

☞ The chef was prodigal with his employer's money, spending thousands of dollars on ingredients for what was supposed to be a simple meal.

那位大厨肆意浪费他老板的钱，他花了许多钱购买原料去做那些原本很简单的菜。

☞ The prodigal gambler soon found that he couldn't afford even a two-dollar bet.

那位大手大脚的赌客很快就发现他连两美元的赌注都负担不起了。

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Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. preclude | a. outstanding |
| 2. precursor | b. triumph |
| 3. predilection | c. seize by prior right |
| 4. preeminent | d. wastefully extravagant |
| 5. preempt | e. unspoiled |
| 6. premise | f. natural preference |
| 7. prepossess | g. preoccupy |
| 8. prerogative | h. right or privilege |
| 9. prevail | i. assumption |
| 10. pristine | j. forerunner |
| 11. prodigal | k. prevent |

PRODIGIOUS [prə'dɪdʒəs] adj. extraordinary; enormous 惊人的; 巨大的

☞ The little boy caught a prodigious fish—it was ten times his size and might more easily have caught him had their situations been reversed.

那个小男孩抓了一条老大老大的鱼——那鱼是他的 10 倍大,如果双方的情形掉过来的话,那鱼可能更容易抓到他。

PRODIGY ['prɒdɪdʒi] n. an extremely talented child; an extraordinary accomplishment or occurrence 天才; 奇迹

☞ The three-year-old prodigy could play all of Beethoven and most of Brahms on his harmonica.

这个三岁的天才能用口琴演奏贝多芬的所有作品及博拉姆斯的大部分作品。

PROFANE [prə'feɪn] adj. not having to do with religion; irreverent; blasphemous 神渎的; 不圣洁的

☞ Profane is the opposite of sacred. Worshiping the almighty dollar is profane. Profane can also mean disrespectful of religion. Cursing in class would be profane.

☞ Sticking out your tongue in church would be a profane gesture.

☞ Profane can also be a verb.

☞ You profaned the classroom by cursing in it.

你在教室里乱骂亵渎了教室。

☞ Nick profaned his priceless Egyptian statue by using it as a door-stop.

尼克把他那无价的埃及雕像用作门阻,亵渎了雕像。

PROFESS [prə'fes] v. to declare; to declare falsely or pretend 声明

☞ Jason professed to teach himself calculus; he declared that he was going to do it.

杰森声明要自学微积分；他宣布他要那样做。

☞ No one in our town was fooled by the candidate's professed love for llama farmers; everyone knew he was just trying to win votes from the pro-llama faction.

那个候选人所宣称的对饲养美洲驼的农民的热爱骗不了我们镇上的任何人；每个人都知道他只是想从亲美洲驼派系拉选票。

PROFICIENT [prə'fɪʃənt] adj. thoroughly competent; skillful; very good (at something) 熟练的，精通的

☞ I fiddled around at the piano for many years but never became proficient at playing.

我不停地拨弄钢琴已经好多年了，但是从来没能熟练地演奏。

☞ Lucy was merely competent, but Molly was proficient at plucking canaries.

路茜只是有能力，但是摩丽却是非常擅长拔金丝雀的毛。

☞ Proficiency is the state of being proficient.

PROFLIGATE ['prɒflɪɡɪt] adj. extravagantly wasteful and, usually, wildly immoral 放荡的，荒淫的

☞ The young heir was profligate with his fortune, spending millions on champagne and racehorses.

那个年轻的财产继承者肆意挥霍财产，他将无数的钱花在香槟和赛马上。

PROFOUND [prə'faʊnd] adj. deep (in several senses) profound understanding is deep understanding. 深刻的；渊博的

☞ To say something profound is to say something deeply intelligent or discerning.

🔑 Profound respect is deep respect. Profound horror is deep horror.

PROFUSE [prə'fju:s] adj. flowing; extravagant 大量的, 丰富的

🔑 When we gave Marian our house, our car, and all our clothes, her gratitude was profuse.

当我们将我们的房子、我们的汽车以及我们所有的衣服都给玛丽时,她极其感激。

🔑 My teacher said I had done a good job, but his praise was far from profuse. I got the feeling he hadn't really liked my epic poem about two dinosaurs who fall in love just before they become extinct.

我的老师说我做的不错,但是他的表扬还远远不够。我觉得他并非真正喜欢我那首关于两只恐龙在灭绝之前堕入爱河的叙事诗。

🔑 The grieving widow's tears were profuse. She had tears in profusion.

那位悲痛的寡妇的泪水极其丰富。她有大量的泪水。

PROLIFERATE [prəu'lifəreit] v. to spread or grow rapidly 增殖; 扩散

🔑 Honey bees proliferated when we filled our yard with flowering plants.

当我们在园子里种满开花植物,采蜜的蜜蜂迅速多起来。

🔑 Coughs and colds proliferate when groups of children are cooped up together during the winter.

冬天里,当成群的孩子们被关在一起时,咳嗽和感冒扩散开来。

PROLIFIC [prə'lifɪk] adj. abundantly productive; fruitful or fertile 大量繁殖的; 多产的

🔑 A prolific writer is a writer who writes a lot of books. A prolific

artist is an artist who paints a lot of pictures.

☞ The old man had been extraordinarily prolific; he had thirty children and more than one hundred grandchildren.

那位老人生殖力极强;他有30个子女,100多个孙子和孙女。

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Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. prodigious | a. declare |
| 2. prodigy | b. irreverent |
| 3. profane | c. abundantly productive |
| 4. profess | d. flowing |
| 5. proficient | e. extremely talented child |
| 6. profligate | f. extraordinary |
| 7. profound | g. spread rapidly |
| 8. profuse | h. deep |
| 9. proletariat | i. thoroughly competent |
| 10. proliferate | j. extravagantly wasteful |
| 11. prolific | k. industrial working class |



PROMULGATE ['prɒməleɪt] v. to proclaim; to publicly or formally declare something 颁布(法律等); 传播(信条、教义等)

☞ The principal promulgated a new dress code over the loudspeaker system: red, green, yellow, and blue were the only permissible artificial hair colors.

校长通过扬声器颁布了新的服饰标准:只有红色、绿色、黄色和蓝色是被允许的假发颜色。

PROPENSITY [prə'pensiti] n. a natural inclination or tendency; a predilection 嗜好, 癖好

☞ Jessie has a propensity for saying stupid things: every time she opens her mouth, something stupid comes out.

杰西有好说蠢话的癖好:每次她一张嘴,蠢话就冒出来。

☞ Bill's propensity to sit around all day doing nothing came into conflict with his mother's propensity to kick him out of the house.

比尔整日呆着无所事事的癖好与他妈妈将他踢出房门的嗜好相冲突。

PROPTIOUS [prə'piʃəs] adj. marked by favorable signs or conditions 有利的; 吉祥的

☞ Rush hour is not a propitious time to drive into the city.

高峰时间不利于驾车进城。

☞ The early negotiations between the union and the company had been so propitious that no one was surprised when a new contract was announced well before the strike deadline.

工会和公司之间的谈判如此令人满意,以至于在罢工最后期限之前一项新合同公布时,没有一个人感到意外。

PROPONENT [prə'pəʊnənt] n. an advocate; a supporter of a position 建议者, 提议者

☞ Proponent and opponent are antonyms.

☞ The proponents of a tax increase will probably not be re-elected next fall.

倡议提高税收的人明年秋天不大可能再次当选。

PROPRIETARY [prə'praɪətəri] adj. characteristic of an owner of property; constituting property 专有的; 所有(人)的

🔑 To take a proprietary interest in something is to act as though you own it.

👉 George felt very proprietary about the chocolate-cookie recipe; he had invented it himself.

乔治感觉自己拥有那份巧克力甜饼配方;那是他自己发明的。

👉 The company's design for musical toilet paper is proprietary; the company owns it, and outsiders can't look at it for nothing.

那家公司独家拥有会发出音乐的卫生纸的设计;那家公司拥有它,外人不能免费观看。

PROPRIETY [prə'paiəti] n. properness; good manners 举止得体, 礼貌

👉 The old lady viewed the little girl's failure to curtsy as a flagrant breach of propriety. She did not approve of or countenance such improprieties.

那位老妇人将那个女孩不施屈膝礼视为粗鲁的、有悖礼貌的行为。她不赞成或支持这种不礼貌举止。

👉 Propriety prevented the young man from trashing the town in celebration of his unexpected acceptance by the college of his choice.

良好的修养使那个年轻人没有在庆祝自己被心仪的大学意外地录取的庆祝活动中对城镇有所损害。

🔑 Propriety derives from proper, not property.

PROSAIC [prəu'zeiik] adj. dull; unimaginative; like prose (as opposed to poetry) 无诗意的, 乏味的

👉 His description of the battle was so prosaic that it was hard for his listeners to believe that any of the soldiers had even been wounded, much less blown to smithereens.

他对战争的描绘如此乏味，以至于听众很难相信任何战士曾受过伤，更别提被打成碎片了。

☞ The little boy's ambitions were all prosaic: he said he wanted to be an accountant, an auditor, or a claims adjuster.

那个小男孩的理想实在乏味：他说他想成为一名会计、一名审计员或一名保险调解员。

PROSCRIBE [prəʊs'kraɪb] v. to outlaw; to prohibit 排斥，禁止

☞ The young doctor proscribed smoking in the waiting room of his office.

那名年轻的大夫禁止在他办公室的会客间吸烟。

PROSELYTIZE ['prɒsɪlaɪz] v. to convert (someone) from one religion or doctrine to another; to recruit converts to a religion or doctrine 使改变（信仰、宗教等）

☞ The former Methodist had been proselytized by a Lutheran deacon.

路德会执事使那个前卫理公会信徒改变了信仰。

PROTAGONIST [prəʊ'tæɡənɪst] n. the leading character in a novel, play, or other work; a leader or champion 主角；领导者

☞ Martin Luther King, Jr., was a protagonist in the long and continuing struggle for racial equality.

马丁·路德·金在长期不懈的为争取种族平等的斗争中充当主角。

☞ The protagonist of the movie was an eleven-year-old boy who saved his hometown from destruction by eating all the doughnuts that the mad scientist had been using to fuel his nuclear reactor.

那部电影的主人公是一个 11 岁的男孩,他吃掉了所有的炸面圈,以使家乡免受毁灭之灾,那位疯狂的科学家本来一直用那些炸面圈作为他的核反应堆的燃料。

PROTRACT [prə'trækt] v. to prolong 延长, 拖延

☞ The trial was so protracted that one of the jurors died of old age and another gave birth.

审判如此拖延,以至于陪审团的一名成员老死,而另一个生了孩子。

PROVIDENT ['prɒvɪdənt] adj. preparing for the future; providing for the future; frugal 有主见的, 远虑的

☞ We were provident with our limited food supplies, knowing that the winter ahead would be long and cold.

我们很节约有限的食品,并知道将到的冬天漫长而寒冷。

☞ The provident father had long ago set aside money for the college education of each of his children.

有主见的父亲好久以前就备好了钱,以备每个孩子接受大学教育之用。

☞ To be improvident is to fail to provide for the future.

☞ It was improvident of the grasshopper not to store any food for the winter, unlike his acquaintance the provident ant.

蚱蜢没为冬天贮备食物是没有远见的,不像有远虑的蚂蚁。



Q · U · I · C · K · Q · U · I · Z 68

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. promulgate | a. natural inclination |
| 2. propensity | b. good manners |
| 3. propitious | c. advocate |
| 4. proponent | d. prohibit |
| 5. proprietary | e. prolong |
| 6. propriety | f. leading character |
| 7. prosaic | g. constituting property |
| 8. proscribe | h. frugal |
| 9. proselytize | i. dull |
| 10. protagonist | j. marked by favorable signs |
| 11. protract | k. convert |
| 12. provident | l. proclaim |



PROVINCIAL [prə'vɪnʃəl] adj. limited in outlook to one's own small corner of the world; narrow 质朴的, 偏狭的

☞ The farmers were very provincial; they had no opinions about anything but the price of corn and no interest in anything except growing more of it.

农夫们非常偏狭;他们除了谷物价格之外,对任何事都没有看法;并且除了农作物收成更多之外,对任何事都没有兴趣。

☞ New Yorkers have reputations for being very sophisticated and cosmopolitan, but most of them are actually very provincial; they act as though nothing of interest had ever happened on the other side of the Hudson River.

约纽人以其世故以及有大都市风格而著称，但是大多数人实际上非常质朴；他们处事就好像没有任何有趣之事曾在哈德逊河对岸发生过一样。

PROVISIONAL [prə'viʒənl] adj. conditional; temporary; tentative
临时的，暂时的

👉 Louis had been accepted as a provisional member of the club.

路易斯被吸收为俱乐部的临时成员，直到其他成员有机会了解他到底怎样，他才有可能成为永久成员。

👉 He wouldn't become a permanent member until the other members had had a chance to see what he was really like.

PROXIMITY [prɒk'simɪti] n. nearness (空间、时间、顺序) 最近；接近

👉 I can't stand being in the proximity of a nuclear explosion. The radiation leaves my hair a mess.

我不能容忍靠近核爆炸，放射线使我的头发变得一团糟。

👉 In a big city, one is almost always in the proximity of a restaurant.

在大城市，人们总是能在附近发现一家饭店。

PRUDENT ['pru:dnt] adj. careful; having foresight 精明的；深谋远虑的

👉 Joe is a prudent money manager. He doesn't invest heavily in rac-horses, and he puts only a small part of his savings in the office football pool. Joe is the epitome of prudence.

乔是个精明的金融经理，他从不将大笔钱投在赛马上，他只是将一小部分积蓄投到办公室足球基金中。乔是深谋远虑的典范。

👉 The opposite of prudent is imprudent.

☞ It was imprudent of us to pour gasoline all over the floor of our living room and then light a fire in the fireplace.

我们在起居室的地板上洒满了汽油，然后将火炉点燃的行为是不明智的。

PURPORTED [pə (:)'pɔ:tɪd] adj. rumored; claimed 声明的

☞ The heiress is purported to have been kidnapped by adventurers and buried in a concrete vault beneath the busiest intersection in Times Square. No one believes this story except the psychic who was consulted by the police.

那位女继承人据说被冒险者绑架并被埋在时代广场最繁华的十字路口下的混凝土地窖中，除了那位曾受到警察污辱的巫师之外没有人相信这种说法。

PUTATIVE ['pjʊ:təɪv] adj. commonly accepted; supposed; reputed 推定的，被公认的

☞ The putative reason for placing the monument downtown is that nobody had wanted it uptown.

将纪念碑安置在市中心的普遍认可的理由是没有人希望它建在市郊。



Q · U · I · C · K · Q · U · I · Z 69

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. provincial | a. commonly accepted |
| 2. provisional | b. nearness |
| 3. proximity | c. narrow in outlook |
| 4. prudent | d. rumored |
| 5. purported | e. careful |
| 6. putative | f. conditional |

QUALIFY ['kwɒlifai] v. to modify or restrict 限制, 限定

☞ You already know the primary meaning of qualify. Here's another meaning.

☞ The library trustees rated their fund-raiser a qualified success; many more people than expected had come, but virtually no money had been raised.

图书馆受托人认为他们的募集资金行动取得了有限的成功, 来的人之多超出预期, 但是实际上没有募集到资金。

☞ An unqualified success is a complete, unrestricted success.

QUALITATIVE ['kwɒlɪtɪv] adj. having to do with the quality or qualities of something (as opposed to the quantity) 与性质有关的; 定性的

☞ If a school achieves a qualitative improvement in attendance, it means the school is being attended by better students. If the school achieves a quantitative improvement, it means the school is being attended by more students.

☞ The difference between the two restaurants was quantitative rather than qualitative. Both served the same dreadful food, but the sec-

ond restaurant served more of it.

两家饭店之间没有本质的区别,它们都出售难吃的食物,只不过第二家的食物更难吃些。

QUERULOUS ['kwɛruləs] adj. complaining; grumbling; whining 抱怨的; 烦躁的

🔑 Although a query is a question, querulous does not mean questioning.

👉 The querulous voices of the students, who believed that their quiz had been graded too harshly, could be heard all the way at the other end of the school building.

那些认为测验评分过于苛刻的学生们发出的抱怨声在学校教学楼另一端都可以听到。

QUIXOTIC [kwi'sɒtɪk] dj romantic or idealistic to a foolish or impractical degree 狭义的; 空想的

🔑 The word quixotic is derived from the name of Don Quixote, the protagonist of Miguel de Cervantes's classic seventeenth-century novel. Don Quixote had read so many romances about the golden age of chivalry that he set out to become a knight himself and have chivalrous adventures. Instead, his romantic idealism almost invariably got him into trouble. To be quixotic is to be as foolish or impractical as Don Quixote in pursuing an ideal.

👉 The political organization had once been a powerful force in Washington, but its membership had dwindled and its causes had become increasingly quixotic.

那个政治组织在华盛顿曾经是一股强大的力量,但是它的成员越来越少,而且目标逐渐变得不切合实际。

Q · U · I · C · K · Q · U · I · Z 70

Match each word in the first column with its definition in the second column. Check your answers in the back of the book.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. qualify | a. having to do with quantity |
| 2. qualitative | b. foolishly romantic |
| 3. quantitative | c. complaining |
| 4. querulous | d. modify or restrict |
| 5. quixotic | e. having to do with quality |



RAMIFICATION [ˌræmɪfiˈkeɪʃən] n a consequence; a branching out 分支, 分叉

🌿 A tree could be said to ramify, or branch out, as it grows. A ramification is a consequence that grows out of something in the same way that a tree branch grows out of a tree trunk.

👉 The professor found a solution to the problem, but there are many ramifications; some experts are afraid that he has created more problems than he has solved.

那位教授发现了解决问题的办法,但是对此有许多分歧;有些专家担心他制造的问题要比他解决的问题多。

RANCOR [ˈræŋkə] n. bitter, long-lasting ill will or resentment 深仇, 积怨

👉 The mutual rancor felt by the two nations eventually led to war.

两国之间彼此的积怨最终导致战争。

🌿 To feel rancor is to be rancorous.

👉 The rancorous public exchanges between the two competing boxers are strictly for show; outside the ring, they are the best of friends.

在公众面前两名对抗的拳击手彼此敌对,严格地说,只是做个样子;在拳击场外,他们是最好的朋友。

RAPACIOUS [rə'peɪfəs] adj. greedy; plundering; avaricious 贪婪的; 掠夺的

Wall Street investment bankers are often accused of being rapacious, but they claim they are performing a valuable economic function.

华尔街的投资银行家们经常被人指责为贪婪,但是他们说他们对经济起到了有价值的作用。

REBUKE [ri'bju:k] v. to criticize sharply 指责, 非难

We trembled as Mr. Solomon rebuked us for flipping over his car and taking off the tires.

当所罗门先生指责我们将他的车子翻过来,并拿走了轮胎时,我们气得发抖。

REBUT [ri'bat] v. to contradict; to argue in opposition to; to prove to be false 辩驳, 反驳

They all thought I was crazy, but none of them could rebut my argument.

他们都认为我疯了,但是没有一个人能辩驳我的观点。

RECALCITRANT [ri'kælsitrənt] adj. stubbornly defiant of authority or control; disobedient 不顺从的, 难以管束的

The recalcitrant cancer continued to spread through the patient's body despite every therapy and treatment the doctors tried.

尽管医生试过了每种疗法,但是难以控制的癌细胞不断在病人的体内扩散。

RECENT [ri'kənt] v. to publicly take back and deny (something pre-

vously said or believed); to openly confess error 宣布放弃

👉 The secret police tortured the intellectual for a week, by tickling his feet with a feather duster, until he finally recanted.

秘密警察折磨那个知识分子已经一周了，他们用羽毛掸子胳肢他的脚心直到他招供为止。

RECIPROCAL [ri'siprəkəl] adj. mutual; shared; interchangeable 相互的

👉 The Rochester Club had a reciprocal arrangement with the Duluth Club. Members of either club had full privileges of membership at the other.

罗彻斯特俱乐部和达拉斯俱乐部达成了协议，任何一家俱乐部的会员都在另一家俱乐部享有全部特权。

👉 Our new neighbors had had us over for dinner several times, but we were unable to reciprocate immediately because our dining room was being remodeled.

我们的新邻居已经好几次请我们去他家吃饭了，但是我们不能马上回请他们，因为我们的餐厅正在重新装修。

RECLUSIVE [ri'klu:siv] adj. hermitlike; withdrawn from society 隐士的，隐居的

👉 The crazy millionaire led a reclusive existence, shutting himself up in his labyrinthine mansion and never setting foot in the outside world.

那位疯狂的百万富翁过着隐居的生活，他将自己关在迷宫般的宅子中，从不涉足外部的世界。

👉 Our new neighbors were so reclusive that we didn't even meet them until a full year after they had moved in.