

**affably**

in a pleasant or friendly way

**afield**

far afield a long way  
away People come from far afield to visit  
the grave

**agenda**

noun a list of points  
for discussion what's on the agenda?  
what are we going to discuss?

**agog**

adj all agog very eager  
They were all agog to hear her story

**alienate**

verb 1. to make someone  
feel unfriendly 2. to make someone not  
want to support you

**allege**

verb to suggest that someone  
may have done something wrong. Synonym  
claim

**barnstorming**

adj full of wild political oratory

**bigoted**

adj with very strong and  
unreasonable ideas about something. Synonym  
prejudiced. Antonym open-minded

**bipartite**

adj with two sides  
taking part

**bleak**

adj 1. cold and unpleasant

The path led across bleak mountains. 2. showing no sign of hope She gave him a bleak stare. With no qualifications, his job prospects are bleak.

**bootleg**

adj sold illegally. Synonym  
illegal

**Briton**

noun a person from the  
United Kingdom

**buoyant**

adj 1. which can float easily, which helps something float easily  
The raft became waterlogged and was no longer buoyant. Salt water is more buoyant than fresh water. 2. full of confidence She left the meeting in a very buoyant mood.

**cahoots**

noun (informal.) to be in cahoots with someone to work with someone against another person I think she's in cahoots with the drugs gang.

**cairn**

noun a pile of stones to mark  
an important spot

**caricature**

noun a funny drawing or description which exaggerates a person's appearance He drew a caricature of the Prime Minister. Her description of the office is nothing less than a caricature of

the system. \_\_\_\_\_ verb to draw a caricature of someone The Prime Minister is easy to caricature.

**cartel**

noun a group of companies which try to fix the price of something

**derisory**

adj ridiculously small

**despise**

verb to look down on someone, to think someone is not worth much. Synonym loathe. Antonym admire

**egregious**

adj very bad (formal.)

**elision**

noun the omission of an element of a word or phrase

Vocabulary for TOEFL

**fidelity**

noun 1. the fact of being faithful He was rewarded for his fidelity to the president. 2. the quality of the sound produced by an electronic machine such as a CD player a high fidelity CD player

**figurative**

adj 1. (of art.) which shows something as it really is He's a well-known figurative artist.

**glaring**

adj 1. very bright the  
glaring headlights of the cars 2. fierce He  
gave me a glaring look. 3. obvious The  
book is full of glaring mistakes

### **hoax**

noun a trick played on someone  
as a joke or to annoy him or her The  
police and fire brigade arrived but the bomb  
was just a hoax. The ambulance answered  
a hoax telephone call.

Vocabulary for TOEFL

### **immaculate**

adj 1. extremely  
clean or tidy The car looked absolutely  
immaculate

### **laconically**

adv using only a  
few words

### **opulent**

adj rich, luxurious or  
splendid. Antonym sparse

### **propaganda**

noun the  
spreading of false or biased information  
about something which you want the public  
to believe

### **stance**

noun 1. the position of  
someone when standing His stance is so  
awkward I'm surprised he can even hit the  
ball. 2. a point of view or opinion Her  
stance on environmental issues is surprising.

The party has adopted a new progressive stance on education.

### **unpalatable**

adj unpleasant  
to consider or accept She had to face some unpalatable facts.

### **yank**

noun a short sharp pull He gave the rope a yank and it came away in his hands. \_\_\_\_\_ verb to pull hard and sharply  
Yank that string and it should ring a bell in the bar. She tried to yank the pram out of the mud. Synonym pull

### **zealot**

noun a fanatic, a person who shows excessive zeal, especially for religion.  
Synonym extremist. Antonym moderate

TOEFL Vocabulary pdf

### **aback**

taken aback surprised and shocked by something unpleasant  
She was somewhat taken aback when he told her there was no train that evening.

### **abandoned**

adj no longer used or lived in

### **abashed**

adj ashamed or embarrassed

### **abject**

very bad abject poverty 2. making you feel ashamed  
an abject apology abject terror

**able-bodied**

adj fit and healthy

**abrasion**

noun 1. the action of rubbing off the surface of something

2. an area of skin damaged by rubbing against something hard There were cuts and abrasions all over her legs.

**abridgement**

noun a shortened form of a text such as a book or play

**abysmal**

adj extremely bad. Synonym terrible. Antonym superb

**accredit**

verb to make someone an official representative.

**barbell**

noun a long metal bar with a weight at each end which is used in weightlifting

**beastly**

adj nasty (dated informal.)  
Synonym horrid. Antonym lovely

**beckon**

verb to beckon to someone to make a sign with your hand telling someone to come The nurse beckoned to her to come into the room

**bedraggled**

adj dirty, untidy and wet. Synonym unkempt

**bemoan**

verb to complain about something. Synonym lament. Antonym applaud

**censure**

noun criticism There was widespread public censure of the government. Antonym approval ————— verb to criticise  
The Opposition put forward a motion to censure the Government.

**certitude**

noun certainty. Synonym conviction. Antonym uncertainty

**deaden**

verb to make something less intense, e.g. to make a sound quieter or a pain less painful. Synonym soften

**decadent /**

dekəd(ə)nt/ adj which is declining in moral values. Synonym debauched

**decry**

verb to criticise something or say that something is bad. Synonym criticise. Antonym praise

**enigma**

noun a mystery or puzzle. Synonym paradox

**enticing**

adj which attracts or tempts someone to do something. Synonym tempting

**fatality**

noun a death in an accident

**feisty**

adj energetic and brave (informal).  
Synonym lively. Antonym feeble

**gradient**

noun a slope in a  
road or railway

**hastily**

adv carelessly and  
quickly

**revamp**

verb to improve the appearance  
of something which is slightly  
old-fashioned

**swindle**

noun an illegal deal in  
which someone is cheated out of money  
She was caught up in some swindle involving  
imported cars. Synonym fraud

**tenacious**

adj 1. holding on  
tightly to something, determined to have  
your own way We have to deal with several  
very tenacious tenants. 2. holding on to  
an idea tightly her tenacious belief in socialist  
principles

**wistful**

adj longing for something,  
but sad because there is no hope of getting



it. Synonym pensive. Antonym satisfied

**ambivalent**

adj not sure or decided. Synonym unsure

**amble**

verb to walk in a relaxed way without hurrying. Synonym stroll. Antonym dash

**amicably**

adv in a friendly way

**amiss**

adv, adj something is amiss something is wrong, there is a problem  
They checked the engine, but nothing seemed to be amiss. don't take it amiss  
don't be annoyed

**anarchic**

adj without any law or order

**annihilate**

verb to destroy something completely

**aplomb**

noun a calm and self-confident attitude. Synonym assurance

**appease**

verb 1. to try to improve something bad or uncomfortable 2. to give in to another country in the hope that they will not start a war

**archetype**

noun a typical example  
of something

**aristocracy**

noun the people  
of the highest class in society, usually  
with titles such as Lord or Duke.

**aura**

noun a general feeling or quality  
in a particular situation. Synonym air

**babble**

1. a little sound  
made by water as it flows the babble of the  
stream 2. the sound of people talking together  
a babble of voices in the next room

**bashful**

adj shy and embarrassed.  
Synonym shy

**balk**

verb to balk at something  
to refuse to do something which is dangerous  
or unpleasant He did all sorts of work in  
the office, but balked at having to clean the  
toilets. She balked at the cost of the air  
fare to New Zealand

**chalk up**

verb to achieve a  
score or a victory

**chauffeur**

noun a person who is  
paid to drive a car for someone else The  
chauffeur brought the Rolls round to the  
door. Synonym driver

**chink**

noun 1. a very small hole or crack Even a tiny chink in the curtains will let light into the darkroom. 2. a little noise of pieces of something hard hitting each other The chink of glasses on the waiter's tray. \_\_\_\_\_  
verb to make a little noise We could hear the ice cubes chinking as she carried the tray of drinks over to us.

**churlish**

adj unfriendly or unhelpful

**cloistered**

adj protected from the outside world and its problems. Synonym secluded

**damp**

adj rather wet She'd just had a shower and her hair was still damp. The cellar has cold damp walls. (NOTE: damper – dampest) \_\_\_\_\_ noun moisture in the air or on a surface The damp makes my rheumatism worse. \_\_\_\_\_ verb to wet something slightly The dew has damped the grass

**daunt**

verb to discourage or frighten someone. Antonym encourage \_\_\_\_\_ nothing daunted not discouraged at all He saw the crocodile and, nothing daunted, continued to walk along the river bank.

**dazed**

adj confused in the mind. Synonym confused

**epitome**

noun a person who shows a particular quality very strongly. Antonym antithesis

**excursion**

noun a short pleasure trip

**fag**

noun 1. tiring or boring work (informal.)  
It's such a fag, licking all these envelopes.  
2. a cigarette He cadged a fag off me. I bought a packet of fags at the kiosk

**famished**

adj very hungry

**graffiti**

noun writing on walls in public places

**halt**

noun a complete stop. Synonym standstill to come to a halt to stop completely The lorry came to a halt just before the wall.

**riveting**

adj which holds everyone's attention (informal.) Synonym fascinating. Antonym boring

**swingeing**

adj harsh, heavy

**tenable**

adj which can be held  
or supported. Antonym untenable

### **warring**

adj at war. Synonym belligerent.  
Antonym friendly

### **winch**

noun a device which pulls  
things up by winding a rope around a drum  
The recovery vehicle has a winch at the back.  
Synonym hoist verb to pull up or to lift by  
using a winch The sailors were winched  
from the yacht by helicopter.

### **acquaint**

verb 1. to be acquainted with someone or something have  
some knowledge of someone or something  
(formal.) Is he acquainted with the details  
of the case? She is acquainted with my father.  
2. to inform someone

### **acquiesce**

/kwies/ verb to agree to  
something without protesting about it (formal.).  
Synonym accept. Antonym resist

### **adamant**

with firm opinions.  
Synonym obstinate. Antonym  
amenable

### **adorn**

verb to decorate something  
with ornaments (formal.)

### **adrift**

1. floating on the water  
but not being guided by anyone to cast a  
boat adrift to let a boat float without control  
2. not connected It won't work because the

wire has come adrift from the plug. 3. away from the correct figure I think we are about £250 adrift in our calculations.

### **aerodrome**

noun a small airport. Synonym airfield

### **avant-garde**

adj describes things such as forms of art or ways of thinking that are new, original and not traditional

### **backer**

1. a person who supports a project with money One of the company's backers has withdrawn. 2. a person who risks money by saying which horse, team, etc. will win a particular race or competition Several backers lost thousands when the favourite fell at the last fence

### **bane**

noun it's the bane of my life it's very annoying The neighbour's dog is the bane of our lives.

### **bargain**

noun 1. an agreed deal to strike a bargain to agree terms We shook hands and the bargain was struck.

### **besotted**

adj besotted with someone madly in love with someone I don't see what he sees in her, but he's completely besotted. She's besotted with her new baby.

### **bewildered**

adj confused or  
puzzled

### **bide**

verb 1. to wait for a good opportunity  
to do something If I were you I  
wouldn't do anything quickly, I'd bide my  
time. 2. (archaic) to stay, or wait

### **cascade**

noun a waterfall

There are plants and trees and even a cascade  
in the atrium of the hotel. \_\_\_\_\_ verb to fall  
in large quantities Pale pink roses cascading  
down the brick wall.

### **castigate**

verb to punish, to  
criticise someone strongly (formal.). Synonym  
criticise. Antonym praise

### **catastrophic**

adj disastrous.  
Antonym fortunate

### **caveat**

noun a warning, especially  
against doing something

### **defiance**

noun a very proud action  
against an opponent. Synonym insubordination.  
Antonym compliance as an act  
of defiance to show that you are defying  
someone He kept his hat on in church as  
an act of defiance. in defiance of someone  
or something acting proudly against someone  
or something Their protest march took  
place in defiance of a police order.

**defray**

verb to provide money to  
pay someone's costs

**demure**

adj quiet and serious

**eloquence**

noun the art of  
making speeches which persuade and convince

**emigrate**

verb to leave your  
country to live in another. Compare  
immigrate

 **fend**

/fend/ verb to fend for yourself to  
look after yourself We went to Spain and  
left the children to fend for themselves

**fetish**

noun 1. an object which is  
believed by some people to be magic 2. a  
strong sexual interest in a certain object or  
material a rubber fetish 3. a very strong interest  
in or liking for something

**globule**

noun a small round  
drop, especially of oil or another thick liquid

**haywire**

adj (informal.) to go  
haywire to stop working properly Everything's  
gone haywire.

**incoherent**



adj not able  
to speak in a way which makes sense

**retrace**

verb to go back to the origins  
of something to retrace your steps to  
go back over the same path again She  
thought she had lost her watch while shopping,  
so she retraced her steps from shop to  
shop.

**symposium**

noun a meeting  
organised to discuss a specialised subject.  
Synonym conference (NOTE: The plural is  
symposia.)

**taint**

noun a trace of something bad  
We need a new finance director who is totally  
free of the taint of corruption. \_\_\_\_\_ verb 1.  
to damage something His political reputation  
has been permanently tainted by the  
scandal. 2. to make something rotten  
tainted food food which has become rotten  
by touching other rotten food

**workaholic**

noun a person  
who cannot stop working (informal.)

**zilch**

noun nothing

TOEFL Vocabulary List