

Vocabulary Set 1

Loquacious

(adj) talkative, wordy; fond of talking
syn: gossipy, voluble, garrulous, long-winded

If my neighbor catches me while I'm leaving my house, I will always arrive late to my destination; our conversation lasts at least 10 minutes because of how loquacious my neighbor is!

Pith

(n) core, essence; significance or weight; most vital part of some idea or experience
syn: essence, main point, fundamentals, core, quintessence

Sometimes I wish my loquacious neighbor, who can speak for hours ceaselessly, would get right to the pith of her point.

Calibrate

(v) to set, standardize; make fine adjustments for measuring
syn: adjust, measure, set, graduate, correct

The scientist calibrated the scale to measure the weight of the chemical with perfect precision and accuracy.

Admonitory

(adj) serving to warn; giving or conveying a warning or reprimand, especially as corrective
syn: cautionary, cautioning, exemplary, monitory, premonitory, warning

Prior to leaving for a party, the parents gave their daughter an admonitory lecture, warning of the myriad dangers and encouraging her to behave safely.

Largess

(n) extreme generosity and giving

syn: largesse, magnanimity, munificence, openhandedness

Never sharing anything, Timothy was void of largess.

Opulence

(n) wealth as evidenced by sumptuous living

syn: luxuriousness, luxury, sumptuousness

Desiring a life of opulence, the poor graduate student lived frugally and studied hard to ensure a grandiose future.

Hoodwink

(v) to mislead by a trick, deceive

syn: deceive, trick, dupe, outwit, fool, delude, inveigle, cheat, hoax, mislead, lead on, defraud, double-cross, swindle, gull, scam

A fraud insurance company attempted to hoodwink Mrs. Smith by calling her and requesting her billing information, but she was too cautious to be fooled.

Surfeit

(n) an excessive amount of something

syn: excess, overabundance

I gained 8 pounds on my cruise! It's all thanks to the surfeit of food and dessert.

Hobble

(v) to hold back the progress of something

syn: gimp, hitch, limp

The lack of internship opportunities available has hobbled my attempt to earn quality experience working in this field!

Litany

(n) any long and tedious account of something; dull or repetitive recital

syn: prayer, invocation, supplication, devotion, recital, enumeration

How can the professor provide a litany of information on photosynthesis, but not ask one question on the test related to it?!

Abash

(v) to make ashamed; to embarrass
syn: embarrassed, ashamed, shamefaced, humiliated

The actress was not abashed when she forgot her lines; she appreciated the humor in the situation, rather than feeling embarrassed.

Banal

(adj) hackneyed; commonplace; trite; lacking originality
syn: clichéd, platitudinous, vapid, commonplace, ordinary, common, overused, overdone

Songs these days lack originality - every lyric is banal, having been reused a hundred times before.

Gainsay

(v) deny or contradict; speak against or oppose
syn: challenge, dispute, deny, disagree with

Because of how comprehensive your explanation is, I can't gainsay the validity of your argument.

Assiduous

(adj) showing great care and perseverance; diligent
syn: careful, meticulous, thorough, sedulous, attentive, conscientious, punctilious, painstaking

After years of assiduous training, the sushi chef was ready to open his own restaurant.

Immutable

(adj) unchangeable; constant
syn: fixed, set, rigid, inflexible, permanent, established

My love for you is immutable and nothing can tear us apart.

Ambivalence

(n) unclear or doubtful in meaning; the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes

syn: uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive, inconclusive, irresolute

Torn between Tim's strong physique and Ron's impressive intellect, Mary could not decide who she liked more and her ambivalence led her to losing both guys.

Disparate

(adj) different in kind; unrelated; (n) things so unlike that there is no basis for comparison

syn: contrasting, different, differing, dissimilar, unlike

Some may think art and medicine are disparate fields of study; however, the distinction between the two blurs when providing holistic care for a patient.

Subside

(v) to settle down; sink to a lower level; descend

syn: abate, let up, quiet down, calm

Once the storm subsides, we can run to our car. Until then, we must wait in this store while the rain pours.