

## Vocabulary List #11

1. **allude** (v) to refer to casually or indirectly  
synonym: suggest, insinuate, intimate
2. **conclusive** (adj) serving to settle an issue; final  
synonym: decisive, convincing, definitive  
antonym: unsettled; provisional; indefinite
3. **disreputable** (adj) not respectable; not esteemed  
synonym: disgraceful, discreditable, shady  
antonym: honest, aboveboard, respectable
4. **exemplary** (adj) worthy of imitation, commendable,  
synonym: praiseworthy, meritorious, sterling  
antonym: infamous, notorious, scandalous
5. **fathom** (v) to understand, get to the bottom of  
(n) a measure of depth in water  
synonym: (v) grasp, figure out, plumb
6. **guile** (n) treacherous cunning, deceit  
synonym: trickery, chicanery  
antonym: candor, artlessness, naiveté
7. **misconstrue** (v) to interpret wrongly, mistake the meaning  
synonym: misjudge, misinterpret
8. **placate** (v) to appease, soothe, pacify  
synonym: satisfy, mollify, allay, conciliate  
antonym: vex, irk, provoke, exasperate, annoy
9. **placid** (adj) calm, peaceful  
synonym: undisturbed, tranquil, quiet, serene  
antonym: stormy, agitated, turbulent, tempestuous
10. **pretext** (n) a false reason, deceptive excuse  
synonym: pretense, cover story, rationale, evasion

11. **stark** (adj) harsh, unrelieved, desolate  
synonym: sheer, downright, grim, bleak  
antonym: bright, cheerful, embellished, ornate
12. **superficial**: (adj) on or near the surface; concerned with or understanding only what is on the surface, shallow  
synonym: skin-deep, insubstantial, cursory, slapdash  
antonym: deep, profound, thorough, exhaustive

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### Choosing the Right Word - Select the boldface word that best completes each sentence.

1. Tom Sawyer used (**guile, pretext**) to get the other boys to do his work by convincing them that whitewashing a fence was fun.
2. Do not be taken in by any (**conclusive, superficial**) resemblances between their half-baked ideas and the sensible program we proposed.
3. Mother was as upset as any of us, but she managed to conceal her fears so that she looked positively (**placid, disreputable**).
4. If the British government had made a sincere effort to (**placate, misconstrue**) the colonists, would the American Revolution have occurred?
5. When I said you were flying too close to the sun, I was (**placating, alluding**) to the myth about Daedalus & Icarus.
6. Modern scientists use all kinds of high-tech gadgetry to (**fathom, allude**) the depths of the ocean.
7. The spectacular remains of that brilliant period stand in (**stark, disreputable**) contrast to the poverty of archaeological finds from previous eras.
8. Although most of us cannot hope to match Mother Teresa's pure idealism, we may regard her noble life as inspiring and (**exemplary, superficial**).

9. In times of crisis, the utmost care must be taken to prevent ordinary military maneuvers from being (**placated, misconstrued**) as hostile acts.

10. Though all the lights were on, the restaurant refused to serve us, using the (**pretext, fathom**) that it was closed for the evening.

11. It is all very well for science fiction writers to speculate, but is there (**conclusive, exemplary**) evidence that UFOs exist?

12. Is it any wonder that your parents are worried, knowing that you are associating with such a (**placid, disreputable**) group of people?

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**Completing the Sentence - Choose the word that best completes each sentence by writing it in the space provided.**

1. Although the cut on my arm was bleeding quite heavily, it proved to be quite \_\_\_\_\_ and required only a tight bandage.

2. Their idea of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ student is someone so perfect in so many ways that he or she would be too good to exist.

3. In 1722, Daniel Defoe published his famous account of the \_\_\_\_\_ history of Moll Flanders.

4. The tapes of the conversations were regarded as \_\_\_\_\_ proof that the official had been aware of the crime.

5. Legally a defendant is innocent until proven guilty, so do not \_\_\_\_\_ a refusal to testify as an admission of guilt.

6. When we consider the \_\_\_\_\_ misery of the last years of his life, we must conclude that he paid in full for all his offenses.

7. Phyllis was too polite to mention John's crude behavior at the party,

but she certainly \_\_\_\_\_ to it when she spoke of "unnecessary unpleasantness."

8. His skillful use of flattery and double-talk to persuade us to agree to his scheme as a typical example of his \_\_\_\_\_.

9. By disregarding the flood of excuses, explanations, and justifications, we were able to \_\_\_\_\_ the true reasons for her actions.

10. Neither misfortunes nor happy events seem to have the slightest effect on my friend's \_\_\_\_\_ disposition.

11. On the \_\_\_\_\_ of delivering a package, the burglar sought to gain entrance to the house.

12. It is quite useless to try to \_\_\_\_\_ dissatisfied customers who actually enjoy being angry and making complaints.

**Synonyms Choose the word from this unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the boldface word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

1. failed to **comprehend** the severity of the situation  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. deliberately **mistook** my words \_\_\_\_\_

3. **hinted at** the existence of embarrassing secrets  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. could find no plausible **justification** to stay  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. his **unperturbed** and reassuring manner  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. an advantage gained by **duplicity**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Original Sentences:** Select five words from the unit and compose an original sentence with each one. Be sure the context you provide indicates your complete understanding of the word.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.