

Advanced vocabulary development

Word list 4

Group 1		Notes
Ambivalence	lack of clarity; wavering; being undecided	.....
Cantankerous	bad-tempered; quarrelsome	.....
Derogatory	uncomplimentary	.....
Exemplify	to serve as a good example	.....
Impecunious	having no money	.....
Lucid	clear	.....
Ornate	highly decorated	.....
Precipice	steep slope	.....
Salubrious	health-giving	.....
Truant	shirker; someone absent without permission	.....

Group 2		Notes
Ambulatory	able to walk around (used of hospital patients)	.....
Capacious	spacious	.....
Desecrate	to damage or pollute a holy place	.....
Exhaustive	complete and thorough	.....
Impious	wicked; profane	.....
Ludicrous	ridiculous; silly	.....
Orthodox	conventional	.....
Precipitous	done in a hurry	.....
Salutary	something which teaches you a lesson; beneficial	.....
Truncate	cut short	.....

Group 3		Notes
Ameliorate	make better	.....
Capitulate	surrender; give in to	.....
Desecration	spoiling something holy	.....
Exonerates	acquits; absolves; removes blame	.....
Impoverished	destitute; poor	.....
Lukewarm	1. unenthusiastic; 2. neither hot nor cold	.....
Ossify	1. turn to bone; 2. become fixed and rigid	.....
Preclude	prevent or make impossible	.....
Sanctimonious	hypocritically holy	.....
Tumult	uproar; noise	.....

Group 4		Notes
Amelioration	improvement	.....
Carping	constant criticism	.....
Desist	stop; discontinue; cease	.....
Exorcism	getting free/rid of; eliminating (especially demons)	.....
Impromptu	unrehearsed; spontaneous	.....
Lummock	clumsy person	.....
Ostentatious	showy	.....
Precocious	developing early	.....
Sanction	give approval to	.....
Turpitude	depravity	.....

Group 5		Notes
Amiable	friendly	.....
Cartographer	person who makes maps	.....
Despondent	having no hope; miserable	.....
Expatriate	refugee; emigrant; someone living away from his own country	.....
Inadvertent	not intentional	.....
Luscious	juicy; moist; succulent	.....
Oust	push out of a position	.....
Predecessor	one who came before	.....
Sanguinary	bloodthirsty; bloody	.....
Tyro	novice; beginner	.....

Group 6		Notes
Amity	friendship	.....
Castigate	scold strongly	.....
Destitution	hardship; poverty; misery	.....
Expedient	convenient; practical	.....
Incantation	chant; invocation; prayer	.....
Lynch	assassinate; kill; illegal hanging	.....
Overt	obvious; not hidden	.....
Predicament	dilemma; difficult situation	.....
Sanguine	optimistic; cheerful	.....
Ubiquitous	found everywhere; omnipresent	.....

Group 7		<u>Notes</u>
Amorphous	lacking in shape	.....
Catharsis	purging of pent-up emotions	.....
Deter	put off; prevent	.....
Expedite	make faster	.....
Incarceration	putting in prison	.....
Machinations	plots and plans	.....
Overwrought	worked up; in an emotional state	.....
Preeminent	famous; outstanding	.....
Sardonic	mocking	.....
Unalloyed	undiluted; total	.....

Group 8		<u>Notes</u>
Analgesic	medicine to combat pain	.....
Caucus	type of private political meeting	.....
Deteriorate	worsen; decline	.....
Exposition	clear explanation	.....
Incessant	without stopping	.....
Maelstrom	whirlpool; storm in the ocean	.....
Palatable	good to eat; agreeable	.....
Prerogative	right or privilege	.....
Savant	person with knowledge	.....
Unctuous	oily; using excessive flattery	.....

Group 9		<u>Notes</u>
Analogous	comparable	.....
Caustic	burning	.....
Detrimental	harmful	.....
Extol	praise	.....
Incipient	just beginning	.....
Magnanimous	generous; big-hearted	.....
Palisade	fence made of posts	.....
Prescient	having fore-knowledge	.....
Scale	to climb	.....
Undermined	damaged; attacked	.....

Group 10		<u>Notes</u>
Anarchy	chaos; lack of government	.....
Cavalcade	procession of vehicles	.....
Devoured	greedily eaten/consumed	.....
Extradite	deport from one country back to the home country	.....
Inclination	tendency; a leaning toward	.....
Magnate	powerful businessman	.....
Palliative	a remedy that improves but doesn't cure	.....
Presentiment	a feeling that something might happen	.....
Scapegoat	person on whom blame is placed for faults of others	.....
Underscore	emphasize	.....