

# Words of the week!



## lanky

**adj.** tall, thin, and ungraceful  
like a giraffe trying to rollerskate for the first time  
mrswordsmith.com



## conceited

**adj.** vain or proud  
like someone who is constantly taking selfies  
mrswordsmith.com



## wary

**adj.** careful or cautious  
like a fly who is afraid of getting zapped  
mrswordsmith.com



## ambush

**v.** to make a surprise attack  
like a soldier leaping out suddenly from a hiding place  
mrswordsmith.com



## desolate

**adj.** miserable, depressed, and lonely  
how you feel when you lose everything  
mrswordsmith.com

**word pairs**

- lanky body
- lanky teenager
- lanky athlete

**adj.**

tall, thin, and ungraceful like a giraffe trying to roller skate for the first time

**SYNONYMS**

- tall and thin
- ungraceful
- gangly

**“**

He found the back door of the church already open and Mister Tom talking to a tall, lanky man with pebbled black and gray hair.

**”**

*Goodnight Mister Tom* by Michelle Magorian

**Used in 2.9% of stories**

**SYNONYMS**

- conceited attitude
- conceited snob
- conceited oaf

**adj.**

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**SYNONYMS**

- vain
- proud
- arrogant

**“**

But the conceited man did not hear him. Conceited people never hear anything but praise.

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*The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

**Used in 4% of stories**

**word pairs**

- wary distance
- wary glance
- wary animal

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**SYNONYMS**

- careful
- cautious
- guarded

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Now a snake, especially a wary old python like Kaa, very seldom shows that he is angry, but Baloo and Bagheera could see the big swallowing muscles on either side of Kaa's throat ripple and bulge.

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**Used in 8.1% of stories**

**word pairs**

- ambush enemy
- ambush prey
- ambush troops

**v.**

to make a surprise attack like a soldier leaping out suddenly from a hiding place

**SYNONYMS**

- surprise
- trap
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*Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne

**Used in 1.8% of stories**

**word pairs**

- desolate appearance
- desolate sadness
- desolate wasteland

**adj.**

miserable, depressed, and lonely how you feel when you lose everything

**SYNONYMS**

- miserable
- depressed
- lonely

**etymology**

Desolate comes from the Latin word *desolatio*, which means "to desert or leave alone."

**Used in 12.8% of stories**

**“**

Brick lay in wait, ready to ambush his enemy...

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Grit looked desolate. He was all alone...

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