

Many of us have a decent command of English. However, beyond the words that we use daily, we are often too lazy to [learn new words](#) to improve our vocabulary. It really is quite simple - just by learning one word a day, you can learn over 300 words in a year. While that seems very minuscule compared to the 170,000 everyday words used in the English language, native speakers use about 20,000 words on a regular basis.

With that, we hope that you can continue to [improve your word bank](#) to make your applied language more impressive. Here are the words for January 2022.

### **1 January - Perfunctory**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Carrying out an action without real interest, feeling, or effort, often performed merely as a daily routine, in a hasty and superficial manner.

### **2 January - Tangential**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Different, not directly connected subject or activity discussed or carried out.

### **3 January - Rudimentary**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Basic, minimal, not deep or detailed; immature, undeveloped, or basic form.

### **4 January - Regimentation**

Type: Noun

Origin: French

Definition: To organise and take control over the behaviour or actions of others in an extreme manner.

## **5 January - Dissident**

Type: Noun, Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: A person who opposes official policy, especially in authoritarian states.

## **6 January - Ameliorate**

Type: Verb

Origin: French

Definition: To improve on something, to make something bad or unsatisfactory better.

## **7 January - Ostensible**

Type: Adjective

Origin: French

Definition: Stating or appearing to be true but may not necessarily be so, appearing or claiming to be one thing when it is actually something else.

## **8 January - Zeitgeist**

Type: Noun

Origin: German

Definition: A spirit or mood that defines a particular period of history based on the ideas and beliefs of that time.

## **9 January - Weltschmerz**

Type: Noun

Origin: German

Definition: Weariness and sadness of life due to the evil and suffering in the world.

## **10 January - Catharsis**

Type: Noun

Origin: Greek

Definition: Releasing and relieving strong and repressed emotions.

## **11 January - Non sequitur**

Type: Noun

Origin: Latin

Definition: A conclusion or statement that does not logically follow the previous.

## **12 January - Despotism**

Type: Noun

Origin: French

Definition: A political system where the ruler holds absolute power and exercises power in a cruel and oppressive way.

## **13 January - Lucrative**

Type: Adjective

Origin: French

Definition: Profitable

## **14 January - Subservient**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Prepared to obey others unquestioningly; less important or subordinate.

## **15 January - Sycophant**

Type: Noun

Origin: French, Greek

Definition: Someone who acts obsequiously towards someone important to gain advantage.

## **16 January - Obsequious**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Excessively obedient or attentive; servile.

## **17 January - Servile**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Excessively willing to serve or please others.

## **18 January - Dissonance**

Type: Noun

Origin: French

Definition: Lack of agreement or harmony between people or things, or among music notes.

## **19 January - Insidious**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Proceeding in a gradual and subtle way, but with very harmful effects.

## **20 January - Ersatz**

Type: Adjective

Origin: German

Definition: A typically inferior substitute of a good; not real or genuine, fake.

## **21 January - Dossier**

Type: Noun

Origin: French

Definition: A collection of documents with regard to a certain person, event or subject.

## **22 January - Quixotic**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Spanish

Definition: Extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical.

## **23 January - Indolent**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Wanting to avoid activity or exertion, lazy.

## **24 January - Anathema**

Type: Noun

Origin: Greek, Latin

Definition: Something or someone that one vehemently dislikes.

## **25 January - Reinvigorate**

Type: Verb

Origin: Old English

Definition: To give new energy or strength to someone.

## **26 January - Ludicrous**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: So foolish, unreasonable, or out of place such that it is amusing.

## **27 January - Chagrin**

Type: Noun, Verb

Origin: French

Definition: Annoyance or distress for failing or being humiliated; to feel distressed or humiliated.

## **28 January - Bête noire**

Type: Noun

Origin: French

Definition: A person or thing that someone especially dislikes.

## **29 January - Disenfranchise**

Type: Verb

Origin: French

Definition: Deprive someone of a right or privilege, or the right to vote.

### **30 January - Debilitating**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: A disease or condition that causes someone to be very weak and infirm; tending to weaken something.

### **31 January - Risible**

Type: Adjective

Origin: Latin

Definition: Provoking laughter by being ludicrous.