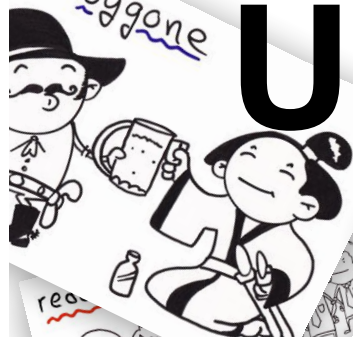


100 Common Uncommon Words

F Michael Kloran

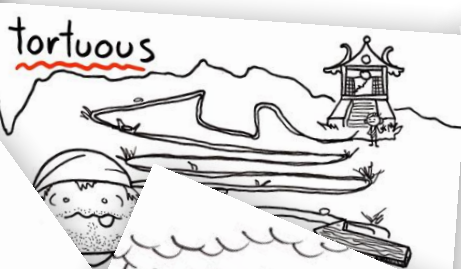
bygone



inebriated



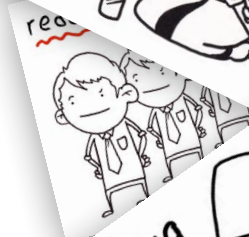
tortuous



belated



rea



humbug



panic



carte blanche



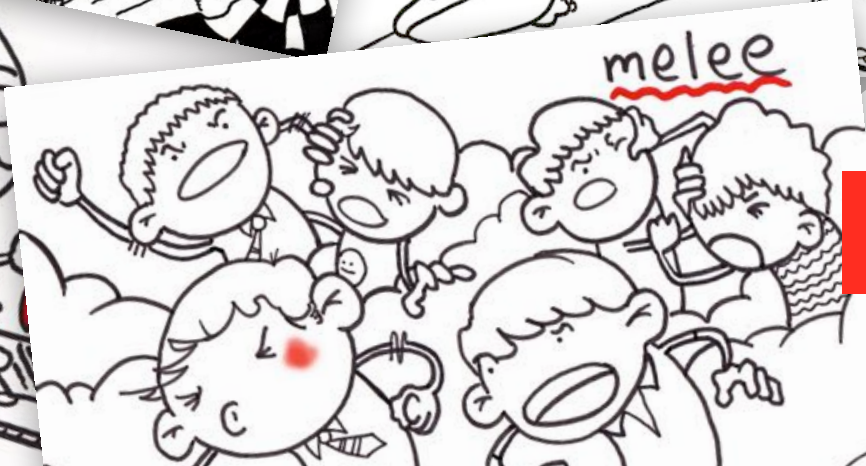
nooks and crannies



total



melee



2nd Edition

100 Common Uncommon Words

F Michael Kloran



bequeath - verb

pass on money or property to someone after you die, often in an official document called a will

More Common: leave to, pass to, pass on to, pass down to, will to

Usage: The opposite of bequeath is, *inherit*. Where *bequeath* means *give to*, *inherit* means *get from*.

bequeath



- The old man **bequeathed** all his money to his young bride, and not to his family.
- When he passed away, I _____ my uncle's home in the country.
- Old Ms. Teasdale died, and _____ all her money to charity.

gawk



gawk - verb

stare at someone or something foolishly

Also: gape at, gaze at, stare at, ogle rubberneck

Related Words: *Awe* is a feeling of respect and fear or wonder. *Awesome* means very good, and *awful* means very bad. For all of these words, the mouth is open, and relaxed making an *aw* sound.

SAMPLE

- My brother is an idiot. Every time we go to the beach, he just **gawks** at girls.
- Will you stop staring at me!? It's rude to _____ people like that!
- Whenever there's a fire, people come out to _____.

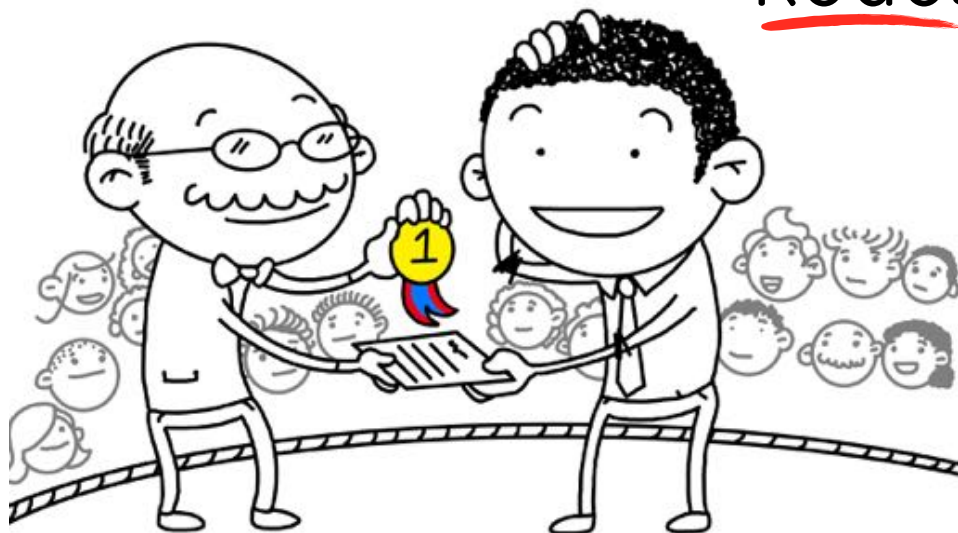
kudos - noun

praise given for something well done or accomplished

Also: congratulations, congrats (casual), praise, glory, honor, status, distinction

Usage: This word comes from Greek. It sounds plural due to the S, but there is no singular.

Take care: Use kudos with much, not many.



kudos

- Terrance received much **kudos** for his excellent writing.
- You deserve the _____ for doing such a great job.
- I'm really proud of you. This award is a great _____.

scruples



scruple - noun

a feeling of doubt about the right or wrong action or choice

More Common:

reservations, doubts, qualms

Usage: We usually use *scruples* as a plural, and in negative sentences. Try to use scruples the same way you use **doubts**.

SAMPLE

- Kevin has no **scruples** about going out with Kim even though she's married.
- I have serious _____ about whether or not I can share this information.
- If you're having _____ about doing something, take some time to think about it.

emigrate

verb - to leave one's own country in order to settle permanently in another

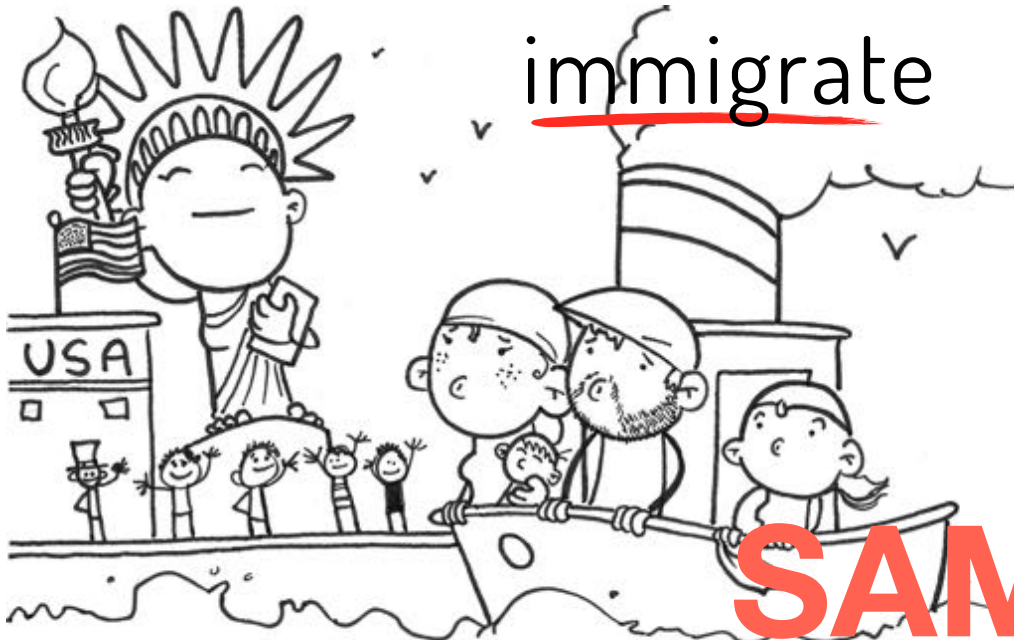
noun - emigrant

Usage: The words **emigrate** and **immigrate** are often confused even by native speakers.

Remember, use **emigrate** like *leave* or *exit*. Use **immigrate** like *come to* or *enter*.



- My family **emigrated** from Ireland in the late nineteenth century.
- After _____ from the old country, my family quickly adapted to their new lives.
- Most of the _____ had a hard time leaving their families behind.



immigrate

verb - to enter a country in order to permanently settle there

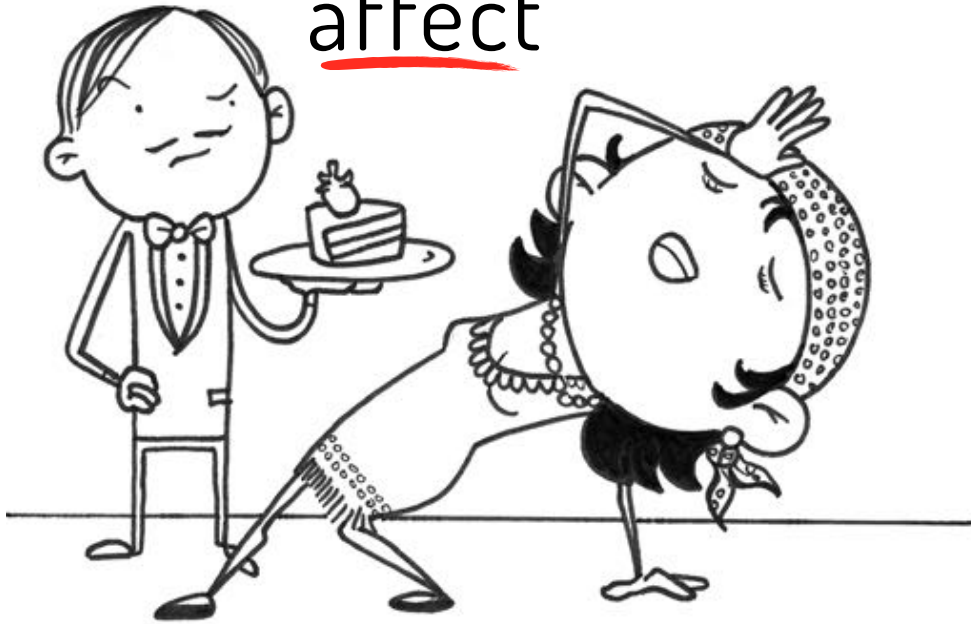
noun - immigrant

Usage: Be careful of your spelling with these two words. **Immigrate** uses two Ms where **emigrate** only uses one M.

SAMPLE

- My family **immigrated** to the United States because they were very poor in Ireland.
- Unfortunately, after my family _____ to the U.S., they were still quite poor.
- A lot of _____ are deeply homesick after moving to a new country.

affect



affect - verb

to make a difference,
to touch someone's
feelings, to attack /
infect (illness)

Usage: This word is
very often confused
with **effect**.

Affect is usually a
verb. Affecting an
accent is using or
putting on a false
voice like an actor. A
movie might *affect*
your feelings and
illness *affects* health.

- Cakes and pies greatly **affect** Mrs. Teasdale. The **effect** is that she gets over excited.
- Mr. Willard sometimes _____ a British accent when he's trying to sound smart.
- We aren't sure how this new ad campaign will _____ our long-term sales.

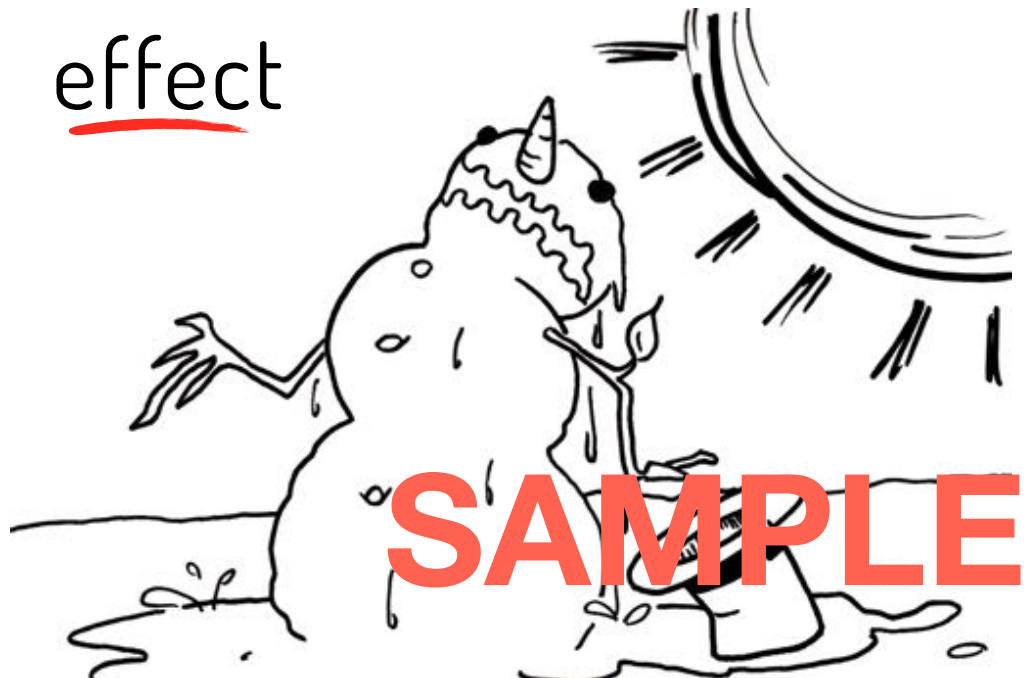
effect - noun

a change or impact,
the result of
something

Usage: Like **affect**,
effect can be both a
noun and a verb.
Effect is usually a
noun.

These words are very
similar in meaning,
spelling, and
pronunciation. Think
of *effect* as the result
and you'll usually be
all right.

effect



- Climate change is the **effect** of pollution and overuse of natural resources.
- It's hard to explain the _____ the book had on me, but it changed my life.
- The new rule about phones in school will take _____ on Monday.

principle - noun

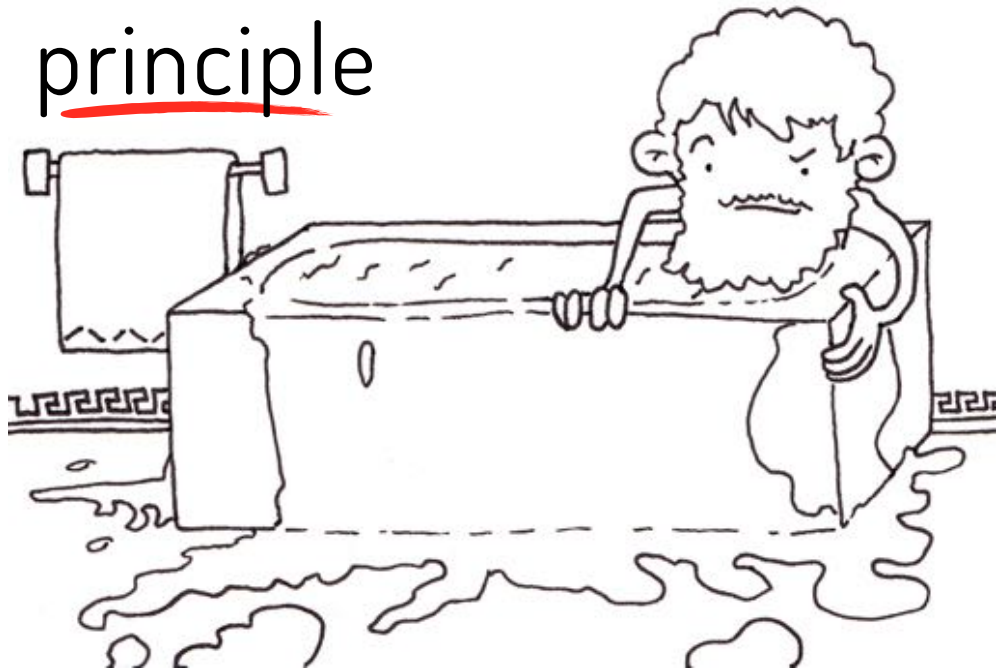
a fundamental truth that explains natural phenomena

Also: concept, idea, theory, ground rule

Usage: Archimedes' principle is a great example.

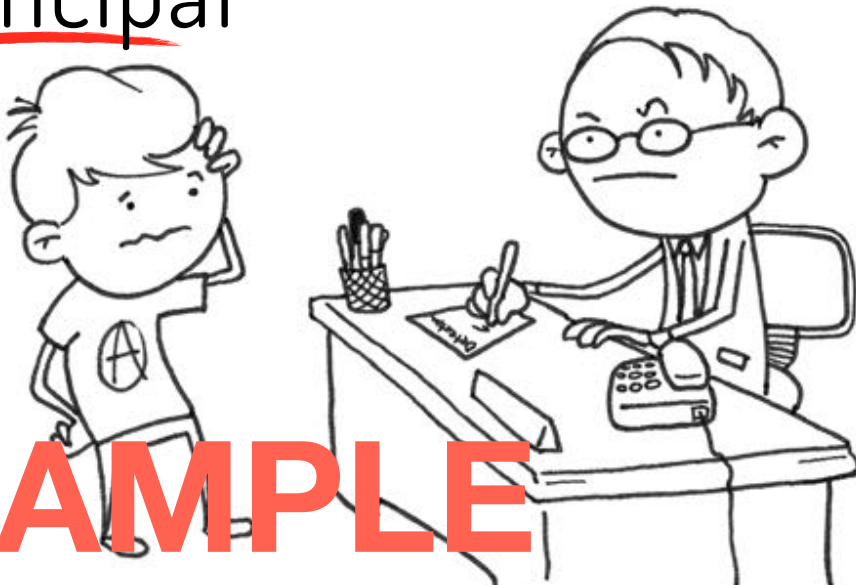
He noticed that any object placed in water displaces an amount of water equal to the upward force acting against the object.

principle



- Archimedes' **principle** explains why giant metal ships can float on water.
- They say that when he discovered his _____, Archimedes was in the bath.
- It's a little hard to understand this _____ at first, but I'm sure you'll get it.

principal



principal

noun - the leader of an elementary, junior high school, or high school

adjective - main, the first in order of importance

Also: head master, chief, primary, main

Usage: To remember the spelling, think of the leader of your school as your *pal*.

- After coming to school late again, my teacher sent me to the **principal's** office.
- In the U.K., school leaders aren't called _____. They're called head masters.
- My _____ reason for studying French was finding a job in Paris.

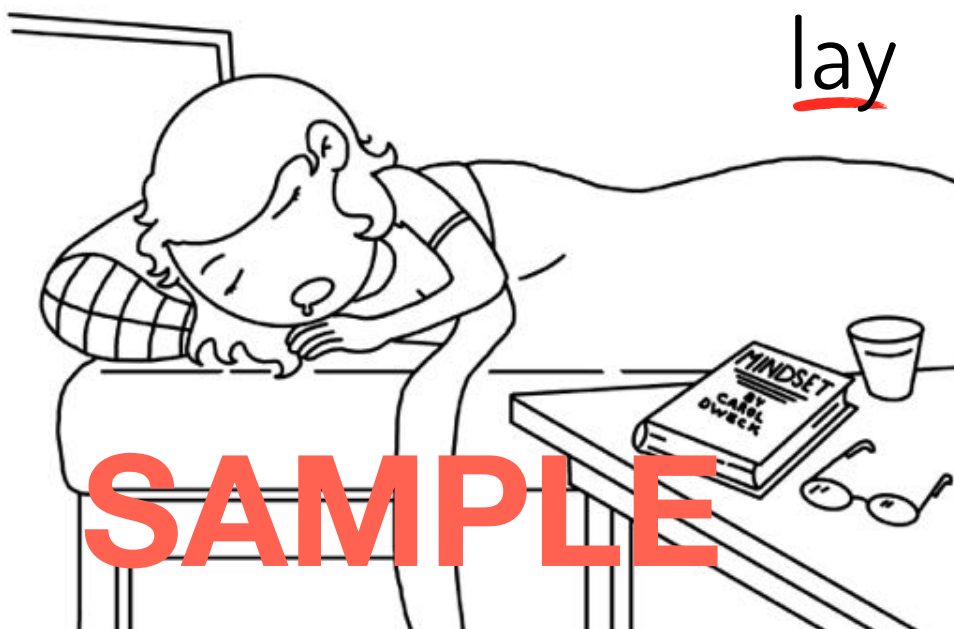
lay - verb
to set something down

Also: set, put, place

Incorrect: It's easy to confuse this word with *lie*. The past of *lie* is *lay*. *Lie* means to recline.

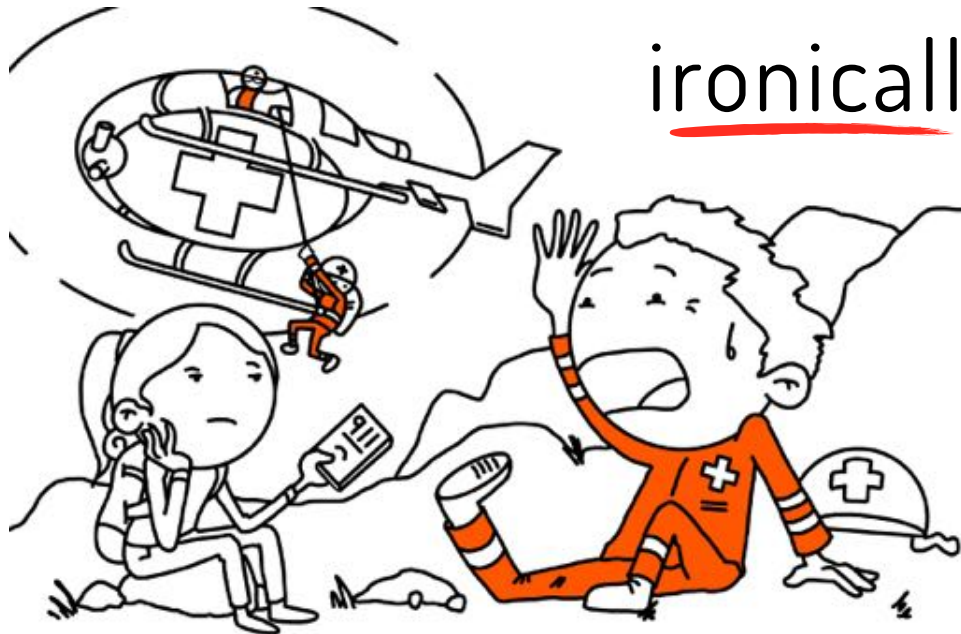
You **lie down** in bed **each night**. You **lay down** in bed **last night**.

The past of *lay* is *laid*, as in *I laid the book on the table*.



O I always **lay** out my clothes before bed. Last night when I **lay** down, I **laid** my clothes out.

X I **lied** my clothes on the sofa and **laid** down to sleep.



ironically

ironically - adverb
opposite to what is expected and sometimes a little funny

Also: paradoxical, incongruous

Incorrect: People use *irony* incorrectly to mean *sarcastic* or *coincidental*.

Something is ironic if it is opposite of what is appropriate, or fitting.

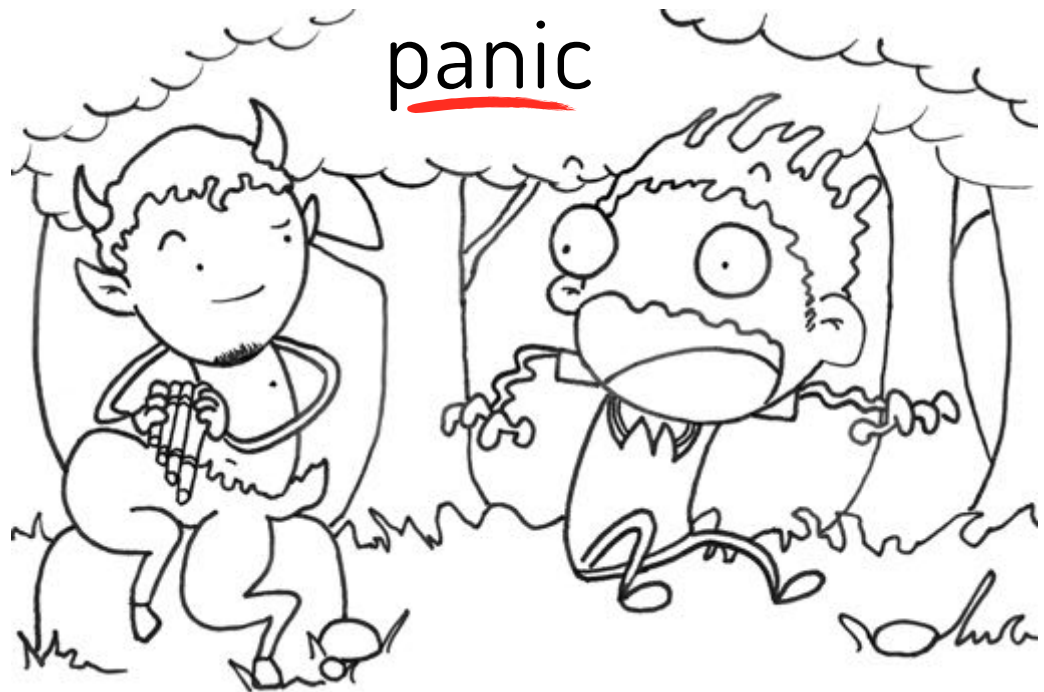
O Ironically, it was the missing hiker who saved the injured member of the rescue party.

X It's **ironic** that it rained on my wedding day, and my daughter's wedding day too.

panic - noun / verb
uncontrollable,
sudden fear causing
one to react wildly

Origin: Pan was a
Greek god who
frightened people in
the woods. When
people heard scary
noises, they said it
was because of Pan.
He is often pictured
with a flute called a
pan flute.

Spelling: the past of
panic is *panicked*.

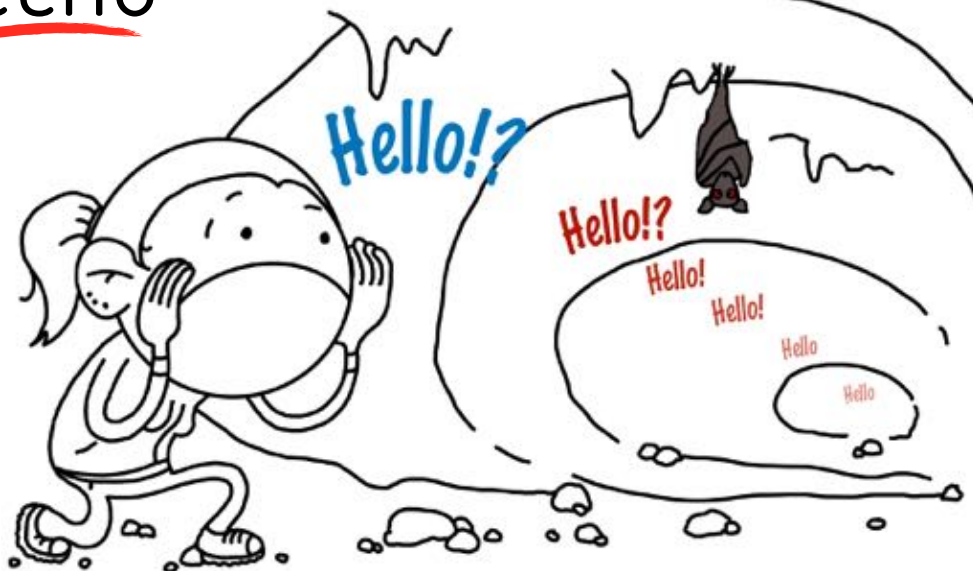


panic

- Don't **panic**, but there is a big, black spider on your shoulder.
- I saw a guy dressed up like a satyr in the park yesterday, and I seriously _____.

echo

SAMPLE



echo

noun - a sound
bounced back to us

verb - to reflect sound

Usage: Echo was a
young woman
enamored of
Narcissus. When he
didn't return her love.
She was so
heartbroken that she
faded away until only
her voice was left. She
was unable to make
original sound, and
only repeated the
sounds and words she
heard.

- Deep in the cave, my voice **echoed** back at me. It sounded like someone was calling me.
- This recording isn't very good. There's a lot of _____ on the track.