

Words and Explanations

accustomed (uh KUHS tuhmd) If you are accustomed to something, you are so used to it that it seems normal and comfortable.

cantankerous (kan TANG kuh uh) A cantankerous person complains or argues about everything.

essential (uh SEHN shuhl) Something that is essential is absolutely necessary.

hermit (HUR miht) A hermit is someone who lives alone, far away from other people.

indifferent (ihn DIHF uhr uhnt) If you are indifferent to something, you are not for or against it.

placate (PLAY kayt) If you placate someone, you make that person less angry by doing something to please him or her.

ponder (PON duhr) If you ponder something, you think about it carefully.

renowned (rih NOWND) People who are renowned are famous for their skill or talent.

surreptitious (SUR uhp TIHSH uhs) Someone who is surreptitious is secretive and sneaky.

venerable (VEHN uhr uh buhl) Venerable people deserve respect because they are old and wise.

“Words have no legs, yet they walk.”

—Mali proverb