

Vocabulary List

1-10

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)

11-20

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

speaks 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 \(Sep 25, 2014\)](#)

Vocab 21-30

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](#)

Vocab 31-40

31. exasperation

a feeling of annoyance

*Like many a teenager on his school holidays, Parys is in bed, his mother explains with **exasperation**. [The Guardian](#) (Aug 2, 2014)*

32. exhilarate

fill with sublime emotion

*“To see Yosemite Falls coming to life this morning is truly **exhilarating**,” Park Superintendent Don Neubacher said in a statement. [Los Angeles Times](#) (Dec 3, 2014)*

33. falter

move hesitatingly, as if about to give way

*“The rocket has **faltered**, but it won’t crash,” he said. [New York Times](#) (Nov 20, 2014)*

34. foresight

seeing ahead; knowing in advance; foreseeing

*But nobody had the wherewithal or **foresight** to think that day would actually happen. [MSNBC](#) (Jul 3, 2014)*

35. fragrance

a distinctive odor that is pleasant

*After 30 minutes in the oven, what hits you first is the enticing, warm **fragrance** that fills your kitchen. [Washington Post](#)*



36. furtive

secret and sly

*What muffled whispers do they share, what **furtive** games are they playing?*[The Guardian](#) (Dec 18, 2012)

37. grueling

characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion

*As of Dec. 19, 22 students will have made it through a **grueling** curriculum that requires about 700 hours of computer code.*[Washington Times](#) (Dec 10, 2014)

38. gusto

vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment

*They each approach their tasks with **gusto** that can only be admired, even if the results can't.*[Washington Times](#) (Aug 21, 2014)

39. habitation

the act of dwelling in or living permanently in a place

*Although the area is not fit for human **habitation**, many poor people who work in the coal mines live here.*[BBC](#) (Aug 13, 2013)

40. hasten

speed up the progress of; facilitate

*Rather than wait for that day, he set out to **hasten** its arrival.*

Vocab 41-50

41. [headway](#)

forward movement

*At times, you feel like you're struggling to run forward, going through the motions but making no **headway**, frozen in place.* [Washington Post](#)

42. [ignite](#)

cause to start burning

*Firefighters say the blaze started when stain-soaked rags **ignited** on the front porch.* [Washington Times \(Dec 10, 2014\)](#)

43. [illuminate](#)

make free from confusion or ambiguity

*The problem is that for **illuminating** answers, you need to ask the right questions.* [New York Times \(Dec 6, 2014\)](#)

44. [impending](#)

close in time; about to occur

*First, he gives the enemy 12 days of warning about **impending** air attacks.* [Washington Post](#)

45. [imperious](#)

having or showing arrogant superiority

*It was a little scary how quickly he flipped from friendly to **imperious**.* [New York Times \(Sep 4, 2013\)](#)



46. [jabber](#)

talk in a noisy, excited, or declamatory manner

*A parrot **jabbered** atop its cage and a monkey squealed and battered at its bronze ring, until its owner brought bananas.*[Bartlett, Paul Alexander](#)

47. [jargon](#)

technical terminology characteristic of a particular subject

*Steer clear of **jargon**, me-too claims, and statements without substance.*[Forbes](#) (Dec 5, 2014)

48. [jostle](#)

make one's way by pushing or shoving

*In Jerusalem, great religions have crowded and **jostled** their way down through millenniums.*[Los Angeles Times](#) (Nov 21, 2014)

49. [jut](#)

extend out or project in space

*From its long beak **juts** a fearsome tooth.*[New York Times](#) (Nov 10, 2014)

50. [kindle](#)

call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response

*Recently in class I saw the fire of an idea flicker in a first-year student's eyes—and so to **kindle** it I cold-called him.*[Forbes](#) (Sep 16, 2014)

Vocab 51-60

51. knoll

a small natural hill

*The home, set on a quarter-acre **knoll**, has views of the city, the Hollywood Reservoir and the Hollywood sign.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (Aug 9, 2014)

52. luminous

softly bright or radiant

*It was briefly one of the most **luminous** stars in the galaxy.* [New York Times](#) (Sep 3, 2014)

53. malleable

easily influenced

*“Memory is so **malleable** or volatile that each time we see something, the memory is actually influenced and re-created.”* [Washington Times](#) (Oct 18, 2014)

54. materialize

come into being; become reality

*By the time people reach their 70s, they’re beginning to look back at the plans they made and dreams they had that never **materialized**.* [Time](#) (Nov 25, 2014)

55. meander

move or cause to move in a winding or curving course

*Instead of straight paths and noisy throngs, the new park will have **meandering** walkways and quiet places for picnicking nestled in gently sloping "lawn valleys."[Chicago Tribune \(Jul 26, 2014\)](#)*

56. [meticulous](#)

marked by extreme care in treatment of details

*It's a six-page scene and very **meticulous**, step by step.[Los Angeles Times \(Aug 24, 2014\)](#)*

57. [misgiving](#)

uneasiness about the fitness of an action

*Quite a few said they had come despite the **misgivings** of parents who wanted them to focus on studying.[New York Times \(Sep 26, 2014\)](#)*

58. [momentum](#)

an impelling force or strength

*Mitchell believed that a song's **momentum** should always push upward, ascending like the slope of a mountain into the unknown.[Washington Post](#)*

59. [monotonous](#)

sounded or spoken in a tone unvarying in pitch

*Unfortunately, their **monotonous** verbiage reminds me of Charlie Brown's teacher in the "Peanuts" TV shows.[Washington Post](#)*

60. [multitude](#)

a large indefinite number

*They surround you in their **multitudes** - hundreds, maybe thousands of them, swooping and stinging and injecting venom into your flesh.*