

Advanced vocabulary development

Word list 11

Group 1		Notes
Abate	reduce in intensity	.....
Abjure	renounce; swear to refrain from something	.....
Blandishment	words used to coax or flatter [<i>blandish (v)</i>]	.....
Boor	ill-mannered person [<i>boorish (a)</i>]	.....
Cardinal	1. high ranking church official; 2. major, important	.....
Deliberate	1. slow (<i>a</i>); 2. to think over (<i>v</i>); 3. on purpose (<i>a</i>)	.....
Equivocation	speaking ambiguously [<i>equivocate (v)</i> , <i>equivocal (a)</i>]	.....
Feckless	feeble; helpless; lacking in initiative	.....
Imperturbability	quality of being calm and not easily disturbed [<i>imperturbable (a)</i>]	.....
Meretricious	falsely attractive; tawdry	.....

Group 2		Notes
Augury	prediction, looking for omens [<i>auger (v)</i>]	.....
Boycott	refuse to have dealings with	.....
Glib	slick; superficial esp. in speech	.....
Incise	cut into [<i>incision (n)</i> ; <i>incisive (a)</i>]	.....
Moralistic	concerned with morals [<i>moralize (v)</i>]	.....
Ostracism	shunning; social isolation [<i>ostracize (v)</i>]	.....
Penchant	inclination; leaning; tendency; predilection	.....
Rarefy	make less dense [<i>rarefaction (n)</i>]	.....
Repine	fret; be discontented	.....
Stipulate	specify [<i>stipulation (n)</i>]	.....

Group 3		Notes
Diaphanous	transparent; thin and delicate	.....
Feint	pretended attack; a move intended to deceive	.....
Inured	hardened; habituated	.....
Mettlesome	spirited [<i>mettle (n)</i>]	.....
Puissance	power	.....
Recondite	obscure	.....
Stygian	very dark	.....
Touting	advertising; supporting [<i>tout (v)</i>]	.....
Virtuosity	skill, expertise [<i>virtuoso (n); virtuosi (n.pl)</i>]	.....
Volubility	excessive talkativeness [<i>voluble (a)</i>]	.....

Group 4		Notes
Caret	punctuation mark signifying omission	.....
Contiguous	adjacent; touching; abutting [<i>contiguity (n)</i>]	.....
Damp	(used of vibration) reduce in extent	.....
Ellipsis	omission of essential words	.....
Extirpation	wiping out; complete destruction [<i>extirpate (v)</i>]	.....
Foppish	behaving or dressing like a dandy; excessively concerned with fashion	.....
Gaffe	blunder; social mistake	.....
Hortatory	encouraging; exhorting	.....
Opprobrious	expressing great scorn [<i>opprobrium (n)</i>]	.....
Recumbent	reclining; lying down	.....

Group 5

Notes

Ambidextrous	able to use both left and right hands equally well
Culpability	guilt [<i>culpable</i> = blameworthy]
Discernment	judgment; perceptiveness
Encomium	praise
Inveigle	coax; cajole; wheedle; entice
Minatory	threatening
Ossified	turned to bone; become rigid [<i>ossification (n)</i>]
Plumb	measure depth of (<i>v</i>); exact (<i>a. slang</i>)
Quintessential	most typical; the perfect example of [<i>quintessence (n)</i>]
Runic	mysterious; magical

Group 6

Notes

Accretion	accumulation of matter; growth produced by adding from the outside
Anachronistic	occurring in the wrong time period [<i>anachronism (n)</i>]
Chronic	long lasting (often used for diseases in which case the opposite is <i>acute</i>)
Churlishness	rudeness; ill-mannered behavior
Demagogue	mob leader (who appeals to base instincts) [<i>demagogy/demagoguery (n)</i>]
Effrontery	daring; audacity (has a negative connotation)
Idyll	story or incident in peaceful or ideal setting [<i>idyllic (a)</i>]
Interregnum	interval between reigns or governments
Nugatory	of minor significance; futile
Sinecure	job which pays salary but requiring little effort

Group 7		Notes
Anodized	electroplated; coated with thin layer of metal	.....
Aphoristic	expressed tersely [<i>aphorism (n)</i> = short statement; <i>maxim</i>]	.....
Canonical	orthodox [<i>canon (n)</i> = set of accepted works]	.....
Commensurate	equal in significance	.....
Dexterity	skill, esp. with hands [<i>dexterous (a)</i>]	.....
Extant	still in existence (opposite of extinct)	.....
Impugned	challenged; called into question	.....
Probity	uprightness; honesty	.....
Raconteur	person who relates a story	.....
Solicitous	kindly; expressing care and concern	.....

Group 8		Notes
Amalgamate	join; consolidate [<i>amalgamation (n)</i>]	.....
Baleful	evil	.....
Coerce	force [<i>coercion (n)</i> ; <i>coercing (a)</i>]	.....
Inchoate	undeveloped; nascent	.....
Iniquitous	evil; unjust [<i>iniquity (n)</i>]	.....
Libertine	dissolute person; prodigal	.....
Millinery	hats and hat-making	.....
Natty	neat; dapper; smart	.....
Occluded	obscured; blocked	.....
Sidereal	of or related to stars	.....

Group 9

Notes

Avaricious	greedy for money	.....
Extirpate	wipe out totally	.....
Halcyon	peaceful and happy; calm (esp. of summer weather)	.....
List (v)	1. to lean to one side; 2. to write in order	.....
Maudlin	sad; sentimental; inclined to weep	.....
Refulgent	glowing; radiant	.....
Subliminal	below the threshold of consciousness	.....
Testiness	irritability; irascibility [<i>testy</i> (a)]	.....
Vituperate	attack bitterly	.....
Whittle	1. carve with knife; 2. reduce step by step	.....

Group 10

Notes

Caricature	ridicule (v); cartoon intended to ridicule (n)	.....
Colander	bowl with holes used to drain vegetables etc.	.....
Cumbersome	bulky; difficult to carry [<i>encumber</i> = to burden]	.....
Dispatch	1. send (v); 2. speed; celerity (n)	.....
Epistemology	theory of knowledge	.....
Froward	stubborn; wayward; disobedient	.....
Supine	lying flat on one's back	.....
Throwback	exhibiting primitive, or ancestral, traits	.....
Untoward	unexpected	.....
Verisimilar	true to life; giving the appearance of reality	.....