**Word Of The Day**

[**http://education.yahoo.com/wotd/**](http://education.yahoo.com/wotd/)

***August 26, 2011***

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| **abbreviate** |

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| DEFINITION: | (verb) to make briefer, to shorten. |
| EXAMPLE: | Because time was running out, the speaker had to abbreviate his remarks. |
| SYNONYMS: | shorten, abridge, cut back |
| DICTIONARY: | [American Heritage� Dictionar](http://education.yahoo.com/reference/dictionary/entry/abbreviate) |

***August 27, 2011***

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| **derivative** |

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| DEFINITION: | (adjective) taken from a particular source. |
| EXAMPLE: | When a person first writes poetry, her poems are apt to be derivative of whatever poetry she most enjoys reading. |
| SYNONYMS: | borrowed, copied, not original |

***August 28, 2011***

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| **collaborate** |

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| DEFINITION: | (verb) to work together. |
| EXAMPLE: | To create a truly successful movie, the director, writers, actors, and many others must collaborate closely. |
| SYNONYMS: | cooperate, come together |
| ***August 29, 2011***  **preamble** | |

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| DEFINITION: | (noun) an introductory statement. |
| EXAMPLE: | The preamble to the Constitution begins with the famous words, "We the people of the United States of America...","/reference/dictionary/entry/preamble |
| SYNONYMS: | foreword, prelude |

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| ***August 30, 2011***  **concise** |

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| DEFINITION: | (adjective) expressed briefly and simply; succinct. |
| EXAMPLE: | Less than a page long, the Bill of Rights is a concise statement of the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans. |
| SYNONYMS: | abridged, compact |

***August 31, 2011***

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| **refurbish** |

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| DEFINITION: | (verb) to fix up. |
| EXAMPLE: | It took three days' work by a team of carpenters, painters, and decorators to completely refurbish the apartment. |
| SYNONYMS: | renovate, recondition |

***September 1, 2011***

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| **mutable** |

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| DEFINITION: | (adjective) likely to change. |
| EXAMPLE: | A politician's reputation can be highly mutable, as seen in the case of President Harry Truman--mocked during his lifetime, revered afterward. |
| SYNONYMS: | changeable, permutable |

***September 2, 2011***

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| **reciprocate** |

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| DEFINITION: | (verb) to make a return for something. |
| EXAMPLE: | If you'll baby-sit for my kids tonight, I'll reciprocate by taking care of yours tomorrow. |
| SYNONYMS: | retaliate exchange, barter |
| ***September 3, 2011***  **exculpate** | |

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| DEFINITION: | (verb) to free from blame or guilt. |
| EXAMPLE: | When someone else confessed to the crime, the previous suspect was exculpated. |
| SYNONYMS: | forgive, clear |

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| ***September 4, 2011***  **nocturnal** |

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| DEFINITION: | (adjective) of the night; active at night. |
| EXAMPLE: | The eyes of nocturnal animals must be sensitive in dim light. |
| SYNONYMS: | night, nighttime |