

## **propensity** |pr\_\_pens\_t\_l

noun ( pl. **-ties**)

an inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way : **a propensity for violence** | [with infinitive ] *their innate propensity to attack one another.*

ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from archaic *propense* (from Latin *propensus* ‘*inclined,*’ past participle of *propendere*, from *pro-* ‘*forward, down*’ + *pendere* ‘*hang*’ ) + **-ity** . propensity

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## **provocative** |pr\_\_väk\_tivl

adjective

causing annoyance, anger, or another strong reaction, esp. deliberately : *a provocative article* | *his provocative remarks on race.*

• arousing sexual desire or interest, esp. deliberately.

DERIVATIVES

**provocatively** adverb

**provocativeness** noun

ORIGIN late Middle English : from Old French *provocatif*, **-ive**, from late Latin *provocativus*, from *provocat-* ‘*called forth, challenged,*’ from the verb *provocare* (see **provoke** ).

## **querulous** |\_kwer(y)\_l\_sl

adjective

complaining in a petulant or whining manner : *she became querulous and demanding.*

DERIVATIVES

**querulously** adverb

**querulousness** noun

ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from late Latin *querulosus*, from Latin *querulus*, from *queri* ‘complain.’

## **quiescent** |kw\_\_esnt; kw\_-l

adjective

in a state or period of inactivity or dormancy : *strikes were headed by groups of workers who had previously been quiescent* | *quiescent ulcerative colitis*. See note at **latent** .

DERIVATIVES

**quiescence** noun

**quiescently** adverb

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *quiescent-* ‘being still,’ from the verb *quiescere*, from *quies* ‘quiet.’

## **recalcitrant** |ri\_kals\_tr\_ntl

adjective

having an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline : *a class of recalcitrant fifteen-year-olds.*

noun

a person with such an attitude.

DERIVATIVES

**recalcitrance** noun

**recalcitrantly** adverb

ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Latin *recalcitrant-* ‘kicking out with the heels,’ from the verb *recalcitrare*, based on *calx*, *calc-* ‘heel.’