

Vocabulary Set 9

Incorrigible

(adj) incapable of being corrected, reformed, or improved
syn: incurable, habitual

He was an incorrigible smoker and no efforts, including patches and nicotine replacement, ever helped to quell his addiction.

Desiccate

(v) to dry out
syn: dehydrate

The land was desiccated by 10 years of drought and turned into a desert.

Appease

(v) relieve or satisfy; soothe
syn: pacify, placate, propitiate

She appeased the meowing kitten by feeding it milk.

Inveigle

(v) persuade (someone) to do something with deception or flattery
syn: coax, cajole, tempt

Though I entered the car dealership adamant that I would not spend a penny, the salesman inveigled me into leaving the dealership with a new vehicle.

Inscrutable

(adj) not able to be understood; obscure
syn: enigmatic, unreadable

My inscrutable date last night left me dumbfounded; I still don't know what her true feelings are.

Inerrancy

(n) without error; something that cannot be wrong
syn: definite, certain

Confident of the inerrancy of his plan, the king made the orders without a second consideration. He soon regretted this decision when his haste resulted in defeat.

Exigency

(n) urgency; pressing needs
syn: pressure, demand

Though he wanted to sleep, the surgeon jumped out of bed and ran to the operating room as the exigencies of the patient's condition required immediate attention.

Adulterate

(v) make impure; to contaminate
syn: degrade, spoil, taint

The once sparkling lake was adulterated by waste discarded by the new power plant.

Complacent

(adj) showing uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements
syn: smug

After winning the championship, he became complacent with his abilities and stopped practicing. He quickly lost the tournament the following year.

Nugatory

(adj) of no real value
syn: worthless, unimportant

The criminal apologizing only after being found guilty was nugatory; the jury believed if he was truly sorry, he would have confessed weeks ago.

Fallacy

(n) a false or mistaken belief
syn: misconception, delusion

Thinking her dog would learn to go to the bathroom outside on its own without training proved to be a fallacy one year later.

Assuage

(v) ease pain or soothe anger
syn: satisfy, make better, mitigate

Joshua's annoyance towards his friends for forgetting his birthday were assuaged when they threw him a surprise party later that evening.

Porous

(adj) full of holes or pores; not secure or retentive
syn: permeable, spongy, pervious

The soccer player turned the game around when he broke through the porous defense and made the game-winning score.

Contentious

(adj) likely to cause an argument
syn: quarrelsome, controversial

When asked to leave the restaurant for not wearing shoes, the customer became so contentious that security needed to be called.

Presumptuous

(adj) (of a person) failing to observe the limits of what is appropriate
syn: arrogant, brazen, overconfident

On his first day of law school, the presumptuous student got in a heated debate with the professor and ultimately embarrassed himself in front of the class.

Cant

(n) insincere talk, usually about morals, religion, or politics; language peculiar to a specific group

syn: jargon, hypocrisy

On the first day of my advanced economics course, I was confounded by the professor's cant that was dense with words I had never heard before.

Malleable

(adj) able to be shaped without breaking or cracking; easily influenced

syn: pliable, impressionable, adaptable

Though inexperienced, the neophyte was malleable and was quickly shaped into a skilled artist.

Feckless

(adj) not fit to assume responsibility; lacking in initiative

syn: incompetent, irresponsible, useless

Many considered the young entrepreneur a feckless candidate, but he won the election.