

# Technical Speller & Definition Finder

by

Ætna Miles



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## PREFACE

Engineers, students, secretaries, typists, writers, proofreaders, court reporters, librarians, and laymen interested in today's technical language, this book has been written for you! It spells, and it helps find definitions. Where references do not lead to a dictionary, they at least indicate the "specialties." Every listing in this book can be typed on a conventional typewriter.

Webster's New International Dictionary, Third Edition, Unabridged, has been used as a basis for this work. It defines "consistent" as "singleness of purpose," and my singleness of purpose was to try to include terms, however diverse they may seem, related to the fields represented in the references. Many terms in this book are not of a technical nature, but they are included to aid the user to make his writing as nearly correct as possible.

Acronyms have been determined by the definition of "acronym" in Webster's Unabridged:

"A word formed from the initial letter  
or letters of each of the successive  
parts or major parts of a compound term,  
(as anzac, jato, radar, snafu)."

This has been supplemented by my experience in working with engineers who seem to be able to pronounce the unpronounceable. If an acronym could be confused with a regular word in any way, it has been shown all in capitals.

A total of 150 dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, glossaries, and brochures were searched in the compilation of this book. Many variations were found in manner of listing. Therefore, the terms in this book are not necessarily identical with those in each source. Capital letters were not indicated in most sources. In this compilation, when in doubt about computers, the first letter was capitalized.

Many sources disagreed in the treatment of trademarks; so when in doubt, I capitalized the first letter. Much effort was expended to determine whether or not terms were trademarks and, if so, how they

should be typed. However, the treatment of trademarks in this compilation should not be relied on as being legally correct. Those commonized in Webster's Unabridged appear here as in Webster's. It should be understood by the user of this book that when referring to a given trademark, even though commonized, the typing should agree with that desired by the trademark owner, or if that manner of typing is not known, the first letter should be capitalized.

Since human beings and machines have put this book together, one assumes it contains undetected errors. I shall appreciate help in finding them. I should like to appeal especially to my friends at Western Girl, Inc., and the National Secretaries Association. If anyone detects an error or has a suggestion for improving later editions, please write to me in care of the publisher.

ÆTNA MILES

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*To my sister, Willie Miles Lacy,  
for her wholehearted support and encouragement*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Although this compilation might be considered a one-person project, many were involved. My family and friends furnished typing and proof-reading services, office stationery and supplies, legal advice, and above all, never-failing encouragement and moral support.

I am indebted to Mr. E. W. Milburn, Western Regional Manager of the Industrial X-Ray Department, General Electric Company, San Francisco. He was the first to suggest a list and has helped throughout this enterprise.

Much credit is due my niece, Miss Lillian Moore, Library Assistant at the University of California, Berkeley. She has spent many a post-man's holiday tramping about the campus libraries searching for material.

I wish to give special credit to Charles Susskind, Ph.D (author of my reference No. 80). As a professor of electronics and an author and editor, he has given much time-consuming assistance as well as interest and encouragement.

Industry, scientific societies, and associations responded overwhelmingly to my plea for material and suggestions. I am indebted to the following for suggestions and research material:

Aerospace Industries Association  
of America, Inc.  
American Association of Engineers  
American Institute of Physics  
American Nuclear Society/American  
Society for Engineering  
Education  
American Rocket Society  
American Society for Metals  
American Standards Association  
Armed Forces Communications  
and Electronics Association  
Baldwin Piano Company  
Beckman Instruments, Inc.

Bendix Corporation  
Defense Documentation Center for  
Scientific and Technical Informa-  
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Donner Scientific Company  
Duke University  
Electronic Industries Association  
General Dynamics  
General Electric Company  
Hughes Research Laboratories of  
Hughes Aircraft Company  
Illuminating Engineering Society  
Institute for Defense Analyses  
(IDA)

Institute of Radio Engineers  
International Business Machines  
Corporation (IBM)  
Inter-Range Instrumentation  
Group, Air Force Flight Test  
Center  
Laboratory for Electronics, Inc.  
Lenkurt Electronics, Inc.  
Massachusetts Institute of Tech-  
nology  
Mycalex Corporation of America  
Nuclear Instruments  
Pacific Telephone and Telegraph  
Company  
Radio Technical Commission for  
Aeronautics

Raytheon Company  
San Francisco State College  
Sperry Gyroscope Company  
Stauffer Metals Division, Stauffer  
Chemical Company  
United States Steel Corporation  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California Press  
Varian Associates  
WED Enterprises (Walt Disney  
Enterprises)  
Western Electronic Manufacturers  
Association  
Westinghouse Corporation



## EXPLANATORY GUIDE

This is a new concept in books; therefore the following rather lengthy details are presented for its use. The book is designed to serve two purposes: First, it is a word speller. To determine the spelling, capitalization, etc., of a word, simply look in the alphabetical listing for the correct usage. Second, if additional information is desired, the numerical references immediately following the term identify publications where this information can be obtained. A key to these reference numbers is given in the next section. Thus, to obtain a definition of a given item, first refer to the alphabetical listing and note the reference numbers; then use the key to reference numbers to determine the publications containing the information.

Where usage has dictated, there are exceptions to Webster's listings in this book, e.g., ac, dc, and x-ray. Capitals have been indicated where Webster's indicates *cap* and *usu cap*, but not when *often cap* or *sometimes cap*. The trend is toward lower case. It is my thought that there is no way to estimate the slowing of progress due to typists being required to capitalize unnecessarily. Lower case has also been used for German nouns that have been anglicized by Webster's Unabridged. Where Webster's gives equal value to two or more spellings, the simpler one was chosen, e.g., "programing" not "programming."

So that as much information as possible on a given subject could be readily found, the s's for possessive and plural listings were frequently omitted. This system permits references to encyclopedia articles to be included with references to dictionaries; also, laws and rules appear together. For example, the entry for "amplifier" refers to several dictionaries where the definition may be found. Also included is a reference to an encyclopedia (No. 80) where an article on "amplifiers" is located. A few entries in this book appear in the sources only under abbreviations.

The same term may have different applications. Often explanatory information is included in parentheses following the term so you can determine which entry is applicable. If not, reference to the Key to References will lead you to the desired information. For example, a term having references to No. 77 (guided missiles) and No. 114 (computers) should not cause confusion.

Twelve dictionaries were checked in order to show several sources. These dictionaries are numbers 11, 20, 23, 29, 30, 33, 56, 72, 77, 114, 115, and 116. They are listed in numerical order and identified in the Key to References. Since these dictionaries were found to vary in such arrangements as alphabetization and cross-references, the task of checking every item against these twelve dictionaries was extremely tedious. Therefore, no claim is made that all possible numbers appear with each term, nor is the claim made that every listing in the sources has been included. The purpose has been to indicate a sufficient number so that the user may get a choice of sources for information, and also a good picture of what each book contains. Most sources do not define acronyms but indicate the complete terms only; therefore, some of the acronyms have not been checked against the twelve dictionaries.

In addition to the dictionaries and other reference books listed, additional sources were also searched. Many of these contained so few terms that inclusion in the Key to References was not justified. Reference No. 3 (Miscellaneous) was assigned for these sources. These listings are included to establish the validity of the terms and to show the correct spelling. Finally, appearing at the end of the book is a list of approximately 200 words which are often misspelled.

## KEY TO REFERENCES

- 3 Miscellaneous (*See Explanatory Guide*).
- 11 Spitz, Armand, and Frank Gaynor. *Dictionary of Astronomy and Astronautics*. Paterson, New Jersey: Littlefield, Adams & Co., 1960. 2200 terms
- 18 Brochures. Lamp Division, General Electric Company. Nela Park, Cleveland 12, Ohio
- 20 *International Dictionary of Physics and Electronics*. Second Edition. Princeton, New Jersey: D. Van Nostrand, Inc., 1961. 8000 terms, Illustrated.
- 22 *Steep-gradient Aircraft Navigation, Communication and Traffic Control*. (Paper 209-60-DO-106 August 10, 1960. SC63 and SC63A). *Potential Methods of Remoting ATC Radar Beacon System Information*. (Paper 130-56/DO-73 July 11, 1956. SC-69). Both prepared by Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics Room 1072, Bldg. T-5, 16th and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington 25, D.C.
- 23 Sarbacher, Robert I. *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Electronics and Nuclear Engineering*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1959. 1417 pages, Illustrated.
- 24 *Glossary of Computer Terms*. IBM Data Processing Division, 340 Market St., San Francisco, California 94111.
- 25 Brochures. Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., 140 New Montgomery, San Francisco, California.
- 29 Gaynor, Frank. *Aerospace Dictionary*. New York, New York: Philosophical Library 1960. 260 pages.
- 30 Heflin, Woodford Agee, ed. *United States Air Force Dictionary*. Research Studies Institute, Air University. Air University Press, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. 1956 with 1957 addenda. 582 pages.
- 32 Scientific Information Center of the Department of Defense, and Activity of the Air Force Systems Command. *Thesaurus of ASTIA Descriptors*, Second Edition. Armed Services Technical Information Agency December, 1962. 591 pages. NOTE: Under normal circumstances the Agency does not supply copies of this material

- except to Government and Department of Defense Agencies and their contractors. Available in some libraries.
- 33 Cooke, Nelson M. and John Markus. *Electronics and Nucleonics Dictionary*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1960. 13,000 terms, Illustrated.
  - 36 *Science Program*. Monthly Publication by Subscription. (Various scientific authors) Garden City, New York: Nelson Doubleday, Inc. Prepared with cooperation of Science Service, Washington, D.C.
  - 46 Booklets. Distributed by Public Relations Department, American Institute of Physics, 335 E. 45th St., New York 17, New York. Some of the following represented in this book. Glossaries of Terms frequently used in: Acoustics, 46A; Nuclear Physics, 46B; Optics and Spectroscopy, 46C; Plasma Physics, 46D; Solid State Physics, 46E; High Energy Physics, 46F.
  - 54 Brochures. United States Steel Corporation, 525 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania.
  - 56 Gentle, Ernest J. ch. ed. and Charles Edward Chapel, assoc. ed: *Aviation and Space Dictionary*, Fourth edition. Los Angeles, California: Aero Publishers, Inc., 1961, 444 pages, Illustrated.
  - 60 Elsevier's *Dictionary of Automation in Six Languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, and German*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Co. (Distributed by D. VanNostrand Co., Inc. Princeton, New Jersey). 1961. 3390 terms.
  - 70 *Short Glossary of Space Terms: NASA SP-1*. Washington, D.C.; Government Printing Office. 1962
  - 71 *Space Encyclopedia (A Guide to Astronomy and Space Research)*, Revised Edition. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1960. 700 terms, Illustrated.
  - 72 Graf, Rudolf F. *Modern Dictionary of Electronics*, Second Edition. Indianapolis, Indiana: Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 1963. 12,400 terms, Illustrated.
  - 77 Merrill, Grayson, ed. *Dictionary of Guided Missiles and Space Flight (Principles of Guided Missile Design)*. Princeton, New Jersey: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. 1959. 688 pages, Illustrated.
  - 80 Susskind, Charles, ed. *Encyclopedia of Electronics*. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation. 1962. 500 articles arranged alphabetically, Illustrated.
  - 83 *Metals Handbook: Volume 1, "Properties and Selection of Metals,"* Eighth Edition. American Society for Metals. 1961. 1300 pages, Illustrated.  
*Metals Handbook: Volume 2, "Heat Treating, Cleaning and Finishing."* American Society for Metals 1964. 708 pages, Illustrated.
  - 84 IRIG Documents. Documents: 110-60 *Glossary of Terms, Electronic Trajectory Measurements Working Group*. 113-60 *Glossary of Terms, Meteorological Working Group*, 1960. Inter-Range Instru-

- mentation Group of the Range Commanders Conference, Armed Services Technical Information Agency (ASTIA) Arlington Hall Station, Arlington 12, Virginia.
- 114 Howard W. Sams Technical Staff. *Pocket Dictionary of Computer Terms*, First Edition. Indianapolis, Indiana: Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 1962. 1000 terms.
- 115 Howard Sams Engineering Staff: *Dictionary of Electronics Communications Terms*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc. 1963, 2500 terms.
- 116 Goldstein, Milton. *Dictionary of Modern Acronyms and Abbreviations*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc. 1963, 6,000 terms.
- 117 *Ordnance Technical Terminology* (a Government Research Report) ST 9-152. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1962, 355 pages.
- 118 Graham, Frank D. *Audels New Electric Science Dictionary*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Theodore Audel & Co., 1963, 9,000 terms.
- 120 Richmond, Joseph C. ed. *Measurement of Thermal Radiation Properties of Solids* NASA SP-31. (A Symposium held at Dayton Ohio September 1962) Washington, D.C. 20402: U.S. Government Printing Office.



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 2. Air defense artillery, 116  
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 4. automatic data acquisition, 116  
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 ADDAR (acronym) automatic digital data acquisition and recording, 116  
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Apac (acronym)  
1. airborne parabolic arc computer, 116  
2. Aireaearch pneumatic analog computer, 116  
Apads (acronym) automatic programmer and data system, 116  
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Apati (acronym) automatic programmer and test system, 116  
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APEX (acronym) all-purpose electronic x-ray computer, 23  
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Apic (acronym) automatic power-input controller, 116  
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APL/JHU Applied Physics Lab., Johns Hopkins Univ., 77  
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 APPECS (acronym) adaptive pattern perceiving electronic computer system, 114  
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 APRIL (acronym) automatically programed remote indication logging, 116  
 apron grapnel, 118  
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 APT (acronym) automatic picture transmission, 116  
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 ARADCOM (acronym) Army Air Defense Command, 116  
 Arago disk, 118  
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 ARC (acronym)  
     1. automatic range control, 116  
     2. automatic ratio control, 116  
     3. analyzer-recorder-controller, 116  
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 ARCH (acronym) articulated computing hierarchy, 116  
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 Arda (acronym) analog recording dynamic analyzer, 116  
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ARE (acronym) aircraft reactor experiment, 116  
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 AREA (acronym)  
     1. Amateur Radio Emergency Association, 116  
     2. American Railway Engineering Association, 116  
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 AREC (acronym) Advanced Rocket Engineering Club, 116  
 A-register, 60  
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 AREP (acronym) Ammunition Reliability Evaluation Program, 117  
 Argand diagram, 20, 23  
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 ARGMA (acronym) Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency, 29, 116  
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 Argonaut (acronym) Argonne's reactor for university training, 23, 116  
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 ARGUS (acronym) automatic routine generating and updating system, 114, 116  
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 Arinc (acronym) Aeronautical Radio, Incorporated, 77  
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 ARM (acronym)  
     1. amateur radio monitor, 116  
     2. antiradar missile, 116  
 ARMA (acronym) American Records Management Association, 116

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 ARMS (acronym) aerial radiological monitoring system, 116  
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 Army-Navy numbering system, 77  
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 ARPAT (acronym) Advanced Research Projects Agency's Terminal, 116  
 ARPO (acronym)  
 1. applied research program, 116  
 2. Aerial phenomenal Research Organization, 116  
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 ART (acronym)  
 1. advanced research and technology, 116  
 2. airborne radiation thermometer, 116  
 3. arc-resistance testers, 116  
 4. automatic reporting telephone, 116  
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 artron (acronym) artificial neuron, 116  
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 ASAC (acronym) air service area command, 30  
 asap (acronym) as soon as possible, 30, 116  
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 Ascot (acronym) analog self-checking automatic tester, 116  
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 ASCOP (acronym) Applied Science Corporation, 77  
 A-scope, 20, 23, 30, 33, 56, 72, 77  
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 ASECNA (acronym) Agency for Air Navigation Security in Africa and Madagascar, 116  
 ASESA (acronym) Armed Services Electrostandards Agency, 23, 30, 77, 116  
 ASH (acronym) assault support helicopter, 116  
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 A-signal, 30, 33  
 ASIPIRE (acronym) Army Snow, Ice and Permafrost Research Establishment, 116  
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 ASNE (acronym) American Society of Naval Engineers, 116  
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 ATAS (acronym) Academy of TV Arts and Sciences, 116  
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 ATCA (acronym) Air Traffic Control Association, 116  
 ATCO (acronym) Air Traffic Coordinating Officer, 116  
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 athodyd (acronym) aerothermodynamic duct, 23, 29, 30, 56, 77, 116  
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 NABUG (acronym) National Association of Broadcast Unions and Guilds, 116  
 NACA (acronym) National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 23, 29, 30  
 NACE (acronym) National Association of Corrosion Engineers, 116  
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 NACOR (acronym) National Advisory Committee on Radiation, 116  
 NACOS (acronym) National Communications Schedule, 116  
 NaDevCen (acronym) Naval Air Development Center, 29, 30, 77  
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 NAECON (acronym) National Aeronautical Electronics Conference, 116  
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 NAMTC (acronym) Naval Air Missile Test Center, 77  
 NANAC (acronym) National Aircraft Noise Abatement Council, 116  
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 NANEP (acronym) Navy Air Navigation Electronics Project, 116  
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 1. National Association of Purchasing Agents, 116  
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 NASMO (acronym) NATO Starfighter Management Office, 116  
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NATESA (acronym) National Alliance of TV and Electronic Service Associations, 116  
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## WORDS OFTEN MISPELLED

absence	corroborate
accede	council (assembly)
accelerate	counsel (noun or verb; advice)
accessible	definitely
accommodate	description
achieve	desirable
acknowledgment	despair
advantageous	development
affect (to produce an effect)	dilemma
align	dilettante
all right	disappear
altar (raised structure)	disappoint
alter (to change)	discriminate
analyze	dissipate
arraign	drunkenness
balloon	ecstasy
benefited	effect (a result)
bureaus	embarrassment
calendar	envelop (verb)
canvas (noun)	envelope (noun)
canvass (verb)	erroneous
capital (of a letter or chief city)	exaggerate
capitol (building)	exceed
category	exhilaration
changeable	existence
chauffeur	extraordinary
clientele	facsimile
committee	February
comparative	fluorescent
concede	forty
connoisseur	fulfill
conscience	idiosyncrasy
conscious	immediately
consensus ("of opinion" redundant)	incidentally
coolly	indispensable
cooperate	inflammable
coordinate	inimitable
corps	inoculate
	insistent

installation  
 inveigle  
 irrelevant  
 irresistible  
 irrevocable  
 irritable  
 its (possessive)  
 it's (contraction for it is)  
 jeopardize  
 judgment  
 khaki  
 knowledge  
 laboratory  
 lacquer  
 ledger  
 legitimate  
 leisure  
 liaison  
 license  
 likable  
 liquefy  
 loose (free)  
 lose (to misplace)  
 macroscope  
 maintenance (never  
     maintainance)  
 maneuver  
 microscope  
 mileage  
 miscellaneous  
 missile  
 misspelling  
 mortgage  
 movable  
 necessary  
 necessity  
 newsstand  
 nickel  
 noticeable  
 nuisance  
 occasionally  
 occurred  
 occurrence  
 ordinance (law)  
 ordnance (military)  
 oscillate

pageant  
 pamphlet  
 panicky  
 parachute  
 parallel  
 parcel (a package)  
 parliamentary  
 partial (part of)  
 pasteurize  
 pastime  
 Pentagon  
 permissible  
 perseverance  
 persistent  
 personally  
 personnel  
 Philippine  
 physician  
 Pittsburg, Calif.  
 Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 plagiarism  
 ponential  
 possesses  
 possession  
 potential  
 precede  
 precious  
 preliminary  
 principal (chief)  
 principle (rule)  
 privilege  
 procedure  
 proceed  
 promissory  
 pronunciation  
 propeller  
 prophecy (noun)  
 prophesy (verb)  
 psychology  
 pursue  
 questionnaire  
 quixotic  
 quotient  
 recede  
 receipt  
 receive

recipient  
recommend  
reconcile  
reconnaissance  
recurrence  
reference  
relevant  
relief  
repetition  
rhythmical  
ridiculous  
sacrilegious  
satellite  
Schenectady, N.Y.  
seize  
separate  
sergeant

stationary (fixed)  
stationery (writing paper)  
succeed  
suddenness  
superintendent  
supersede  
surprise  
tariff  
tranquility  
truly  
tyrannize  
until  
vacillate  
vacuum  
vicious  
weird





