

SEPTEMBER 2020

Word of the week

fluctuation (*noun*) an irregular rising and falling in number or amount; a variation.

#WOTW

TV channel executives called the drop in viewing figures "a short-term **fluctuation**".

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Word of the week

cacophony (*noun*) a harsh discordant mixture of sounds.

#WOTW

A **cacophony** of distressing alarms bells rang out as they tried to escape.

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Word of the week

adapt (*verb*) to change, or to change something, to suit different conditions or uses.

#WOTW

Sometimes you have to **adapt** the design to suit the customer's requirements.

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OCTOBER 2020

Word of the week

community (*noun*) the people living in one particular area; people who are considered a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality.

#WOTW

There's a real sense of **community** in this neighbourhood.

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Word of the week

aspire (*verb*) to want something or hope to achieve something or be successful.

#WOTW

Most of his students **aspire** to get jobs in the business sector.

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Word of the week

endeavour (*verb & noun*) to try to do something.

#WOTW

The **endeavour** displayed by the shop assistant to help his customer was commendable.

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NOVEMBER 2020

Word of the week

discombobulated

(adjective) a feeling of confusion or discomfort.

#WOTW

The directions I was given left me feeling extremely **discombobulated**.

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Word of the week

infringement *(noun)* an

action that breaks a rule or law.

#WOTW

A free kick was taken from where the original **infringement** took place.

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Word of the week

consternation *(noun)* a

feeling of anxiety, shock or confusion.

#WOTW

To his **consternation**, when he arrived at school he found he'd forgotten his PE kit.

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Word of the week

obliterate *(verb)* to destroy

utterly or to wipe out.

#WOTW

If deforestation continues at its current rate, it will **obliterate** vast amounts of habitats.

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DECEMBER 2020

Word of the week

schadenfreude *(noun)*

a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction
when something bad happens to
someone else.

#WOTW

A feeling of **schadenfreude** rose in me as I watched the driver, who had parked illegally across my driveway, argue with the traffic warden.

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Word of the week

filibuster *(noun & verb)* to

make a long speech in order to delay or
prevent a new law being made.

#WOTW

She began to **filibuster** as she did not feel the proposed changes were in the interests of her constituents.

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Word of the week

egregious *(adjective)*

extremely bad in a way that is very
noticeable.

#WOTW

The judge said it was the most **egregious** act she had ever seen!

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JANUARY 2021

Word of the week

adversity (*noun*) a difficult or unlucky situation or event.

#WOTW

Everyone faces **adversity** at some point in their lifetime but it is about how you react to it that matters.

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Word of the week

colloquial (*adjective*) language used in ordinary or familiar conversation; informal.

#WOTW

When interviewing for a job, avoid using **colloquial** language.

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Word of the week

parsimonious (*adjective*) not willing to spend money or use a lot of something.

#WOTW

It could be said that politicians are often **parsimonious** with the truth.

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Word of the week

prolific (*adjective*) producing a great number or amount of something.

#WOTW

The forward's **prolific** goal scoring record was the main reason they avoided relegation.

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FEBRUARY 2021

Word of the week

squander *(verb)* to waste
(something, especially money or time)
in a reckless and foolish manner.

#WOTW

It is important not to **squander** your opportunities when you are young.

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Word of the week

rebuttal *(noun)* a statement
that says that something is not true.

#WOTW

She issued a point-by-point **rebuttal** of the company's accusations.

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Word of the week

undermine *(verb)* to make
someone less confident, less powerful,
or less likely to succeed, or to make
something weaker, often gradually. #WOTW

The continued criticism the manager faced simply **undermined** any
confidence he once had.

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MARCH 2021

Word of the week

philanthropy *(noun)* the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes. #WOTW

She has been acclaimed by people around the world for her works of public **philanthropy**.

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Word of the week

capacious *(adjective)* having and being able to contain a lot of space. #WOTW

The harbour is **capacious** and secure, with a sufficient depth of water for the largest vessels.

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Word of the week

remuneration *(noun)* payment for work or services. #WOTW

They demanded adequate **remuneration** for their work.

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Word of the week

magnanimous *(adjective)* generous or forgiving, especially towards a rival or less powerful person. #WOTW

The team's manager was **magnanimous** in victory, and praised the losing team.

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Word of the week

platitude *(noun)* a remark or statement, especially one with a moral content, that has been used too often to be interesting or thoughtful. #WOTW

They had to sit and listen to more **platitudes** about the dangers of overspending.

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APRIL 2021

Word of the week

pertain (*verb*) to be connected with a particular subject, event or situation.

#WOTW

We are only interested in the parts of the proposals that **pertain** to local issues.

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Word of the week

embellish (*verb*) to make something more beautiful by adding something to it OR to add or change some details of a story, usually to make it more interesting or exciting

#WOTW

The foyer, **embellished** with gold, velvet and crystal, was lit by chandeliers.

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MAY 2021

Word of the week

sanctity (*noun*) the quality of being very important and deserving respect

#WOTW

This building, which is considered a place of high **sanctity**, is visited by people from all around the world.

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Word of the week

forlorn (*adjective*) alone and unhappy; left alone and not cared for

#WOTW

He looked a **forlorn** figure standing at the bus stop.

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Word of the week

gesticulate (*verb*) to make movement with your hands or arms to express something or to emphasise what you are saying

#WOTW

The unfortunate recipient of the parking ticket **gesticulated** wildly to the parking attendant in desperation.

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Word of the week

sacrosanct (*adjective*) regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with.

#WOTW

I am willing to help out on weekdays, but my weekends are **sacrosanct**.

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JUNE 2021

Word of the week

dexterity (*noun*) skill in performing tasks, especially with the hands.

#WOTW

He bowled the ball with great **dexterity**.

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Word of the week

cantankerous (*adjective*)
bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative

#WOTW

He's getting a bit **cantankerous** in his old age.

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Word of the week

anachronism (*noun*) someone or something placed in the wrong period in history, or something that belongs to the past rather than the present.

#WOTW

In today's world of technology, a floppy disk is an **anachronism**.

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Word of the week

forensic (*noun & adjective*) related to scientific methods of solving crimes; involves examining the objects or substances that are involved in the crime.

#WOTW

They were convicted on **forensic** evidence alone.

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JULY 2021

Word of the week

austere (*adjective*) severe or strict in manner or attitude
OR
(of living conditions or a way of life) having no comforts or luxuries.

#WOTW

Lacking personal touches, the couple's formal living room was quite **austere**.

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Word of the week

apoplectic (*adjective*)
overcome with anger; furious

#WOTW

The manager was **apoplectic** with the decision to not award a penalty.

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Word of the week

sojourn (*noun & verb*) to stay somewhere temporarily.

#WOTW

She had enjoyed her **sojourn** in Rome.

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