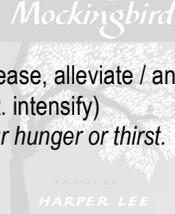


To Kill a Mockingbird Vocabulary



ASSUAGE (3)

v. to make an unpleasant feeling less intense (syn. relieve, ease, alleviate / ant. aggravate)

v. to satisfy an appetite or desire (syn. gratify, appease / ant. intensify)

You assuage someone's grief or sadness; you assuage your hunger or thirst.

IMPRUDENT (5)

adj. not showing care for the consequences of an action; rash (syn. misguided, reckless / ant. sensible)

It's not that you don't understand the consequences of your actions; it's that you don't really care and you're willing to take the risk.

related: imprudence (noun form), imprudently (adverb form)

VAPID (9)

adj. offering nothing that is stimulating or challenging (syn. insipid, uninspired, boring / ant. interesting, lively)

Vapid is not lifeless as in dead, but rather lifeless as in spiritless, as in not lively; vapid is basically unimaginative, dull, or tedious.

related: vapidly (noun form), vapidly (adverb form)

SOJOURN (24)

n. a temporary stay (syn. visit, vacation / ant. residence)

v. to stay somewhere temporarily (syn. stop / ant. remain)

Sojourn is like vacation and can be used as both a noun and verb like vacation can.

DISPENSATION (26) – two distinct definitions

n. exemption from a rule or usual requirement (syn. impunity, immunity, exception / ant. accountability, responsibility)

n. the act of distributing or supplying something (syn. allocation, allotment / ant. retention, collection)

Special dispensation means you get special treatment; you have a special exception to the rule.

Or, dispensation is the act of dispensing something, like the pharmacist carefully monitors the dispensation of the medications.

related: dispense (verb form)

ERRATIC (27)

adj. not even or regular in pattern; unpredictable (syn. inconsistent / ant. consistent)

Someone's behavior, speech, opinions, or movements might be erratic, meaning there's no consistency or pattern; erratic means that it's not normal; it's not consistent with what it usually is.

related: erratically (adverb form)

CONTENTIOUS (30)

adj. causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial (syn. disputable, heated, quarrelsome / ant. agreeable)

You are contentious if you're always arguing or fighting with others. If you always have to be right, if you always argue, if you always have to prove someone else wrong, you are contentious.

related: contentiously (adverb form), contentiousness (noun form)

ARBITRATE (41)

v. to reach an authoritative judgment or settlement (syn. adjudicate, mediate, conciliate / ant. agitate)

Usually an objective third party is involved.

Arbitrate is like mediate; someone steps in and tries to help solve the problem fairly for both sides.

related: arbitration (noun form)

ABERRATION (72)

n. an anomaly; something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected; a typically unwelcome change or departure from what is normal, usual, or expected (syn. anomaly, deviation, irregularity / ant. normality, regularity)

n. a typically unwelcome change or departure from someone's usual moral character or mental ability

Aberrations are atypical; it's completely the opposite of or totally outside of what is normal. Whereas erratic suggests that something's not right but things can get back to normal, aberration means it's completely wrong, completely abnormal with little chance of ever being right.

Frankenstein's monster was an aberration and an abomination.

APOPLECTIC (115)

adj. overcome with anger; extremely indignant (syn. enraged, furious, infuriated / ant. delighted, pleased)

Mr. Schwieters calls apoplectic "going nova."

related: apoplectically (adverb form)

UMBRAGE (117)

n. offense or annoyance (syn. annoyance, indignation, take offense, take exception, be insulted / ant. cheer, favor, pleasure)

You take umbrage to something you find offensive.

You can say "take umbrage" as a synonym to "take offense"; you take umbrage when you are offended by something.

RECTITUDE (118)

n. morally correct behavior or thinking (syn. righteousness, virtue, integrity / ant. indecency, immorality)

Rectitude is the very highest level of morality or goodness; Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Jr., or Mother Teresa are examples of those with true rectitude. We admire and respect people who possess true rectitude.

RECONNAISSANCE (120)

n. military spy operation to observe or locate an enemy or to figure out strategic or important features (syn. survey, investigation, inspection / ant. ---)

The military runs reconnaissance missions when it needs to gather information.

TIRADE (122)

n. a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation (syn. diatribe, rant, denunciation, condemnation / ant. compliment)

Note that "tirade" is a noun, not a verb. Usually we say someone "goes off on a tirade," meaning they start lecturing or ranting about something, but someone can't tirade someone or tirade about something. Teenagers would probably say their parents go off on a lot of tirades.

UNCOUTH (174)

adj. lacking good manners, refinement, or grace (syn. uncivilized, uncultured / ant. refined, sophisticated)

Uncouth is basically having bad manners.

related: uncouthly (adverb form), uncouthness (noun form)

ELUCIDATE (182)

v. to make something clear; to explain (syn. explain, illuminate, shed light on / ant. confuse)

Usually we say we elucidate something. To elucidate something means to explain something, to shed light on something.

related: elucidation (noun form), elucidatory (adjective form)

QUELL (197)

v. to put an end to something, typically by the use of force (syn. crush, curb, quash / ant. encourage, advance, cultivate, promote)

v. to subdue or silence someone (syn. suppress / ant. allow)

v. to suppress something, typically an unpleasant feeling (syn. calm, soothe, pacify, assuage / ant. encourage, intensify)

You quell someone or something; you put a stop to it or you suppress it.

HAUGHTY (199)

adj. arrogantly superior and disdainful (syn. conceited, snobbish / ant. humble)

Haughty is just like arrogant.

related: haughtily (adverb form), haughtiness (noun form)

BREVITY (266)

n. concise and to-the-point use of words in writing or speech (syn. conciseness, succinctness / ant. prolixity, verbosity, wordiness)

Brevity is the noun form of brief. If something is brief, then it has brevity. We use brevity to describe communications, like writing and speech.

related: brief (adjective form)

PURLAIN (289)

v. to steal (syn. thief, rob, pilfer, loot / ant. give, offer)

You purloin something; you steal it.