

top 100 vocabulary words

week 1

ambivalent - (adj) having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone

critical - (adj) expressing disapproving comments; evaluating the merits of a work of art

indifferent - (adj) having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned

substantiate - (v) provide evidence to support or prove the truth of

pragmatic - (adj) dealing with things sensibly and realistically

nostalgia - (n) a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past

amused - (v) entertained, made to laugh or smile

cynical - (adj) distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

irony - (n) the opposite of what you really mean; the opposite of what you expect

innovative - (adj) featuring new methods; advanced and original

anecdotal - (adj) not necessarily reliable, based on personal accounts rather than facts

understatement - (n) the presentation of something as being less important than it actually is

indignation - (n) anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment

prolific - (adj) present in large numbers or quantities; plentiful

hypothetical - (adj) involving or based on a suggested idea or theory; imagined as an example

skepticism - (n) doubt as to the truth of something

metaphor - (n) a non-literal figure of speech that suggests a resemblance or a representation

equivocal - (adj) open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous

digression - (n) turning aside, straying from the main point, esp. in a speech or argument

analogy - (n) a comparison between two things

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week 2

sarcastic - (adj) marked by or given to using irony in order to mock or convey contempt

laudatory - (adj) expressing praise and commendation

reverence - (n) worship, profound respect

arrogant - (adj) having an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities

incredulous - (adj) unwilling or unable to believe something

defiant - (adj) showing open resistance; bold disobedience

dismissive - (adj) feeling or showing that something is unworthy of consideration

apathy - (n) lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern

idealistic - (adj) unrealistically aiming for perfection

qualify - (v) to modify or limit in some way; make less strong or positive

expedient - (adj) convenient and practical, although possibly improper or immoral

resigned - (adj) having accepted something unpleasant that one cannot do anything about

nonchalant - (adj) calm, casual, seeming unexcited

naive - (adj) showing a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment; innocent; natural

duplicity - (n) deceitfulness; double-dealing

belligerent - (adj) hostile and aggressive

allusion - (n) an indirect or passing reference

temperance - (n) moderation or self-restraint, especially in eating and drinking

pedantic - (adj) giving too much attention to minor details; unimaginative

undermine - (v) damage or weaken; erode the base or foundation of

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week 3

satirical - (adj) using irony or sarcasm in exposing or denouncing a person or institution

optimism - (n) hopefulness and confidence about the future

diffident - (adj) modest or shy because of a lack of self-confidence

deferential - (adj) respectful

reticent - (adj) not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily

inquisitive - (adj) curious or inquiring

rational - (adj) based on or in accordance with reason or logic

discernment - (n) the ability to judge well

ominous - (adj) giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen

controversial - (adj) giving rise to public disagreement

disdain - (v) to regard with scorn or contempt

personification - (n) the attribution of human characteristics to something nonhuman

practical - (adj) concerned with the actual use of something rather than with theory and ideas

reserved - (adj) slow to reveal emotion or opinions

munificent - (adj) more generous than is usual or necessary

hostile - (adj) unfriendly; antagonistic

disparage - (v) regard or represent as being of little worth

capricious - (adj) given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior

altruism - (n) the belief in selfless concern for the well-being of others

provocative - (adj) tending to provoke a response, e.g., anger or disagreement

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week 4

apprehensive - (adj) anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen

resentment - (n) bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly

objective - (adj) not influenced by personal feelings in considering and representing facts

timorous - (adj) showing or suffering from nervousness, fear, or a lack of confidence

didactic - (adj) intended to teach; having moral instruction

presumptuous - (adj) overstepping ones bounds; done without permission; overly confident

innocuous - (adj) not harmful or offensive

derisive - (adj) expressing contempt or ridicule

convoluted - (adj) extremely complex and difficult to follow

pretentious - (adj) pretending to be important, intelligent or cultured

tenacious - (adj) determined, keeping a firm grip on

partisan - (n) a strong supporter of a party, cause, or person

sincere - (adj) free from pretense or deceit; proceeding from genuine feelings

circumspect - (adj) wary and unwilling to take risks

prudent - (adj) acting with or showing care and thought for the future

paradox - (n) a statement that seems to say two opposite things but that may be true

contempt - (n) the feeling that a person is beneath consideration or worthless

indulgent - (adj) a tendency to be overly generous to or lenient with someone

resilient - (adj) quick to recover, bounce back

profound - (adj) having or showing great knowledge or insight; very great or intense

top 100 vocabulary words

week 5

magnanimous - (adj) very generous or forgiving of someone less powerful than oneself

assertion - (n) a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief

complacent - (adj) showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements

somber - (adj) dark or dull in color or tone; gloomy

intricate - (adj) very complicated or detailed

puzzled - (adj) unable to understand; perplexed

spontaneous - (adj) occurring as a result of a sudden inner impulse; without premeditation

conciliatory - (adj) intended or likely to placate or pacify; to make (someone) less angry

prosaic - (adj) dull, commonplace

disingenuous - (adj) not candid or sincere, pretending that one knows less about something

evoke - (v) bring to mind; recollect

enigma - (n) a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand

decorous - (adj) in keeping with good taste and propriety; polite and restrained

callous - (adj) showing or having an insensitive and cruel disregard for others

disregarded - (v) pay no attention to; ignore

equanimity - (n) mental calmness and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation

conjecture - (n) an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information

diplomatic - (adj) not causing bad feelings; having an ability to deal with people politely

unorthodox - (adj) contrary to what is usual, traditional, or accepted; not orthodox

pessimistic - (adj) tending to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will