

Hopes and Wishes

WORD LIST

aspire	covet	envy	inclination	persevere
reluctant	tantalize	wary	willful	wistful

Hopes and wishes motivate us to strive for better things. In fact, many of us have ancestors who came to America hoping for better lives. Hopes and wishes drive everyone, from a baby taking a first step to a candidate campaigning to become president of the United States.

1. aspire (ə-spīr´) *verb* from Latin *aspirare*, “to wish for”

To have a great ambition or desire; to strive for

- Terry has always **aspired** to be an actor.

aspiration *noun* Barak Obama achieved his **aspiration** to be a U.S. senator.

2. covet (kūv´it) *verb* from Latin *cupere*, “to long for”

a. To strongly desire something belonging to another

- Louis felt guilty about **coveting** his best friend’s new convertible.

b. To long for; to crave

- The filmmaker **coveted** attention from the press.

3. envy (ēn´vē)

a. *noun* A feeling of jealousy

- Debbie choked down her feeling of **envy** and congratulated the winner.

b. *verb* To feel jealous

- Jason tried not to **envy** Carrie for having a new skateboard.

envious *adjective* Scott feels **envious** of people who have natural musical talent.

enviable *adjective* Paco developed an **enviable** pitching arm.

4. inclination (īn´klə-nā´shən) *noun* from Latin *in-*, “toward” + *clinare*, “to lean”

a. A preference; a tendency to act in a certain way

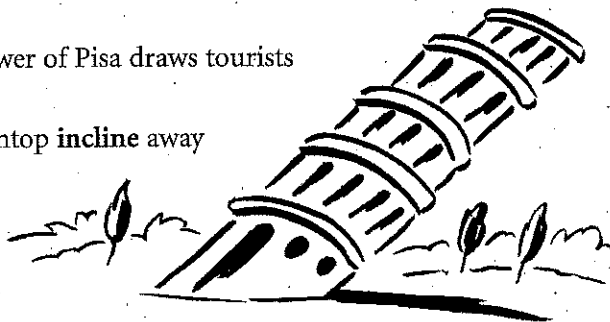
- After exercising for an hour, Seema’s **inclination** was to use the elevator rather than the stairs.

b. A slant or a leaning

- The **inclination** of the Leaning Tower of Pisa draws tourists from all over the world.

incline *verb* The trees at the mountaintop **incline** away from the wind.

When describing a person, the word *inclined* is used with *to*, as in “I am *inclined to* take a nap.”



inclination

5. **persevere** (pûr'sə-vîr') *verb* from Latin *perseverus*, "very serious"
To continue trying despite difficulties

- The runners **persevered** despite the freezing rain.

perseverance *noun* I am proud of the **perseverance** you showed in finishing that thousand-page book about the Civil War.

6. **reluctant** (rî-lûk'tənt) *adjective* from Latin *re-*, "against" + *luctari*, "to struggle"

Unwilling; not wanting to do something

- Because the water was so cold, Lonny was **reluctant** to jump into the swimming pool.

reluctance *noun* The child's firm grip on his mother's arm showed his **reluctance** to be left at school.

7. **tantalize** (tăntə-līz') *verb* from the mythical ancient Greek king, *Tantalus*

To tempt but deny satisfaction

- The child **tantalized** the kitten by dragging a piece of string just out of its reach.

8. **wary** (wâr'ē) *adjective*

Watchful and cautious

- The **wary** bird kept an eye on the cat at the base of the tree.

wariness *noun* The soldier on duty showed **wariness** of any moving object or unexpected noise.

9. **willful** (wîl'fəl) *adjective* from Old English *willan*, "to desire" + *-ful*, "full of"

Stubbornly determined to do what one wants

- When the mother refused to give her **willful** child a cookie, he simply grabbed one from the plate.

10. **wistful** (wîst'fəl) *adjective*

Full of sad wishing or longing

- Eric's face had a **wistful** expression as he watched his older brothers drive off to the movie without him.

Willful people insist on having their own way, even if it harms them.

WORD ENRICHMENT

Cupid's words

You probably have seen pictures of the Roman god Cupid, especially around Valentine's Day. He is usually seen as a young boy with wings, carrying a bow and arrow. According to myth, if you are hit by one of his arrows, you will fall instantly in love. The word *Cupid* is related to the Latin word *cupere*, "to long for." We are often filled with longing when we fall in love.

But people can also long for money. In fact, the word *cupidity*, also taken from *cupere*, means "great greed." *Covet*, a word in this lesson, also comes from *cupere*. We may *covet*, or "long for," money, a possession, attention, or love.