

100 words to make you sound smart

1. accolade a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction
2. acrimony bitterness
3. angst an acute but unspecific feeling of anxiety
4. anomaly abnormality
5. antidote a remedy that stops or controls the effects of a poison
6. avant-garde Ahead of the times, especially in the arts
7. baroque having elaborate symmetrical ornamentation
8. bona fide not counterfeit or copied
9. bourgeois a member of the middle class; belonging to the middle class
10. boondoggle work of little or no value done merely to look busy
11. bravado a swaggering show of courage
12. brogue a thick and heavy shoe; a strong dialectal accent
13. brusque rudely abrupt
14. byzantine highly involved or intricate
15. cacophony a loud harsh or strident noise
16. camaraderie trust among friends
17. capricious impulsive and unpredictable
18. carte blanche authority with no bounds
19. Catch-22 a lose lose situation
20. caustic sarcastic
21. charisma charm
22. cloying excessively sweet or sentimental
23. déjà vu the experience of thinking that a new situation had occurred before
24. dichotomy a division into two parts
25. dilettante showing frivolous or superficial interest
26. élan enthusiastic vigor or liveliness
27. disheveled in disarray
28. ennui boredom
29. epitome a typical example
30. equanimity steadiness of mind under stress
31. equivocate to be deliberately ambiguous or unclear in order to mislead or withhold information
32. esoteric intended for or understood by only a small group
33. euphemism an inoffensive expression that is substituted for one that is considered offensive
34. fait accompli an irreversible accomplishment
35. fastidious difficult to please
36. faux pas a social blunder
37. fiasco a complete failure
38. finagle to trick, swindle or cheat

39. Freudian slip a verbal mistake that is thought to reveal an unconscious belief, thought, or emotion
40. glib artfully persuasive in speech
41. gregarious sociable
42. harbinger an omen or sign; forerunner
43. hedonist a pleasure seeker
44. heresy a belief that rejects the orthodox tenets of a religion
45. idiosyncratic peculiar to the individual
46. idyllic charming in a rustic way; suggestive of an idyll
47. indelicate lacking propriety and good taste in manners and conduct
48. infinitesimal immeasurably small
49. insidious treacherous
50. junket a trip taken by an official often times for pleasure at public expense
51. kitsch art in pretentious bad taste
52. litany any long, repetitive, or dull recital
53. lurid ghastly pale
54. Machiavellian unprincipled and crafty
55. malaise physical discomfort (as mild sickness or depression)
56. malinger to evade responsibility by pretending to be ill
57. mantra a commonly repeated word or phrase
58. maudlin overemotional
59. mercenary a professional soldier hired by a foreign army; profit oriented
60. minimalist a person who practices arts in less detailed ways
61. misnomer an incorrect or unsuitable name
62. narcissist someone in love with themselves
63. nirvana any place of complete bliss and delight and peace
64. non sequitur something that does not logically follow
65. nouveau riche newly rich
66. oblivion total forgetfulness
67. ogle look at with amorous intentions
68. ostentatious showy
69. ostracize to exclude from a group; banish; exile
70. panacea cure-all; remedy for all diseases
71. paradox a contradiction or dilemma
72. peevish easily irritated or annoyed
73. perfunctory hasty and without attention to detail
74. philistine a person who is uninterested in intellectual pursuits
75. precocious appearing or developing early
76. propriety correct or appropriate behavior
77. quid pro quo this for that
78. quintessential perfect example
79. red herring any diversion intended to distract attention from the main issue
80. revel to take delight in

81. rhetoric effective writing or speaking
82. scintillating brilliantly clever
83. spartan marked by simplicity and lack of luxury
84. stigma a symbol of disgrace or infamy
85. stoic unaffected by pleasure or pain
86. suave having a sophisticated charm
87. Svengali A person who exercises excessive control or influence over another person
88. sycophant a self-serving flatterer, a brownnoser
89. teetotaler one who does not drink alcohol
90. tête-à-tête a private conversation between two people
91. tirade a long, angry speech, usually very critical
92. tryst a secret meeting of lovers; rendezvous
93. ubiquitous being present everywhere at once
94. unrequited not returned in kind
95. untenable indefensible
96. vicarious done or felt for, or on behalf of, another
97. vile morally reprehensible
98. waft be driven or carried along, as by the air
99. white elephant a possession that costs more to keep than its worth
100. zealous enthusiastic; fervent; fanatical

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