List #1

To Kill a Mockingbird

1. **Acquiesce**- to give in, comply
   - I was so desperate that I had to *acquiesce* to his demand of paying him for the privilege of crossing his property on my way to school.
   SYN= accede, assent, consent

2. **Acrimonious** (acrid)- animosity, caustic language, sarcastic
   - The prisoner of war had *acrimonious* remarks for those that mistreated him.

3. **Arid**- very dry
   - The desert is an arid place.

4. **Articulate**- speak distinctly, expressing oneself clearly
   - An announcer must be *articulate*. A good politician must be able to *articulate* his views.
   SYN= enunciate
   ANT= mumble

5. **Assuage**- to ease, mitigate, make less painful or burdensome, calm, soothe
   - Your kind words should *assuage* her suffering. The medicine should *assuage* his pain.
   SYN= allay, alleviate, mitigate

6. **Auspicious**- favorable
   - Making an “A” on the first test was an *auspicious* way to begin the year.
   SYN= propitious

7. **Begrudge**- to give reluctantly, to envy a possession or one’s enjoyment
   - I don’t *begrudge* giving you the benefit of the doubt.

8. **Benevolence**- kindness
   - His *benevolence* was shown when he set up sups kitchens for the poor.
   ANT= antagonism, avarice

9. **Caricature**- a portrayal where features are distorted, a parody
   - The *caricature* of the presidential nominee was hysterical.
   SYN= burlesque, parody, satire [literary terms]

10. **Complacency**- state of being self- satisfied
    - Considering he is failing, it is curious to see his sense of *complacency*; he doesn’t seem to be worried about having to take the class again in summer school.

11. **Congenital**- existing at birth or dating from birth
    - Hundreds of babies are born with *congenital* birth defects each year.
    SYN= innate

12. **Corroboration**- confirmation
    - Fortunately, I had some *corroboration* for my whereabouts on the night of the crime.
    SYN= authenticate, substantiate, validate, verify
    ANT= refutation (refute)
13. **Dictum**- an authoritative statement
   - The *dictum* from the Pope does not allow for divorce to be recognized by the Catholic church.
   
14. **Diminution**- diminishing, reducing
   - The *diminution* of nuclear weapons is a goal of arms control.
   
15. **Disapprobation**- disapproval, condemnation
   - The unruly child faced the *disapprobation* of his parents when they learned of his behavior.

16. **Domicile**- home or residence
   - Because he works on both coasts, he has two domiciles.

17. **Drone**- speaking in a monotonous tone, a continuous low humming sound.
   - I could hardly endure the constant *drone* of the speaker’s voice.

18. **Edifying**- instructing and improving spiritually and morally
   - Visiting the cathedral was an *edifying* experience.
   
19. **Elucidate**- make clear. Explain
   - I will try to *elucidate* some of the important changes in the tax code.

20. **Enunciate**- pronounce clearly
   - Please *enunciate* your response so that everyone can understand you.

21. **Fanaticism**- excessive irrational enthusiasm or zeal
   - The Nazis engendered *fanaticism* among their followers.

22. **Formidable**- menacing, causing fear or awe
   - Muhammad Ali was a *formidable* opponent in his time.

23. **Fractious**- unruly
   - The *fractious* students started a food fight.

24. **Fraudulent**- deceitful, portraying as genuine with an impostor
   - The lawyer used the *fraudulent* document as proof the client was lying.

25. **Frivolous, frivolity**- lacking in seriousness or importance
   - A teacher should limit *frivolous* behavior in the classroom.

26. **Furtive**- secret in a underhanded way, stealthy
   - During the test, he made some *furtive* glances at other classmates’ paper.
27. **Guile**- deceitfulness, duplicity, trick
   - He achieved his high position by dishonesty and **guile**.
   SYN= duplicity (lying)  ANT= candor (honesty)

28. **Guileless**- without deceit
   - It would be nice to elect a trustworthy politician that is **guileless**.
   ANT= deceitful, guile

29. **Hone** (sharpen)- to sharpen, to make more intense, to make more effective
   - I am going to the golf course to **hone** my putting skills.

30. **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, impudent

31. **Impudent**- disrespectful improper bold behavior
   - The student’s **impudent** act of using profanity toward Mrs. Dove caused him to be expelled.
   SYN= impertinent

32. **Indigenous**- native to a certain area
   - Many types of cacti are **indigenous** to the desert southwest part of the United States.
   SYN= aboriginal, endemic

33. **Infallible**- incapable of error
   - Since everyone makes mistakes, no human is **infallible**.
   ANT= erroneous, fallacious

34. **Ingenuity**- cleverness, inventiveness, resourcefulness
   - He showed much **ingenuity** in his unique way of solving the problem.
   SYN= adroit, cunning, deft, dexterous

35. **Innate**- existing from birth, inborn
   - He has **innate** athletic talents that cannot be taught.
   SYN= congenital
36. **Inordinate**- exceeding reasonable limits, excessive
   - It is a sign of trouble when a student has an *inordinate* amount of absences.
   
   SYN = excessive, exorbitant, extravagant, extreme, immoderate

37. **Irascible**- irritable, easily angered, cranky, cross
   - Just about anything could set off his *irascible* temper.

   ANT= impulsive, imperturbable

38. **Lament**- mourn or express sorrow in a demonstrative manner—such as wailing (dramatic)
   - She *lamented* the death of her father in a very lachrymose manner.

   SYN = bemoan, bewail, melancholy
   ANT= rejoice

39. **Malevolence**- wishing ill will or evil on someone
   - The old man’s *malevolence* was obvious when he took the girl out of his will and she inherited nothing.

   SYN = malice, malignity, spite, spleen
   ANT= benevolence

40. **Melancholy**- depression of spirits, sad
   - After his dad lost his job, he was in a state of *melancholy*.

41. **Oblique**- slanting, indirect, evasive, devious, misleading
   - Because of the suspect’s *oblique* answers, our interrogation of him led us in the wrong direction.

   SYN= biased

42. **Oblivion**- state of being forgotten
   - Until George Harrison’s recent hit, his singing career had fallen into a state of *oblivion*.

43. **Ominous**- threatening
   - The *ominous* clouds were harbingers of the tornado.

   SYN= portentous (portent)

44. **Palette**- board on which painters mix paints
   - The artist mixed her colors on the *palette* rather than on the canvas.

45. **Palliate**- easing of pain or guilt or intensity
   - The doctor attempted to *palliate* the patient’s suffering by prescribing drugs.

   SYN= assuage
   ANT= intensity

46. **Piety**- devotion and reverence to God (very religious)
   - The man was noted for his *piety* and devotion to the church.

   SYN= revere
   ANT= irreverence

47. **Placid**- peaceful, calm
   - The wilderness is usually a *placid* place where one can relax.

   SYN= serene, tranquil
48. **Predilection**- preference  
   • He has a *predilection* for fish, so when he goes out to eat, he usually orders seafood.  
   **SYN**= propensity

49. **Profane (profanity)**- showing contempt toward sacred things  
   • *Profane* language will not be tolerated on the tennis court.  
   **SYN**= irreverence  
   **ANT**= piety

50. **Propel**- drive or push forward  
   • The professor used plutonium to *propel* his time machine.

51. **Propensity**- preference, natural inclination  
   • I have a *propensity* for rising early.  
   **SYN**= leaning, penchant, proclivity, predilection  
   **ANT**= aversion

52. **Protrusion**- something sticking out  
   • A large *protrusion* on his head was the result of being hit by the bat.  
   **ANT**= indentation

53. **Quaint**- unusual in character or appearance  
   • When we go to New England, we like to stay in a *quaint* old inn that gives the flavor of the area.  
   **SYN**= eccentric, peculiar, queer, unique

54. **Recluse**- a person who lives in solitude, hermit (Boo Radley)  
   • Howard Hughes is the most famous *recluse* of the century.  
   **ANT**= cosmopolitan

55. **Rectitude**- state of moral integrity, high morals (Atticus)  
   • When the preacher’s *rectitude* was questioned, many left his congregation.  
   **ANT**= depravity

56. **Revere**- to honor, to regard with respect  
   • The Pope is one who is *revered* by nearly all Catholics.  
   **SYN**= adore, venerate, worship, piety  
   **ANT**= despise, profane, irreverence

57. **Rudiment**- an essential element or skill, also the early stages of development  
   • Because he is not good at the *rudiments* of English, he has difficulty with his research paper.

58. **Savory**- appetizing  
   • My mother is known for her *savory* meals.  
   **SYN**= palatable

59. **Serene**- calm, placid  
   • The mountain on a clear spring morning is a *serene* setting.  
   **SYN**= placid, tranquil

60. **Sordid**- filthy, foul  
   • The *sordid* details of the brutal ax murder sickened the jurors.
61. **Stealth**- acting in a secret and sneaky way—this is a negative term
   • Secret agents move by *stealth* to gather information to spy on others and sell secrets.
   **SYN=** clandestine, covert, furtive, surreptitious, underhanded  **ANT=** overt, obvious

62. **Succinct**- brief, compact, to the point
   • Her comments were *succinct* and to the point.
   **SYN=** concise, laconic, summary, terse

63. **Taciturn (tacit- unspoken)** - quiet, not verbose, not talkative
   • A shy person is usually *taciturn*.
   **SYN=** reticence  **ANT=** verbose, loquacious, talkative

64. **Temerity**- boldness that is foolhardy
   • I can’t believe he has the *temerity* to talk back to his commanding officer.
   **SYN=** audacity, chutzpah, effrontery, gall, nerve

65. **Tentative**- not fully worked out, provisional, uncertain, not permanent
   • We have a *tentative* arms-control agreement.
   **ANT=** permanent

66. **Terrestrial**- of the earth or pertaining to the earth
   • Human beings are *terrestrial* beings.
   **SYN=** terrain  **ANT =** extra-terrestrial

67. **Tranquil**- peaceful, calm
   • Weather in Texas can quickly change from *tranquil* to turbulent.
   **SYN=** placid, serene

68. **Turbulence**- wild or disturbing activity
   • There is a lot of *turbulence* during a hurricane.
   **ANT=** tranquil

69. **Unmitigated**- not made less severe or intense
   • The witness exhibited the most *unmitigated* contempt in the courtroom.
   **ANT=** mitigate, assuage

70. **Unobtrusive**- not readily noticeable, inconspicuous
   • He is very *unobtrusive* sitting over there in the corner.
   **SYN=** stealth

71. **Vivid**- bright, distinct, and clear
   • I have *vivid* memories of my trip to Europe.
   **SYN=** graphic  **ANT=** lackluster
To Kill A Mockingbird: Additional Vocabulary Words
These words should become part of your Personal Vocabulary Enhancement

- Define these words
- Be responsible for definitions
- Make flashcards for any word you don’t already know

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