

Vocabulary Set 4

Nadir

(n) the lowest point; an extreme state of adversity
syn: bottom, trough

Going from fame to poverty, the former movie star was at the nadir of his life.

Zenith

(n) the highest point; culmination
syn: peak, climax, prime, apex

When the sun has reached the highest point in the sky, it is at its zenith.

Err

(v) to make an error
syn: mistake, slip, blunder, fumble

She erred in thinking that Tom and Jake were brothers, when in fact they were married.

Cadaverous

(adj) pale, gaunt, resembling a corpse
syn: emaciated, ashen, pallid, deathly

After starving for weeks on the stranded island, the castaways appeared cadaverous and hardly recognizable.

Disparage

(v) to belittle; regard as being of little worth
syn: denigrate, deprecate, undervalue

You may try taunting your opponent or disparaging them in order to distract them from the competition.

Implicit

(adj) implied or understood though unexpressed; without doubts or reservations, unquestioning; potentially contained in
syn: suggested, hinted at, absolute, complete

My grandfather never needed to tell me he loved me; his love was implicit in how he treated me.

Meticulous

(adj) extremely careful; particular about details
syn: painstaking, scrupulous, precise

He was meticulous about his car, cleaning the inside every evening and washing it twice per week

Warranted

(adj) justified; authorized
syn: vindicate, sanction, validate, guarantee, affirm

Though he was making fun of you, punching him in the face was not warranted.

Perennial

(adj) lasting for a long time, persistent; (n) something long-lasting
syn: enduring, abiding, everlasting, permanent

He lived a life of generosity, fueled by his perennial altruism and desire to help the community.

Plasticity

(n) ability to be molded
syn: flexibility, malleability, resilience

The saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks," implies that as someone ages, they are fixed in their behaviors and lack the plasticity they had when they were younger.

Incise

(v) cut into
syn: carve, engrave

I incised my initials into the tree behind my house.

Impugn

(v) to call into question; to attack as false or wrong
syn: challenge, question, dispute

After her first boyfriend, who ended up getting arrested, her parents impugned her judgment in men.

Natty

(adj) neat; dapper; smart
syn: fashionable, debonair, elegant, trim

I purchased my boyfriend a natty jacket for his birthday, but soon regretted it because of all the attention it attracted from other people.

Prolixity

(n) boring verbosity
syn: wordiness, long-winded

My great-aunt has prolixity - she can talk incessantly for hours about the most boring things.

Pied

(adj) multicolored, usually in blotches; having sections or patches colored differently
syn: multi-colored, tabby

His personality was as variable as the pied colors of his kitten's fur.

Forestall

(v) to prevent by acting first
syn: preempt, anticipate, foil

Taking prophylactic antibiotics may forestall many infections.

Solicitous

(adj) showing concern or care; fearful or anxious about someone or something
syn: concerned, caring, considerate

She was always solicitous about the health of her children, making sure to cook healthy meals and take them to the doctor for regular checkups.