

## Word of the Week List 2006-2007

- prodigious (adj): gaining admiration or respect; extraordinary in size
- phatic (adj): relating to a conversation meant to be social rather than informative
- altruism (n): unselfish interest in the welfare of others
- elucidate (v): to make clear or explain
- grandiose (adj): impressive and splendid
- lacuna (n): missing part; gaps (missing portion, especially in a text)
- totemic (adj): symbolic; representative of a group
- clement (adj): having compassion or leniency
- glib (adj): speaking or spoken with careless ease
- paroxysm (n): sudden emotion or outburst; convulsion
- rapprochement (n): resumption of harmonious relations, especially between governments
- vitriolic (adj): extremely caustic; scathing (bitter, sarcastic, critical)
- temerity (n): recklessness
- paisano (n): pal, buddy, fellow countryman
- oscitant (adj): yawning, gaping from drowsiness
- prelapsarian (adj): relating to any innocent or carefree period in the past
- purloin (v): to steal
- pococurante (adj): indifferent, apathetic, nonchalant
- mien (n): external appearance or manner of a person
- vim (n): energy and enthusiasm
- invidious (adj): unjust, offensive, or hateful
- adagio (adv): slowly, in a leisurely manner
- capricious (adj): an inclination to do things impulsively
- impugn (v): to attack as false, often by words or argument
- vociferous (adj): marked by loud outcry
- acquiesce (v): to accept, comply, or submit without open opposition
- profligate (adj): recklessly extravagant; wasteful
- meliorist (n): someone who thinks humanity has the ability to make the world better
- ague (n): a fit of fever or chills
- macabre (adj): suggesting death's horrors
- deke (n): to deceive an opponent in a false or fake movement
- cynosure (n): one who is the center of attraction or interest
- tocsin (n): an alarm bell or a warning signal
- brickbat (n): an insult; also a missile