

Words and Explanations

arduous (AHR ju uhs) An arduous task takes a lot of effort.

ascend (uh SEHND) Something that ascends moves upward.

banal (buh NAHL) Someone or something that is banal is so common that it is boring.

demure (dih MYUR) A demure person is quiet and shy.

deplete (dih PLEET) When supplies are depleted, they are completely used up.

deteriorate (dih TIHR ee uh rayt) If something deteriorates, its condition gets worse and worse.

err (ehr) If you err, you make a mistake.

formidable (FAWR muh duh buhl) If someone or something is formidable, you feel threatened by its size or strength.

immaculate (ih MAK yuh liht) Something that is immaculate is spotlessly clean.

innocuous (ih NOK yu uhs) Something that is innocuous won't hurt you because it is harmless.

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and lightning bug.”

—Mark Twain