Vocabulary List 2

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* All word definition citations are as follows: Wiktionary contributors, Wiktionary, The Free Dictionary, www.wiktionary.org, accessed February 23, 2017.

Abate Verb 9. "To moderate; to lessen in force, intensity, to subside." If the government abates your property tax, the government has reduced your property tax rate for a period of time.

Abort Verb 3. "To end prematurely; to stop in the preliminary stages; to turn back." The pilot had to abort the plane landing because the landing gear was not fully deployed.

Abridged Adjective "Cut or shortened, especially of a literary work." An abridged dictionary uses shorter definitions than the typical, unabridged dictionary.

Absolve Verb "To set free, release or discharge (from obligations, debts, responsibility etc.)." The defendant was absolved of all charges by the judge since the judge determined that the charges were baseless.

Abysmal Adjective 2. "(figuratively) Bottomless; extremely bad." It was an abysmal performance; they lost 63-0.

Acclaim Noun "An acclamation; a shout of applause." The actress receives high acclaim from the movie critics because she is a great actress.

Accost Verb "To approach and speak to boldly or aggressively, as with a demand or request." The salesman accosted me as I entered the store, so I left immediately because I didn’t like his aggressive sales approach.

Acrophobia Noun "Fear of heights." If you have a fear of heights, you have acrophobia.

Adamant Adjective "Firm; unshakeable; unyielding; determined." Jen was adamant that she saw a ghost; we couldn't convince her otherwise.

Adroit Adjective "Dexterous, deft or skillful" Sandy is adroit at solving math problems; she solves them very quickly.

Advocate Noun 2. "Anyone who argues the case of another." Adult children often have to be the advocate for their elderly parents, especially if their elderly parents have dementia.

Aesthetic Adjective "Concerned with beauty, artistic impact, or appearance." There are practical as well as aesthetic reasons for painting the iron bridge. If we don’t paint the bridge it will rust and it will not look good.

Affinity Noun "A natural attraction or feeling of kinship to a person or thing." I have an affinity for Corvettes; I like Corvettes.

Affluent Adjective 2. "Abounding in goods or riches; materially wealthy." A high-end jewelry salesman would be wise to focus on the affluent neighborhoods because wealthy people are more likely to buy expensive jewelry.

Aggregate Adjective "Formed by a collection of particulars into a whole mass or sum; collective; combined; added up." The wrestling team with the highest aggregate score wins the tournament.

Alacrity Noun "Eagerness; liveliness; enthusiasm." With great alacrity, Mary jumped up from the couch and ran out to greet her friend.

Allege Verb 4. "To make a claim as justification or proof; to make an assertion without proof." I allege that the accident was not my fault, and I am sticking to my claim.

Alleviate Verb "To make less severe, as a pain or difficulty." To alleviate the swelling in your knee, consider taking an inti-inflammatory drug such as Advil.

Appease Verb "To make quiet; to calm; to reduce to a state of peace; to dispel (anger or hatred)." The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Neville Chamberlain, tried to appease Adolph Hitler by signing the Munich Agreement of 1938.

Archaic Adjective "Of or characterized by antiquity; old-fashioned, quaint, antiquated. " A bow and arrow would be considered by most to be an archaic form of weapon for war in 2016.

Benefactor Noun "Somebody who gives one a gift. Usually refers to someone who gives money to a charity or another form of organization." Andrew Carnegie gave a lot of money to charity, making him a benefactor for many charities.

Benevolent Adjective "Having a disposition to do good." The benevolent man took food to his ailing neighbor. This was a kind thing to do.

Bilk Verb 2. "To do someone out of their due; to deceive or defraud, to cheat (someone)." Joe was bilked out of his life savings by the conman.

Capitulate Verb 3. "To surrender; to end all resistance, to give up; to go along with or comply." Hitler said he would never capitulate, thus the Allies knew they had to defeat Germany or be defeated.

Capricious Adjective "Impulsive and unpredictable; determined by chance, impulse, or whim." I have no idea how my capricious boss will react when I tell him I need off next Tuesday. He might agree with a smile or he may start yelling at me.

Charisma Noun "Personal charm or magnetism" A leader who has charisma has the ability to persuade and arouse admiration, and is often referred to as charismatic.

Denounce Verb "To criticize or speak out against (someone or something); to point out as deserving of reprehension, etc." It is easy to denounce the actions of Adolph Hitler because he did so many terrible things that deserve criticism.

Desecrate Verb "To profane or violate the sacredness or sanctity of something." Desecrating a cemetery by writing graffiti on tomb stones is an act that most people abhor.

Despondent Adjective "In low spirits from loss of hope or courage." Bill was despondent after finding out that he had inoperable lung cancer.

Diligent Adjective "Performing with intense concentration, focus, responsible regard." A diligent search is an intense search. A diligent employee is a hardworking, dependable employee.

Exacerbate Verb "To make worse (a problem, bad situation, negative feeling, etc.); aggravate. If you want to exacerbate my headache, make as much noise as you can.

Expedite Verb "To accelerate the progress of." The state charges an extra $15 to expedite the processing of a passport, shortening the wait time from six weeks down to one week.

Fortuitous Adjective "Happening by chance; coincidental or accidental." Running into my college roommate by chance while visiting a faraway place was a fortuitous meeting.

Grave Adjective 4. "Serious, in a negative sense; important, formidable." A grave illness is a very serious illness.

Hackneyed Adjective "Repeated too often." A hackneyed phrase is an overused phrase and is often called a cliché.

Heed Verb "To mind; to regard with care; to take notice of." Heed your mother's advice to never drink and drive.

Hone Verb 3. "To refine or master (a skill)." To hone your skills, remember that practice makes perfect.

Impetus Noun "Something that impels, a stimulating factor. " The Treaty of Versailles was not the sole impetus of World War II, but it was probably the original cause.

Initiative Noun 3. "The ability to act first or on one's own." If you show initiative at work, you will likely get a promotion because bosses like employees that show an ability to act first or on one's own.

Insufferable Adjective "Not sufferable; very difficult or impossible to endure." Insufferable pain is commonly associated with terminal cancer.

Languish Verb "To lose strength and become weak; to be in a state of weakness or sickness." The cancer patient languished in pain. The innocent man languished in jail.

Laud Verb "To praise, to glorify " The television anchor lauded the actions of the new President as brilliant.

Lavish Adjective "Superabundant; excessive." Some celebrities are known for living lavish lifestyles.

Lax Adjective "Lenient and allowing for deviation; not strict." Lax rules are lenient rules.

Legion Noun "A large number of people; a multitude." The band was very popular and had legions of fans.

Levity Noun "Lightness of manner or speech, frivolity; lack of appropriate seriousness; inclination to make a joke of serious matters." Speeches often begin with a joke to bring some levity to the occasion, before moving on to more serious matters.

Libel Noun "A written or pictorial statement which unjustly seeks to damage someone's reputation." If a newspaper makes false accusations that damage your reputation, the newspaper has committed libel.

Lofty Adjective 2. "Idealistic, implying over-optimism" My friend has very lofty goals; she thinks she will retire by age 40.

Longing Noun "An earnest and deep, not greatly passionate, but rather melancholic desire." Longing to find their biological parents is common for adopted children.

Magnate Noun "Powerful industrialist; captain of industry." Andrew Carnegie was a steel magnate, one of the most powerful industrialists of his time.

Melancholy Adjective "Affected with great sadness or depression." Weeks after Jan's father passed away, Jan still had a melancholy look on her face.

Nuance Noun "A minor distinction." I studied the nuances of my wife's facial expressions to determine if she really liked the gift.

Quintessential Adjective "Of the nature of the most perfect embodiment of something; ultimate." Jen is the quintessential employee, she shows up early, stays late, and works diligently.

Recluse Noun "A person who lives in self-imposed isolation or seclusion from the world." Howard became a recluse later in life, rarely leaving the house and refusing visitors.

Relevant Adjective "Directly related, connected, or pertinent to a topic." The judge only wants to hear information that is relevant to the case; only information that is directly related should be put forward.

Reproach Noun "A mild rebuke, or an implied criticism." If Denise has the highest degree of integrity, some might say Denise's integrity is beyond reproach.

Resolute Adjective "Firm, unyielding, determined." She was resolute in her decision to leave the party before 9 p.m. She left at 8:30 p.m.

Reticent Adjective "Keeping one's thoughts and opinions to oneself; reserved or restrained." Jill is reticent to talk about her past; she doesn’t talk about her past.

Revered Adjective "Respected or given reverence" Babe Ruth is one of the most revered sports figures in American history.

Rhetorical Adjective "Part of or similar to rhetoric, which is the use of language as a means to persuade." If someone asks you a rhetorical question, they don’t expect an answer, rather they are attempting to make a point or persuade you.

Sanction Verb 2. "To give official authorization or approval to; to countenance." 3. "To penalize (a State etc.) with sanctions." The Maryland Athletic Commission sanctions boxing matches in the state. The United Nations has sanctioned Iran with penalties for various reasons related to nuclear capabilities.

Savant Noun "A person of learning, especially one who is versed in literature or science." A mathematics genius would typically be called a savant. A mathematics genius who has a mental disability would typically be called an idiot savant.

Self-deprecating Adjective "Expressing disapproval or being critical of oneself, especially modestly or humorously so." The comedian was self-deprecating; much of his performance involved belittling himself.

Sensationalize Verb "To glorify or inflate the importance of a piece of news." The media often sensationalizes news stories with the intent to create more interest and thus sell more papers and ads.

Sequester Verb "To separate from all external influence; to seclude; to withdraw." The jury was sequestered by the judge, thus the jury had no contact with the outside world.

Serene Adjective "Peaceful, calm, unruffled. " The slow moving brook running through the pasture made for a serene scene.

Slanderous Adjective "(of something said) Both untrue and harmful to a reputation." If you make slanderous comments about someone, they might sue you for ruining their reputation.

Solace Noun "Comfort or consolation in a time of loneliness or distress." If you lose your job, take solace in the fact that you are a hard worker and will likely find another job quite soon.

Subside Verb "To fall into a state of quiet; to cease to rage; to be calmed; to settle down; to become tranquil." The rain storm subsided just enough for us to make our way to our car without being completely drenched.

Succinct Adjective "Brief and to the point." If your boss is in a hurry, make sure your question is succinct.

Suffrage Noun "The right or chance to vote, express an opinion, or participate in a decision." The fight for women's suffrage was the fight for the right of women to vote.

Supercilious Adjective "Arrogantly superior; showing contemptuous indifference; haughty." I had a classmate in high school that was supercilious; she acted like she was better than everyone else.

Tedious Adjective "Boring, monotonous, time consuming, wearisome." Photocopying every single page of a 1000 page book would be a tedious job. The tedium won't kill you, but it might seem like it will.

Tenacious Adjective 2. "Unwilling to yield or give up; dogged." The Chicago Bears' tenacious defense led the Bears to a Superbowl victory. The defense was unwilling to give up even when they were ahead by 30 points.

Tentative Adjective 2. "Uncertain; subject to future change." We have tentative plans, thus the plans are subject to change.

Traverse Verb "To travel across, often under difficult conditions." To traverse the steep mountain, you will need a lot of determination.

Trepidation Noun "A fearful state; a state of hesitation or concern." The child entered the haunted house with great trepidation.

Trivial Adjective "Ignorable; of little significance or value." Try to ask important questions, not trivial questions.

Tumult Noun "Confused, agitated noise as made by a crowd. " Tumult erupted in the courtroom after the verdict was read, freeing the accused on a technicality.

Ubiquitous Adjective "Being everywhere at once: omnipresent." If you believe God is ubiquitous, you believe he is everywhere at once.

Unequivocal Adjective "Unambiguous; without equivocation or ambiguity; singularly clear, unmistakable, or unquestionable" If you state that you are unequivocally innocent, you are saying that there is no question that you are innocent.

Unfettered Adjective 2. "Not restricted." When performing an audit, the Internal Revenue Service will want unfettered access to your financial records.

Uniform Adjective 2. "Consistent; conforming to one standard." The Rockettes are known for having uniform height; all dancers are about 5'10".

Unprecedented Adjective "Never before seen or done, without precedent." The 100 game win streak was unprecedented; it had never happened before.

Unscathed Adjective "Not harmed or damaged in any way; untouched." I survived the car accident unscathed; amazingly, I was unharmed.

Unwitting Adjective 1. "Unaware or uninformed; oblivious" 2. "Unintentional " If you are the unwitting subject of an experiment, you don't know you are part of the experiment.

Vacillate Verb "To swing indecisively from one course of action or opinion to another." When ordering dinner, I often vacillate between hamburgers and pizza; I can't make up my mind.

Vagrant Noun "A person without a home; a wanderer." I saw a vagrant panhandling on the corner of the street.

Vehemently Adverb "In a vehement manner; expressing with a strong or forceful attitude. " If you were accused of murder and did not do it, you would vehemently deny that you committed the murder.

Veracity Noun "The quality of speaking or stating the truth; truthfulness." If you doubt the veracity of my statement, you doubt the truthfulness of my statement.

Verbose Adjective "Abounding in words, containing more words than necessary; long-winded." If someone says you are verbose, they are telling you that you are long-winded and use too many words to get your point across.

Vibrant Adjective "Pulsing with energy or activity." New York City is a very vibrant city; there is always something to do in “The City That Never Sleeps.”

Vindicate Verb "To clear from an accusation, suspicion or criticism." Jill was vindicated by the jury; the jury found her innocent of all charges.

Virtuoso Noun "A person (especially a musician) with masterly ability, technique, or personal style." Mozart was a virtuoso as a pianist; he was a master of his craft.

Vital Adjective 6. "Very important." It is vital that you pay attention when I give you the directions, or you might get lost.

Vivacious Adjective "Lively and animated; full of life and energy." Jill's vivacious personality makes her a great salesperson; she is very energetic.

Volition Noun 1. "A conscious choice or decision." 2. "The mental power or ability of choosing; the will." Did your mother make you go to the library or did you go to the library on your own volition?

Waning Adjective "Becoming weaker or smaller." In the waning moments of the football game, the receiver scored the winning touchdown with no time for the opposing team to respond.

Willful Adjective "1. "Intentional." 2. "Stubborn." Willful disregard for the law is intentional disregard for the law. A willful child is a stubborn child.

Yearn Verb "To long, have a strong desire (for something)." I yearn to see my long lost brother; I want to see him as soon as possible.