

## Vocab List #1

1. **Abeyance**- suspension of action, postpone
  - The meeting was held in *abeyance* until the chairperson arrived.**SYN**= dormant, latent
2. **Acquiesce**- to give in, comply
  - I was so desperate that I had to *acquiesce* to his demands.
3. **Adamant**- inflexible, immovable, obstinate
  - Some blacks in the South suffered if they were *adamant* about wanting the right to vote.
4. **Affable**- friendly, courteous amiable
  - He had a very *affable* nature, always saying hello to everyone.**SYN**= amiable
5. **Affinity**- likeness, a natural relationship, kinship
  - Having suffered himself, he felt an affinity for the homeless.
6. **Amiable**- friendly, sociable, and congenial: civil and urbane.
  - She was blessed with having such an *amiable* friend who was almost always good-natured and obliging.**SYN**= affable
7. **Animosity**- harsh feelings, enmity, resentment, hatred
  - I have a lot of *animosity* for him since he attempted to steal my girlfriend.
8. **Apprise**- to inform or give notice
  - People who are arrested have to be *apprised* of their rights. (Miranda rights)
9. **Approbation**- official approval, praise, commendation
  - We initiated the attack with the *approbation* of the general.
10. **Ascend**- to move upward, to rise from a lower station
  - The climbers *ascended* the mountain.
11. **Assiduous**- diligent, marked by careful unremitting attention, constant in application
  - He worked *assiduously* at studying geometry for weeks before he felt prepared to take the final.
12. **Audacity**- excessively bold, very rash, daring
  - I was surprised that he had the audacity to approach the Queen.
13. **Augment**- to make greater or supplement
  - If you *augment* this chord, it will make an interesting harmony.
14. **Avarice**- greed for wealth
  - *Avarice* and gluttony are two vices that can destroy lives.
15. **Beguile**- deceive, mislead, persuade with charm
  - We sometimes allow ourselves to be *beguiled* by flatterers.

16. **Benevolence**- kindness, generosity, charity
- His *benevolence* was shown when he set up soup kitchens for the poor.  
ANT= avarice
17. **Blighted**- something that destroys or caused decline or decay
- The *blighted* fruit had to be separated from the rest.
18. **Blithe**- lighthearted, joyous, glad, cheerful, free of spirit
- Her *blithe* spirit provided an air of gaiety to the meeting.
19. **Candid**- blunt, sincere honesty
- His *candid* responses to the questions surprised us all.
20. **Clemency**- leniency, mercy
- Governors are usually allowed to grant *clemency* to deserving prisoners.
21. **Commodious**- affording ample space and room; adapted to or suitable for use
- The room was of a *commodious*, well-proportioned size.  
SYN= capacious
22. **Complacency**- state of being self- satisfied, contented
- Considering he is failing, it is curious to see his sense of *complacency*.
23. **Conciliate**- to reconcile, pacify, renew a friendship
- My husband tried to *conciliate* me with a gift of roses.
24. **Conflagration**- large fire
- Some feel that the earth will be destroyed by a large *conflagration*.  
SYN= inferno
25. **Contempt**- scorn, extreme dislike or disdain
- I have *contempt* for Americans who would spy for Russia.

## Vocab List #2

26. **Contrite**- extremely apologetic, remorseful, repentant
  - Her *contrite* tears were not enough to convince her father not to spank her for her disobedience.
27. **Copious**- abundant
  - I always take *copious* notes in my history class.
28. **Corrugated**- bent in folds
  - A *corrugated* box absorbs shock and helps to protect the contents.
29. **Cupidity**- greed
  - The *cupidity* of a miser cannot be satisfied.
30. **Derision** (deride)- scoffing at, mockery, ridicule
  - The board showed *derision* by laughing at the idea presented by the new employee.
31. **Desolate**- deserted, without inhabitants
  - Some of the western states have large areas that are *desolate*.
32. **Despicable**- very bad, contemptible
  - Acting like a bully is *despicable*.
33. **Despondency**- depression, dejection (sad)
  - Because he thought that he has failed the test, he felt great *despondency*.
34. **Dexterous**- skillful and active with the hands; manually adroit and skillful
  - The machine stop advertised for a *dexterous* worker.
35. **Diffidence**- shyness, reserve, unassertiveness
  - Because of his *diffidence*, he would not ask any girl to prom.
36. **Discern**- to differentiate differences in two or more things, to detect or perceive something obscure
  - Due to the fog, I was barely able to *discern* the landing strip.
37. **Disconcerting**- upsetting, frustrating
  - It is *disconcerting* that he has not responded to he medicine.
38. **Discrepant (cy)**- disagreement, inconsistent
  - The auditor became suspicious when he found the *discrepant* accounts.
39. **Disdain**- intense dislike, treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy
  - Never having had to do manual labor, he *disdained* the idea of becoming a cotton picker.
40. **Disparage**- degrade, to speak of someone or something in a derogatory manner

- His *disparaging* remarks about me caused the committee to give the job to another person.
41. **Disparity**- inequality, the condition or fact of being unequal in age, rank, or degree
- The couple married even though there was a great *disparity* in their ages.
42. **Dissipation**- spend foolishly, squander
- Even though he inherited a million dollars, I expect the quick *dissipation* of his fortune.
43. **Edifying**- instructing and improving spiritually and morally
- Visiting the cathedral was an *edifying* experience
44. **Engender**- to cause, to produce, to create
- His angry words *engendered* strife in his relationship with his wife.
- SYN= goad
45. **Entreaty**- a plea, an earnest request
- The lawyer made a lengthy *entreaty* to the jury before they retired to chambers.
46. **Exalt**- to glorify, praise, raise in rank
- The woman was *exalted* for her successes in the field of science.
- SYN= ascend
47. **Execrable**- Extremely bad, deserving of hate
- The cheerleader told a joke about the drill team that was so *execrable* that she was suspended for three days.
48. **Extricate**- free, disentangle
- He could not *extricate* himself from the trap.
49. **Feint (feign)**- a false appearance, a fake punch to occupy defenses allowing a real blow.
- Fooled by his opponent's *feint*, the boxer dropped his guard and was knocked down.
50. **Felicitous**- happy or delightful
- Her marriage was a *felicitous* occasion.
- SYN= blithe

### Vocabulary List #3

51. **Ferment**- state of agitation, commotion, chaos  
• During the Civil War, much of the country was in a state of *ferment*.
52. **Fortuitous**- something good or bad that happens by accident or chance (fortunate)  
• Being picked first in the lottery is a *fortuitous* experience.
53. **Frivolous, Frivolity**- lacking in seriousness or importance  
• A teacher should limit *frivolous* behavior in the classroom.
54. **Gentility**- state of refinement, member of the upper class, gentry, nobility  
• Southern gentlemen were proud of their *gentility*.
55. **Gluttonous**- greedy for food or drink  
• I am so *gluttonous* that I would have great difficulty dieting.  
**SYN**= ravenous, voracious
56. **Goad**- to urge on in a negative sense  
• He was *goaded* by his friends into taking drugs.  
**SYN**= engender, impel, induce
57. **Guileless**- without deceit  
• It would be nice to elect a trustworthy politician that is *guileless*.
58. **Hackneyed**- trite (not important), banal (common), lacking freshness (over-used), cliché  
• Can you believe the coach used the old *hackneyed* phrase, “Let’s win one for the Gipper?”
59. **Ignominy**- disgraceful or dishonorable conduct  
• Treason is an *ignominy*.  
**SYN**= infamous
60. **Impel**- to urge or drive forward—usually with moral pressure  
• I will *impel* him to study more often in order to pass this class.  
**SYN**= engender, induce, goad
61. **Imperious**- extremely overbearing (acting like a King, royalty)  
• The *imperious* behavior of the dictator led to his overthrow.  
**SYN**= domineering
62. **Impertinent**- insolent rudeness, not within the proper bounds of good taste or manners  
• His *impertinent* remarks did not help his case in the eyes of the jury.  
**SYN**= obtrusive, officious, insolent
63. **Impetuous**- hasty, rash, impulsive  
• His *impetuous* behavior caused him to make many mistakes.

64. **Impregnable**- incapable of being taken by assault; incapable of being broken into or escaped from
- The warriors felt secure in the *impregnable* fortress
- SYN**= inviolate
65. **Incongruity**- not conforming, disagreeing, not compatible
- The *incongruity* between the two stories led me to doubt the accuracy of either report.
- SYN**= discrepancy
66. **Indignation**- anger as a result of something unjust
- I have much *indignation* about the light sentence given to the drunk driver who ran over my child.
67. **Induce**- to bring on or bring about
- His personality changes were *induced* by drugs.
- SYN**= impel, goad, engender
68. **Infallible**- incapable of error
- Since everyone makes mistakes, no human is *infallible*.
69. **Infamous**- having a reputation of the worst kind, disgraceful, vicious, notoriously bad
- The terrorist attack on U.S. soil on September 11 was an *infamous* act.
- SYN**= ignominious
70. **Ingenuity**- cleverness, inventiveness, resourcefulness
- He showed much *ingenuity* in his unique way of problem solving.
- SYN**= adroit, deft, dexterous
71. **Ingrate**- an ungrateful person
- I was stunned when I didn't even receive a "thank you" from the *ingrate*.
72. **Inscrutable**- (root word = scrutinize) - difficult to understand, mysterious
- He had us all confused with his *inscrutable* smile.
73. **Insolence (ent)**- insulting or contemptuous behavior
- His *insolence* and lack of respect for his mother are shocking.
- SYN**= arrogance, haughtiness, impertinence
74. **Inveterate**- firmly established, habitual, deep-rooted
- Because he was always an *inveterate* workaholic, he had trouble adjusting when he retired.
75. **Lament**- mourn or express sorrow in a demonstrative manner--such as wailing
- She *lamented* the death of her father in a very lachrymose manner.
- SYN**= despondent

## Vocabulary List 4

76. **Languid**- slow, sluggish, listless, weak  
• The old man's walk was *languid*; each pace required great effort.  
**SYN**= lethargic, torpid
77. **Latent**- not visible, dormant  
• Sometimes a teacher can cause *latent* talents to emerge.  
**SYN**= abeyance, dormant
78. **Loiter**- to stand idly or linger aimlessly  
• The police did not want people to *loiter* around the scene of the shooting.  
**SYN**= dawdle
79. **Lustrous**- shining or gleaming without sparkling  
• That gem is valuable due to its *lustrous* glow.  
**SYN**= luminous
80. **Magnanimity (magnanimous)** - having a lofty, generous, and courageous spirit  
• The *magnanimity* of the king endeared him to his subjects.
81. **Malevolence**- wishing ill will or evil on someone  
• The old man's *malevolence* was obvious when he took the girl out of his will.  
**SYN**= malice, malignity
82. **Malice**- desire to harm others  
• His death was caused by *malice* and was not accident.  
**SYN**= malevolence, malignity
83. **Malign**- to utter injuriously misleading reports about; intensely hostile  
• Several old gossips in the neighborhood *maligned* the woman.  
**SYN**= defame disparage
84. **Melancholy**- depression of spirits, sad  
• After dad lost his job, he was in a state of melancholy.  
**SYN**= despondent, lament, morose
85. **Meritorious( merit)** - deserving of honor or praise  
• As a result of his *meritorious* behavior, the soldier was given a medal.
86. **Mollify**- soothe or appease  
• The *mollification* of the child was achieved when he was promised candy.  
**SYN**= assuage, conciliate

87. **Monotony**- sameness  
• There is so much *monotony* in my life that I need a change.  
**SYN**= drone
88. **Moribund (morbid)**- close to death  
• The *moribund* man asked to see the priest.
89. **Morose**- being sullen or gloomy  
• He was very **morose** after his wife left him.  
**SYN**= melancholy, lament, despondent
90. **Mortify**- humiliate, wounded pride, experience shame, embarrassment  
• I was *mortified* when I found out that he overheard our disparaging conversation about him.  
**SYN**= discomfiture
91. **Obdurate**- extremely stubborn, unwilling to accept advice  
• She was *obdurate* in her refusal to listen to our concerns about her cocaine problem.  
**SYN**= adamant, obstinate, refractory
92. **Obscure**- difficult to see, vague, inscrutable  
• The meaning of the play was *obscure* and prevented my enjoyment of it.  
**SYN**= cryptic, enigma
93. **Obsequious**- overly attentive, like a sycophant, servile  
• I believe that his *obsequious* behavior toward his grandmother is to insure being included in the will.  
**SYN**= toady
94. **Obstinate**- unyielding regardless of reason or logic  
• He will not accept advice on many things because of an *obstinate* attitude.  
**SYN**= obdurate, adamant, refractory
95. **Obtrude**- to thrust out, to thrust forward  
• The hypnotist forced the man's memories of the event to *obtrude* his consciousness.
96. **Obtuse**- dull of mind, insensitive, stupid  
• His *obtuse* response to the question showed that he had no idea of the nature of the discussion.
97. **Odious**- deserving hate or contempt  
• Pornography is an *odious* business.
98. **Ominous**- threatening, warning  
• The *ominous* clouds were harbingers of the tornado.  
**SYN**= portentous, foreboding
99. **Omnipotent**- having unlimited power  
• A president who feels that he is *omnipotent* is not serving the country.

100. **Ostentatious**- showy, pretentious

- Don't you think that Mr. T's wearing of all those gold chains is a little *ostentatious*?

**SYN**= pompous, pretentious

## Vocabulary List #5

101. **Penitent**- showing or feeling regret for wrongdoing, repentant  
• He became *penitent* when he realized his prank resulted in serious injury.  
**SYN**= contrite, remorseful, rue
102. **Pernicious**- very destructive or harmful, deadly  
• Shooting heroin is a *pernicious* habit.  
**SYN**= deleterious, noxious
103. **Perpetuate**- prolong the existence of something  
• The Audubon Society tries to *perpetuate* the species of many threatened birds.
104. **Perspicacious**- having clear insight, shrewd, very perceptive  
• The *perspicacious* detective was able to figure out the perpetrator of the crime.  
**SYN**= astute, sagacious, shrewd, prudent
105. **Placid**- peaceful, calm  
• The wilderness is usually a *placid* place where one can relax.  
**SYN**= serene, tranquil
106. **Ponderous**- very heavy, unwieldy from weight  
• The *ponderous* furniture was hard to move, and thus became a ponderous burden.  
**SYN**= prodigious
107. **Potent**- powerful, having a strong effect  
• They gave a *potent* painkiller in the hospital.
108. **Primeval**- ancient, relating to the earliest ages  
• Our teacher cannot be classified as *primeval*, but he sure is old.
109. **Prodigious**- extraordinary in bulk, quantity, or degree, great in size, enormous  
• His appetite is quite *prodigious* considering that he consumed eight turkeys.  
**SYN**= ponderous
110. **Prudent**- wise and careful about practical matters  
• In the city, it is *prudent* to have locks on all doors.  
**SYN**= judicious, sage
111. **Pungent**- sharp or irritating to the taste or smell, acrid  
• There was a *pungent* odor in the stockyard.
112. **Querulous**- constantly complaining, whining  
• Her questions in that *querulous* voice are about to drive me crazy.
113. **Ravenous**- urgently eager for food; craving for satisfaction or gratification  
• The boy had a *ravenous* appetite and ate everything on the table.  
**SYN**= voracious, gluttonous

114. **Refractory**- unmanageable, stubborn with respect to authority, obstinate
- A *refractory* child should be removed from the classroom.
- SYN**= recalcitrant, obdurate, adamant
115. **Remonstrate**- protest, make objections
- I must *remonstrate* about the treatment of the residents of the convalescent hospital.
116. **Reproach**- to blame for something, a disgrace
- Her conduct was so bad that it was beyond *reproach*.
- SYN**= chide, rebuke, reprove
117. **Repudiate**- to reject, disown, disavow
- He announced that he would *repudiate* all debts that had been created by his wife.
118. **Repugnant**- disgusting, offensive
- It is *repugnant* to spit on the floor.
- SYN**= abhorrent
119. **Reticence**- restrained in speech, reluctance to speak
- A lawyer must have great *reticence* in discussing matters that could violate his client's rights.
- SYN**= taciturn
120. **Revere**- to honor, to regard with respect
- The Pope is one who is *revered* by nearly all Catholics.
- SYN**= venerate
121. **Rhapsodize**- to express in an overly enthusiastic manner
- He felt his Super Bowl trip was the greatest thing since the wheel and *rhapsodized* about it for weeks.
122. **Rudiment**- an essential element or skill, also the early stages of development
- Because he was not good at the *rudiments* of English, he had difficulty with his research paper.
123. **Rue, Rueful**- be sorry for, regret
- He will *rue* the day that he tangles with me.
- SYN**= remorse, penitent
124. **Sagacious (Sage)**- wise, shrewd, very discerning
- The *sagacious* freshmen knew not to buy an elevator pass from the senior attempting a clever ruse.
- SYN**= astute, perspicacious, shrewd, prudent
125. **Sanctify**- to set apart for sacred use, to make holy, to purify
- A priest *sanctifies* water by blessing it.

## Vocabulary List #6

126. **Sententious**- given to excessive moralizing
- The *sententious* expression “contentment breeds happiness” is not readily accepted by everyone.
127. **Servile**- overly submissive (to act like a servant)
- Having complete devotion and submissiveness for the sheik, the women of the harem were very *servile*.
- SYN**= obsequious, subservient
128. **Slovenly**- messy, untidy, careless
- A person with *slovenly* work habits will likely lose his job.
129. **Spurn**- reject or refuse with hostility
- The girl *spurned* the drunk’s advances by slapping him.
130. **Staid**- reserved and upright manner or behavior, sedate
- It is difficult for small children to be *staid* in church.
- SYN**= sober, solemn
131. **Stupefy**- to dull the senses as to put into a stupor
- That boring lecture would *stupefy* anyone with the slightest bit of intelligence.
- SYN**= obtuse
132. **Sublime**- exalted, noble, uplifting
- The romantic dinner, which included delicious food, soft music, and a beautiful setting, was simply *sublime*.
133. **Subtle**- delicate, elusive, not obvious
- It is difficult to be *subtle* in telling someone that they have body odor.
134. **Sunder (asunder)** - to break or force apart; to become parted or disunited
- When the friction grew more intense, the woman decided to *sunder* her relationship with her husband.
- SYN**= sever
135. **Supercilious**- haughty, vain, and arrogant (acting superior)
- I do not like your arrogant and *supercilious* attitude toward poor people.
- SYN**= arrogant, disdain, haughty
136. **Supplication**- begging, humbly asking for a favor
- I am going to see the Governor and make a *supplication* for a pardon for my brother.
- SYN**= beseechment, entreaty, imploration
137. **Tacit**- understood; silent; not spoken; implicit
- We have a *tacit* agreement that the goods are delivered only after payment is made.
- SYN**= taciturn, reticence
138. **Terse**- concise
- The President gave a *terse* statement dismissing the charges of the opposition party.
- SYN**= concise, laconic, succinct

139. **Trepidation**- fear, trembling, agitation
- Since I did not have time to study, I have a lot of *trepidation* about his examination.
140. **Ungainly**- awkward
- Boys who grow very fast are sometimes *ungainly*.
141. **Untenable**- something not able to be defended
- Taking a bribe in an *untenable* act for a politician.
142. **Upshot**- outcome, final result
- The *upshot* of the riot is that some are dead and many are wounded.
143. **Vagabond**- one who leads an unsettled, irresponsible or disreputable life
- During the winter months the library is often a warm resting place for the *vagabond*.
- SYN**= vagrant, tramp
144. **Vanquished**- to conquer, to overpower
- Hitler's armies *vanquished* Poland with aid from Russia.
145. **Vestiges**- remnants, traces, remains
- The archaeologists were looking for *vestiges* of ancient Egyptian civilizations.
146. **Vexation (vex)** - causing discomfort or distress
- Her children were a *vexation* to her in their youth.
  - The younger brother continually *vexed* his older sister when she had friends visiting.
147. **Vigilant**- very alert, watchful
- I have been *vigilant* in trying to find the thief.
148. **Virtuous (virtues)** - having excellent morals, righteous
- One would expect nuns to be very *virtuous*.
149. **Vogue**- popular fashion
- Miniskirts are now in *vogue* again.
150. **Vulgarity**- something offensive to good taste and refinement
- It is *vulgarity* that she is wearing a red dress during her marriage ceremony.
- SYN**= obscene
151. **Zeal**- enthusiasm, fervor, passion
- He brought great *zeal* to the teaching profession.
152. **Zealot**- one who embraces a cause and supports it with vigor
- The man was known as a religious *zealot*, as he never stopped trying to convert others to his beliefs.