

1. **malleable**

adjective

1 : capable of being extended or shaped by beating with a hammer or by the pressure of rollers

2 a : capable of being altered or controlled by outside forces or influences

b : having a capacity for adaptive change

synonym see PLASTIC

2. **maw**

noun

1 : the receptacle into which food is taken by swallowing:

a : STOMACH

b : CROP

2 a : the throat, gullet, or jaws especially of a voracious animal

b : something suggestive of a gaping maw

3. **melancholy**

noun

1 a : an abnormal state attributed to an excess of black bile and characterized by irascibility or depression

b : BLACK BILE

c : MELANCHOLIA

2 a : depression of spirits : DEJECTION

b : a pensive mood

4. **mien**

noun

1 : air or bearing especially as expressive of attitude or personality : Demeanor

2 : APPEARANCE, ASPECT

synonym see BEARING

5. **natal**

adjective

1 : NATIVE

2 : of, relating to, or present at birth; especially : associated with one's birth

6. **obtuse**

adjective

1 a : not pointed or acute : BLUNT

b (1) of an angle : exceeding 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees

(2) : having an obtuse angle

2 a : lacking sharpness or quickness of sensibility or intellect : INSENSITIVE, STUPID

b : difficult to comprehend : not clear or precise in thought or expression

synonym see DULL

7. **patriarchal**

adjective

of, relating to, or being a patriarch or patriarchy

8. **petulant**

adjective

1 : insolent or rude in speech or behavior

2 : characterized by temporary or capricious ill humor : PEEVISH

9. **polemical**

adjective

1 : of, relating to, or being a polemic : **CONTROVERSIAL**

2 : engaged in or addicted to polemics : **DISPUTATIOUS**

10. **ponderous**

adjective

1 : of very great weight

2 : unwieldy or clumsy because of weight and size

3 : oppressively or unpleasantly dull : **LIFELESS**

synonym see **HEAVY**

11. **prate**

verb

to talk long and idly : **CHATTER**

12. **precipice**

noun

1 : a very steep or overhanging place

2 : a hazardous situation; broadly : **BRINK**

13. **predilection**

noun

an established preference for something

synonyms see **PREDILECTION**, **PREPOSSESSION**, **PREJUDICE**

14. **preternatural**

adjective

1 : existing outside of nature

2 : exceeding what is natural or regular : **EXTRAORDINARY**

3 : inexplicable by ordinary means; especially : **PSYCHIC**

15. **progenitor**

noun

1 a : an ancestor in the direct line : **FOREFATHER**

b : a biologically ancestral form

2 : **PRECURSOR**, **ORIGINATOR**

16. **prolix**

adjective

1 : unduly prolonged or drawn out : too long

2 : marked by or using an excess of words

synonym: **WORDY**

17. **sagacity**

noun

the quality of being sagacious

18. **slovenly**

adjective

1 a : untidy especially in personal appearance

b : lazily slipshod

2 : characteristic of a sloven

19. **stalwart**

adjective

marked by outstanding strength and vigor of body, mind, or spirit

synonym see **STRONG**

20. **sumptuary**

adjective

- 1 : relating to personal expenditures and especially to prevent extravagance and luxury
- 2 : designed to regulate extravagant expenditures or habits especially on moral or religious grounds

21. **talisman**

noun

- 1 : an object held to act as a charm to avert evil and bring good fortune
- 2 : something producing apparently magical or miraculous effects

22. **tenacity**

noun

- the quality or state of being tenacious
- synonym see **COURAGE**

23. **torpid**

adjective

- 1 a : having lost motion or the power of exertion or feeling : DORMANT, NUMB
- b : sluggish in functioning or acting
- 2 : lacking in energy or vigor : APATHETIC, DULL

24. **truculence**

noun

- the quality or state of being truculent

25. **unction**

noun

- 1 : the act of anointing as a rite of consecration or healing
- 2 : something used for anointing : OINTMENT, UNGUENT
- 3 a : religious or spiritual fervor or the expression of such fervor
- b : exaggerated, assumed, or superficial earnestness of language or manner : UNCTUOUSNESS

26. **venerable**

adjective

- 1 : deserving to be venerated — used as a title for an Anglican archdeacon or for a Roman Catholic who has been accorded the lowest of three degrees of recognition for sanctity
- 2 : made sacred especially by religious or historical association
- 3 a : calling forth respect through age, character, and attainments; broadly : conveying an impression of aged goodness and benevolence
- b : impressive by reason of age
- synonym see **OLD**

27. **vicissitude**

noun

- 1 a : the quality or state of being changeable : MUTABILITY
- b : natural change or mutation visible in nature or in human affairs
- 2 a : a favorable or unfavorable event or situation that occurs by chance : a fluctuation of state or condition
- b : a difficulty or hardship attendant on a way of life, a career, or a course of action and usually beyond one's control
- c : alternating change : SUCCESSION

28. **vitiate**

verb

- 1 : to make faulty or defective : IMPAIR
- 2 : to debase in moral or aesthetic status
- 3 : to make ineffective
- synonym see **DEBASE**

29. **vivacious**

adjective

lively in temper, conduct, or spirit : SPRIGHTLY

synonym see LIVELY

30. **zeal**

noun

eagerness and ardent interest in pursuit of something : FERVOR

synonym see PASSION