Writing Style by Definition

1. **articulate** – able to express your thoughts, arguments, and ideas clearly and effectively; writing or speech is clear and easy to understand
2. **chatty** – a chatty writing style is friendly and informal
3. **circuitous** – taking a long time to say what you really mean when you are talking or writing about something
4. **clean**– clean language or humour does not offend people, especially because it does not involve sex
5. **conversational** – a conversational style of writing or speaking is informal, like a private conversation
6. **crisp** – crisp speech or writing is clear and effective
7. **declamatory** – expressing feelings or opinions with great force
8. **diffuse** – using too many words and not easy to understand
9. **discursive** – including information that is not relevant to the main subject
10. **economical** – an economical way of speaking or writing does not use more words than are necessary
11. **elliptical** – suggesting what you mean rather than saying or writing it clearly
12. **eloquent** – expressing what you mean using clear and effective language
13. **emphatic** – making your meaning very clear because you have very strong feelings about a situation or subject
14. **emphatically** – very firmly and clearly
15. **epigrammatic** – expressing something such as a feeling or idea in a short and clever or funny way
16. **epistolary** – relating to the writing of letters
17. **euphemistic** – euphemistic expressions are used for talking about unpleasant or embarrassing subjects without mentioning the things themselves
18. **flowery** – flowery language or writing uses many complicated words that are intended to make it more attractive
19. **fluent**– expressing yourself in a clear and confident way, without seeming to make an effort
20. **formal** – correct or conservative in style, and suitable for official or serious situations or occasions
21. **gossipy** – a gossipy letter is lively and full of news about the writer of the letter and about other people
22. **grandiloquent**– expressed in extremely formal language in order to impress people, and often sounding silly because of this
23. **idiomatic**– expressing things in a way that sounds natural
24. **inarticulate** – not able to express clearly what you want to say; not spoken or pronounced clearly
25. **incoherent** – unable to express yourself clearly
26. **informal** – used about language or behaviour that is suitable for using with friends but not in formal situations
27. **journalistic** – similar in style to journalism
28. **learned**– a learned piece of writing shows great knowledge about a subject, especially an academic subject
29. **literary** – involving books or the activity of writing, reading, or studying books; relating to the kind of words that are used only in stories or poems, and not in normal writing or speech
30. **lyric** – using words to express feelings in the way that a song would
31. **lyrical** – having the qualities of music
32. **ornate** – using unusual words and complicated sentences
33. **orotund** – containing extremely formal and complicated language intended to impress people
34. **parenthetical** – not directly connected with what you are saying or writing
35. **pejorative** – a pejorative word, phrase etc expresses criticism or a bad opinion of someone or something
36. **picturesque** – picturesque language is unusual and interesting
37. **pithy** – a pithy statement or piece of writing is short and very effective
38. **poetic** – expressing ideas in a very sensitive way and with great beauty or imagination
39. **polemical** – using or supported by strong arguments
40. **ponderous**– ponderous writing or speech is serious and boring
41. **portentous** – trying to seem very serious and important, in order to impress people
42. **prolix** – using too many words and therefore boring
43. **punchy**– a punchy piece of writing such as a speech, report, or slogan is one that has a strong effect because it uses clear simple language and not many words
44. **rambling** – a rambling speech or piece of writing is long and confusing
45. **readable**– writing that is readable is clear and able to be read
46. **rhetorical** – relating to a style of speaking or writing that is effective or intended to influence people; written or spoken in a way that is impressive but is not honest
47. **rhetorically** – in a way that expects or wants no answer; using or relating to rhetoric
48. **rough** – a rough drawing or piece of writing is not completely finished
49. **roundly**– in a strong and clear way
50. **sententious**– expressing opinions about right and wrong behavior in a way that is intended to impress people
51. **sesquipedalian** – using a lot of long words that most people do not understand
52. **Shakespearean** – using words in the way that is typical of Shakespeare’s writing
53. **stylistic**– relating to ways of creating effects, especially in language and literature
54. **succinct**– expressed in a very short but clear way
55. **turgid** – using language in a way that is complicated and difficult to understand
56. **unprintable** – used for describing writing or words that you think are offensive
57. **vague**– someone who is vague does not clearly or fully explain something
58. **verbose** – using more words than necessary, and therefore long and boring
59. **well-turned** – a well-turned phrase is one that is expressed well
60. **wordy** – using more words than are necessary, especially long or formal words