aeons

(British English)

Extremely long periods of time. Spelt “eons” in the US.

> *“For sunset and stars breath aeons air with a perspective of immortal care.”*

aloof

(everyday)

Distant and cool in manner; not friendly or keen to join in with others.

> *“It was far better to appear aloof from afar, cool, detached and decidedly casual.”*

arboreal

(formal)

Relating to trees, or living in trees.

> *“Even as the frost layers as moss, as ice-armour plates cover earth, they stand in supreme arboreal self-worth.”*

blanches

(everyday)

Turns pale or loses its colour. (Cooks also use “blanch” to mean dip food briefly in boiling water.)

> *“The marram grass blanches as salt wind is stuck on repeat.”*

bonhomie

(formal)

Say it: /ˈbänəmē/

A cheerful, friendly and good-natured disposition, or a warm feeling of friendliness among a group of people.

> *“A bonhomie of snowy-cloud chattered its cargo upon the sleepy country town.”*

chilblained

(everyday)

A chilblain is a painful, itchy red swelling of the skin caused by cold. We use it when cold weather is enough to feel like a burn or redden the skin.

> *“Moonlight as a maternal hand soothed the shock of chilblained land.”*

constellations

(everyday)

Groups of stars that make a pattern and have a name.

> *“Sunset or sunrise, the constellations are constant.”*

cosset

(everyday)

To look after and protect someone or something with great care and kindness; to pamper.

> *“For they light up the Heavens and cosset the Earth.”*

feigned

(everyday)

Pretended; not real.

> *“So, rascal raspberries blew with threads of pumpkin and heather petals too. Until the twilight took over with equal feigned disdain.”*

gentility

(everyday)

Polite, respectable good manners. It can also mean belonging to a high social class.

> *“Gentility was given in a generous dose, and all for the sake of the wildest rose.”*

glacial

(everyday)

Say it: /ˈglāSH(ə)l/

Relating to, caused by or produced by glaciers or ice. It can also mean extremely cold, cold and unfriendly (a glacial stare), or extremely slow (a glacial pace).

> *“Glacial clouds coast a wintry sky, where cold air meets colder and cruises higher.”*

glade

(literary)

An open, grassy space without trees in a wood or forest.

> *“All around the woodland and glade stirred, the silent announcement loudly heard.”*

hearth

(everyday)

Say it: /härTH/

The brick, stone or concrete floor of a fireplace and the non-combustible area immediately extending into the room. In everyday speech, the fireplace itself.

> *“Hearth fires roared. Music elevated. Souls found the merriest season's salvation. Secluded sanctuary. Smiles as gentle faeries.”*

indignantly

(everyday)

In a way that shows you are shocked and angry because something seems unfair.

> *“Twigs rustled indignantly even as they granted birds shelter, even as they rerouted rude winds down their helter-skelter.”*

loam

(everyday)

Rich, dark soil made of sand, clay and rotted plant matter, good for growing things.

> *“As a delinquent anti-ghost it roamed to happily haunt the frosty loam and send white wisps of vapour skyward.”*

resolute

(formal)

Firm and determined; not giving up or changing your mind.

> *“Evergreen trees stand resolute in crystalline cloaks, deep rooted beneath the white dunes of sunlight smoke.”*

resplendent

(formal)

Looking brilliant and splendid; bright and impressive to see.

> *“The trees were resplendent in white cloaks amid patches of sunlight-smoke, curling as my breath with a song of its own.”*

ruddy

(everyday)

Red or reddish in colour, often in a healthy, warm way.

> *“It blazed so merry, those hearth-some lights, bringing a ruddy glow to the frost bitten streets.”*

serenaded

(everyday)

Sang or played music for someone, traditionally outdoors in the evening.

> *“The winter sunset serenaded the stars, calling upon far those away hearths.”*

sleight of hand

(everyday)

Quick, clever movements of the hands, used to do magic tricks. It can also mean a skilful way of tricking someone.

> *“Doubtless Winter felt its storm was mighty grand, yet in conclusion the trees found it a cheap sleight of hand.”*

wayfarer

(everyday)

A traveller, especially someone who journeys on foot.

> *“How the sights delight the weariest wayfarer.”*