



TITLE:

The General Service List (GSL)

IELTS

The General Service List (GSL)

What is the GSL?

The **GSL**, or **General Service List**, is a list of words which were chosen because they were thought to be of greatest 'general' use to learners of English. How frequently they occur in English was one factor which was considered when selecting the words. The original list was compiled by **Michael West** in 1953. There were several problems with this list, and it was substantially revised in 1995 by **John Bauman** and **Brent Culligan**. Culligan, together with two other researchers, have recently produced a newer version of the GSL called the NGSL (New General Service List).

The Table below contains all headwords in the GSL, in the order of frequency with their related word forms.

Headword	Related word forms
abdominal	abdominals
absorb	absorbed, absorbing, absorbs
absorption	
accelerate	accelerated, accelerates, accelerating
acceleration	
accent	accented, accenting, accents
accumulate	accumulated, accumulates, accumulating
accumulation	accumulations
accuracy	
accurately	
acid	acids



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acidic	
activate	activated, activates, activating
actively	
acute	
adaptation	adaptations
adaptive	
adjacent	
admission	admissions
adolescent	adolescents
adverse	
aerosol	aerosols
aesthetic	aesthetics, esthetic, esthetics
affirm	affirmed, affirming, affirms
afterward	afterwards
aggregate	aggregated, aggregates, aggregating
agriculture	agricultures
airplane	aeroplane, aeroplanes, airplanes
algebra	algebras
algorithm	algorithms



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alien	Aliens
alliance	alliances
allocate	allocated, allocates, allocating
allocation	allocations
altitude	altitudes
aluminum	aluminium
amino	
amongst	
amplitude	amplitudes
analogy	analogies
ancestor	ancestors
anthropology	anthropologies
anti	
antibiotic	antibiotics
antibody	antibodies
antiquity	antiquities
appendix	appendices, appendixes
applause	
apple	apples

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approximate	approximated, approximates, approximating
approximation	approximations
arbitrary	
archaeology	
architect	architects
array	arrays
arrow	arrowed, arrowing, arrows
articulate	articulated, articulates, articulating
artifact	artefact, artefacts, artifacts
artificial	
artistic	
artwork	artworks
aspect	aspects
assembly	assemblies
assert	asserted, asserting, asserts
assignment	assignments
athletic	athletics
atom	atoms
atomic	



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auction	auctioned, auctioning, auctions
audio	
audit	audited, auditing, audits
authority	authorities
autonomy	
availability	
axiom	axioms
axis	
backward	backwards
bacteria	
bacterial	
bang	banged, banging, bangs
bargain	bargained, bargaining, bargains
barrel	barreled, barreling, barrelled, barrelling, barrels
basin	basins
bat	bats, batted, batting
beam	beamed, beaming, beams
behavioral	behavioural
bilingual	
binary	binaries

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biodiversity	
biologist	biologists
biology	biologies
bizarre	
blank	blanked, blanking, blanks
bleed	bled, bleeding, bleeds
bodily	
bonus	bonuses
bound	bounded, bounding, bounds
bracket	bracketed, brackets, bracketed
breakdown	breakdowns
broadly	
bubble	bubbled, bubbles, bubbling
bucket	buckets
bulk	bulked, bulking, bulks
bullet	bullets
bundle	bundled, bundles, bundling
calcium	
calculation	calculations



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calculator	Calculators
calculus	
campus	campuses
candidate	candidates
capillary	capillaries
capitalism	
capitalist	capitalists
carrier	carriers
cattle	
censor	censored, censoring, censors
characterization	characterisation, characterisations, characterizations
cheat	cheated, cheating, cheats
cheer	cheered, cheering, cheers
chemistry	
chemotherapy	
chess	
chloride	chlorides
chromosome	chromosomes
chronic	
chunk	chunked, chunking, chunks

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cinema	Cinemas
circa	
circulate	circulated, circulates, circulating
circulation	
civilization	civilisation, civilisations, civilizations
clarify	clarified, clarifies, clarifying
classification	classifications
classify	classified, classifies, classifying
classroom	classrooms
clay	
clever	cleverer, cleverest
click	clicked, clicking, clicks
client	clients
clinic	clinics
clip	clipped, clipping, clippings, clips
clone	cloned, clones, cloning
closure	closures
clue	clues
coefficient	coefficients



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cognitive	
coherent	
collective	collectives
colonial	colonials
colony	colonies
comma	commas
commentary	commentaries
commodity	commodities
commonly	
communicative	
communist	communists
compact	compacted, compacting, compacts
comparable	
comparative	comparatives
compensate	compensated, compensates, compensating
competence	competences
competent	
complement	complemented, complementing, complements
complication	complications

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comply	complied, complies, complying
composer	composers
composite	
comprehension	
computation	computations
conceive	conceived, conceives, conceiving
conception	conceptions
conceptual	
conditional	conditionals
conduction	
cone	cones
conference	conferences
configuration	configurations
confine	confined, confines, confining
confound	confounded, confounding, confounds
congruent	
connector	connectors
connotation	connotations
conscious	
consciousness	consciousnesses



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consensus	
consent	consented, consenting, consents
conservation	conservations
conserve	conserved, conserves, conserving
consonant	consonants
constitution	constitutions
constrain	constrained, constraining, constrains
consultation	consultations
consumption	consumptions
container	containers
continent	continents
continuity	continuities
contour	contoured, contouring, contours
contradict	contradicted, contradicting, contradicts
contradiction	contradictions
contradictory	
contrary	
controversy	controversies
converge	converged, converges, converging

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convergence	Convergences
coordinate	coordinated, coordinates, coordinating
coordination	
cord	cords
coronary	
corpus	
correction	corrections
correctly	
correlate	correlated, correlates, correlating
correlation	correlations
correspondence	correspondences
corruption	corruptions
cortex	cortexes, cortices
credibility	
criteria	
critically	
critique	critiqued, critiques, critiquing
crude	cruder, crudest
crystal	crystals
cue	cued, cueing, cues



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cure	cured, cures, curing
curriculum	curricula, curriculums
cyclic	
cylinder	cylinders
damp	damped, dampest, damping, damps
deadline	deadlines
decay	decayed, decaying, decays
deceive	deceived, deceives, deceiving
defect	defected, defecting, defects
deficiency	deficiencies
definite	
deflection	deflections
degrade	degraded, degrades, degrading
deliberately	
delta	deltas
demonstrator	demonstrators
denominator	denominators
denote	denoted, denotes, denoting
dense	denser, densest

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dependence	
depict	depicted, depicting, depicts
derivative	derivatives
descendent	descendents
descriptor	descriptors
destination	destinations
detection	
developmental	
deviation	deviations
diagnose	diagnosed, diagnoses, diagnosing
diagnosis	
diagnostic	diagnostics
diagram	diagrammed, diagramming, diagrams
dialect	dialects
diameter	diameters
diary	diaries
dictate	dictated, dictates, dictating
dictionary	dictionaries
differential	differentials



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differentiate	differentiated, differentiates, differentiating
differentiation	differentiations
diffusion	diffusions
dilemma	dilemmas
dilute	diluted, dilutes, diluting
dimensional	
dioxide	dioxides
directive	directives
disability	disabilities
disadvantage	disadvantaged, disadvantages, disadvantaging
discharge	discharged, discharges, discharging
discourse	discoursed, discourses, discoursing
discrete	
discrimination	discriminations
displacement	displacements
dissection	dissections
dissertation	dissertations
dissolve	dissolved, dissolves, dissolving

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distribution	Distributions
disturbance	disturbances
diverse	
domain	domains
dominance	
dominant	
domination	
donor	donors
dose	dosed, doses, dosing
drain	drained, draining, drains
drift	drifted, drifting, drifts
duration	durations
dye	dyed, dyeing, dyes
dynamic	dynamics
ecological	
ecology	ecologies
economically	
economist	economists
effectiveness	
elaborate	elaborated, elaborates, elaborating



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elastic	Elastics
elasticity	elasticities
electron	electrons
elementary	
elevate	elevated, elevates, elevating
elevation	elevations
elimination	eliminations
elite	elites
embed	embedded, embedding, embeds
emergence	
emission	emissions
emit	emits, emitted, emitting
emperor	emperors
empirical	
encode	encoded, encodes, encoding
enforcement	
enormously	
entity	entities
entrant	entrants

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enzyme	Enzymes
epidemic	epidemics
epidemiology	
equality	equalities
equilibrium	
equivalence	equivalences
erase	erased, erases, erasing
essence	essences
essentially	
estimation	estimations
ethical	
ethics	ethic
evident	
evolutionary	
ex	exes
execute	executed, executes, executing
execution	executions
exit	exited, exiting, exits
expertise	expertises
explicit	



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explicitly	
exploit	exploited, exploiting, exploits
exponential	exponentials
fabric	fabrics
facet	faceted, faceting, facets
facilitate	facilitated, facilitates, facilitating
factorial	factorials
faculty	faculties
fatigue	fatigued, fatigues, fatiguing
feedback	feedbacks
fertility	
fetal	foetal
fever	fevered, fevers
fiber	fibers, fibre, fibres
fin	fins
finite	
flesh	fleshed, fleshes, fleshing
flexibility	flexibilities
flip	flipped, flipping, flips

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fluid	Fluids
flux	fluxed, fluxes, fluxing
footnote	footnoted, footnotes
formally	
formulation	formulations
forum	fora, forums
fossil	fossils
founds	founded, founding
fraction	fractions
fracture	fractured, fractures, fracturing
freely	
friction	frictions
fringe	fringed, fringes, fringing
fundamentally	
fungus	fungi
fusion	fusions
gauge	gage, gaged, gages, gaging, gauged, gauges, gauging
generalization	generalisation, generalisations, generalizations
generalize	generalise, generalised, generalises, generalising, generalized, generalizes, generalizing



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genetically	
genetics	
ghost	ghosted, ghosting, ghosts
globalization	globalisation
goat	goats
goodness	
goods	
gradient	gradients
gram	grams
grammatical	
graph	graphed, graphing, graphs
grasp	grasped, grasping, grasps
gravity	gravities
grid	grids
gross	grossed, grosser, grosses, grossest, grossing
gut	guts, gutted, gutting
habitat	habitats
halfway	
handout	handouts

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harvest	harvested, harvesting, harvests
hawk	hawked, hawking, hawks
headquarter	headquartered, headquartering, headquarters
hedge	hedged, hedges, hedging
helix	helices, helixes
hepatitis	
herbicide	herbicides
hierarchy	hierarchies
hip	hipped, hips
historically	
homework	
horizon	horizons
horizontal	horizontals
hormone	hormones
hydrogen	
identical	
identification	identifications
ideology	ideologies
illusion	illusions



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immune	
impact	impacted, impacting, impacts
implicit	
importantly	
impulse	impulses
incidence	incidences
incline	inclined, inclines, inclining
inclusion	
incredible	
incredibly	
incumbent	incumbents
independently	
indicator	indicators
indifference	
indigenous	
indirect	
individually	
induce	induced, induces, inducing
induction	
industrialization	industrialisation

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industrialize	industrialise, industrialised, industrialises, industrialising, industrialized , industrializes, industrializing
inequality	inequalities
inevitably	
infect	infected, infecting, infects
infectious	
inference	inferences
inferior	inferiors
infinite	
infinity	infinities
influential	
informal	
inhibit	inhibited, inhibiting, inhibits
inhibition	inhibitions
initiate	initiated, initiates, initiating
initiation	initiations
inject	injected, injecting, injects
injection	injections
innate	
insect	insects



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insert	inserted, inserting, inserts
instability	instabilities
instinct	instincts
integral	integrals
integration	integrations
intensity	intensities
intensive	
interact	interacted, interacting, interacts
interestingly	
interface	interfaced, interfaces, interfacing
interfere	interfered, interferes, interfering
intermediate	intermediated, intermediates
interrupt	interrupted, interrupting, interrupts
interval	intervals
intervene	intervened, intervenes
interviewer	interviewers
invade	invaded, invades, invading
invasion	invasions

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inversion	Inversions
invert	inverted, inverting, inverts
ion	ions
irrelevant	
irrigation	
jazz	jazzed, jazzes, jazzing
junior	juniors
justification	justifications
kidney	kidneys
kilometer	kilometers, kilometre, kilometres
lab	labs
lateral	laterals
layout	layouts
leaf	leafed, leafing, leafs
lecturer	lecturers
legend	legends
legitimate	legitimated, legitimates, legitimating
leisure	
lever	levered, levering, levers



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lexical	
liable	
lifestyle	lifestyles
lifetime	lifetimes
likelihood	
likewise	
limb	limbed, limbs
linear	
linguistic	
linguistics	
liter	liters, litre, litres
liver	livers
locally	
locus	loci, locuses
logical	
longitudinal	
loop	looped, looping, loops
lump	lumped, lumping, lumps
lung	lungs
machinery	machineries

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magnetic	magnetics
magnitude	magnitudes
mall	malls
manipulate	manipulated, manipulates, manipulating
manipulation	manipulations
manual	manuals
manuscript	manuscripts
marble	marbled, marbles
marginal	
marker	markers
marrow	
maternal	
mathematical	
matrix	matrices, matrixes
maximize	maximise, maximised, maximises, maximising, maximized, maximizes, maximizing
meaningful	
mechanic	mechanics
mechanical	
media	



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mediate	mediated, mediates, mediating
membrane	membranes
memorize	memorise, memorised, memorises, memorising, memorized, memorizes, memorizing
mentor	mentored, mentoring, mentors
mercury	
merge	merged, merges, merging
messenger	messengers
metabolism	
metaphor	metaphors
methodology	methodologies
micro	
mid	
migrate	migrated, migrates, migrating
migration	migrations
millimeter	millimeters, millimetre, millimetres
mineral	minerals
minimal	minimals
minimize	minimise, minimised, minimises, minimising, minimized, minimizes, minimizing

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minus	Minuses
missile	missiles
mobility	
modification	modifications
mole	moles
molecular	moleculars
molecule	molecules
momentum	momenta, momentums
monetary	
monkey	monkeyed, monkeying, monkeys
monopoly	monopolies
morality	
morphological	
morphology	morphologies
mortality	
motif	motifs
motive	motives
multi	
multinational	multinationals



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multiply	multiplied, multiplies, multiplying
mutation	mutations
myth	myths
naked	
namely	
nasty	nastier, nastiest
nationalism	
neat	neater, neatest
necessity	necessities
neo	
nest	nested, nesting, nests
neural	neurals
neuron	neurone, neurones, neurons
neutral	neutrals
nicely	
niche	niches
nitrogen	nitrogens
noble	nobler, nobles, noblest
node	nodes

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noisy	noisier, noisiest
nominal	
non	
nonetheless	
nonlinear	
norm	norms
notation	notations
novice	novices
nucleus	nuclei
null	nulled, nulling, nulls
numerical	numericals
nutrient	nutrients
objection	objections
obscure	obscured, obscures, obscuring
observer	observers
obtain	obtained, obtaining, obtains
occupation	occupations
occurrence	occurrences
offspring	
onset	



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onwards	
optical	opticals
optimal	optimals
optimum	
oral	orals
organ	organs
organism	organisms
orient	oriented, orienting, orients
orientation	orientations
oscillation	oscillations
outer	
outlet	outlets
overhead	overheads
overlap	overlapped, overlapping, overlaps
overview	overviews
oxidize	oxidise, oxidised, oxidises, oxidising, oxidized, oxidizes, oxidizing
oxygen	
painful	
par	parred, parring, pars

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paradigm	Paradigms
paradox	paradoxes
parameter	parameters
parcel	parceled, parceling, parcelled, parcelling, parcels
pardon	pardoned, pardoning, pardons
parental	
parenthesis	parentheses
partial	
partially	
particle	particles
partition	partitioned, partitioning, partitions
pathway	pathways
peasant	peasants
periodic	periodics
peripheral	peripherals
pest	pests
pesticide	pesticides
phenomenal	
philosopher	philosophers



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philosophical	
phonological	
phosphate	phosphates
photographic	photographics
physically	
physician	physicians
physics	
physiological	
pi	
planner	planners
plantation	plantations
plausible	
plug	plugged, plugging, plugs
plural	plurals
polar	
pole	poled, poles, poling
politically	
portfolio	portfolios
portray	portrayed, portraying, portrays
portrayal	portrayals

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positively	
poster	posters
postgraduate	postgraduates
potassium	
powder	powdered, powdering, powders
practitioner	practitioners
pragmatic	pragmatics
pre	
precede	preceded, precedes, preceding
precipitate	precipitated, precipitates, precipitating
precipitation	
predator	predators
prediction	predictions
predominantly	
prejudice	prejudiced, prejudices, prejudicing
preliminary	preliminaries
presume	presumed, presumes, presuming
prevalence	
prey	preyed, preying, preys



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primer	Primers
primitive	primitives
probe	probed, probes, probing
problematic	
processor	processors
productive	
productivity	
profound	
progression	progressions
progressive	
projection	projections
prominent	
pronounce	pronounced, pronounces, pronouncing
proposition	propositioned, propositioning, propositions
protocol	protocols
proton	protons
psychiatric	psychiatrics
psychologist	psychologists
psychology	psychologies

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publish	published, publishes, publishing
pulse	pulsed, pulses, pulsing
punch	punched, punches, punching
punish	punished, punishes, punishing
punishment	punishments
purely	
puzzle	puzzled, puzzles, puzzling
qualitative	
quantitative	
quantum	
questionnaire	questionnaires
quiz	quizzed, quizzes, quizzing
quotation	quotations
rack	racked, racking, racks
radar	radars
radiation	
radius	radii
rainfall	
randomize	randomise, randomised, randomises, randomising, randomized, randomizes, randomizing
randomly	



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rational	
rationality	
ray	rays
reactive	
reactor	reactors
readily	
realism	
realistic	
realm	realms
receptor	receptors
recipe	recipes
reconstruct	reconstructed, reconstructing, reconstructs
regime	regimes
regression	
rehabilitation	
reinforce	reinforced, reinforces, reinforcing
rejection	rejections
reliability	
render	rendered, rendering, renders
repertoire	repertoires

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replacement	Replacements
replicate	replicated, replicates, replicating
replication	replications
reproduce	reproduced, reproduces, reproducing
reproduction	reproductions
republic	republics
resemble	resembled, resembles, resembling
reservoir	reservoirs
residual	residuals
residue	residues
resistant	
respiratory	
retrieve	retrieved, retrieves, retrieving
revolutionary	revolutionaries
rewrite	rewrites, rewriting, rewritten, rewrote
rhetoric	
rhythm	rhythms
ridiculous	
ritual	rituals



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robot	Robots
rope	roped, ropes, roping
rotate	rotated, rotates, rotating
rotation	rotations
rub	rubbed, rubbing, rubbings, rubs
ruler	rulers
scatter	scattered, scattering, scatterings, scatters
scenario	scenarios
scholarship	scholarships
scripture	scriptures
scroll	scrolled, scrolling, scrolls
secrete	secreted, secretes, secreting
sediment	sedimented, sedimenting, sediments
selective	
semantic	semantics
semester	semesters
semi	
seminar	seminars
sensation	sensations

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sensible	
sensitivity	sensitivities
sensory	
separately	
separation	separations
sexuality	sexualities
shallow	shallower, shallowest, shallows
shortly	
shuttle	shuttled, shuttles, shuttling
similarity	similarities
simplify	simplified, simplifies, simplifying
simulate	simulated, simulates, simulating
simulation	simulations
simultaneously	
sin	sinned, sinning, sins
singular	
sketch	sketched, sketches, sketching
skip	skipped, skipping, skips
slab	slabs
slash	slashed, slashes, slashing



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slavery	
slot	slots, slotted, slotting
snake	snaked, snakes, snaking
sneeze	sneezed, sneezes, sneezing
sniff	sniffed, sniffing, sniffs
socialize	socialise, socialised, socialises, socialising, socialized, socializes, socializing
socially	
sodium	
solar	
soluble	solubles
solute	solutes
solvent	solvents
sometime	
sophisticate	sophisticated, sophisticates
span	spanned, spanning, spans
spatial	
specialty	specialities, speciality, specialties
specification	specifications
specimen	specimens

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spectrum	spectra, spectrums
sperm	sperms
sphere	spheres
splice	spliced, splices, splicing
sponsorship	sponsorships
spontaneous	
spray	sprayed, spraying, sprays
stabilize	stabilise, stabilised, stabilises, stabilising, stabilized, stabilizes, stabilizing
stack	stacked, stacking, stacks
stadium	stadiums
stance	stanced, stances, stancing
standardize	standardise, standardised, standardises, standardising, standardized, standardizes, standardizing
static	statics
statistical	
statistically	
statistics	
stereotype	stereotyped, stereotypes, stereotyping
stimulus	stimuli



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straightforward	
strand	stranded, stranding, strands
strategic	
strictly	
stripe	striped, stripes, striping
sub	subbed, subbing, subs
subjective	
subset	subsets
substitution	substitutions
substrate	substrates
subtle	subtler, subtlest
subtract	subtracted, subtracting, subtracts
sufficiently	
suicide	suicides
super	
superior	superiors
supposedly	
surgeon	surgeons
surgical	
surplus	surpluses

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susceptible	
sustainable	sustainables
swap	swapped, swapping, swaps
swell	swelled, swelling, swells, swollen
sword	swords
syllable	syllabled, syllables
syllabus	syllabi, syllabuses
symbolic	
syndrome	syndromes
syntactic	syntactics
syntax	
synthesis	syntheses
synthetic	
systematic	
tech	
technically	
temporal	
tempt	tempted, tempting, tempts
tense	tensed, tenses, tensing
terminal	terminals



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terminology	Terminologies
terribly	
textbook	textbooks
theorem	theorems
theorist	theorists
thereby	
thermal	thermals
thesis	theses
thickness	thicknesses
thread	threaded, threading, threads
threshold	thresholds
thumb	thumbed, thumbing, thumbs
tolerance	tolerances
ton	tons
toxic	
tract	tracts
traditionally	
trait	traits
trajectory	trajectories

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trans	
transaction	transactions
transcribe	transcribed, transcribes, transcribing
transcription	transcriptions
transformation	transformations
translation	translations
transmission	transmissions
transmit	transmits, transmitted, transmitting
transparency	transparencies
transplant	transplanted, transplanting, transplants
trauma	traumas
treaty	treaties
tremendous	
triangle	triangles
tribe	tribes
tricky	trickier, trickiest
trivial	
tropical	
tumor	tumors, tumour, tumours



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turbulent	
tutor	tutored, tutoring, tutors
ultimate	
undergraduate	undergraduates
undermine	undermined, undermines, undermining
underneath	
unemployed	
unify	unified, unifies, unifying
unintelligible	
unity	unities
unstable	
uplift	uplifted, uplifting, uplifts
upward	upwards
urine	
usage	
utility	utilities
utilize	utilise, utilised, utilises, utilising, utilized, utilizes, utilizing
utterance	utterances
vague	
valid	
validity	

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valve	valved, valves
variability	variabilities
variance	variances
variant	variants
vector	vectors
vegetation	
vein	veined, veining, veins
velocity	velocities
verbal	
vertical	verticals
viable	
virtue	virtues
vitamin	vitamins
vocabulary	vocabularies
volition	
vowel	vowels
watershed	
wavelength	wavelengths
weave	weaved, weaves, weaving, wove, woven
wheat	



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whereby	
whichever	
whoever	
widespread	
wisdom	
workshop	workshops
yeast	

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