

Michigan's Adult Literacy Project



General Service List

The First 1000 Words of the General Service List
West, 1953

a	after	ancient	association
able	again	and	at
about	against	animal	attack
above	age	another	attempt
accept	agent	another	average
accord	ago	answer	away
account	agree	any	back
across	air	appear	bad
act	all	apply	ball
actual	allow	appoint	bank
add	almost	arise	bar
address	alone	arm	base
admit	along	army	battle
adopt	already	around	be
advance	also	arrive	bear
advantage	although	art	beauty
adventure	always	article	because
affair	among	as	become
afford	amount	ask	bed
	an		before

begin	boat	can	city
behind	body	canal	claim
being	book	capital	class
believe	born	captain	clean
belong	box	car	clear
below	boy	care	close
beneath	branch	carry	cloud
best	bread	case	club
better	break	castle	coal
between	bridge	cause	coast
beyond	bright	centre	coin
big	bring	century	cold
bill	broad	certain	college
bird	brother	chair	colony
bit	build	chance	color
black	burn	change	come
bless	business	character	comfort
blood	but	charge	command
blow	buy	chief	committee
blue	by	child	common
board	call	choose	company
boat	camp	church	compare
		circle	

complete	cross	deliver	dog
concern	crowd	demand	dollar
condition	crown	department	door
connect	cry	depend	double
consider	current	describe	down
contain	custom	desert	draw
content	cut	desire	dream
continue	dance	destroy	dress
control	danger	detail	drink
corn	dare	determine	drive
corner	dark	develop	drop
cost	date	die	dry
cotton	daughter	difference	due
could	day	difficult	duty
council	dead	direct	each
count	deal	discover	ear
country	dear	disease	early
course	debt	distance	earth
court	decide	distinguish	east
cover	declare	district	easy
creature	deep	divide	eat
crop	defeat	do	edge
	degree		effect

effort	example	famous	first
egg	excellent	fancy	fish
either	except	far	fit
elect	exchange	farm	fix
else	exercise	fashion	flag
empire	exist	fast	floor
employ	expect	fate	flow
end	expense	favor	fly
enemy	experience	fear	follow
English	experiment	feed	for
enjoy	explain	feel	force
enough	express	fellow	foreign
enter	extend	few	forest
entire	eye	field	forget
equal	face	fight	form
escape	fact	figure	former
even	factory	fill	forth
evening	fail	find	fortune
event	fair	fine	free
ever	faith	finger	fresh
every	fall	finish	friend
evil	familiar	fire	from
	family		

front		heaven	
	grave		ideal
full		heavy	
	great		if
furnish		help	
	green		ill
future		her	
	ground		important
gain		here	
game	grow		impossible
	guard	hide	
garden		high	in
gas	gun		inch
	habit	hill	
gate	hall	his	include
	hand	history	increase
gather		hold	
	handle	home	indeed
general		honest	independent
gentle	hang		influence
get	happen	honor	instead
	happy	hope	intend
give		horse	interest
	hard	hot	
glad	hardly	hour	into
	have	house	introduce
glass		how	
glory	he	human	iron
go	head		it
	health	I	its
God	hear		join
gold	heat	idea	joy
good			
grain			

judge		long	material
	leave		
just		look	matter
	leg		
keep		lord	may
	less		me
kill		lose	
	let		mean
kind		lost	
	letter		measure
king		lot	
	level		member
know		love	
	liberty		memory
lack		low	
	library		mention
lady		machine	
	lie		merchant
lake		main	
	life		mere
land		make	
	lift		metal
language		man	
	light		middle
large		manner	
	like		might
last		manners	
	likely		mile
late		manufacture	
	line		milk
latter		many	
	limit		mind
laugh		march	
	lip		mine
law		mark	
lay		market	minister
	listen		
lead		market	minute
	literature		
leaf		marry	
	little		miss
learn		mass	
	live		mistake
least		master	
	local		modern

moment	near	occasion	other
money	necessary	ocean	otherwise
month	neck	of	ought
moon	need	off	out of
more	neighbor	offer	out
moreover	neither	office	over
morning	never	often	owe
most	new	oil	own
mother	next	old	page
motion	night	once	pain
motor	no	one	paint
mountain	noble	only	paper
mouth	none	onto	part
much	nor	open	particular
music	north	operation	party
must	not	opinion	pass
my	note	opportunity	past
name	nothing	or	pay
narrow	notice	or	peace
nation	now	order	people
native	number	ordinary	per
nature	object	organize	perfect
	observe		perhaps

permanent	practical	propose	realize
permit	practice	protect	really
person	prepare	prove	reason
picture	present	provide	receive
piece	preserve	public	recent
place	president	pull	recognize
plain	press	purpose	record
plan	pretty	put	red
plant	prevent	quality	reduce
play	price	quantity	refuse
please	print	queen	regard
poet	private	question	regular
point	problem	quiet	relation
political	produce	quite	religion
poor	product	race	remain
popular	production	raise	remark
population	profit	rank	remember
position	program	rate	rent
possess	progress	rather	repeat
possible	promise	reach	reply
post	proper	read	report
power	property	ready	represent
		real	

republic		send	show
reserve	safe	sense	side
respect	sail	separate	sign
rest	sale	serious	silence
result	salt	serve	silver
return	same	set	simple
rich	sand	settle	since
ride	say	several	sing
right	scale	shade	single
ring	scarce	shadow	sir
rise	scene	shake	sister
river	school	shall	sit
road	science	shape	situation
rock	sea	share	size
roll	season	she	skill
room	seat	shine	sky
rough	second	ship	slave
round	secret	shoe	sleep
royal	secretary	shoot	slight
ruin	see	shore	slow
rule	seem	short	small
run	seize	should	smile
rush	sell	shout	

snow	spring	street	surround
so	square	stretch	sweet
society	stage	strike	sword
soft	stand	strong	system
soil	standard	struggle	table
soldier	star	study	take
some	start	subject	talk
son	state	substance	taste
soon	stay	succeed	tax
sort	steel	such	teach
soul	step	sudden	tear
sound	stick	suffer	tell
south	still	sugar	temple
space	stock	suggest	tend
speak	stone	summer	term
special	stop	sun	terrible
speed	store	supply	test
spend	storm	support	than
spirit	story	suppose	that
spite	straight	sure	the
sport	strange	surface	theatre
spot	stream	surprise	their
spread			them

then	top	up	war
there	total	upon	warn
therefore	touch	upper	waste
these	toward/s	use	watch
they	town	usual	water
thing	trade	valley	wave
think	train	value	way
this	travel	various	we
though	tree	very	wealth
thought	trouble	vessel	wear
through	true	victory	weather
throw	trust	view	week
thus	try	village	welcome
till	turn	virtue	well
time	type	visit	west
title	uncle	voice	western
to	under	vote	what
today	understand	wage/s	when
together	union	wait	where
ton	unite	walk	whether
too	university	wall	which
tooth	unless	want	while
	until		white

who	window	woman	write
whose	wine	wonder	wrong
why	wing	wood	year
wide	winter	word	yes
wife	wise	work	yet
wild	wish	world	yield
will	with	worse	you
win	within	worth	young
wind	without	wound	

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abroad	ambition	astonish	basin
absence	amongst	attend	basket
absolutely	amuse	attract	bath
accident	anger	audience	bay
accuse	angle	aunt	beak
accustom	annoy	autumn	beam
ache	anxiety	avenue	bean
actual	apart	avoid	beard
admire	apologize	awake	beast
advertise	applaud	awkward	beat
advice	apple	axe	beg
afford	approve	baby	behave
afraid	arch	bag	bell
afternoon	argue	baggage	belt
agriculture	arrange	bake	bend
ahead	arrest	balance	beneath
aim	arrow	band	berry
airplane	artificial	bar	bicycle
alike	ash	barber	bind
alive	ashamed	bare	birth
aloud	aside	bargain	bi
altogether	asleep	barrel	bite

bitter	brush	cave	club
blade	bucket	cent	coarse
blame	bunch	century	coat
bless	bundle	ceremony	coffee
blind	burst	chain	collar
block	bury	chair	collect
boast	bus	chalk	comb
boil	bush	charm	combine
bold	busy	cheap	commerce
bone	butter	cheat	companion
border	button	check	compare
borrow	cage	cheer	compete
bottle	cake	cheese	complain
bottom	calculate	check	complicated
boundary	calm	chicken	compose
bound	camera	chimney	confess
bow	camp	Christmas	confidence
bowl	canal	civilize	confuse
brain	cap	clay	congratulate
brass	cape	clean	connect
brave	card	clerk	conquer
breakfast	carriage	clever	conscience
breath	cart	cliff	conscious
bribe	cat	climb	convenience
brick	cattle	clock	conversation
brown	caution	cloth	cook

cool	curl	despair	duck
copper	curse	devil	dull
copy	curtain	diamond	during
cork	curve	dictionary	dust
corner	cushion	dig	eager
correct	custom	dinner	earn
cottage	damage	dip	earnest
cough	damp	dirt	ease
courage	dance	disappoint	edge
cousin	dare	discipline	educate
cow	deaf	discuss	efficient
coward	debt	disease	elastic
crack	decay	disgust	elder
crash	deceive	dish	electricity
cream	decrease	dismiss	elephant
creature	deed	disturb	empty
creep	deer	ditch	enclose
crime	defend	dive	encourage
critic	delay	donkey	engine
crop	delicate	dot	entertain
cruel	delight	double	entire
crush	deliver	dozen	envelope
cultivate	descend	drag	envy
cup	desert	drawer	especial
cure	deserve	drown	essence
curious	desk	drum	everywhere

evil	female	frequent	greet
exact	fence	fright	grey
examination	fever	fruit	grind
excellent	fierce	fry	guard
excess	film	fun	guess
excuse	finger	funeral	guest
expense	firm	fur	guide
explode	flag	gallon	guilty
explore	flame	gap	habit
extra	flash	garage	hair
extraordinary	flat	gate	hall
extreme	flavor	gay	hammer
fade	flesh	generous	handkerchief
faint	float	glory	handle
false	flood	goat	harbor
fan	flour	govern	harm
fancy	fold	grace	harvest
farther	fond	gradual	haste
fashion	fool	grain	hat
fat	foot	grammar	hate
fate	forbid	grand	hay
fault	forgive	grass	heal
favorite	fork	grateful	health
feast	formal	grave	heap
feather	frame	grease	heart
feed	freeze	greed	height

hesitate	immense	jump	loaf
hinder	improve	key	loan
hire	industry	kick	lock
hit	inform	kiss	lodging
hole	ink	kitchen	log
holiday	inn	knee	lonely
hollow	inquire	kneel	loose
holy	insect	knife	lot
honest	inside	knock	loud
hook	instant	knot	loyal
horizon	instrument	ladder	luck
hospital	insult	lamp	lump
host	insure	lazy	lunch
hotel	intend	leaf	lung
humble	interfere	lean	mad
hunger	international	left	mail
hunt	interrupt	leg	male
hurry	invent	lend	manage
hurt	invite	lessen	map
hut	inward/s	lesson	mat
ice	jaw	liberty	match
ideal	jealous	lid	meal
idle	jewel	limb	meanwhile
imagine	joint	liquid	meat
imitate	journey	list	mechanic
immediate	juice	load	medicine

melt	needle	otherwise	perform
mend	neglect	overcome	permanent
merchant	nephew	pack	pet
mercy	nest	pad	photograph
merry	net	pain	pick
message	nice	pair	pig
mild	niece	pale	pigeon
mill	noise	pan	pile
miserable	nonsense	parcel	pin
mistake	noon	pardon	pinch
mix	nose	parent	pink
model	noun	park	pint
modest	nuisance	passage	pipe
monkey	nurse	paste	pity
moral	nut	path	plaster
moreover	oar	patient	plenty
motion	obey	patriotic	plough
mouse	ocean	pattern	plural
mud	offend	pause	pocket
multiply	omit	paw	poet
murder	opportunity	pearl	poison
mystery	opposite	peculiar	police
nail	orange	pen	polish
narrow	organ	pencil	polite
neat	origin	penny	pool
neck	ornament	perfect	postpone

pot	proud	reflect	ripe
pour	pump	refresh	risk
poverty	punctual	regret	rival
powder	punish	regular	roar
practical	pupil	rejoice	roast
practice	pure	relieve	rob
praise	purple	remedy	rod
pray	push	remind	roof
preach	puzzle	rent	root
precious	qualify	repair	rope
prefer	quarrel	repeat	rot
prejudice	quart	replace	row
preserve	quick	reproduce	rub
pretend	quiet	reputation	rubber
pride	rabbit	request	rubbish
priest	radio	rescue	rude
print	rail	resign	rug
prison	rain	responsible	ruin
probable	rake	restaurant	ruler
procession	rapid	retire	rush
produce	rare	revenge	rust
profession	raw	review	sacred
program	ray	reward	sacrifice
prompt	razor	ribbon	sad
pronounce	recommend	rice	saddle
proof	refer	rid	sake

salary	shallow	slight	splendid
sample	shame	slip	split
sand	sharp	slope	spoil
satisfy	sheep	slow	spoon
sauce	sheet	smell	sport
saucer	shelf	smoke	staff
saw	shell	smooth	stain
scale	shelter	snake	stairs
scatter	shield	soap	stamp
scene	shilling	socks	steady
scissors	shirt	soil	steam
scold	shock	solemn	steep
scorn	shoe	solid	steer
scrape	shop	solve	stem
scratch	shout	sore	stiff
screen	shower	sorry	sting
screw	shut	soup	stir
search	sick	sour	stockings
seed	silk	sow	stomach
seize	sincere	spade	storm
seldom	sink	spare	stove
sentence	skill	spell	straight
severe	skin	spill	strap
sew	skirt	spin	straw
shade	slave	spit	stretch
shadow	slide	spite	strict

string	taxi	tie	tribe
strip	telegraph	tight	trick
stripe	telephone	tin	trip
stuff	temper	tip	trunk
stupid	temperature	tire	tube
substance	tempt	title	tune
suck	tend	tobacco	twist
sudden	tender	toe	ugly
sugar	tent	tomorrow	umbrella
suit	terrible	tongue	unclear
supper	thank/s	tonight	unit
suspect	theater	tool	unity
swallow	thick	tooth	universe
swear	thief	tough	upper
sweat	thin	tour	upright
sweep	thirst	towel	upset
swell	thorn	tower	urge
swim	thorough	toy	vain
swing	thread	track	veil
sympathy	threaten	translate	verb
tail	throat	trap	verse
tailor	thumb	tray	violent
tall	thunder	treasure	vowel
tame	ticket	treat	voyage
tap	tide	tremble	waist
taste	tidy	trial	wake

wander

warm

warn

waste

wax

weak

weapon

weather

weave

weed

weigh

wet

wheat

wheel

whip

whisper

whistle

whole

wicked

widow

wine

wing

wipe

wire

witness

wool

worm