adversary: (n.)
an enemy or opponent

I once had an adversary named Captain Cartwheel. If you think he sounds easy to capture, let me remind you that I also went up against the Marshmallow Master.
trivial: (adj.)
unimportant

Who let the dog into the bathroom is trivial. What I’d like to know is who taught him to brush his teeth?
pilfer: (v.)
to steal

This is what you get when you try to pilfer flowers from a neighbor who’s also a police officer.
ornate: (adj.)
fancy or showy

Is there any way we can keep my crown ornate but make it lighter?
famished: (adj.)
very hungry

I’m famished. What’s for breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
immaculate: (adj.)
very clean; spotless

I think this place was immaculate once. Look what I found under the mud at the entrance.
**cuisine:** \( (n. \) \\
*a style or type of food or cooking*

Can I treat you to some delicious vending machine *cuisine*?
obstacle: (n.)
someone or something that gets in your way

Since when are a bunch of trees an obstacle to taking a treasure that’s left in plain sight?
vivacious: *(adj.)*
lively; full of life and spirit

I’ll fetch the stick, but if you want to see my most **vivacious** side, let’s play a little one-on-one basketball.
lenient: (adj.)
not strict; relaxed about rules

It looks like we have a substitute today – and one that is more lenient than Mr. Chang.
defy:  (v.)
to challenge or dare

I defy you to kiss them all!
etiquette: (n.)
manners

Yes, it is bad etiquette to put your feet on the table even if you put a floor mat there first.
eloquent: *(adj.)*
well-spoken

I speak to humans all the time, but I have a feeling they can't tell how eloquent I am.
malady: (n.)
an illness

It’s fascinating that the Aztecs thought chocolate could help cure a malady, but we’re sticking with chicken soup.
rotund: *(adj.)*
round; plump

I grew bored making **rotund** snowmen.
**gargantuan:** (adj.) huge; immense

My **gargantuan** mittens may seem funny to you, but at least I never lose one.
cherish: (v.)
to care for or value

I cherish the time we’ve spent together, but I really should be getting back to my own nursery rhyme.
predicament: \( (n. \) \\
a dangerous or embarrassing situation

Well, this is an unexpected *predicament*. 

Illustration ©Marc Tyler Nobleman
detest: (v.) to hate

I detest my new haircut, but I can’t ask for my money back. I was the barber!
nimble: (adj.)
able to do something quickly and easily; handy; skillful

I’ve never seen someone nimble enough to eat pizza with chopsticks.
meddle: (v.) to interfere or butt in

Okay, your action figures can visit my dollhouse, but please ask them not to meddle in Clarissa and Vanessa’s tea party.
unique: (adj.) unusual

I’m not trying to be unique. I just get dizzy when I’m upside down.
meander: (v.)
to turn or wind; wander

Why should we meander through the forest following bread crumbs when there’s a trail marked with glazed donuts only 50 yards over there?
**wrath:** *(n.)*
great anger; rage; fury

If you disobey this sign you will see my wrath, as well as huge piles of dirty laundry.
dilly-dally: *(v.)*

**to waste time; dawdle**

I like to **dilly-dally** when I shop. That gives me a better chance of being in a store when a sale starts.
accelerate: (v.)
to speed up

I didn’t even need to accelerate to win this.
stifle: (v.)
to hold back or stop something from happening

To be good at hide and seek, you have to be able to stifle any laugh. Darren’s method seems to work well.
haphazard: (adj.) disorganized

I know it looks haphazard, but I do have a system. The stuff on the bottom is the oldest, and the stuff on the top is the newest.
triumph: \((v.)\) to overcome or win

Is that the book where a Viking and a lifeguard team up and triumph over an evil dinosaur and a talking pumpkin? The ending was so unrealistic.
acquire: (v.)
to get

Why buy a new car? For the same price, we could acquire thousands of really cool skateboards.
**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**at HOME**

**radiant:** *(adj.)*
very bright; shining

I’d like to thank my brother for my **radiant** smile.
**abundant**: (adj.)

plentiful

I’ve got a delivery of an abundant amount of shampoo here, addressed to “Rapunzel.”
transport: (v.)
to carry from place to place

In the future, can you please transport my food here in a paper bag instead of your mouth?
astonish: (v.)
to surprise or amaze

This may **astonish** you, but you’re adopted.
persevere: (v.)
to keep trying despite difficulties

Finding clouds shaped like turtles or fish is easy, but you’ll have to **persevere** a lot longer when looking for a whale fighting a giant squid.
novice: (n.)
a beginner

Technically, I was never a novice at this. I’ve known how to fall since I was a toddler.
drench: (v.)
to get really wet all over; soak

Step right up and drench our volunteer with your choice of water or Uncle Melvin’s maple syrup, proud sponsor of this year’s carnival!
**candid**: (adj.)
honest; truthful

I’ll be **candid** — I’m not from around here.
essential: (adj.)
very important

I can't shake the feeling that we're missing something essential here.
reluctant: (adj.) unwilling

I’m reluctant to dive unless I’m sure my bathing suit won’t come off when I hit the water.