

1. gravely



- Serious and solemn “a grave look”
- Full of or suggesting danger “a grave situation”
- Then he said to me, very **gravely**: “Don’t you feel anything?”



2. taint



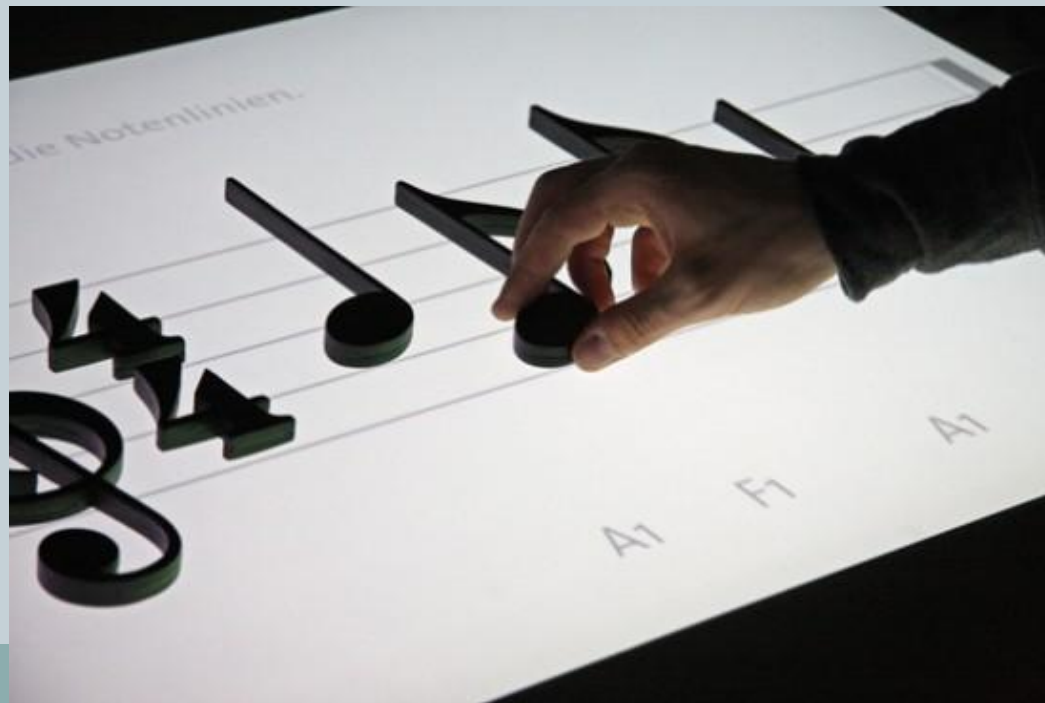
- to infect, contaminate, corrupt, or spoil
- “One superstitious sailor can taint the whole ship’s company with his fear.”



3. tangible



- real or actual, rather than imaginary or visionary: the tangible benefits of sunshine.
- Sometimes I think evil is a tangible thing—with wavelengths, just as sound and light have.



4. indolently

- having or showing a [disposition](#) to avoid exertion; slothful: an indolent person.
- slow, inactive, sluggish
- Rainsford, reclining in a steamer chair, indolently puffed on his favorite brier.



5. brier

- Tobacco pipe made from the root of a brier bush
- Rainsford, reclining in a steamer chair, indolently puffed on his favorite brier.



6. mystified

- to perplex (a person) by playing upon the person's credulity; bewilder purposely.
- Rainsford sprang up and moved quickly to the rail, mystified.



7. Receding (text)




- Moving into the distance
- Desperately he struck out with strong strokes after the receding lights of the yacht, but he stopped before he had swum fifty feet.





8. deliberate



DELIBERATE
INDIFFERENCE

- leisurely and steady in movement or action; slow and even; unhurried: a deliberate step.
- They had come from the right, and doggedly he swam in that direction, swimming with slow, deliberate strokes, conserving his strength.

9. anguish



- excruciating or acute distress, suffering, or pain: the anguish of grief.
- It came out of the darkness, a high screaming sound, the sound of an animal in an extremity of anguish and terror.



10. vitality

- exuberant physical strength or mental vigor: a person of great vitality.
- with fresh vitality he swam toward the sound.



11. Opaqueness (footnote)



- Darkness. Something that does not let light pass through.
- Jagged crags appeared to jut into the opaqueness.



12. vigor



- active strength or force.
- Sleep had given him new vigor;



13. fringed

- Verb
- to serve as a fringe for, or to be arranged around or along so as to suggest a fringe: armed guards fringing the building.
- An unbroken front of snarled and ragged jungle fringed the shore.



14. lacerated



- mangled; jagged; torn
- the jungle weeds were crushed down and the moss was lacerated;



15. brute



- 1. a nonhuman creature; beast.
- 2. a brutal, insensitive, or crude person.
- 3. the animal qualities, desires, etc., of humankind:
Father felt that rough games brought out the brute in us.
- It's clear that the brute put up a fight.



16. mirage



- An optical phenomenon, especially in the desert or the sea
- “Mirage,” thought Rainsford. But it was no mirage, he found, when he opened the tall spiked iron gate.



17. leering

- to look with a sideways or oblique glance, especially suggestive of lascivious interest or sly and malicious intention: I can't concentrate with you leering at me.
- the massive door with a leering gargoyle for a knocker was real enough;



18. gargoyle



- a grotesquely carved figure of a human or animal.
- the massive door with a leering gargoyle for a knocker was real enough;



19. discern



- to perceive by the sight or some other sense or by the intellect; see, recognize, or apprehend: They discerned a sail on the horizon.
- The first thing Rainsford's eyes discerned was the largest man Rainsford had ever seen.

I do perceive.



20. Disarming (text)

- Removing suspicion or fear; charming
- “Don’t be alarmed,” said Rainsford, with a smile which he hoped was disarming.



21. menacing



- something that threatens to cause evil, harm, injury, etc.;
- The menacing look in the eyes did not change.



22. aristocrat

- a member of an [aristocracy](#), especially a [noble](#).
- Aristocracy - a class of persons holding exceptional rank and privileges, especially the hereditary nobility.
- He had high cheekbones, a sharp-cut nose, a spare, dark face, the face of a man used to giving orders, the face of an aristocrat.



23. Cossack (footnote)

- Member of a group from Ukraine, many of whom served as horsemen to the Russian czars and were famous for their fierceness in battle.
- “He is a Cossack,”



24. feudal



- of or pertaining to the Middle Ages. (476-1453)
- There was a medieval magnificence about it; it suggested a baronial hall of feudal times, with its oaken panels, its high ceiling, its vast refectory table where two-score men could sit down to eat.



25. Amenities (footnote)



- Comforts and conveniences
- “We do our best to preserve the amenities⁷ of civilization here.”



26. cavalry



- the part of a military force composed of troops that serve on horseback.
- I went into the army—it was expected of noblemen's sons—and for a time commanded a division of Cossack cavalry, but my real interest was always the hunt.



27. Debacle (footnote)

- Sudden downfall. Zaroff is referring to the Russian Revolution of 1917, in which the czar and his government were overthrown.
- “After the debacle¹⁰ in Russia I left the country, for it was imprudent for an officer of the czar to stay there.



28. Imprudent (text)



- Unwise, foolish
- “After the debacle¹⁰ in Russia I left the country, for it was imprudent for an officer of the czar to stay there.



29. czar



- an emperor or king.
- “After the debacle¹⁰ in Russia I left the country, for it was imprudent for an officer of the czar to stay there.



30. cunning



- skill employed in a shrewd or sly manner, as in deceiving; craftiness;
- As soon as I recovered I started for the Amazon to hunt jaguars, for I had heard they were unusually cunning.



31. proposition

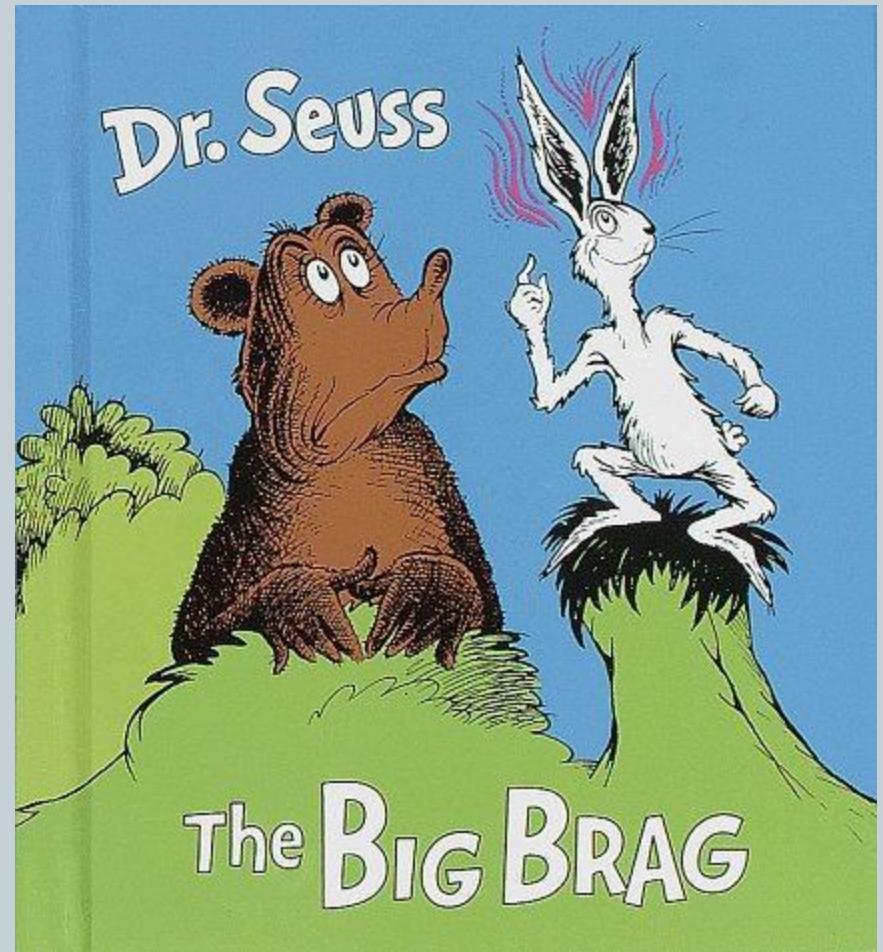


- the act of offering or suggesting something to be considered, accepted, adopted, or done.
- Simply this: Hunting had ceased to be what you call a sporting proposition.



32. boast

- to speak with exaggeration and excessive pride, especially about oneself.
- That is no boast.



33. grisly



- causing a shudder or feeling of horror; horrible; gruesome: a grisly murder.
- This is a grisly joke.



34. condone

- 1. to disregard or overlook (something illegal, objectionable, or the like).
- 2. to give tacit approval to: By his silence, he seemed to condone their behavior.
- 3. to pardon or forgive (an offense); excuse.
- “Did not make me condone coldblooded murder,” finished Rainsford stiffly.



35. droll



- amusing in an odd way
- “How extraordinarily droll you are!” he said.



36. Scruples (footnote)



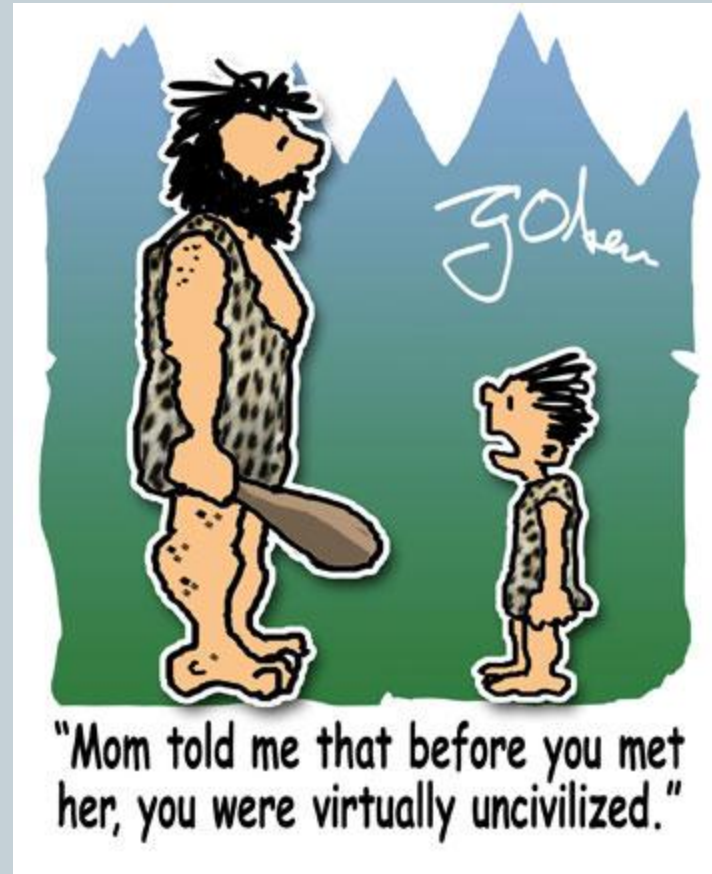
- Feelings of doubt or guilt about a suggested action
- But I think I can show you that your scruples¹¹ are quite ill-founded.”



37. barbarous



- uncivilized; wild; savage; crude.
- That would be barbarous.



38. Invariably (text)

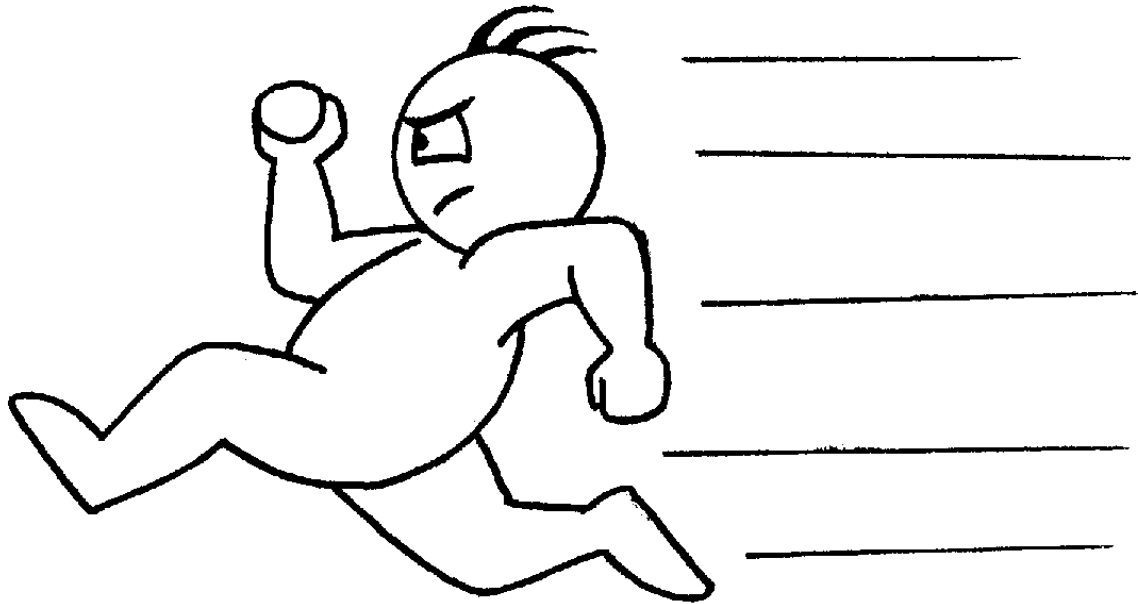
- Without exception
- not variable; not changing or capable of being changed; static or constant.
- Invariably, Mr. Rainsford, invariably they choose the hunt.



39. hastily



- moving or acting with haste; speedy; quick; hurried.
- Then he added, hastily...



40. grotesque

- odd or unnatural in shape, appearance, or character; fantastically ugly or absurd; bizarre.
- The lights from the windows sent a flickering illumination that made grotesque patterns on the courtyard below,



41. Solicitously (footnote)



- In a concerned manner
- “Ah, indeed?” the general inquired solicitously.¹⁵



42. Opiate (footnote)

- Anything that tends to soothe or calm someone. An opiate may also be a medicine containing opium or a drug used to relieve pain.
- The bed was good and the pajamas of the softest silk, and he was tired in every fiber of his being, but nevertheless Rainsford could not quiet his brain with the opiate¹⁶ of sleep.



43. stealthy

- characterized by great caution
- Once he thought he heard stealthy steps in the corridor outside his room.



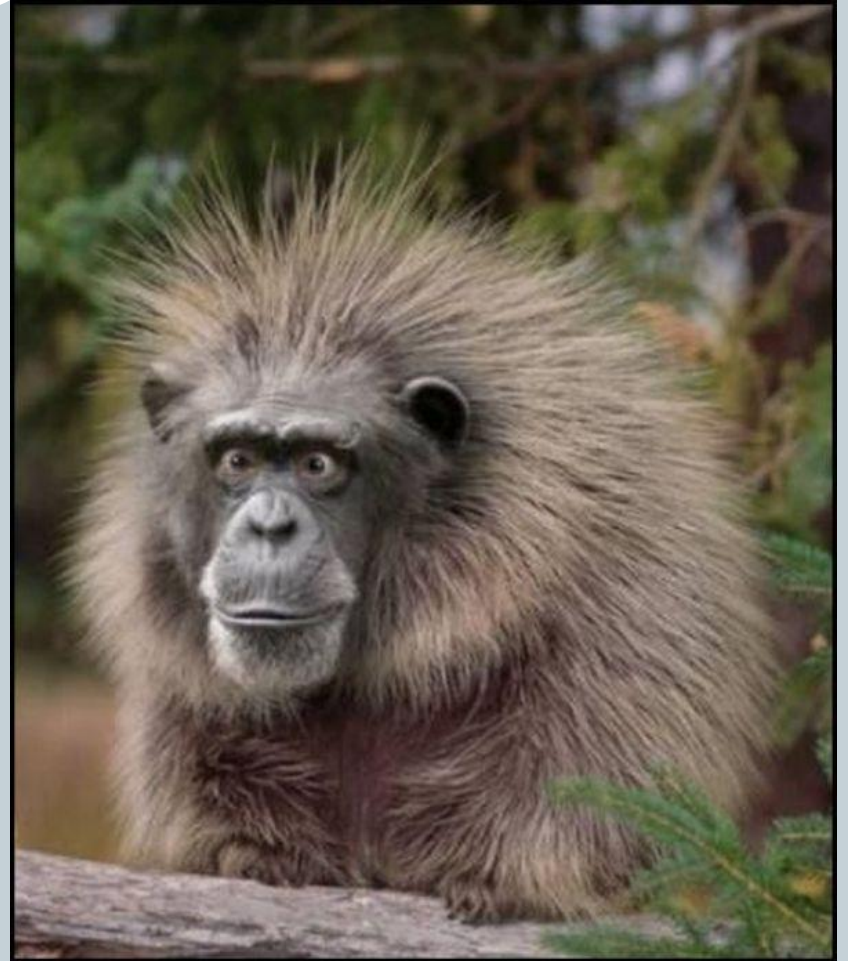
44. venerable

- extremely old or obsolete; ancient: a venerable automobile.
- He filled Rainsford's glass with venerable Chablis from a dusty bottle.



45. Diverting (footnote)

- Amusing
- But may I not venture to suggest that you will find my idea of sport more diverting¹⁷ than Ivan's?"



46. stamina



- Strength of physical constitution, power to endure physical fatigue
- Your strength and stamina against mine.



47. futile

- incapable of producing any result; ineffective; useless; not successful: Attempting to force-feed the sick horse was futile.
- He saw that straight flight was futile;



FUTILITY

No matter how hard you try, you will fail.

48. imperative



- absolutely necessary or required; unavoidable: It is imperative that we leave.
- His need for rest was imperative and he thought:



49. zealous

- full of, characterized by, or due to [zeal](#); ardently active, devoted, or diligent.
- Zeal - fervor for a person, cause, or [object](#); eager desire or endeavor;
- Even so zealous a hunter as General Zaroff could not trace him there, he told himself;



Raul's zeal for his new business was not always appreciated by his clients

50. pungent

- sharply affecting the organs of taste or smell, as if by a penetrating power; biting; acrid.
- Its pungent incenselike smoke floated up to Rainsford's nostrils.



51. uncanny

- having or seeming to have a supernatural or inexplicable basis; beyond the ordinary or normal; extraordinary: uncanny accuracy; an uncanny knack of foreseeing trouble.
- mysterious; arousing superstitious [fear](#) or dread; uncomfortably strange: Uncanny sounds filled the house.
- He must have uncanny powers.



52. precariously

- dependent on circumstances beyond one's control; uncertain; unstable; insecure: a precarious livelihood.
- Three hundred yards from his hiding place he stopped where a huge dead tree leaned precariously on a smaller living one.



53. savagely



- fierce, ferocious, or cruel; untamed: savage beasts.
- Insects bit him savagely.



54. placid



- pleasantly calm or peaceful; unruffled; tranquil; serenely quiet or undisturbed: placid waters.
- That had been a placid pastime compared to his digging now.



55. pursuer



- a person or thing that follow in order to overtake, capture, kill, etc.; chase.
- He knew his pursuer was coming.



56. concealment

- The act of hiding
- He leapt from his place of concealment.



57. wavering



- to sway to and fro; flutter: Foliage wavers in the breeze.
- It was a distant sound, faint and wavering, but he knew it.



58. inevitable



- unable to be avoided, evaded, or escaped; certain; necessary: an inevitable conclusion.
- That was postponing the inevitable.

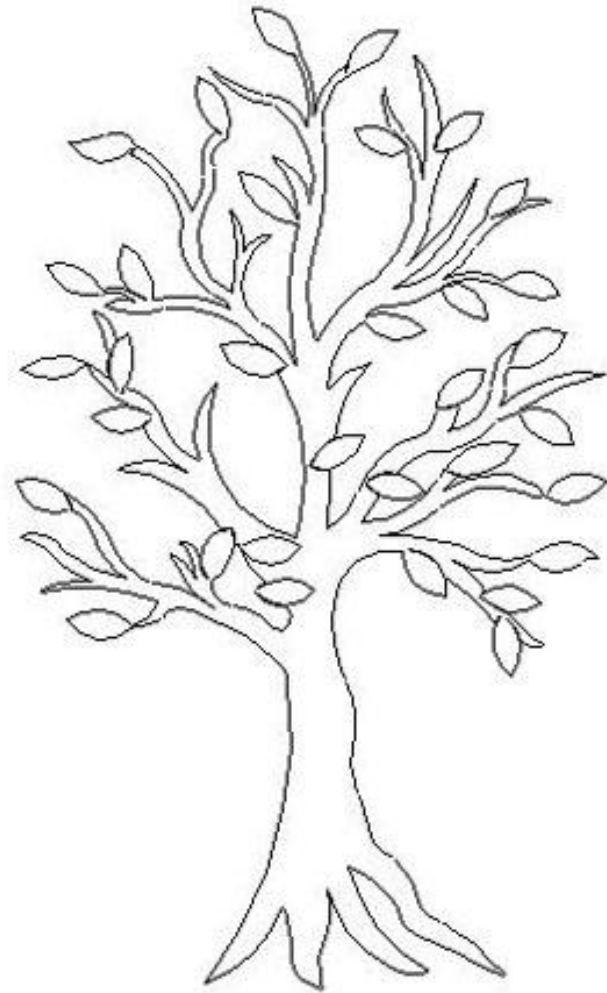


INEVITABLE

Always remember that after blossoming, Winter's wrath is not far off to destroy what Spring has sprung

59. sapling

- A young tree;
- He caught hold of a springy young sapling.



60. abruptly



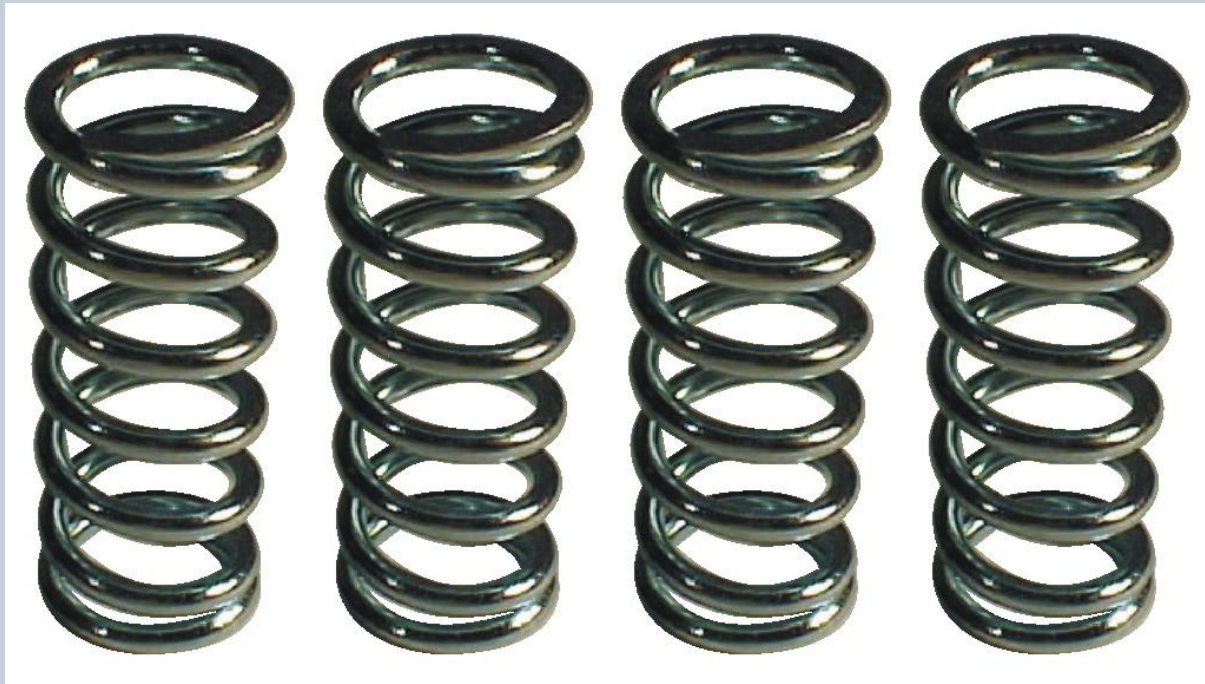
- sudden or unexpected: an abrupt departure.
- The baying of the hounds stopped abruptly,



61. recoil



- The act of drawing or springing back
- The knife, driven by the recoil of the springing tree,



62. Repast (footnote)



- Meal
- One of us is to furnish a repast for the hounds.

