1. atrophy - v. the wasting away of the body, its organs or tissue

The therapist set up a program of leg exercises for him so his muscles would not atrophy. syn: waste away, wither

2. aversion - n. a strong dislike for; repugnance

Carol's aversion to seafood made it difficult for her to eat at the beach.

syn: distaste, antipathy ant: liking

3. equivocate - v. to speak ambiguously in order to mislead or deceive His critics accused the President of equivocating on every major issue facing the county. syn: evade, dodge ant: unambiguous

4. esoteric - adj. intended for or understood by only a small group of people The poem was so esoteric that few people besides relatives of the poet could understand it. syn: cryptic ant: clear, open

5. eulogy - n. a speech or written tribute praising a person or thing, especially someone who has recently died

By the time the minister had finished the eulogy, there was not a dry eye at the graveside. syn: tribute, panegyric ant: vilification

6. obtrusive - adj. intruding and offensive

Rather than appreciating all I had done for her, she said I was to mind my own business and stop being so obtrusive. ant: unobtrusive

7. officious - adj. to be so excessively forward in offering one's services that one becomes annoying

He thought he was being very helpful, but the others thought he was officious. syn: meddlesome

8. onomatopoeia - n. the use or sound of a word that imitates or resembles what it stands for or describes

The words "wham" and "buzz" are examples of onomatopoeia.

9. overt - adj. not concealed, not hidden; open

There was nothing overt about his rude behavior, but you could sense it.

syn: visible, ostensible ant: hidden, covert

10. scrupulous - adj. conscientious; attentive to details

The business owner was very scrupulous about keeping his money separate from the store's money.

syn: meticulous ant: careless, negligent, sloppy

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