

210-WORD VOCABULARY LIST

Column 1:

SAGACIOUS (adj) -- Keen intelligence; shrewdness

PRECOCIOUS (adj) - 1. Characterized by unusually early development or maturity, especially in mental aptitude. 2. Manifesting or characterized by premature or unusually early development. 3. Botany. Blossoming before the leaves sprout

EDIFY (v) - To instruct or enlighten so as to encourage moral or spiritual improvement

ERUDITE (adj) - Deeply learned. Erudition: Deep and extensive learning. synonym: knowledge

ETHICS (n) -- 1. The study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by the individual in his relationship with others; the philosophy of morals. Also called "moral philosophy." The rules and standards governing the conduct of the members of a profession

CONVERGE (v) -- To approach the same point from different directions; tend toward a meeting or intersection

DIVERGE (v) -- To tend in different directions from a common point. 2. To differ, as in opinion or manner. 3. To depart from a set course or norm. To deviate

SUBJECTIVE (adj) -- Existing in the mind; belonging to the person thinking rather than to the object thought of. Influenced by personal feelings; opinions

OBJECTIVE (adj) -- Something real and observable. Existing outside the mind as something actual and not merely in the mind as an idea; real

OPTIMISM (n) -- tendency to look on the bright side of things

PESSIMISM (n) -- tendency to look on the dark side of things or to see all the difficulties and disadvantages

TANTAMOUNT (adj) - Equivalent in effect or value

AMELIORATE (v) - To make better; improve. To become better

IRONY (n) -- the use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning 2. incongruity between what might have been expected and what actually occurs

AMITY (n) - Peaceful relations, as between nations; friendship

Column 2:

GREGARIOUS (adj) -- Social, outgoing, enjoys the company of others of its kind

CONVIVIAL (adj) - 1. Fond of feasting, drinking, and good company; sociable; jovial. 2. relating to or of the nature of a feast; festive. syn: jolly

LOQUACIOUS (adj) -- Talking much, fond of talking

PRATE (v) - Idle chatter

TACITURN (adj) -- Quiet, not fond of talking; habitually silent

FERAL (n) -- having gone from a domestic state to a primitive, wild state; Tarzan is an example

GEEK (n) -- a person who dresses or acts in an unusual manner around certain types of people. 2. a circus performer who bites the heads off of live chickens and snakes

GAUCHE (adj) -- lacking grace or tact; awkward

URBANE (adj) - Having or showing the refined manners of polite society; elegant

COQUETTE (n) -- woman who tries to attract men; flirt

PHILANDERER (n) -- a man who makes love without serious intentions; flirt

PUGNACIOUS (adj) -- Eager to fight physically; quarrelsome. Comes from pugilist — boxer

BELLICOSE (adj) -- fond of quarreling, arguing

IRASCIBLE (adj) - Prone to outbursts of temper; easily angered

CURMUDGEON (n) -- 1. A cantankerous, ill-tempered, quarrelsome, disagreeable, contrary person. 2. rare: A miser.

Column 3:

MOLLIFY (v) -- to calm in temper; to soothe or appease

ADMONISH (v) - 1. To reprove mildly or kindly, but seriously. 2. To counsel against something; caution; warn.

STULTIFY (v) - To cause someone to appear stupid, inconsistent, ridiculous; to cripple psychologically. 2. LAW: To allege or prove insane and so not legally

responsible

CHAGRIN (n) - A feeling of embarrassment or humiliation caused by failure or disappointment

CONTRITE (adj) - 1. Humbled by guilt and repentant for one's sins; syn: penitent

RECALCITRANT (adj) - Stubbornly resistant to authority, domination, or guidance; refractory

INTRACTABLE (adj) - Difficult to manage or govern; stubborn. Difficult to mold or manipulate

PARIAH (n) - A social outcast. 2. A member of a low caste of agricultural and domestic workers in southern India and Burma

NEMESIS (n) - 1. An inflicter of retribution; an avenger. 2. One that inflicts relentless vengeance or destruction. 3. An unbeatable rival, as in sports

NEFARIOUS (adj) - Evil, infamous

COERCION (n) -- The forcing of someone to act or think in a given manner; to bully by pressure or threats

DIPSOMANIA (n) -- An unquenchable thirst for alcoholic beverages

MENDICANT (n) -- 1. A beggar; depending upon alms for a living; 2. a member of the mendicant order of friars

VENAL (adj) - 1. Open or susceptible to bribery. Capable of betraying one's honor, duty, or scruples for a price; corruptible. 2. Marked by corrupt or unscrupulous dealings

VENIAL (adj) - Easily excused or forgiven; pardonable; a minor offense

Column 4:

VIRAGO (n) -- A violent, bad-tempered, or scolding woman; an angry Amazon

COCKALORUM (n) - 1. A little man with an unduly high opinion of himself. 2. One who brags

FALLOW (adj) - 1. Plowed and tilled but left unseeded during a growing season. 2. Not pregnant

XENOPHOBIA (n) -- Unduly fearful or contemptuousness of strangers or foreigners, especially as reflected in his political or cultural views; xenos=people, phobia=irrational fear

RANCOR (n) -- Bitter resentment; ill will; extreme hatred

CHOLERIC (adj) -- Having an irritable disposition; easily made angry

SANGUINE (adj) -- Naturally cheerful and hopeful; confident; having a healthy red color

PHLEGMATIC (adj) -- Not easily aroused to feeling or action; sluggish; indifferent; cool; calm

MELANCHOLY (adj) -- Condition of sadness and low spirits; gloominess; dejection

SYMPATHY (n) -- A sharing of another's sorrow or trouble; agreement in feeling; having the same feeling

APATHY (n) -- A lack of interest in or desire for activity; indifference; lack of feeling

ENNUI (n) -- a feeling of weariness and discontent from lack of occupation or interest; boredom

BANAL (adj) - Repeating a worn-out convention or type; unaffecting and drearily predictable

CHURLISH (adj) - Boorish; vulgar; having a bad disposition

ANGST (n) -- Fearful anxiety

Column 5:

SNAFU (n) -- An acronym for Situation Normal All Fouled Up; A snarled or confused state of things; put in disorder or in a chaotic state; botch

HORRIPILATION (n) -- Having the hairs on your neck rise up out of horror

CLANDESTINE (adj) -- Arranged or made in a stealthy or underhanded manner; concealed or secret; often to hide an improper purpose

FURTIVE (adj) - Shifty; expressive of hidden motives; 2. Characterized by stealth, surreptitious

VICARIOUS (adj) -- Felt or undergone as if one were taking part in the experience or feelings of another; for example, to read about mountain climbing and experience vicarious thrills; to watch a child on a Merry-Go-Round and share her glee.

OBSEQUIOUS (adj) -- Polite or obedient from hope of gain or from fear

OFFICIOUS (adj) - 1. Excessively forward in offering unwanted services or advice to others; a busybody

ENIGMA (n) - 1. An obscure riddle. 2. An obscure speech or writing. 3. Anything puzzling, ambiguous, or inexplicable

AMBIGUITY (n) -- The possibility of being understood in two or more ways; word or expression capable of having more than one meaning

EGREGIOUS (adj) - Outstandingly bad; blatant; outrageous

ERSATZ (adj) -- A substitute or imitation, esp. something cheap or inferior

GOOGOL (n) -- A one followed by a hundred zeros; the number 10 raised to the power 100; also regard: googolplex = the number 10 raised to the power googol

SERENDIPITY (n) -- The faculty of making fortunate and unexpected discoveries by accident

NON-SEQUITUR (n) -- An inference or conclusion which does not follow from the premise; Example: Q. "What is your favorite color?" A. "Forty-two."

SPOONERISM (n) -- An accidental transposition of the initial sounds of two or more words; named after Wm. Spooner

Column 6:

DOUBLE-ENTENDRE (n) -- A word or phrase that has a second meaning which is usually risqué

PALINDROME (n) -- A word or phrase that spells the same thing backwards; example: radar; Yreka Bakery

MICROCOSM (n) -- Community, etc., regarded as an epitome of the world; a little world; universe in miniature

MORIBUND (adj) -- At the point of death or extinction; on the verge of becoming obsolete: moribund customs, moribund slang

VERBOSITY (n) -- Use of too many words; wordiness

REDUNDANCY (n) -- Needlessly repetitive; superfluous; more than is needed

AVARICE (n) - An extreme desire to amass wealth; syn: cupidity

DISPARAGE (v) - To belittle; slight; to reduce in esteem or rank

ACME (n) - The point of utmost attainment; peak. syn: summit

CHARLATAN (n) - A person who claims to possess knowledge or skill that he does not have; a quack. syn: impostor, fake, phony

DEARTH (n) - 1. Scarcity; lack; paucity. 2. Shortage of food; famine

PAUCITY (n) - Smallness of number; fewness. 2. of quantity; scarcity; dearth

EPHEMERAL (adj) - 1. Lasting for a brief time; short-lived; transitory. 2. Living or lasting only one day, as

certain flowers or adult insects

TENTATIVE (adj) - 1. Of an experimental nature; provisional. 2. Uncertain

EVANESCENT (adj) - Vanishing or likely to vanish like vapor; transitory; fleeting

Column 7:

ETHEREAL (adj) - 1. Resembling ether in lightness; impalpable; intangible. 2. Highly refined; delicate; exquisite. 3. Of the celestial spheres; heavenly. Spiritual. Unearthly

LITHE (adj) - 1. Readily bent; supple; limber. 2. Marked by effortless grace

MUTABLE (adj) - Prone to change; fickle

IMMUTABLE (adj) - Not susceptible to change. rigid; not mutable

INDEFATIGABLE (adj) - Untiring; tireless; to lack fatigue

NUANCE (n) - A subtle or slight variation, as in meaning, color or quality

PENINSULA (n) - A long projection of land into water, connected with the mainland by an isthmus

ISTHMUS (n) - A narrow strip of land connecting two larger masses of land

MONSOON (n) - A wind system that influences large climatic regions and reverses direction seasonally; specifically the Asiatic monsoon that produces dry/wet seasons in India and Asia

PHILISTINE (n) - 1. A smug, ignorant, especially middle-class person who is held to be indifferent or antagonistic to artistic and cultural values. 2. One of the people of ancient Philistia

SUPERCILIOUS (adj) - Characterized by haughty scorn; disdainful; arrogant

PLACATE (v) - To allay the anger of, especially by yielding concessions; appease

SANGUINARY (adj) - 1. Accompanied by carnage. 2. Bloodthirsty. 3. Consisting of or stained with blood

SLAKE (v) - 1. To quench; allay; satisfy. 2. To lessen the force or activity of; moderate. 3. To cool or refresh by wetting or moistening

UBIQUITOUS (adj) -- Being or seeming to be everywhere at once

Column 8:

RUTH (n) -- Pity; compassion

RUTHLESS (adj) -- Having no pity; showing no mercy

METAPHOR (n) -- An implied comparison between two things e.g.: a heart of stone ; the crying skies

SIMILE (n) -- A literal comparison between two things e.g. : he ate like a pig ; she smelled like a flower

DENOTATION (n) -- The exact literal meaning of a word

CONNOTATION (n) -- Meanings and implications suggested beyond the literal meaning of a word's denotation. Example: Hollywood holds connotations of romance and success

SATIRE (n) -- 1. Use of sarcasm, irony, or wit to attack or ridicule a habit, idea, custom, etc. 2) poem, essay, story, etc. that ridicules in this way

EMPATHY (n) -- The quality of entering fully, through imagination, into another's feelings or motives, into the meaning of a work of art, etc

ANTIPATHY (n) -- A strong or fixed dislike; feeling against; aversion

OLFACTORY (adj) -- Having to do with smelling; (the nose is an olfactory organ)

ASSIMILATE (v) -- To consume and incorporate into the body; to absorb; example: "The student assimilated the vocabulary into her daily speech."

SOPHISTRY (n) -- Unsound reasoning; a clever but misleading argument

PROPAGANDA (n) -- The systematic distribution of opinions; originally referred to the religious congregation responsible for establishing churches in non-Christian territories, as in propagating the faith

EUPHEMISM (n) -- A mild expression used instead of a harsh one; example: "Grandpa kicked the bucket."

MALIGNANT (adj) -- Evil, hateful or malicious; having an evil influence, very harmful; very dangerous, threatening to cause death

Column 9:

BENIGN (adj) -- Friendly, harmless

VOLITION (n) -- Act of willing; decision or choice

QUIESCENCE (n) -- Absence of activity; a quiet state; stillness

ACQUIESCENCE (n) -- Consent given without making objections; assent

PANACEA (n) -- An imaginary remedy for all diseases, evils, or difficulties; a cure-all

SYMMETRY (n) -- Perfect balance on both sides; perfect harmony

DESULTORY (adj) -- Jumping from one thing to another; without aim or direction

AFFINITY (n) -- A natural attraction to a person or a liking for a thing

PANACHE (n) -- Tuft or plume of feathers used ornamentally, especially on a helmet; a flamboyant manner or style

LUCRATIVE (adj) -- Yielding gain or profit, profitable

SATIATE (v) -- Feed a person, mind, etc. to the point where something that did please or was wanted no longer gives pleasure

AMBIVALENCE (n) -- The simultaneous holding of strong positive and negative emotional attitudes toward the same situation or person

CONGENITAL (adj) -- Existing at or before birth but not acquired through heredity

CASTIGATE (v) -- 1) Censure, chasten, or punish in order to correct. 2) criticize severely

MUNIFICENCE (n) -- Great generosity

Column 10

AUDACITY (n) -- 1. Reckless daring; boldness. 2. rude boldness; impudence; presumption

INSOLENCE (n) -- Bold rudeness; insulting behavior or speech

OSTRACIZE (v) -- 1. Banish by ostracism. The ancient Greeks ostracized unpopular citizens considered dangerous to the state. 2. shut out from society, favor, privileges, etc

DOGMA (n) -- 1. Belief taught or held as true, especially by authority of a church; a church's doctrine. 2. opinion asserted in a positive manner as if it were of the highest authority

CULPABLE (adj) -- Deserving blame

VILIFY (v) -- Speak evil of; revile; slander; disparage

VINDICATION (n) -- Clearing of blame or suspicion

OXYMORON (n) -- Figure of speech in which words of opposite meaning or suggestion are used together; example: a cold flame; great smallness; military intelligence

ONOMATOPOEIA (n) -- Formation of a name or word by imitating the sound of the thing designated; example: bang, boom, crash, splash

ALLEGORY (n) -- A narrative with an underlying meaning different from the surface meaning of the story or poem, often personifying abstract ideas, told to teach or explain something; an extended metaphor

ANALOGY (n) -- Likeness of one thing to another or others; similarity; the details of a simile; example: "He made the analogy that school is like a prison."

HYPERBOLE (n) -- An exaggerated statement used for effect; a blatant overstatement; example: "That's the dumbest idea I've ever heard!" or "That's the ugliest dog in the world!"

PLATONIC LOVE (n) -- The non-sexual love of friends; love of the mind; designating affection of a purely spiritual character, free from sensual desire

JULIAN CALENDAR (n) -- Calendar in which the average length of a year was 365 1/4 days, with a leap year of 366 days every fourth year. It was too long and was replaced by the Gregorian calendar.

The word is important because today the Julian calendar is used frequently in business as a system which counts each day in sequence from 1 - 365

PENSIVE (adj) -- Thoughtful in a serious or sad way

Column 11:

MARTYR (n) -- Person who chooses to die or suffer rather than renounce a religious faith

PHILOSOPHY (n) -- Love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means and moral self-discipline. The investigation of causes and laws underlying reality

THEOLOGY (n) -- The study of the nature of God and religious truth; rational inquiry into religious questions, especially those posed by Christianity

EXISTENTIALISM (n) -- Philosophy which holds that human beings are responsible to themselves alone, that man is adrift in a godless, hostile or at least indifferent universe; Stresses man's absolute freedom to choose, with resulting anguish and despair

VIRTUE (n) -- The quality of moral excellence, righteousness and responsibility; goodness; abstention from vices

VICE (n) -- An evil or immoral practice or habit; a serious moral failing; indulgence in degrading practices; depravity; corruption; sexual immorality; especially, prostitution

MORALITY (n) -- The evaluation of human conduct as right and wrong; concerned with the judgment of the goodness or badness of human action and character

CYNICISM (n) -- The belief that people are motivated by selfishness

UTILITARIANISM: (n) -- The doctrine that the greatest good of the greatest number should be the purpose of human conduct; the belief that actions are good if they are useful

ECLECTICISM (n) -- Free selection and borrowing, as of ideas or styles, from diverse sources; choosing what appears to be the best from diverse sources, systems, or styles

NIHILISM (n) -- 1. An extreme form of skepticism that denies all existence; A doctrine holding that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated. 2. Rejection of all distinctions in moral or religious value and a willingness to repudiate all previous theories of morality or religious belief. 3. The belief that destruction of existing political or social institutions is necessary for future improvement; extreme radicalism

SOLIPSISM (n) -- The theory that the self is the only thing that can be known and verified; the self is the only reality

ABROGATE (v) -- Abolish, annul, do away with by authoritative act

ADAMANT (n, adj) -- Unyielding; determined; originally, a stone imagined by some to be of impenetrable hardness

ADROIT (adj) -- Skillful, clever

Column 12:

ADULTERATE (v) -- Cheapen or debase with inferior or harmful ingredients

AFFRONT (n) -- Deliberately offensive act or utterance; an offense to one's self respect

ALACRITY (n) -- Cheerful willingness, promptness

ALTERCATION (n) -- A noisy or angry dispute

ALTRUISTIC (adj) -- Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness

AMALGAMATE (V) -- To unite; to merge into a single body; to mix

AMENITY (n) -- The quality of being pleasant; the attractiveness and value of real estate or property; example: "The new car had several amenities — leather seats, cruise control, CD-player

AMICABLE (adj) -- Characterized by friendship and goodwill

ARDENT (adj) -- Characterized by warmth of feeling; glowing; passionate; horny; shining

ASPERSION (n) -- Slander; A calumnious report or remark 2. A sprinkling, especially as in baptism

AUGMENT (V) -- To enlarge or increase, especially in size, amount, or degree

AUSPICIOUS (adj) -- Attended by favorable circumstances. Marked by success; fortunate; prosperous; favorable

BRUSQUE (adj) -- Short and abrupt; sharp, often brash

CAJOLE (V) -- To persuade; to coax; wheedle; (French "to chatter like a caged jay."

CAPITULATE (V) -- To come to terms; to surrender under specified conditions. To give up all resistance; acquiesce

Column 13:

CAPRICIOUS (adj) -- An impulsive change of mind; an inclination to make such changes

CONFLAGRATION (n) -- A large disastrous fire

CONSTERNATION (n) -- A state of paralyzing dismay

CUPIDITY (n) -- Strong desire; lust; greed; avarice

DEBUTANTE (n) -- One making a debut; a young woman making her formal entry into society

DESPONDENT (adj) -- Feeling extreme discouragement, dejection, or depression

DIMINUTIVE (adj) -- Indicating small size; and sometimes the state or quality of being familiarly known, lovable, pitiable. Extremely small

DIRGE (n) -- A song or hymn of grief or lamentation. Slow mournful music; funeral music

EMACIATE (V) -- To make thin, as by starvation or illness

EMANCIPATE (V) -- To release from parental care and responsibility. To be free from control, or the power of another

EMINENT (adj) -- Standing above others in authority; lofty

EMULATE (v) -- To strive to equal or excel, especially through imitation. To copy a hero's actions and beliefs

EXHORT (v) -- To urge or excite by strong argument, advice, or appeal; admonish earnestly

FLIPPANCY (n) -- Marked by disrespectful levity

GARRULOUS (adj) -- Habitually talkative; loquacious

fearless; bold, undaunted

LACONIC (adj) -- Terse, concise, succinct, pithy

LANGUID (adj) -- Lacking energy or vitality; faint; weak. Unwilling to stir or exert oneself

METICULOUS (adj) -- Marked by extreme care in the consideration of details; careful

OSTENTATIOUS (adj) -- Pretentious display meant to impress others; boastful showiness

PERNICIOUS (adj) -- Highly injurious or destructive; deadly; wicked

PLAGIARISM (n) -- The act of stealing and using the ideas or writings of another as one's own

PORTENTOUS (adj) -- Foreboding; ominous. An indication of something momentous or calamitous about to occur; an omen

PREVARICATE (V) -- To deviate from the truth; To evade the truth; equivocate

Column 14:

ICONOCLASM (n) -- The act of breaking or destroying images, especially the destruction of objects of veneration, as pictures and images in church. The act of attacking or ridiculing traditional institutions or ideas

IMPASSE (n) -- An unsolvable argument; a blind alley; a dead end; a situation that has no solution or escape

IMPERVIOUS (adj) -- Incapable of being penetrated or passed through. Not affected or influenced

IMPETUOUS (adj) -- Rushing with great force and violence; having great impetus; moving rapidly; furious, fierce, raging. Acting suddenly with little thought; rash; impulsive

IMPROMPTU (adj) -- unrehearsed; off-hand; without previous study

INNOCUOUS (adj) -- Producing no ill effect; innocent

INTREPID (adj) -- Not trembling or shaking with fear;