

Word List 2

1) **Acquiesce (ac·qui·esce)** verb; to agree with reservation.

Although Todd's parents acquiesced to allowing him to have a party while they were out of town, they questioned whether or not this was a good idea.

The acquiescent (adjective) employee always did whatever she was told.

The carpenter's acquiescence (noun) to my plans for remodeling the kitchen made me ask whether or not he really agreed with my ideas.

Synonyms: agree, consent, comply, submit, accept

Antonyms: resist, challenge, dissent, oppose, defy

2) **Agitate (ag-i-tate)** verb; to stir or disturb.

Although the zoo sign read, "Please Do Not Disturb the Animals," my brother agitated them anyway and got the monkeys all riled up.

I agitated the instant breakfast packet into my glass of milk.

Synonyms: disturb, excite, arouse, disconcert, disquiet, annoy, vex

Antonyms: calm, soothe, lull, pacify

3) **Beguile (be-guile)** verb; to betray, to attract, to fascinate.

The young soldier was beguiled by the woman's beauty, not suspecting that she would betray him.

Susan was amazed that her brother could beguile himself for hours playing videogames.

Synonyms: entice, lure, woo, captivate, charm, mesmerize

Antonyms: repel, turn off, deter, resist

4) **Biennial (bi-en-ni-al)** adjective; every two years or every second year.

Some plants are biennials instead of annuals; their growing cycle is two years instead of one.

Instead of annual conventions, the science teachers held biennial conventions.

5) **Capitulate (ca-pit-u-late)** verb; to give-up, surrender or quit.

Realizing the enemy would never capitulate, the general gave the order to have their forces destroyed.

Synonyms: surrender, submit, yield, relent, cede

Antonyms: engage, resist, defy, stand firm

6) **Circumspect (cir-cum-spect)** adjective; respectful of the situation and its details, prudent

After the lady slapped him, he realized he would need to be more circumspect in his future comments.

Note the root, *circ*, as in circle and circumference, implies that to be circumspect one has thought all around a situation.

Synonyms: prudent, cautious, judicious, thoughtful

Antonyms: brash, risky, thoughtless

7) **Dearth (dearth)** noun; lack, paucity

The vegetarian was upset by the dearth of choices she could eat at the bar-b-que restaurant her friends had suggested. Brian was disappointed by the dearth of chocolate chips in his cookie.

Synonyms: lack, shortage, scarcity, deficiency, absence

Antonyms: abundance, profusion, options.

8) Defunct (de·funct) adjective; no longer in existence

It came as no surprise that technical support was no longer available from the defunct computer company. Vinyl records and 8-track tapes are now defunct methods of storing music.

Synonyms: obsolete, invalid

Antonyms: operational, functional

9) Degrade (de·grade) verb; to reduce, lower, make less grand or important

The purpose of the surprise missile strike was to degrade their ability to fight back. It was clear that Tom's comments were only meant to degrade his abusive father.

Synonyms: humiliate, corrupt, shame, demean, debase, mortify

Antonyms: praise, compliment, upgrade

10) Ebullience (e·bul·lience) noun; zeal, highly energetic, effervescent

The *ebullience* of the new cheerleader was unmistakable. His ebullient (adjective) teaching style was too much for the 8:00 a.m. class.

Synonyms: excited, energetic, animated, sparkling

Antonyms: dull, drab, boring, tedious, monotonous

11) Esoteric (es·o·ter·ic) adjective; knowledge or understanding possessed by a small group.

Todd's mother was convinced that programming the VCR was so esoteric that only teenagers could do it. While Sandra thought her doctoral study of seventeenth-century metaphysical British poets was fascinating, her knowledge was so esoteric that few could talk with her about it.

Synonyms: obscure, abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic

Antonyms: common, accessible

12) Facile (fac·ile) adjective; done with great ease and lacking effort or planning.

The facile nature of his play made the running back a certain first round draft pick. His facile explanation belied the inherent complexity of the project.

Synonyms: simplistic, superficial

Antonyms: complex, difficult

13) Garner (gar·ner) verb; the gain, build up, accumulate

The Presidential candidate traveled across the country to garner both votes and campaign contributions. Peggy quickly garnered her opponent's chess pieces to a quick victory.

Synonyms: gather, collect, harvest, acquire

Antonyms: spend, disburse

14) Hackneyed (hack·neyed) adjective; tired, old, yesterdays new, a fad that's been around too long.

He appreciated his parent's hackneyed attempts at fitting in with his friends even if they didn't work. The joke was so hackneyed, everyone groaned instead of laughing.

Synonyms: trite, clichéd, tired out, stale

Antonyms: fresh, cutting edge, state of the art

15) Incumbent (in·cum·bent) adjective; obligatory, necessary or required. Currently holding an office.

Ronda said that her Friday night freedom was incumbent on her cleaning house. The incumbent (noun) took advantage of every possible perk of office.

Synonyms: current, serving, in office.

Antonyms: candidate, candidate, entrant, challenger

16) Jurisprudence (ju·ris·pru·dence) noun; the division, science, or study of law

The lawyer tried to deny that modern jurisprudence was based on old-fashioned solutions like bribes, blackmail, and favors. Medical jurisprudence is a branch of law that deals especially with medicine.

17) Malaise (mal·aise) noun; a feeling of discomfort, fatigue.

Beth's friend suggested they go shop for new shoes then eat ice cream to help her overcome her malaise. Dan decided his malaise was primarily caused by the dreary winter weather and a lot of homework due before the winter break.

Synonyms: depression, dissatisfaction, melancholy

Antonyms: optimism, cheerfulness.

18) Naïve (na·ive or na·ïve) adjective; lacking experience, knowledge, or sophistication of the "real" world or how things really work.

It is important to protect and educate young children so that their naïve ways won't get them into trouble. Terry's naïveté (noun) made fooling him easy; he was so gullible, he'd believe just about anything.

Synonyms: inexperienced, innocent, unsophisticated, gullible, guileless, artless

Antonyms: sophisticated, wise.

19) Panache (pa·nache) noun; historically a group of feathers or plumage on a helmet, currently a sense of vigor or dash related to looking good.

The colorful handkerchief added panache to his new suit. James Bond is known for his élan and panache; Homer Simpson is not.

Synonyms: style, flair, flamboyance, élan, confidence

Antonyms: clumsiness, awkwardness.

20) Precarious (pre-car-i-ous) adjective; lacking security or foundation, dangerous

He was in a precarious position for the exam having partied all night long rather than studying.
Building a house on the side of an active volcano is precarious to say the least.

Synonyms: shaky, insecure, uncertain

Antonyms: stable, firm, reliable

21) Reproach (re-proach) verb; to express shame, disappointment, or disapproval.

The reproach Larry received from his coach made him realize that he'd been slacking too much in practice.
Although Sandra thought her outfit looked great, her parents reproached her for wearing clothing that they felt was too tight.

Synonyms: criticism, censure, scolding, reprimand

Antonyms: compliment, praise

22) Sonorous (son-o-rous) adjective; a deep rich pleasant sound

The teenager's music was surprisingly sonorous to the elderly couple.
The young girl's voice didn't have the sonorous qualities necessary to do voice-overs in commercials.

Synonyms: resonant, echoing, mellifluous, honeyed

Antonyms: shrill, piercing, strident

23) Spurious (spu-ri-ous) adjective; doubtful or probably false, of illegitimate origins

The politician denounced what he called spurious claims about his infidelities. The discovered painting that had been hailed as an original Rembrandt was revealed to be a spurious copy.

Synonyms: false, bogus, counterfeit, unauthentic.

Antonyms: authentic, genuine

24) Timorous (tim-or-ous) adjective; timid

It was unfortunate that the best shooter on the basketball team was too timorous to take a shot during a game. Harry tried to be brave, but against the bully he felt timorous.

Synonyms: timid, nervous, apprehensive, fearful, craven

Antonyms: bold, daring, heroic, audacious

25) Vacillate (vac-il-late) verb; to waver between positions, oscillate.

Frank vacillated over the last question on the test as only a perfect score would do. The young couple's discussion seemed to vacillate between seeing the action movie or the romantic comedy.
An oscillating fan vacillates from left to right.

Synonyms: waver, hesitate, indecisive, fluctuate

Antonyms: decisive, stable
