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New Year, New Words As January unfolds, we all have resolutions to act on. How about adding to your vocabulary? Anu Garg, author of Another Word a Day, offers a new word each weekday at wordsmith.org. Here’s a batch from his book to get you started. Answers on next page.


Monthly Planner

The 12 words below each contain the 3-letter abbreviation for one month of the year (clues in parentheses). Can you complete the calendar? Answers on next page.

Jan--- (upset); Feb---- (feverish); Mar--- (sleazy); Apr--- (whim); May---- (disillusion); Jun-- (associate); Jul----- (cut); Aug-- (filled); Sep------ (joined); Oct----- (of the night); Nov----- (novelty); Dec----- (destroy).
1. **scion**—[B] Descendant or heir, especially of an important family; also, twig cut for planting. The mansion was refurbished by a Vanderbilt scion.

2. **orotund**—[B] Having a strong voice; also, regarding pompous speech or writing. The politician was remembered for his orotund deliveries.

3. **talisman**—[C] An object with supposedly magical powers. The necklace she wore was a talisman, bringing her good luck.

4. **tarry**—[D] To delay; linger. “Don’t tarry,” the nanny called to the children. “We’ll be late.”

5. **amicable**—[D] Friendly; peaceable. Though competitors, the two quarterbacks had an amicable relationship.

6. **polemic**—[A] A controversial argument. The young lawyer was wary of taking on the separation of church and state polemic in his very first case.

7. **impressario**—[B] Organizer or manager, especially of concerts or operas. He’s a respected impresario, influencing the careers of some of the biggest names in classical music.

8. **draggle**—[C] To make dirty, often by dragging. My son’s overcoat, after he draggled it in the mud, was impossible to get clean.

9. **sangfroid** (sän FRWA)—[A] Calmness; composure. In spite of her classroom’s chaos, the teacher managed an air of sangfroid.

10. **redoubt**—[B] A stronghold; temporary fortification. The infantrymen took shelter in the earthen redoubt.

11. **indolent**—[B] Lazy or slothful; avoiding exertion. My colleague claims she is overworked, but most of us think she’s just indolent.

12. **scalawag**—[C] Rascal or scamp; a Southern supporter of Republican policy during Reconstruction. My sister was in love, but her fiancé was a scalawag.

13. **desultory**—[B] Inconsistent, unconnected or lacking purpose. He was confused by his boss’s desultory comments.

14. **placebo**—[A] A substance without medicinal value, used in studies or to placate patients. Not realizing she’d been given a placebo, Mom claimed the new drug had cured her.

15. **erudite**—[B] Scholarly or learned. My erudite uncle took me to museums when I was very young.

16. **sobriquet** (SO bri KAY)—[C] Nickname. Most people know George Herman Ruth as the Babe, his famous sobriquet.

**VOCABULARY RATINGS**

- **8-10** Good
- **11-13** Excellent
- **14-16** Exceptional

**Montly Planner Answers:**


Feeling bridled by the winter chill? Play Super Word Power today—60 minutes for free! Go to rd.com/word.