

Vocabulary Set 6

Pugnacious

(adj) eager or quick to argue or fight
syn: quarrelsome, combative, aggressive

She channeled her pugnacious behavior that caused her significant trouble as a child into a very successful career as a lawyer.

Caprice

(n) a sudden change of mood or behavior
syn: impulse, whim

In an act of caprice, she sold off her items and moved to NYC.

Presage

(v) to foretell; indicate by signs; (n) a foreboding about what is about to happen
syn: portend, augur, warning

The loss of the first match presaged the rest of his tennis season.

Discountenance

(v) to look upon with disfavor; show disapproval
syn: disapprove, frown upon

She comes from a family where spending money recklessly is discountenanced.

Burgeon

(v) to grow and expand rapidly; to flourish
syn: thrive, prosper, improve

After his innovative juice became popular, John was sold out completely because he could not produce the juice at the rate of the burgeoning demand.

Juxtapose

(v) to place side by side

syn: collocate, compare, contrast

In the museum, paintings from the mid-1800s are juxtaposed to modern-day art in order to highlight the differences between the two.

Espouse

(v) to take up and support; to support an idea or cause

syn: adopt, embrace, accept

In his 30s, he rebelled against all of the values he espoused in his youth.

Intrepid

(adj) fearless; adventurous

syn: heroic, unflinching

His daring and intrepid attitude aided his successful journey sailing around the world.

Laconic

(adj) brief and to the point; using few words

syn: concise, terse, succinct

I send my girlfriend long texts messages, but I only get laconic replies like "ok."

Neophyte

(n) a new convert, beginner; a person who is new to a subject, skill, or belief

syn: novice, learner, newcomer

Orientation is held for the neophytes who are unfamiliar to the whereabouts and procedures of a school, company, etc.

Lassitude

(n) weariness of body or mind; lack of energy

syn: languor, lethargy, fatigue

After a week of waking up at 5 A.M. for work, I slept for half the day on Saturday to recover from my lassitude.

Laud

(v) to praise; to extol

syn: applaud, acclaim, commend

He was lauded for his selflessness and commitment to make the community a safer place.

Amalgamate

(v) to combine or mix together; unite in one body

syn: merge, fuse, blend

After years of struggling on his own, he decided to amalgamate his company with one of the competitors

Antipathy

(n) a deep-seated feeling of dislike

syn: aversion, hostility, animosity, antagonism

He avoided every sport due to his antipathy for competition.

Abjure

(v) to renounce; to refrain

syn: relinquish, forgo, disavow

When her new boyfriend asked her to change, she refused to abjure the religion she espoused in her youth.

Lugubrious

(adj) mournful; gloomy

syn: sad, doleful

The most lugubrious moment of my life was when my dog passed away.

Lacuna

(n) an empty space; an unfilled space

syn: gap, pore

The company filled a lacuna in diversity by hiring individuals from several different backgrounds.

Vice

(n) immoral or wicked behavior
syn: evil, corruption, misconduct

He was prosecuted for vandalizing the sacred temple; such vice is not tolerated in the community.

Muse

(v) reflect deeply on a subject; (n) the source of an artist's inspiration
syn: ponder, consider; inspiration, motivation

I mused on the idea of applying to graduate school for years before I actually did it.

Her recent breakup was the muse for the album she released this month - this explains the melancholy tone of every song.