

## **stringent** |\_strinj\_ntl

adjective

(of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting : *California's air pollution guidelines are stringent.*

DERIVATIVES

**stringency** noun

**stringently** adverb

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.(in the sense [compelling, convincing] ): from Latin *stringent-* 'drawing tight,' from the verb *stringere*.

## **succinct** |s\_(k)\_si ng (k)tl

adjective

(esp. of something written or spoken) briefly and clearly expressed : *use short, succinct sentences.* See note at **terse** .

DERIVATIVES

**succinctly** adverb

**succinctness** noun

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense [encircled] ): from Latin *succinctus* 'tucked up,' past participle of *succingere*, from *sub-* 'from below' + *cingere* 'gird.'

## **superficial** |\_so\_p\_r\_fi sh \_ll

adjective

existing or occurring at or on the surface : *the building suffered only superficial damage.*

- situated or occurring on the skin or immediately beneath it : *the superficial muscle groups.*
- appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely : *the resemblance between the breeds is superficial.*
- not thorough, deep, or complete; cursory : *he had only the most superficial knowledge of foreign countries.*
- not having or showing any depth of character or understanding :

*perhaps I was a superficial person.*

DERIVATIVES

**superficiality** | -\_fi sh \_\_alit\_| noun ( pl. **-ties** )

**superficially** adverb

**superficialness** noun

ORIGIN late Middle English : from late Latin *superficialis*, from Latin *superficies* (see **superficies** ).

**surreptitious** |\_s\_r\_p\_ti sh \_sl|

adjective

kept secret, esp. because it would not be approved of : *they carried on a surreptitious affair*. See note at **secret** .

DERIVATIVES

**surreptitiously** adverb

**surreptitiousness** noun

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense [obtained by suppression of the truth] ): from Latin *surreptitius* (from the verb *surripere*, from *sub-* ‘secretly’ + *rapere* ‘seize’ ) + **-ous** .

**terse** |t\_rsl|

adjective ( **terser** , **tersest** )

sparing in the use of words; abrupt : *a terse statement*.

DERIVATIVES

**tersely** adverb

**terseness** noun

ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *tersus* ‘wiped, polished,’ from the verb *tergere*. The original sense was [polished, trim, spruce,] (relating to language) [polished, polite,] hence [concise and to the point] (late 18th cent.).