

errant [ER-uh' nt]

[adjective]

MEANING:

1. given to travelling; roving, esp. in search of an adventure
2. straying from the proper course or accepted standards
3. moving about without an aim or direction
4. notorious; characterised by wrong behaviour

USAGE EXAMPLE 1:

The popular and endearing “Sindbad the sailor” fables are about an errant sailor from Baghdad who voyages on all the seven seas and amasses a fortune.

USAGE EXAMPLE 2:

When I nail into vulnerable areas like door jambs, I use shims to protect the trim from errant hammer marks.

Reader's Digest, The Family Handyman, Protection Against Hammer Marks, Craig Genesee, September 2000,

daunt [dawnt, dahnt]

[transitive verb]

MEANING:

1. to intimidate, horrify or frighten
2. to dishearten or discourage

USAGE EXAMPLE 1:

He was daunted by the enormity of the task before him.

USAGE EXAMPLE 2:

The first 20 overs with an SG ball by genuinely fast bowlers can daunt any batting line-up of the world.

The Times of India, Pacers will hold key for Pakistan, Rashid Latif, 21 February 2005.

agile [AJ-uh' l, AJ-ahyl]

[adjective]

MEANING:

1. nimble or marked by swift, easy grace

2. acute, sharp or swift mentally

USAGE EXAMPLE 1:

He was well known for his agile mind and fast reflexes.

USAGE EXAMPLE 2:

The distinctive swimming technique of a bony fish is being used to develop agile, propeller less submarines.

BBC, Robot fins to propel submarines, 31 July 2007

turquoise [TUR-koiz, -kwoiz]

[noun]

MEANING:

1. a mineral greenish-blue in colour and used as a gem

2. a greenish-blue colour

USAGE EXAMPLE 1:

He presented his girlfriend with a beautiful, turquoise necklace on her birthday.

USAGE EXAMPLE 2:

Pilgrims journey overland from the remotest regions of Tibet to congregate here, in a colourful parade of striped aprons, yak-skin boots, bowler hats, silver, turquoise and agate beads.

exorcise [EK-sawr-sahyz]

[transitive verb]

MEANING:

1. to command or force to depart or to expel by incantation or prayer

2. to free a person who is possessed from an evil spirit

USAGE EXAMPLE 1:

He told the couple that their house was haunted and that he knew someone who would exorcise the demon for a small fee.