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NB This is just a sample it lists just one entry per letter. Actual dictionary contains over 350 entries.

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Abaca

More commonly known as Manila_Hemp.

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Baize

Also known as Bayeta.

A thick, bright green or red cloth that looks like felt. Used to cover billiard tables, as pads under objects to prevent scratching. Also used to make traditional clothing of some South American peoples.

Derivation: Possibly from the town of Baza in Spain, or the french word *baies* a red/brown color.

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Calendering

A process for finishing fabrics in which effects such as high luster, glazing, embossing, and moiré are produced.

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Damask

Fiber: Linen, silk, rayon, cotton, synthetics, wool, worsteds.

Weave: Figured on Jacquard loom.

Characteristics: Originally made of silk, that came to us from China via Damascus. In the XIII Century, Marco Polo gave an interesting tale about it. It is one of the oldest and most popular cloths to be found today. Very elaborate designs are possible. Cloth is beetled, calendared and the better qualities are gross-bleached. Very durable. reversible fabric. Sheds dirt. The firmer the texture, the better the quality. Laundered well and holds a high luster - particularly in linen. - Price range varies a great deal. There are two types of damask table cloths: 1) Single damask table cloths: construction. Thread count is usually around 200. 2) Double damask has an 8 shaft satin construction with usually twice as many filling [yarns](#) as warp yarns. This gives a much greater distinctness to the pattern. Thread count ranges from 165 to 400.- The quality of both depends on the yarn used and the thread count. - If the same quality and thread count are used, single is better than double because the shorter floats are more serviceable and the yarns hold more firmly. Double damask with less than 180 thread count is no good for home use.

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Yarns

In order to weave a fabric, the fiber or blend of fibers must first be made into a yarn. Yarns vary in size and shape, both of which have an effect on the appearance of the fabric.

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Elastomer

Characteristics: It is a synthetic rubber that can be stretched to at least three times its original length. Once the exerted pull force is released, this fiber returns to its original length.

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Faconne

Fiber: Silk or rayon.

Weave: Figured weave or "burnt-out" finish.

Characteristics: Faconne in French, means fancy weave. Has small designs all over the fabric. Fairly light in weight, and could be slightly Crêped. Background is much more sheer than the designs, therefore the designs seem to stand out. Very effective when worn over a different color. Drapes, handle, and wears well.

Uses: Dresses, blouses, scarves, after 5, dressy afternoon and bridal wear.

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Gabardine

Fiber: Worsted cotton, rayon, or mixtures.

Weave: Steep twill (63 degrees).

Characteristics: A smooth durable twill-woven cloth esp. of worsted, spun rayon or cotton. Clear finish, tightly woven, firm, durable, rather lustrous. Can be given a dull finish. Has single diagonal lines on the face, raised twill. Wears extremely well. Also comes in various weights. Inclined to shine with wear. Hard to press properly.

Uses: Men's and women's tailored suits, coats, raincoats, uniforms, and men's shirts.

Derivation: Old French gauvardine, perhaps from Middle High German wallevart 'pilgrimage'

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Habutai

Fiber: Silk.

Weave: Plain.

Characteristics: Very light weight and soft. A little heavier than China Silk, but similar. Sold by weight measure known "momme" (1 momme = 3.75 g). Made from waste silk that can be twisted. It is piece dyed or printed and sized. Has many defects in the cloth which has a "shot-about" appearance but this does not effect the cloth. Comes from Japan - originally woven in the gum on Japanese hand looms. Lighter than shantung but heavier than silk.

Uses: Dresses, coats, shirting, lamp shades, lingerie, curtains.

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Illusion

Fiber: Silk.

Weave: Gauze or made on bobbinet machine or knotted.

Characteristics: A very fine, all-silk tulle which originated in France. It has a cobweb appearance. Hexagonal open mesh. Made in 52 inch and 72 inch widths.

Uses: Veilings, particularly for weddings, trimmings.

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Jackrabbit

Animal also known as a Hare. Hair texture is woolly.

Uses: Felting.

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Kapok

A seed fiber or floss obtained from the cotton tree. It is used chiefly for stuffing.

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Lambs Wool

Lamb`s Wool:

Elastic, soft, resilient wool fibers obtained from lambs when they are seven or eight months old - the first or virgin clipping from the animal. This lofty stock is used in better grades of fabrics.

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Mackinaw

Fiber: Wool. Ordinary grade of wool and often has shoddy re-used or remanufactured wool mixed in. Sometimes a cotton warp is used.

Weave: Twill or double cloth. Weave is concealed.

Characteristics: Very heavily fulled or felted and napped on both sides to conceal the weave. Much of the fabric is in a plaid or large check design or brightly colored, or different colors on each side. Heavy and thick, very similar to melton. Named for MacKinac Island, Michigan. Also called ski cloth or snow cloth.

Uses: Miners, lumbermen, hunters, trappers, fishermen, and cowboys use much of the fabric for jackets, mackinaws and coats. Also used for blankets, shirts, and some heavy sportswear, windbreakers.

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Nacre Velvet

The back is of one color and the pile of another, so that it gives a changeable, pearly appearance.

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Oilcloth

Characteristics: Originally, textiles such as cotton were coated in oil to create resistance to moisture. Now, resins from plastics are used instead of oil. Olefin is a very versatile fiber with excellent flexibility.

Uses: Waterproof garments, book bags, belts, bibs, pencil cases, luggage, surgical supplies.

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Paillette Satin

It is characterized by its changeable color and is available in a variety of different colors. It was originally executed in silk but is now made with manufactured fibers.

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Qiviut

The name comes from an Eskimo word meaning 'down'. This fiber is obtained from the Arctic Musk Ox. It is lustrous, soft, durable and free of oils.

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Rabbit

Characteristics: Wild rabbits have brownish or gray colors. Tame ones range in color from white to black. Uses Coats and trimmings.

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Sailcloth

Fiber: Cotton, linen, nylon.

Weave: Plain, some made with a crosswise rib.

Characteristics: A strong canvas or duck. The weights vary, but most often the count is around 148 x 60. Able to withstand the elements (rain, wind and snow). Sailcloth for clothing is sold frequently and is much lighter weight than used for sails.

Uses: Sails, awnings, and all kinds of sportswear for men, women, and children.

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Taffeta

Fiber: Silk, rayon, synthetics.

Weave: Usually plain with a fine cross rib.

Characteristics: Lustrous silk or rayon fabric of plain weave. A cloth supposed to have originated in Iran (Persia) and was called "taftah" (a fine silk fabric) - (in 16th century, became a luxury for women's wear). It is made in plain colors, fancy prints, watered designs, and changeable effects. It is smooth with a sheen on its surface. The textures vary considerably. They have a crispness and stiffness. Taffeta in silk will not wear, as long as other high quality silks, since weighting is given the fabric to make it stiff. If it is overweighted, the goods will split or crack.

Uses: All kinds of after 5 wear, dressy evening wear: suits and coats, slips, ribbons, blouses, umbrella fabric. It is quite a dressy fabric.

Derivation: From Persian taftah silken or linen cloth

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Union Cloth

A plain weave fabric made from two or more different fibers. most often a cotton warp and a linen filling.

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Vair

Characteristics: Thought to be the fur of the squirrel, one of the most valuable furs of the middle ages.

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Wale

- 1) A ridge or raised line formed in the weave of cloth.
- 2) The texture of a fabric; the kind of weave.

Derivation: Old English *walu* weal, ridge.

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Zephyr

The quality of the textile is airy and can be found today in wool, cotton and manufactured fibers.

Derivation: Its name comes from the ancient God of the Winds Zephrus

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