

Vocabulary Word List and Definitions

- Mastodons** (n.): giant prehistoric animals
Sobriquet (n.): a nickname
Ornithopter (n.): an experimental device propelled by flapping wings
Bulkhead (n.): an opening into a staircase or shaft
Microsurgery (n.): surgery with the use of a microscope
Periodic (adj.): happening sometimes, especially in repeating cycles
Scraggly (adj.): ragged, messy
Postulate (v.): made an informed guess
Cretin (n.): an unintelligent person
Unvanquished (adj.): not defeated
Cavalry (n.): soldiers on horseback; reinforcements
Glimpse (n. or v.): a quick look
Archetype (n.): a universal symbol or idea
Propulsion (n.): a force lifting or propelling something
Demeanor (n.): the way a person behaves; their expression
Opiate (n.): a drug containing opium; something that causes sleep or sedation
Converging (adj.): coming together
Hunkering (adj.): squatting; walking heavily
Depleted (adj.): reduced
Edgy (adj.): daring, exciting; nervous
Evasive (adj.): moving to avoid something
Nanosecond (n.): a fraction of a second; a very short amount of time
Mitigating (adj.): making somewhat better; explaining
Venue (n.): location, place
Circumstantial (adj.): not proven, but suggested because the right circumstances existed
Precludes (v.): makes impossible
Recidivism (adj.): when someone already convicted of a crime commits another crime
Deter (v.): prevent
Incarceration (n.): putting someone in prison
Retribution (n.): revenge, vengeance
Proportionate (adj.): matching up; equal by degree; fair
Arbitrary (adj.): random; not fairly applied
Bias (n.): a preference that leads one to be unfair
Counsel (n.): lawyers representing one side of a case
Macabre (adj.): gloomy, very spooky, dealing with death
Eerie (adj.): creepy, mysterious
Harvest (n.): time of the year when you gather crops
Trepidation (n.): fear
Ghoul (n.): spook, ghost
Autumnal (adj.): resembling the Fall season
Crypt (n.): coffin, tomb
Resurrection (n.): rising from the dead
Supernatural (adj.): unexplained, paranormal, beyond natural

Masquerade (v. or n.): to dress in costumes; or, a costume party
Visage (n.): face
Jury (n.): a group of people who make the decision in a case
Acquit (v.): to find someone innocent
Witness (n.): someone with information who testifies a trial
Testimony (n.): the statements that witnesses make at a trial
Plead (v.): to ask
Lethal (adj.): deadly
Just (adj.): fair
Defendant (n.): the accused person at a trial
Verdict (n.): the decision of guilty or innocent in a trial
Alibi (n.): an excuse
Contempt (n.) disgust; disrespect
Plot (n.): sequence of events in a story; what happens
Setting (n.): the time and place where a story takes place
Mood (n.): atmosphere; a feeling the story gives the reader
Character (n.): person, animal, or imaginary creature in a story
Theme (n.): message about life or human nature in a story; bigger issue
Genre (n.): category
Fable (n.): brief story that teaches a lesson about human nature
Exposition (n.): explanation; introductory information in a story
Climax (n.): most exciting and dramatic point of a story
Conflict (n.): struggle between opposing forces
Denouement (n.): conclusion
Aggrievedly (adv.): angrily; upset that you have been mistreated
Chaos (n.): extreme confusion or disorder
Convalescing (v.): recovering gradually from an illness
Forage (v.): search, especially for food
Gaudy (adj.): excessively bright and showy
Incalculable (adj.): too great to be measured or counted
Vigil (n.): a time of staying awake to keep watch
Susceptible (adj.): easily affected or influenced
Tantalizing (adj.): extremely tempting
Wan (adj.): sickly; pale
Serial (adj.): part of a series
Flustered (adj.): nervous or confused
Intense (adj.): showing great concentration or determination
Optimistic (adj.): hopeful about the future
Persistent (adj.): refusing to give up
Animosity (n): hostility; unfriendliness
Defiant (adj.): standing up against something
Incriminate (v.): to cause to appear guilty
Idiosyncrasy (n.): something odd about the person
Contorted (adj.): twisted or pulled out of shape
Legitimate (adj.): true; official
Prejudice (n.): bias

Simile (n.): a comparison between two unlike things using like or as. Ex: Her hair is like sparkling sunlight.

Metaphor (n.): a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two different things. Ex: Her hair is sparkling sunlight.

Hyperbole (n.): an exaggeration for emphasis or comic effect. Ex: I've told you seven hundred million times to take out the trash.

Synonym (n.): a word that has the same, or almost the same, meaning as another word. Ex: giant, huge

Antonym (n.): a word that has the opposite meaning as another word. Ex: loud, quiet

Dialect (n.): a different variety of language spoken by people in a particular area of the country or from a particular culture (for example, the Southern dialect), with different pronunciation or vocabulary.

Alliteration (n.): the repetition of beginning consonant sounds in words. For example, she sells seashells by the seashore. Ex: Fifteen filthy frogs flew from Fairbanks to Finland.

Onomatopoeia (n.): the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it

Imagery (n.): words and phrases that appeal to the five senses and create vivid experiences for the reader. Ex: The purple-green flower was in the middle of a patch of green, sweet-smelling grass that went to the end of the lush yard.

Disembark (v): get off

Misdemeanor (n.): small crime

Lurk (v.): hang around, sometimes secretly

Sterile (adj.): very clean, germ-free

Lacerate (v.): cut deeply

Sanctum (n.) sacred or important place

Enthralled (adj.): totally riveted on something, totally focused

Rigmarole (n.): nonsense, long process

Wretched (adj.): pathetic, very sad

Unadulterated (adj.): pure

Concocting (v.): creating

Loathsome (adj.): disgusting; vile

Wily (adj.): clever, crafty, tricky

Sidle (v.): walk slowly or casually

Idyllic (adj.): peaceful and wonderful, perfect

Solemn (adj.): very serious and important

Vividly (adv.): very clearly

Raucous (adj.): loud, noisy

Rabble (n.): the common, unsophisticated people

Fjord (n.): a long, narrow, body of water connected to a sea

Riveted (adj.): stuck, very tight to

Benignly (adv.): harmlessly, kindly

Prosperous (n.): marked by success or economic well-being

Excruciating (adj.): very painful

Amputated (v.): to remove by or as if by cutting

Majestic (adj.): royal, noble, impressive

Splendor (n.): great brightness
Invariably (adv.): always
Mechanism (n.): machinery
Cauldron (n.): a large kettle or boiler
Anesthetic (n.): something that puts you to sleep
Saturated (v.): soaked
Ambition (n.): goal, dream
Applicable (adj.): relevant; capable of being used for this purpose
Expedient (adj.): easy, fast
Pacifist (n.): someone who does not believe in violence
Extraneous (adj.): extra, not related to the facts
Misanthrope (n.): someone who hates people
Ruthless (adj.): having no mercy
Futile (adj.): unsuccessful
Obsolete (adj.): out of date
Belligerent (adj.): aggressive, looking for a fight
Opportune (adj.): well-timed, useful
Mollify (v.): to calm-down, to ease hurt feelings
Revere (v.): strongly admire
Apathetic (adj.): not caring
Soporific (adj.): boring
Malice (n.): anger, evil
Vendetta (n.): revenge, a grudge
Jovial (adj.): happy, cheerful
Gumption (n.): courage, pluck, moxie, spunk
Covert (adj.): secret
Oust (v.): to remove
Relinquish (v.): to give up something
Repudiate (v.): refuse to recognize
Cite (v.): to make reference to; to give as an example
Source (n.): a place where you find information
Primary Source (n.): an original source created in history (examples include a letter, a speech, an e-mail, a book by someone)
Secondary Source (n.): something the author gives second hand information about something. A letter by Abraham Lincoln would be a primary source; biography of President Lincoln would be a secondary source.
Quotation (n.): a piece of text copied exactly, word for word, from another source, and put in quotation marks.
Paraphrase (n.): a piece of your paper where you use another person's information but put it into your own words. You still need to cite the source that had the information.
Plagiarism (n.): when you take someone else's ideas and claims them as your own. This can include copying or quoting or paraphrasing without indicating the source you are using.
Outline (n.): a guide for writing a paper
Works Cited (n.): sometimes also called a bibliography, a list of all the sources used for a research paper

Credible (adj.): trustworthy
Internal Citation (n.): a specific way of citing sources in a research paper
Mar (v.): to smudge or make dirty
Penchant (n.): inclination, habit
Morosely (adv.): sadly
Maverick (n.): rebel, independent person
Temerity (n.): foolish courage
Emaciated (adj.): extremely skinny
Lynched (v.): hung or assaulted without a trial
Undaunted (adj.): still confident
Formidable (adj.): imposing, extremely impressive
Sharecropping (n.): working on land you don't own and giving the owner a portion of the crops you grow
Meticulously (adv.): very carefully, very painstakingly
Resiliency (n.): strength, toughness
Adamantly (adv.): stubbornly, without moving
Oblivious (adj.): not noticing, not paying attention
Flippantly (adv.): casually, without caring very much
Admonished (v.): scolded, corrected
Feigned (v.): pretended
Fathom (v.): understand, comprehend
Ambled (v.) walked slowly or leisurely
Proprietors (n.): store owners
Woefully (adv.): sadly
Aloof (adj.): off to the side of the group, on his/her own
Persnickety (adj.): paying too much attention to detail
Wagering (v.): betting
Testy (adj.): irritable, easily annoyed
Riled (adj. or v.): upset, worked up
Spindly (adj.): long and thin (often weak)
Maggoty (adj.): rotten, disgusting
Gleaming (adj.): shiny
Simmering (v.): boiling
Searing (adj. or v.): burning
Kerosene (n.): oil used as a fuel
Gripe (v. or n.): complain, complaint
Combine (n.): a machine that harvests, threshes, and cleans grain
Carcass (n.): dead body
Squirreled (adj. or v.): hidden, hid
Chafed (v.): rubbed against painfully
Pandowdy (n.): a spoon pie, with fruit on the bottom and a rolled crust on top, which is broken up to allow the juices to come through
Withered (adj. or v.): dying, shriveled
Excavating (v.): digging
Parched (adj.): extremely dry or thirsty
Brittle (adj.): easily broken or cracked

Soothe (v.): calm, relax

Charred (adj. or v.): burnt

Queue (n.): line of people, group of people

Divining (n.): to show a path (usually magical)

Glowering (v.): staring meanly

Graze (v.): to feed on grass

Grime (n.): dirt

Stupor (n.): a state of confusion or lack of feeling

Hoarding (v.): saving

Gaunt (adj.): extremely skinny

Diversification (n.): adding more differences

Wince (v.): to shrink back (from pain)

Mottled (adj.): spotted

Tremble (v.): shake