**What**

**Difference**

**Does**

**It**

**Make?**

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| --- | --- |
| **Arrogant**  | Ignorant |
| **Blond**  | Blonde |
| **Counsel**  | Advise |
| **Disinterested**  | Uninterested |
| **Emigrant**  | Immigrant |
| **Fictional**  | Fictitious |
| **Graceful**  | Gracious |
| **Hyper-** | Hypo- |
| **Invent**  | Discover |
| **Judicial**  | Judicious |
| **Kneeled**  | Knelt |
| **Libel**  | Slander |
| **Mythical**  | Mythological |
| **Notable**  | Noticeable |
| **Official**  | Officious |
| **Precede**  | Proceed |
| **Quiet**  | Quieten |
| **Rural**  | Rustic |
| **Stalactite**  | Stalagmite |
| **Thrash** | Thresh |
| **Urban**  | Urbane |
| **Vacant**  | Vacuous |
| **Weather**  | Whether |
| **Xmas**  | Christmas |
| **Yoke**  | Yolk |
| **Zero**  | Nought |

**A**

Arrogant | Ignorant

* **Arrogant**: Exaggerated sense of importance; lack of humility
* **Ignorant**: Lacking knowledge; bigoted; rude

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**B**

Blond | Blonde

* **Blond**: Masculine
* **Blonde**: Feminine

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**C**

Counsel | Advise

* **Counsel**: More formal; more serious; advice typically given by professionals
* **Advise**: Less formal; less serious; more spontaneous

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**D**

Disinterested | Uninterested

* **Disinterested**: Impartial; not particularly bothered
* **Uninterested**: No interest at all; bored

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**E**

Emigrant | Immigrant

* **Emigrant**: Someone who migrates (i.e. moves *from* a country)
* **Immigrant**: Someone who has migrated (i.e. has moved *to* a country)

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**F**

Fictional | Fictitious

* **Fictional**: Not factual; imaginary; literary connotations
* **Fictitious:** Not real; false

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**G**

Graceful | Gracious

* **Graceful**: Beauty of form or movement
* **Gracious**: Polite; kind

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**H**

Hyper- | Hypo-

* **Hyper-** Above; excessive; highly visible
* **Hypo-** Beneath; under; low

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**I**

Invent | Discover

* **Invent**: Create something new; design
* **Discover**: Find something that already exists

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**J**

Judicial | Judicious

* **Judicial**: From a court of law or legal process
* **Judicious:** Good judgement

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**K**

Kneeled | Knelt

* **Kneeled**: More common in American English
* **Gracious**: More common in British English

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**L**

Libel | Slander

* **Libel** A defamatory statement that is *written*; permanent
* **Slander** A defamatory statement that is *spoken*; transient

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**M**

Mythical | Mythological

* **Mythical**: Imaginary; not real
* **Mythological**: From mythology

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**N**

Notable | Noticeable

* **Notable**: Worthy of attention; positive
* **Noticeable:**  Visible; obvious

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**O**

Official | Officious

* **Official**: Formal; from an organisation or authority
* **Officious**: Unnecessary attention to detail; not wanted; application of authority to trivial matters

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**P**

Precede | Proceed

* **Precede** To go before; be placed before
* **Proceed** Continue; advance

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**Q**

Quiet | Quieten

* **Quiet**: Calm; soothe; low volume; without sound
* **Quieten**: As above, but usually preceded by ‘down’

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**R**

Rural | Rustic

* **Rural**: Related to the countryside
* **Rustic:**  Simple; unsophisticated; quaint

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**S**

Stalactite | Stalagmite

* **Stalactite**: A tapering mass of calcium carbonate that *hangs* from the roof
* **Stalactite**: A tapering mass of calcium carbonate that *rises* from the floor

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**T**

Thrash | Thresh

* **Thrash** Physically beat; win by a large margin
* **Thresh** separate cereal grains from their husks through repetitive beating

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**U**

Urban | Urbane

* **Urban**: Linked to a town or city
* **Urbane**: Sophisticated

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**V**

Vacant | Vacuous

* **Vacant**: Empty; not occupied; usually applied to a room or post
* **Vacuous:**  Superficial; lacking in intelligence; uninspiring

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**W**

Weather | Whether

* **Weather**: Atmospheric conditions
* **Whether**: Expression of choice

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**X**

Xmas | Christmas

* **Xmas** Abbreviation of *Christmas*; the *X* comes from the Greek letter *Chi*
* **Christmas** The unabbreviated version; more formal

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**Y**

Yoke | Yolk

* **Yoke**: A bar that connects two things; agricultural connotations
* **Yolk**: The yellow or ‘middle’ part of an egg

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**Z**

Zero | Nought

* **Zero** The digit 0; preferred in scientific contexts
* **Nought** An alternative name for the digit 0

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