

Word List 19

1) **Abhor** (ab·hor) verb; to hate, to despise.

Whether canned, frozen, creamed or on the cob, Lawrence **abhorred** all forms of corn; he hated it. Ned **abhors** school dances; he cannot dance and does not want to learn.

Synonyms: hate, despise, loathe, abominate, detest

Antonyms: love, admire

2) **Affinity** (af·fin·i·ty) noun; kinship, common interest or attraction.

Rachael felt a strong **affinity** for animals. She sought to become a veterinarian and volunteer at animal shelters in her spare time. **Affinity** is close to the word affiliation. Ted joined the political **affiliation** where he found others that shared his beliefs.

Synonyms: partiality, fondness, sympathy, leaning, bent, similarity, compatibility

Antonyms: dislike, aversion, dissimilarity, disparity

3) **Amalgamate** (a·mal·ga·mate) verb; to unite a variety of elements

The salad was an **amalgamation** of lettuce, carrots, asparagus, bell peppers, cashews, and feta cheese. Gravel is an **amalgam** of stones, pebbles, and sand.

Synonyms: combine, blend, unite, coalesce

Antonyms: separate, extract

4) **Bane** (bane) noun; source of harm or frustration

If variety is the spice of life, than taxes must be its **bane**.

The spiders were the **bane** of summer life at the remote cabin.

Synonyms: ruin, misery, annoyance, poison

5) **Belligerent** (bel·lig·er·ent) adjective; aggressive, prone to conflict

Adam's **belligerent** personality cost him many friends.

The **belligerent** student was arrested twenty times before he dropped out of school.

Synonyms: hostile, bellicose, pugnacious, truculent, combative, quarrelsome, antagonistic, contentious

Antonyms: peaceful, agreeable, conciliatory

6) **Buttress** (but·tress) verb; to offer either physical or emotional support

The counselor **buttressed** the troubled student assuring him that the difficult times would pass.

The leaning walls of the cathedral were **buttressed** by huge columns.

Synonyms: prop up encourage, hearten, brace, back up, reinforce

7) **Calibrate** (cal·i·brate) verb; to correct or adjust to a standard

The physics teacher asked the students to **calibrate** their stopwatches to zero.

Henry **calibrated** the temperature controls in the dryer so that it dried clothes more effectively.

8) **Conduit** (con·duit) noun; a pipe or channel through which something passes

The enormous **conduit** was designed to cool the flow of air from the reactor.

Buffy was the **conduit** through which all gossip passed.

Providence road is a major **conduit** through Columbia, Missouri.

Synonyms: duct, channel, mainline

9) **Culpable** (cul·pa·ble) adjective; deserving blame

Francine admitted **culpability** in spreading the rumor and apologized.

Rick was **culpable** for causing the fight; his belligerent attitude finally got him into trouble.

“Mea culpa” is a Latin term meaning, “my fault.”

Synonyms: reprehensible, blameworthy

Antonyms: innocent

10) **Derivative** (de·riv·a·tive) adjective; taken from a source

Many medical terms have **derivatives** from Latin which is why so many students interested in medicine careers take Latin in high school. Etymology is the study of word **derivatives**. Peanut butter is **derived** from peanuts.

Synonyms: secondary

Antonyms: original

11) Discursive (dis-cur-sive) adjective; lacking order, passing aimlessly from one subject to another
The **discursive** professor was very confusing; he ambled from one thought to another never got to the point. The notes my lab partner took were so **discursive**, I had no idea what had gone on in that lab.

Synonyms: digressive, rambling, wandering, long-winded, prolix, aimless

Antonyms: focused, clear, understandable

12) Enervate (en-er-vate) verb; to cause weakness or a reduction of strength

After the twenty-six mile marathon, Christine was **enervated**.

The long illness **enervated** Carla who was only able to get up for a few hours each day.

Synonyms: weaken, exhaust, enfeeble, debilitate, sap

Antonyms: activate, excite

13) Etymology (et-y-mol-o-gy) noun; the origin and history of words

Blake was fascinated to learn that the **etymology** or origin of the phrase “push the envelope” originally meant to push an aircraft beyond its design. In this phrase, the word envelope refers to the mathematical computations for flight. **Etymology** is the study of word derivatives.

14) Facade (fa-cade) noun; outside appearance or deceptive outer shell

While the **façade** of the house was beautiful, inside the furniture looked cheap.

Laura tried to put a peaceful **façade** after her daughter’s death, but she was never the same again.

Synonyms: veneer, front, superficial

Antonyms: inside, underneath

15) Genial (genial) adjective; friendly, good-natured

Everyone liked George as he was a very **genial** fellow.

The **genial** nature of the dog made it great for a family with children.

Synonyms: cheerful, friendly, hearty, agreeable, pleasant, kind

Antonyms: mean, disagreeable, grumpy

16) Idiosyncratic (id-i-o-syn-cra-tic) adjective; unusual

In medicine, an **idiosyncrasy** involves a unique reaction to a drug.

Melody was known for her **idiosyncratic** clothes; she often wore unlikely combinations that were definitely unusual.

Synonyms: peculiar, unusual, unique, quirky, eccentricity

Antonyms: ordinary, expected, usual, average

17) Impenitent (im-pen-i-tent) adjective, not feeling guilt

Despite being confronted with his guilt in the murder, the defendant was **impenitent** and received a sentence of life in prison. The small child was **impenitent** to the harm he had caused breaking the valuable vase; his mother shed tears over the loss but couldn’t blame her son as he was so young and didn’t understand what he had done.

Synonyms: unrepentant, remorseful

Antonyms: penitent, contrite

18) Lucid (lu-cid) adjective; clear, understandable, shiny

It took two hours after the surgery was complete for the anesthesia to wear off and Darrel’s wife to become **lucid** again. Mr. Smith was such an excellent teacher; he was able to make even the most complex math problems **lucid** to his students.

Synonyms: clear, evident, obvious, reasonable, bright

Antonyms: obscure, irrational, dim

19) Mellifluous (mel·lif·lu·ous) adjective; sweetly flowing, pleasant to listen to
Ted's **mellifluous** voice was so smooth and pleasant, we were all sure he would have a future as a radio announcer. The **mellifluousness** (noun) of the flute showed the flute player had been playing for years.
Synonyms: melodious, musical, dulcet, harmonious
Antonyms: grating, cacophony

20) Nuance (nu·ance) noun; a subtle variation in meaning
The **nuance** of what happened between the characters in the novel was lost on most of the students in the class; the teacher had to explain it several times. The **nuance** of the way Virginia played her violin made her clearly the best violin player in the orchestra.
Synonyms: subtlety, nicety, hint, refinement
Antonyms: obvious, unrefined

21) Obtuse (ob·tuse) adjective; lacking intellect, stupid
Homer Simpson is generally an **obtuse** character; he rarely seems to understand what is going on around him—and that is much of the humor of *The Simpsons* television show.
Synonyms: dull, unobservant, insensitive, tactless, gauche, boorish
Antonyms: observant, alert, sharp

22) Protean (pro·te·an) adjective; able to change shape
Batman drives a **protean** car that is able to change shape to perform tasks.
The **protean** werewolf was man by day and wolf by night.
Greek sea god, Proteus,
Synonyms: versatile, varied
Antonyms: inflexible

23) Salve (salve) noun; a soothing balm or ointment, something that soothes
The school nurse applied a **salve** to the student's skinned knee. Sue's calf muscles were sore after the 10 mile race and her running trainer applied a **salve** to ease her pain.
Synonyms: soothe, mollify, relieve, ease, mollify
Antonyms: harm

24) Tantamount (tan·ta·mount) adjective; similar in value or significance
The hostile country said it was only testing its nuclear weapons, but firing upon its neighboring country was **tantamount** to the first act of war. Mom's loud groan when I asked to borrow the car was **tantamount** to "no."
Synonyms: equivalent
Antonyms: opposite

25) Veneer (ve·neer) noun; the outer layer of something; a deceptive outward appearance, facade
The **veneer** of the old house looked neglected; the siding was covered with mold.
Although the gold ring looked valuable at fist, when the **veneer** wore off, it left a green circle around Cindy's finger.
Synonyms: layer, façade, front, mask guise
Antonyms: inside, underneath

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