exacting

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(adjective) eks-AK-ting

Demanding, demanding attention.

The incident showed the extent to which investment bankers were caught up in a rat race and faced pressure to beat the bank's **exacting** performance targets, unions said.

Unattributed, *Guardian Unlimited*, 29 January 2008. Guardian Unlimited

The loaf sits, defenceless and without right of reply, on the gleaming granite-topped kitchen counter. It seems to sink slightly under the weight of Smyth's disapprobation, conscious perhaps that it has failed miserably to uphold the **exacting** standards expected of a Gordon Ramsay Michelin-starred bread basket.

Elizabeth Day, *The Observer*, 16 December 2007. Observer

Her lucid, **exacting** memoir recounts indelible scenes: in bed with malaria, she watches a soldier ransack her room; when her stepmother goes to plead for her father's life, Aminatta asks her to get the President's autograph.

Unattributed, *The New Yorker*, 17 February 2003, The New Yorker reviewing Aminatta Forna's *The Devil That Danced on the Water: A Daughter's Memoir*.

I first got to know WÃ¶rndle - a talented chef, **exacting** innkeeper and avid downhill skier - while tucking into a plate of knÃ¶del, the round dumplings that are a staple of the local cuisine.

Benjamimin Anastas, *The New York Times*, 23 March 2008. New York Times

Ross applauds the Non-Domestic Goddess (N-DG) who makes a nice cup of NescafÃ© by running the mug under the hot tap; who has very old ice-lollies embedded in the iced-up walls of her freezer; who prepares bedding between guests by turning the pillow over to the â€˜freshâ€™ side; has hair that looks as if it has been done with an electric toothbrush; and has no use for greaseproof

paper or kitchen foil. The N-DG has â€˜**exacting** low standardsâ€™.

Bevis Hillier, *The Spectator*, 14 November 2007, The Spectator reviewing Deborah Ross's *Always Go to Bed on an Argument*.