

# The Odyssey Vocabulary List 1

- plunder** **VERB** to steal things from a place, such as a city or town, especially by force **NOUN** things that are stolen or taken by force, especially during a war  
*example (as a verb):* I was furious to discover that my little brother had plundered my stash of Halloween candy; now, not a single piece was left.  
*example (as a noun):* Once they were on board the ship, the pirates examined their plunder – jewels and gold coins.
- hallowed** **ADJ** to make holy  
*example:* Many people consider the grounds of Gettysburg and the sites of other famous battles to be hallowed because of the many lives lost there.  
*notes:* This word comes to English through Old English, German, and Scandinavian languages. The word Halloween is a mash-up of “hallowed evening” – or in other words, a holy night.
- strive (past tense: strove; past participle: striven)** **VERB** to try very hard to do or achieve something  
*example:* The Olympic swimmer kicked his legs harder and harder, striving to win first place.  
*notes:* “Strive” is an irregular verb; its past tense is “strove.” (So you wouldn’t say, “I strived to cross the finish line,” but instead “I strove to cross the finish line.”)
- suave** **ADJ** smoothly agreeable or polite; sophisticated  
*example:* James Bond is often able to talk people into revealing secrets because of his suave personality.
- appease** **VERB** 1: to make someone pleased or less angry by giving or saying something desired 2: to make a pain or a problem less painful or troubling  
*example:* The father tried to appease the wailing toddler by promising her ice cream if she would be quiet.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin term “pax,” meaning “peace.”
- swagger** **VERB** to walk or behave in a very confident way, almost to the point of arrogance  
*example:* The basketball player who made the winning shot swaggered out in front of the cameras at the press conference.  
*notes:* Shakespeare invented this word – he adapted “swag,” which at the time meant “to sway.”
- mortify** **VERB** 1: to cause someone to feel very embarrassed and foolish, to the point of humiliation and shame 2: to deliberately punish one’s own body (through starvation or injury) for a religious purpose  
*example:* The priest attempted to demonstrate his faith by mortifying his flesh by whipping his back.  
*example:* Kaitlyn was mortified to discover that the entire school had learned that she had a crush on Ronald.  
*notes:* The Latin root “mort” means “death”; the suffix “fy” means “to make.”
- thwart** **VERB** to stop from happening or succeeding  
*example:* Connor’s campaign for senator was thwarted by the newspaper that published a story about how he had not paid his taxes in five years.
- obscene** **ADJ** offensive in a shocking way; immoral  
*example:* The movie was given an “R” rating because reviewers felt that it was obscene.  
**obscenity** **NOUN** the character or quality of being obscene; indecency; lewdness  
*example:* Shouting obscenities during class will certainly lead to detention!
- brazen** **ADJ** 1: shameless or bold 2: made of brass 3: like brass, as in sound, color, or strength  
*example (literal):* The archeologists discovered that the brazen pot was from Ancient Greece.  
*example (figurative):* The art thieves made a brazen attempt to steal *The Mona Lisa* from the Louvre in broad daylight.  
*notes:* The double meaning of this word can be a little hard to grasp; the thinking was that a person who was shameless would not change their face (as though it were made of brass), even if they did something terrible.

11. **insolent ADJ** boldly rude or disrespectful; insulting  
*example:* After Tamara’s mother begged her daughter to explain why she had come home so late the night before, Tamara laughed insolently and replied “None of your business.”
- insolence NOUN** extremely rude in behavior or speech  
*example:* The King did not tolerate insolence from his subjects, and expected everyone to address him with the highest respect.
12. **shrewd ADJ** showing quick, practical cleverness  
*example:* A shrewd businessperson will be able to turn a couple hundred dollars into a fortune.
13. **cunning ADJ** getting what is wanted in a clever and often deceptive way **NOUN** cleverness or skill especially at tricking people in order to get something  
*example (as an adjective):* Raccoons are known for their cunning intelligence, and even if you lock up your food while camping, there’s still a good chance that they’ll find a way to get at it.  
*example (as a noun):* Even though the peasant was born into poverty, his cunning helped him to become wealthy.  
*notes:* The word “cunning” comes from the Old English “can” or “ken,” meaning “knowledge.”
14. **shroud NOUN** 1: a cloth or sheet in which a corpse is wrapped for burial 2: something that covers or conceals like a garment **VERB** 1: to wrap or clothe for burial 2: to cover; hide from view 3: to veil, as in mystery  
*example (literal):* The family wrapped the body of their grandmother in a beautiful silk shroud before burying her.  
*example (figurative):* The city was shrouded in a thick layer of fog, so that you could only see the tops of the skyscrapers.
15. **adept ADJ** very skilled; expert  
*example:* The surgeon stitched up the patient so adeptly that six months later there was no scar.
16. **subtle ADJ** 1: hard to notice or see 2: not obvious 3: clever and indirect  
*example:* When wearing perfume or cologne, you should make sure that the scent is subtle and not overwhelming.  
*example:* The letter “b” in the word “subtle” is exactly that – subtle.
17. **relent VERB** 1: to agree to do or accept something that you have been resisting or opposing 2: to become less severe, harsh, strong, determined, etc.  
*example:* Marco’s mother relented and finally agreed to let him go to the party, but only if he made at least a B on his biology exam.  
**relentless ADJ** continuing without becoming weaker; not giving up  
*example:* Thanks for Lucy’s relentless training, she was able to come in first place at the city marathon.
18. **potent ADJ** 1: powerful; mighty 2: producing powerful physical or chemical effects 3: having or exercising great power or influence  
*example:* You must have a prescription to be able to purchase the most potent medicines at the pharmacy.
19. **exploit NOUN** a striking, notable, or heroic accomplishment **VERB** 1: to get value or use from something 2: to use someone or something in a way that helps you unfairly  
*example (as a noun):* Perseus’s most famous exploit was killing Medusa.  
*example (as a verb):* Trey exploited the fact that his father was the Chief of Police to get out of speeding tickets.
20. **indignant ADJ** feeling or showing anger because of something that is unfair or wrong  
*example:* Dad was indignant when he discovered that the auto-mechanic had overcharged him by \$500.  
**indignation NOUN** anger caused by something that is unfair or wrong  
*example:* Athena, the goddess of weaving, felt indignation after the girl Arachne made a tapestry insulting the gods.  
**dignity NOUN** the quality or state of being worthy of honor and respect  
*example:* Karima demonstrated her dignity by walking with her head held up high and her eyes straight ahead.

21. **gallant ADJ** 1: brave or chivalrous 2: exceptionally polite and attentive to women; courtly  
*example:* Michael gallantly offered to give up his seat on the bus for the elderly man, who appeared to have trouble standing.
22. **fortify VERB** 1: to make strong 2: to protect against an attack 3: to increase the effectiveness of by adding ingredients  
*example:* The king decided to fortify the castle by digging a moat around it.  
*example:* The juice is fortified with additional vitamins.  
**fort NOUN** a strong building or group of buildings where soldiers live  
*example:* When the Spanish first came to the New World, they built forts and churches.  
*notes:* The Latin root “fort” means “strong”; the suffix “fy” means “to make.”
23. **vast ADJ** enormous area, size, number, or degree  
*example:* It is very easy to get lost in the vast aisles of Wal-Mart.
24. **spite NOUN** a desire to deliberately annoy, upset, or hurt someone  
*example:* Because of their long history of rivalry, Hailey assumed that Kassandra bumped into her and spilled juice all over her new dress out of spite, and not on accident.
25. **deft ADJ** skillful and clever; able to do something quickly and accurately  
*example:* You must have deft hands if you want to be a surgeon.
26. **yoke NOUN** 1: a bar or frame that is attached to the heads or necks of two work animals (such as oxen) so that they can pull a plow or heavy load 2: something that causes people to be treated cruelly and unfairly, especially by taking away their freedom 3: something that couples or binds together; a bond or tie **VERB** 1: to put a yoke on; join or couple by means of a yoke 2: to join, couple, link, or unite  
*example (as a noun):* The farmer settled the yoke onto his strongest ox in preparation for planting the fields.  
*example (as a verb):* Kenneth’s family obligations yoked him to his hometown, even though he truly wanted to move to a different city.
27. **lavish ADJ** rich, expensive, or luxurious **VERB** to give in great amounts  
*example (as an adjective):* The guests were in awe at the lavish decorations at the party, which included a six-foot-tall ice sculpture and live peacocks walking around the garden.  
*example (as a verb):* The parents lavished expensive gifts on the spoiled child.
28. **threshold NOUN** 1: the frame of a doorway 2: the entrance to a house or building 3: any place or point of entering or beginning  
*example (literal):* Be careful not to bang your head on the low entrance of the threshold when you are coming inside.  
*example (figurative):* Students entering ninth grade are at the threshold of a new world.  
*notes:* Watch out for thresholds as you read different pieces of literature – they are often symbols of change.
29. **hearth NOUN** 1: the floor of a fireplace 2: home; fireside  
*example:* The stew bubbling on the hearth smelled delicious to the weary traveler.
30. **craft NOUN** 1: an art, trade, or occupation requiring special skill, especially manual skill 2: skill; talent 3: a ship or other vessel  
*example:* Pre-AP English 1 students will spend a lot of time learning the craft of writing.  
**crafty ADJ** clever in usually a deceptive or dishonest way  
*example:* The crafty lawyer convinced the jury that his client was innocent, even though she was found with the murder weapon in her hands.

## *The Odyssey Vocabulary List 1 – Practice Quiz*

adept	exploit	insolent	relentless	subtle
appease	fortify	lavish	shrewd	swagger
brazen	gallant	mortify	shroud	threshold
craft	hallowed	obscene	spite	thwart
cunning	hearth	plunder	strive	vast
deft	indignant	potent	suave	yoke

1. The ship sailed up to the dock and dozens of people exited the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Great Lakes are some of the most \_\_\_\_\_ bodies of water on the continent.
3. Candice was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed when she discovered that both of her parents had volunteered to chaperone prom, and they were dancing in the middle of the dance floor.
4. The student felt \_\_\_\_\_ when he received a “B” on his essay, and so he went up to his teacher, slammed his paper on her desk, and insisted that she must have made a mistake in grading.
5. The archeologists used x-rays to peer beneath the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mummy to examine his bones.
6. During the Communion rituals in the church, the wafer and wine are considered to be \_\_\_\_\_, and not merely food and drink.
7. The Furies were monsters in Ancient Greece who pursued wrongdoers \_\_\_\_\_-ly, chasing them all over the world until they died.
8. I tried to give my friend a/an \_\_\_\_\_ hint that she needed to wear deodorant by mentioning that I had seen an advertisement for Speed Stick instead of coming out directly and telling her that she stunk.
9. The pirates \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the treasure from the merchant ship.
10. The student \_\_\_\_\_-ly slurped his Coke right in front of the “NO FOOD OR DRINK” sign.
11. An espresso is a more \_\_\_\_\_ drink than a latte because it contains more caffeine.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_, smooth-talking politician was able to convince the citizens of the state to reelect him, despite his many scandals.
13. Tammy expected her boyfriend to \_\_\_\_\_ her with gifts on Valentine’s Day – she wanted flowers, chocolates, jewelry, and perfume.
14. You would want your barber to have \_\_\_\_\_ hands so that he would do a good job in cutting your hair.
15. The dishonest salesman \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the trusting old woman by getting her to pay twice the real price.
16. Most salt sold in the United States is \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by adding iodine, a chemical necessary for healthy brain development.
17. The Olympic athlete \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed up to the stand to receive his gold medal.
18. Kelly is \_\_\_\_\_ at solving math equations – she can solve the hardest problems in a minute, and her answer is always right.
19. While some people think it is \_\_\_\_\_ for men to pay for dates for women, others think that it is important to split the bill equally.
20. The dog waited at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the bedroom because he knew he was not allowed inside.
21. Lonnie was furious when I spilled orange juice on his new shirt, so I tried to \_\_\_\_\_ him by offering to have it dry-cleaned.
22. Alicia \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed Tammy’s plans to ask Stefan to the dance by asking him herself first.
23. Kendrick could not stand losing the chess match to Caroline and refused to shake her hand out of \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Historians say that although Cleopatra was not a great beauty, men were attracted to her for her \_\_\_\_\_ and intelligence.
25. The farmer attached the \_\_\_\_\_ to his two oxen and began to plow his field.
26. There was a huge storm on the last night of our trip to the Grand Canyon, so we stayed inside and made s’mores by roasting marshmallows at the \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Because of all of his years \_\_\_\_\_-ing to make good grades in school, Darius was used to hard work and was quickly promoted in his first job.
28. David was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ businessperson, and was able to double all of his investments within a year.
29. Shouting \_\_\_\_\_ words is a sure way to get sent to the principal’s office.
30. Will ran over the foot of a man at the store with his shopping cart and refused to apologize, \_\_\_\_\_-ly exclaiming “Excuse YOU!”

answers: 1: craft 2: vast 3: mortify 4: indignant 5: shroud 6: hallowed 7: relentless 8: subtle 9: plunder 10: brazen 11: potent 12: suave  
 13: lavish 14: deft 15: exploit 16: fortify 17: swagger 18: adept 19: gallant 20: threshold 21: appease 22: thwart 23: spite 24: cunning 25: yoke  
 26: hearth 27: strive 28: shrewd 29: obscene 30: insolent

## The Odyssey Vocabulary List 2

- enthrall** **VERB** 1: to put into a trance or charm 2: to interest greatly 3: to put or hold in slavery  
*example:* I found the new book enthralling, and once I started reading, I couldn't put it down all night.  
**thrall** **NOUN** 1: a person who is in bondage; slave 2: a person who is morally or mentally enslaved by some power, often a magical one  
*example:* Folktales are full of stories about fairies who held helpless men in their thrall through enchantments.
- keen** **ADJ** 1: having or showing an ability to think clearly and to understand what is not obvious or simple about something 2: very excited about and interested in something **VERB** to wail in lamentation for the dead  
*example (as an adjective):* Many women report having a keen sense of smell while they are pregnant.  
*example (as a verb [participle]):* The sounds of the keening mourners in the cemetery could be heard all across the town.
- mutiny** **NOUN** 1: revolt or rebellion against legitimate authority, especially by sailors against their officers  
*example:* The band members had a mutiny when they decided to kick out their lead singer.  
**mutinous** **ADJ** 1: involving revolt against authority 2: characterized by mutiny  
*example:* The ship's captain began to worry that the crew was growing mutinous after they were unable to find land, and he worried that it wouldn't be long before they tried to overthrow his authority.
- mellow** **ADJ** 1: soft, sweet, and full-flavored from ripeness, as fruit 2: made gentle and compassionate by age or maturity; softened 3: pleasantly agreeable; free from tension, discord, etc. **VERB** to make or become mild or relaxed, especially over a longer period of time  
*example (as an adjective):* My dog has a very mellow personality; she never whines or barks.  
*example (as a verb):* The yoga instructor told her students to mellow and relax themselves.
- linger** **VERB** 1: to remain or stay on in a place longer than is usual or expected, as if from reluctance to leave 2: to remain alive; continue or persist, although gradually dying, ceasing, disappearing, etc.  
*example:* After my mother burned dinner, the smell of smoke lingered in our house for a week.  
*example:* Students usually do not linger in the hallways of school on Friday afternoon – they want to start the weekend as quickly as possible!  
*notes:* This word comes from the Old English “lengen” meaning to “prolong.”
- ruddy** **ADJ** of or having a fresh, healthy red color  
*example:* Jasper came in from his early morning jog looking energized and ruddy.  
*notes:* “Ruddy” comes from the Proto Indo European word “reudh,” meaning “red.”
- forebode** **VERB** to foretell or predict, usually something negative  
*example:* The eerie music in the horror film seemed to forebode that the old mansion might be haunted.  
*notes:* The prefix “fore” means “before.”
- grisly** **ADJ** causing a shudder or feeling of horror; horrible; gruesome  
*example:* The newspaper did not report on the most grisly details of the murder because they did not want to upset their readers.
- appall** **VERB** to cause someone to feel shock, horror, or disgust  
*example:* I was appalled to discover that my dog had chewed up my laptop while I was out of the house.  
*notes:* The Latin root of this word means “to become pale” – as in, someone who is so horrified that they become pale.
- maw** **NOUN** 1: the mouth of an animal, especially a carnivorous mammal 2: a cavernous opening that resembles the open jaws of an animal 3: the metaphorical center of hunger or appetite  
*example (literal):* The circus performer put his head right into the giant maw of the lion.  
*example (figurative):* The worker spent all day feeding papers into the maw of a shredder.

11. **entice** **VERB** to attract by raising hope or desire  
*example:* Karen enticed her friends to come over and help her move by promising them a delicious dinner.
12. **barbarian** **NOUN** 1: a person in a savage, primitive state; uncivilized person 2: a person without culture, refinement, or education 3: (loosely) a foreigner  
*example:* The Roman Empire was weakened by constant attacks from *barbarians*.  
**barbarous** **ADJ** uncivilized; wild; savage; crude  
*example:* When Americans first visited Japan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Japanese found them to be barbarous.  
*notes:* The word “barbarian” comes from the Ancient Greeks, who used it to mean any person who was not Greek. They thought that all languages other than Greek sounded like “bar-bar-bar-bar.”
13. **barren** **ADJ** 1: not able to produce life, offspring, or children 2: devoid of life  
*example:* Ancient Rome would sometimes throw salt on the fields of a defeated enemy to ensure that their land would be barren and would not be able to support crops in the future.
14. **steadfast** **ADJ** 1: very devoted or loyal to a person, belief, or cause 2: not changing  
*example:* Shawn is a steadfast friend, and would always come to help me if I needed him.  
*notes:* The Old English and Germanic roots of this word essentially mean “standing firm.”
15. **wallow** **VERB** 1: to spend time experiencing or enjoying something without making any effort to change your situation, feelings, etc. 2: to roll about in deep mud or water  
*example:* We enjoyed watching the alligators at the zoo wallowing in their artificial swamp.
16. **wary** **ADJ** watchful; being on one’s guard against danger  
*example:* I was wary of leaving any food in my classroom after I discovered a rat in my desk.
17. **intrigue** **VERB** to cause someone to be curious **NOUN** secret plans or activities  
*example (as a noun):* The Countess loved hearing about scandal and always wanted to talk about the gossip and intrigue at the court.  
*example (as a verb [participle]):* Mystery novels often have intriguing plots.
18. **bounty** **NOUN** 1: good things that are given or provided freely and in large amounts 2: an amount of money given to someone as a reward for catching a criminal  
*example:* Thanksgiving is a celebration of our bounty of good blessings.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “bonus,” meaning “good.”
19. **rebuke** **VERB** to express sharp, stern disapproval or criticism **NOUN** sharp, stern disapproval  
*example (as a verb):* The teacher rebuked the student for drawing on the desk.  
*example (as a noun):* After my rebuke for chewing up the leather couch, my dog began to whine and cry and I knew she felt guilty.
20. **wane** **VERB** 1: to decrease in strength, intensity, etc. 2: to decline in power, importance, prosperity, etc. 3: to draw to a close; approach an end 4: (of the moon) to decrease periodically in the extent of its illuminated portion after the full moon (as opposed to “wax,” meaning “to grow fuller”)  
*example:* Although Kyle was in love with Alicia at the beginning of the school year, his affection for her began to wane when he discovered that she wasn’t a very kind person.
21. **writh** **VERB** to twist the body about, or squirm, as in pain, violent effort, etc.  
*example:* The child writhed so much at the doctor’s office as she was waiting to get her shots that her father had to hold her.  
*notes:* This word comes from the early German term “writhanan,” meaning “twisted.”

22. **desolate ADJ** 1: barren , deserted, or uninhabited 2: having the feeling of being abandoned by friends or by hope  
3: dreary; dismal; gloomy  
*example:* Many people think of the desert as desolate, but actually it has a thriving ecosystem full of plants and animals.  
*notes:* The Latin root “solus” means “alone.”
23. **anguish NOUN** extreme distress, suffering, or pain  
*example:* Jeff caused his parents great anguish throughout his teenage years because of his drug usage and criminal activity.
24. **renown NOUN** widespread and high reputation; fame  
*example:* The renown of the famous singer caused concert tickets to sell out in less than a minute.
25. **lineage NOUN** 1: lineal descent from an ancestor 2: the line of descendants of a particular ancestor; family  
*example:* Studying the lineage of the kings of France can be difficult because so many are named “Louis.”  
*notes:* “Lineage” comes from the word “line.”
26. **futile ADJ** having no result or effect; pointless or useless  
*example:* Asking your teacher for extra credit on the day that grades are due is futile; at that late point, nothing can be done.
27. **daunt VERB** 1: to overcome with fear; intimidate 2: to lessen the courage of; dishearten  
*example:* Colin was at first daunted by the large size of the book, but once he began reading, he realized he enjoyed the story quite a bit.
28. **ebb VERB** 1: to flow back or away, as the water of a tide (opposed to flow) 2: to decline or fade away  
*example:* The noise of the street ebbed as the day turned into night and people went into their homes.
29. **foresight NOUN** 1: preparation for the future 2: knowing the future ahead of time  
*example:* Monica had the foresight to fill her car up with gasoline before embarking on her long trip, because she knew there were few filling stations on Canadian roads.  
*notes:* The prefix “fore” means “before” or “ahead of time.”
30. **grave NOUN:** 1: an hole in the earth in which to bury a dead body 2: any place of burial of a body **ADJ** 1: serious or solemn 2: threatening a seriously bad outcome or involving serious issues  
*example:* Everyone at the funeral had a grave expression on their face.  
**gravity NOUN** 1: the force of attraction by which objects tend to fall toward the center of the earth 2: heaviness or weight 3: serious or critical nature 4: serious or dignified behavior  
*example:* The teenagers’ giggling as the police interviewed them about the prank that had led to the fire indicated that they did not understand the gravity of the situation.  
*notes:* Both of these words derive from the Latin “gravus,” meaning “heavy” or “serious.”

## The Odyssey Vocabulary List 2 – Practice Quiz

anguish	desolate	futile	linger	ruddy
appall	ebb	grave	maw	steadfast
barbarian	enthral	grisly	mellow	wallow
barren	entice	intrigue	mutiny	wane
bounty	forebode	keen	rebuke	wary
daunt	foresight	lineage	renown	writhe

1. Emilio received a 100 on his vocabulary quiz because he had the \_\_\_\_\_ to study for it all throughout the week instead of trying to cram for it the night before.
2. The teacher asked her fourth period students not to \_\_\_\_\_ in her classroom after the bell had rung because she needed to go to the restroom after three hours without a break.
3. We expect our elected politicians to act with dignity and grace, and not to use profanity and threats like \_\_\_\_\_-s.
4. The snake \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed and squirmed after the zookeeper picked it up out of its cage.
5. The famous expression “resistance is \_\_\_\_\_” comes from the television show Star Trek, in which the alien Borgs would tell other cultures that it was useless to try to fight them and they should just give up.
6. Anastasia had a recurring nightmare about falling into the \_\_\_\_\_ of an enormous lion with long, sharp fangs.
7. I was \_\_\_\_\_ to try the new restaurant because all of my friends had told me that their food was delicious.
8. As the tide \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed, the water flowed back into the sea, revealing all sorts of shells on the beach.
9. Flying in a plane for the first time can be \_\_\_\_\_-ing for many people, but air travel is actually very safe.
10. Some people prefer to \_\_\_\_\_ in their unhappiness instead of taking the initiative to change their lives.
11. Randy made a/an \_\_\_\_\_ mistake when he left the stove on and his house burned down.
12. After 19 hours in labor, Melinda was delighted to discover that she had given birth to a healthy, \_\_\_\_\_ baby girl and kissed her pink cheeks.
13. The rat was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed into the trap by a piece of cheese.
14. My father was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to discover \$700 in additional charges on the phone bill because of my brother.
15. The soldiers \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed against their commanding officer when they felt that he was taking them into a needlessly dangerous situation and they refused to follow him.
16. You should be \_\_\_\_\_ of people who have broken your trust by lying to you in the past.
17. Training for a marathon requires \_\_\_\_\_ commitment; you have to exercise every day, whether you feel like it or not.
18. Roderick was so \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with Pokémon Go that he walked into traffic trying to catch a Pikachu.
19. After winning two Gold Medals in swimming at the Olympics, Simone Manuel was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed far beyond her hometown of Houston.
20. Our entire family was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed when our beloved dog ran away.
21. Andrea’s dream was to grow up to be a \_\_\_\_\_ hunter and chase down criminals for reward.
22. The ravens sitting on the gate of the graveyard gave me a \_\_\_\_\_-ing feeling.
23. I prefer medium-roast coffee to dark-roast because it has a \_\_\_\_\_-er flavor and is easier to drink.
24. The halls of Bellaire are \_\_\_\_\_ after 8<sup>th</sup> period when all of the students have gone home.
25. My garden is \_\_\_\_\_ during the middle of winter, when it is too cold for anything to grow.
26. According to his royal \_\_\_\_\_, Prince William is second-in-line for the throne of England.
27. I was \_\_\_\_\_d/ed when I received a letter delivered by an owl one day, and I couldn’t wait to find out what it said.
28. As the sun set, the light began to \_\_\_\_\_ and I had to turn on a lamp.
29. The child began to cry after her father \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed her for trying to cross the street alone.
30. I would never want to be a butcher – that kind of work is too \_\_\_\_\_ for me.

answers: 1: foresight 2: linger 3: barbarian 4: writhe 5: futile 6: maw 7: keen 8: ebb 9: daunt 10: wallow 11: grave 12: ruddy 13: entice 14: appall  
 15: mutiny 16: wary 17: steadfast 18: enthrall 19: renown 20: anguish 21: bounty 22: forebode 23: mellow 24: desolate 25: barren 26: lineage  
 27: intrigue 28: wane 29: rebuke 30: grisly

# The Odyssey Vocabulary List 3

- poise** **NOUN** 1: the state of being balanced 2: a natural, confident manner **VERB** to become drawn up into a position of readiness  
*example (as a noun):* Despite hearing that the plane was about to crash, the flight attendant was able to keep his poise and direct passengers to the emergency exit.  
*example (as a verb):* The cat crouched down and poised himself to attack the insect.  
*notes:* “Poise” is related to the words “pose” and “position.”
- sumptuous** **ADJ** luxurious or expensive; of the very best quality  
*example:* Our family likes to enjoy a sumptuous feast on Thanksgiving with all of our favorite foods.
- aghast** **ADJ** struck with overwhelming shock or amazement; filled with sudden fright or horror  
*example:* Martha was aghast when her long-lost brother, whom she had assumed to be dead, walked into the room very much alive.  
**ghastly** **ADJ** 1: shocking or horrible 2: like a ghost  
*notes:* The word “aghast” comes from the Old English “gaest,” meaning “ghost” – to be aghast, then, means to look at though you have seen a ghost. The word “ghastly” is often used as hyperbole in a semi-humorous way.
- transgress** **VERB** to violate a law, command, moral code, etc.; to offend; sin  
*example:* Jan transgressed on his host’s hospitality by leaving his room messy and playing loud music late at night.  
**transgression** **NOUN** an act of transgressing; violation of a law, command, etc.; sin  
*example:* Francine apologized for transgressing by borrowing her sister’s dress without permission.  
*notes:* The Latin root “trans” means “cross” or “across.”
- turmoil** **NOUN** a state of great commotion, confusion, or disturbance; chaos  
*example:* The classroom erupted into turmoil when a mouse ran into the center of the room.
- salutation** **NOUN** 1: a word or phrase (such as “Gentlemen,” “Dear Sir,” “Dear Madam,” or “To whom it may concern”) that is used to begin a letter 2: the act of greeting someone  
*example:* You should begin an email with a friendly salutation.  
*notes:* The word “salutation” comes from the Latin greeting in Ancient Rome, “salve,” which meant “hello” or “I salute you.”
- invoke** **VERB** 1: to call on a god as in prayer 2: to reference a respected idea to add credibility or support to one’s argument or position  
*example:* The attorney invoked the Constitution in support of her argument in front of the judge, arguing that the law violated the First Amendment.  
**invocation** **NOUN** 1: the act of calling upon a god, spirit, etc., for help or inspiration (especially at the beginning of an epic poem) 2: a form of prayer invoking God’s presence, especially one said at the beginning of a religious service or public ceremony  
*example:* Homer’s epic poem *The Odyssey* starts with an invocation to the Muse, in which he asks for inspiration to tell the story of Odysseus.  
*notes:* The Latin word “voca” means “to call.”
- scheme** **NOUN** 1: a clever and often dishonest plan to do or get something 2: the way that something is arranged or organized **VERB** to make plans to do or get something in a secret and often dishonest way  
*example (as a noun):* The woman was sentenced to jail for her scheme to cheat elderly people out of their retirement savings.  
*example (as a verb):* The children schemed to play an April Fool’s joke on their parents by pretending to have set the house on fire.

9. **haven NOUN** any place of shelter and safety; refuge  
*example:* I pulled over into a gas station during the thunderstorm, seeking haven from the heavy rains.
10. **brusque ADJ** abrupt in manner; blunt; rough; rude because of shortness  
*example:* I asked my friend how his day was going, but I was surprised when he just gave me a brusque “fine” instead of having a conversation.
11. **scurry VERB** to move quickly and with short steps  
*example:* When the tardy bell rings, all of the students scurry to class.
12. **rack VERB** 1: to torture 2: to strain in mental effort 3: to stretch the body of a person in torture by means of a rack  
*example:* I racked my brain, trying to remember where I left my homework.  
*notes:* The “rack” was an instrument used to torture people in the Middle Ages.
13. **infernal ADJ** 1: hellish 2: extremely troublesome, annoying, etc.; outrageous 2: of, inhabiting, or befitting hell  
*example:* The heat in Houston is absolutely infernal.  
**inferno NOUN** 1: hell; the infernal regions 2: a place or region that resembles hell  
*example:* Traffic during the holiday shopping season can be an inferno – it can sometimes take an hour to drive the mile the goes by the mall.  
*notes:* Dante’s *Inferno* is an epic poem in which the narrator takes a tour of Hell.
14. **refuge NOUN** 1: shelter or protection from danger, trouble, etc. 2: a place of shelter, protection, or safety  
*example:* My cat takes refuge in the closet any time a stranger comes to my house.  
**refugee NOUN** a person who flees for refuge or safety, especially to a foreign country, as in time of political upheaval, war, etc.  
*example:* The government debated whether or not to allow refugees from the war to immigrate into the country.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin “fugere,” meaning “to flee.”
15. **qualm NOUN** a feeling of doubt or uncertainty about whether you are doing the right thing  
*example:* After Paul had decided to attend the University of Oklahoma, he began to have qualms about his choice and started to think that he had made a mistake.
16. **loathe VERB** to hate someone or something very much  
*example:* Uliana didn’t just dislike broccoli – she loathed it (so much that even the smell would make her feel sick).
17. **lure VERB** to attract, entice, or tempt; allure **NOUN** a decoy; live or especially artificial bait used in fishing or trapping  
*example (as a verb):* The Pied Piper lured children away from their parents with his beautiful music.  
*example (as a noun):* My father allowed me to use his favorite lure on our fishing trip.  
**allure NOUN** power to attract  
*example:* The flesh-eating plant’s allure to insects is that it smelled like rotting meat, attracting flies with the promise of a meal when they themselves are on the menu.
18. **squander VERB** to use something in a foolish or wasteful way  
*example:* Troy’s parents gave him \$20 for lunch for the entire week, but he squandered it all on snacks by Tuesday.
19. **amble VERB** to walk slowly in a free and relaxed way  
*example:* It is annoying when you are trying to get to class on time and the people in the hallway are ambling along slowly.

20. **snide ADJ** unkind or insulting in an indirect way  
*example:* When Yassar saw the shirt that Michael was wearing, he said snidely, “Oh, it’s great that you don’t spend a lot of time worrying about fashion.”
21. **charlatan NOUN** a person who falsely pretends to know or be something in order to deceive people  
*example:* Dorothy was disappointed to discover that the Wizard wasn’t really magical, but instead a charlatan who had tricked the people of Oz.
22. **gnarled ADJ** 1: bent; twisted 2: having a rugged, weather-beaten appearance  
*example:* The swing was tied to a heavy, gnarled branch on the oak tree in the backyard.
23. **connoisseur NOUN** 1: a person who knows a lot about something (such as art, wine, food, etc.) 2: an expert in a particular matter of taste  
*example:* Theresa’s dream job would be to work as a connoisseur of fine chocolate, spending her days tasting and judging all of the best treats.  
*notes:* This word comes from the French term for “knowing” – a connoisseur, then, is someone who knows a lot about a particular subject. It’s also related to “cunning.”
24. **omen NOUN** something that is believed to be a sign or warning of something bad that will happen in the future  
*example:* Although many people think that black cats are bad omens, my best friend loves them and has adopted three of them.
25. **lunacy NOUN** 1: something that is very foolish 2: extreme mental illness  
*example:* It is lunacy to think that it’s okay to drive a car after drinking alcohol.  
**lunatic NOUN** 1: an insane person 2: a person whose actions and manner are marked by extreme eccentricity or recklessness  
*example:* It is a myth that Christopher Columbus was considered to be a lunatic for proposing that the Earth was round; many people already believed that it was spherical by the time he travelled.  
*notes:* “Lunatic” comes from the Latin word “luna,” meaning “moon”; it was thought that the moon could cause people to behave crazily (and we can still see remnants of that notion today, as in when people say “it must be a full moon” to explain strange behavior). The word “lunatic” has a strongly negative, judgmental connotation, and although it was commonly used in the past to describe people with mental illness, we should find a more sensitive term today.
26. **callus NOUN** a hardened or thickened part of the skin  
*example:* The pedicurist removed all of the calluses on Jenny’s feet, leaving them soft and smooth.  
**callous ADJ** 1: made hard; hardened 2: insensitive; indifferent; unsympathetic  
*example:* Years of working at the animal shelter had made Timothy callous when discussing death, and he often offended others with his morbid jokes.
27. **wraith NOUN** the spirit of a dead person  
*example:* Many people believe that wraiths walk the earth on Halloween.  
*notes:* “Wraith” comes from a Scottish word for “ghost.” It has the same origin as “writhe” – both words come from a root meaning “twisted” or “tormented.” It is also related to “wrath,” meaning “extreme anger and desire for vengeance.”

28. **kin NOUN** 1: a person's relatives or family 2: a group of persons descended from a common ancestor or constituting a clan, tribe, or family  
*example:* After taking a genetic identity test, Hussein learned that he was kin to his neighbor, Regina, because they both had an ancestor in common.  
*notes:* The word "kin" is an English/Germanic word related to the word "kind" – so in the thinking of people in Western Europe in the Middle Ages, your kin (family) are people that you are kind to, and if you were kind to someone, you were treating them like kin. In Shakespeare's Hamlet, a famous line from the main character reads, "A little more than kin, and less than kind," when talking about his uncle, whom he despises.
29. **pact NOUN** a formal agreement between two countries, people, or groups especially to help each other or to stop fighting  
*example:* The two brothers made a pact to stop fighting.  
*notes:* The word "pact" comes from the Latin word "pax," meaning "peace."
30. **reign VERB** 1: the period during which a ruler occupies the throne 2: royal rule or authority 3: dominating power or influence  
*example:* During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, England went from being a weak, poor country to the most powerful nation in all of Europe.  
*notes:* The word "reign" comes from the Latin words "rex" (king) and "regina" (queen).

## *The Odyssey Vocabulary List 3 – Practice Quiz*

aghast	gnarled	lunacy	rack	snide
amble	haven	lure	refuge	squander
brusque	infernal	omen	reign	sumptuous
callous	invoke	pact	salutation	transgress
charlatan	kin	poise	scheme	turmoil
connoisseur	loathe	qualm	scurry	wraith

1. Theodore was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with guilt because he forgot to put his friend Alice’s college application in the mail, as he had promised, and as a result she did not get into her dream school.
2. Since they were not allowed to be on campus after 5:00 PM, the students \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed when they broke into the school at midnight.
3. The horse \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed slowly through town, giving the townspeople a good, long while to look at the stranger riding through their community.
4. The children were \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to the kitchen by the smell of freshly-baked cookies.
5. People from big cities sometimes have a reputation for being \_\_\_\_\_ and rude to strangers.
6. “I can’t get this \_\_\_\_\_ machine to work!” shouted Kevin, after spending six hours trying to start the lawnmower.
7. It was \_\_\_\_\_ of Marcia to bring up the enormous raise she had received at her job when her brother Tom had just been fired.
8. The students held their pencils in their hands, \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to start the exam the second the teacher said “Begin!”
9. In some cultures, bowing is the preferred form of \_\_\_\_\_, as opposed to shaking hands.
10. Carter \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed his scholarship at the University of Texas by partying every night and failing his classes, which led the university to not renew his financial support for the next semester.
11. In Ancient Rome, people looked at the flight patterns of birds for \_\_\_\_\_-s – they thought that they could predict the future by what kind of birds were in the sky.
12. Eleanor’s hands look young and smooth, but her grandmother’s are \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The expression “blood is thicker than water” means that you should be loyal to your \_\_\_\_\_ over people who are not your family.
14. Odysseus prayed to Athena, \_\_\_\_\_-ing her to come help him out of his latest catastrophe.
15. The old woman warned us against going to the cemetery after dark because, according to legend, it was haunted by \_\_\_\_\_-s.
16. Most “get-rich-quick” \_\_\_\_\_-s are not legitimate, and might leave you bankrupt instead of wealthy.
17. The hospital discovered that one of their doctors was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ when they realized he had never gone to medical school and had no idea how to treat people who were sick or hurt.
18. The dress was made from the most \_\_\_\_\_ and expensive fabrics: silk and satin and hand-crafted lace.
19. Queen Elizabeth II is the longest-\_\_\_\_\_ing British monarch; she has been on the throne for longer than any other King or Queen of England.
20. The fake painting was so convincing that even the famous art \_\_\_\_\_ couldn’t tell the difference between that one and the original.
21. Many people from Syria are attempting to take \_\_\_\_\_ from their war-torn homeland in countries like Turkey and Greece.
22. The library is a \_\_\_\_\_ for introverts who prefer a quiet environment.
23. \_\_\_\_\_ erupted across the country when the people began to violently revolt.
24. Most people would have some \_\_\_\_\_-s about asking the ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend of their best friend out on a date.
25. The two countries made a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to stop fighting.
26. I was \_\_\_\_\_ to open my front door and realize that I had been robbed!
27. Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed football, and dreaded every autumn because she knew she would have to listen to people talk about how great it was and go to a bunch of horrible games and parties and pretend like she didn’t think that multi-million dollar salaries for people playing a GAME was not one of the most offensive things she had ever heard of.
28. Caroline’s \_\_\_\_\_ comments hurt people’s feelings.
29. Ronnie was horrified to find that when he turned on the bathroom light in the middle of the night, at least four cockroaches \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed away under the cabinet.
30. The Joker was committed to Arkham Asylum for criminal \_\_\_\_\_.

26: aghast 27: loathe 28: snide 29: scurry 30: lunacy

14: invoke 15: wraith 16: scheme 17: charlatan 18: sumptuous 19: reign 20: connoisseur 21: refuge 22: haven 23: turmoil 24: qualm 25: pact

answers: 1: rack 2: transgress 3: amble 4: lure 5: brusque 6: infernal 7: callous 8: poise 9: salutation 10: squander 11: omen 12: gnarled 13: kin

# *The Joy Luck Club Vocabulary List 1*

- shabby ADJ** 1: in poor condition especially because of age or use 2: dressed in clothes that are old and worn  
*example:* People assumed that the old man was not wealthy because he dressed in shabby, worn clothes.
- fragrant ADJ** having a pleasant and usually sweet smell  
*example:* Alissa loved the smell of the fragrant rose bushes in her grandmother's garden.  
**fragrance NOUN** a pleasant and usually sweet smell, especially a perfume or cologne  
*example:* The small bottle of fragrance cost over \$100.  
*notes:* These words are only used for pleasant smells; you wouldn't describe garbage as "fragrant" unless you were being ironic.
- prolong VERB** to make something last or continue for a longer time  
*example:* My commute from home to work was prolonged because of the rain.
- gruel NOUN** a thin food made by boiling oatmeal or some other grain in water or milk  
*example:* During the famine, people survived on eating gruel, but they often had nutritional deficiencies.
- sulk VERB** to remain silent or hold oneself aloof in a sullen, ill-humored, or offended mood  
*example:* Instead of accepting her punishment for breaking curfew, Becky sulked and frowned refused to come out of her room the entire week that she was grounded.
- colonial ADJ** 1: of or relating to a colony 2: owning or made up of colonies 3: of or relating to the original 13 colonies forming the United States  
**colony NOUN** 1: a group of people who leave their native country to form in a new land a settlement subject to, or connected with, the parent nation 2: the country or district settled or colonized 3: any people or territory separated from but subject to a ruling power  
*example:* During the British colonial rule of India, Indian people were treated very unfairly.
- savor VERB** to taste or smell with pleasure, often stretching the experience out for as long as possible  
*example:* Ophelia savored every bite of her favorite chocolate cake because her mother only baked it for her on her birthday.
- vigorous ADJ** 1: healthy and strong 2: done with great force and energy  
*example:* The senator from North Carolina vigorously argued against the proposed legislation; the newspaper reported that they had never seen her so passionate.
- strategy NOUN** 1: a careful plan or method for achieving a particular goal, usually over a long period of time 2: the skill of making or carrying out plans to achieve a goal  
*example:* The basketball coach told his players that their strategy for winning the game would be to mount a strong defense.  
**strategic ADJ** 1: of or relating to a general plan that is created to achieve a goal in war, politics, etc., usually over a long period of time 2: useful or important in achieving a plan or strategy  
*example:* The President's decision to invite the ambassador to the White House for dinner was a strategic move to improve the relationship between their two countries.
- resent VERB** to feel or show displeasure or offense at a person, act, remark, etc. from a sense of injury or insult  
*example:* Carl resented how much time and attention his parents gave to his new baby brother, and longed for the days when he was an only child.

11. **guise** **NOUN** a way of seeming or looking that is not true or real  
*example:* The evil queen appeared to Snow White in the guise of an old beggar woman so that she could trick her into eating the poisoned apple.  
**disguise** **NOUN** clothes worn by a person to avoid being recognized
12. **fracture** **NOUN** 1: the breaking of a bone or another substance 2: the act of breaking; state of being broken  
**VERB** to break or crack  
*example (as a noun):* There was a small fracture in the ceramic vase from when I had knocked it onto the floor.  
*example (as a verb):* Jason accidentally bumped into the ceramic vase, and when it hit the floor, it fractured into hundreds of pieces.
13. **ancestor** **NOUN** a person who was in someone's family in past times; one of the people from whom a person is descended  
*example:* Lionel inherited millions of dollars from his ancestors, who made a fortune in the oil industry.  
**ancestral** **ADJ** of, relating to, or inherited from an ancestor  
*example:* Although I was born and raised in Texas, my ancestral home is in Scotland.  
*Notes:* These words derive from the Latin prefix "ante," meaning "before."
14. **penetrate** **VERB** to pierce or pass into or through  
*example:* Sophie penetrated the plastic cover of her bubble tea with a sharp straw in one loud "pop!"  
**impenetrable** **ADJ** 1: impossible to pass or see through 2: impossible to understand  
*example:* No matter how much Colin studied for his math class, algebra seemed like an impenetrable mystery.
15. **hasty** **ADJ** done or made too quickly, often in error  
*example:* William made a hasty decision that he did not like Ronnie based on the first time they met, but after getting to know him over several months, he realized they had a lot in common and that he considered Ronnie a friend.
16. **imperial** **ADJ** 1: of, like, or relating to an empire, emperor, or empress, or supreme ruler 2: regal; majestic; very fine or grand; magnificent  
*example:* The archeologist suspected that the artifacts she recovered were from the imperial era of Roman history.  
**empire** **NOUN** a group of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress, or other powerful sovereign or government: usually a territory of greater extent than a kingdom, as the former British Empire, French Empire, Russian Empire, Byzantine Empire, or Roman Empire  
*example:* Prior to World War II, Japan wanted to establish an empire by colonizing parts of China and Korea.
17. **pretense** **NOUN** 1: a false reason or explanation that is used to hide the real purpose of something 2: an act or appearance that looks real but is false  
*example:* Hollis got his friend Dave to come to the surprise birthday party they were throwing for him under the pretense of asking him to come over to help him install a television.  
*notes:* This word is related to "pretend."
18. **prestige** **NOUN** the respect and admiration that someone or something gets for being successful or important  
*example:* Earning the status of valedictorian will give you a lot of prestige because people will be impressed with your academic accomplishments.  
**prestigious** **ADJ** having a high reputation; honored; esteemed  
*example:* Earning the Gold Award in Girl Scouts is a prestigious honor.

19. **province NOUN** any one of the large parts that some countries are divided into  
*example:* Although the U. S. is divided into states, Canada’s different political regions are called provinces.  
**provincial ADJ** 1: belonging or peculiar to some particular province; local 2: having or showing the manners, viewpoints, etc., considered characteristic of unsophisticated inhabitants of a province; rustic  
*example:* Originally from Alabama, Joy felt nervous whenever she attended parties in her new home in New York City because she thought that her accent and manners would seem provincial to her sophisticated friends.
20. **virtue NOUN** 1: morally good behavior or character 2: a good and moral quality  
*example:* Intelligence was one of the highest virtues for the Ancient Greeks, who saw Odysseus as a hero, but for the Romans, who valued honesty, he was a scoundrel and a villain.  
**virtuous ADJ** having strong moral character  
*example:* Nuns are often thought of as virtuous for their commitment to doing good deeds for others.  
*notes:* The word “virtue” comes from the Latin “vir,” meaning “man” – virtues, then, were the qualities that the Romans thought a good man should have.
21. **mourn VERB** 1: to feel or express sorrow or grief 2: to grieve or lament for the dead  
*example:* The entire world mourned when Nelson Mandela, the former South African President who dedicated his life to fighting for justice, passed away.
22. **auspicious ADJ** 1: showing or suggesting that future success is likely 2: good fortune  
*example:* It is considered an auspicious sign if you find a four-leaf clover.  
*notes:* In Ancient Rome, it was believed that you could tell the future by observing the flight patterns of birds. The people who had this job were called “auspexes,” leading us to the word “auspicious” today.
23. **cycle NOUN** a set of events or actions that happen again and again in the same order; a repeating series of events or actions  
*example:* The Hero’s Journey is sometimes called the Hero’s Cycle because the hero starts and ends in the same place.
24. **extract VERB** to remove something by pulling it out or cutting it out **NOUN** 1: a selection from a longer piece of writing 2: a product obtained by pressing, distilling, or by a chemical process  
*example (as a verb):* The dentist told the man that his tooth was rotten and would have to be extracted.  
*example (as a noun):* Vanilla extract is made by soaking vanilla beans in alcohol to remove their flavor.  
*notes:* The Latin prefix “ex” means “out of.”
25. **pungent ADJ** having a strong, sharp taste or smell  
*example:* French cheeses tend to be much more pungent than our mild American ones.
26. **cease VERB** to stop happening; to end  
*example:* The two countries agreed to temporarily cease fighting so that they could discuss peace.
27. **posterity NOUN** all future generations  
*example:* Environmentalists argue that it is important to protect nature in the interest of posterity.  
*notes:* The Latin prefix “post” means “after.”
28. **admonish VERB** 1: to speak to someone in a way that expresses disapproval or criticism 2: to tell or urge someone to do something  
*example:* After she forgot to lock the front door, Hallie’s mother admonished her for not being more careful.  
*example:* The police officer admonished the teenagers to stay away from drugs.  
*notes:* “Admonish” is a tricky word because, although it can mean to criticize someone for a mistake they have made, it can also mean to warn someone against making a mistake.

29. **presumptuous ADJ** too confident especially in a way that is rude; done or made without permission, right, or good reason

**presume VERB** 1: to think that (something) is true without knowing that it is true 2: to accept legally or officially that something is true until it is proved not true 3: to do (something) that you do not have the right or permission to do

*example:* It was presumptuous of Monica to walk into Tyler's house without being invited.

*notes:* The Latin prefix "pre" means "before."

30. **apparition NOUN** a ghost or spirit of a dead person

*example:* In Charles Dickens's short story "A Christmas Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge sees three apparitions who show him something important about the true meaning of Christmas.

*notes:* "Apparition" comes from the Latin word meaning "to appear" – as in, to appear suddenly and mysteriously.

## *The Joy Luck Club Vocabulary List 1 Practice Quiz*

admonish	cycle	hasty	presumptuous	savor
ancestor	extract	imperial	pretense	shabby
apparition	fracture	mourn	prolong	strategy
auspicious	fragrant	penetrate	provincial	sulk
cease	gruel	posterity	pungent	vigorous
colonial	guise	prestigious	resent	virtue

1. When you are \_\_\_\_\_-ing the death of someone, it is traditional to wear black.
2. Amara believed that Napoleon might have been her great-great-great-great grandfather, so she did some research to see if she could prove that he was truly her \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There were many pieces of \_\_\_\_\_, old furniture at the flea market.
4. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to stay at someone's house for dinner unless they have invited you to join them.
5. Some people still prefer real Christmas trees to the artificial ones because they enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ smell of the pine needles.
6. The number 13 is considered to be unlucky, while 7 is thought to be \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Although teenagers are stereotyped as being \_\_\_\_\_-y and moody, many of the ones I know are cheerful.
8. The Ancient Greeks believed that Zeus would sometimes come down from Olympus in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a poor beggar and knock at a person's door to ask for hospitality to see if they were a kind person or not.
9. The smoke detector would not \_\_\_\_\_ its alarm until we removed the battery.
10. Hospitality and intelligence were two of the most important \_\_\_\_\_-s for the Ancient Greeks, while the Ancient Romans valued honor and honesty.
11. The dumpster gave off a terrible, \_\_\_\_\_ smell that reached down the whole street.
12. Earning the title of valedictorian is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ honor.
13. During the \_\_\_\_\_ era of American history, the Americans were in conflict with their British rulers.
14. I was so \_\_\_\_\_ as I was leaving my house this morning that I forgot my lunch.
15. The people of the city looked down upon the poor farmer's \_\_\_\_\_ style of dress and accent every time he made a trip to the market.
16. The letters and diaries we keep about our daily lives today will allow \_\_\_\_\_ to develop a picture of the world in the early 2000's hundreds of years from now.
17. An avid ghost hunter, Walter booked a night in a hotel that was supposedly haunted, hoping to see a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The cowboys' cook prepared only pots of simple \_\_\_\_\_ for them to eat.
19. You can think of the Hero's Journey as a/an \_\_\_\_\_; the hero starts and ends up in the same place.
20. Our dog was energetic and \_\_\_\_\_ when she was a puppy, but now that she's older, she just lies around all day.
21. The former gang member \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the young teenagers to stay away from a life of crime and not repeat his mistakes.
22. Carla pretended to despise Nico, but it was all a/an \_\_\_\_\_, because she was secretly in love with him.
23. Since the children were only allowed to have dessert once a week, they \_\_\_\_\_-de/d it and made a point to eat it slowly.
24. \_\_\_\_\_-ing petroleum from the ground can be a complicated, dangerous process.
25. The soccer coach told her players that it was important for them to not only to be strong and fast, but also to use their minds so that they could play with \_\_\_\_\_ to defeat their opponents.
26. When Thomas accidentally slammed his fingers in the car door, he \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed some of his bones.
27. China was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ power for many years, ruled by dynasties of emperors.
28. The curtains were so thick and dark that not a single ray of light could \_\_\_\_\_ the dark room.
29. Fiona \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed her friends for forgetting her birthday.
30. We were having such a good time on vacation that we decided to \_\_\_\_\_ our trip and stay an extra week.

answers: 1: mourn 2: ancestor 3: shabby 4: presumptuous 5: fragrant 6: auspicious 7: sulky 8: guise 9: cease 10: virtues 11: pungent 12: prestigious 13: colonial 14: hasty 15: provincial 16: posterity 17: apparition 18: gruel 19: cycle 20: vigorous 21: admonish 22: pretense 23: savor 24: extract 25: strategy 26: fracture 27: imperial 28: penetrate 29: resent 30: prolong

## The Joy Luck Club Vocabulary List 2

- serene ADJ** calm and peaceful  
*example:* The artist Claude Monet disliked the hustle and bustle of the city, and preferred to paint in his peaceful, serene Japanese-style garden.  
**serenity NOUN** the quality or state of being calm and peaceful  
*example:* Practicing meditation gave Frank a feeling of serenity, where he could forget about his stressful life.
- consent VERB** to permit, approve, or agree; comply or yield **NOUN** permission, approval, or agreement; compliance; acquiescence  
*example (as a verb):* The celebrity did not consent to the publication of her wedding photos, and she demanded that the magazine not publish them.  
*example (as a noun):* Victor's parents gave their consent for Victor to stay out past his curfew.
- elude VERB** 1: to avoid or escape someone or something by being quick, skillful, or clever 2: to fail to be understood by someone 3: to fail to be achieved by someone  
*example:* The swift deer eluded the hunter by jumping behind a tree and running deeper into the forest.  
*example:* The moral of the story about the Three Little Pigs eluded Janna, and she continued to play instead of prepare.  
*example:* Even though he practiced his clarinet for hours and hours each day, making the All-State Orchestra eluded Dan, and he was never offered a position.  
**elusive ADJ** 1: hard to find or capture 2: hard to understand  
*example:* The Ghost Orchid, one of the rarest plants on the planet, is so elusive that only a handful of people have ever seen one in the wild.
- sly ADJ** 1: clever in a dishonest way 2: clever in concealing one's aims or ends 3: lightly mischievous  
*example:* My friend's sly smile and the fact that it was April 1 clued me in to the trick she was about to play on me.
- solemn ADJ** 1: very serious or formal in manner, behavior, or expression 2: sad and serious 3: done or made sincerely  
*example:* The judge was very solemn as instructed the jury to think seriously about whether or not the defendant was guilty of the crime of murder.
- pawn NOUN** 1: one of the chessmen of least value having the power to move only forward ordinarily one square at a time, to capture only diagonally forward, and to be promoted to any piece except a king upon reaching the eighth rank 2: one that can be used to further the purposes of another  
*example (literal):* When playing chess, sometimes it is necessary to sacrifice a pawn to win the game.  
*example (figurative):* In Greek mythology, the gods often used people as pawns in their games against one another.
- benefactor NOUN** someone who helps another person, group, etc., by giving money  
*example:* The billionaire decided to become a benefactor to the school by donating enough money for every student who graduated to have a full scholarship to attend college.  
*notes:* The Latin root "bene" means "good." The Latin root "facio" means "to do" or "to make." A benefactor, then, is literally someone who "does good."
- adversary NOUN** 1: a person, group, or force that opposes or attacks; opponent; enemy; foe 2: a person, group, etc., that is an opponent in a contest  
*example:* It shows good character for athletes to shake the hands of their adversaries after a game.  
*notes:* The Latin root "versus" means "turn." The Latin root "ad" means "toward." An "adversary," then, is someone you "turn towards," as though in preparation for a fight.

9. **benevolent ADJ** 1: kind and generous 2: organized to do good things for other people  
*example:* Although she was an absolute monarch, Queen Elizabeth I was a benevolent ruler who attempted to use her power to improve the lives of the people of England.  
*notes:* The Latin root “bene” means “good.” The Latin root “volens” means “wish.” Someone who is “benevolent,” then, is someone who has good wishes for others.
10. **gracious ADJ** 1: pleasantly kind, polite, and courteous 2: merciful or compassionate  
*example:* Annabelle was gracious after the waiter accidentally spilled red wine on her white dress, and told him not to feel bad about his mistake and assured him that she was not upset.  
**grace NOUN** 1: beauty and ease of movement 2: pleasant, controlled, and polite behavior 3: the condition of being in favor 4: undeserved love or forgiveness 5: a short prayer at a meal  
*example:* The ballet dancers moved across the stage with grace.
11. **prodigy NOUN** a young person who is unusually talented in some way  
*example:* Although he would later become a genius, Albert Einstein was no prodigy – he learned to talk much later than most children, and he gave no early signs that he would later change the world of physics.
12. **malodorous ADJ** having an unpleasant or offensive odor; smelling bad  
*example:* Malodorous fumes travelled down from the science lab, an indication of an experiment gone wrong.  
*notes:* The Latin root “mal” means “bad” or “evil.”
13. **ally NOUN** a person, group, or nation that is associated with another or others for some common cause or purpose **VERB** to join (yourself) with another person, group, etc., in order to get or give support  
*example (as a noun):* The two countries decided to become allies to work together to defeat the evil empire.  
*example (as a verb):* After the Germans attacked Russia towards the end of World War II, Stalin allied his country with the United States, Great Britain, and France.  
**alliance NOUN** 1: a relationship in which people, groups, or countries agree to work together 2: an association of people, groups, or nations working together for a specific purpose the Alliance for Arts Education  
*example:* The two brothers, who were usually fighting, agreed to form an alliance against their despised babysitter.
14. **concede VERB** 1: to admit something, usually in an unwilling way 2: to admit that you have been defeated and stop trying to win 3: to give away something usually in an unwilling way  
*example:* After it became clear that he was only going to receive 29% of the vote, the mayor conceded the election to her opponent.  
**concession NOUN** 1: the act or an instance of conceding (as by granting something as a right, accepting something as true, or acknowledging defeat) 2: the admitting of a point claimed in argument  
*example:* Mandy and Eric debated one another on the issue of taxation, and Mandy made a concession that Eric had a good point, but stated that some of his facts were incorrect.
15. **shrill ADJ** 1: having a very loud, high-pitched sound 2: loud and difficult to ignore but often unreasonable  
*example:* The sharp, shrill sound of the whistle made all of the dogs start barking.
16. **grime NOUN** dirt that covers a surface  
*example:* The bathtub was covered in grime because it hadn’t been scrubbed in six months.
17. **ponder VERB** to think about or consider something carefully and deeply  
*example:* Julio liked to ponder life’s important questions in the shower.

18. **endure VERB** 1: to continue to exist in the same state or condition 2: to experience pain or suffering for a long time 3: to deal with or accept something unpleasant  
*example:* Nelson Mandela endured 27 years in prison for his fight against racism in South Africa.  
*notes:* “Endure” comes from the Latin root “dur,” meaning “hard.”
19. **musty ADJ** having a bad smell because of wetness, old age, or lack of fresh air  
*example:* No one ever went up to the musty, old attic in my grandmother’s house.
20. **stagnant ADJ** 1: not flowing 2: not active, changing, or progressing  
*example:* Soldiers in World War I had to stand for weeks in the stagnant water that filled the trenches, often leading to infection and disease.  
*notes:* “Stagnant” comes from the Latin root “sto, stare,” meaning “stand.”
21. **chagrin NOUN** a feeling of being frustrated or annoyed because of failure or disappointment  
*example:* Sally was chagrined to discover upon returning home that the cookies she had been looking forward to having as a snack had disappeared.
22. **verbatim ADV** in exactly the same words; word for word  
*example:* Just because you can recite the definition of a word verbatim doesn’t mean that you understand how to use it.  
*notes:* “Verbatim” comes from the Latin word “verba,” meaning “word.”
23. **hover VERB** 1: to float in the air without moving in any direction 2: to stay very close to a person or place 3: to stay near a specified point or level  
*example:* The helicopter hovered twenty feet over the ocean as the Coast Guard members jumped to rescue the shipwrecked people.
24. **trivial ADJ** of very little importance or value; insignificant  
*example:* After a person has come close to death, a lot of the things we worry about – money, fashion, etc. – seem trivial in comparison.
25. **grieve VERB** 1: to cause someone to feel sad or unhappy 2: to feel or show grief or sadness  
*example:* Our entire family grieved deeply after our beloved dog passed away.  
*notes:* “Grieve” comes from the Latin word “gravus,” meaning “heavy” – the same root for the words “grave” and “gravity.”
26. **trudge VERB** to walk slowly and heavily because you are tired or working very hard  
*example:* The soldiers trudged through the jungle, exhausted by the hot weather and by carrying the heavy equipment.
27. **taut ADJ** very tight from being pulled or stretched; not loose or slack  
*example:* The sailors pulled the ropes on the ship extremely taut.
28. **mesmerize VERB** 1: to hold the attention of someone entirely 2: to interest or amaze someone so much that nothing else is seen or noticed  
*example:* Holly was mesmerized by the beautiful, glittering diamonds in the windows of Tiffany’s, the famous jewelry store.
29. **squabble NOUN** a noisy argument, usually over petty matters **VERB** to argue loudly about things that are not important  
*example (as a noun):* The source of the squabble between the two kindergarteners was that they both wanted to play with the same toy.  
*example (as a verb):* The father told the children that if they did not stop squabbling in the back seat of the car, they would turn around and go back home and not have ice cream.

30. **ordeal** **NOUN** 1: an experience that is very unpleasant or difficult 2: a primitive means used to determine guilt or innocence by submitting the accused to dangerous or painful tests believed to be under supernatural control 3: a severe trial or experience  
*example:* Getting the car out of the ditch was a difficult ordeal that required two tow trucks and three hours.

## The Joy Luck Club Vocabulary List 2 Practice Quiz

adversary	consent	hover	ponder	squabble
ally	elude	malodorous	prodigy	stagnant
benefactor	endure	mesmerize	serene	taut
benevolent	gracious	musty	shrill	trivial
chagrin	grieve	ordeal	sly	trudge
concede	grime	pawn	solemn	verbatim

1. Much to my \_\_\_\_\_, when I opened my backpack I discovered that I had left my homework on my desk at home.
2. The children all \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed over who got to eat the last piece of Halloween candy.
3. It is important to continue learning and reading books even after you are finished with your formal education so that your mind doesn't grow \_\_\_\_\_.
4. An understanding of algebra \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed Timothy – no matter how much he studied, he never seemed to get it.
5. The wedding went from a joyful occasion to a painful \_\_\_\_\_ when all of Barbara's relatives started to fight viciously with one another.
6. Some people love the \_\_\_\_\_ smell of old books in the library.
7. Caroline \_\_\_\_\_-ly stole \$500 of Monopoly money from the bank when no one was looking to ensure that she would win the game.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ shriek of the fire alarm hurt everyone's ears.
9. The wealthy CEO decided to become a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to the poor neighborhood where he grew up and used his money to create a park where children could safely play after school.
10. The cobra was so \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by the music of the flute that he only gently swayed and did not attack the flute player.
11. In Indian culture, people \_\_\_\_\_ for their deceased relatives by wearing white.
12. According to the Hero's Journey, the hero must find \_\_\_\_\_-s to help him or her complete the quest.
13. In *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu wrote that you must know your \_\_\_\_\_ to defeat them.
14. Constance and Ernie argued over \_\_\_\_\_ things, like which direction the gaiter roll should face and where they should put their toothbrushes.
15. It must be difficult to be a child \_\_\_\_\_ because everyone would always expect amazing accomplishments from you.
16. In *The Wizard of Oz*, not all of the witches are evil; for example, Glinda the Good Witch was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ mentor who helped Dorothy get back home to Kansas.
17. A/an \_\_\_\_\_ host should try to make their guests feel comfortable by offering them a drink.
18. The court reporter recorded exactly what the witness said so that she could repeat it back to the judge \_\_\_\_\_ when he asked about an important detail.
19. Germany \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed large areas of land after it lost World War II.
20. Martin \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed sadly to work, wishing that he were still asleep in his bed and dreading the day to come.
21. Ophelia pretended to be in love with George, using him as a/an \_\_\_\_\_ in her scheme to make Henry jealous.
22. Lysol wipes are fantastic for getting rid of the \_\_\_\_\_ that builds up on desks.
23. Native Americans would make drums by pulling leather \_\_\_\_\_ly over a hollow gourd.
24. It is important to read the terms of a contract before you \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
25. Guests in a cemetery should always be \_\_\_\_\_ and behave respectfully in honor of the dead who are resting there.
26. Frances felt calm and \_\_\_\_\_ after spending an entire day at the spa.
27. Natalie \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed over her children, swooping in any time they had a problem and solving it for them, so that they never developed independence.
28. Louis Zamperini \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed many weeks floating on a raft in the middle of the Pacific Ocean before he landed on an island and was captured by the Japanese military.
29. Driving across the Houston Ship Channel, you are hit with the \_\_\_\_\_ stink of sulfur from the oil refineries.
30. Haley decided to major in philosophy because she enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_-ing questions about right and wrong.

answers: 1: chagrin 2: squabble 3: stagnant 4: elude 5: ordeal 6: musty 7: sly 8: shrill 9: benefactor 10: mesmerized 11: grieve 12: ally  
 13: adversary 14: trivial 15: prodigy 16: benevolent 17: gracious 18: verbatim 19: concede 20: trudge 21: pawn 22: grime 23: taut 24: consent  
 25: solemn 26: serene 27: hover 28: endure 29: malodorous 30: ponder

## The Joy Luck Club Vocabulary List 3

- lament VERB** to express sorrow, regret, or unhappiness about something **NOUN** an expression of sorrow; especially a song or poem that expresses sorrow for someone who has died or something that is gone  
*example:* When Odysseus saw Achilles in the Underworld, Achilles lamented that he did not live a longer life, even if it meant sacrificing fame.  
**lamentation NOUN** an expression of great sorrow or deep sadness  
*example:* The dog howled in lamentation when he was left outside in the thunderstorm.
- relevant ADJ** relating to a subject in an appropriate way  
*example:* When writing an essay, the author should only include examples that are relevant to his or her thesis.  
**irrelevant ADJ** not important or relating to what is being discussed right now  
*example:* The detectives considered the testimony from the cashier to be irrelevant; they didn't think her story would help them to solve the case.
- vehement ADJ** 1: showing strong and often angry feelings 2: very emotional  
*example:* The citizens of the town were vehemently opposed to the proposal to build a new freeway through the park.
- baffle VERB** to completely confuse, bewilder, or perplex  
*example:* Carl was baffled when his daughter refused to eat the pancakes that she had always loved before.
- intuition NOUN** 1: a natural ability or power that makes it possible to know something without any proof or evidence 2: a feeling that guides a person to act a certain way without fully understanding why 3: something that is known or understood without proof or evidence  
*example:* Dr. Mendez did not have a rational reason for conducting her archeological dig at the site by the river, but her intuition told her that she might find some excellent artifacts buried there.  
**intuit VERB** to know or understand something because of what you feel or sense rather than because of evidence  
*example:* Geraldo was a demanding and difficult boss, and he expected his employees to be able to intuit what he wanted without him having to tell them.
- swoon VERB** 1: to become very excited about someone or something 2: to suddenly become unconscious  
*example:* All of the teenagers swooned at the sight of the famous movie star in person.
- manipulate VERB** 1: to operate with or as if with the hands or by mechanical means especially in a skillful manner 2: to control or manage skillfully, especially to one's own advantage or with the intent to deceive  
*example (literal):* Veronica manipulated the microscope to magnify the virus so that she could identify it.  
*example (figurative):* The Prince manipulated everyone around him by spreading gossip so that he would be next in line for the throne.  
*notes:* "Manipulate" comes from the Latin word "manus," meaning "hand."
- irrevocable ADJ** not capable of being changed; impossible to revoke, take back, or undo  
*example:* Everybody argues, but it is important not to say anything irrevocable that will damage your relationship beyond repair.  
**revoke VERB** 1: to officially cancel the power or effect of (something, such as a law, license, agreement, etc.) 2: to make (something) not valid  
*example:* Mr. Henderson's driver's license was revoked after his fifth accident.  
*notes:* The prefix "re" means "back" or "again"; the Latin root "voc" means "call."

9. **mundane ADJ** 1: dull and ordinary 2: relating to ordinary life on earth rather than to spiritual things  
*example:* Fanny used to think that math was mundane until she had an excellent teacher who inspired her to see how numbers can be used to solve important problems.
10. **puritanical ADJ** very strict especially concerning morals and religion  
*example:* The puritanical new principal insisted that dancing was sinful and cancelled Homecoming.  
*notes:* The Puritans were a religious group of English Protestants in the 1500's and 1600's who believed that taking pleasure in earthly things (for example, dancing or theater) was sinful. They were known for their plain black clothing and serious demeanors. A group of Puritans travelled to the New England area of America to establish a new society where they felt they could be closer to God.
11. **unequivocal ADJ** very strong and clear; not showing or allowing any doubt; not equivocal  
*example:* Some philosophers believe that murder is unequivocally wrong, while others believe that it is acceptable when it is a matter of self-defense.  
**equivocal ADJ** 1: having two or more possible meanings 2: not easily understood or explained  
*example:* The politician's speech was equivocal on the question of whether or not to raise taxes, and by the end of it, the citizens were not sure of where he stood.  
*notes:* Both of these terms are derived from the Latin word "vox," meaning "voice." To be "equivocal" means to give equal voice to two ideas or positions.
12. **uncanny ADJ** 1: having or seeming to have a supernatural or inexplicable basis; beyond the ordinary or normal; extraordinary 2: mysterious; arousing superstitious fear or dread; uncomfortably strange  
*example:* Myra had an uncanny ability to know when her twin sister was in trouble.  
*example:* The three witches in the Shakespearean play *Macbeth* predicted Macbeth's rise to the throne of Scotland with uncanny accuracy.  
*notes:* "Canny" comes from a Scottish word, "ken," meaning that which a person knows or is familiar. (It's related to the root of the word "connoisseur," which also has to do with knowing.) "Uncanny," then, means something outside of the known or the familiar. It has evolved to also mean something that is familiar, but in an upsetting and mysterious way.
13. **stifle VERB** 1: to suppress or hold in 2: to cause or have difficulty in breathing  
*example:* Oren stifled the yawn that he felt beginning in his throat because he wanted his teacher to think he was interested in the lesson.  
*example:* The heat inside the bakery kitchen was so stifling that it was difficult to breathe.
14. **stern ADJ** 1: firm, strict, or uncompromising 2: hard, harsh, or severe  
*example:* The captain of a ship needs to be stern to keep the crew members well-behaved.
15. **exasperate VERB** to irritate or provoke to a high degree; annoy extremely  
*example:* The children exasperated their babysitter by hiding from her and refusing to go to bed.
16. **sophistication NOUN** 1: the process or result of becoming cultured and knowledgeable, sometimes to the point of becoming tired and bored 2: the process or result of becoming more complex, developed, or subtle  
*example:* The magazine *Vogue* is famous for the sophistication of its fashion.  
**sophisticated ADJ** 1: having or showing a lot of experience and knowledge about the world and about culture, art, literature, etc. 2: attractive to fashionable or sophisticated people 3: highly developed and complex  
*example:* Americans think of the French as being intelligent and sophisticated.  
*notes:* These words come from the Greek root "sophia," meaning "knowledge."
17. **remnant NOUN** the part of something that remains when the other parts are gone  
*example:* Pioneers would take the remnants of cloth from the clothes they would make by hand and sew quilts out of the leftover pieces.

18. **impertinent ADJ** rude and showing a lack of respect  
*example:* It would be extremely impertinent to answer your phone while your teacher is in the middle of a lesson.
19. **nuisance NOUN** a person, thing, or situation that is annoying or that causes trouble or problems  
*example:* It's always a nuisance to go to the post office because the lines are so long.
20. **novelty NOUN** the quality or state of being new, different, and interesting  
*example:* The people of the tiny village were excited about the novelty of the travelling circus.  
**novel ADJ** new and different from what has been known before  
*example:* Only one hundred years ago, the idea of air travel was completely novel.  
*notes:* Both of these words come from the Latin term "novus," meaning "new."
21. **prance VERB** 1: to walk, move, or dance in a lively, spirited, or proud way  
*example:* The ballet dancers pranced lightly across the stage.
22. **enchantress NOUN** 1: a woman who uses spells or magic (a sorceress or witch) 2: a very interesting or beautiful woman  
*example:* Circe the enchantress attempted to turn Odysseus into an animal.  
**enchant VERB** 1: to attract and hold the attention of someone by being interesting, pretty, etc. 2: to put a magic spell on someone or something  
*example:* In Beauty and the Beast, all of the servants who worked in the castles were enchanted so that they turned into household objects.  
*notes:* Both of these words come from the Latin root "incantare," meaning "to cast a spell" (an "incantation" is a spell).
23. **shun VERB** to avoid deliberately and especially over a long period of time  
*example:* J. D. Salinger, the famous author of *Catcher in the Rye*, shunned publicity and refused to do interviews, despite the enormous popularity of his book.
24. **lustrous ADJ** 1: reflecting light evenly and efficiently without glitter or sparkle 2: radiant in character or reputation  
*example:* Amelia bought herself a strand of lustrous pearls with the money she earned from her first big sale.  
**luster NOUN** the shiny quality of a surface that reflects light  
*example:* The luster of the moon illuminated the lake below, making it glow.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin "lux," meaning "light."
25. **smirk VERB** to smile in an unpleasant way because you are pleased with yourself, glad about someone else's trouble, etc.  
*example:* Raquel smirked when she realized that she earned a higher grade on her exam than Janivee.
26. **haughty ADJ** having or showing the insulting attitude of people who think that they are better, smarter, or more important than other people  
*example:* The King spoke to everyone in a haughty manner, so although his subjects respected his power, they did not like him.
27. **vain ADJ** 1: too proud of your own appearance, abilities, achievements, etc. 2: having no success; not producing a desired result  
*example:* The peacock vainly strutted up and down his window at the zoo, making sure that all of the visitors could see his beautiful, brilliant blue plumage.  
*example:* Carmen ran through the airport as fast as she could, but it was in vain, because the plane was already taking off.

28. **sincere ADJ** genuine; real; honest  
*example:* Theodore apologized for his comments, but he wasn't sincere – he didn't actually think he had done anything wrong.
29. **devious ADJ** 1: willing to lie and trick people in order to get what is wanted 2: not straight or direct; having many twists and turns 3: deviating from a right, accepted, or common course  
*example:* The toddler looked like an angel, but she was actually quite devious and would lie and steal to get candy.  
**deviate VERB** to do something that is different or to be different from what is usual or expected  
*example:* When we were going on our road trip, we deviated from the route we had planned because we saw a sign advertising the World's Largest Cat and had to go see it.  
**deviant NOUN** someone who does something different from what is considered to be normal or morally correct **ADJ** different from what is considered to be normal or morally correct  
*example:* Until the 1980's, many schools considered writing with the left hand to be deviant behavior, and forced students who were left-handed to learn to use their right hands.  
*notes:* These words are derived from the Latin word "via," meaning "way" or "path." Someone who is devious, then, is someone who leaves the right path.
30. **cherish VERB** 1: to feel or show great love for someone or something 2: to remember or hold an idea, belief, etc. in a deeply felt way  
*example:* Ryan cherished his grandfather's worn old baseball glove because it reminded him of all of the afternoons they spent playing catch together.  
*notes:* "Cherish" comes from the French "cher," meaning "dear" or "expensive."

## *The Joy Luck Club Vocabulary List 3 Practice Quiz*

baffle	impertinent	mundane	remnant	stifle
cherish	intuition	novelty	shun	swoon
devious	irrevocable	nuisance	sincere	uncanny
enchanted	lament	prance	smirk	unequivocal
exasperate	lustrous	puritanical	sophisticated	vain
haughty	manipulate	relevant	stern	vehement

1. Penelope \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the suitors into giving her lots of presents by pretending to consider marrying them.
2. Even though the fire destroyed the building, the arson investigator was able to piece together enough \_\_\_\_\_-s of evidence to figure out who started the blaze.
3. The hurricane \_\_\_\_\_-ly damaged the wooden floors in our house, so we had to rip them out and install new ones.
4. Kelsie was totally \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed and confused by the words on her vocabulary list until she completed her practice quiz, which prepared her to ace the real quiz on Monday.
5. Mitchell was \_\_\_\_\_ with his new puppy and refused to let Rufus chew on the furniture or jump on guests, even though he was adorable.
6. Ursula began to suspect that her friend Edward might be a vampire when she saw a picture from the 1800's in her history textbook that bore a/an \_\_\_\_\_ resemblance to him.
7. Eric's mother told him to "wipe the \_\_\_\_\_" off of his face after he began gloating about beating his brother in a race.
8. Antonio was looking forward to the thrill of his vacation to Disney World, and his day-to-day routines of going to work and doing chores began to feel \_\_\_\_\_ and boring to him.
9. Shampoo commercials always feature models with beautiful, \_\_\_\_\_, shiny hair.
10. The innocent man \_\_\_\_\_-ly protested that he had not even been at the scene of the murder when it occurred.
11. Magda attempted to get the mosquitoes to leave her alone by wearing the strongest insect repellent that she could find, but her efforts were in \_\_\_\_\_ because they bit her anyway.
12. The Sirens were beautiful \_\_\_\_\_-s who lured sailors to their deaths with their singing.
13. My grandmother always \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed that when she was young, her only options were to become a teacher, a nurse, or a secretary, and she always wished that she had had the opportunity to be a scientist.
14. The heat from the ovens in the bakery is always so \_\_\_\_\_-ing that opening all of the windows doesn't really cool it down.
15. A/an \_\_\_\_\_ essay is one in which the writer is able to discuss the subject maturely and consider different points of view.
16. Some adults consider it to be \_\_\_\_\_ for children to ask "why?" after they are given a direction.
17. It is traditional in wedding vows for the couple getting married to promise to \_\_\_\_\_ one another, which means that they will fully appreciate one another and hold each other dear.
18. The fashion model \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed down the runway, confident that she looked gorgeous.
19. After donating blood at the blood drive, Yassar felt light-headed and began to \_\_\_\_\_ and almost fainted.
20. According to Texas state law, people cannot purchase beer and wine before noon on Sunday, a/an \_\_\_\_\_ piece of legislation designed to encourage people to attend church instead of drinking.
21. Huma considered her neighbor's guitar practice to be a/an \_\_\_\_\_ because it made it hard for her to sleep.
22. Oscar was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he tripped his little brother so that he fell into the pool.
23. My mother told me that I am \_\_\_\_\_-ly, absolutely not allowed to attend the party, under any circumstances.
24. Janina was \_\_\_\_\_ and rude when Carissa invited her to her birthday party, and said that she would never be caught dead hanging out with Carissa.
25. Gary has a/an \_\_\_\_\_ smile – you know that he is truly happy and isn't faking it.
26. The toddler was very excited about her new toy, but after a few days the \_\_\_\_\_ wore off and she didn't want to play with it anymore.
27. After Walter was released from prison, all of his old friends and family members \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed him and he couldn't find anyone to help him.
28. Although the detail about the crack in the window did not seem \_\_\_\_\_ or connected to the case in any way when the detectives were investigating the crime scene, it turned out to be the very clue that helped them solve the entire crime.
29. I felt \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed when I arrived at work, realized that I had left my phone on the kitchen table, and had to drive home to get it.
30. Alexa's \_\_\_\_\_ told her not to trust the stranger she met at the mall, even though she couldn't explain why.

answers: 1: manipulate 2: remnant 3: irrevocable 4: baffle 5: stern 6: uncanny 7: smirk 8: mundane 9: lustrous 10: vehement 11: vain  
 12: enchanted 13: lament 14: stifle 15: sophisticated 16: impertinent 17: cherish 18: prance 19: swoon 20: puritanical 21: nuisance 22: devious  
 23: unequivocal 24: haughty 25: sincere 26: novelty 27: shun 28: relevant 29: exasperate 30: intuition

# *The Count of Monte Cristo Vocabulary List 1*

- obsequious ADJ** too eager to help or obey someone important  
*example:* The obsequious butler annoyed the guests by asking them if he could get them anything every five minutes.
- insinuate VERB** 1: to say something, especially something bad or insulting in an indirect way 2: to gradually make yourself a part of a group, a person's life, etc., often by behaving in a dishonest way  
*example:* Mandy insinuated that Roger was not intelligent when she said, "I am surprised that you were able to get an A!"  
*example:* The undercover police officer was able to insinuate herself into the mafia so that she could collect evidence on their criminal activities.
- contraband NOUN** 1: anything prohibited by law from being imported or exported 2: goods imported or exported illegally or smuggled  
*example:* Chewing gum is considered contraband in some teachers' classrooms.  
*notes:* The Latin word "contra" means "against."
- imperious ADJ** having or showing the proud and unpleasant attitude of someone who gives orders and expects other people to obey them  
*example:* Zeba didn't have any friends because her imperious attitude made people feel that she thought she was better than them.  
**imperial ADJ** of or relating to an empire or an emperor  
*example:* Napoleon, the first Emperor of France, chose the bee as his imperial symbol.
- tenacious ADJ** 1: not easily stopped or pulled apart 2: firm or strong 3: very determined to do something  
**tenacity NOUN** the quality or property of being tenacious  
*example:* Because of Marcia's tenacious study habits, she became valedictorian of her medical school.  
*notes:* The words comes from the Latin "tenere," meaning "to hold."
- supplicate VERB** to ask for earnestly and humbly  
**supplicant NOUN** a person who asks for something in a respectful way from a powerful person or God  
*example:* The criminal supplicated the judge to grant him mercy and not sentence him to life in prison.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin "placare," meaning "please."
- stratum (plural – strata) NOUN** 1: one of usually many layers of a substance (such as rock) 2: a level of society made up of people of the same rank or position  
**stratify VERB** to divide or arrange into layers, levels, classes, or castes  
*example:* The canopy of the rainforest is the highest stratum within that ecosystem.
- usurp VERB** to take and keep something, such as power, in a forceful or violent way and especially without the right to do so  
*example:* The mafia boss's brother usurped power from him and took over the family business.
- denounce VERB** 1: to publicly state that someone or something is bad or wrong 2: to report someone to the police or other authorities for illegal or immoral acts  
*example:* The Nazis asked German citizens to denounce their neighbors whom they knew were sheltering Jews.  
**denunciation NOUN** a public statement that strongly criticizes someone or something as being bad or wrong  
*example:* The mayor of the city made a speech in which she issued a denunciation of whomever had been vandalizing the community parks.

10. **plebeian ADJ** the common people  
*example:* Tamara considers Taco Bell to be plebeian Mexican food, and prefers the expensive cuisine at Hugo's.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin word "plebe," referring to the non-aristocratic level of society in Ancient Rome.
11. **alacrity ADJ** 1: cheerful readiness, promptness, or willingness 2: liveliness; briskness  
*example:* The staff at Chick-fil-A are famous for their alacrity in serving customers.
12. **tempest NOUN** 1: a violent windstorm, especially one with rain, hail, or snow 2: a violent commotion, disturbance, or tumult  
*example:* The meteorologist said that we could expect the tempest known as Hurricane Ina to make landfall at midnight.  
**tempestuous ADJ** 1: very stormy 2: full of strong emotions, such as anger or excitement  
*example:* Barbara had a tempestuous personality, and was always smashing things when she became angry.  
*notes:* Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* is about a storm that shipwrecks a group of people on a deserted island.
13. **edifice NOUN** a large and usually impressive building (such as a church or government building)  
**edify VERB** to instruct and improve especially in moral and religious knowledge  
*example:* The enormous edifice off of I-45 north of Houston is a prison complex.
14. **fervent ADJ** 1: having or showing great warmth or intensity of spirit, feeling, enthusiasm, etc. 2: hot; burning; glowing  
**fervor NOUN** a strong feeling of excitement and enthusiasm  
*example:* The children fervently begged their parents to get them a kitten for Christmas.  
*notes:* Both of these words are related to "fever."
15. **wrath NOUN** 1: strong, stern, or fierce anger 2: vengeance or punishment as the consequence of anger  
*example:* The story of the *Iliad* is about Achilles's wrath towards Agamemnon after the general stole his slave girl.  
*notes:* This word is related to "writhe" (to twist about, as in pain) and "wraith" (an evil and violent spirit).
16. **reverie NOUN** 1: a state of dreamy meditation or fanciful musing 2: a daydream  
*example:* Claudia fell into a reverie thinking about what she would do if she won the lottery.  
*notes:* "Reverie" comes from the French word "reve," meaning "dream."
17. **obstinate ADJ** 1: sticking stubbornly to an opinion or behavior 2: difficult to deal with or get rid of  
*example:* Even though we were clearly lost on our road trip, our mother obstinately refused to pull over and ask for directions.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin preposition "ob," meaning "by" and "stare," meaning "stand" – someone who is obstinate, then, is "standing by" their opinion.
18. **assiduous ADJ** showing great care, attention, and effort  
*example:* Ebony's assiduous care and efforts on her essay earned her the highest grade in the class.
19. **plaintive ADJ** expressing sorrow, especially in sound  
*example:* We could tell from our cat's plaintive meowing that he was sad that we kicked him out of the room.
20. **covet VERB** to wish for greatly or with envy  
*example:* Esmeralda coveted her sister's ruby necklace and stole it from the jewelry box when the coast was clear.

21. **cupidity NOUN** eager or excessive desire for wealth, especially to possess something; greed  
*example:* Theodora decided to become a doctor out of cupidity and not a love of healing; she hoped to make lots of money.  
*notes:* The word “cupidity” and the Roman god of love, Cupid, both have their roots in a word meaning “desire” – “cupidity,” however, is not romantic desire, but only the desire for wealth.
22. **coffers NOUN** a box or chest, especially one for valuables  
*example:* The church’s coffers were empty, so they held a bid fundraiser.  
*notes:* This word has the same root as “coffin.”
23. **effusive ADJ** 1: extremely or overly emotional 2: pouring out; overflowing  
*example:* My grandmother kissed and hugged me effusively as soon as I got off the plane, because it had been a year since we had seen each other.
24. **penitent ADJ** feeling or showing sadness and guilt for a person’s own sins or faults and a desire to make up for them  
*example:* After my dog stole the roast chicken and ate it, I could tell he truly felt penitent by the way he covered his eyes with his paws and moaned.  
**penance NOUN** something that you do or are given to do in order to show that you are sad or sorry about doing something wrong  
*example:* After the man confessed to the priest that he had stolen frequently when he was younger, the priest told him that he now needed to donate money to people in poverty as penance.  
**repent VERB** to acknowledge regret for having done something wrong  
*example:* On her deathbed, Fatima repented for treating her sister unkindly when they were younger, and begged Fayza to forgive her.
25. **alight VERB** to come or step down from something, such as a vehicle or a horse  
*example:* We will alight at the bus stop on Richmond.  
*example:* After flying for miles, the bird alighted on a tree branch.
26. **prudence NOUN** careful good judgment that allows someone to avoid danger or risks  
*example:* The parents hired Veronica to babysit their children because of her reputation for prudence; they felt confident that she would make smart choices and keep the kids safe.
27. **epistle NOUN** a letter, especially a formal or an elegant one  
**epistolary ADJ** a form of literature written in the form of a series of letters  
*example:* I discovered all sorts of mementos and epistles in my grandfather’s closet after he passed away.
28. **caprice NOUN** 1: a sudden, unpredictable change, as of one’s mind or the weather 2: a tendency to change one’s mind randomly, without good reason  
**capricious ADJ** 1: changing often and quickly 2: not logical or reasonable  
*example:* Harold’s capricious personality made it difficult for him to choose a major – some days, he wanted to study math, while on others he was sure that textile design was his passion.
29. **vendetta NOUN** 1: a private feud in which the members of the family of a murdered person seek to avenge the murder by killing the slayer or one of the slayer’s relatives, especially such vengeance as once practiced in Corsica and parts of Italy 2: any prolonged and bitter feud or rivalry  
*example:* The vendetta between the two rival gangs resulted in dozens of murders.  
*notes:* This is an Italian word.
30. **feign VERB** to pretend or fake  
*example:* The school nurse could tell that Ricky was feigning sick because his temperature was completely normal.

## *The Count of Monte Cristo* Vocabulary List 1 Practice Quiz

alacrity	covet	feign	penitent	supplication
alight	cupidity	fervent	plaintive	tempest
assiduous	denounce	imperious	plebeian	tenacity
capricious	edifice	insinuate	prudence	usurp
coffers	effusive	obsequious	reverie	vendetta
contraband	epistle	obstinate	stratum	wrath

1. The geologist was able to tell by looking at one \_\_\_\_\_ in the many layers of the canyon that the region had a flood approximately 45,000 years ago.
2. Katarina was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ as a child – a whirlwind of energy and anger, always crashing into things.
3. The children were sluggish to wake up at first, but once their mother told them they were leaving that morning for Disney World, they got out of bed with \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Even though she was elected President, Janina did not behave \_\_\_\_\_-ly; she still bought her own groceries and drove her own car and always made time to listen to people.
5. We are bankrupt – our \_\_\_\_\_ are completely empty!
6. I could tell by the way that she was drooling that my dog Sadie \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed my hamburger.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the enemy families lasted for generations, until people no longer remembered why they were fighting.
8. Marla’s husband discovered a/an \_\_\_\_\_ from Marla’s lover in her coat pocket, and with that love letter as evidence, he divorced her.
9. After the hurricane damaged the stadium, the entire \_\_\_\_\_ had to be torn down and rebuilt.
10. Jacob \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed that Yuri must have stolen his new sneakers when he said, “You would never be able to afford such nice shoes!”
11. The cow \_\_\_\_\_-ly refused to budge from the middle of the road, blocking traffic for over a mile.
12. Gushing and crying, William thanked the firefighters \_\_\_\_\_-ly after they rescued his kitten from the burning building.
13. The penalty for carrying \_\_\_\_\_ such as drugs or weapons on board an airplane is severe.
14. The man fell to his knees and prayed in \_\_\_\_\_ that God grant him mercy.
15. Bertrand \_\_\_\_\_-ly practiced his violin every night in hopes of one day joining a professional symphony.
16. The manager of the coffee shop rewarded her employees who behaved \_\_\_\_\_-ly towards her with pay raises.
17. The baby let out a/an \_\_\_\_\_ cry to let his mother know he was hungry.
18. The prince plotted to poison his older brother, the king, so that he could \_\_\_\_\_ the throne.
19. Even though Tom knew his friends were throwing him a surprise birthday party, he still \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed shock when they flipped on the lights and yelled “Happy birthday!” so that they wouldn’t be disappointed.
20. The songbird flew down and \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed onto Snow White’s finger.
21. If you want to accomplish your goals, it is important to have \_\_\_\_\_: the ability to hold on to your dream no matter the road blocks and disappointments.
22. Odysseus suffered for many years because of Poseidon’s furious \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Karl Marx believed that the poverty-stricken \_\_\_\_\_ class would rise up and overthrow the wealthy.
24. The weather in Houston is famously \_\_\_\_\_; one hour it’s clear and hot, while the next, it turns stormy and cool.
25. \_\_\_\_\_, or greed, is known as one of the Seven Deadly Sins.
26. The murderer knew that if she wanted to receive parole and be released from prison early, she needed to appear truly \_\_\_\_\_ for her crimes.
27. After the newspaper reported on the scandal, the mayor \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the chief of police for accepting bribes.
28. Jesse has a/an \_\_\_\_\_ love of anime and manga, and spends all of his free time learning about Japanese culture.
29. Jonas fell into a/an \_\_\_\_\_, fantasizing about all of the delicious food he would eat on Thanksgiving.
30. Cara showed great \_\_\_\_\_ and good judgment when she chose to save her extra money from her paycheck instead of going out and partying.

answers: 1: stratum 2: tempest 3: alacrity 4: imperious 5: coffers 6: covet 7: vendetta 8: epistle 9: edifice 10: insinuate 11: obstinate 12: effusive  
 13: contraband 14: supplication 15: assiduous 16: obsequious 17: plaintive 18: usurp 19: feign 20: wrath 21: tenacity 22: wrath 23: plebeian  
 24: capricious 25: cupidity 26: penitent 27: denounce 28: fervent 29: reverie 30: prudence

## *The Count of Monte Cristo Vocabulary List 2*

- sublime ADJ** 1: very beautiful or good 2: causing strong feelings of admiration or wonder  
*example:* Listening to a concert in the cathedral was one of the most sublime experiences of my life.
- sonorous ADJ** 1: having a sound that is deep, loud, and pleasant  
*example:* Raquel chose to play the tuba because she liked its deep, sonorous sound.  
**sonar NOUN** a device used for finding things that are underwater by using sound waves  
*example:* The submarine sought out enemy ships by using sonar.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin “sonare,” meaning “to sound.”
- pallor NOUN** unusual or extreme paleness, as from fear, ill health, or death  
*example:* The pallor on the patient’s face told the doctor that he was about to faint.
- palpitations NOUN** an unusually or abnormally rapid or violent beating of the heart  
*example:* If you feel yourself having intense and irregular heart palpitations, you might want to go to the hospital.
- avid ADJ** 1: very eager or enthusiastic 2: wanting something very much; greedy  
*example:* Erica is such an avid reader that it is impossible for her to leave the bookstore without at least three new novels.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin “avere,” meaning “to desire eagerly.”
- avarice NOUN** a strong desire to have or get money  
*example:* Cody’s avarice led him to steal money from investors and wind up in jail.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin “avere,” meaning “to desire eagerly.”
- allay VERB** 1: to put a negative emotion (such as fear, doubt, suspicion, anger, etc.) to rest; calm; quiet 2: to lessen or relieve pain  
*example:* Ellie’s father allayed her fears of a monster under the bed by getting on the floor and checking with a flashlight.
- cleave VERB** 1: to divide by or as if by a cutting blow; split 2: to adhere firmly and closely or loyally and unwaveringly  
*example:* Leila used an axe to cleave the logs into smaller pieces of firewood.  
*example (literal):* The baby koala cleaved to its mother and refused to leave her side.  
*example (figurative):* Even though Peter knew he would get in trouble for telling his parents about the party, he cleaved to his belief that honesty is the best policy and confessed everything.  
*note:* “Cleave” is a very strange word that is its own antonym (opposite)!
- sylph NOUN** 1: a slender, graceful woman or girl 2: (in folklore) one of a race of supernatural beings supposed to inhabit the air.  
*example:* Odysseus encountered a number of dangerous sylphs on his adventures such as the Sirens, Circe, and Calypso.
- convalescence NOUN** the gradual recovery of health and strength after illness  
*example:* Doctors used to recommend that people with consumption travel to dry climates for their convalescence because the dry air was good for their lungs.  
**convalesce VERB** to recover health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness  
*example:* After the skiing accident, Marco convalesced at his parents’ house for a month while his arm healed.

11. **oscillate** **VERB** 1: to move in one direction and then back again many times 2: to keep changing from one belief, feeling, condition, etc., to an opposite one  
*example (literal):* The oscillating fan moved air around the entire kitchen and kept us cool during hot summer months.  
*example (figurative):* Katerina oscillated between wanting to go to prom and wanting to skip it; it seemed like every day she changed her mind about whether she wanted to attend.  
**oscillation** **NOUN** 1: an act or instance of oscillating 2: fluctuation between beliefs, opinions, conditions, etc.  
*example:* The hypnotist told the woman to focus on the oscillation of the charm hanging on the string.
12. **decorum** **NOUN** correct or proper behavior that shows respect and good manners  
*example:* The family expected their children to behave with decorum by always saying “please” and “thank you.”
13. **ample** **ADJ** 1: having or providing enough or more than enough of what is needed 2: quite large  
*example:* The restaurant was known for its ample servings, so diners never left hungry.
14. **reparation** **NOUN** 1: money that a country or group that loses a war pays because of the damage, injury, deaths, etc., it has caused 2: something that is done or given as a way of correcting a mistake that you have made or a bad situation that you have caused  
*example:* The judge ordered that the thief make reparations to all of his victims by paying them back for what he stole.  
**repair** **VERB** the act or process of putting back in good condition
15. **gait** **NOUN** a particular way of walking  
*example:* I could tell at a distance that the person walking into the stadium was my uncle because, even though I was too far away to see his face, his limping gait was so unique.
16. **apathy** **NOUN** the feeling of not having much emotion or interest  
*example:* The coach kicked the player off the team because of his apathy – he never attended practiced and played with little effort.  
**pathos** **NOUN** a quality that causes people to feel emotion, often sympathy or sadness  
*example:* The speaker used pathos to help his audience feel sympathy by telling a story about his mother.  
**pathetic** **ADJ** 1: causing feelings of pity, tenderness, or sorrow 2: very bad or poor  
*example:* The scrawny little Christmas tree looked so sad and pathetic that I wanted to take it home.
17. **flagrant** **ADJ** 1: shockingly noticeable or obvious wrongdoing  
*example:* Coming to school without a shirt on would be a flagrant violation of the dress code.  
*notes:* “Flagrant” comes from the Latin verb “flagrare,” meaning “to burn, blaze, or glow.” A flagrant offense, then, is not something done quietly and secretly, but very obviously.
18. **conciierge** **NOUN** 1: (especially in France) a person who has charge of the entrance of a building and is often the owner's representative; doorkeeper 2: a member of a hotel staff in charge of special services for guests, as arranging for theater tickets or tours  
*example:* If you are on vacation and need a recommendation for a good restaurant, you should ask the conciierge at your hotel.
19. **exposition** **NOUN** 1: the act of explaining something 2: a public show or exhibition  
**expository** **ADJ** used to describe writing that is done to explain something  
*example:* Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English learn to write expository essays: that is, essays with the purpose of informing.
20. **gallows** **NOUN** a wooden frame, consisting of a crossbeam on two uprights, on which condemned persons are executed by hanging  
*example:* Outlaws in the Wild West would sometimes be sent to the gallows without a trial.

21. **foundling NOUN** an infant or small child found abandoned; a child without a known parent or guardian  
*example:* The old woman discovered a foundling on her doorstep and raised the baby as her own son.  
*notes:* This is a rather old-fashioned word you would be more likely to read in a fairy tale than hear in a newspaper article today. The suffix “-ling” is a diminutive (a way of describing someone or something as small or insignificant) – think of “duckling,” “underling,” “starveling,” “hatchling,” “gosling,” or “groundling.”
22. **ruse NOUN** a trick or act that is used to fool someone  
*example:* Elf on a Shelf is a ruse used to get young children to believe in Santa Claus.
23. **repent VERB** to feel or show that you are sorry for something bad or wrong that you did and that you want to do what is right  
*example:* The man repented on his deathbed for arguing so much with his children, and he sincerely wished that he could take back all of the pain he had caused them.  
**repentance NOUN** 1: deep sorrow, compunction, or contrition for a past sin, wrongdoing, or the like 2: regret for any past action
24. **audacious ADJ** very confident and daring; very bold and surprising or shocking  
*example:* Lady Gaga’s famous “meat dress” was an audacious fashion choice.  
**audacity NOUN** a confident and daring quality that is often seen as shocking or rude  
*example:* Oliver had the audacity to tell the judge that he had better things to do than serve on the jury.
25. **substantiate VERB** to establish by proof or evidence  
*example:* The police attempted to substantiate the suspect’s alibi by checking with her neighbors to see if she was really home that night.
26. **averse ADJ** having an active feeling of dislike, opposition, or distaste —usually followed by the word “to”  
*example:* Caroline is averse to the taste of cilantro, and won’t eat anything with even the tiniest hint of the herb.  
*notes:* This word is a combination of the Latin prefix “ab,” meaning “away,” and “vertere,” meaning “to turn.” If you are “averse” to something, then, you are turned away from it.
27. **chasm ADJ** 1: a deep hole or opening in the surface of the earth 2: a major division, separation, or difference between two people, groups, etc.  
*example:* The Grand Canyon is the most famous chasm in the world.
28. **filial ADJ** 1: of or relating to a son or daughter 2: appropriate for a son or daughter  
*example:* Ryan considered it to be his filial duty to travel to see his parents every Christmas, even though the journey took eight hours.  
*notes:* “Filial” comes from the Latin root “filius” meaning “son” and “filia” meaning “daughter.”
29. **livid ADJ** 1: very angry 2: having a dark purplish color  
*example:* The spot on my leg where I was hit by the baseball turned into an enormous, livid bruise.  
*example:* My mother was so livid when she discovered I had broken the window that her face turned red from screaming.
30. **affable ADJ** friendly and easy to talk to  
*example:* Golden Retrievers are known as a very affable breed of dog and are thought to be gentle and patient with kids.

## *The Count of Monte Cristo Vocabulary List 2 Practice Quiz*

affable	averse	decorum	gait	repent
allay	avid	exposition	livid	ruse
ample	chasm	filial	oscillate	sonorous
apathy	cleave	flagrant	pallor	sublime
audacious	concierge	foundling	palpitations	substantiate
avarice	convalescence	gallows	reparation	sylph

1. At the end of *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge regretted that his \_\_\_\_\_ for money had overshadowed his relationships.
2. When writing an essay, it is important to have a clear \_\_\_\_\_ of your subject.
3. Many people think that it is important for you to \_\_\_\_\_ for your sins before dying so that you can cross over with a clear conscience.
4. Elsa's husband detests attending the ballet, so he was \_\_\_\_\_ to her suggestion that they purchase season tickets.
5. The deathly \_\_\_\_\_ of the gentleman's face made me wonder if he might be a vampire.
6. The doctor attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the child's fears of getting a shot by promising that it would not hurt much.
7. College professors will require you to \_\_\_\_\_ the things you claim to be true in a research paper by citing a credible source.
8. Connie always felt crowded in the city, and she missed the wide open plains and \_\_\_\_\_ space of her hometown in Iowa.
9. My father's \_\_\_\_\_ was so fast that, as a child, I had trouble keeping up with him.
10. During her long \_\_\_\_\_ as she recovered from the flu, Geraldine's mother brought her chicken noodle soup every day.
11. The children were furious with their parents when they discovered that the story about Santa Claus was merely a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to get them to behave in the months before Christmas.
12. According to some ancient religious texts, the baby Moses was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ who was discovered floating on the river in a basket by the pharaoh's daughter and then adopted as a royal son.
13. Even though I had never met them before, I suspected that the young man might have a/an \_\_\_\_\_ connection to the older man because of how similar they looked.
14. The Chinese government often argues that the Japanese government ought to pay \_\_\_\_\_-s for all of the destruction they caused during World War II.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ acrobat announced that he would walk on a wire strung between two of the highest skyscrapers in the city.
16. I was so frightened when I discovered a snake in the bathroom that I got heart \_\_\_\_\_.
17. The lightning bolt \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the thick tree trunk into two even halves.
18. While on a boat off the coast of Alaska, Hannah marveled at the beautiful, deep, \_\_\_\_\_ songs of the whales.
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ at the hotel asked if we wanted a bellhop to help us carry our luggage up to our room.
20. Everyone enjoyed being around Thomas because of his friendly, easygoing, \_\_\_\_\_ personality.
21. The windshield wipers \_\_\_\_\_ furiously in the storm.
22. Monica had a deep, \_\_\_\_\_ bruise on her leg from where she was smacked with a baseball.
23. Speeding by a police car at 30 miles per hour over the speed limit is such a/an \_\_\_\_\_ that you can be certain to get a ticket.
24. Most people would feel that watching the sunset on a beach in Hawaii is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ experience.
25. It is important to practice perfect \_\_\_\_\_ when visiting with the Queen of England because she expects her guest to be very polite.
26. Tinkerbell was a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Oliver is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ world traveler who spends all of his vacation time visiting far-off destinations such as Egypt and Russia.
28. When I walked in my front door and called to my cat to let her know I was home, she opened her eyes, looked at me, and went back to sleep in an obvious display of \_\_\_\_\_.
29. When it was invented, the guillotine was thought to be a humane alternative to the \_\_\_\_\_ because death came sooner for the person being executed.
30. The earthquake opened up an enormous \_\_\_\_\_ in the ground.

answers: 1: avarice 2: exposition 3: repent 4: averse 5: pallor 6: allay 7: substantiate 8: ample 9: insolent 10: convalescence 11: ruse 12: livid 13: flagrant 14: sublime 15: audacious 16: palpitations 17: cleave 18: sonorous 19: concierge 20: affable 21: oscillate 22: livid 23: flagrant 24: sublime 25: decorum 26: sylph 27: avid 28: apathy 29: gallows 30: chasm

# *The Count of Monte Cristo Vocabulary List 3*

- panacea NOUN** 1: a remedy for all disease or ills; cure-all 2: an answer or solution for all problems or difficulties  
*example:* My mother believed that chicken noodle soup was a panacea for whatever ailed you, whether it was a cold, a stomachache, or a broken heart.  
*notes:* The Greek root “pan” means “all.”
- exile VERB** to force (someone) to go to live in a distant place or foreign country **NOUN** 1: a situation in which you are forced to leave your country or home and go to live in a foreign country 2: a person who has been forced to live in a foreign country; a person who is in exile  
*example:* During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, Soviet citizens who criticized the government were exiled to the miserable frozen landscape of Siberia.  
*notes:* The Latin root “ex” means “to go out” (as in “exit”).
- timorous ADJ** easily frightened; full of fear  
**timid ADJ** feeling or showing a lack of courage or self-confidence  
*example:* At first, Callie was a timorous public speaker, but as she practiced she grew more confident.
- strident ADJ** 1: sounding harsh and unpleasant 2: expressing opinions or criticism in a very forceful and often annoying or unpleasant way  
*example:* The strident screeching of my alarm clock always gets me out of bed.
- ascendancy NOUN** a position of power in which someone can control or influence other people  
*example:* The hypnotist used his ascendancy over the people he mesmerized to get them to do foolish things.  
**ascend VERB** 1: to physically go up; to rise or move toward the sky 2: to slope or lead upward 3: to rise to a higher or more powerful position in a government, company, etc.  
*example (literal):* The elevator ascended to the top floor of the skyscraper.  
*example (figurative):* Eloise started out as just another employee, but quickly ascended to become the manager of the company.
- austere ADJ** 1: simple or plain; not fancy 2: having few pleasures: simple and harsh  
*example:* People who commit to becoming nuns and priests promise to live an austere lifestyle without many material pleasures.  
**austerity NOUN** 1: a simple and plain quality 2: a situation in which there is not much money and it is spent only on things that are necessary  
*example:* For most college students, austerity is a necessity since they do not have a lot of extra money.
- myriad ADJ** 1: a very large number of things 2: numerous and diverse  
*example:* Quintin loved opening a new box of Crayola crayons and seeing the myriad colors.
- consternation NOUN** a strong feeling of surprise or sudden disappointment that causes confusion  
*example:* Much to my consternation, when I got in my new car this morning, the engine wouldn't start.
- veritable ADJ** true or real [often used to emphasize in a metaphor]  
*example:* Francine has a veritable mountain of work to do this weekend.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin term “veritas,” meaning “truth.”

- 10. stupefy VERB** 1: to shock or surprise someone very much 2: to cause someone to become confused or unable to think clearly  
*example:* Bennett was stupefied when his long-lost sister Erica, whom he thought had died in childhood, walked through the door, very much alive.  
*notes:* The rough Latin root of this word means “to make stupid.”
- 11. injunction NOUN** 1: an order from a court of law that says something must be done or must not be done  
*example:* After it was discovered that the new grocery store was being built on a dinosaur burial ground, the court delivered an injunction to stop construction until paleontologists could rescue the fossils.
- 12. torpor NOUN** a state of not being active and having very little energy  
*example:* Eating a big Thanksgiving meal leaves many people in a state of torpor.
- 13. mercenary NOUN** a soldier who is paid by a foreign country to fight in its army; a soldier who will fight for any group or country that hires him **ADJ** 1: hired to fight 2: caring only about making money  
*example:* Without the Germany mercenaries whom George Washington hired, the American Revolution might have failed.
- 14. sinister ADJ** 1: having an evil appearance 2: looking likely to cause something bad, harmful, or dangerous to happen  
*example:* The witch stirred her bubbling cauldron and cackled a sinister laugh.  
*notes:* The Latin word “sinister” meant “left” (as in “the left side”); in many cultures, there was a superstition that the left side was associated with evil.
- 15. paroxysm NOUN** 1: a sudden attack or increase of symptoms of a disease (such as pain, coughing, shaking, etc.) that often occurs again and again 2: a sudden strong feeling or expression of emotion that cannot be controlled  
*example:* Stephanie called 911 to ask for an ambulance after her grandfather began suffering from paroxysms.
- 16. complaisant ADJ** willing or eager to please other people; easily convinced to do what other people want  
*example:* Julia grew from a complaisant girl who just wanted everyone to like her into a strong woman who was not afraid to express her opinion.  
*notes:* Be careful not to mistake this word for its homophone (a word that sounds identical), “complacent,” which means “self-satisfied” or “unconcerned.”
- 17. nonchalant ADJ** 1: relaxed and calm in a way that shows that you do not care or are not worried about anything  
*example:* Wanda is the most nonchalant person I know; when the kitchen caught on fire, she calmly called the fire department, gathered her most important possessions, and walked outside.  
*notes:* “Chalant” comes from French and roughly means “heated” or “excitable.” Someone who is not heated, then, is “cool.”
- 18. prosaic ADJ** dull or ordinary  
*example:* Hattie’s prosaic essay earned her a C; even though she had all of the necessary components, her ideas were unoriginal and obvious.  
**prose NOUN** 1: the ordinary language that people use in speaking or writing 2: writing without the repeating rhythm that is used in poetry  
*example:* Shakespeare wrote his plays in both poetry and prose.
- 19. ingrate NOUN** an ungrateful person  
*example:* Zoe was such an ingrate that she didn’t say “thank you” once to her parents for her eleven birthday presents.

- 20. disciple NOUN** 1: someone who accepts and helps to spread the teachings of a famous person 2: one of a group of 12 men who were sent out to spread the teachings of Jesus Christ  
*example:* The yoga guru's disciplines promised to practice his methods at least six hours every day.
- 21. fugitive NOUN** a person who is running away to avoid being captured; especially a person who is trying to escape being arrested by the police  
*example:* The police were able to find the fugitive by looking at her credit card records to track her location.  
*notes:* "Fugitive" comes from the Latin root "fug" meaning "flee."
- 22. infatuate VERB** 1: to inspire with a foolish or extravagant love or admiration  
*example:* Lucy was so infatuated with her high school boyfriend that she gave up her scholarship to Stanford to be able to attend college with him.  
**fatuous ADJ** foolish or stupid  
*example:* Miranda's plan to skip college and instead go to Los Angeles and immediately find a job as an actress was fatuous.
- 23. phlegmatic ADJ** not easily upset, excited, or angered  
**phlegm NOUN** a thick, yellowish liquid that is produced in the nose and throat especially when a person has a cold  
*example:* You have to have a phlegmatic personality to work in an emergency room because it's necessary to keep your cool to be able to make smart decisions for your patients.  
*notes:* Phlegm was one the four bodily "humors" (fluids) in medical theory from the Ancient Greeks through the Middle Ages. It was thought that all human beings had four main humors, and an imbalance of those humors would cause a personality type, as well as possibly illness. Someone who had an excess of phlegm was thought to be relaxed and easygoing, but also possibly dull and lazy.
- 24. oblique ADJ** 1: not direct; not stated directly 2: [of a line] having a slanting direction or position; neither perpendicular nor parallel  
*example:* Anthony attempted to obliquely tell his friend Hank that he smelled bad after gym by bringing up the topic of which brand of deodorant is most effective.
- 25. infamy NOUN** 1: the condition of being known for having done bad things or for being evil 2: an evil or terrible act  
**infamous ADJ** 1: well-known for being bad; known for evil acts or crimes 2: causing people to think you are bad or evil  
*example:* When President Franklin Roosevelt declared the attack on Pearl Harbor as "a day that will live in infamy," he meant that the tragedy of that act of war would haunt Americans for generations.
- 26. throng NOUN** a large group of people **VERB** to gather in a crowd or in great numbers  
*example:* A throng of people gathered outside of the Apple store to await the release of the newest iPhone.
- 27. machination NOUN** crafty schemes; plots; intrigues  
*example:* Odysseus resisted Circe's machinations to turn him into an animal and enslave him.  
*notes:* This word comes from the same Latin root from which we get "machine."
- 28. presentiment NOUN** a feeling or belief that something is going to happen  
*example:* The fortune teller had a presentiment that she should not get on the plane because something bad was going to happen.  
*notes:* The Latin root "pre" means "before"; "sentire" in Latin means "to feel."
- 29. infallible ADJ** 1: not capable of being wrong or making mistakes 2: certain to work properly or succeed

*example:* In the Middle Ages, people thought that their kings and queens were infallible, and that everything they did was the right thing, according to God.

**fallible ADJ** capable of making mistakes or being wrong

*example:* Sometimes very young children look up to their parents so much that they don't believe they are fallible.

**fallacy NOUN** 1: a wrong belief; a false or mistaken idea 2: the quality of being false or wrong

*example:* For hundreds of years, humanity operated under the fallacy that the Earth was the center of the solar system.

**30. phosphorescence NOUN** a luminous glow or radiation

*example:* Certain species of jellyfish give off a beautiful phosphorescent glow.

**phosphorescent ADJ** of or relating to a type of light that glows softly in the dark and that does not produce heat

*example:* The phosphorescent chemicals in the science lab glowed when the teacher turned off the lights.

## The Count of Monte Cristo Vocabulary List 3 – Practice Quiz

ascendancy	fugitive	machination	paroxysm	strident
austerity	infallible	mercenary	phlegmatic	stupefy
complaisant	infamy	myriad	phosphorescent	throng
consternation	infatuate	nonchalant	presentiment	timorous
disciple	ingrate	oblique	prosaic	torpor
exile	injunction	panacea	sinister	veritable

1. It is the job of bounty hunters to track down \_\_\_\_\_-s and return them to the criminal justice system.
2. My dog has such a/an \_\_\_\_\_ personality – she just wants to be loved, and she would do anything to please me.
3. It started out as a dull, ordinary, \_\_\_\_\_ day for Eric, who never expected that in just a few hours, he would be kidnapped by aliens.
4. If you have a complaint about customer service, you will probably get a better result if you deliver your criticism in a gentle, understanding way as opposed to a/an \_\_\_\_\_ criticism, which could offend some people.
5. The radium gave off a soft \_\_\_\_\_ glow as Marie Curie examined it.
6. After his first taste of queso, my exchange brother from Japan became \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with the cheesy dip, and asked if we could have it at every single meal.
7. Because of the economic crisis, the country will have to impose \_\_\_\_\_ measures such as cutting public services and halting road construction to try to keep to the smaller budget.
8. In the Bible, the term \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the students and followers of Jesus Christ.
9. Maddy’s mother always worried about the \_\_\_\_\_ ways that her daughter could get hurt, so she kept her daughter indoors all the time to try to protect her from every danger.
10. Garfield the cartoon cat often experiences so much \_\_\_\_\_ that he doesn’t move the entire day.
11. Students still learn in school today about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the outlaws of the Old West such as Jesse James and Billy the Kid.
12. Any doctor who was able to discover a/an \_\_\_\_\_ would make a ton of money because everyone would want to buy a drug that could cure anything.
13. The cult leader had complete \_\_\_\_\_ over his followers, who did whatever he asked, no matter how ridiculous.
14. Everyone detested Reyna because she ran her business with a/an \_\_\_\_\_ attitude towards profits, and wasn’t concerned about treating her employees well as long as she made money.
15. Philip is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ friend to others; he truly would do whatever it took to help someone in need.
16. All the pedestrians on the sidewalk \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed around the man who collapsed to see what was the matter and try to help.
17. Karen opened her purse to discover, with great \_\_\_\_\_, that someone had stolen her wallet and she had no way to pay for her groceries.
18. The corrupt politician’s \_\_\_\_\_-s to get himself elected through bribery and blackmail were discovered, and he was so disgraced that he had to resign.
19. Phuong was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by the news that he had won the lottery – he never really thought that such good luck was possible.
20. People mistakenly believed that the *Titanic’s* safety systems were \_\_\_\_\_ and that the ship was unsinkable.
21. Nick could not explain why, but he had a/an \_\_\_\_\_ when he woke up that something important was going to happen that day.
22. The refugees had to go into \_\_\_\_\_ to escape the war in their home country.
23. Only a/an \_\_\_\_\_ would complain that they did not like the handmade present that someone gave them.
24. The \_\_\_\_\_ little mouse squeaked and ran away at the slightest sound.
25. In a/an \_\_\_\_\_ of rage, the toddler smashed the block tower and fell to the floor shrieking.
26. If you are upset with someone, you should speak to them directly instead of hinting at the issue \_\_\_\_\_-ly.
27. The judge issued a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to all of the witnesses to not speak to the media while the trial was still going on.
28. The dark, old mansion with its creaky stairs and broken windows looked so \_\_\_\_\_ I wondered if it might be haunted by evil ghosts.
29. Vincent’s \_\_\_\_\_ personality made everyone around him feel calm and easygoing.
30. Carolina was dissatisfied in her relationship with Andrew because he acted \_\_\_\_\_-ly about issues that she felt were important.

(synonyms)

answers: 1: fugitives 2: complaisant 3: prosaic 4: strident 5: phosphorescent 6: infatuate 7: austerity 8: disciple 9: myriad 10: torpor 11: infamy 12: panacea 13: ascendancy 14: mercenary 15: veritable 16: throng 17: consternation 18: machinations 19: stupefy 20: infallible 21: presentiment 22: exile 23: ingrate 24: timorous 25: paroxysm 26: oblique 27: injunction 28: sinister 29: phlegmatic 30: nonchalant (note that 29 and 30 are close

# *The Black Count Vocabulary List*

- reminisce** **VERB** to recall past experiences, events, etc.  
**reminiscences** **NOUN** 1: the act or process of recalling past experiences, events, etc. 2: a mental impression retained and revived 3: a recollection narrated or told  
*example:* The elderly woman reminisced about her younger days as a pilot in World War II.
- poignant** **ADJ** causing a strong feeling of sadness  
*example:* The film about the love between two penguins was so poignant that I cried in the theater.  
*notes:* The Latin root of “poignant” also gives us “pointed” – something that is poignant, then, sticks or pricks your feelings.
- assassin** **NOUN** 1: a murderer, especially one who kills a politically prominent person for fanatical or monetary reasons 2: (initial capital letter) one of an order of Muslim fanatics, active in Persia and Syria from about 1090 to 1272, whose chief object was to assassinate Crusaders  
*example:* The ninja assassin was hired to murder the emperor.  
*notes:* “Assassin” comes from an Arabic word, “hashishiyin,” meaning “hashish-eaters.” A group of assassins in Lebanon would take the drug before going out and murdering their targets.
- alias** **NOUN** a false name used to conceal one’s identity  
*example:* Maureen went by the alias “Phantom” in her work as a spy.  
*notes:* “Alias” comes from the Latin word “alius,” meaning “other.” Your alias, then, is your other name.
- blunt** **ADJ** 1: having a thick edge or point; not sharp 2: saying or expressing something in a very direct way that may upset some people  
*example:* The police were able to determine that the victim was killed by an injury to the head with a blunt object, such as a baseball bat or a heavy iron pan.
- consummate** **ADJ** 1: extremely skilled 2: the highest degree; perfect **VERB** to make a marriage complete through sex  
*example:* Wallace is a consummate musician, and his orchestra teacher expects that he will receive a scholarship to Julliard.  
*notes:* The Latin word “summa” means “the highest” (as in “summit”).
- wiles** **NOUN** deceitful cunning; trickery  
*example:* While Heracles used his strength to defeat his enemies, Odysseus used his wiles, as in the case of his escape from the Cyclops by tricking him into thinking that he was a sheep.
- conspiracy** **NOUN** an evil, unlawful, or treacherous plan formulated in secret by two or more persons; plot  
**conspire** **VERB** to agree together, especially secretly, to do something wrong, evil, or illegal  
*example:* Some people believe that the assassination of President Kennedy was not the work of a lone shooter, but a conspiracy by the FBI to take down their own leader.  
*notes:* The Latin root “con” means “with.” The root “spire” means “to breath.”

9. **fraternity** **NOUN** 1: a local or national organization of male students, primarily for social purposes, usually with secret initiation and rites and a name composed of two or three Greek letters 2: the quality of being brotherly; brotherhood  
*example:* The motto of the French Revolution was “liberty, equality, and fraternity,” which meant that the people wanted to see one another as brothers and sisters.  
**fraternal** **ADJ** 1: having to do with brothers fraternal affection 2: made up of members banded together like brothers  
*example:* The similarity in the facial features of the two strangers standing before me made me wondering if they had a fraternal connection.  
*notes:* The Latin word “frater” means “brother.”
10. **plausible** **ADJ** 1: possibly true 2: believable, reasonable, or realistic  
*example:* The most plausible explanation for why we found the vase shattered is that the cat knocked it over.
11. **stature** **NOUN** 1: a person’s height 2: the level of respect that people have for a successful person, organization, etc.  
*example:* Because of her high stature in the community, everyone encouraged Isabelle to run for state representative.  
*example:* The famous saying by Shakespeare, “though she be little, she is fierce,” means that you cannot judge a person based on their stature.  
**status** **NOUN** 1: position or rank of a person or thing 2: current state of affairs or situation  
*example:* Politicians, movie stars, and other people of high status can expect to be followed by reporters and photographers.  
*example:* The flight commander asked for a status report on the engines so she could determine if they were ready to launch.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin root “stare,” meaning “to stand.”
12. **subordinate** **ADJ** 1: in a position of less power or authority than someone else 2: less important than someone or something else **NOUN** someone who has less power or authority than someone else **VERB** to think of or treat someone or something as less important than someone or something else  
*example:* A colonel is subordinate to a general in the military.  
*notes:* The Latin preposition “sub” means “below” or “underneath.” The Latin root “ordinis” means “rank” or “order.” Someone who is subordinate, then, is someone who is below in rank.
13. **ideology** **NOUN** the set of ideas and beliefs of a group or political party  
*example:* Capitalism is an ideology that suggests that the entire society is better off when people have the freedom to own property and profit from their labor.  
*notes:* The Greek word “idea” is the same as our current meaning – “a concept in the mind.”
14. **liberation** **NOUN** the act or fact of gaining equal rights or full social or economic opportunities for a particular group  
*example:* Because of their liberation by American soldiers from the Nazis, the French still feel very fondly towards the United States today.  
**liberate** **VERB** to set free, as from imprisonment or discrimination  
*example:* The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950’s and 1960’s worked to liberate people from discriminatory Jim Crow laws.  
*notes:* Both of these words come from the Latin term “liber,” meaning “free.”

15. **ascent** **NOUN** 1: the act of rising or climbing upward 2: the act of rising to a higher or more powerful position  
3: an upward slope or path  
*example:* The ascent up Mount Everest is very dangerous – every year people die attempting to reach the top of the mountain.  
**ascend** **VERB** to move upward  
*example:* After being elected to the position of state congressperson, Tamara quickly ascended to become the governor of her state.  
*notes:* These words are derived from a combination of the Latin preposition “ad,” meaning “to” or “towards,” and “scandere,” meaning “to climb.”
16. **lobby** **VERB** 1: to try to influence government officials to make decisions for or against something 2: to try to get something you want by talking to the people who make decisions **NOUN** 1: a large open area inside and near the entrance of a public building (such as a hotel or theater) 2: an organized group of people who work together to influence government decisions that relate to a particular industry, issue, etc.  
*example:* Although doctors knew that smoking led to cancer by the 1950's, the tobacco industry lobbied the government to suppress that information so that people would continue to purchase cigarettes.
17. **persist** **VERB** 1: to continue to do something or to try to do something even though it is difficult or other people want you to stop 2: to continue to occur or exist beyond the usual, expected, or normal time  
*example:* “Senator Warren was giving a lengthy speech. She had appeared to violate the rule. She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted.” – Senator Mitch McConnell, on the decision to silence Senator Elizabeth Warren from reading a letter from Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.
18. **emblem** **NOUN** an object or an image used to suggest a thing that cannot be pictured  
*example:* The olive branch is an emblem of peace.
19. **spur** **NOUN** a sharp pointed object that is attached to the heel of a horse rider's boot and that is pressed into the horse's side to make the horse go faster **VERB** to encourage someone to do or achieve something  
*example:* Visiting the campus of the University of Houston and seeing all of the cool laboratories spurred Jerome to enter the science fair at his high school.
20. **fuse** **VERB** to unite by or as if by melting together  
*example:* The welder fused the two pieces of metal together by using a blow torch.
21. **atrocious** **NOUN** an extremely cruel or terrible act, object, or situation  
**atrocious** **ADJ** extremely bad, brutal, cruel, or wicked  
*example:* War is an atrocious that should always be avoided if peaceful resolution is possible.
22. **ostracize** **VERB** 1: to not allow someone to be included in a group 2: to exclude someone from a group  
*example:* After her friends found out the Tammy had been spreading false rumors about them, she was ostracized and no one would speak to her.  
*notes:* Strangely enough, this word is derived from the Greek term “ostrakon,” meaning “broken piece of pottery.” The reason is because, in Ancient Athens, it was practice for the voting members of society to decide whether or not to banish someone they found to be dangerous by writing their vote on a broken piece of pottery.

23. **bourgeois ADJ** 1: having qualities or values associated with the middle class 2: too concerned about wealth, possessions, and respectable behavior  
*example:* Ricardo, who only wore clothes by the most expensive fashion designers, looked down on people who wore Gap as bourgeois.  
*example:* The style of architecture known as a “McMansion” is thought of as being bourgeois and in poor taste because it values size over beauty.  
*notes:* This word comes from the French “bourg” and the German “burg,” meaning “city.” People from the merchant middle classes often lived in cities (as opposed to peasants and aristocrats, who lived in the country).
24. **sear VERB** 1: to burn and damage the surface of something with strong and sudden heat 2: to cook the surface of something, such as a piece of meat quickly with intense heat  
*example:* The searing sun in Morocco gave Kamie a terrible sunburn.
25. **scaffold NOUN** 1: a temporary or movable platform or structure on which a person stands or sits while working high above the floor or ground 2: a platform or structure on which criminals are killed by being hanged or beheaded  
*example:* Building the heavy stone dome of the cathedral required an enormous scaffold to be constructed.
26. **mere ADJ** 1: nothing more than 2: something that is small or unimportant  
*example:* The woman gave a mere dime as a tip to her waiter.
27. **obfuscate VERB** to make (something) more difficult to understand  
*example:* The writer’s simple idea was obfuscated by her overly detailed prose style.
28. **premise NOUN** a statement or idea that is accepted as being true and that is used as the basis of an argument  
*example:* Democracy is based on the premise that every human being has equal worth.
29. **resonate VERB** 1: to continue to produce a loud, clear, deep sound for a long time 2: to have particular meaning or importance for someone; to affect or appeal to someone in a personal or emotional way  
*example:* The church bells resonated across the entire village, so that even the people working in the field knew what time it was.  
*notes:* The Latin prefix “re” means “again”; the Latin verb “sonare” means “to sound.”
30. **cliché NOUN** 1: a phrase or expression that has been used so often that it is no longer original or interesting 2: a stereotype  
*example:* Writers should avoid using clichés like “pitch black” or “white as a sheet.”

## *The Black Count Vocabulary List – Practice Quiz*

alias	cliché	ideology	persist	scaffold
ascent	conspiracy	liberation	plausible	sear
assassin	consummate	lobby	poignant	spur
atrocious	emblem	mere	premise	stature
blunt	fraternity	obfuscate	reminisce	subordinate
bourgeois	fuse	ostracize	resonate	wiles

1. The jury did not find the defendant's excuse that aliens made her steal the money to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If you have a friend who does not smell very good, saying \_\_\_\_\_-ly "You stink!" is not a very good way of helping them; instead, you might consider quietly bringing up a discussion about deodorant.
3. Allegra's \_\_\_\_\_ skill as a dancer ensured that she would take the starring role in the New York Ballet.
4. Although they were brothers, there were no feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ between the two boys, who absolutely detested one another.
5. The judge in the small Western town of Tumbleweed had a reputation for being harsh, and criminals could expect to be sent to the \_\_\_\_\_ for their misdeeds.
6. The dairy \_\_\_\_\_, made up of cattle ranchers across the United States, convinced the Department of Agriculture to promote milk as a healthy beverage for children.
7. Although his time growing up during the Great Depression was challenging, my grandfather likes to \_\_\_\_\_ about the good memories he made with his friends when he was a teenager.
8. The biologists could tell that the grey wolf was \_\_\_\_\_ to the brown wolf because of the way that he lowered himself and refused to make eye contact.
9. The fox used her \_\_\_\_\_ to figure out how to open the lock on the chicken house.
10. All of the people of the village were afraid of the prince's \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne once his father died, for the young man was known to be spoiled and selfish.
11. The recipe instructed the chef to \_\_\_\_\_ the roast in a very hot pan before putting it in the oven for two hours.
12. The book received awful reviews because it was full of \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed characters – a dumb jock, a nerdy computer geek, a mean cheerleader, and so on.
13. A heavy mist \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the skyline so that it was impossible to see the outlines of the buildings.
14. The woman paid a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to kill her sister so that she would be the only one to inherit her parents' money.
15. We all started crying at the \_\_\_\_\_ ending of the book, in which the dog sacrifices his life to save the boy from being hit by a car.
16. Shirts by the designed Lacoste have a small \_\_\_\_\_ of a crocodile on them.
17. Leprechauns are thought to have a short \_\_\_\_\_.
18. When Donald played videogames, his \_\_\_\_\_ was "Dragon Lord 999."
19. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Impressionist Movement in art was that an individual artist's emotional reaction was more important than capturing a photographic likeness.
20. Even though calculus was the most difficult class she had ever taken, Moira \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by studying hard every night and visiting her teacher regularly for tutorials to get help with what she did not understand.
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the book is that people can change their habits, and each of the chapters provides a strategy for how to do that.
22. Some of Julius Caesar's best friends participated in the \_\_\_\_\_ to assassinate him because they thought he was growing too powerful.
23. Spending two months together at camp \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the two boys into inseparable best friends.
24. The speaker's message about corruption in politics \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with the audience because their mayor had been convicted of stealing money from the city government two years prior.
25. The Holocaust Museum works to educate people so that genocidal \_\_\_\_\_-s will not happen again.
26. The cowgirl kicked her \_\_\_\_\_-s against her horse to try to catch up to the bandit who was making off with the bags of money.
27. Many Americans are shocked to find that men on the beaches in Europe wear \_\_\_\_\_-ly tiny Speedos.
28. The scientist Galileo was \_\_\_\_\_ for his ideas about astronomy and was put under house arrest.
29. Students enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ of summertime when they have few responsibilities.
30. The snobby professor considered popular novels to be \_\_\_\_\_ and would not read any book fewer than 200 years old.

# Dracula Vocabulary List 1

- distinct ADJ** 1: different in a way that you can see, hear, smell, feel, etc.; noticeably different 2: easy to see, hear, smell, feel, etc. 3: strong and definite  
*example:* There is a distinct difference between green bell peppers and serrano chile peppers – one is sweet and mild, while the other will almost burn your tongue off.  
**distinguish VERB** 1: to recognize one thing from others by some mark or quality 2: to hear or see clearly 3: to know the difference 4: to set apart as different or special  
*example:* It was difficult to distinguish the letters and numbers on the license plate in the middle of the night.  
*example:* The soldier was given a medal for distinguishing herself in battle by risking her life to save her fellow soldiers.
- brigand NOUN** a bandit, especially one of a band of robbers in mountain or forest regions  
*example:* The train was attacked by a band of brigands, who robbed the passengers of all their money.
- havoc NOUN** great destruction or devastation; ruinous damage; chaos  
*example:* Havoc broke out when the electricity went out and the lights went dark, and everyone screamed and ran around frantically.
- implore VERB** to beg in a serious or emotional way  
*example:* The guilty man implored the jury not to sentence him to jail, crying and telling them that he had to work to support his children.
- idolatrous ADJ** 1: worshiping idols 2: blindly adoring  
*example:* Gary is almost idolatrous in his love for Apple products – he thinks that Steve Jobs, the founder of the company, is a god.  
**idol NOUN** 1: an image or other material object representing a god 2: (in the Bible) an image of a deity other than God, or the deity itself 3: any person or thing regarded with blind admiration, adoration, or devotion  
*example:* Some religions ban artwork depicting God because they consider them to be idols, and worry that people will worship the object rather than the real thing.
- crucifix NOUN** 1: a cross with the figure of Jesus crucified upon it 2: any cross that represents Christianity  
*example:* Many churches have a large crucifix at the front, behind the altar.  
**crucify VERB** 1: to kill someone by nailing or tying his or her hands and feet to a cross 2: to criticize someone very harshly  
*example:* The Romans crucified people who revolted against them to discourage others from challenging their power.  
**crucifixion NOUN** the act of crucifying  
**crux NOUN** the most important part of something (such as a problem, issue, puzzle, etc.)  
*example:* The business discovered that the crux of the problem was that not enough people knew about their services, which is why they were not attracting clients.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin “crux,” meaning “cross,” and the Latin suffix “fix,” meaning “to make.”
- polyglot NOUN** 1: a mixture or confusion of languages 2: a person who speaks, writes, or reads a number of languages 3: a book, especially a Bible, containing the same text in several languages  
*example:* To work at the United Nations, you need to be a polyglot, capable of speaking to people from many different countries in their native language.  
*notes:* The Greek word “poly” means “many,” and the Greek word “glotta” means “language.”

8. **rift NOUN** 1: an opening made by splitting 2: a break in friendly relations 3: a geological fault  
*example:* During the American Civil War, there was a great rift between citizens from the North and the South.
9. **serpentine ADJ** 1: resembling a serpent, as in form or movement 2: having a winding course, as a road 3: shrewd, wily, or cunning  
*example:* Although it was only a short distance up the mountain, the path was so serpentine that all the winding back and forth left me exhausted.
10. **bay VERB** to howl, especially with a deep, prolonged sound  
*example:* When his mother told him that he could not have another cookie before dinner, Stevie bayed with frustration.
11. **impalpable ADJ** 1: not palpable; incapable of being perceived by the sense of touch; intangible 2: difficult for the mind to grasp readily or easily  
*example:* Although love is impalpable, it can be one of the most powerful forces on earth.  
**palpable ADJ** 1: capable of being touched or felt 2: obvious and noticeable  
*example:* There was a palpable sense of excitement throughout the school on the last day before the winter break.
12. **mutilate VERB** 1: to cause severe damage to the body of a person or animal 2: to ruin the beauty of something 3: to severely damage or spoil something  
*example:* The vandals mutilated the famous painting by slashing it with a knife and spray painting it.  
*notes:* This word originally comes from the Latin “muta,” meaning “change” – although to mutilate is to change in a terrible way.
13. **prodigious ADJ** 1: amazing or wonderful 2: very big 3: impressive  
*example:* Since he had not eaten all day, by dinner time Michael had a prodigious appetite.  
**prodigy NOUN** a young person who is unusually talented in some way
14. **solicitor NOUN** (in England and Wales) a member of that branch of the legal profession whose services consist of advising clients, representing them before the lower courts, and preparing cases for lawyers to try in the higher courts  
**solicit VERB** 1: to try to get by asking or pleading (often money, help, or advice)  
*example:* In England, a person who wants to be a solicitor only goes to law school for one or two years, and then works as an apprentice in a law office.
15. **grim ADJ** 1: unpleasant or shocking to see or think about 2: causing feelings of sadness or worry; gloomy or depressing 3: having a very serious appearance or manner  
*example:* My mother’s grim expression told me that she had bad news for me.  
*notes:* This word comes from a variety of Germanic and Scandinavian variations of “grim,” all meaning “terrible,” “angry,” “death,” and the like.
16. **succumb VERB** 1: to stop trying to resist something 2: to die  
*example:* Juliette was so exhausted that she couldn’t hold her head up any longer, and she succumbed to sleep.  
*notes:* This word is related to “succubus,” the evil female spirit that would attack men in their sleep. Both words have to do with giving in to the point of exhaustion.
17. **preternatural ADJ** very unusual in a way that does not seem natural  
*example:* Dogs and cats seem to have a preternatural ability to detect whether a person is good or bad.
18. **diffuse ADJ** spread out over a large space; not concentrated in one area  
*example:* The candle diffused the scent of cinnamon all over the room.

19. **testy ADJ** becoming angry or annoyed easily  
*example:* My older brother was in a testy mood and shouted at me for breathing too noisily.
20. **bauble NOUN** a showy, usually cheap, ornament or trinket  
*example:* Sara dug through the piles of old jewelry and baubles at the garage sale.
21. **conviction NOUN** 1: a fixed or firm belief 2: finding a person guilty of a crime in court  
*example:* Rhonda was so firm in her conviction that it would not rain that she did not bring a raincoat on her hike, and consequently got soaked when the afternoon shower started.  
**convince VERB** to argue so as to make a person agree or believe  
*example:* The prosecutor convinced the judge and jury that the defendant was guilty of the crime.  
*notes:* Both of these words come from the Latin verb “vincere,” meaning “to conquer.”
22. **acute ADJ** 1: very serious or dangerous; requiring serious attention or action 2: having or showing an ability to think clearly and to understand what is not obvious or simple about something 3: very strong and sensitive; highly developed  
*example:* Mateo’s family rushed him to the hospital after he developed an acute pain in his stomach.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Proto-Indo European (the language from which Latin, Greek, German, Hindi, Arabic, etc. are derived) word “ak,” meaning “sharp.”
23. **stint VERB** to be frugal or cheap; get along on a scanty or small amount  
*example:* Grandma never stints on dessert when we go to visit her – she always piles us with cookies, cake, ice cream, and candy.
24. **precipice NOUN** 1: a cliff with a vertical, nearly vertical, or overhanging face 2: a situation of great peril  
*example:* India and Pakistan have been on the precipice of war for the past thirty years; they each have nuclear weapons pointed at one another.
25. **impregnable ADJ** strong enough to resist or withstand attack; not to be taken by force, unconquerable  
*example:* Fort Knox, where America’s gold reserves are held, is almost impregnable.
26. **coquette NOUN** a woman who flirts lightheartedly with men to win their admiration and affection; a flirt  
*example:* All of the young gentlemen at the Maynard County Ball were in love with Annette, a brunette coquette.  
*notes:* This word comes from the French “coq,” meaning “cock,” and referring to the way that roosters strut and show off.
27. **ecstasy NOUN** a state of very great happiness : extreme delight  
*example:* Some people say that meditating gives them a sense of ecstasy, as though this world were a paradise.
28. **ribald ADJ** coarse, rude, vulgar, or inappropriate humor  
*example:* When you apply for a job, you should make sure that all of your jokes are tasteful, not ribald, to avoid offending a potential employer.
29. **garb NOUN** a particular style or type of clothing  
*example:* The man was wearing a long white coat, and because of his garb, I assumed he was a doctor.
30. **dogged ADJ** having or showing the attitude of a person who wants to do or get something and will not stop trying; stubborn and determined  
*example:* Getting to the Olympics takes dogged commitment to one’s sport; you have to practice for many hours a day, monitor everything you eat, and develop a deeply competitive attitude.  
*notes:* This word originally meant “like a dog.”

## Dracula – Vocabulary List 1 Practice Quiz

acute	crucifix	grim	mutilate	rift
bauble	diffuse	havoc	polyglot	serpentine
bay	distinct	idolatrous	precipice	solicitor
brigand	dogged	impalpable	preternatural	stint
conviction	ecstasy	implore	prodigious	succumb
coquette	garb	impregnable	ribald	testy

1. Charlene wore a small, golden \_\_\_\_\_ on a chain around her neck as a symbol of her Christian faith.
2. The children \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed their parents to buy them a dog by saying they didn't want anything else for their birthdays and promising to take care of it themselves.
3. The two sisters could not be more different; Cassandra is studious and serious, while Magdalena is a bit of a/an \_\_\_\_\_ who loves attention from boys.
4. The glow from the nightlight \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed all over the room, so that Marco could see that there weren't any monsters hiding.
5. The enormous \_\_\_\_\_ that is the Grand Canyon was carved from millions of years of erosion from the Colorado River.
6. Make sure that you are very polite in the library because the librarian can be a bit \_\_\_\_\_; she will chew out any students whom she thinks are misbehaving.
7. Sonia has a/an \_\_\_\_\_, unhealthy obsession with Bruno Mars – she even got his name tattooed on her arm.
8. Kevin was so excited about the party that it took a/an \_\_\_\_\_ effort not to tell Ralph and spoil the surprise.
9. The five-year-old's mismatched \_\_\_\_\_ - a tutu, a raincoat, and a flannel shirt – suggested that her parents had allowed her to dress by herself that morning.
10. When Mr. Huff asked his daughter where she had been all night, her \_\_\_\_\_ answer made him think that she was hiding something.
11. Haley is a bit of a/an \_\_\_\_\_ - she speaks English, Spanish, and Mandarin.
12. Ricardo gave up chocolate, his favorite food, for six weeks during Lent, so his first bar of Hershey's after Easter was pure \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The restaurant tried to save money by charging diners for water and giving them each only one small napkin, but their \_\_\_\_\_-ing backfired because people no longer wanted to eat there.
14. Harriet thought that practicing law would be a rewarding career, so she hoped to one day move to London and become a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Ravens are attracted to anything shiny, and will not hesitate to snatch a/an \_\_\_\_\_ from a person and bring it up to their nests.
16. Although everyone attempted to be happy on the first Christmas after Grandma passed away, we couldn't help but feel \_\_\_\_\_ without the sound of her laughter and the smell of her gingerbread cookies.
17. Tom's hand was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed after he got it stuck in the gears of the machine.
18. Katherine demonstrated a/an \_\_\_\_\_ commitment to vegetarianism – even when her friends tempted her with bacon, she refused and ate only eggplant.
19. The film was rated PG-13 because some people thought that its \_\_\_\_\_ sense of humor was not appropriate for small children.
20. The circus audience gasped as the tightrope walker approached the \_\_\_\_\_ of the platform, 50 feet above the ground.
21. The dogs began to \_\_\_\_\_ sadly when they realized they were not going for a walk, but instead to the vet for their annual checkup.
22. Although I didn't believe that the fortune teller had any special powers, she demonstrated a/an \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of secrets I had never told anyone.
23. Rhett Butler had a reputation as an unreliable, scandalous \_\_\_\_\_, but in reality he was a kind gentleman.
24. Many people think that twins have the same personality, but often times they have very \_\_\_\_\_, different characters.
25. Getting through medical school takes \_\_\_\_\_ effort – you have to be willing to study hard and work long hours.
26. The crowd erupted in complete \_\_\_\_\_ after the fire alarm in the mall went off – people were running and screaming, and no one knew what was happening.
27. I had a/an \_\_\_\_\_ that my grandfather was watching over me on the day I graduated from high school, even though he had passed away two years earlier.
28. Jamie felt \_\_\_\_\_-ly distressed when she realized that her car had been stolen.
29. The lawyer worked hard to help her client, who was accused of theft, avoid a/an \_\_\_\_\_ in court.
30. Even though he was on a diet, Emilio \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to the temptation of chocolate chip cookies and ate three of them.

answers: 1: crucifix 2: implore 3: coquette 4: diffuse 5: rift 6: testy 7: idolatrous 8: prodigious 9: garb 10: serpentine 11: polyglot 12: ecstasy  
 13: stint 14: solicitor 15: bauble 16: grim 17: mutilate 18: impregnable 19: ribald 20: precipice 21: bay 22: preternatural 23: brigand  
 24: distinct 25: dogged 26: havoc 27: impalpable 28: acute 29: conviction 30: succumb

## *Dracula* Vocabulary List 2

- nebulous ADJ** 1: hazy, vague, indistinct, or confused 2: cloudy or cloudlike 3: of or resembling a nebula  
*example:* Students who have only a nebulous understanding of the meaning of their vocabulary words will probably perform poorly on the quiz.  
**nebula NOUN** an enormous cloud of gas or dust in space  
*example:* NASA has produced some beautiful photographs of nebulas, showing their brilliantly colored, glowing spirals.  
*notes:* The Proto-Indo European word “neb” meant “cloud.”
- laden ADJ** burdened; loaded down  
*example:* Yasmin felt laden with guilt after she accidentally broke her father’s clock, an antique that had been in their family for over a hundred years.
- instigate VERB** to cause to happen or begin (oftentimes a fight)  
*example:* Japan instigated a war with the United States when they bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin verb “stigare,” meaning “to stick” or “to prick.”
- teeming ADJ** 1: abounding or swarming with or full of something  
*example:* Although the water might look clear, it is actually teeming with microorganisms.
- satiate VERB** 1: to satisfy (a need, desire, etc.) fully  
*example:* Rochelle was so hungry after finishing the marathon that she knew a simple salad would not satiate her, so she ordered a double cheeseburger.
- basilisk NOUN** (classical mythology) a creature, variously described as a serpent, lizard, or dragon, said to kill by its breath or look  
*example:* In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry must battle a basilisk, an enormous snake who can freeze people with its gaze.  
*notes:* The basilisk was a mythological reptilian monster; the herb basil was thought to be an antidote to the basilisk’s venom.
- bloat VERB** to become swollen; be puffed out  
*example:* My stomach felt bloated after eating so much at Thanksgiving dinner.
- imperturbable ADJ** incapable of being upset or agitated; not easily excited; calm  
*example:* Tamaya was imperturbable when she was meditating, and not even the sounds of her neighbors’ shouting could disturb her.  
**perturb VERB** to cause someone to be worried, upset, or annoyed  
*example:* Alyssa was perturbed when her friend Gretchen showed up to their lunch appointment almost an hour late, without any apology.  
*notes:* The Latin verb “turbare” means “to disturb” or “upset” – think of “turmoil” or “turbulence.”
- torrent NOUN** 1: a stream of quickly flowing water 2: a violent downpour of rain 3: a strong stream of anything  
*example:* After the grocery store stopped selling Flamin’ Hot Cheetos, they received a torrent of complaints from angry customers.
- rebuff VERB** 1: a blunt or abrupt rejection  
*example:* Marqueta wanted to ask Derrick to go to Homecoming with her, but she was afraid of being rebuffed.

11. **sanguine ADJ** 1: cheerfully optimistic, hopeful, or confident 2: reddish 3: (in old physiology) having blood as the predominating humor and consequently being ruddy-faced, cheerful, etc.  
*example:* After spending two weeks sick with a cold, Teddy returned to his usual sanguine personality.  
*notes:* The Latin word “sanguis” means “blood.”
12. **abbey NOUN** 1: a church under the supervision of an abbot or an abbess  
*example:* The television show Downton Abbey portrays an aristocratic family living in an enormous, old mansion.
13. **crony NOUN** a close friend or companion; a friend of someone powerful (such as a politician) who is unfairly given special treatment or favors or who helps in doing something wrong  
*example:* After the politician was elected, he gave jobs to all of his cronies who helped him on the campaign.
14. **assent VERB** 1: to agree 2: to give in  
*example:* Megan pleaded with her parents to allow her to use the money from her summer job to buy a car, and after much discussion, they assented.
15. **gusto NOUN** hearty and full enjoyment and pleasure, as in eating or drinking, or in action or speech in general  
*example:* I watched the newest film from my favorite director, Wes Anderson, with gusto.
16. **acquiesce VERB** to agree without protest to something a person would rather not do  
*example:* The businessman acquiesced to the kidnappers’ demand for a million dollars in ransom for the return of his children.
17. **fawn VERB** 1: to seek favor by embarrassingly humble (and often insincere) behavior 2: (of a dog) to behave affectionately  
*example:* Although everyone fawned over the new young pop star by telling her how talented she was, behind her back they spread nasty rumors.
18. **vivacity NOUN** liveliness; cheerfulness; to be full of life  
*example:* Everyone enjoyed being around Nate because his lively spirit and vivacity made people feel energetic; he was always telling jokes and stories and seemed to be fully living in the moment.  
**vivacious ADJ** lively; animated; full of life  
*example:* Myra has such a vivacious personality; she always wants to try daring, new things, like skydiving or traveling to Croatia.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin “viva,” meaning “life.”
19. **brood VERB** 1: to sit upon (eggs) to hatch, as a bird; incubate 2: to think or worry persistently or moodily about; ponder **NOUN** a number of young produced or hatched at one time; a family of offspring or young  
*example:* The hen brooded over her eggs for many days before the chicks finally hatched.
20. **opiate NOUN** 1: a drug containing opium (heroin), used in medicine for inducing sleep and relieving pain 2: anything that causes dullness or inaction or that soothes the feelings  
*example:* The drug dealer was arrested for selling opiates.
21. **cumulative ADJ** increasing or growing by accumulation or addition; the total of many things added together  
*example:* Although one cigarette may not kill you, the cumulative effect of many years of smoking is almost certainly lethal.  
**accumulate VERB** to gather or increase, especially little by little  
*example:* Over the years, a thick layer of dust accumulated in the attic.  
*notes:* Both of these words come from the Latin verb “accumulare,” meaning “to heap up.” (“Cumulus” – as in the cloud formation – is also related.) At a more basic level, the Latin preposition “cum” means “with.”

22. **vivisection NOUN** 1: the action of cutting into or dissecting a living body 2: the practice of subjecting living animals to cutting operations, often for scientific research  
*example:* In the 1800's, it was common for scientists to perform vivisections on living animals to try to learn more about anatomy.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin "viva," meaning "life."
23. **sultry ADJ** 1: oppressively hot and close or moist; sweltering weather 2: characterized by or arousing passion  
*example:* Many people consider the tango to be a sultry, romantic kind of dance.
24. **prolific ADJ** producing a large amount of something  
*example:* This session of the legislature has been particularly prolific, with Congress passing over 200 bills into new laws.  
**proliferate VERB** to increase in number or amount quickly  
*example:* Rumors that the queen was on her deathbed proliferated throughout the kingdom.
25. **abate VERB** 1: to become weaker 2: to decrease in strength 3: to slow or stop  
*example:* Taking an aspirin pill will help your headache to abate.
26. **derelict ADJ** 1: left or deserted, as by the owner or guardian; abandoned (especially a ship) 2: neglectful of duty  
*example:* The captain who abandoned the cruise ship that he crashed into a rock before all of the passengers were safely off was derelict in his duty.  
*example:* Students who are derelict in returning their books to the library on time will face the wrath of Mr. Casteel.
27. **baksheesh NOUN** a tip, present, or gratuity  
*example:* My tour guide when I was in Morocco expected some baksheesh at the end of our trip.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Persian term "bakhshish," meaning "gift."
28. **maelstrom NOUN** 1: a large, powerful, or violent whirlpool 2: a restless, disordered, or tumultuous state of affairs  
*example:* There was a maelstrom in the pet shop when the python broke out of its cage.  
*notes:* This word comes from Scandinavian languages. "Mael" originally meant "to crush," and a "strom" was a "stream."
29. **haggard ADJ** looking very thin and tired especially from great hunger, worry, or pain  
*example:* After driving all night to make it to the funeral on time, Cathy looked haggard and exhausted.
30. **helm NOUN** 1: (nautical) a wheel or tiller by which a ship is steered 2: the place or position of control or power  
*example:* The Board of Education expects that the school will improve, now that a new principal is at the helm.

## Dracula – Vocabulary List 2 Practice Quiz

abate	bloat	gusto	maelstrom	satiate
abbey	brood	haggard	nebulous	sultry
acquiesce	crony	helm	opiate	teeming
assent	cumulative	imperturbable	prolific	torrent
baksheesh	derelict	instigate	rebuff	vivacious
basilisk	fawn	laden	sanguine	vivisection

1. Although Ricky told Amber he forgave her for the unkind things she said to him during their argument, he secretly \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed over them, repeating them in his mind with bitterness.
2. The captain approached the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ship to give orders for where they should set sail.
3. In Houston, the summer heat often does not \_\_\_\_\_ until late October.
4. Carrie \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed Camilla’s offer to paint a portrait of her because she knew her friend was not a very talented artist, and she couldn’t imagine hanging one of her pictures in her home.
5. Students’ backpacks are often \_\_\_\_\_ with heavy books.
6. In the Biblical story of the Garden of Eden, an evil \_\_\_\_\_ tempts Eve with an apple and gets humanity kicked out of paradise.
7. Steve hoped that the yogurt would \_\_\_\_\_ his appetite for something sweet after dinner, but what he really wanted was ice cream.
8. \_\_\_\_\_-s of water flooded down the streets after three days of non-stop raining.
9. Doctors will sometimes prescribe \_\_\_\_\_-s to people in extreme pain.
10. The princess \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to marrying the duke, even though she wasn’t in love with him, because she knew that it would help maintain the stability of the kingdom.
11. The toddler’s screaming for candy was so loud and shrill that his father \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed and gave him some chocolate just to get some peace and quiet.
12. The rainforest is absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ with life; it is the ecosystem with the greatest biodiversity on the planet.
13. Horoscopes are often so vague and \_\_\_\_\_ (for example: “You will encounter a challenge today.”) that they can apply to anyone.
14. Kendall found Sara attractive not because of her long, red hair and green eyes, but because of her good humor and \_\_\_\_\_ personality; she was always excited about everything, and wanted to try new things.
15. The rosy glow in the baby’s cheeks indicated that he was in \_\_\_\_\_ good health.
16. My neighbors have been \_\_\_\_\_ in mowing their lawn for three months now, and their yard is basically a forest of overgrown grass.
17. Although the poor girl worked long hours sewing in a clothing factory, she dreamed of one day marrying a count and living in a great \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Don’t give Micah too much praise, or his ego will \_\_\_\_\_!
19. Hannah studied hard on one quiz for the class, but her \_\_\_\_\_ effort over the entire semester was so poor that she wound up failing.
20. It is difficult to eat dinner with \_\_\_\_\_ when your mother cooks frozen chicken lasagna (with the outsides burned and the inside still cold).
21. When buying make-up and other cosmetics, you should make sure that no animals had to undergo \_\_\_\_\_-s to test the products.
22. Sally \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed a fight with her brother by teasing him about his clothes.
23. The fig tree in our yard is so \_\_\_\_\_ that we often have buckets of fruit to share with our neighbors.
24. My dog \_\_\_\_\_-s over me every time I get home by following me everywhere and barking happily – I think she believes I am the best person in the world.
25. In countries where politicians expect \_\_\_\_\_ from citizens who ask for help, corruption can be a major problem.
26. Everyone expected the hurricane to be a/an \_\_\_\_\_, but when it made landfall, it turned out to be only a moderate rain.
27. The slow, \_\_\_\_\_ music from the jazz club could be heard all the way down the street.
28. The Joker and his \_\_\_\_\_s/ies planned an attack against Batman.
29. Drinking a cup of tea helps me to feel a little more \_\_\_\_\_ against the stresses of the world.
30. The challenges of overseeing the country during the Civil War made President Lincoln grow \_\_\_\_\_; in four years, he appeared to age by a decade or two.

answers: 1: brood 2: helm 3: abate 4: rebuff 5: laden 6: basilisk 7: satiate 8: torrent 9: opiate 10: assent 11: acquiesce 12: teeming 13: nebulous 14: vivacious 15: sanguine 16: derelict 17: abbey 18: bloat 19: cumulative 20: gusto 21: vivisection 22: instigate 23: prolific 24: fawn 25: baksheesh 26: maelstrom 27: sultry 28: crony 29: imperturbable 30: haggard

## Dracula Vocabulary List 3

- anemic ADJ** 1: suffering from anemia 2: lacking power, strength, vitality, or liveliness; weak  
*example (literal):* The doctor was concerned because his patient looked anemic and seemed to be sleeping 12 hours a day.  
*example (figurative):* Sandra gave an anemic performance in her job interview, and the interviewers thought that because of her lack of enthusiasm, she didn't want the job.  
**anemia NOUN** a lack of the hemoglobin, often accompanied by a reduced number of red blood cells and causing paleness, weakness, and breathlessness  
*example:* Anemia is a disease in which a person's blood does not have enough red blood cells.
- morbid ADJ** having or showing an interest in unpleasant or gloomy things, particularly death  
*example:* Many people think that jokes about dead babies are morbid.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin "mori," meaning "death."
- sanatorium NOUN** a place for the care and treatment of people who are recovering from illness or who have a disease that will last a long time (particularly a mental illness)  
*example:* In the 1800's, a woman's husband could have her committed to a sanatorium if he grew tired of her and wanted to remarry.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin "sana," meaning "health."
- lackluster ADJ** 1: lacking brilliance or radiance; dull 2: lacking liveliness, vitality, spirit, or enthusiasm  
*example:* After the news that the theater would be closing at the end of the month, the actors gave only a lackluster performance at the rest of their plays.  
**luster NOUN** the shiny quality of a surface that reflects light  
*example:* Opals are gems that are known for their milky luster instead of a bright sparkle.  
**lustrous ADJ** having a glowing quality without glitter or sparkle  
*example:* The maid polished the gold vase until it had a lustrous shine.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin word for "light," "lux."
- malady NOUN** 1: a disease or illness 2: any undesirable or disordered condition  
*example:* The common cold is a malady that we have yet to cure.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin word "mal," meaning "bad" or "evil."
- boudoir NOUN** a woman's bedroom or private sitting room  
*example:* Alisa ordered a canopy bed and silk curtains for her boudoir.  
*notes:* This is a French word with a suggestive connotation.
- gangrene NOUN** 1: death of body tissue when the blood supply is cut off 2: decay or corruption  
*example:* It is important to properly disinfect any wounds you receive to prevent the onset of gangrene.
- smut NOUN** 1: a black or dirty mark; smudge 2: indecent language or publications; obscenity  
*example:* People used to think of comic books as smut, but today scholars are beginning to give them serious consideration as literature.
- asylum NOUN** 1: protection given by a government to someone who has left another country in order to escape being harmed 2: a hospital where people who are mentally ill are cared for especially for long periods of time : a mental hospital  
*example:* After the American war with Vietnam, many of the South Vietnamese people who had fought with the United States sought asylum in the U.S.  
*example:* The jury decided to send the murderer to an asylum instead of a prison because he was insane.  
*notes:* Although the words "asylum" and "sanatorium" are similar, "asylum" has a unique secondary definition.

10. **lurid ADJ** 1: causing shock or disgust a lurid story 2: glowing with an overly bright color  
*example:* The newspaper reported all of the lurid details about the Vice President’s affair with the ambassador, and many people thought that the writers should have been more discreet.
11. **malign VERB** to say negative (and often untrue) things about someone publicly **ADJ** causing or intended to cause harm  
*example:* Holly attempted to malign Obinze, her opponent in the election for Class President, by telling everyone that he cheated in biology, but the other students knew Obinze to be a very honest person and elected him anyway.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin adjective “mal,” meaning “bad” or “evil.”
12. **paraphernalia NOUN** objects that are used to do a particular activity  
*example:* REI sells camping gear, sports equipment, and other paraphernalia for outdoor activities.
13. **stalwart ADJ** 1: very loyal and dedicated 2: physically strong  
*example:* Kendrick proved himself to be a stalwart friend after Lupita was diagnosed with cancer; he checked in on her every day, drove her to doctors’ appointments, and listened when she cried.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “stare,” meaning “to stand,” and the German “wiede,” meaning “worthy” or “manly.”
14. **pine VERB** to long for something or someone deeply (often someone or something unattainable)  
*example:* I pined for air-conditioned all during the two months that I spent in Vietnam, where even electricity was sometimes hard to come by.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Old English “pinian,” meaning “pain,” “torture,” or “suffering.”
15. **vigil NOUN** 1: an act of keeping watch especially when sleep is usual 2: a memorial ceremony  
*example:* Valecia’s dad promised to sit in her room and keep a vigil while his five-year-old daughter fell asleep to make sure that the monster under her bed didn’t come get her.  
**vigilant ADJ** alertly watchful, especially to avoid danger  
*example:* When you are traveling in a foreign country, you should be especially vigilant about your belongings to make sure that they aren’t stolen.
16. **presage NOUN** an intuition or feeling of what is going to happen in the future  
*example:* The Ancient Romans thought that the flight patterns of birds could presage important events, such as the births and deaths of leaders or the outcome of war.  
**sage NOUN** a very wise person **ADJ** wise  
*example (as a noun):* In fairy tales, there is often a sage who acts as a mentor and give the hero wise advice.  
*notes:* The Latin root “pre” means “before,” and the Latin root “sagire,” meaning to “know” or “perceive.”
17. **pendulum NOUN** 1: a weight hung from a point so as to swing freely back and forth under the action of gravity 2: something that alternates between opposites  
*example:* The tick-tock noise of the pendulum in the clock drives me crazy.
18. **wan ADJ** looking sick, pale, or weak  
*example:* Eli had a huge fear of flying, and when the boarding call for his plane came on the loudspeaker, he began to look wan, as if he were already airsick.
19. **intercede VERB** 1: to try to help settle an argument or disagreement between two or more people or groups 2: to speak to someone in order to defend or help another person  
*example:* The Holocaust might not have happened if the United States had interceded in Hitler’s rule of Germany earlier.

20. **wry ADJ** twisted; funny in a clever or ironic way  
*example:* Marco's wry smile when he told me that we were having bugs for dinner told me he was joking.  
*notes:* Like the word "writhe," "wry" is also derived from the early German "writhanan," meaning "twisted."
21. **trifle NOUN** something of little value, substance, or importance **VERB** to treat someone or something as unimportant; to joke  
*example:* Suzanne was a trifle angry with her husband, Tom, for planning a surprise birthday party for her, because he knew she didn't like surprises.
22. **smite (past tense: smote; past participle: smitten) VERB** 1: to strike hard especially with the hand or a weapon  
 2: to kill or injure  
*example:* Irene tried to smite the cockroach by hitting it with a shoe.  
*example:* The knight smote down his enemy in battle by using a mace.  
*example:* Raquel is smitten with Hank; she is absolutely in love with him.  
*notes:* As the past participle of the verb, "smitten" is almost exclusively used to mean "struck by love," and not "struck" in the literal sense.
23. **badinage NOUN** light, playful banter, teasing, or joking  
*example:* Alexander really wanted to find a wife with a good sense of humor and a quick wit, someone who could engage in playful badinage with him over the dinner table.
24. **vulpine ADJ** 1: of or resembling a fox 2: cunning or crafty  
*example:* Because of her vulpine intelligence, the burglar was able to sneak out of the back of the house as the police approached the front.
25. **folly NOUN** 1: the lack of good sense or judgment 2: folly  
*example:* Jack's mother thought that Jack's decision to trade the family cow for some magic beans was folly.
26. **prostrate ADJ** 1: lying flat on the ground 2: helpless 3: completely overwhelmed  
*example:* If someone is feeling very sick, you should help them to lie prostrate until medical care can arrive.
27. **pacify VERB** to make calm or peaceful  
*example:* A lullaby and a bottle of milk can pacify a crying baby.  
*notes:* The Latin word "pax" means "peace," and the suffix "fy" means "to make."
28. **aperture NOUN** an opening, as a hole, slit, crack, gap, etc.  
*example:* By adjusting the aperture of the camera, the photographer can control how much light is let into the picture.
29. **assail VERB** to attack  
*example:* The reporters assailed the Governor of Illinois with questions about the rumors of his illegal activities.
30. **grog NOUN** cheap alcohol, often of poor quality  
*example:* The pirates opened a keg of grog to celebrate their successful raid.  
**groggy ADJ** not able to think or move normally because of being tired, sick, etc.  
*example:* Because I stayed up so late playing videogames, I felt groggy when I woke up the next morning.  
*notes:* The word "grog" was named after a British sea captain, whose nickname was "Old Grog."

# Dracula Vocabulary List 3 Practice Quiz

anemic	folly	malady	pine	stalwart
aperture	gangrene	malign	presage	trifle
assail	grog	morbid	prostrate	vigil
asylum	intercede	pacify	sanatorium	vulpine
badinage	lackluster	paraphernalia	smote	wan
boudoir	lurid	pendulum	smut	wry

1. The court jester, with his \_\_\_\_\_ grin, was the only one in the kingdom who could get away with making fun of the prince.
2. The President argued that the United States had a moral obligation to \_\_\_\_\_ in the war between the North and South Koreans to stop the spread of communism.
3. Scuba-diving requires a lot of \_\_\_\_\_; you need special suits, tanks, breathing gear, and more.
4. Vladimir had no intention of marrying Eustace, and was only \_\_\_\_\_-ing with her when they went out on dates.
5. After the jury voted that the accused woman was not guilty of murder by reason of insanity, she was committed to a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of fashion swings back and forth between skinny jeans and wide leg jeans.
7. Hortensia's mother refused to let her buy the tabloids in the checkout lane of the grocery store because she said they were filled with \_\_\_\_\_.
8. People say that rain on the day of your wedding \_\_\_\_\_-s a happy marriage.
9. Soldiers standing in the mud and water of the trenches of during World War I often found their wounds infected with \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Feeling tired and weak all of the time might be a sign that you are \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Celine decorated her \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of fluffy pillows and mirrors.
12. Smallpox is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ that humanity has mostly eliminated because of vaccines.
13. After the earthquake, the community decided to hold a candlelight \_\_\_\_\_ for those who lost their lives.
14. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to leave your keys in the ignition of your car in the middle of the city and expect that no one will steal your vehicle.
15. When someone knocks at your door, you should look through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the peephole to see if you know them before answering.
16. We watched as the lightning bolt \_\_\_\_\_ the tree, so that all that remained was a blackened, smoking stump.
17. President Lincoln had a/an \_\_\_\_\_ character, and even when it was difficult, he stuck to his beliefs.
18. Vasily looked \_\_\_\_\_ and pale after he heard the news that all of the money he had invested in the company was lost due to the financial crisis.
19. The Senator sued the newspaper for \_\_\_\_\_-ing her character by reporting false rumors about her.
20. The restaurant critic wrote that Antonio's Italian Café served only disgusting \_\_\_\_\_ for wine.
21. Conditions in \_\_\_\_\_-s in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were horrifying; fortunately, today we have much better mental health treatment facilities available.
22. Cooper spent so much time \_\_\_\_\_-ing for his ex-girlfriend that he never realized that his best friend, Alaina, was actually the perfect match for him.
23. The writers of the television show *The Simpsons* have a/an \_\_\_\_\_ sense of humor, and often joke about death and dying.
24. Many people know of Jack the Ripper because of the particularly \_\_\_\_\_ methods in which he murdered his victims.
25. Although the cannons \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the fort for hours, its iron walls held strong.
26. Many religions require people to sit or lie \_\_\_\_\_ while praying, as a way of demonstrating their humility before God.
27. You must have a quick mind and a clever sense of humor to be able to engage in the game of \_\_\_\_\_.
28. "Insane like a/an \_\_\_\_\_" is another way of saying "crazy like a fox."
29. Great Britain hoped that allowing Germany to take over Czechoslovakia would \_\_\_\_\_ Hitler; instead, it only encouraged him to declare war against those who opposed him.
30. Many people felt that the pop singer's performance at the Grammy's was \_\_\_\_\_, and now that she was famous, she had stopped trying hard.

answers: 1: wry 2: intercede 3: paraphernalia 4: trifle 5: sanatorium or asylum 6: pendulum 7: smut 8: presage 9: gangrene 10: anemic 11: boudoir  
 12: malady 13: vigil 14: folly 15: aperture 16: smote 17: stalwart 18: wan 19: malign 20: grog 21: sanatorium or asylum 22: pine 23: morbid  
 24: lurid 25: assail 26: prostrate 27: badinage 28: vulpine 29: pacify 30: lackluster

## Dracula Vocabulary List 4

- tax** **VERB** to cause a strain on **NOUN** money collected by the government from people or businesses for public use  
*example:* The crying baby taxed the nerves of the new parents.
- fortitude** **NOUN** mental and emotional strength in facing difficulty, adversity, danger, or temptation courageously  
*example:* Climbing Mount Everest requires a great deal of physical and emotional fortitude.  
*notes:* The Latin root “fort” means “strong.”
- voluptuous** **ADJ** 1: very attractive to the senses 2: womanly beauty from fullness of figure  
*example:* Karen redecorated her house in voluptuous luxury, complete with velvet curtains and a crystal chandelier.
- polyandry** **NOUN** the practice or condition of having more than one husband at one time  
*example:* Polygyny and polyandry are illegal in the United States – a person is only allowed to have one husband or wife.  
**polygyny** **NOUN** the state or practice of having more than one wife or female mate at a time  
**polygamy** **NOUN** the state or practice of being married to more than one person at the same time  
**monogamy** **NOUN** the state or practice of being married to only one person at a time  
*notes:* The Greek root “poly” means “many,” while “mono” means “one.” “Andros” is the Greek word for “man” or “husband,” while the Greek root “gyn” means “woman.”
- grotesque** **ADJ** very strange or ugly in a way that is not normal or natural  
*example:* On Halloween, children delight in putting on grotesque masks and scaring one another.
- desecrate** **VERB** 1: to damage a holy place or object 2: to treat a holy place or object with disrespect  
*example:* In the early 1900’s, the popularity of ground up mummy powder as a medicine led many people to desecrate the bodies of Ancient Egyptians.  
*notes:* The Latin meaning of this word is roughly “to make un-sacred.”
- demure** **ADJ** shy or modest  
*example:* Women in the Victorian era were supposed to be quiet and demure.
- exodus** **NOUN** the departure of a large number of people at the same time  
*example:* When the school bell rings at 3:15, there is an exodus of students pouring out of the front doors of the building.  
*notes:* The Latin prefix “ex” means “out” or “exit.” In the Bible, the Book of Exodus is about the Israelites leaving Egypt after being freed from slavery, so the word “exodus” often has a religious connotation.
- abhor** **VERB** to hate or detest  
*example:* Kylie abhorred the new President so much that she considered moving to Canada.
- affront** **NOUN** an insult **VERB** to insult or offend someone  
*example:* Elliot, who had red hair, considered Christopher’s jokes about “gingers” to be an affront.
- adamant** **ADJ** not willing to change an opinion or decision; very determined  
*example:* The witness in the court case was adamant that she saw the defendant commit the murder, and said that it was impossible that she was mistaken.  
**adamantine** **ADJ** resembling the diamond in hardness or sparkle  
*notes:* According to their Latin roots, these words mean “like a diamond,” usually in hardness.

12. **laconic ADJ** using few words; expressing much in few words; concise  
*example:* President Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address,” one of the most famous speeches in American history, was extremely laconic at 272 words long.
13. **beseech VERB** to beg urgently  
*example:* The guilty woman beseeched the jury to have mercy on her.
14. **wanton ADJ** 1: showing no thought or care for the rights, feelings, or safety of others 2: extremely inappropriate or indecent  
*example:* Choosing to drive a car while under the influence of alcohol is wantonly reckless.
15. **carnal ADJ** 1: relating to bodily pleasure or appetite 2: not spiritual  
*example:* The priest urged the members of the church not be distracted by carnal temptations, and instead work to become closer to God.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “carn,” meaning “flesh” (as opposed to spirit).
16. **falter VERB** 1: to begin to walk or move in an unsteady way 2: to hesitate 3: to feel doubt about doing something  
*example:* When he was just learning to walk, the baby often faltered; but three months later he was running around so much that people said he would grow up to be a professional soccer player.
17. **miasma NOUN** a heavy cloud of something unpleasant or unhealthy, especially something organic or rotting  
*example:* I hate to go into the terrible miasma of the Bellaire High School bathrooms.
18. **acrid ADJ** 1: sharp or bitter to the taste or smell; irritating to the eyes, nose, etc.  
*example:* Cleaning chemicals often have an acrid smell.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin “acer,” meaning sharp (which was itself derived from the Proto Indo European “ak,” meaning “sharp”).
19. **baleful ADJ** threatening harm or evil  
*example:* The old mansion, which everyone in town said was haunted, looked particularly baleful under the moonlight.
20. **lugubrious ADJ** very sad, especially in an exaggerated or insincere way  
*example:* After his wife passed away, the composer only wrote lugubrious operas about lost love.
21. **recoil VERB** to quickly move away from something that is shocking, frightening, or disgusting; to react to something with shock or fear  
*example:* Kendrick screamed and recoiled when he found a cockroach in his shoe.
22. **ghastly ADJ** 1: shockingly frightful or dreadful; horrible 2: resembling a ghost, especially in being very pale 3: terrible; very bad  
*example:* Fashion critics described the pop singer’s neon orange, fur-trimmed jumpsuit as “ghastly.”  
*notes:* This word comes from the Old English “gaesten,” meaning “ghost.”
23. **reverent ADJ** very respectful, sometimes to the point of worship  
**revere VERB** to respect greatly  
**reverence NOUN** enormous respect  
*example:* After her children interrupted the church service by running up and down the aisles while the minister was in the middle of a prayer, Mrs. Hokanson scolded Timmy and Beth for not being reverent.

24. **draught NOUN** [note: pronounced “draft”] 1: a current of air, especially one inside a building 2: the load or quantity drawn [as in a beverage]  
*example:* Close the door behind you so you don’t let in a draught.
25. **martyr NOUN** 1: a person who willingly accepts suffering or death rather than renounce his or her religion or beliefs  
*example:* There were many martyrs among the early Christians in Ancient Rome; rather than betray their faith, they accepted death.
26. **sanctify VERB** 1: to make holy 2: to purify or free from sin or evil  
*example:* Some Catholics believe that a priest blessing water sanctifies it, and turns it from a regular substance into something holy.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “sanctis,” meaning “holy” (related to the word “saint”) and the Latin suffix “fy,” meaning “to make.”
27. **salvation NOUN** 1: something that saves someone or something from danger or a difficult situation 2: saving someone from sin or evil  
*example:* Sunscreen on a bright day can be a salvation from sunburn.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “salv,” meaning “save.”
28. **occult NOUN** supernatural powers or practices  
*example:* Ghosts, witches, vampires, and other occult characters are celebrated during Halloween.
29. **vivify VERB** 1: to give life to 2: to make lively or animated  
*example:* The children, who were sitting around the house bored and glum, were vivified by their father’s announcement that he was taking them to go get ice cream and started to laugh and smile.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “viva,” meaning “life,” and the suffix “fy,” meaning “to make.”
30. **absolve VERB** to make free from guilt or responsibility  
*example:* Ms. Foster was absolved for her role in the car accident when the investigators found out that her car suffered a mechanical problem that was outside of her control.

## *Dracula* List 4 Practice Vocabulary Quiz

abhor	beseech	falter	martyr	salvation
absolve	carnal	fortitude	miasma	sanctify
acrid	demure	ghastly	occult	tax
adamant	desecrate	grotesque	polyandry	vivify
affront	draught	laconic	recoil	voluptuous
baleful	exodus	lugubrious	reverent	wanton

1. After Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered, many people described him as a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to the cause of civil rights.
2. English teachers usually feel very \_\_\_\_\_ when in a library because they love and respect books.
3. I left the cookies in the oven too long, so when they came out they looked burned and smelled \_\_\_\_\_.
4. George Washington is remembered not only for his wisdom as our country's first President, but also his \_\_\_\_\_ as the General of the American Revolution, when he won against the much stronger British Army.
5. The beggar \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed passing strangers to give him a few dollar so that he could buy some food.
6. The fortune teller had a deep knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_, which allowed her to see how people would die.
7. The war in Syria has led to a/an \_\_\_\_\_ of refugees fleeing the country.
8. Some religions believe that to be \_\_\_\_\_-d of the sins you have committed, you need to admit to them and ask for forgiveness.
9. Leaving a dog in a hot car during the summer demonstrates a/an \_\_\_\_\_ carelessness that may endanger an animal's life.
10. Running a marathon \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed Alec's muscles so much that he stayed on the couch for most of the following week.
11. The carnival advertised all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ attractions, such as "Bat Boy" and "Lizard Man."
12. I prefer fountain drinks on \_\_\_\_\_ as opposed to those than come from a bottle or a can.
13. The lightning bolt gave Frankenstein's monster a jolt of electricity and \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed him, turning him from a corpse into a living, breathing figure.
14. When the Ortiz family bought a new house, they asked a priest to come give it a blessing in order to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
15. After a 36-hour plane ride, Marie felt \_\_\_\_\_ - she was hungry and exhausted, her muscles were cramped, and she wanted a shower badly.
16. The celebration of Mardi Gras is intended to give people a chance to indulge in all of their \_\_\_\_\_ desires before the period of Lent, in which they must refrain from physical pleasures such as special food and dancing.
17. No one emptied the trash cans over the winter holidays, so that when the students returned to school, a disgusting \_\_\_\_\_ had settled in many of the classrooms.
18. Annabelle accidentally committed \_\_\_\_\_ when she incorrectly assumed that her first husband had died in the plane crash (when he was really just living on a deserted island) and she went ahead and remarried.
19. Everyone in the jazz club was just as entranced with the singer's \_\_\_\_\_ beauty as they were with her low, beautiful voice.
20. Although funeral music is usually \_\_\_\_\_, my grandmother wanted only happy and upbeat songs to be played at her ceremony, as a way of celebrating her life.
21. In some cultures, asking for salt and pepper with your meal is considered to be a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to the cook because it implies that he or she did not season the meal properly.
22. As the mad scientist figured out a way to eliminate all life on the planet, she let out a/an \_\_\_\_\_ laugh and rubbed her hands together.
23. I remember the exact words that my mother used when she told me I was going to have a younger brother; I could repeat them to you \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Cole felt \_\_\_\_\_-ly that he had to attend the University of Pennsylvania – he said that if he couldn't get in there, he would rather not go to college anywhere.
25. Fatima was the opposite of a/an \_\_\_\_\_ speaker, and always droned on and on without saying anything when it was her turn to talk.
26. Far from \_\_\_\_\_, Princess Merida spoke her mind and wasn't afraid to go off on adventures.
27. Arti \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed at the last second as she was shooting the arrow, and as a result she missed the target.
28. If you \_\_\_\_\_ the sight of blood, then becoming a doctor would probably be the worst career choice for you.
29. The shotgun \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed so hard that it left a bruise on Gideon's shoulder.
30. An unexpected rainstorm turned out to be a/an \_\_\_\_\_ for the thirsty man crossing the desert.

answers: 1: martyr 2: reverent 3: acrid 4: fortitude 5: beseech 6: occult 7: exodus 8: absolve 9: wanton 10: tax 11: grotesque 12: draught 13: vivify  
 14: sanctify 15: ghastly 16: carnal 17: miasma 18: polyandry 19: voluptuous 20: lugubrious 21: affront 22: baleful 23: verbatim  
 24: adamant 25: laconic 26: demure 27: falter 28: abhor 29: recoil 30: salvation

# The Hot Zone – Vocabulary List 1

- solitary ADJ** without anyone else; alone  
*example:* The beach at 5:00 AM in the morning is the perfect place for a solitary walk.  
**sole ADJ** the only one  
*example:* All of the senators voted in favor of the bill, with one sole objection.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin “solus,” meaning “alone.”
- expatriate VERB** 1: to banish a person from his or her native country 2: to withdraw oneself from residence in one’s native country **NOUN** a person who lives outside of his or her native country  
*example:* I lived for many years as an expatriate in Czechoslovakia, since I couldn’t return to my native Turkey.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin preposition “ex,” meaning “out of” and the Latin noun “patria,” meaning “fatherland” or “homeland.”
- straddle VERB** 1: to sit or ride with a leg on either side of something 2: to be on both sides of something 3: to have parts that are in different places, regions, etc.  
*example:* The senator straddled controversial issues and refused to say whether she supported or opposed raising taxes to build a new bridge in an effort to win favor with all voters.
- gouge VERB** 1: to scoop out 2: to overcharge  
*example:* My mother gouged out the insides of the eggplant to make her famous baba ganoush.  
*example:* The used car salesman could tell that the customer was desperate for a vehicle, so he gouged him on the price.
- whir VERB** to go, fly, revolve, or otherwise move quickly with a humming or buzzing sound  
*example:* The ceiling fan whirred pleasantly, lulling me to sleep.
- passive ADJ** someone who allows things to happen or who accepts what other people do or decide without trying to change anything or become involved  
*example:* Marta suspected her normally-rambunctious son was sick when she noticed him passively watching other children play outside.
- resent VERB** to be angry or upset about someone or something that you think is unfair  
*example:* Although she didn’t complain, Claudia resented that her parents spent more time with her younger brother.  
*notes:* The Latin prefix “re” means “again.” The Latin verb “sentire” means “to feel.” Therefore, if you resent someone, you feel again the thing that they did to injure you (as opposed to forgiving them).
- saturate VERB** 1: to make something very wet, to the point where it cannot absorb any more 2: to fill something completely  
*example (literal):* After the rainstorm, the ground was completely saturated with water.  
*example (figurative):* The early 2000’s saw a cupcake craze, and soon the market was saturated with cupcake shops.
- amplify VERB** to make larger, greater, or stronger (especially sound)  
*example:* Microphones help singers to amplify their voices.  
*notes:* This word essentially means “to make ample” (the suffix “fy” means “to make”). However, amplify is often (but not always) used to refer to increasing *sound*. An “amp” as a unit of measurement of electrical current is NOT related to this word – it is named after a French scientist called Ampere.
- rigid ADJ** 1: not able to be bent easily; inflexible 2: not easily changed 3: not willing to change opinions or behavior  
*example (literal):* One technique that shipbuilders use to work with wood is to soak it in water, which changes the material from rigid to pliable, allowing them to bend it into the shape that they need.  
*example (figurative):* The babysitter was completely rigid about the rules and wouldn’t let the children stay up a minute past their bedtime.

11. **rupture** **VERB** 1: the act of breaking or bursting 2: a break in a friendly relationship **NOUN** a crack or break in something  
*example (literal, as a verb):* The earthquake ruptured the ground to form a deep canyon.  
*example (figurative, as a noun):* The rupture between former-best friends Caroline and Lina was caused by their argument over who deserved the most credit for their first place win at the science fair.  
**erupt** **VERB** 1: to send out rocks, ash, lava, etc., in a sudden explosion 2: to happen or begin suddenly and violently 3: to begin doing something (such as shouting or applauding) suddenly  
*example (literal):* The volcanologists predicted that that volcano would erupt within the next month.  
*example (figurative):* A noisy fight erupted in the store after three people all wanted to buy the last TV that was on sale for the Black Friday promotion.  
*notes:* The Latin root “rupt” means to break. (So “interrupt” means “to break into,” “disrupt” means “to break apart.”)
12. **sluggish** **ADJ** moving slowly or lazily  
*example:* After staying up until 3:00 AM, I felt sluggish and grouchy the next morning.  
*notes:* In Middle English, a “sluge” was a lazy person – the name for the animal, “slug,” also comes from that term.
13. **fulminate** **VERB** 1: to explode with a loud noise 2: to complain loudly or angrily  
*example:* When I told my dad I was leaving school to join a band, he fulminated against my “foolish decision.”
14. **chronology** **NOUN** 1: the order in which a series of events happened 2: a record of the order in which a series of events happened 3: a science that deals with measuring time and finding out when events happened  
*example:* The detectives’ first step in solving the murder was to establish a chronology of what had happened that night.  
*notes:* “Khronos” is the Greek word for “time,” while the suffix “ology” means “the science of.”
15. **presumably** **ADV** 1: by assuming reasonably; probably  
*example:* Students who study will presumably do well on the test.  
**presume** **VERB** to think that something is true without knowing for certain  
*example:* The famous expression, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume,” comes from an journalist’s search for a famous explorer (Dr. Livingstone) in Africa; when the journalist found an elderly white man in the middle of the Tanzanian jungle, he said, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume.”  
**presumptuous** **ADJ** 1: too confident, especially in a way that is rude 2: done or made without permission, right, or good reason  
*example:* Many people would say that it is presumptuous to stay over at a friend’s house for dinner if they have not asked you to join them.
16. **epidemic** **NOUN** 1: an occurrence in which a disease spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people 2: a sudden quickly spreading occurrence of something harmful or unwanted  
*example:* The city experienced an epidemic of graffiti all of a sudden – in a single month, almost 100 buildings were vandalized.  
**epidemiology** **NOUN** the study of how disease spreads and can be controlled  
*example:* The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is responsible for studying epidemiology.  
**pandemic** **NOUN** an occurrence in which a disease spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people over a wide area or throughout the world  
*example:* In 1918, there was a pandemic of influenza that killed between 50 and 100 people across the world.  
*notes:* The Greek preposition “epi” means “among” or “upon,” while the Greek noun “demos” means “people.” An epidemic, then, is something that is happening among the people. “Pan,” on the other hand, is the Greek word for “all.”
17. **mutate** **VERB** 1: to change and cause an unusual characteristic to develop in a plant or animal 2: to change into something very different  
*example:* Diseases that are able to mutate their genetic code quickly are difficult to treat.  
*notes:* The Latin root “mut” means “change.”
18. **wizened** **ADJ** withered, shriveled, dried out, or shrunken  
*example:* The wizened old woman warned me against going outside without sunscreen.

19. **drawl** **VERB** to say or speak in a slow manner, usually prolonging the vowels **NOUN** the speech of a person who draws  
*example:* “I reckon ya’ best mosey on out of this here waterin’ hole,” drawled the cowboy.
20. **disheveled** **ADJ** disorganized or out of order; messy  
*example:* Despite his disheveled appearance, the young man was actually the CEO of a billion-dollar tech company.
21. **ransack** **VERB** 1: to search thoroughly or vigorously through a house, receptacle, etc. in a way that causes disorder or damage  
*example:* As soon as he got home, Jarwin ransacked the kitchen for a snack.
22. **quarantine** **NOUN** 1: the period of time during which a person or animal that has a disease or that might have a disease is kept away from others to prevent the disease from spreading 2: the situation of being kept away from others to prevent a disease from spreading  
*example:* When the Ramirez family moved from the United States to Germany, their dog had to be kept in quarantine for several weeks to make sure that she did not have any diseases.  
*notes:* The word “quarantine” comes from the Italian expression “quarantina giorni,” or “forty days.” In the late Renaissance, the Italian port city of Venice would require that any ships travelling from a country where there had been an outbreak of plague would have to wait 40 days on the water before disembarking, to make sure that the people on board weren’t carrying the disease.
23. **haywire** **ADJ** 1: in disorder 2: out of control; disordered; crazy  
*example:* The computer just went haywire – a bunch of windows popped up, and then the screen went black.  
*notes:* Hay wire was literally wire used to bind bales of hay. It was often used for other farm-related repairs, but it had a reputation for breaking under tension.
24. **nimble** **ADJ** 1: quick and light in movement, thought, or skill  
*example:* The pickpocket has such nimble fingers that she was able to steal wallets without anyone noticing.
25. **exquisite** **ADJ** 1: of special beauty or charm, or rare and excellent, as a face, a flower, coloring, music, or poetry 2: intense pleasure or pain  
*example:* This chocolate cake is just exquisite – the chef must have studied for many years in France.
26. **ambiguous** **ADJ** 1: open to or having several possible meanings or interpretations 2: lacking clearness or definiteness  
*example:* The ending of the book was very ambiguous – I couldn’t tell if the main character lived or died.  
**ambiguity** **NOUN** something that does not have a single clear meaning, or that can be understood in more than one way; something that is ambiguous  
*example:* The judge said that there was some ambiguity in whether the woman on trial for murder was guilty; the defendant was clearly protecting herself, but it wasn’t clear that she needed deadly force to do that.  
*notes:* The Latin root “ambi” means “both.”
27. **shuck** **VERB** to remove or discard as or like shucks [outer coverings]; peel off  
*example:* My grandfather used to make me sit on the porch with him and shuck corn for dinner.
28. **diatribe** **NOUN** a bitter, sharply abusive complaint, attack, or criticism  
*example:* Every Thanksgiving, my vegetarian cousin delivers a diatribe about the evils of eating turkey.
29. **taper** **VERB** to become smaller or thinner toward one end  
*example:* Interest in the newest iPhone always explodes at first, but tapers off after a few months.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Old English “taper,” meaning “candle” – its shift in meaning comes from the pointed shape of a flame.
30. **inkling** **NOUN** 1: a slight suggestion, indication, hint, or idea 2: a slight understanding  
*example:* The children didn’t have the slightest inkling of Santa’s true identity.  
*notes:* The Old English word “inca” meant “doubt,” “suspicion,” or “question.” The suffix “-ling” is a diminutive (makes the meaning of the thing smaller).

## The Hot Zone – Vocabulary List 1 Practice Quiz

ambiguous	epidemic	inkling	ransack	sluggish
amplification	expatriate	mutate	resentful	solitary
chronology	exquisite	nimble	rigid	straddle
diatribe	fulminate	passive	rupture	taper
disheveled	gouge	presumably	saturate	whir
drawl	haywire	quarantine	shuck	wizened

1. The group of American \_\_\_\_\_-s gathered together in Paris to celebrate the Fourth of July.
2. After eating a huge Thanksgiving dinner, I felt tired and \_\_\_\_\_ and wanted to take a nap.
3. Let's hope that Miranda doesn't have a/an \_\_\_\_\_ that we planned a party for her, so that her birthday will truly be a surprise.
4. When Katie's mom asked her if she had finished her homework, Katie replied \_\_\_\_\_-ly, "I've looked at my homework."
5. Marco hoped one day to travel to Europe to see the \_\_\_\_\_ architecture of the Gothic cathedrals, with their stained glass and chiseled stone gargoyles.
6. The FBI \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the casino, looking for evidence to use against the mafia.
7. As soon as the children came down on Christmas morning, they \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the wrapping paper off of their presents.
8. Be careful about combining chemicals that will \_\_\_\_\_ and burn off your eyebrows.
9. Bellaire High School is \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with students – we do not have room for any more!
10. The engine of my car \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to life as I turned the key in the ignition.
11. The city had a/an \_\_\_\_\_ of disease after one of its most popular restaurants served food contaminated with salmonella.
12. The ship was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed for several weeks before the sailors were allowed onto the port to make sure that they were not carrying the plague.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of events in the Odyssey is out of order – the book starts in the middle of the story and then flashes back to an earlier time.
14. Fairytales often involve a/an \_\_\_\_\_ old woman who is a witch.
15. Dominic will \_\_\_\_\_ get into a good college, since his grades are so high and he is involved in lots of clubs.
16. Some biologists believe that sea mammals such as whales and dolphins were originally bear-like creatures who \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to adapt to an aquatic environment.
17. Hortense preferred to live a/an \_\_\_\_\_ life, and never got married or moved in with a roommate.
18. Tommy \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the bicycle carefully, but nonetheless he wobbled and crashed into a mailbox.
19. When it came to deciding where to go out to eat for dinner, Ricardo was the most \_\_\_\_\_ in his family and never took part in the arguments about Chinese food versus pizza.
20. The city has seen a huge \_\_\_\_\_ in crime over the past decade – there are more robberies taking place than ever before.
21. Steve and Minh broke up because Steve was so \_\_\_\_\_ of Minh spending time with her friends – he would pout and complain whenever she went out without him.
22. Glass is an extremely \_\_\_\_\_ material, and doesn't bend at all under pressure.
23. I could tell from Priya's \_\_\_\_\_ appearance that she had just woken up when I rang the doorbell.
24. The car salesman tried to \_\_\_\_\_ Marta with a really high price, but she bargained it down to a reasonable number.
25. My phone unfortunately went \_\_\_\_\_ after I dropped it in the sink, and now I have lost all of my contacts' numbers.
26. A person probably needs to be naturally \_\_\_\_\_ if he or she wants to become a dancer.
27. The waiter's Southern \_\_\_\_\_ when he asked me for my order made me suspect he wasn't from Vermont.
28. Be careful of pricking yourself on the \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed of the ice pick.
29. The politician delivered an angry \_\_\_\_\_ in front of Congress about the dangers of the proposed law.
30. During the earthquake, the ground \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed and swallowed whole buildings.

answers: 1: expatriate 2: sluggish 3: inkling 4: ambiguous 5: exquisite 6: ransack 7: shuck 8: fulminate 9: saturate 10: whir 11: epidemic  
 12: quarantine 13: linger 14: wizened 15: presumably 16: mutate 17: solitary 18: straddle 19: passive 20: amplification 21: resentful 22: rigid  
 23: disheveled 24: gouge 25: haywire 26: nimble 27: drawl 28: taper 29: diatribe 30: rupture

## The Hot Zone – Vocabulary List 2

- morgue NOUN** a place in which bodies are kept, especially the bodies of victims of violence or accidents, while waiting for identification or burial  
*example:* Many people would find working in a morgue to be upsetting  
*notes:* The Latin root “mor” means “death.”
- subside VERB** 1: to become less strong or intense 2: to move down to a lower level  
*example:* The rain subsided in the afternoon, until finally the sun emerged.
- epicenter NOUN** 1: [from geology] a point, directly above the true center of disturbance, from which the shock waves of an earthquake spread outward 2: the focus point  
*example:* Paris is considered to be the epicenter of the fashion world, from which trends depart.  
*notes:* The Greek preposition “epi” means “upon” or “among.”
- smolder VERB** 1: to burn slowly, without flame 2: to experience feelings without showing them  
*example:* Underneath her calm exterior, Jemima was smoldering with rage at her boss’s rude comments to her.
- incarnation NOUN** the physical embodiment of a spirit or idea  
*example:* Idris Elba should be chosen as the actor for the newest incarnation of James Bond.  
**incarnate VERB** to give bodily or physical form to an idea or spirit **ADJ** representing something, such as an idea or quality, in a clear and obvious way  
*example:* Many people think that Hitler was evil incarnate.  
**reincarnate VERB** to incarnate again; to put the spirit into a new body  
*example:* I would like to be reincarnated as a cat so that I can sleep all day.  
*notes:* The Latin root “carnis” means “flesh.”
- implacable ADJ** not able to be comforted or pacified  
*example:* Roy tried to get his baby daughter to stop crying by rocking her, playing music, and giving her a bottle, but she was implacable.  
**placate VERB** to comfort or pacify, especially by giving up something  
*example:* British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain tried to placate Hitler by offering him the lands of Czechoslovakia.  
*notes:* The Latin verb “placare” means “to please.”
- inscrutable ADJ** difficult to read or understand  
*example:* The handwriting on the paper was so inscrutable that I couldn’t tell what it was saying.  
*notes:* The Latin verb “scrutari” means “to examine.”
- portal NOUN** a door, gate, or entrance, especially an important one  
*example:* I very much hope that we discover a portal to another dimension within my lifetime!  
*notes:* The Latin word “porta” means “gate.”
- canopy NOUN** 1: a covering, usually of fabric, supported on poles or suspended above a bed or sacred object 2: the cover formed by the leafy upper branches of the trees in a forest  
*example:* It was a hot day, but Jenn was able to stay cool by sitting under the canopy of the outdoor café.  
*notes:* The Greek word “konopeion” means “Egyptian couch with mosquito curtains.”
- sprawl VERB** 1: to be stretched or spread out in an ungraceful or relaxed manner  
*example:* Ben’s belongings were sprawled all over his room.
- bulge NOUN** a rounded projection; a hump **VERB** 1: to swell or bend outward 2: to be filled to capacity  
*example (literal, as a noun):* The bulge in the snake’s midsection suggested that she had recently consumed a meal.  
*example (figurative, as a verb):* Sales at the shopping mall bulge every December because of the holidays.

12. **flurry** **NOUN** 1: a light, brief shower of snow 2: sudden commotion, excitement, or confusion; nervous hurry  
**VERB** to move in an excited or agitated manner  
*example:* In the moments before the party, Chris flurried around the house trying to make sure everything was perfect.  
*notes:* There are a couple of different theories on where we get this word. One notion is that it comes to us from the Middle English “flouren,” meaning “to sprinkle with flour.” Alternatively, the word could be a more recent mash-up of “flutter” and “hurry.”
13. **inconceivable** **ADJ** impossible to imagine or believe  
*example:* The idea that it was possible for humans to go to the moon would have been inconceivable to the Ancient Romans.  
**conceive** **VERB** 1: to think of or create something, such as an idea, in the mind 2: to become pregnant  
*example:* Although the Wright Brothers are given credit for inventing the airplane, Leonardo da Vinci first conceived of a flying machine, and even drew plans for one in his journal, hundreds of years earlier.
14. **inexorable** **ADJ** not able to be stopped or changed  
*example:* Struggle is an inexorable part of life.
15. **deteriorate** **VERB** 1: to become worse over time 2: to disintegrate or wear away  
*example:* The friendship between the boys slowly deteriorated after they went to separate middle schools.
16. **theology** **NOUN** the study of faith, religion, and divinity  
*example:* Italy is a great place to study Christian theology because it is home to the Vatican.  
*notes:* The Greek word “theo” means “god,” and the Latin suffix “ology” means “the study of.”
17. **lethargy** **NOUN** laziness or apathy  
*example:* Sunday afternoons put me into a state of lethargy, and I have to take a nap.  
**lethargic** **ADJ** feeling a lack of energy or a lack of interest in doing things  
*example:* Eating a large meal often makes people feel lethargic because their digestive system is draining their energy.  
*notes:* In Greek mythology, one of the rivers in the Underworld was Lethe, which means “forgetfulness” – people who drank from it would no longer care about anything.
18. **dregs** **NOUN** 1: the sediment of liquids; grounds 2: the least valuable part of anything 3: the part left over  
*example:* Fortune tellers can sometimes look at the dregs of leaves from a cup of tea and see your future.
19. **literally** **ADV** 1: in the literal or strict sense 2: actually; without exaggeration or inaccuracy  
*example:* After promising to “literally” kill her brother, Teresa was locked up in prison.  
**literal** **ADJ** completely true and accurate; not exaggerated or metaphorical  
*example:* Hyperbole is the opposite of the literal.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin noun “litera,” meaning “letter” – something that is literal is “according to the letters.”
20. **benign** **ADJ** 1: having a kind personality 2: [in disease, particularly cancer] not malignant  
*example:* Although they may look benign and lovable, tree frogs actually have lethal poison in their skin.  
*notes:* The Latin root “bene” means “good”
21. **distraught** **ADJ** distracted; deeply upset to the point of not being able to function  
*example:* Ken was distraught at the thought of his plane ride from England to the U.S. because small spaces terrified him.
22. **despondent** **ADJ** feeling or showing extreme hopelessness, discouragement, or gloom  
*example:* After losing her life savings in the stock market, Rochelle became despondent.
23. **obscene** **ADJ** 1: offensive to morality or decency 2: disgusting; repulsive  
*example:* People protested outside of the museum on the opening day of the art exhibit, calling the nude works “obscene.”

24. **imperceptible ADJ** 1: very slight, gradual, or subtle 2: not capable of being perceived by the senses  
*example:* On a cloudy night, the stars above are almost imperceptible.  
**perceive VERB** 1: to notice or become aware of something 2: to think of someone or something as being something stated  
*example:* Sherlock Holmes is able to perceive clues that other people overlook, such as the type of dirt on a person's shoe.  
**perception NOUN** 1: the way you think about or understand someone or something 2: the ability to understand or notice something easily  
*example:* For most of the Harry Potter series, the reader's perception of the character of Snape was that he was a villain, even though he was eventually revealed to be a hero.
25. **sacrifice NOUN** 1: the offering of animal, plant, or human life or of some material possession to a god 2: the surrender or destruction of something prized or desirable for the sake of something considered as having a higher value **VERB** 1: to make a sacrifice or offering of 2: to surrender or give up, or permit injury or disadvantage to, for the sake of something else  
*example (as a verb):* My parents sacrificed their happiness by taking on demanding, unsatisfying jobs so that my brother and I would have a chance to go to college.  
*example (as a noun):* In Greek mythology, the gods often required people to make sacrifices of crops and livestock to them.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root "sacra," meaning "sacred," and the suffix "fy," which means "to make."
26. **sentinel NOUN** 1: a person or thing that watches or stands as if watching 2: a soldier stationed as a guard to challenge all comers and prevent a surprise attack  
*example:* The guards stood sentinel outside of the king's chambers.  
**sentry NOUN** a soldier who guards a door, gate, etc.  
*example:* The sentry refused to let the traveler into the city without the password.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin verb "sentire," meaning "to feel or perceive with the senses."
27. **prosperous ADJ** 1: having or characterized by financial success or good fortune; successful; wealthy  
*example:* Spain used to be the most prosperous country in the world, due to their conquest of the Americas.  
**prosper VERB** to become very successful usually by making a lot of money  
*example:* The business prospered after the new manager took over and found ways to eliminate waste.  
**prosperity NOUN** the state of being successful, usually by making a lot of money or having a strong economy  
*example:* The village experienced many years of prosperity, in which farmers always had successful crops and many travelers came to trade.
28. **bungalow NOUN** a one story home  
*example:* The newlywed couple purchased a cute bungalow that was built in the 1950's.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Hindi term "bangla," meaning a "low, thatched house."
29. **husbandry NOUN** 1: the cultivation and production of edible crops or of animals for food; agriculture; farming 2: the science of raising crops or food animals  
*example:* Tassie decided to go to Texas A&M to study animal husbandry so that one day, she could own a ranch.  
*notes:* Even though the word husband today means "a male partner in marriage," it originally meant "house dweller" in Old Norse – care of livestock would fall to someone leading a house.
30. **dilate VERB** to become larger or wider  
*example:* Optometrists often dilate their patients' eyes with chemicals so that they can look inside the pupil for any problems.

## The Hot Zone – Vocabulary List 2 Practice Quiz

benign	dilate	imperceptible	lethargy	sacrifice
bulge	distraught	implacable	literally	sentinel
bungalow	dregs	incarnation	morgue	smolder
canopy	epicenter	inconceivable	obscene	sprawl
despondent	flurry	inexorable	portal	subside
deteriorate	husbandry	inscrutable	prosperous	theology

1. The priest burned a/an \_\_\_\_\_ of herbs to the gods, in hopes of bringing rain.
2. At first we thought the snow \_\_\_\_\_ was beautiful, but eventually we realized that driving in it would be difficult and dangerous.
3. The old mansion, which a century before had been the most beautiful house in the city, had now \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed after many years of neglect.
4. Hector discovered a small mole on his arm, and went to the dermatologist [skin doctor] to get in checked out, in hopes that it was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When Tom asked Candace to marry him, she had such a/an \_\_\_\_\_ look on her face for the first few seconds that he began to get worried.
6. Books like the *Harry Potter* series can be a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to another world for imaginative young children.
7. The powerful politician was only concerned about serving the wealthiest citizens, who could afford to contribute to his next campaign, and didn't bother himself with helping the \_\_\_\_\_ of society.
8. Stores always see a/an \_\_\_\_\_ in sales around the holiday season.
9. Some parents find it \_\_\_\_\_ that their children would do anything wrong, and are always shocked when they find out about their kids' bad behavior.
10. When I went to check on the hamburgers out on the grill, I found them black and \_\_\_\_\_, for I had turned the flame up too high.
11. As soon as Helene got home, she \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed out on the couch and turned on Netflix.
12. When you exercise, your veins and arteries \_\_\_\_\_ to allow more blood to pass through them.
13. When Phil heard the news about Matteo, his jaw \_\_\_\_\_ dropped open – I could see all the way to the back of his throat.
14. The new horror film is set in a/an \_\_\_\_\_, where the bodies of the dead come back to life.
15. The farmer had a natural understanding of \_\_\_\_\_, and could always tell when one of his cows was sick.
16. Because the leaves at the top of the rainforest \_\_\_\_\_ are so dense, it is difficult for any light to penetrate to the ground.
17. After I took an Advil, the pain from my headache began to \_\_\_\_\_.
18. For many years, I felt \_\_\_\_\_ in my job as a banker because I thought I had missed out on my true life's calling as an artist.
19. Tradition says that you should eat cabbage on New Year's Day to ensure a/an \_\_\_\_\_ year ahead (probably because the green leaves remind people of money).
20. Getting old is \_\_\_\_\_ a part of life.
21. Students who use \_\_\_\_\_-s/ies in class will get sent to the principal's office.
22. My dog is always \_\_\_\_\_ when it thunders, and runs and hides under the bed.
23. Some denominations of Christianity believe that communion wafers and wine are the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus himself, while others think that they are only symbolic.
24. My dad built the \_\_\_\_\_ in which my family lives all by himself.
25. Every day, children grow \_\_\_\_\_ taller, so that their parents don't notice how fast they are growing up while distant relatives may be surprised by their new height.
26. Ms. Harris scolded her daughter for her \_\_\_\_\_, insisting that Erika start helping out more with chores.
27. Questions about \_\_\_\_\_ and religion are often difficult to answer.
28. The city of San Francisco was right over the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earthquake, and therefore suffered incredible damage.
29. Because the \_\_\_\_\_ fell asleep, the invading army was able to sneak into the city.
30. Candance was \_\_\_\_\_ with grief after her dog died, and nothing her friends did to try to cheer her up helped a bit.

answers: 1: sacrifice 2: flurry 3: deteriorate 4: benign 5: inscrutable 6: portal 7: dregs 8: bulge 9: inconceivable 10: smolder 11: sprawl 12: dilate  
 13: literally 14: morgue 15: husbandry 16: canopy 17: subside 18: despondent OR distraught 19: prosperous 20: inexorable 21: obscenities 22:  
 distraught OR despondent 23: incarnation 24: bungalow 25: imperceptibly 26: lethargy 27: theology 28: epicenter 29: sentinel 30: implacable

## The Hot Zone – Vocabulary List 3

- sporadic ADJ** happening every now and then; not regularly, but randomly  
*example:* The Internet at my house goes out sporadically, which can be very frustrating.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Greek “sporadikos,” meaning “scattered” (as in seed, or spores).
- tentative ADJ** 1: not done with confidence; uncertain and hesitant 2: not definite; still able to be changed  
*example:* We made tentative plans to have a picnic, since we weren’t sure if the weather would be good.  
*notes:* “Tentative” comes from the Latin verb “tentire,” meaning “to feel” or “to try.” (Think of octopus tentacles.)
- salvage VERB** to save from shipwreck, fire, or other disaster  
*example:* It is difficult to salvage a grade after you have failed a major exam.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin root “salva,” meaning “save.”
- warren NOUN** 1: a place where rabbits breed or abound 2: a building or area containing many tenants in limited or crowded quarters  
*example:* The college dormitory was as crowded as a warren.
- bureaucracy NOUN** a system of government or business that has many complicated rules and ways of doing things  
*example:* Many people think the government should try to limit bureaucracy.  
*notes:* “Bureaucracy” comes from the French word “bureau,” meaning “desk,” and the Greek suffix “-cracy,” meaning “power by” or “government by.”
- tantalize VERB** to torment with, or as if with, the sight of something desired but out of reach; tease by arousing expectations that are repeatedly disappointed  
*example:* The child was tantalized by the display of cookies at the bakery.  
*notes:* “Tantalize” comes from the Greek myth about a man named Tantalus, who was punished in the Underworld with perpetual hunger and thirst. He was standing in water, but every time he bent over to take a sip, it rushed away. There was fruit hanging from trees right above his head, but every time he reached for it, the fruit flew out of his grasp.
- doctrine NOUN** a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true, especially in religion  
*example:* Traditional English language doctrine holds that you should use punctuation in text messages.  
*notes:* The word “doctor” in Latin originally meant “teacher” – it didn’t come to have a medical significance until the 1700s.
- mandate NOUN** 1: an official order to do something 2: the power to act that voters give to their elected leaders  
**VERB** 1: to officially demand or require something  
**mandatory ADJ** required by a law or rule  
*example:* Much to the students’ dismay, the school mandated uniforms.  
*notes:* This word is a combination of the Latin “manus,” meaning “hand,” and the Latin verb “dare,” meaning “to give” – so to mandate something is to “give the hand.”
- bemuse VERB** to bewilder or confuse someone  
*example:* I was bemused by my friend’s sudden anger towards me, and didn’t know what I had done to upset her.
- render VERB** 1: to cause to be or become 2: to give 3: to melt down  
*example:* Colin rendered down the beeswax to make candles.
- incinerate VERB** to burn up completely and reduce to ashes  
*example:* Many great books were incinerated when the ancient Library of Alexandria burned to the ground.  
*notes:* The Latin root “cinis” means “ashes” (think of “cinders” or “Cinderella”).
- inevitable ADJ** sure to happen; unavoidable  
*example:* The destruction of the environment is not inevitable if we take steps to change our ways.

13. **fastidious ADJ** 1: very careful about how you do something 2: hard to please 3: wanting to always be clean, neat, etc.  
*example:* A fastidious English teacher might take off 10 points for every spelling error on an essay.
14. **cascade NOUN** 1: a waterfall descending over a steep, rocky surface 2: an abundant flowing of something  
**VERB** to fall in or like a cascade  
*example:* Her hair fell down past her shoulders in gleaming cascades.
15. **terminal ADJ** 1: at the end of something; the last 2: resulting in death  
*example:* Unfortunately, cancer is often a terminal illness.  
*notes:* The Latin noun “terminus” means “the end.”
16. **subdue ADJ** to get control of something or someone 2: quiet  
*example:* The children were calm and subdued after they were able to take a nap.
17. **contend VERB** 1: to argue or state something in a strong and definite way 2: to compete with someone or for something 3: to deal with something difficult  
*example:* Achilles contended against Hercules for the title of Greatest Greek Hero.
18. **expendable ADJ** capable of being sacrificed for something more important  
*example:* Because she made so much money as a lawyer, she had a large expendable income.  
**expend VERB** to use or spend something, such as time, energy, or effort  
*example:* Running a marathon expends a lot of energy.  
**expenditure NOUN** 1: an amount of money that is spent on something 2: an amount of time, energy, effort, etc., that is used to do something  
*example:* The people debated whether travelling to the planet Mars was a good expenditure of tax dollars.
19. **profuse ADJ** very plentiful  
*example:* Hymie apologized profusely for bumping into the woman, so much so that she was embarrassed.
20. **berserk ADJ** violently or destructively wild, crazed, or deranged  
*example:* My dad went berserk when he found out I wrecked his car.  
*notes:* The Berserkers were a kind of ancient Norse warrior known for their ferocious fighting in battle. Their name comes from “ber,” meaning “bear” and “serk,” meaning “shirt” because they would wear bearskins (leading some of their enemies to suppose that they were half-bear, half-men, sort of like werewolves).
21. **billow VERB** to swell out, puff up, etc., as by the action of wind  
*example:* The sail of the ship billowed in the wind.
22. **blitz NOUN** 1: [military] an overwhelming all-out attack, especially a swift ground attack using armored units and air support; an intensive aerial bombing 2: any swift, vigorous attack or campaign  
*example:* The politicians aired a blitz of commercials right before the election, in hopes of persuading voters.  
*notes:* The German word “blitz” means “lightning.”
23. **retch VERB** to vomit  
*example:* The smell of the dumpster was so awful that I wanted to retch.  
*notes:* This comes from the Proto-Germanic “khrækijan,” meaning “to clear one’s throat,” which is an excellent example of onomatopoeia.
24. **casualty NOUN** 1: [military] a member of the armed forces lost to service through death, wounds, sickness, capture 2: one who is injured or killed in an accident  
*example:* There were about 650,000 casualties on the Union side of the Civil War.
25. **deploy VERB** 1: [military] to spread out soldiers so as to form an extended front or line 2: to arrange in a position of readiness  
*example:* Deploying drones to fight wars is a very controversial practice.

26. **contradictory ADJ** stating the contrary or opposite; contradicting; inconsistent; logically opposite or impossible  
*example:* The jury voted that the man was guilty because his testimony and the evidence were contradictory.  
**contradict VERB** 1: to state the contrary or opposite of 2: to act in opposition to one's words  
*example:* The detective became suspicious when the woman's statement that she was at home on the night of the murder was contradicted by video surveillance showing her at the site of the crime.  
*notes:* The Latin preposition "contra" means "against," while the Latin root "dict" means "to say."
27. **dereliction NOUN** 1: deliberate or conscious neglect 2: the act of abandoning something, particularly duty  
*example:* Showing movies all year long would be a dereliction of a teacher's responsibilities to provide instruction.
28. **awe NOUN** a strong feeling of fear or respect and also wonder  
*example:* Peasants in the Middle Ages would have felt awe upon walking inside of an enormous cathedral, with the soaring stone ceilings and glowing stained glass.  
**awesome ADJ** 1: causing feelings of fear, wonder, or awe 2: extremely good  
*example:* When they first saw Niagara Falls, the family was speechless at the enormous waterfall's awesome power and beauty.  
*notes:* "Awesome" is an example of a word that has lost some of its power over time through the use of hyperbole.
29. **flag VERB** to become weak  
*example:* In the last five miles of the marathon, Kelli's energy began to flag.  
**unflagging ADJ** not decreasing or becoming weaker; remaining strong  
*example:* While many children go through a "dinosaur phase," Melanie's interest in the subject was unflagging, and she would eventually grow up to become a paleontologist.
30. **proliferate VERB** 1: to increase in number or amount quickly 2: to spread  
*example:* Use of Instagram is proliferating among young people – many now prefer it to Facebook.

## The Hot Zone – Vocabulary List 3 Practice Quiz

awe	cascade	doctrine	mandate	sporadic
bemuse	casualty	expendable	profusely	subdued
berserk	contend	fastidious	proliferate	tantalize
billow	contradictory	flag	render	tentative
blitz	deploy	incinerate	retch	terminal
bureaucracy	dereliction	inevitable	salvage	warren

1. A food fight erupted in the cafeteria, and a/an \_\_\_\_\_ of chicken nuggets went flying into the air.
2. Kim felt very \_\_\_\_\_ about going on her first date with Stan because she had heard he was still in love with his ex-girlfriend.
3. \_\_\_\_\_-ing and a fever might be a sign of the flu.
4. Since Elena’s wife was being \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to Japan with the Marines the next month, they tried to spend all the time they could together.
5. Eric was completely \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by his calculus class, and began to worry that he would not pass.
6. The entire city looked up in \_\_\_\_\_ as the aliens beamed themselves down from their UFO.
7. All of the students were excited to hear that school had been cancelled because of the weather, but their enthusiasm \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed when they learned they would have to make it up by missing a day of summer vacation.
8. My father built me a/an \_\_\_\_\_ out of old boards so that I could raise bunnies for my livestock class.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_-s at Niagara Falls are enormous!
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ in India is so bad that it often takes 10 years to resolve a court case.
11. Mr. Cosgrove thanked the doctors \_\_\_\_\_ for saving his mother’s life.
12. The owner of the auto shop gave the new manager a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to fire anyone whom he thought was not working hard enough.
13. When Samantha told her husband Arti she was pregnant with triplets, he was so surprised he was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed speechless.
14. I accidentally left the cake in the oven for two hours, and when I finally remembered and checked on it, it was totally \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed.
15. It is important for a doctor to be \_\_\_\_\_ about noticing all symptoms a patient is experiencing to make a proper diagnosis.
16. Students who show up to class only \_\_\_\_\_-ly instead of attending every day will miss important lessons.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ of democracy holds that every citizen deserves the right to vote.
18. Until we can find the Fountain of Youth, growing old will remain a/an \_\_\_\_\_ part of life.
19. The dictator considered his people to be \_\_\_\_\_, and wasn’t worried when he heard that thousands were starving so that he could continue to maintain his wealthy lifestyle.
20. Smoke \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed out from the chimney in huge, fluffy puffs.
21. Colin goes \_\_\_\_\_ with rage when someone cuts him off in traffic, and will often speed after the person and honk for minutes.
22. The soldier was charged with \_\_\_\_\_ of duty for falling asleep while he was supposed to be watching for the enemy.
23. The senator argued that gun violence will continue to \_\_\_\_\_ in our country until Congress makes it more difficult to purchase firearms.
24. \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by the dream of an island vacation, Susan booked a cruise for herself.
25. Hospitals often choose to paint their walls in \_\_\_\_\_ colors such as pastel blue and green to create a sense of calm among patients and their families.
26. Sharon was elated when the doctor told her that her illness was not \_\_\_\_\_ and she could expect to live many more years.
27. The Greek philosopher Aeschylus said, “In war, truth is the first \_\_\_\_\_,” by which he meant that generals and politicians are not always honest.
28. I hope that you don’t have to \_\_\_\_\_ with rain on your drive back home.
29. The stew tasted terrible, so Marjorie tried to \_\_\_\_\_ it by adding a big handful of salt, but that only made it worse.
30. There are \_\_\_\_\_ opinions about whether or not eating dark chocolate is good for your health, but I’m going to go ahead and say that it is.

answers: 1: blitz 2: tentative 3: retch 4: deploy 5: bemuse 6: awe 7: flag 8: warren 9: cascade 10: bureaucracy 11: profusely 12: mandate  
 13: render 14: incinerate 15: fastidious 16: sporadic 17: doctrine 18: inevitable 19: expendable 20: billow 21: berserk 22: dereliction 23: proliferate  
 24: tantalize 25: subdued 26: terminal 27: casualty 28: content 29: salvage 30: contradictory

# *The Glass Castle – Vocabulary List 1*

- bluster VERB** 1: to speak in a loud and aggressive or threatening way, without really intending to follow through  
2: (of wind) to blow loudly and violently  
*example (literal):* The blustering winds made the door rattle.  
*example (figurative):* The old man blustered against the teenagers' loud noise.
- hoist VERB** to raise or lift  
*example:* Every morning, students from our school's ROTC program hoist the American flag up the pole.
- gimmick NOUN** a method or trick that is used to get people's attention or to sell something  
*example:* Television infomercials often use gimmicks such as "buy one, get one free" to try to sell people things that they don't need.
- antiseptic ADJ** 1: free from or cleaned of germs 2: exceptionally clean or neat  
*example:* If you get a cut, it is important to treat it with antiseptic to prevent it from becoming infected.  
**sepsis NOUN** illness caused by an infection in a part of the body  
*example:* The hospital treated the patient with antibiotics to prevent sepsis.  
*notes:* The Latin prefix "anti" means "against," while the word "septic" means "rotting."
- bellow VERB** to shout or cry in a loud, deep voice  
*example:* The football player bellowed when the doctor took out a needle to give him a shot.
- quixotic ADJ** hopeful or idealistic in a way that is not practical or realistic; from the main character of the famous Spanish novel *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes  
*example:* It is quixotic to believe that you can leave your wallet on the table at a restaurant while you use the restroom and it will still be there when you return.
- skedaddle VERB** to run away quickly; flee  
*example:* Since I slept in late, I had to skedaddle to make it to school on time.  
*notes:* This word was created during the American Civil War (although it is uncertain as to how or why).
- gestapo NOUN** the German state secret police during the Nazi regime, organized in 1933 and notorious for its brutal methods and operations  
*example:* Russia's current suppression of free speech is similar to the methods used by the gestapo.
- posse NOUN** 1: a group of people gathered together to make a search and especially in the past to search for a criminal 2: a group of friends  
*example:* The sheriff rounded up a posse to go chase after the robber who took all of the gold from the town's bank.  
*notes:* The Latin word "posse" meant "to have power."
- nomad NOUN** 1: a member of a culture that has no permanent home but moves about from place to place 2: any wanderer or constant traveler  
*example:* While the Apaches and the Comanches were nomad, many of the Native American tribes who lived in the southwest established permanent dwellings.
- blue streak NOUN** 1: something moving very fast 2: continuous, rapid, or unending speech  
*example:* The casino dealer shuffled and dealt the cards in a blue streak – I could barely see her hands moving.
- shiftless ADJ** 1: lacking ambition or energy 2: lazy; good-for-nothing  
*example:* Most homeless people are not shiftless but instead are suffering from serious and untreated mental health issues.

13. **crone** **NOUN** a withered, witchlike old woman  
*example:* In some fairy tales, the character of the crone turns out to be a witch, while in others she offers unexpected help to the hero.
14. **pious** **ADJ** deeply religious; devoted to a particular religion  
*example:* As a child, Grace was so pious that everyone thought she would grow up to be a nun.  
**piety** **NOUN** devotion to God; the quality or state of being pious  
*example:* The priest lectured the children who were giggling during the church service for their lack of piety.  
**pieta** **NOUN** a representation of the Virgin Mary mourning over the dead body of Christ  
*example:* Michelangelo's sculpture of the pieta in the Vatican is one of the most celebrated works of art.  
*notes:* These words possibly come from the Latin word "purus," meaning "pure."
15. **saguaro** **NOUN** a tall, horizontally branched cactus  
*example:* Many people think that saguaro cacti look like humans because of their tall shapes and arm-like branches.
16. **prospector** **NOUN** a person who searches for gold, oil, etc.  
**prospect** **NOUN** the possibility that something will happen in the future  
*example:* My dog always behaves well when she thinks there is the prospect of a treat.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin preposition "pro," meaning "forward" and the Latin root "spec," meaning "look."
17. **sluice** **NOUN** a stream of water  
*example:* The water from the storm streamed down the gutter in a sluice.
18. **addled** **ADJ** 1: mentally confused 2: rotten (eggs)  
*example:* Carla's brain always felt addled for the first hour after she had woken up, and so she made sure never to do her homework then.
19. **capital** **NOUN** 1: wealth, whether in money or property  
*example:* Starting a business usually requires some form of capital in the beginning.
20. **flophouse** **NOUN** a cheap, run-down hotel or rooming house  
*example:* The men who travelled into the town to work on the new oil derrick lived in a flophouse.
21. **jeopardy** **NOUN** danger from death, loss, or injury  
*example:* Hank asked to join the Witness Protection Program because he felt that his life was in jeopardy after telling the police about the mafia's crimes in his neighborhood.  
**jeopardize** **VERB** to put in danger from death, loss, or injury  
*example:* Shelly jeopardized her scholarship by plagiarizing an essay.
22. **dago** **NOUN** an insulting term used to refer to a person of Italian origin  
*example:* The man from the Irish gang attempted to start a fight with the Italian gang by calling them "dagos."  
*notes:* This word was a corruption of the name "Diego." (Yes, "Diego" is a Spanish and not an Italian names. Racists then, as now, were not noted for their intelligence.)
23. **gestate** **VERB** 1: to carry in the womb during the period from conception to delivery 2: to think of and develop (an idea, opinion, plan, etc.) slowly in the mind  
*example (literal):* Baby elephants can take as long as 22 months to gestate in the womb.  
*example (figurative):* Paul's plan to murder his brother so that he would inherit all of their father's money slowly gestated in his mind over a number of months.

24. **mangy ADJ** 1: having, caused by, or like the mange (various skin diseases caused by parasitic mites, affecting animals and sometimes humans and characterized by loss of hair and scabby eruptions) 2: worthless  
*example:* The groomer and the veterinarian were able to turn the sad, mangy dog into a cute, fluffy one, and it wasn't long after that that a family adopted him.  
**mange NOUN** a skin disease of animals (such as cats and dogs) and sometimes people that causes itching and loss of hair  
*example:* Be careful of petting stray dogs and cats so that you don't get mange.  
*notes:* These words come from the French verb "manger," meaning "to eat," because the disease eats at the skin.
25. **commissary NOUN** a store that sells food and supplies to the personnel or workers in a military post, mining camp, lumber camp, or the like  
*example:* Soldiers can buy personal items at the commissary on the base.
26. **binary ADJ** 1: consisting of, indicating, or involving two categories 2: (mathematics) of or pertaining to a system of numerical notation to the base 2, in which each place of a number, expressed as 0 or 1  
*example:* Life is a binary system and not a spectrum – you are alive dead or alive.  
*notes:* The Latin root "bi" means "two."
27. **lurch VERB** to move with a sudden swaying, tipping, or jerking motion  
*example:* The swaying of the ship made the furniture in the cabin lurch across the floor.
28. **calcify VERB** 1: (in anatomy) to make or become bony; harden by the deposit of calcium 2: (in geology) to harden by deposition of calcium carbonate 3: to make or become rigid or inflexible, as in a political position  
*example (literal):* Limestone is formed when microorganism calcify.  
*example (figurative):* My grandmother's habits have calcified as she has gotten older, and she expects to have dinner promptly at 5:00 PM every day.
29. **wheedle VERB** to persuade someone to do something or to give you something by saying nice things  
*example:* The store clerk wheedled the man into buying the expensive suit by telling him how handsome he looked in it.
30. **shanghai VERB** to trick someone into doing something or going somewhere  
*example:* My friend shanghaied me into helping her move by inviting me over to her house for a party and then telling me it was a game to move all of the heavy boxes.  
*notes:* This word comes from a particular method of recruiting sailors to work on ships going to foreign ports (such as Shanghai). Life on a ship in centuries past was deeply unpleasant, and even with pay, not a lot of people would take on the job of a sailor. So captains would go to bars, find men who were drunk to the point of passing out, and bring them on board their ship – when they sobered up, they would be on the open sea and it would be too late to leave.

## *The Glass Castle* Vocabulary List 1 Practice Quiz

addled	calcify	gestapo	mangy	saguaro
antiseptic	capital	gestate	nomad	shanghai
bellow	commissary	gimmick	pious	shiftless
binary	crone	hoist	posse	skedaddle
blue streak	dago	jeopardy	prospect	sluice
bluster	flophouse	lurch	quixotic	wheelde

1. When the trash can fell over, a scrawny, \_\_\_\_\_ alley cat jumped out and hissed.
2. The prosecutor asked the jury to consider that the drunk driver put other people's lives in \_\_\_\_\_ because of her irresponsible choice.
3. Since the house had been unused for so long, when Max turned on the tap the water rushed out in a rusty red \_\_\_\_\_.
4. My uncles sat on the couch watching the football game, \_\_\_\_\_-ing about how they would play if they were on the field, even though just walking up the stairs put them out of breath.
5. Jonathan's father shouted and \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed when he saw his son's report card.
6. Make sure that your younger sister does not touch the \_\_\_\_\_, otherwise she'll get thorns in her skin.
7. Every mattress in the filthy, crowded \_\_\_\_\_ was infested with bedbugs.
8. Rosemary Walls had a \_\_\_\_\_ way of looking at things; she tried to make every situation into something positive, which prevented her from ever fixing problems.
9. The father \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed his five-year-old son onto his shoulders so that he could see the parade.
10. In the story of Snow White, the evil queen turns herself into a withered old \_\_\_\_\_ as a disguise so that she can trick Snow White into eating a poisoned apple.
11. The mining company opened up a/an \_\_\_\_\_ so that the workers would be able to purchase items that they needed, since they were working in a region far away from any stores.
12. People purchase lottery tickets because they are entranced with the \_\_\_\_\_ of becoming millionaires.
13. The doctor set the patient's broken arm and put it into a cast so that the bones would have a chance to \_\_\_\_\_ back together.
14. The author let her idea for her new novel \_\_\_\_\_ in her mind for several months before she began to actually write.
15. After a night of heavy drinking, the man woke up to find himself on board a ship and realized that he had been \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed into joining the crew and was now headed for China.
16. It is important to maintain the \_\_\_\_\_ environment of a hospital to prevent the further spread of disease.
17. After being away from each other at separate colleges for the entire year, the twin sisters talked a/an \_\_\_\_\_ about everything that they had missed.
18. Camilla accused her husband of being \_\_\_\_\_ after he was fired from his job for his poor performance and he spent six months sitting on the couch without looking for a new job.
19. Carter \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed his boss into giving him a raise by always complimenting her.
20. After not being able to sleep for two nights straight, Alec felt dizzy and his mind was \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Although Pamela appeared \_\_\_\_\_ and made a big show of going to church every Sunday, she actually lived a life of sin.
22. Jimmy liked hanging out with his \_\_\_\_\_ of friends at the diner after school.
23. After spending all night at the bar, Rex Walls stumbled and \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed home.
24. If you make a road trip in Texas, you are likely to see billboards advertising how many miles it is until you reach Buc-ee's, a \_\_\_\_\_ used to get people to pull off the road and visit the gas station.
25. Although today many Americans celebrate their Italian ancestry, a century ago many people looked down upon Italian immigrants and called them "\_\_\_\_\_s."
26. My dog always \_\_\_\_\_-s away from me when she realizes it's bath time.
27. A spectrum, which has infinite points in between two things, is the opposite of a/an \_\_\_\_\_ system, in which there are only two categories.
28. When applying for a loan, the bank will want to know what \_\_\_\_\_ - that is, what sources of wealth, including both money and assets – you possess.
29. The \_\_\_\_\_, the Nazi secret police, had spies everywhere to report on German citizens who appeared not to support the Reich.
30. It was Hailie's dream to live the life of a/an \_\_\_\_\_ for a few years after college, traveling from country to country and seeing as much of the world as she could before settling down to a job and a family.

answers: 1: mangy 2: jeopardy 3: sluice 4: bluster 5: bellow 6: saguaro 7: flophouse 8: quixotic 9: hoist 10: crone 11: commissary 12: prospect  
 13: calcify 14: gestate 15: shanghai 16: antiseptic 17: blue streak 18: shiftless 19: wheelde 20: addled 21: pious 22: posse 23: lurch 24: gimmick  
 25: dago 26: skedaddle 27: binary 28: capital 29: gestapo 30: nomad

## The Glass Castle Vocabulary List 2

- ruckus NOUN** a noisy disturbance or quarrel  
*example:* Catherine heard a series of loud crashes coming from the basement and went down to see what had caused the ruckus.
- nix VERB** to say “no” to something; to veto it  
*example:* His boss nixed Matthew’s plan to open another branch of the restaurant in the next city, saying that they didn’t have the funds to invest in it right then.  
*notes:* The Proto Indo European word “ne” means “not,” which is why many words of negation start with the letter “n.”
- bowels NOUN** 1: a part of the intestine 2: the inner or inside parts  
*example (literal):* On an episode of *Monsters Inside Me*, a woman returned from her vacation with a parasite in her bowels.  
*example (figurative):* The bowels of the earth contain riches such as gold and diamonds.
- shamble VERB** to walk awkwardly; shuffle  
*example:* After walking over ten miles throughout the day, my feet were bloody and blistered, and it was all I could do to slowly shamble back to my house.
- conformist NOUN** a person who conforms, especially unquestioningly, to the usual practices or standards of a group, society, etc.  
**conform VERB** 1: to be similar to or the same as something 2: to obey or agree with something 3: to do what other people do : to behave in a way that is accepted by most people  
*example:* People living under Soviet rule in Eastern Europe were encouraged to conform, because sticking out would attract the attention of the secret police.  
*notes:* The prefix “con” means “together,” while the Latin word “formare” meant “to shape.”
- simony NOUN** 1: the making of profit out of sacred things 2: the sin of buying or selling church-related positions  
*example:* Rodrigo Borgia only became the Pope through simony; that is, he bribed other church officials to vote him into the position.
- pilfer VERB** to steal, especially in small quantities  
*example:* Mr. Maxwell got in trouble for pilfering office supplies from his job – every day he would take home something small, such as a box of paperclips or a few pens, but over the years, it added up to thousands of dollars’ worth of goods.
- felonious ADJ** 1: (in law) relating to a felony 2: wicked; evil  
*example:* It might be difficult to find a job if you have a felonious past.  
**felony NOUN** a very serious crime (as opposed to a misdemeanor)  
*example:* In the state of Texas, theft below \$1,500 is a misdemeanor, but above \$1,500 is a felony.  
**felon NOUN** a person who has committed a felony  
*example:* The news reporters warned people to lock their doors because there was an armed felon on the loose.

9. **vital ADJ** 1: extremely important 2: needed by your body in order to keep living 3: very lively or energetic  
*example:* Air, water, and food are vital necessities for life.  
*example:* If you want to go to a good university, it is vital that you pay attention in your Pre-AP English 1 class.  
**vitality NOUN** 1: a lively or energetic quality 2: the power or ability of something to continue to live, be successful, etc.  
*example:* Even though my grandfather is in his eighties, he is still a man of great vitality – he gets up at 5:00 AM to work in his garden before going to his job as a high school science teacher, and then goes country dancing many evenings.  
*notes:* Both of these words come from the Latin word “vita,” meaning “life.”
10. **lope VERB** to run in a relaxed way with long strides, like a horse or a dog does  
*example:* Tamara was the fastest runner in the state and loped easily across the finish line well ahead of any of her competitors.  
*notes:* “Lope” is related to the word “leap.”
11. **dank ADJ** unpleasantly moist, humid, or damp and dark  
*example:* The subway tunnels in Paris during the summertime are so dank and unpleasant.
12. **municipal ADJ** relating to a town or city or its local government  
*example:* The newspaper sent a reporter to interview the town’s citizens on their opinions on the municipal election.
13. **malicious ADJ** feeling or showing a desire to cause harm to another person  
*example:* Villains in early Disney movies were completely malicious – they were evil without any real explanation or character development.  
**malice NOUN** a desire to cause harm to another person  
*example:* When Nelly bumped into Jorge and spilled her coffee all over him, it was an accident and not out of malice – she is such a kind person that she would never intentionally ruin someone’s outfit.  
*notes:* The Latin root “mal” means “bad” or “evil.”
14. **paralytic ADJ** affected with paralysis, or the inability to move or act  
*example (figurative):* When it was Joelle’s turn to sing on stage at the school talent show, a kind of paralytic anxiety came over her and she couldn’t even open her mouth.  
**paralysis NOUN** 1: a medical condition in which you are unable to move or feel all or part of your body  
2: a state of being unable to function, act, or move  
*example (literal):* The doctors told Anthony’s family that there was a possibility that his paralysis was only temporary and that he would regain the ability to walk within six months.
15. **palsy NOUN** an uncontrollable trembling of the body or a part of the body  
*example:* One of the effects of Parkinson’s disease is that it causes palsy, or an uncontrollable shaking, in its victims.  
*notes:* The words “paralysis” and “palsy” both come from the Greek root word “paralysis.”
16. **hooch NOUN** (slang) alcohol, often that which is illegally produced or distributed or of low quality  
*example:* Even though Prohibition outlawed the sale and consumption of alcohol, it was still possible to get a glass of hooch if you knew the right bars.  
*notes:* The word “hooch” came about in 1897 as a shortened version of “hoochinoo,” the Alaskan Native American word for a kind of liquor they would make and sell to the gold miners in the area.

17. **hypocrite NOUN** a person who claims or pretends to have certain beliefs about what is right, but who behaves in a way that disagrees with those beliefs  
*example:* The newspaper exposed the governor as a hypocrite after he closed the he closed all of the beaches for the Fourth of July but then took a beach vacation with his own family.  
**hypocritical ADJ** characterized by behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe or feel  
*example:* If you are a leader who behaves hypocritically, soon your followers will lose trust in you.  
**hypocrisy NOUN** 1: the behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do 2: behavior that does not agree with what someone claims to believe or feel  
*example:* The citizens of the state were horrified at the hypocrisy of their governor, who campaigned on a platform of family values while at the same time conducting a secret affair.  
*notes:* The Greek word “hypokrisis” meant “to act on stage.”
18. **flout VERB** 1: to break or ignore (a law, rule, etc.) without hiding what you are doing or showing fear or shame 2: to ignore in an open and disrespectful way  
*example:* Jessica flouted both the law and basic human decency when she chose to park in a handicapped parking space, despite being perfectly able to walk without difficulty.  
*notes:* This word possibly originally meant “to play the flute” – as in, to be loud and obvious.
19. **cantankerous ADJ** 1: often angry and annoyed; crabby 2: difficult to deal with  
*example:* The cantankerous old man complained about everything – it was too hot, it was too cold, it was too bright, it was too dark, and so on.
20. **spindly ADJ** long or tall, thin, and usually frail  
*example:* The circus acrobats were able to balance their entire bodies on only a spindly stick.  
*notes:* A spindle is a tool used to spin cotton (or other fibers) into long, thin strands of string or yarn.
21. **convoluted ADJ** 1: very complicated and difficult to understand 2: having many twists and curves  
*example:* Rahim stopped and asked a woman how to get to the park, but her directions were so convoluted that he wound up even more lost than he was before.  
*notes:* The Latin meaning of this word is “to roll together” (“con” = “together”; “volu” = “roll”), as opposed to moving in a straight and clear path.
22. **sieve NOUN** a kitchen tool that has many small holes and that is used to separate smaller particles from larger ones or solids from liquids  
*example:* The cake recipe recommends sifting the flour through a sieve to break up any lumps.
23. **strut VERB** to walk in a confident and proud way  
*example:* Wendy strutted through the front door, excited to tell her husband about the big promotion she had received that day at work.
24. **gumption NOUN** courage and confidence  
*example:* Even though he was very shy, Jacob loved theater so much that he found the gumption to try out for the school play.
25. **hysterical ADJ** 1: feeling or showing extreme and uncontrolled emotion 2: very funny  
*example:* The parents became hysterical after the police told them that both of their children were in a car accident.  
*example:* Janice thought that the comedian was hysterical, but Clive found his humor offensive.  
**hysteria NOUN** a state in which your emotions (such as fear) are so strong that you behave in an uncontrolled way  
*example:* When the news reported that aliens had invaded Earth, people reacted with hysteria.  
*notes:* These terms come from the Greek noun “hystera,” meaning “uterus” (a “hysterectomy” is a procedure in which a woman’s uterus is removed). In ancient and medieval medicine, it was thought that women suffered from insanity because of their uteruses. The word “hysterical” has a long history of being used to diminish and discredit women.

26. **derogatory ADJ** expressing a low opinion of someone or something : showing a lack of respect for someone or something  
*example:* Both of the politicians running for the open senate seat resorted to derogatory campaign ads, in which they attacked and insulted one another instead of discussing the political issues.
27. **blowsy ADJ** a description of a woman who is not neat or clean in her clothing or appearance  
*example:* People judged the woman based on her blowsy appearance and didn't guess that she was actually the head of a Fortune 500 company.  
*notes:* In the 1700's, a "blowse" was the wife of a beggar.
28. **pariah NOUN** a person who is hated and rejected by everyone in their community  
*example:* After he left a lantern burning that knocked over and set four houses on fire, Samuel was treated as a pariah; none of his neighbors would speak to him, or even make eye contact with him.  
*notes:* This word is from the Tamil (in southern India) term "paraiyar," meaning "drummer" – in that society, drummers were one of the lowest castes.
29. **scrappy ADJ** fond of fighting, arguing, or competing  
*example:* Despite their small size, leprechauns are thought to be scrappy and always ready for a fight.  
**scrape NOUN** a fight  
*example:* The children got into a scrape on their way home from school after they quarreled over a toy.
30. **commandeer VERB** to take something, such as a vehicle or building, by force, especially for military purposes  
*example:* The police officer commandeered the motorcycle to chase after the criminal who was fleeing down the street.  
*notes:* This word comes from the word "command."

## The Glass Castle Vocabulary List 2 Practice Quiz

blowsy	dank	hypocritical	palsy	shamble
bowels	derogatory	hysterical	paralysis	sieve
cantankerous	felony	lope	pariah	simony
commandeer	flout	malice	pilfer	spindly
conform	gumption	municipal	ruckus	strut
convoluted	hooch	nix	scrappy	vital

1. The fox \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed through the forest, far faster than the hunter could run.
2. The intoxicated man \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed awkwardly down the street in a zigzagging path, almost ready to topple over.
3. When it was her turn up at bat, the star baseball player \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed confidently up to home plate.
4. My grandmother's \_\_\_\_\_ makes it difficult for her to hold a cup of tea without spilling it.
5. Hemlock is a poison that leads to \_\_\_\_\_, in which the victim can no longer move, even to breath.
6. Harold was terrified of growing up and \_\_\_\_\_-ing to what society expected of him – getting a job in a bank or a business, getting married, buying a house with a white picket fence, and having 2.5 children; he wanted to do something original with his life.
7. The students received a detention for writing \_\_\_\_\_ comments about their classmates on the walls of the bathroom.
8. Scientists conducted an experiment to find out whether drivers who saw a (fake rubber) turtle on an empty highway would veer out of the way to miss it or intentionally run over it, out of \_\_\_\_\_; they discovered that 6% of the population intentionally hit the turtle.
9. It is \_\_\_\_\_ for celebrities to tell people that they need to reduce their carbon footprint to save the environment and then take a private jet to travel, emitting thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
10. Marrying someone of a different race used to be classified as a/an \_\_\_\_\_, until the Supreme Court overturned that law in 1967.
11. The widespread practice of \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the reasons that Martin Luther wanted to establish a new Christian faith outside of the Catholic Church.
12. Giulia's grandmother snapped the long, \_\_\_\_\_ strands of spaghetti in half before putting them in the boiling water.
13. The coroner inspected the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dead woman to see if she had perhaps eaten something poisonous.
14. Henry \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the rules about silence in the chapel when he took out his cell phone and began to have a loud conversation in the middle of the people who were praying.
15. After the doctor said that the old man had been infected with the plague, he became a \_\_\_\_\_ and the citizens of the village refused to come anywhere near him.
16. Our family's 14-year-old cat has become particularly \_\_\_\_\_; if you try to pet her in a way she doesn't like, she snarls.
17. To make coffee while camping, put the coffee grounds with some water in a kettle over the fire, wait until it boils, and then strain the grounds from the liquid using a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ pool will be open for all children in the city during the summer.
19. The thunderstorm \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed our plans to have a picnic this afternoon.
20. Although Chihuahuas are tiny dogs, they are often quite \_\_\_\_\_ and will bite if they feel threatened.
21. The prisoners attempted to make their own \_\_\_\_\_ in the toilet of the cell by using orange juice.
22. The iTunes contracts are often so long and \_\_\_\_\_ that nobody reads them.
23. The doctor told the patient that it was \_\_\_\_\_ that he remember to take his medication because without it, he could suffer another heart attack.
24. After playing their instruments for only three weeks, the beginners' band sounded like a giant \_\_\_\_\_.
25. The military \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the nicest homes in the city to house their officers while they planned the next battle.
26. Every time her mother was taking a nap, Clara would \_\_\_\_\_ a dime from her purse.
27. The tabloids reported that the celebrity must be in the middle of a terrible divorce because of her messy, \_\_\_\_\_ appearance.
28. We fell into \_\_\_\_\_ laughter at the comedy film because the jokes were so funny.
29. Even if you are not rich or talented, \_\_\_\_\_ will help you to be successful in life.
30. The boy tumbled over the side of the well and fell down to the dark, \_\_\_\_\_ bottom.

answers: 1: lope 2: shamble 3: strut 4: palsy 5: paralysis 6: conform 7: derogatory 8: malice 9: hypocritical 10: felony 11: simony 12: spindly 13: bowels 14: flout 15: pariah 16: cantankerous 17: sieve 18: municipal 19: nix 20: scrappy 21: hooch 22: convoluted 23: vital 24: ruckus 25: commandeer 26: pilfer 27: blowsy 28: hysterical 29: gumption 30: dank

## The Glass Castle Vocabulary List 3

- precise ADJ** 1: very accurate and exact (about time, location, etc.) 2: very careful and exact about the details of something  
*example:* One of the reasons that 9<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP English 1 students study vocabulary so intensely is to give them the tools to express themselves in language as precisely as possible.  
**precision NOUN** 1: designed for very accurate measurement or operation 2: done in a very careful and exact way  
*example:* The sushi chef sliced the raw fish with expert precision, so that each piece was the perfect size and shape.
- inconspicuous ADJ** not easily seen or noticed  
*example:* The CIA agent tried to remain inconspicuous so that the Russian police would not notice her and bring her in for questioning.  
**conspicuous ADJ** 1: very easy to see or notice 2: attracting attention  
*example:* Faye made a conspicuous typo in the title of her essay.  
*notes:* These words come from the Latin verb “specere,” meaning “to look.”
- skew NOUN** slant **VERB** 1: to change something so that it is not true or accurate 2: to make something favor a particular group of people in a way that is unfair  
*example:* When the twins’ parents asked them to explain how the table had broken, they told the story in a skewed way so as to make it sound like an accident.  
**askew ADJ** not straight; at an angle  
*example:* The picture hung on the wall slightly askew, as if there had been a fight earlier.
- ominous ADJ** suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future  
*example:* The school secretary interrupted class and told Bertie that the principal needed to see him in an ominous tone of voice.  
**omen NOUN** something that is believed to be a sign or warning of something that will happen in the future  
*example:* Quintin interpreted his nightmare as an omen that something terrible was going to happen that day.
- console VERB** to comfort in a time of grief, distress, sadness, or disappointment  
*example:* Zeke tried to console his friend Jason after Jason’s grandfather passed away by bringing him Doritos, his favorite snack, and listening to Jason talk about his memories.  
**consolation NOUN** something that lessens disappointment, misery, or grief; comfort in a time of sadness  
*example:* Even though I lost my wallet, it was a consolation to realize I only had five dollars in it.
- ultimatum NOUN** a final threat; a promise that force or punishment will be used if someone does not do what is wanted  
*example:* Ophelia’s boss gave her the ultimatum that if she showed up to work late one more time, she would be fired.  
**ultimate ADJ** 1: greatest or most extreme 2: the end  
*example:* Ithaca was the ultimate stop on Odysseus’s journey.
- sleazy ADJ** 1: dishonest or immoral 2: not decent or respectable  
*example:* Tabloids and blogs that report on celebrity gossip are a sleazy form of journalism.
- pummel VERB** 1: to repeatedly hit or punch someone or something very hard 2: to defeat badly  
*example:* Frank was so upset that his football team lost that he pummeled the cushions on the couch.

9. **ostentatious ADJ** displaying wealth, knowledge, etc., in a way that is meant to attract attention, admiration, or envy  
*example:* After winning the lottery, Nancy was ostentatious about her wealth by buying the biggest house in town and installing a giant gold fountain in the front, speeding in her sports car in front of the elementary school, and always wearing a feather boa.
10. **devote VERB** 1: to set apart for a special purpose 2: to commit oneself fully  
*example:* At the neighborhood pool, the last ten minutes of each hour are devoted to adult swim, and children have to leave the water.  
*example:* Carmen devoted an hour each night to practicing her trombone so that she would play perfectly in time for the concert.  
**devotion NOUN** 1: deep love or loyalty 2: an act of giving (such as effort or time) to something  
*example:* The nurse's devotion to her patients was so great that she used her own money to buy flowers for the ones whose families didn't visit them.  
*notes:* The Latin word "votum" meant "vow" or "promise."
11. **Gothic ADJ** 1: of or relating to the Goths, a tribe of German people who often attacked the Roman Empire 2: of or relating to a style of architecture that was popular in Europe between the 12th and 16th centuries and that uses pointed arches, thin and tall walls, and large windows 3: of or relating to a style of writing that describes strange or frightening events that take place in mysterious places  
*example:* The creaky old mansion, with its broken shutters and cobwebs and creaking steps, seemed as though it came straight out of a Gothic novel.
12. **translucent ADJ** not completely clear or transparent but clear enough to allow light to pass through  
*example:* The translucent quality of stained glass makes it perfect for decorating buildings while still allowing light inside.  
*notes:* The Latin root "lux" means "light," while the prefix "trans" means "across."
13. **bluff VERB** 1: to pretend that you will do something or that you know or have something in order to trick someone into doing what you want 2: to deceive or frighten by pretending to have more strength or confidence than is really true **NOUN** an act or instance of pretending to have more strength, confidence, or ability than is really true  
*example (as a verb):* As the intruders broke into her home, Jessica shouted at them that she had a gun – it was just a bluff, but it was enough to frighten them away.
14. **elevate VERB** 1: to lift something up 2: to increase the level of something or someone, or make it higher (either literally, in terms of height, or figurative, in terms of quality)  
*example:* When the Queen knighted the peasant, he was elevated in the eyes of the kingdom.
15. **toil VERB** to work very hard for a long time **NOUN** long hard labor  
*example:* The miners toiled for days, trying to break through the hard rock with their pickaxes.
16. **root VERB** 1: to dig around, looking for something 2: to wish for the success of someone or something  
*example:* We rooted through all of the drawers and cabinets in the kitchen looking for the spare house key.  
*example:* Everyone at the school was rooting for Veronica to win at the National Spelling Bee.
17. **abolish VERB** 1: to stop completely or put an end to something 2: to legally end  
*example:* Jacob argued that speed limits should be abolished and it should be up to individuals to drive responsibly or bear the consequences.  
**abolition NOUN** the complete elimination of something (often used in reference to the anti-slavery movements in the United States)  
*example:* Despite the fact that she was raised as a daughter in a wealthy slave-owning family in South Carolina, Sarah Grimke grew up to fight for abolition.

18. **irate ADJ** very angry  
*example:* Kimberly was irate to find out that her employees had been stealing from her business.  
**ire NOUN** intense anger; wrath  
*example:* Jake knew he would have to face his parents' ire when he told them he crashed their car because he was texting while driving.  
**irascible ADJ** becoming angry very easily; having a bad temper  
*example:* Our neighbor down the street had a reputation for being irascible and shouting at anyone who walked through his yard.  
*notes:* The Latin word "ira" meant "anger."
19. **deference NOUN** a way of behaving that shows respect for someone or something  
*example:* A good host is supposed to always make sure that his or her guests are served food and drink first, out of deference.  
**defer VERB** 1: to give in or yield to the opinion or wishes of another 2: to put off to a future time or postpone  
*example:* Langston Hughes's poem, "A Dream Deferred," considers what happens when equality is postponed and postponed.  
*example:* Fabian deferred his admission to Stanford for a year so that he could volunteer in Costa Rica.  
*example:* Roberto and Clyde were trying to decide where to go to dinner, and since it was Clyde's birthday, Roberto deferred to him.
20. **highfalutin ADJ** seeming or trying to seem great or important  
*example:* Trey's grandfather warned him not to be too impressed with highfalutin folks and instead judge others based on how they treated people, whether they were a CEO or a janitor.  
*notes:* This word came into being in the 1830's in the United States.
21. **dynasty NOUN** 1: a family of rulers who rule over a country for a long period of time, or the period of time when they are in power 2: a family, team, etc., that is very powerful or successful for a long period of time  
*example:* The Tudors were a dynasty who ruled England in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance.
22. **dilapidated ADJ** falling apart or ruined from age or from lack of care  
*example:* Although it had once been the grandest house in the town, the mansion had been abandoned for many years and now stood dilapidated and forgotten.
23. **hustle VERB** 1: to move or work in a quick and energetic way 2: to sell something or make money in an energetic, creative, or perhaps not legal way **NOUN** 1: energetic activity 2: a business or economy that is energetic, creative, or perhaps not legal  
*example:* Since I pressed the snooze button so many times on my alarm, I had to hustle to be ready in time.  
*example:* Ricky is trying to hustle up investors to raise the money to develop his inventions.
24. **scam NOUN** a dishonest way to make money by deceiving people **VERB** to get something (such as money) by deceiving people  
*example:* Jimmy got scammed when he bought concert tickets from a man on the street that turned out to be fakes.
25. **ridicule VERB** to make fun of  
*example:* It is unkind to ridicule another student when they give the wrong answer in class.  
**ridiculous ADJ** 1: extremely silly or unreasonable 2: causing or deserving ridicule  
*example:* Although it once seemed ridiculous to ever imagine that human beings could walk on the moon, we have now been doing it for half a century and are now preparing for a Martian exploration.

26. **fumble VERB** 1: to search for something by reaching or touching with your fingers in an awkward or clumsy way  
 2: to handle something in an awkward or clumsy way  
*example (literal):* The toddler fumbled with the ball, but her dad was certain that she would grow up to be a great athlete if he helped her learn and practice.  
*example (figurative):* Thomas fumbled his words in front of the audience because he was so nervous.  
*notes:* The word “fumble” is part of a family of onomatopoeic words (“stumble,” “bumble,” “tumble”) that all connote awkwardness.
27. **destitute ADJ** extremely poor  
*example:* Millions of people were left destitute after the stock market crash that caused the Great Depression.
28. **eccentric ADJ** 1: tending to act in strange or unusual ways 2: not following a perfectly circular path  
*example:* The old expression “the poor are crazy, but the rich are eccentric” means that the amount of money and status a person has will determine how society perceives their quirks.  
**eccentricity NOUN** 1: the quality of being strange or unusual in behavior 2: an act or habit that is strange or unusual  
*example:* One of Annabelle’s eccentricities is that she always checks behind the shower curtain when she uses the restroom to make sure that no one is hiding there.  
*notes:* The word eccentric literally means “outside of the circle” – as in, someone’s behavior which is outside of the metaphorical circle of what is expected, average, or appropriate.
29. **charismatic ADJ** exhibiting charisma  
*example:* Candidates who run for President of the United States need to be charismatic to attract voters.  
**charisma NOUN** a special magnetic charm or appeal  
*example:* Victor has so much charisma that he should try out for the school play – he would have no trouble holding the audience’s attention.  
*notes:* The Greek word “kharisma” meant “favor,” or “divine gift” – that term comes from the word “kharis,” which meant “grace” but was also the name of one of the servants of the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite.
30. **monotonous ADJ** boring from always being the same  
*example:* Ivan quit his monotonous office job and went back to school to become a nurse, where every day at the hospital was exciting and different.  
**monotone ADJ** a way of talking or singing without raising or lowering the sound of your voice  
*example:* The monotone voice on the navigation system told us to take an exit.  
**monotony NOUN** a boring lack of change  
*example:* David was excited about the first few days of summer vacation, but the monotony of lying in bed and watching Netflix all day quickly got boring.  
*notes:* The Greek word “mono” meant “one” – so something “monotone” literally had only one tone.

## The Glass Castle Vocabulary List 3 Practice Quiz

abolish	devote	Gothic	ominous	scam
bluff	dilapidated	highfalutin	ostentatious	skew
charismatic	dynasty	hustle	precise	sleazy
console	eccentric	inconspicuous	pummel	toil
deference	elevate	irate	ridicule	translucent
destitute	fumble	monotonous	root	ultimatum

1. Although Rex was a scoundrel who didn't take care of his family, he was also a/an \_\_\_\_\_ storyteller who could make you believe almost anything.
2. One method of \_\_\_\_\_-ing your writing is to connect your ideas to the world beyond yourself.
3. It is important for surgeons to be \_\_\_\_\_ in their work; an incision just half an inch in the wrong place could mean the difference between life and death for the patient.
4. The pop-up ads that you see on your computer saying that you have been chosen to receive thousands of dollars are a/an \_\_\_\_\_ designed to get you to give up your personal information.
5. Even though Natalie did not have a good hand, she \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed to the other poker players.
6. After Betty Sue and Bubba won the lottery, they became \_\_\_\_\_ and refused to speak to their old friends and neighbors because they thought they were better than them now.
7. The Tang \_\_\_\_\_ in China lasted for almost 300 years and saw a golden age in Chinese history, during which time culture flourished and the military was able to increase the size of their territories significantly.
8. The cashier held the \$100 bill up to the light to see if a watermark appeared on the \_\_\_\_\_ paper as a way of checking to see if the money was real.
9. After Tommy scraped his knees at the playground, his dad tried to \_\_\_\_\_ by telling him they could have a popsicle when they got home.
10. The works of Edgar Allen Poe are \_\_\_\_\_ in genre, as they often deal with questions of the darkness of the human soul.
11. Jeanette's mother Rosemary \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed around in the garbage, looking for items she could give to her children as presents.
12. Gary \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed half an hour of every evening to meditating as a way of managing his stress.
13. The barn was rusty and \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed and really needed to be torn down and rebuilt.
14. Used car salespeople are often stereotyped in movies as \_\_\_\_\_ and dishonest.
15. The celebrity tried to remain \_\_\_\_\_ by wearing large sunglasses and a hat so that the paparazzi wouldn't notice her when she went shopping.
16. The fortune teller looked at the tea leaves in the bottom of Henrick's cup and pronounced that his future looked \_\_\_\_\_, and begged him to be careful.
17. When you are reading a news article, you should ask yourself if the author's reporting \_\_\_\_\_-s the facts in an attempt to shape your opinion.
18. Although the invention of the assembly line improved productivity for products like automobiles, it made a worker's job more \_\_\_\_\_; instead of crafting an item from start to finish, they just made a single part, all day, every day.
19. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, people used to have to pay a tax to be able to vote; fortunately, that practice has been \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed, as it discouraged people without a lot of money from participating in the democratic process.
20. Many readers of *The Glass Castle* feel that Rosemary should have given Rex a/an \_\_\_\_\_ and told him that if he didn't stop drinking and get a job, she would leave him and take the kids.
21. Even though the volleyball team got \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed by the other side, you could tell that they were playing as hard as they could.
22. Out of \_\_\_\_\_ to our grandfather, we gave him the seat at the head of the table.
23. Dede was \_\_\_\_\_ after Carl accidentally spilled water all over her laptop, and she shouted so loudly that the neighbors could hear her.
24. At the end of Charles Dickens's play *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge decides to donate his money to the poor, \_\_\_\_\_ members of his community.
25. I \_\_\_\_\_ around in my purse, looking for some quarters to use in the vending machine.
26. All of Keisha's hard \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden, sweating in the hot sun as she weeded and water, paid off when her tomato plants produced enormous, delicious fruit.
27. The movie star's engagement ring was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ diamond the size of a nickel with rubies, emeralds, and sapphires all around it.
28. The politician became the object of \_\_\_\_\_ after he admitted that he did not know the name of a major city in the Middle East, and all of the late night comics told jokes about how foolish he was.
29. We had better \_\_\_\_\_ if we want to make it to the train station on time!
30. Geniuses are often known for their \_\_\_\_\_ habits – for example, Leonardo da Vinci kept a journal in which he wrote backwards, and Albert Einstein often did not brush his hair.

answers: 1: charismatic 2: elevate 3: precise 4: scam 5: bluff 6: highfalutin 7: dynasty 8: translucent 9: console 10: Gothic 11: root 12: devote  
 13: dilapidated 14: sleazy 15: inconspicuous 16: ominous 17: skew 18: monotonous 19: abolish 20: ultimatum 21: pummel 22: deference 23: irate  
 24: destitute 25: fumble 26: toil 27: ostentatious 28: ridicule 29: hustle 30: eccentric

# Romeo and Juliet Vocabulary List 1

- grudge** **NOUN** a strong feeling of anger toward someone that lasts for a long time  
*example:* Ben carried a grudge against Alex for the rest of his life for teasing him in third grade.  
**begrudge** **VERB** 1: to think that someone does not deserve something; to regard something as not being earned or deserved 2: to give or allow something in a reluctant or unwilling way  
*example:* Macy begrudged Renatta her win in the chess match because she felt that her opponent had just gotten lucky.
- foe** **NOUN** an enemy  
*example:* Theodore made a foe out of his neighbor when he accidentally ran over her prized rosebush with his lawnmower, and for the next year she always “accidentally” got his newspaper wet when watering her garden.
- brawl** **NOUN** a noisy quarrel or fight  
*example:* The police officer broke up the brawl in the hallway.
- canker** **NOUN** 1: an erosive or spreading sore 2: something evil that spreads through a person's mind, an organization, or a society  
*example:* Victims of the plague would break out in cankers, open, oozing sores, all over their bodies.  
*notes:* This word comes from the Latin word “cancer,” which meant “crab.”
- forfeit** **VERB** to lose or lose the right to especially by some error, offense, or crime **NOUN** something that is lost or given up as punishment or because of a rule or law  
*example:* Stacy studied hard so she wouldn't have to forfeit her academic scholarship.
- defiance** **NOUN** 1: a refusal to obey a defiance of the rule 2: a willingness to resist  
*example:* Bella was grounded for her defiance of her curfew after she arrived home three hours past when her parents told her to.  
**defy** **VERB** 1: to refuse to obey something or someone 2: to make something very difficult or impossible 3: to resist or fight something  
*example:* Many brave Germans defied the Nazi orders to turn in their Jewish neighbors.
- scorn** **NOUN** 1: a feeling that someone or something is not worthy of any respect or approval 2: harsh criticism that shows a lack of respect or approval for someone or something **VERB** to show that you think someone or something is not worthy of respect or approval : to feel or express scorn for someone or something  
*example:* After the media discovered that famous cyclist Lance Armstrong used illegal steroids, people who had once admired him now felt only scorn for the athlete.
- pursue** **VERB** 1: to follow and try to catch or capture someone or something for usually a long distance or time 2: to try to get or do something over a period of time 3: to be involved in an activity  
*example:* Elmer Fudd's life's work was pursuing Bugs Bunny, always trying to hunt him.
- augment** **VERB** 1: to increase the size or amount of something 2: to add something to something in order to improve or complete it  
*example:* Many people learn how to invest in the stock market in an effort to augment their wealth.
- portentous** **ADJ** 1: giving a sign or warning that something usually bad or unpleasant is going to happen 2: trying to seem important, serious, or impressive  
*example:* The astrologer believed she could read the end of the world in the portentous position of the stars.  
**portend** **VERB** to be a sign or warning that something usually bad or unpleasant is going to happen  
*example:* The dark clouds and rumbling thunder portend rain.  
**portent** **NOUN** a sign or warning that something usually bad or unpleasant is going to happen; an omen  
*example:* Many people believe a broken mirror is a portent of seven years of bad luck.

11. **importune** **VERB** to ask someone for something or to do something in a repeated or annoying way  
*example:* The student importuned his teacher to let him redo his poetry assignment since he received a failing grade.
12. **envious** **ADJ** 1: feeling or showing a desire to have what someone else has 2: feeling or showing envy  
*example:* The writer Emerson always maintained that we should not be envious of others but should accept our own lots in life and make of them what we will.  
**envy** **VERB** to feel a desire to have what someone else has **NOUN** a feeling of unhappiness over another's good fortune, together with a desire to have the same good fortune  
*example:* Clarice envied her sister's ability to make friends so easily, since she often had to sit by herself at lunch.  
*notes:* The words "envious" and "jealous" are often used interchangeably, but there are some subtle differences in meaning. "Jealous" most properly means to be wary of losing what you have (often a romantic partner); "envious" means to desire what you do not have.
13. **shrift** **NOUN** [archaic] a remission of sins pronounced by a priest in the sacrament of reconciliation  
*example:* Before embarking on his Crusade, the king went to the bishop to confess his sins and make shrift.  
**shrive** **VERB** to confess one's sins, especially to a priest  
*example:* The priest shrived the condemned murderer moments before his execution.
14. **propagate** **VERB** 1: to have or cause to have offspring; to multiply 2: to cause (as an idea or belief) to spread out and affect a greater number or wider area  
*example:* Josh was able to propagate fig seedlings from the hundred-year-old tree.
15. **languish** **VERB** 1: to be or become weak, dull, or listless 2: to continue for a long time without activity or progress in an unpleasant or unwanted situation  
*example:* The basil plant languished in the shaded pot, its leaves sad and limp.
16. **heretic** **NOUN** a person who believes or teaches something opposed to accepted beliefs (as of a church)  
*example:* Galileo was condemned as a heretic by the Catholic Church because he proposed that the Earth revolved around the sun, instead of the other way around.  
**heresy** **NOUN** a belief or opinion that does not agree with the official belief or opinion of a particular religion  
*example:* The French warrior Joan of Arc was burned at the stake for heresy because of her claims that God told her to lead her people against the English.
17. **splendor** **NOUN** great and impressive beauty  
*example:* The splendor of the Perseid meteor shower, in which hundreds of dazzling meteors glitter across the sky, is repeated every year in early August.  
**splendid** **ADJ** impressive in beauty, excellence, or magnificence  
*example:* The garden erupted in all sorts of splendid colors once the flowers began to bloom.  
*notes:* The Latin word "splendor" meant "brightness."
18. **warrant** **VERB** 1: to require or deserve something 2: to make a legal promise that a statement is true 3: to give a guarantee or warranty for a product **NOUN** 1: a reason or cause for an opinion or action 2: a document giving legal power  
*example (as a verb):* The children's father decided that their misbehavior warranted a time-out.  
*example (as a noun):* After hearing the testimony from the witness who said she saw Helen's car at the scene of the crime, the judge issued a warrant to allow detectives to search Helen's vehicle and home.  
**warranty** **NOUN** a written statement that promises the good condition of a product and states that the maker is responsible for repairing or replacing the product usually for a certain period of time after its purchase  
*example:* Hillary wasn't able to exchange her broken blender because the warranty had already expired.

19. **benefice NOUN** a post held by a member of the clergy that gives the right to use certain property and to receive income from stated sources  
*example:* The priest was given an excellent benefice, which contained over 400 acres of vineyards that would provide him with a large income every year.  
*notes:* The Latin word “beneficium” meant “a favor,” coming from “bene,” meaning “good,” and “facere,” meaning “to do.”
20. **idle ADJ** 1: not working, active, or being used 2: not having any real purpose or value 3: not having much activity  
*example:* Teachers are always careful not to give students time to be idle because when children have nothing to do, they'll come up with something (and often times, it's something mischievous!).
21. **antic NOUN** a wildly playful or funny act or action  
*example:* Alex received multiple detentions for his antics in the multipurpose room during the dance performance because his joking around distracted the other students trying to watch the show.
22. **disparage VERB** 1: to speak of as unimportant or bad 2: to belittle  
*example:* Despite the fact that his father always disparaged his plans to become an artist, Marco remained confident in his goals and was able to show his paintings in some of the most expensive galleries in New York City.
23. **scathe VERB** to harm or injure (particularly with fire)  
*example (literal):* When Nick took off the lid of the boiling pot, the steam scathed the side of his arm.  
*example (figurative):* Eleanor wrote a scathing editorial to the newspaper, condemning the new shopping mall for destroying a beautiful public park.
24. **purge VERB** 1: to remove people from an area, country, organization, etc., often in a violent and sudden way 2: to cause something to leave the body **NOUN** 1: an act or instance of ridding of what is unwanted 2: the removal of members thought to be treacherous or disloyal  
*example (as a verb):* Springtime is a good opportunity to purge your closets of clothes that you no longer wear.  
*example (as a noun):* The Queen ordered a purge of anyone who did not agree with the new religion, and told those people to leave the country.  
*notes:* This word originally came from the Latin word “purus,” meaning “pure.”
25. **trespass NOUN** 1: the crime of going on someone's land without permission 2: a sin or other wrong or improper act **VERB** 1: to go on someone's land without permission 2: to do something that hurts or offends someone 3: to sin  
*example:* Alex considered it a trespass when his mother went through his phone without his permission.
26. **esteem NOUN** 1: respect and affection 2: worth or value **VERB** 1: to think very highly or favorably of someone or something 2: to view as or to value  
*example:* The citizens of Verona, Montagues and Capulets alike, hold Friar Laurence in high esteem and are always willing to listen to his opinion.  
*notes:* The word comes from the Old French verb “estimer,” meaning “to estimate the value of something.”
27. **boisterous ADJ** very noisy and active in a lively way  
*example:* The most boisterous students tap danced down the hallway in response to the school unexpected early dismissal.
28. **conjure VERB** 1: to make something appear or seem to appear by using magic 2: to make you think of something 2: to create or imagine something  
*example:* The magician conjured a rabbit out of her top hat.  
*example:* Talented poets are able to conjure up imagines in your mind using only their words.

29. **cholera** **NOUN** 1: an archaic term for yellow bile (a fluid produced in the liver) 2: irritation; quickness to anger  
*example:* Stacy was in a cholera all day and snapped at everyone who asked her a question.  
**choleric** **ADJ** hot-tempered; angered easily  
*example:* The doctor told the king and queen that the problem with the princess was that she was too choleric and that an excess of yellow bile was the cause of her bad mood.  
**cholera** **NOUN** a bacterial disease caused by drinking contaminated water (although doctors used to think it was caused by yellow bile)  
*example:* The students won an award for their invention to easily purify drinking water, which would prevent the spread of cholera.
- notes:* Cholera was one of the four medieval humors thought to be responsible for both illness and personality. A person with too much cholera (yellow bile, or the fluid produced in the liver and stored in the gallbladder) was thought to be easily angered and quick to fight. The other humors were black bile (which led to a melancholy personality), phlegm (which led to a phlegmatic personality), and blood (which led to a sanguine personality).
30. **jest** **NOUN** something said or done to cause laughter **VERB** to make comic remarks  
*example:* Keilone's comment about moving to Mars was made in jest, and we all knew that he wasn't serious.

## Romeo and Juliet Vocabulary List 1 Practice Quiz

antic	choleric	foe	jest	scathe
augment	conjure	forfeit	languish	scorn
benefice	defiance	grudge	portentous	shrift
boisterous	disparage	heretic	propagate	splendor
brawl	envious	idle	purge	trespass
canker	esteem	importune	pursue	warrant

1. “Get to work!” the manager said. “We don’t pay you to be \_\_\_\_\_ all day long!
2. The astronauts attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the potato and tomato plants in the Martian soil.
3. After Elton was charged with the murder of his neighbor, the authorities put out a/an \_\_\_\_\_ for his arrest.
4. The teacher took the unruly student outside and calmly asked him to stop his wild \_\_\_\_\_ -s because the classroom is not a zoo.
5. The ballet dancer was \_\_\_\_\_ of the prima ballerina who got the lead role in *The Nutcracker*.
6. “How can you \_\_\_\_\_ about this!” Ashley cried when her best friend made fun of Ashley’s awful haircut.
7. The two \_\_\_\_\_-s met on the battlefield, and only one of them would be leaving it.
8. Gerry \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed his free tickets to the concert because he had to look after his sick grandfather.
9. Edmund Dantes \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed in prison for more than a decade.
10. Nicole was enthralled by the beauty and \_\_\_\_\_ of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.
11. As Herbert stomped through the wild underbrush of the forest, he wondered if he was \_\_\_\_\_-ing on someone else’s property.
12. “There’s no way I can get those children to sit down and quietly do their homework! They are way too \_\_\_\_\_!”
13. The sculptor’s hands moved so deftly, they seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ shapes in the clay out of thin air.
14. No one wanted to work with Jacob because of his \_\_\_\_\_ personality; he was always shouting and seemed to become offended at everything.
15. “Look at the sky! It looks so \_\_\_\_\_, as if some disaster were on the horizon...”
16. Even though I went to a Catholic grade school, I was never able to give \_\_\_\_\_ during confession because I was not a confirmed Catholic myself.
17. In the spring months, it is common for some students to wildly grasp for any possible ways to \_\_\_\_\_ their grades so that they don’t fail.
18. The playwright couldn’t bring herself to read the \_\_\_\_\_-ing review of her latest work.
19. The doctor gave his patient something to help him vomit and \_\_\_\_\_ his system of the poison.
20. Francesca \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the poor poet who sang of his love for her because she wanted to marry a rich man.
21. After her older sister made a/an \_\_\_\_\_-ing remark about her dress for Homecoming, Jennie refused to attend the dance.
22. Most people \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare because of his rich vocabulary and acute insight into human nature.
23. The mother \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed the judge to have mercy on her son and not send him to prison; she fell to her knees in the middle of the courtroom and sobbed.
24. According to the Declaration of Independence, all Americans are free to \_\_\_\_\_ their own definition of happiness, so long as it doesn’t interfere with anyone else’s.
25. In this classroom, \_\_\_\_\_ is an offense punishable by referral.
26. Friar Laurence deserves a better \_\_\_\_\_ - he has to put up with so many crazy shenanigans.
27. Make sure you wear Chapstick in the winter so that you don’t get a \_\_\_\_\_.
28. A \_\_\_\_\_ broke out on the soccer field when a member of the rival team attacked the striker.
29. The church considered Galileo to be a \_\_\_\_\_ because his scientific theories contradicted their doctrine.
30. Even though Larry told his sister that he forgave her for breaking the sculpture he made in class, he still carried a/an \_\_\_\_\_ against her and “accidentally” spilled juice on her painting the next morning.

answers: 1: idle 2: propagate 3: warrant 4: antic 5: envious 6: jest 7: foe 8: forfeit 9: languish 10: splendor 11: trespass 12: boisterous 13: conjure 14: invoke 15: portentous 16: shrift 17: augment 18: scathe 19: purge 20: scorn 21: disparage 22: esteem 23: importune 24: pursue 25: defiance 26: benefice 27: canker 28: brawl 29: heretic 30: grudge

## Romeo and Juliet Vocabulary List 2

- peril NOUN** the state of being in great danger  
*example:* Walter's mother told him that he was putting his life in peril by going skydiving.  
**imperil VERB** to put something or someone in a dangerous situation  
*example:* Pandas have been imperiled due to the loss of their natural habitats from the urbanization in China.  
**perilous ADJ** full of danger  
*example:* Heroes usually overcome a perilous adventure or two during their trials.  
*notes:* The Latin noun "periculum" means "danger."
- perjury NOUN** the crime of telling a lie in a court of law after promising to tell the truth  
*example:* The witness told the truth on the stand; she was not guilty of perjury.  
**perjure VERB** to commit perjury  
*example:* The CEO of the company perjured himself when he swore in court that he had no knowledge of the accounting fraud, even though he was the one who came up with the idea.  
*notes:* The Latin root "jur" or "iur" means "to swear."
- perverse ADJ** 1: turned away from what is right or good 2: wrong or different in a way that others feel is strange or offensive  
*example:* The movie about a haunted doll that comes to life and murders people takes a beloved childhood toy and turns it into a perverse symbol of terror.  
*notes:* The Latin root "vers" means "to turn" – something that is "perverse" is turned away from what is right.
- orb NOUN** something in the shape of a ball (as a planet or the eye)  
*example:* The astronomer had many orbs representing planets hanging in her study.
- rite NOUN** an act performed in a ceremony (often a religious or spiritual ceremony)  
*example:* Communion is a sacred rite in the Christian Church in which people drink wine and eat a wafer as a way of connecting with Jesus Christ.  
**ritual NOUN** a ceremony or series of acts that is always performed the same way, often with a religious or spiritual significance  
*example:* During the Jewish holiday of Passover, it is a ritual to share a special meal called "seder" with one's family and tell the story of the Jewish people's exodus from Egypt.
- bondage NOUN** the state of being a slave  
*example:* The history of human bondage in the United States is a source of shame for our country.  
**bond VERB** 1: to join things together 2: to join to something else 3: to form a close relationship with someone  
**NOUN** 1: something such as an idea, interest, experience, or feeling that is shared between people or groups and forms a connection between them 2: [in finance] an official document in which a government or company promises to pay back an amount of money that it has borrowed and to pay interest for the borrowed money 3: a chain or rope that is used to prevent someone from moving or acting freely  
*example:* Molecules are held together through a chemical bond.  
*example:* The expression "your word is your bond" means that once you have made a promise, you can never break it.
- hoarse ADJ** having a harsh or rough sound or voice  
*example:* My voice is hoarse today from screaming through last night's concert.
- predominant ADJ** more important, powerful, successful, or noticeable than other people or things  
*example:* Although the predominant language in the United States is English, the country has no official language and the presence of many different kinds of language makes our country richer.
- brine NOUN** 1: a mixture of salty water used especially to preserve or add flavor to food 2: the salty water of the ocean  
**VERB** to treat (as by steeping) with brine  
*example:* Olives must be preserved in brine before they become edible.

10. **woe** **NOUN** 1: a feeling of great pain or sadness 2: great sorrow, grief, or misfortune  
*example:* At the wake, all of the funeral mourners tried to overcome their woe and put on a brave face for the dead boy's mother.
11. **rancor** **NOUN** bitter deep-seated ill will or hatred  
*example:* The girl tried not to feel rancor towards the noisy parrot her roommate kept, but every time she closed her eyes she invented new ways to murder the screeching pest.
12. **afflict** **VERB** to cause pain, unhappiness, or suffering  
*example:* I can't concentrate because I am afflicted with a headache.  
**affliction** **NOUN** something (such as a disease) that causes pain or suffering  
*example:* None of the doctors could tell what the mysterious affliction that had caused so many deaths was.  
*example:* Poverty is an affliction that affects billions of people on the planet.
13. **constrain** **VERB** to limit or restrict something or someone  
*example:* If I don't constrain my dog with a leash on our walks, he would chase every squirrel and cat in the neighborhood.  
**constraint** **NOUN** control that limits or restricts someone's actions or behavior  
*example:* Yassar felt that the teacher's limit of 500 words for the assignment to write a story was a constraint on his creativity since he wanted to write a novel.
14. **consume** **VERB** 1: to eat or drink something 2: to use (fuel, time, resources, etc.) 3: to destroy something with fire  
*example:* On cold evenings, her favorite activity was watching fire consume dead branches under the naked sky.  
**consumption** **NOUN** 1: the act or process of using up something (as food or coal) 2: a wasting away of the body, especially from tuberculosis of the lungs  
*example:* Environmentalists recommend reducing our energy consumption as a way to save the planet.  
*example:* Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many people thought that those suffering from consumption were being victimized by a vampire because the symptoms of the disease – weakness and a pale appearance – were similar to vampire legend.
15. **incorporate** **VERB** 1: to include something as part of something else 2: to form into a corporation 3: to unite  
*example:* You need to incorporate in-text citations into an MLA style research paper.  
**corporation** **NOUN** a business or organization authorized by law to carry on an activity with the rights and duties of a single person  
*example:* Apple is one of the most powerful corporations in the world.  
**corporeal** **ADJ** having or consisting of a physical body or form, as opposed to spiritual  
*example:* The priest warned the villagers not to give into corporeal temptations, such as food and drink or wealth, and think instead about their spiritual lives.  
*notes:* The Latin word “corpus” means “body.”
16. **plague** **NOUN** 1: a large number of harmful or annoying things 2: a disease that causes death and that spreads quickly to a large number of people **VERB** 1: to cause constant or repeated trouble, illness, etc., 2: to cause constant worry or distress  
*example (literal, as a noun):* The Black Plague killed almost half of the population in Europe.  
*example (figurative, as a verb):* Manuel plagued his older sister Ruby with dozens of questions as she was trying to study for the LSAT.

17. **dexterity** **NOUN** 1: skill and ease in the use of the hands or body 2: the ability to think and act quickly and cleverly  
*example:* Even though Molly knew nothing about football, she couldn't help but admire the players' dexterity as they sprinted and spun across the field, tossing the ball with ease.  
**dexterous** **ADJ** having or showing great physical skill or cleverness  
*example:* A magician must be dexterous to be able to trick the audience into believing his or her tricks.  
**ambidextrous** **ADJ** capable of using both hands with equal ease  
*example:* Daniela is a fearsome swordfighter because she is ambidextrous and can wield a weapon with either hand.  
*notes:* In Latin (and many other languages, going back to Proto Indo-European), "dexter" meant "right" (as opposed to left). There is a long and curious thread in human history of associating the right side with the good (the "right" in the moral sense) and the left side with the bad. Recall that the Latin word for "left" is "sinister," meaning "evil."
18. **amorous** **ADJ** of, relating to, or caused by love  
*example:* Paris is considered by many to be an amorous location, which is why it is nicknamed "the City of Love."  
*notes:* The Latin word "amor" means "love."
19. **sober** **ADJ** 1: not drunk 2: having or showing a very serious attitude or quality  
*example:* At first, Eliot thought his wife was joking when she told him that they had lost their life savings, but then he noticed her sober expression and he understood that she was deadly serious.  
**sobriety** **NOUN** 1: the state of not being drunk 2: the quality of being serious  
*example:* The police officer pulled the driver over after they noticed he was swerving and gave him a test for sobriety.
20. **mantle** **NOUN** 1: a loose piece of clothing without sleeves that was worn over other clothes, especially in the past 2: the position of someone who has responsibility or authority 3: the part of the earth's interior beneath the crust and above the central core 4: the area above a fireplace  
*example:* I put pictures of my family on my mantle.  
*example:* The Duchess wore a velvet mantle over her ball gown.
21. **garish** **ADJ** too bright, colorful, or showy  
*example:* She couldn't help but think that her neighbor's 10,000 light Christmas decorations were garish.
22. **dismal** **ADJ** 1: showing or causing gloom 2: lacking merit or particularly bad  
*example:* Holidays became dismal times after her brother's death.
23. **banish** **VERB** 1: to force to leave a country 2: to cause to go away  
*example:* Citizens of Athens who upset the social order or committed a crime would be banished or executed since their city did not have prisons.
24. **chide** **VERB** to express mild disapproval of someone : to scold someone gently  
*example:* The teacher chided the student for mumbling curse words under his breath.
25. **beguile** **VERB** 1: to trick or deceive someone 2: to attract or interest someone  
*example:* Certain species of carnivorous plants beguile insects into landing on their leaves by mimicking the scent of rotting flesh.
26. **enamor** **VERB** 1: to inflame with love 2: to cause to feel a strong or excessive interest or fascination  
*example:* Cupid, the god of Love himself, becomes enamored with Psyche in the Greek myths.
27. **crave** **VERB** to have a very strong desire for something  
*example:* Henry was craving a chocolate cupcake all morning long – it was all he could think about during his meeting.
28. **tidings** **NOUN** a piece of news —usually used in plural ("good tidings")  
*example:* My father likes to browse the internet for daily tidings of celebrities.

29. **purgatory** **NOUN** 1: a state after death according to Roman Catholic belief in which the souls of people who die are made pure through suffering before going to heaven 2: a place or state of suffering  
*example:* Medieval Catholics believed that some souls spent time in purgatory until their living family members paid enough money to the church to ransom their souls to heaven.
30. **carrion** **NOUN** dead and putrefying (rotting) flesh  
*example:* The vultures circled above the carrion of the dead rabbit.

## Romeo and Juliet Vocabulary List 2 Practice Quiz

afflict	carrion	dismal	orb
amorous	chide	enamor	peril
banish	constraint	garish	perjury
beguile	consume	hoarse	perverse
bond	crave	incorporate	plague
brine	dexterity	mantle	predominant
			purgatory
			rancor
			rite
			sober
			tiding
			woe

1. The soccer team had a/an \_\_\_\_\_ performance at last week's game; they wound up losing by 11 points.
2. The students thought that it was \_\_\_\_\_ that Juliet's father forces her to marry Paris, even though she was only thirteen years old.
3. That moment between applying for college and getting accepted or rejected can seem like a \_\_\_\_\_ to students who are unsure of their futures.
4. My grandfather used to rinse his mouth out with \_\_\_\_\_ after he brushed his teeth; he thought that salt water killed germs.
5. Speed limits and laws about seat belts are \_\_\_\_\_-s on individual freedom that are designed to save lives.
6. The journalist \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed several quotations from witnesses who saw the explosion into her article.
7. The fortune teller gazed into her crystal \_\_\_\_\_ and told me that I would have eleven children.
8. The Christmas carolers wished everyone good \_\_\_\_\_-s for the holiday season.
9. The farmer's crops were \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with a disease that caused their roots to rot.
10. "Don't chew with your mouth open!" my grandmother \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed me.
11. The toddler screamed and screamed until her voice went \_\_\_\_\_.
12. It is when we are in great \_\_\_\_\_ that we understand who we truly are, for danger is the best test of character.
13. The neighbors felt a deep \_\_\_\_\_ for one another after their argument about who was responsible for paying for the damaged fence.
14. Josephine was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed with Francisco from the moment she saw him, and she swore to her friends that he would be the man she married.
15. During Ramadan, it is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to fast during the day and feast after the sun goes down.
16. The bomb technicians snipped the delicate wires with \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid causing an explosion.
17. Superglue creates a strong \_\_\_\_\_ between two objects.
18. "Don't cough on me! I don't want to get the \_\_\_\_\_!"
19. "It's chilly in here," the wizard said to his servant. "Could you please fetch me my \_\_\_\_\_?"
20. Some researchers believe that the relationship between bees and flowers is more \_\_\_\_\_ than anything else. Orchids in particular are able to fool bees into thinking they are females ready to be mated with.
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ was rotting in the middle of the road.
22. When the bank robbers entered the building and pointed their guns at the customers, the atmosphere was absolutely \_\_\_\_\_; not a single person was laughing.
23. The Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who wrote *The Inferno*, was \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed from Florence for his political writings.
24. The Sirens would \_\_\_\_\_ sailors who passed by their island with their beautiful singing and then cause them to drown.
25. Sewing a quilt is a time-\_\_\_\_\_ing project, which usually lasts at least 50 hours.
26. After a long day of working outside to build a shed, Dana \_\_\_\_\_-d/ed a hot bath and a long sleep.
27. The \_\_\_\_\_ ingredient in foods like marshmallows and Skittles is sugar.
28. It was \_\_\_\_\_ when Oswald swore that he loved Sandra because he knew in his heart that he felt indifferently towards her and only wanted her money.
29. Don't you think the neon pink leopard print miniskirt is a bit \_\_\_\_\_?
30. The bombing of Pearl Harbor in World War II was a time of great \_\_\_\_\_ for our country.

answers: 1: dismal 2: perverse 3: purgatory 4: brine 5: constrain 6: incorporate 7: orb 8: tiding 9: afflict 10: chide 11: hoarse 12: peril 13: rancor  
 14: enamor 15: rite 16: dexterity 17: bond 18: plague 19: mantle 20: amorous 21: carrion 22: sober 23: banish 24: beguile 25: consume 26: crave  
 27: predominant 28: perjury 29: garish 30: woe