



Word List 2

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|----------------------|-------------|---|
| implore | <i>v.</i> | beg. |
| quibble | <i>n.</i> | minor objection or complaint. also <i>v.</i> |
| clamber | <i>v.</i> | climb by crawling. |
| acrid | <i>adj.</i> | sharp; bitterly pungent. |
| chameleon | <i>n.</i> | lizard that changes color in different situations. |
| ravenous | <i>adj.</i> | extremely hungry. |
| clench | <i>v.</i> | close tightly; grasp. |
| sarcasm | <i>n.</i> | scornful remarks; stinging rebuke. |
| replete | <i>adj.</i> | filled to the brim or to the point of being stuffed; abundantly supplied. |
| ascribe | <i>v.</i> | refer; attribute; assign. |
| psyche | <i>n.</i> | soul; mind. |
| grandiloquent | <i>adj.</i> | pompous; bombastic; using high-sounding language. |
| travail | <i>n.</i> | painful labor. |
| slander | <i>n.</i> | defamation; utterance of false and malicious statements. |
| cosmic | <i>adj.</i> | pertaining to the universe; vast. |
| calamity | <i>n.</i> | disaster; misery. |
| husband | <i>v.</i> | use sparingly; conserve; save. |
| premeditate | <i>v.</i> | plan in advance. |
| bucolic | <i>adj.</i> | rustic; pastoral. |
| gainsay | <i>v.</i> | deny. |
| pusillanimous | <i>adj.</i> | cowardly; fainthearted. |
| ambidextrous | <i>adj.</i> | capable of using either hand with equal ease. |
| expertise | <i>n.</i> | specialized knowledge; expert skill. |
| leery | <i>adj.</i> | suspicious; cautious. |
| callow | <i>adj.</i> | youthful; immature; inexperienced. |
| cardinal | <i>adj.</i> | chief. |
| vital | <i>adj.</i> | vibrant and lively; critical; living, breathing. |
| inane | <i>adj.</i> | silly; senseless. |
| urbane | <i>adj.</i> | suave; refined; elegant. |
| acknowledge | <i>v.</i> | recognize; admit. |
| ignoble | <i>adj.</i> | of lowly origin; unworthy. |
| pantomime | <i>n.</i> | acting without dialogue. |
| prattle | <i>v.</i> | babble. |
| inexorable | <i>adj.</i> | relentless; unyielding; implacable. |
| blurt | <i>v.</i> | utter impulsively. |
| jubilant | <i>n.</i> | rejoicing. |

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| penury | <i>n.</i> | severe poverty; stinginess. |
| insurmountable | <i>adj.</i> | overwhelming; unbeatable; insuperable. |
| censorious | <i>adj.</i> | critical. |
| impregnable | <i>adj.</i> | invulnerable. |
| acclaim | <i>v.</i> | applaud; announce with great approval. |
| concerted | <i>adj.</i> | mutually agreed on; done together. |
| alchemy | <i>n.</i> | medieval chemistry. |
| finale | <i>n.</i> | conclusion. |
| unmitigated | <i>adj.</i> | unrelieved or immoderate; absolute. |

Practices for Word List 2

Exercise 1: Fill in each blank with a word from the word box in the right form to make each of the sentences complete

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------|----------|---------|
| sarcasm | bucolic | acknowledge | vital | psyche |
| replete | quibble | ascribe | ravenous | slander |

- We should _____ that strategy planning is not equal to enterprise development.
- To be sure, gossip, conflict, _____, fraud, greed and bigotry are part of human sociality, and those parts of human behavior can be amplified, too.
- Kissinger felt that Rogers was quibbling, but the lawyer in Nixon supported the _____ of a fellow lawyer.
- "Don't you figure out that I might have had something to do with it?" said Soapy, not without _____, but friendly, as one greets good fortune.
- Some countries even try to rehabilitate their social security beneficiaries by encouraging them to indulge in small scale productive work which their physique and _____ can manage without difficulty.
- Furious at the treachery, Tsavong Lah later gathered a roomful of suspected traitors, and slaughtered them all by releasing _____ captive raccoons upon them.
- His films feature cute creatures fighting tooth and nail to preserve their communities, and _____ landscapes under threat of destruction.
- This book says that our world is in danger. It is _____ that we do something to save the Earth.
- He persuaded men not to _____ to the supernatural, in order to bring them into a constant dependence upon his own power.
- As some are afraid of the birds doing their business on top of the heads, they come _____ with umbrellas for protection, while others just stay inside their cars to take in the spectacle.

Exercise 2: Select the lettered word or set of words that best completes each of the sentences below

- Gergen thought the only way to _____ the pressure for an independent counsel was to produce the documents; right now the public's demand for disclosure was mounting.
A. alleviate B. soothe C. aggravate D. defuse E. sidestep
- To him the Reform Bill came as adire _____, and the repeal of the Corn Laws was an unpardonable _____; both were attributable to the dismal failure of a presumably functioning bipartisan institution.
A. calamity. . . atrocity B. breakthrough. . . setback C. frustration. . . ecstasy
D. trepidation. . . trial E. insolence. . . impudence
- In the bond market, investors bet that interest rates will remain low, inflation benign and borrower _____ rates at unusually low levels.
A. delinquent B. aversion C. foreclosure D. default E. bankrupt
- As a mature satirist, Zhang Tianyi is known for his novels' unique style, which is vivid, poignant, facetious and _____.
A. voracious B. acrid C. monotonous D. assiduous E. arable
- The abolishment of apartheid in South Africa was an _____ triumph of enlightenment and tolerance over ignorance, racism and prejudice; a new South Africa was born completely free of the vices of former colonialism.
A. unspeakable B. unmitigated C. insuperable D. insurmountable E. unscrupulous

6. We have found that a little _____ in these areas helps to prevent careless errors later on.
A. forbearance B. hindsight C. hesitation D. foresight E. brooding
7. Although those who practice _____ in medieval Europe and elsewhere in the world failed in their search for a way to turn base elements into precious metals such as gold, their work contributed to the growth of _____ as a discrete branch of science.
A. pseudoscience. . . science B. superstition. . . psychology C. alchemy. . . chemistry
D. physics. . . metallurgy E. trickery. . . sophistry
8. Each role player was able to speak from the heart of his own experience of overcoming apparently _____ barriers.
A. insurmountable B. irrelevant C. misleading
D. exorbitant E. rickety
9. Experience reporting by providers will help patients and their doctors find the providers with the _____ that meets their needs; the reports often reveal with a fair amount of accuracy the type of specialized skill a provider already has prior to engagement.
A. anecdote B. tools C. perspective D. expertise E. techniques
10. Wine is a _____, first a friend, then an enemy.
A. tyrant B. hedonist C. satirist D. turncoat E. anarchist
11. This man is _____ and refined, but gambling is the bane of his life.
A. rustic B. provincial C. naive D. coarse E. urbane
12. She is a particularly _____ woman; she pokes her nose in everyone's business no matter how much protest she gets for this kind of behavior.
A. obsequious B. disinterested C. sympathetic D. sycophantic E. meddlesome
13. British food firms are only likely to avoid a legal ban if they make a rapid and _____ attempt to drastically reduce trans fat levels or remove them altogether.
A. discordant B. concerted C. unparalleled D. divergent E. diminished
14. Statesmen who want to _____ onto their high horses should note that, in some cases, not talking can be a form of appeasement.
A. ascend B. catapult C. condescend D. clamber E. scale
15. The skyey and _____ Xiaotianchi is located on the Xiaotianchi Mountain, the northeast of Lushan. The lake, which never runs dry even after a long drought and never overflows after a long rain, is known for its heavenly beauty and clear water.
A. tranquil B. muddy C. pellucid D. agitated E. mystic

Exercise 3: Fill in each blank with a word from the word box in the right form to make each of the sentences complete

| | | | | |
|---------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| blurt | cardinal | inexorable | finale | leery |
| prattle | ambidextrous | husband | impregnable | acclaim |

1. The internationalization of higher education is an _____ outcome of the globalization of economy, science, technology, information, and so on.
2. No matter what happens, Captain Ahab never changes his mind, his _____ dominance, his inviolable dignity, and his anger at Moby – Dick.
3. You must repeat the same sentences over and over until you can just _____ them out naturally.
4. Occasionally a teacher will come across a child who displays _____ abilities when taught to write.
5. Newell saw what any Lakers fan saw of Bynum last season—strong beginning, horrific _____—with further detailed observations from his trained eye.
6. Few writers have appeared on the American literary scene to such sudden _____ as the Chinese immigrant writer Ha Jin.
7. Let's slow down our pace and _____ our energy as we have a long day's march to go.
8. A wise monk would speak what he has seen; his speech should be brief, free from ambiguity, clearly expressed, free from _____ and incapable of causing anxiety.
9. When risky choices are analyzed or comparisons made among individuals, the _____ properties of the utility function can be important.

10. Employers might be _____ of hiring candidates with a history of job-hopping; recruiting and training them can rack up a lot of expenses.

Answer Key

(Word list 2)

Exercise 1

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|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. acknowledge | 2. slander | 3. quibble | 4. sarcasm | 5. psyche |
| 6. ravenous | 7. bucolic | 8. vital | 9. ascribe | 10. replete |

Exercise 2

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 2. A | 3. D | 4. B | 5. B |
| 6. D | 7. C | 8. A | 9. D | 10. D |
| 11. E | 12. E | 13. B | 14. D | 15. C |

Exercise 3

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. inexorable | 2. impregnable | 3. blurt | 4. ambidextrous | 5. finale |
| 6. acclaim | 7. husband | 8. prattle | 9. cardinal | 10. leery |

String of Words Game-A Passage

1

The following passage offers an alternative account of the origin of a reptile's legendary ability to change its camouflage to fit the environment. It is meant to elicit a good laugh without any pretense of having an iota of scientific ground to support the narrative.

Deep in the Amazon jungle, a hungry chameleon clammers amongst the rainforest foliage in search of precious food. He clenches branches and twigs with his sharp claws ever so gingerly to avoid falling to the ground. In despair he implores God for grace. When God conjuges a gadfly from thin air, the chameleon gobbles up his prey ravenously. His hunger now assuaged, the chameleon forgets all about God's philanthropy and ascribes the procurement of his latest meal to his own good fortune plus unfailing travail. Seized by an inexorable rage at such an ignoble ingrate, God lets loose His vital energy and causes a cosmic calamity to befall the unworthy reptile. To survive the premeditated murder, the creature cleverly changes his color so that he submerges into the surrounding environment. Though thwarted in His murderous scheme, God nevertheless is amused at the chameleon's resourcefulness, husbands His royal displeasure, and acknowledges the reptile's right to camouflage himself for life or food ever after. (15 words from Word List 2)