
- PANSOPHY** – universal knowledge
- PANTOSOPHY** – universal knowledge; pansophy
- PHILOSOPHY** – science of knowledge or wisdom
- PHYSIOPHILOSOPHY** – system of knowledge concerning principles of natural history
- PHYSIOSOPHY** – assumption of knowledge of nature
- PHYTOSOPHY** – knowledge of plants
- PNEUMATOPHILOSOPHY** – philosophy of spirits or the spirit world
- PSEUDOSOPHY** – pretension to wisdom
- PSILOSOPHY** – shallow philosophy; limited knowledge
- PSYCHOSOPHY** – doctrine or theory of the soul
- PYROSOPHY** – knowledge of the properties of fire
- RHABDOLOGY** – knowledge or learning concerning calculating rods
- SCIOSOPHY** – system of knowledge without basis in science
- THEANTHROPOSOPHY** – system of belief concerning Christ as god and man
- THEOSOPHY** – immediate divine illumination or wisdom
- ZOOSOPHY** – knowledge or learning concerning animals

FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Each of the following words indicates a type of government by a certain kind of person or institution. Etymologically-minded folks should note the difference between the suffix 'archy', meaning 'rulership', and 'cracy', meaning 'power', which both come from Greek roots.

ACRACY – government by none; anarchy
ALBOCRACY – government by white people
ANDROCRACY – government by men
ANTARCHY – opposition to government; anarchy
ARGENTOCRACY – government by money
ARISTARCHY – government by the best
ARISTOCRACY – government by the nobility
ARITHMOCRACY – government by simple majority
AUTARCHY – government by an absolute ruler
AUTOCRACY – government by one individual
BUREAUCRACY – government by civil servants
CHIROCRACY – government by physical force
COSMARCHY – rulership over the entire world, esp. by the devil
DEMARCHY – government by the people; popular government
DEMOCRACY – government by the people
ENDARCHY – centralised government
EXARCHY – government by bishops
GERONTOCRACY – government by the aged
GYNARCHY – government by women; gynocracy
HAGIOCRACY – government by holy men
HIERARCHY – government by a ranked body; government by priests
IATRARCHY – government by physicians
IDIOCRACY – personal rule; self-rule
KAKISTOCRACY – government by the worst
KRITARCHY – government by judges
MATRIARCHY – government by women or mothers
MERITOCRACY – government by the meritorious
MESOCRACY – government by the middle classes
MOBOCRACY – government by mobs or crowds; ochlocracy
MONARCHY – government by one individual
OLIGARCHY – government by the few
PANTARCHY – government by all the people; world government
PATRIARCHY – government by men or fathers
PLUTARCHY – government by the wealthy; plutocracy
POPOCRACY – government by populists
PSEPHOCRACY – government resulting from election by ballot
STATOCRACY – government by the state alone, without ecclesiastical influence
TECHNOCRACY – government by technical experts
THEOCRACY – government by priests or by religious law
XENOCRACY – government by a body of foreigners

NAMES FOR NAMES

This short list defines some words relating to names. These words contain the root "nym", which comes from the Greek onoma, a name.

ACRONYM – word formed from initial letters of another word
ALLONYM – other person's name used by an author
ANANYM – name written backward; often used as synonym
ANONYM – person whose name is not given; pseudonym
ANTONYM – word whose meaning is the opposite of a given word
APTRONYM – name that suits its owner
AUTONYM – a writer's real name; work published under writer's own name
CACONYM – wrongly derived name
COHYPONYM – word which is one of multiple hyponyms of another word
CRYPTONYM – secret name
DIONYM – name containing two parts or terms
EPONYM – personal name from which another name is derived
EUONYM – a pleasing or beautiful name
EUONYMOUS – appropriately named
EUPHONYM – euphonious synonym
EXONYM – name for a town or country in a foreign language
HETERONYM – word having same spelling but different sound and meaning
HOMONYM – words having the same sound but different meanings
HYPERNYM – word representing a class of words or things
HYPONYM – term which is a member of a larger class
ISONYM – word having the same derivation or form as another
MERONYM – word whose relation to another is a part to the whole
METONYMY – figurative use of word to name an attribute of its subject
METRONYMY – system of naming after the mother's or female line
ONYMOUS – bearing the author's name
PAEDONYMIC – name taken from one's child
PARANYM – euphemism; word whose meaning is altered to conceal evasion
PARONYM – word from same root or having same sound as another
PATRONYM – name derived from father's name
POECILONYM – synonym
POLYONYM – name consisting of several words
PSEUDONYM – fictitious name used by an author
RETRONYM – new name as modification of older term used alone
SYNONYM – word whose meaning is the same as another word
TAUTONYM – taxonomic name in which genus and species are the same
TEKNONYMY – the naming of the parent from the child
TOPONYM – place name derived from geographical feature
TRIONYM – name consisting of three words