

Vocabulary Set 3

Squalid

(adj) extremely dirty and unpleasant; foul and run-down; morally degraded
syn: filthy, poor, neglected, corrupt

No matter how hard I work to clean the apartment, once I leave the place unattended to my roommate, the living room will quickly turn squalid once again.

Deign

(v) do something that one considers to be below one's dignity
syn: condescend, descend, reluctantly agree

The king of the land never deigned to listen to requests from the peasants.

Minutiae

(n) a small or trivial detail
syn: details, finer points, trivia, minor

Sometimes my law school exams are very difficult, especially when the questions are about the minutiae of when and where each law was made.

Reprobate

(n) a depraved, vicious, or unprincipled person, scoundrel; (adj) wicked, corrupt, or unprincipled; (v) to disapprove of, condemn
syn: rogue, rascal, scoundrel; unprincipled, immoral, wicked

In front of the camera, the actor was a lovable man; however, offstage he was a reprobate, and anyone who knew him wanted nothing to do with his unprincipled ways.

Salubrious

(adj) healthy

syn: wholesome; healthful; salutary

The warm, positive was salubrious, helping me forget about my chronic pain.

Obdurate

(adj) stubborn; unyielding

syn: obstinate, intransigent, inflexible

He was obdurate in his opinion, refusing to even hear what the other side had to say.

Comeliness

(n) the quality of being good looking and attractive; loveliness; pleasing to the senses

syn: properness, decency, attractiveness

Our neighbor invited us into his home and we were surprised by the comeliness of his spacious and comfortable living room.

Foible

(n) a weak point, failing, minor flaw

syn: shortcoming, imperfection, blemish, fault

In order for a relationship to be successful, both partners must tolerate each other's little foibles.

Fallible

(adj) capable of being wrong, mistaken, or inaccurate, likely to fail or make mistakes

syn: error-prone, errant

When teaching a new trainee you must be patient since they are likely fallible, or likely to make many mistakes, when first learning all the rules.

Gall

(n) a feeling of bitter anger; bold, impudent behavior; (v) irritate or vex

syn: bitterness, resentment, impertinence

You have gall if you're able to steal from an unaware grandpa.
It galls me to see someone being bullied.

Nostrum

(n) an alleged cure-all; a remedy or scheme of questionable effectiveness; patent medicine whose efficacy is questionable

syn: panacea, cure-all, wonder drug, quack remedy

Though you try many medicines that claim to cure your cold, none of them work. They turn out to be nostrums, or ineffective drugs.

Eschew

(v) to avoid, shun, keep away from

syn: abstain from, refrain from, give up, forgo

I eschew the nightlife of the city and prefer to stay home on Friday nights.

Stolid

(adj) not easily moved mentally or emotionally; showing little emotion or animation

syn: calm, impassive, dull

The hurricane may have destroyed his property, but it did not disturb Jake's stolid composure; he remained calm even through all the adversity.

Soporific

(adj) tending to cause sleep or induce drowsiness; (n.) something that induces sleep

syn: sedative, calmative, somnolent

The music in the opening scene of the movie had a soporific effect and once the audience applauded at the finale, I realized I slept through all of it!

Stanch

(v) to stop the flow of

syn: impede, block, hinder

Beavers create dams that stanch the flow of rivers.

Munificent

(adj) very generous

syn: bountiful, openhanded, magnanimous, philanthropic

My grandmother was munificent, always opening her home to anyone who needed shelter.

Tamp

(v) press down tightly

syn: stuff, compress, pack

I watched the squirrel tamp the soil after burying his acorn.

Taunt

(v) mock; harass with persistent criticism; (n) an insulting or mocking remark

syn: jeer, insult, deride, ridicule

Motivated by being taunted his whole childhood for his weight, Tim dedicated most of his adult life to exercise and healthy nutrition.