

Vocabulary List

Day 1. 6/28 Monday

1. adversary

someone who offers opposition

*The students are united by shared suffering, and by a common **adversary**.* [New York Times](#) (Nov 10, 2014)

2. aplomb

great coolness and composure under strain

*I wish I had handled it with **aplomb**.* [New York Times](#) (May 18, 2014)

3. apprehensive

in fear or dread of possible evil or harm

*Virga still feels **apprehensive** when visiting an unfamiliar zoo.* [New York Times](#) (Jul 3, 2014)

4. aptitude

inherent ability

*I was recently asked in an interview, what is more valued by companies – **aptitude** or attitude?* [Forbes](#) (Sep 12, 2014)

5. attentive

taking heed

*You make sure to be extra **attentive** to your friend.* [Time](#) (Oct 2, 2014)

6. banish

send away from a place of residence, as for punishment

*Napoleon loses so big that he is **banished** to an island.*[New York Times](#) (Dec 5, 2014)

7. [barricade](#)

block off with barriers

*The Secret Service ordered nearby streets and parking lots **barricaded** for security.*[Washington Times](#) (Dec 1, 2014)

8. [bluff](#)

deceive someone about your strength or intentions

*Sporting a pith helmet, Nixon observed that “whoever is talking the loudest is pretty sure to be **bluffing**.”*[New York Times](#) (Sep 19, 2014)

9. [brackish](#)

slightly salty

***Brackish** water can be used, but freshwater is easier and less costly.*[New York Times](#) (May 14, 2014)

10. [brandish](#)

move or swing back and forth

*Hart **brandished** a “Free Hugs” sign as he stood alone in front of a police barricade.*[MSNBC](#) (Nov 30, 2014)

Day 2. 6/30 Wednesday

11. [circumference](#)

the size of something as given by the distance around it

*That's almost 10 times the **circumference** of the Earth, which is a surprisingly small 24,859.82 miles.*[BBC](#) (Dec 1, 2014)

12. [commotion](#)

confused movement

*Moments later came **commotion**, followed by shouts of "Stop pushing me!"*[MSNBC](#) (Sep 26, 2014)

13. [concoction](#)

any foodstuff made by combining different ingredients

*There are some food combos that blend beautifully with each other to create truly tasty **concoctions**.*[US News](#) (Sep 4, 2014)

14. [conspicuous](#)

obvious to the eye or mind

*Today, the link is more **conspicuous**: highlighted in blue, it appears directly beneath the site's login form.*[New York Times](#) (Oct 23, 2014)

15. [contortion](#)

a tortuous and twisted shape or position

*There was tumbling, human pyramids and bodies stretched into extraordinary **contortions**.*[BBC](#) (Aug 25, 2013)

16. counter

speaking in response

*The seller can then accept, **counter** or reject the offer.* [US News](#) (Dec 9, 2014)

17. cunning

shrewdness as demonstrated by being skilled in deception

*Moreover, it was no secret that Cleopatra had ruthless **cunning** and superior intelligence.* [Sterling Biographies®: Cleopatra: Egypt's Last and Greatest Queen](#)

18. debris

the remains of something that has been destroyed

*The blast rattled their homes and sent **debris** flying onto nearby properties, they said.* [Washington Times](#) (Dec 4, 2014)

19. defiance

a hostile challenge

*Schools still could expel students for violating school rules or laws and could suspend students for willful **defiance** of authorities in grades 4 through 12.* [Washington Times](#) (Sep 27, 2014)

20. deft

skillful in physical movements; especially of the hands

*To make it work requires a **deft** hand.* [Forbes](#) (Sep 25, 2014)

Day 3. 7/2 Friday

21. destination

the place designated as the end, as of a race or journey

*Airports get stacked up with planes that can't take off for their **destinations**.*[Forbes](#) (Dec 9, 2014)

22. diminish

decrease in size, extent, or range

*By Friday morning, most of the heavy rain is expected to **diminish**.*[Los Angeles Times](#) (Dec 10, 2014)

23. disdain

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

*In the visage of Grumpy Cat, it seems, her fans found the perfect holy expression of indifferent **disdain** for all things.*[Washington Post](#)

24. dismal

causing dejection

*It's been a pretty **dismal** month, as far as world events go, but the news wasn't all bad thanks to some very entertaining on-air mishaps.*[Time](#) (Aug 28, 2014)

25. dispel

force to go away

*For most of us, **dispelling** the darkness is as simple as turning on a light.*[Time](#) (Oct 23, 2014)

26. eavesdrop

listen without the speaker's knowledge

*They **eavesdrop** on the noises that other birds make while hiding food in order to steal the stash later, new research shows.* [Science Magazine](#) (Nov 21, 2014)

27. egregious

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

*Prosecutors questioned him about killings and other **egregious** human rights abuses perpetrated by his regime.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (Oct 4, 2014)

28. ember

a hot, smoldering fragment of wood left from a fire

*“Every hot spot is an **ember** that, if not contained, can become a new fire,” Obama said.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (Dec 2, 2014)

29. emerge

come out into view, as from concealment

*They say that program has helped them **emerge** from the shadows, making possible a work permit, a Social Security number and enhanced self-respect.* [Washington Post](#)

30. engross

consume all of one's attention or time

*I don't know how long I was reading; I was so **engrossed** in the paper that I did not hear any footsteps.* [Long Walk to Freedom](#)

