

Abundance and Extravagance

WORD LIST

amass	embellish	extravagance	glut	inexhaustible
lavish	outrageous	profusely	spendthrift	voracious

Have you ever *embellished* the truth? Gone to a *lavish* party? Been *voraciously* hungry? The words in this lesson deal with concepts related to large or excessive amounts. Studying these words will help you to write more expressively.

- 1. amass** (ə-mās´) *verb* from Latin *massa*, “lump; mass.”
To gather or collect a large quantity
 - Saving her small change enabled her to **amass** enough money to take a cruise.
- 2. embellish** (ēm-bēl´ish) *verb* from Latin *in-*, “to” + *bellus*, “beautiful”
To add decorative details or ornaments
 - She **embellished** her handwriting with fancy swirls and dots.

embellishment *noun* The wooden lace on Victorian houses was a nineteenth-century **embellishment**.

To embellish the truth means “to exaggerate” or “to lie.”

Fancy

embellish

- 3. extravagance** (ik-strāv´ə-gəns) *noun* from Latin *extra*, “outside” + *vagary*, “to wander”
An expense or effort that is great or excessive
 - The expensive gown was an **extravagance** that she couldn’t afford.

extravagant *adjective* They filled their yard with an **extravagant** display of decorations.
- 4. glut** (glüt) *verb* from Latin *gluttire*, “to eat greedily”
To fill or eat beyond capacity; to flood with an excess of goods
 - When I **glut** myself on candy, I feel sick to my stomach.

glutton *noun* The giant in the fairy tale was a **glutton**, eating everything in sight.

gluttony *noun* Gluttony was once called one of the “Seven Deadly Sins.”
- 5. inexhaustible** (in´ig-zô´stə-bəl) *adjective* from Latin *in-*, “not” + *exaurire*, “to exhaust”
Unlimited; unable to be used up or tired out
 - The restaurant seemed to have an **inexhaustible** supply of hamburgers.

lavish (lāv'ish) from Old French *laverse*, “downpour”

- a. *adjective* Extremely plentiful and luxurious; generous in amount
• Collin was impressed by the **lavish** furnishings in the hotel room.
- b. *verb* To give in great abundance
• The mother **lavished** attention on her sick child.

lavishness *noun* Barry was embarrassed by the **lavishness** of his friend's praise.

7. **outrageous** (out-rā'jās) *adjective* from Old French *outré*, “beyond”
Going beyond proper limits
• It is **outrageous** for photographers to follow a celebrity's every move.

outrage *noun* Customers considered the sudden price increase an **outrage**.

8. **profusely** (prə-fyōōs'lē) *adverb* from Latin *pro-*, “forward”
+ *fundere*, “to pour”
Abundantly; generously

• The daffodils grew **profusely** on the hillside.

profuse *adjective* Your **profuse** use of exclamation points is inappropriate in a formal essay.

profusion *noun* A **profusion** of stars appeared in the sky, soon after the sun went down.

9. **spendthrift** (spēnd'thrift')

- a. *noun* A person who spends money wastefully or carelessly
• The **spendthrift** won the lottery—and squandered all the money in a month.
- b. *adjective* Wasteful or extravagant
• His **spendthrift** habits resulted in outrageous credit card debt.

10. **voracious** (vô-rā'shās) *adjective* from Latin *vorare*, “to devour”
Extremely hungry for large amounts of food; extremely greedy
• I had a **voracious** appetite after running the marathon.

voracity *noun* The teenagers **voracity** made it difficult for their mother to keep the pantry stocked with food.

Voracious can also mean “inexhaustible appetite for an activity,” as in “a *voracious* antique collector.”

WORD ENRICHMENT

A royal spendthrift

According to legend, Cleopatra, the last Egyptian queen, threw *lavish* parties. In one story, she claimed that she could throw the most expensive dinner party in history. The next night, when the second course arrived—a cup of vinegar—she took off an enormous pearl earring, crushed it, and dropped it in the cup. The solution fizzed and popped as the vinegar dissolved the pearl. Cleopatra then drank the *extravagant* mixture!