

What
Difference
Does
It
Make?

Arrogant	Ignorant
Blond	Blonde
Counsel	Advise
Disinterested	Uninterested
Emigrant	Immigrant
Fictional	Fictitious
Graceful	Gracious
Hyper-	Hypo-
Invent	Discover
Judicial	Judicious
Kneeled	Knelt
Libel	Slander
Mythical	Mythological
Notable	Noticeable
Official	Officious
Precede	Proceed
Quiet	Quieten
Rural	Rustic
Stalactite	Stalagmite
Thrash	Thresh
Urban	Urbane
Vacant	Vacuous
Weather	Whether
Xmas	Christmas
Yoke	Yolk
Zero	Nought

A

Arrogant | Ignorant

- **Arrogant:** Exaggerated sense of importance; lack of humility
 - **Ignorant:** Lacking knowledge; bigoted; rude
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B

Blond | Blonde

- **Blond:** Masculine
 - **Blonde:** Feminine
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C

Counsel | Advise

- **Counsel:** More formal; more serious; advice typically given by professionals
 - **Advise:** Less formal; less serious; more spontaneous
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D

Disinterested | Uninterested

- **Disinterested:** Impartial; not particularly bothered
 - **Uninterested:** No interest at all; bored
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E

Emigrant | Immigrant

- **Emigrant:** Someone who migrates (i.e. moves *from* a country)
 - **Immigrant:** Someone who has migrated (i.e. has moved *to* a country)
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F

Fictional | Fictitious

- **Fictional:** Not factual; imaginary; literary connotations
 - **Fictitious:** Not real; false
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G

Graceful | Gracious

- **Graceful:** Beauty of form or movement
 - **Gracious:** Polite; kind
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H

Hyper- | Hypo-

- **Hyper-** Above; excessive; highly visible
 - **Hypo-** Beneath; under; low
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I

Invent | Discover

- **Invent:** Create something new; design
- **Discover:** Find something that already exists

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J

Judicial | Judicious

- **Judicial:** From a court of law or legal process
- **Judicious:** Good judgement

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K

Kneeled | Knelt

- **Kneeled:** More common in American English
- **Gracious:** More common in British English

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L

Libel | Slander

- **Libel** A defamatory statement that is *written*; permanent
- **Slander** A defamatory statement that is *spoken*; transient

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M

Mythical | Mythological

- **Mythical:** Imaginary; not real
- **Mythological:** From mythology

N

Notable | Noticeable

- **Notable:** Worthy of attention; positive
- **Noticeable:** Visible; obvious

O

Official | Officious

- **Official:** Formal; from an organisation or authority
- **Officious:** Unnecessary attention to detail; not wanted; application of authority to trivial matters

P

Precede | Proceed

- **Precede** To go before; be placed before
- **Proceed** Continue; advance

Q

Quiet | Quieten

- **Quiet:** Calm; soothe; low volume; without sound
- **Quieten:** As above, but usually preceded by 'down'

R

Rural | Rustic

- **Rural:** Related to the countryside
- **Rustic:** Simple; unsophisticated; quaint

S

Stalactite | Stalagmite

- **Stalactite:** A tapering mass of calcium carbonate that *hangs* from the roof
- **Stalagmite:** A tapering mass of calcium carbonate that *rises* from the floor

T

Thrash | Thresh

- **Thrash** Physically beat; win by a large margin
- **Thresh** separate cereal grains from their husks through repetitive beating

U

Urban | Urbane

- **Urban:** Linked to a town or city
- **Urbane:** Sophisticated

V

Vacant | Vacuous

- **Vacant:** Empty; not occupied; usually applied to a room or post
- **Vacuous:** Superficial; lacking in intelligence; uninspiring

W

Weather | Whether

- **Weather:** Atmospheric conditions
- **Whether:** Expression of choice

X

Xmas | Christmas

- **Xmas** Abbreviation of *Christmas*; the X comes from the Greek letter *Chi*
- **Christmas** The unabbreviated version; more formal

Y

Yoke | Yolk

- **Yoke:** A bar that connects two things; agricultural connotations
- **Yolk:** The yellow or 'middle' part of an egg

Z

Zero | Nought

- **Zero** The digit 0; preferred in scientific contexts
- **Nought** An alternative name for the digit 0