

## Prologue to The Canterbury Tales Vocabulary List

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1. **arbitrate**: an act between parties to reconciling differences
2. **arrears**: the state of being behind in payments
3. **asunder**: into parts or pieces
4. **chagrin**: strong feelings of embarrassment
5. **choleric**: characterized by anger
6. **debonair**: having a sophisticated charm
7. **deportment**: the way a person behaves toward other people
8. **erudition**: profound scholarly knowledge
9. **felicity**: pleasing and appropriate manner or style
10. **hasten**: move fast
11. **heathen**: a person who does not acknowledge your god
12. **lechery**: unrestrained indulgence in sexual activity
13. **martyr**: one who voluntarily suffers death
14. **mien**: dignified manner or conduct
15. **motley**: consisting of a haphazard assortment of different kinds
16. **obstinate**: marked by tenacious unwillingness to yield
17. **pilgrimage**: a journey to a sacred place
18. **pomp**: cheap or pretentious or vain display
19. **renowned**: widely known and esteemed
20. **sheaf**: a package of several things tied together
21. **smite**: inflict a heavy blow with the hand, a tool, or a weapon
22. **sundry**: consisting of a haphazard assortment of different kinds
23. **tarry**: leave slowly and hesitantly
24. **threadbare**: thin and tattered with age
25. **yeoman**: a free man who cultivates his own land