

1. **pollute** - contaminate with harmful or poisonous substances; to make foul or unclear

e.g. Factories pollute the water and the air.

People should make efforts to not pollute the environment.

etymology: from the Latin word *polluere*, which means to defile, contaminate

antonym: clean, purify

2. **python** - a big constricting snake

e.g. Pythons are nonpoisonous snakes found in Africa, Asia and Australia.

etymology: from the Greek word *python*, a serpent killed by Apollo

interesting facts: pythons coil around their prey, slowly squeezing the air out of them until they die.

3. **quartz** - one of the most common minerals

e.g. Quartz is the chief constituent of sand and sandstone and an important ingredient in many other rocks.

etymology: from the German word *quartz*, which means “rock crystal”

interesting facts: pure quartz is colourless and transparent, while common coloured varieties include rose quartz and amethyst.

4. **raccoon** - animal with stripes on the face

e.g. The raccoon is a medium-sized mammal native to North America.

etymology: from the Algonquian (native) word *arahkun*, which means “animal that scratches with its hands”

interesting facts: the black markings across their eyes help them see clearly, because the dark colour absorbs incoming light

5. **refrigerator** - a container in which items are kept cold

e.g. Refrigerator is a piece of kitchen equipment that uses electricity to preserve food at a cold temperature.

Fruit juice should be stored in a refrigerator.

etymology: from the noun to refrigerate, which means to keep cool.

6. **scene** - the place where some event or action occurs

e.g. The police arrived at the scene of the incident.
A scene from the latest action movie.

etymology: from the Latin word *scaena* which means “stage of a theatre” and the Greek word *skene* - a wooden stage for actors.

7. **scissors** - a cutting instrument

e.g. Could you pass me the scissors, please?
Jake was cutting a cardboard figure with scissors.

etymology: from the Old French word *cisoires* , which means a cutting instrument

interesting facts: it is estimated that scissors, in a basic form from one piece of metal, were invented in 1500 BC in Egypt

8. **shepherd** - a person who tends or guards sheep

e.g. Mark always wanted to be a shepherd.
Shepherds take sheep to the mountains during spring and summer.

etymology: from the Old English word *sceaphierede*, which means *sceap* -sheep and *hierder* - herder

9. **souvenir** - usually inexpensive reminder of a place visited

e.g. Jake always brings souvenirs from his trips.
Alyson took the stone as a souvenir.

etymology: from the Old French word *souvenir* - “to remember” and the Latin word *subvenire* which means “come to mind”

10. **sword** - a weapon consisting of a blade and a hilt

e.g. In the past gentlemen solved matters of honour in duels with swords.
Japanese swords are famous because they are very sharp and strong.

etymology: from the Old English word *sweord*

interesting facts: the first swords appeared in the late third millennium BC in the Middle East; swords were carried mostly by nobles and knights because they were very expensive

11. **tailor** - a person who makes or alters clothing

e.g. I will take my trousers to the tailor to shorten them.
This dress was made by a world famous tailor.

etymology: from the Old French word *tailleur*, which literally means “a cutter”

12. **tattoo** - marking on the skin

e.g. James wanted to get a tattoo of a lion.

etymology: from the Polynesian noun *tatau*, which means “mark made on the skin”

interesting facts: the first electric tattoo machine was invented in 1891; the oldest record of a tattooed person is Otzi the Iceman, who dates from 3250 BC and had 61 tattoos.

13. **telescope** - an instrument to make distant object appear larger

e.g. With a good telescope, you can see craters on the moon.

etymology: from the Greek word *teleskopos*: tele - far and skopos - watcher.

interesting facts: the first modern telescopes were made in the 13th century; Galileo was the first to turn the telescope toward the sky, which led to the discovery of Jupiter’s satellite and craters on the Moon.

14. **ukulele** - a small, guitar-like instrument

e.g. Ukulele is a guitar from Hawaii with four strings.

etymology: from the Hawaiian word *ukulele*, which means “leaping flea”

interesting facts: Ukulele derived from two Portuguese instruments that were brought to Hawaii by Portuguese sailors.

15. **vanilla** - flavour of vanilla

e.g. John’s favourite icecream is vanilla.

Vanilla is added in almost every cake.

etymology: from the Spanish word *vainilla*, which means “little pod”

interesting facts: after saffron, vanilla is the most expensive spice in the world; vanilla is an orchid and is one of the few orchids that produces fruit.

16. **yacht** - a private cruising vessel

e.g. They spent their summer holiday on a yacht in the Caribbean.

If they can afford a yacht, they must be rich.

etymology: from the Norwegian word *jaght*, which means “ship for chasing”

interesting facts: a yacht was originally used by the Dutch navy to catch pirates.

17. **yolk** - the yellow substance of an egg
e.g. For this recipe you need to separate the yolks from the whites.
I like lightly cooked eggs so that the yolk is runny.

etymology: from the Old English word *geoloca*, which means “the yellow part”.

interesting facts: Egg yolks are one of the few foods that are a naturally good source of vitamin D.

18. **rhythm** - a strong, regular repeated pattern of movement or sound

e.g. This song has a very catchy rhythm.
They were dancing in rhythm to the music.

etymology: from the Latin word *rhythmus* - “movement in time” and the Greek word *rhythmos* - “symmetry, arrangement, order”

19. **shield** - a piece of armour worn on the arm for defensive purposes

e.g. In the past soldiers held shields in front of their bodies to protect themselves.
The police held up their shields to protect themselves from the rocks being thrown.

etymology: from the Old English word *scield*, which literally means “board”

interesting facts: the oldest shield known was a device used to block hand weapons and arrows.

20. **parallel** - extending in the same direction, side by side
e.g. Parallel lines never meet.
The river is parallel to Green Street.

etymology: from the Greek word *parallelos*, which means “beside one another”

antonym: divergent, crooked