

**ribald**

Vulgar, but in a humorous way. It can be applied to off-color jokes, or to the person who tells them.

**cacophony**

A loud confusion of sound, where the level or type of noise – or both – are unpleasant.

**milieu**

Environment or surroundings. This word refers to both physical and metaphysical space.

**eclectic**

**From a variety of sources.**

plethora

More than enough.  
Refers to a large number in general, but specifically means an amount in excess of what is necessary.

accord

Agreement or harmony.  
This noun can refer to specific agreement on an issue, or a general like-mindedness.

pragmatic

Realistic or practical.  
Someone who is pragmatic is down-to-earth, and focuses on the essentials of a problem without getting bogged down in unnecessary detail.

panacea

A solution or remedy, something that cures all problems.

**transcend**

To rise above or go beyond. Where people try to go outside of their earthbound minds and become a part of a larger consciousness. To transcend means to be able to cross boundaries, or remove them by rising above them.

**catharsis**

A release of emotions that is triggered by a vicarious experience of something that someone else is going through, but that touches you in some way as well.

**unctuous**

It means that the food coats the tongue with a smooth, almost oily layer of flavor. When the word applies to food, it's a good thing. It's not a good thing when applied to a person. Someone with a smooth, oily manner is usually not to be trusted.

**unconscionable**

Without a conscience, is lacking in a moral sense.  
**Unscrupulous.**

uniform

The same,  
without  
variation.

ubiquitous

Omnipresent or  
pervasive; in other  
words, found  
everywhere.

adamant

Inflexible or unyielding.  
Someone who is  
determined and will not  
move from their position  
or change their opinion  
is adamant.

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**compliant**

**Willing to  
comply.  
Submissive and  
yielding.**

**intransigent**

Stubborn and unwilling to compromise. It's similar to "adamant," but has the additional sense that the person is perhaps being inflexible just to be stubborn or contrary, and not for any firmly-held belief.

**amenable**

Open to persuasion. It doesn't necessarily mean you change your opinion about something, but that you're willing to go along with the other person to avoid conflict, reach a conclusion, or in some other way keep things moving forward.

**equitable**

**Fair, just,  
and  
impartial.**

**comprise**

**To be made of, to contain, or to include.**

**circumscribe**

Limit or restrict. Its literal meaning is “to draw a line around” – that is, to create a boundary containing one thing inside and keeping others out.

**contiguous**

**Connected, touching, or adjacent, without any break.**

**proliferate**

**To spread rapidly, or to increase.**

**latent**

Is hidden. It exists, but is concealed. Present but hidden, ready to come out of hiding if the circumstances are right.

**auspicious**

Of good omen. Conducive to success, fortunate.

**propitious**

Propel, as in “moving forward.” It also refers to a favorable or advantageous situation.

**prestigious**

Having a good reputation” and “held in high esteem.” The word also has the meaning of something that has influence because of its high position, and that the influence and esteem will spread to those who are connected to it.

**virtuoso**

Often used to refer to artists and musicians, but there are virtuoso computer programmers and chefs as well. Having mastered a skill beyond mere capability and into the realm of brilliance. You're a whiz, a genius, a wizard, a superstar.

**zenith**

**The highest point**

**utilitarian**

**practical and functional, not just for show.**