

DIRECTIONS: Write one sentence using each vocabulary word (total 10 sentences). Make sure to use each word correctly according to what part of speech it is. Due: every Friday.

Select three (3) words from the list. Find one quote containing each word. Cite the title from which the quote is taken, the author, and the site where you found each quote. Briefly elaborate on the significance of each quote.

Abandon (uh BANN duhn) (n): total lack of inhibition. Synonym: enthusiasm.

Abortive (uh BOHR tiv) (adj): ending without results. Synonyms: fruitless, futile.

Abscond (aab SKAHND) (v): to leave quickly in secret. . Synonyms: sneak, slip, flee.

Accretion (uh KREE shuhn) (n): a growth in size, an increase in amount. Synonym: accumulation.

Acme (AAK mee) (n): the highest level or degree attainable. Synonyms: apex, peak, summit.

Actuate (AAK choo ayt) (v): to put into motion, to activate; to motivate or influence to activity. Synonyms: incite, instigate.

Acuity (uh KYOO it tee) (n): sharp vision or perception characterized by the ability to resolve fine detail. Synonyms: acuteness, sharpness.

Acumen (AAK yuh muhn) or (uh KYOO muhn) (n): sharpness of insight, mind, and understanding; shrewd judgment. Synonym: discernment.

Adamant (AAD uh muhnt) or (AAD uh mint) (adj): stubbornly unyielding. Synonyms: inflexible, obdurate.

Adept (uh DEHPT ) (adj): extremely skilled. Synonym: masterful. Synonym: irregularity.

Antiquated (AAN tiv kway tiv) (adj): too old to be fashionable or useful. Synonyms: outdated, obsolete.

Aplomb (uh PLAHM) or (uh PLUHM) (n): self-confident assurance; poise. Synonym: composure.

Apprise (uh PRIEZ) (v): to give notice to, inform. Synonym: notify.

Appropriate (uh PROH pree ayt) (v): to assign to a particular purpose, allocate. Synonym: appoint.

Arcane (ahr KAYN) (adj): secret, obscure; known only to a few. Synonyms: esoteric, mysterious.

Assent (uh SEHNT) (v): to agree, as to a proposal. Synonym: accede.

Awry (uh RIE) (adv): crooked, askew, amiss. Synonyms: slant, wrong.

Balk (bawk) (v): to stop short and to refuse to go on.

Beatific (bee uh TIHF ihk) (adj): displaying calmness and joy, relating to a state of celestial happiness. Synonyms: angelic, blissful.

Bedraggle (bih DRAAG uhld) (adj): soiled, wet and limp; dilapidated. Synonym: disordered.

Beget (bih GEHT) (v): to produce, especially as an effect or outgrowth; to bring about. Synonyms: cause, breed.

Behemoth (buh HEE muhth) (n): something of monstrous size or power; huge creature. Synonyms: giant, mammoth.

Beneficent (buh NEHF ih sent) (adj): pertaining to an act of kindness. Synonyms: charitable, generous.

Berate (bih RAYT) (v): to scold harshly. Synonym: criticize.

Blasphemous (BLAAS fuh muhs) (adj): cursing, profane; extremely irreverent. Synonym: foul-mouthed.

Blatant (BLAY tnt) (adj): completely obvious and conspicuous, especially in an offensive, crass manner. Synonym: flagrant.

Bovine (BOH vien) (adj): relating to cows; having qualities characteristic of a cow, such as sluggishness or dullness. Synonyms: dull, placid.

Braggart (BRAAG uhrt) (n): a person who boasts or brags in a loud and empty manner.

Broach ( brohch) (v): to mention or suggest for the first time. Synonyms: introduce, propose.

Cache (caash) (n): a hiding place; stockpile. Synonym: reserve.

Cantankerous (kaan TAANG kuhr uhs) (adj): having a difficult, uncooperative, or stubborn disposition. Synonyms: contentious, ornery.

Cataclysmic (KAAT uh KLIHZ mihk) (adj): severely destructive. Synonyms: catastrophic, tragic.

Catalyst (KAAT uhl ihst) (n): something that provokes or speeds up significant change, especially without being affected by the consequences. Synonym: accelerator.

Caucus (KAW kuhs) (n): a closed committee within a political party; a private committee meeting. Synonyms: assembly, convention.

Cessation (seh SAY shuhn) (n): a temporary or complete halt. Synonyms: arrest, termination.

Circumvent (suh kuhm VEHNT) (v): to go around; to avoid. Synonym: sidestep, evade.

Coagulate (kuh AAG yuh layt) (v): to clot; to cause to thicken. Synonym: congeal.

Colloquial (kuh LOH kwee uhl) (adj): characteristic of informal speech. Synonyms: conversational, idiomatic.

Commute (kuh MYOOT) (v): to change a penalty to a less severe one. Synonyms: exchange, mitigate.

Complacent (kuhm PLAY sihnt) (adj): self-satisfied. Synonyms: contented, unconcerned.

Compliant (kuhm PLIE uhnt) (adj): submissive, yielding. Synonyms: malleable, tractable.

Condole (kuhn DOHL) (v): to grieve with someone else; to express sympathy. Synonyms: console, sympathize.

Consternation (kuhn stuhr NAY shuhn) (n): an intense state of fear or dismay.

Constituent (kuhn STIH choo uhnt) (n): component, part; citizen, voter. Synonym: element.

Constraint (kuhn STRAYNT) (n): something that restricts or confines within prescribed bounds. Synonym: limitation.

Contemptuous (kuhn TEHMP choo uhs) (adj): scornful; expressing contempt. Synonyms: derisive, disdainful, supercilious.

Convalesce (kahn vuhl EHS uhns) (v): to gradually recover from an illness. Synonyms: heal, recuperate.

Covert (koh VUHRT) (adj): secretive, not openly shown. Synonym: veiled.

Cumulative (KYOOM yuh luh tihv) (adj): increasing, collective. Synonyms: added-up, gradual.

Curt (kuhrt) (adj): abrupt, short with words. Synonyms: terse, or rude.

Debacle (dih BAA kuhl) (n): a sudden, disastrous collapse or defeat; a total, ridiculous failure. Synonyms: crash, wreck.

Defamatory (dih FAAM uh tohr ee) (adj): injurious to the reputation. Synonyms: libelous, slanderous.

Diffuse (dih FYOOZ) (v): to spread out widely, to scatter freely, to disseminate. Synonyms: disperse, soften.

Digress (die GREHS) (v): to turn aside, especially from the main point; to stray from the subject. Synonyms: deviate, wander.

Discrete (dih SKREET) (adj): individually distinct, separate. Synonyms: unconnected, distinct.

ELEGY (EH luh jee) (n): a mournful poem, usually about the dead. Synonyms: memorial, lament. Sample sentence: A memorable elegy was read aloud for the spiritual leader.

ELUDE (ih LOOD) (v): to avoid cleverly, to escape the perception of. Synonyms: evade, dodge. Sample sentence: Somehow, the runaway eluded detection for weeks.

EUTHANASIA (yoo thun NAY zhuh) (n): the practice of ending the life of hopelessly ill individuals; assisted suicide. Synonym: mercy-killing. Sample sentence: Euthanasia has always been the topic of much moral debate.

EXPUNGE (ihk SPUHNJ) (v): to erase, eliminate completely. Synonyms: delete, obliterate. Sample sentence: The parents' association expunged the questionable texts from the children's reading list.

FEIGN (fayn) (v): to pretend, to give a false appearance of. Synonym: fake. Sample sentence: Though she had discovered they were planning a surprise party, she feigned lack of knowledge of it so as not to spoil the festivities.

FERAL (FEHR uhl) (adj): suggestive of a wild beast, not domesticated. Synonyms: wild, savage. Sample sentence: Though the animal-rights activists did not want to see the feral dogs harmed, they offered no solution to the problem.

**FITFUL** (FIHT fuhl) (adj): intermittent, lacking steadiness; characterized by irregular bursts of activity. Synonyms: sporadic, periodic. Sample sentence: Her fitful breathing became cause for concern, and eventually, she phoned the doctor.

**FORGO** (fohr GOH) (v): to do without, to abstain from. Synonym: pass on. Sample sentence: As much as I wanted to forgo statistics, I knew it would serve me well in my field of study.

**FORMIDABLE** (FOHR mih duh buhl) (fohr MIH duh buhl) (adj): fearsome, daunting; tending to inspire awe or wonder. Synonym: overpowering. Sample sentence: The wrestler was not very big, but his skill and speed made him a formidable opponent.

**HIATUS** (hie AY tuhs) (n): a gap or interruption in space, time, or continuity. Sample sentence: After a long hiatus in Greece, the philosophy professor returned to the university.

**INCANDESCENT** (ihn kahn DEHS uhnt) (adj): shining brightly. Synonyms: brilliant, radiant. Sample sentence: The incandescent glow of the moon made it a night I'll never forget.

**INCORRIGIBLE** (ihn KOHR ih juh buhl) (adj): incapable of being corrected or amended; difficult to control or manage. Synonym: unfixable. Sample sentence: "You're incorrigible!"--yelled the frustrated mother to her son, in the middle of his third tantrum of the day.

**INCREDULOUS** (ihn KREHJ uh luhs) (adj): unwilling to accept what is true, skeptical. Synonyms: doubtful, disbelieving. Sample sentence: The Lasky children were incredulous when their parents sat them down and told them the facts of life.

**INDOMITABLE** (ihn DAHM ih tuuh buhl): incapable of being conquered. Synonym: insurmountable. Sample sentence: Climbing Mount Everest would seem an indomitable task, but it has been done many times.

**INGRATIATE** (ihn GRAY shee ayt) (v): to gain favor with another by deliberate effort, to seek to please somebody so as to gain an advantage. Synonym: flatter. Sample sentence: The new intern tried to ingratiate herself with the managers so that they might consider her for a future job.

**INSOLENT** (ihn suh luhnt) (adj): insultingly arrogant, overbearing. Synonyms: offensive, rude. Sample sentence: After having spoken to three customer service representatives, Shelly was relieved when the fourth one sympathize with her complaint.

**INTIMATION** (ihn tuh MAY shuhn) (n): a subtle and indirect hint. Synonyms: suggestion, insinuation. Sample sentence: Abby chose to ignore Babu's intimation that she wasn't as good a swimmer as she claimed.

**IRREVERENT** (ih REHV uhr uhnt) (adj): disrespectful in a humorous way. Sample sentence: Kevin's irreverent attitude toward the principal annoyed the teacher but amused the other children.

**JETTISON** (JEHT it zuhn) or (JEHT ih suhn) (v): to discard, to get rid of as unnecessary or encumbering. Synonyms: eject, dump. Sample sentence: The sinking ship jettisoned its cargo in a desperate attempt to reduce weight.

**KISMET** (KIHZ meht) or (KIHZ miht) (n): fate. Synonym: destiny. Sample sentence: When Eve found out that Garret also played the harmonica, she knew their meeting was kismet.

**LAMPOON** (laam POON) (v): to ridicule with satire. Synonym: tease. Sample sentence: The mayor hated being lampooned by the press for his efforts to improve people's politeness.

**LAX** (laaks) (adj): not rigid, loose; negligent. Synonyms: careless, imprecise. Sample sentence: Because our delivery boy is lax, the newspaper often arrives sopping wet.

LECHEROUS (LEHCH uh ruhs) (adj): lewd, lustful. Synonyms: lascivious, promiscuous. Sample sentence: The school board censored the movie because of its portrayal of the lecherous criminal.

LILLIPUTIAN (lih ee PYOO shun) (n): a very small person or thing. Sample sentence: Next to her Amazonian roommate, the girl appeared to be a lilliputian.

LIMBER (LIHM buhr) (adj): flexible, capable of being shaped. Synonyms: agile, nimble. Sample sentence: After years of doing so much yoga, the elderly man was remarkably limber.

LITHE (lieth) (adj): moving and bending with ease; marked by effortless grace. Synonyms: flexible, limber. Sample sentence: The dancer's lithe movements proved her to be a rising star in the ballet corps.

MALEVOLENT (muh LEHV uh luhnt) (adj): exhibiting ill will; wishing harm to others. Synonyms: malicious, hateful. Sample sentence: The malevolent gossip spread false rumors with frequency.

MALLEABLE (MAAL ee uh buhl) (adj): easily influenced or shaped, capable of being altered by outside forces. Synonyms: adaptable, pliable. Sample sentence: Heat makes metal malleable.

MASOCHIST (MAAS uhk ihst) (n): one who enjoys being subjected to pain or humiliation. Sample sentence: Only a masochist would volunteer to take on this nightmarish project.

MAVERICK (MAAV rihk) or (MAAV uh rihk) (n): an independent individual who does not go along with the group. Synonym: nonconformist. Sample sentence: The senator was a maverick who was willing to vote against his own party's position.

MEGALOMANIA (MEHG uh lo MAY nee uh) (n): obsession with great or grandiose performance. Synonyms: egoism, self-centeredness. Sample sentence: Many of the Roman emperors suffered from severe megalomania.

MISSIVE (MIHS ihv) (n): a written note or letter. Synonym: message. Sample sentence: Priscilla spent hours composing a romantic missive for Elvis.

MITIGATE (MIHT ih gayt) (v): to make less severe, make milder. Synonyms: relieve, alleviate. Sample sentence: A judge may mitigate a sentence if it is decided that the crime was committed out of necessity.

MODICUM (MAHD ih kuhm) (n): a small portion, limited quantity. Synonyms: crumb, iota. Sample sentence: I expect at least a modicum of assistance from you on the day of the party.

MOROSE (muh ROHS) or (maw ROHS) (adj): gloomy, sullen. Synonym: dour. Sample sentence: After hearing that the internship had been given to someone else, Lenny was morose for days.

MUTABILITY (myoo tub BIHL uh tee) (n): the quality of being capable of change, in form or character; susceptibility of change. Synonyms: inconstancy, variation. Sample sentence: The actress lacked the mutability needed to perform in the improvisational play.

**MYOPIC** (mie AHP ihk) or (mie OH pihk) (adj): lacking foresight, having a narrow view or long-range perspective. Synonyms: short-sighted, unthinking. Sample sentence: Not wanting to spend a lot of money up front, the myopic business owner would likely suffer the consequences later.

**NEBULOUS** (NEH BYOO luhs) (adj): vague, undefined. Synonyms: hazy, unclear. Sample sentences: The candidate's nebulous plans to fight crime made many voters skeptical.

**NEFARIOUS** (nih FAHR ee uhs) (adj): intensely wicked or vicious. Synonyms: malevolent, sinister. Sample sentence: Nefarious deeds are never far from an evil-doer's mind.

**NON SEQUITUR** (nahn SEHK wih tuhr) (n): a statement that does not follow logically from anything previously said. Sample sentence: After the heated political debate, her comment about cake was a real non sequitur.

**Novel** (NAH vuhl) (adj): new and not resembling anything formerly known. Synonyms: original, innovative. Sample sentence: Piercing any part of the body other than the earlobes was novel in the 1950's, but now it is quite common.

**Obstinate** (AHB stih nuht) (adj): unreasonably persistent. Synonyms: stubborn, headstrong. Sample sentence: The obstinate journalist would not reveal his source, and thus, was jailed for 30 years.

**Olfactory** (ohl FAAK tuh ree) (adj): relating to the sense of smell. Synonym: odorous. Sample sentence: Whenever she entered a candle store, her olfactory sense was awakened.

**Opportunist** (aap ore TOO nist) (n): one who takes advantage of any opportunity to achieve an end, with little regard for principles. Synonyms: user, self-seeker. Sample sentence: The opportunist wasted no time in stealing the idea and presenting it as his own.

**Ornery** (OHR nuh ree) (adj): having an irritable disposition, cantankerous. Synonyms: disagreeable, unfriendly. Sample sentence: My first impression of the taxi driver was that he was ornery, but then he explained that he'd just had a bad day.

**Ostracize** (AHS truh size) (v): to exclude from a group by common consent. Synonyms: isolate, excommunicate. Sample sentence: Feeling ostracized from her friends, Tabitha couldn't figure out what she had done.

**Oust** (owst) (v): to remove from position by force; eject. Synonyms: dismiss, evict. Sample sentence: After President Nixon so offensively lied to the country during Watergate, he was ousted from office.

**Paltry** (PAWL tree) (adj): pitifully small or worthless. Synonyms: trifling, petty. Sample sentence: Bernardo paid the ragged boy the paltry sum of 25 cents to carry his luggage all the way to the hotel.

**Paragon** (PAAR uh gon) (n): a model of excellence or perfection. Synonyms: ideal, paradigm. Sample sentence: She's the paragon of what a judge should be: honest, intelligent, and just.

Paramount (PAAR uh mownt) (adj): supreme, of chief importance. Synonyms: primary, dominant.  
Sample sentences: It's of paramount importance that we make it back to camp before the storm hits.

Pare (payr) (v): to trim off excess, reduce. Synonyms: peel, clip.

Pariah (puh RIE ah) (n): an outcast.

Patronize (PAY troh niez) (v): to act as patron of, to adopt an air of condescension toward; to buy from. Synonym: condescend.

Penchant (PEHN chehnt) (n): an inclination, a definite liking. Synonyms: leaning, predilection.

Plaintive (PLAYN tihv) (adj): expressive of suffering or woe, melancholy. Synonyms: mournful, sorrowful.

Plucky (PLUH kee) (adj): courageous; spunky. Synonym: brave.

Pore (pohr) (v): to read studiously or attentively.

Precarious (prih CAA ree uhs) (adj): lacking in security or stability; dependent on chance or uncertain conditions. Synonyms: doubtful, chancy.

Primeval (priem EE vihl) (adj): ancient, primitive. Synonyms: primordial, original.

Proliferate (proh LIH fuhr ayt) (v): to grow by rapid production of new parts; increase in numbers.  
Synonym: multiple.

PROPENSITY (proh PEHN suh tee) (n): a natural inclination or preference. Synonym: tendency.

PROXY (PRAHK see) (n): a person authorized to act for someone else. Synonyms: representative, alternate.

PSEUDONYM (SOO duh nihm) (n): a fictitious name, used particularly by writers to conceal identity.  
Synonym: pen name.

PURLOIN (PUHR loyn) (v): to steal. Synonyms: pilfer, embezzle.

RANKLE (RAANG kuhl) (v): to cause anger and irritation. Synonyms: embitter, annoy.

RAPT (raapt) (adj): deeply absorbed. Synonyms: engrossed, immersed.

RAREFY (RAYR uh fie) (v): to make rare, thin, or less dense. Synonyms: attenuate, prune.

RAZE (RAYZ) (v): to tear down, demolish. Synonym: destroy.

REFUTE (rih FYOOT) (v): to contradict, discredit. Synonym: deny.

REMISSION (rih MIH shuhn) (n): a lessening of intensity or degree. Synonyms: abatement, subsiding.