

## Vocabulary Set 8

### **Ostentatious**

(adj) showy; designed to impress or attract notice  
syn: pretentious, conspicuous

The golfer displayed his trophies at the entrance of his home as an ostentatious reminder that he's number one in the world.

### **Defray**

(v) to pay for  
syn: cover, settle

To defray his tuition, Tom worked a part-time job at night after his afternoon classes ended.

### **Venial**

(adj) easily excused; pardonable  
syn: excusable, forgivable

A toddler taking candy from a store is usually considered venial; however, it is considered shoplifting if a teenager does so.

### **Temerity**

(n) excessive confidence or boldness  
syn: audacity, nerve

When Jake spoke in front of the audience, it was difficult to tell if his shakiness was due to a lack of temerity or a benign tremor.

## Inimitable

(adj) not able to be imitated or copied  
syn: unique, idiosyncratic, individual

Though many artists may study Vincent van Gogh's style, his works are inimitable and will never be reproduced.

## Levity

(n) a lack of seriousness or earnestness, especially about things that should be treated with respect  
syn: buoyancy, frivolity

Mental illness is a serious health morbidity and should be taken seriously, not with levity.

## Goad

(v) urge on; provoke into action  
syn: spur, prick, prod

After mentioning she broke up with her boyfriend, her friends goaded her until she shared more details.

## Perfidious

(adj) untrustworthy; disloyal  
syn: treacherous, deceitful

Though he appeared to be loyal and hardworking, he was in fact a perfidious employee and embezzled money from the company.

## Foment

(v) to stir up; promote trouble  
syn: instigate, incite, agitate

The betrayal of the trade agreement fomented a war between the two countries.

## Conundrum

(n) a difficult problem or question  
syn: riddle, puzzle

How gravity works has proved to be one of the greatest conundrums of the 21st century.

## Recalcitrant

(adj) stubbornly disobedient, resisting authority  
syn: uncooperative, intractable

Though he spent weeks working with the horse, the animal proved to be too recalcitrant to tame.

## Incongruity

(n) lack of harmony  
syn: disagreement, incompatible

The incongruity of his words and his actions made him difficult to trust; though he often promised a commitment, he rarely followed through.

## Augury

(n) a sign for what will happen in the future  
syn: omen, prophecy, prediction

Losing all three pre-season games was an augury of how disappointing the rest of the football season would be.

## Verbiage

(n) speech or writing with too many words  
syn: verbosity, loquacious

Though this textbook is thorough, the verbiage makes it difficult to ascertain which points are most important to remember.

## Maintain

(v) to assert  
syn: declare, protest

The researchers maintained that the illness is the product of a specific gene mutation.

## **Vicissitude**

(n) speech or writing with too many words

syn: verbosity, loquacious

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## **Allure**

(n) the power to attract or charm; (v) attract, tempt

syn: attract, entice

Because of her reticent nature, the girl gave off a mysterious aura that allured every guy in the class.

## **Dally**

(v) waste time; show a casual interest in something

syn: dawdle

Please stop dallying and meet me at the coffee shop already; I've been waiting for 30 minutes!