

top 400 vocabulary words

week 16

productive - (adj) achieving or producing a significant amount or result

humility - (n) a modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness

perseverance - (n) steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty in achieving success

renounce - (v) formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession)

simile - (n) a figure of speech comparing two unlike things, often introduced by like or as

futile - (adj) incapable of producing any useful result; pointless

verify - (v) make sure or demonstrate that (something) is true, accurate, or justified

perfectionist - (n) a person who refuses to accept any standard short of perfection

curtail - (v) reduce in extent or quantity; impose a restriction on

antagonistic - (adj) showing active opposition or hostility toward someone or something

envious - (adj) feeling of discontent or covetousness with regard to another

prophetic - (adj) accurately describing or predicting what will happen in the future

conspicuous - (adj) standing out so as to be clearly visible

aloof - (adj) not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant

gregarious - (adj) fond of company; sociable

succinct - (adj) briefly and clearly expressed

irresolute - (adj) showing or feeling hesitancy; uncertain

scrupulous - (adj) diligent, thorough, and extremely attentive to details

nefarious - (adj) wicked or criminal

daunting - (adj) seeming difficult to deal with; intimidating

top 400 vocabulary words

week 17

placated - (v) make (someone) less angry or hostile

repudiate - (v) deny the truth or validity of

emphatic - (adj) showing or giving emphasis; expressing something forcibly and clearly

ephemeral - (adj) lasting for a very short time

exhilarating - (adj) making one feel very happy, animated, or elated; thrilling

extol - (v) praise enthusiastically

charlatan - (n) a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill; a fraud

luxurious - (adj) extremely elegant, especially in a way that involves great expense

lucid - (adj) expressed clearly; easy to understand

convivial - (adj) friendly, lively, and enjoyable

evasiveness - (adj) get around or avoid by means of trickery or cleverness

ludicrous - (adj) so foolish, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing; ridiculous

platitude - (n) statement that expresses an idea that is not new

pallid - (adj) pale, typically because of poor health; feeble or insipid

zealot - (n) a person who is fanatical in pursuit of their religious, political, or other ideals

sanguine - (adj) optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation

disperse - (v) distribute or spread over a wide area

homogenous - (adj) of the same kind; alike

jubilant - (adj) feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph

felicitous - (adj) well chosen or suited to the circumstances; pleasing and fortunate

top 400 vocabulary words

week 18

harbinger - (n) anything that foreshadows a future event; omen; sign

penchant - (n) a strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something

concession - (n) a thing that is granted, especially in response to demands; a thing conceded

anomalous - (adj) deviating from what is standard, normal, or expected

edifying - (adj) providing moral or intellectual instruction

mercurial - (adj) subject to sudden or unpredictable changes of mood or mind

affable - (adj) friendly, good-natured, or easy to talk to

noncommittal - (adj) not expressing commitment to a definite opinion or course of action

deceitful - (adj) deceiving or misleading others

bolster - (v) support or strengthen; prop up

dogmatic - (adj) inclined to lay down principles as incontrovertibly true

facetious - (adj) treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humor; flippant

foreboding - (n) fearful apprehension; a feeling that something bad will happen

ostentatious - (adj) characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress

polemical - (adj) strongly critical or controversial writing or speech

precocious - (adj) having developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual

rancorous - (adj) characterized by bitterness or resentment

voracious - (adj) having a very eager approach to an activity; consuming large quantities

egalitarian - (adj) believing in the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal right

evidence - (n) available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief is true

top 400 vocabulary words

week 19

classification - (n) a category into which something is put

affluence - (n) the state of having a great deal of money; wealth

ingenuous - (adj) innocent and unsuspecting; candid; sincere

mock - (v) tease or laugh at in a scornful or contemptuous manner

strident - (adj) loud and harsh; grating

taciturn - (adj) reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little

tractable - (adj) easy to control or influence

personal - (adj) of or concerning one's private life

cohesive - (adj) well-integrated; unified

salutary - (adj) producing good effects; beneficial

inhibit - (v) hinder, restrain, or prevent

misanthrope - (n) a person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society

sycophant - (n) a person who praises powerful people in order to get their approval

paragon - (n) a person or thing regarded as a perfect example of a particular quality

bureaucratic - (adj) overly concerned with procedure at the expense of efficiency

disguise - (v) give a different appearance in order to conceal one's identity

precipitous - (adj) done suddenly and without careful consideration; dangerously steep

unaffected - (adj) feeling or showing no effects or changes; without artificiality or insincerity

delineate - (v) describe or portray (something) precisely

enthralled - (v) capture the fascinated attention of

top 400 vocabulary words

week 20

distinct - (adj) recognizably different in nature from something else of a similar type

charitable - (adj) of or relating to the assistance of those in need

conservative - (adj) averse to change and holds to traditional values and attitudes

vex - (v) make (someone) feel annoyed, frustrated, or worried, especially with trivial matters

lucrative - (adj) producing a great deal of profit

assumption - (n) a thing that is accepted as true or as certain to happen, without proof

prodigious - (adj) remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree

durability - (n) the ability to withstand wear, pressure, or damage

imperturbable - (adj) unable to be upset or excited; calm

pernicious - (adj) having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way

malignant - (adj) very virulent or infectious

deleterious - (adj) causing harm or damage

problematic - (adj) not definite or settled; uncertain; open to question or debate

docile - (adj) ready to accept control or instruction; submissive

elusive - (adj) difficult to find, catch, or achieve

methodical - (adj) done according to a systematic or established form of procedure

dismay - (v) cause (someone) to feel consternation and distress

enlightened - (adj) having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook

demonstrative - (adj) tending to show feelings, especially of affection, openly; giving proof

tentative - (adj) not certain or fixed; provisional

top 500 vocabulary words

week 21

delude - (v) impose a misleading belief upon (someone); deceive; fool

lethargic - (adj) sluggish and apathetic

notorious - (adj) famous or well known, typically for some bad quality or deed

scornful - (adj) feeling or expressing contempt or derision

placid - (adj) not easily upset or excited

subjective - (adj) based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions

wary - (adj) feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems

ineffectual - (adj) not producing any or the desired effect

sullen - (adj) bad-tempered and sulky; gloomy

dearth - (n) a scarcity or lack of something

recalcitrant - (adj) having an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline

caustic - (adj) sarcastic in a scathing and bitter way

confound - (v) cause surprise, especially by acting against expectation

impugn - (v) dispute the truth or honesty of (a statement or motive); call into question

ineffable - (adj) too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words

ostracized - (v) exclude (someone) from a society or group

piety - (n) the quality of being religious or reverent

rebuff - (v) reject (someone or something) in an abrupt or ungracious manner

recondite - (adj) little known; abstruse

vindictive - (adj) having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge

top 500 vocabulary words

week 22

cathartic - (adj) providing relief through the open expression of strong emotions

nuance - (n) a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound

obdurate - (adj) stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action

verbose - (adj) using or expressed in more words than are needed

incisive - (adj) accurate and sharply focused

reprehensible - (adj) deserving censure or condemnation

fortitude - (n) courage in pain or adversity

diatribe - (n) a forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something

assiduous - (adj) showing great care and perseverance

narrow-minded - (adj) not willing to listen to or tolerate other people's views; prejudiced

mendacity - (n) untruthfulness

reclusive - (adj) avoiding the company of other people; solitary

pugnacious - (adj) eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight

candor - (n) the quality of being open and honest in expression; frankness

vacillate - (v) alternate or waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive

amicable - (adj) having a spirit of friendliness

blithe - (adj) happy or joyous; showing a indifference considered to be callous

polarize - (v) to cause (people, opinions, etc.) to separate into opposing groups

shrewd - (adj) having or showing sharp powers of judgment; astute

epitomize - (v) be a perfect example of

top 500 vocabulary words

week 23

icon - (n) a person or thing regarded as a representative symbol of something

malevolent - (adj) having or showing a wish to do evil to others

sanctimonious - (adj) making a show of being morally superior to other people

castigate - (v) reprimand (someone) severely

garrulous - (adj) excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters

deprecate - (v) express disapproval of

lackadaisical - (adj) lacking enthusiasm and determination; carelessly lazy

haughty - (adj) arrogantly superior and disdainful

languid - (adj) weak or faint from illness or fatigue

appease - (v) to make (someone) pleased or less angry by giving or saying something desired

fulsome - (adj) complimentary or flattering to an excessive degree; generous or abundant

supercilious - (adj) behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others

supplant - (v) supersede and replace

absurd - (adj) wildly unreasonable, illogical, or inappropriate

account - (n) a report or description of an event or experience

elaborate - (adj) involving carefully arranged parts; detailed and complicated in design

laconic - (adj) using very few words

facile - (adj) appearing comprehensive by ignoring the complexities of an issue; superficial

sardonic - (adj) grimly mocking or cynical

urbane - (adj) suave, courteous, and refined in manner

top 500 vocabulary words

week 24

acquiesce - (v) accept something reluctantly but without protest

inconstancy - (n) not constant; changeable; fickle; variable

recant - (v) say that one no longer holds an opinion or belief

tenuous - (adj) very weak or slight

theoretical - (adj) concerned with theory rather than practical application

censure - (v) express severe disapproval of

gratuitous - (adj) uncalled for; lacking good reason; unwarranted

opaque - (adj) not able to be seen through; not transparent

impenetrable - (adj) impossible to pass through or enter

cultivated - (adj) refined and well educated

tangential - (adj) diverging from a previous course or line; erratic

abstemious - (adj) not self-indulgent, especially when eating and drinking

antipathy - (n) a deep-seated feeling of dislike; aversion

arduous - (adj) involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring

divisive - (adj) tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people

preeminent - (adj) surpassing all others; very distinguished in some way

abate - (v) lessen, reduce, or remove

subdued - (adj) quiet and rather reflective or depressed

pertinent - (adj) relevant or applicable to a particular matter; apposite

spurious - (adj) not being what it purports to be; false or fake

top 500 vocabulary words

week 25

extrapolate - (v) extend an unknown situation by assuming that existing trends will continue

monotonous - (adj) dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest

terse - (adj) sparing in the use of words; abrupt

diligent - (adj) having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties

relinquish - (v) voluntarily cease to keep or claim; give up

enmity - (n) the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something

disgruntled - (adj) angry or dissatisfied

manipulate - (v) control or influence (a person or situation) cleverly or possibly unfairly

renown - (n) the condition of being known or talked about by many people; fame

flamboyant - (adj) attracting attention because of exuberance, confidence, and stylishness

hyperbole - (n) exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

nebulous - (adj) unclear, vague, or ill-defined

defunct - (adj) no longer existing or functioning

parody - (v) produce a humorously exaggerated imitation of (a writer, artist, or genre)

predilection - (n) a preference or special liking for something; a bias in favor of something

downplay - (v) make (something) appear less important than it really is

permeate - (v) spread throughout (something); pervade

anonymity - (n) lack of outstanding, individual, or unusual features; impersonality

pioneering - (adj) involving new ideas or methods

stoic - (adj) enduring pain and hardship without showing one's feelings or complaining