

Vocabulary Unit 1



adulterate (v)

- to corrupt, make worse by the addition of something of lesser value



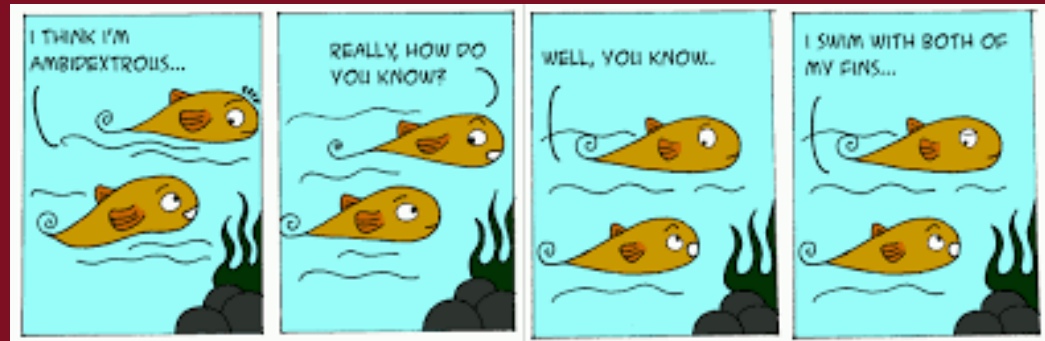
Example Sentences

It makes me sad when people *adulterate* perfectly good brownies by adding nuts.

In trying to squeeze three films out of *The Hobbit*, Peter Jackson *adulterated* it when he over developed characters like Azog the Defiler to create new storylines.

ambidextrous (adj)

- able to use both hands equally well
- very skillful
- deceitful
- hypocritical



Example Sentences

Some baseball pitchers can pitch equally well with both arms, meaning they are *ambidextrous* and in high demand.

Even though fish can't be truly *ambidextrous* without hands or arms, the fish in this cartoon thinks he is because he swims using both fins.

augment (v)

- to make larger, increase



Example Sentence

For the first decade or so in the iPhone's history, Apple made them smaller each year. Now, though, the trend is to augment the size of each new generation, making the 6+ too large to fit in a pocket! Next thing you know, we'll have this...

iPhone 10

The tallest iPhone yet.



bereft (adj)

- deprived of
- made unhappy through a loss

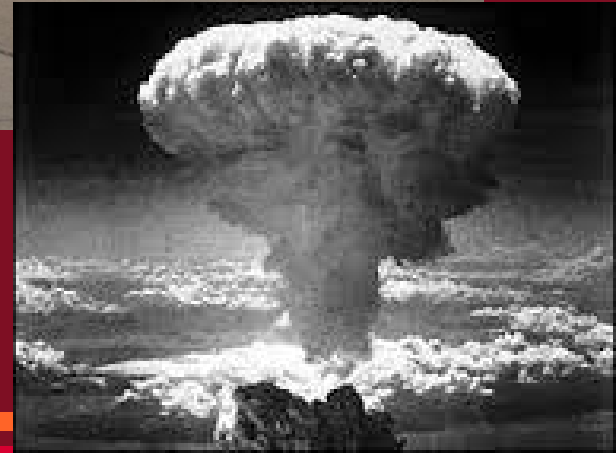


Example Sentence

Everyone feels *bereft* at some point in their life, whether it's the result of saying goodbye to a military parent going overseas, grieving the death of a loved one, or simply experiencing sadness when a beloved book or movie series ends. The good news is that this feeling of sadness won't last forever.

deploy (v)

- to position or arrange
- to utilize
- to form up

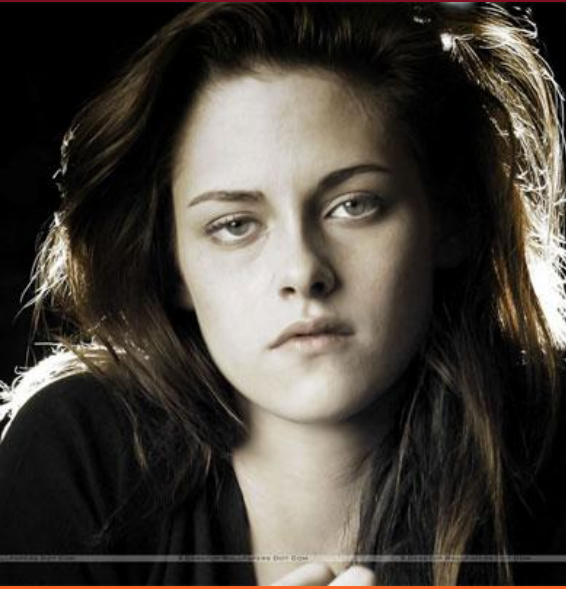


Example Sentences

In order to protect our nation, our military *deploys*, or positions, our soldiers in strategic places around the world. In 1945, President Harry S Truman *deployed*, or utilized, two atomic bombs against Japan to bring about their surrender.

dour (adj)

- stern, unyielding, gloomy, ill-humored



Example Sentences

What do Kristen Stewart, Queen Elizabeth and Grumpy Cat all have in common? They tend to wear *dour* expressions in photographs, making them seem like stern, gloomy, ill-humored individuals who might not be much fun to hang out with on the weekends.

fortitude (n)

- courage in facing difficulties



Example Sentences

Noah Galloway, an Alabama soldier from Birmingham who lost both his left arm and left leg during the Iraq War, showed great **fortitude** by competing on *Dancing with the Stars*. In spite of the difficulties, he displayed courage each and every week.

gape (v)

- to stare at with open mouth
- to open the mouth wide
- to open wide



Example Sentences

The very idea of wide-open holes gaping in the earth scares me to death.

It is usually considered impolite to gape at other people. If you must stare, at least do it with your mouth closed!

Many a nightmare ends with the shark's jaws gaping wide open to eat me.

gibe

- (v) to utter taunting words



- (n) an expression of scorn

Example Sentences

Football players ***gibe*** at opposing players in order to get them mentally off balance during the game.

The French Taunter, my favorite character in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, unleashes a tirade of classic ***gibes***, insulting King Arthur and his “silly English k-nights.”

guise (n) • an external appearance, cover or mask



Example Sentence

The guys on *The Big Bang Theory* relish any opportunity to wear **guises** of all sorts. Their costumes and masks have included Renaissance clothing, *Star Trek* costumes, DC Comics heroes, the Doppler effect, *Lord of the Rings* and many more.

insidious (adj)

- intended to deceive or trap
- sly, treacherous
- describes “the bad guy”



Example Sentence

The Venus Flytrap, lovely to look at, is actually an *insidious* death trap for flies, and I'm OK with that. :)

Sometimes villains, *insidious* though they may be, are the most complex, interesting characters, in spite of their evil deeds.

intimation (n)

- a hint

Example: “Though I was supposed to find the gift on my own, my mother kept looking at the refrigerator, which I took as an intimation that it was in there.”

- an indirect suggestion

Example: “He didn’t come right out and say he wanted steak for dinner, but I caught his intimation when he pointed out every steakhouse we passed.”

opulent (adj)

- wealthy, luxurious, ample, grandiose



Example Sentence

While many people aspire to own opulent things like grand mansions, expensive cars and fancy yachts, I'm a simple girl who just wants to live in a hobbit hole and learn to perform magic.

pliable (adj)

- easily bent, flexible
- easily influenced



**"THE CROWD MAY BE INFLUENCED EASILY,
LARGELY BECAUSE IT IS A CROWD."**

IVOR NOVELLO

 Lifehack Quotes

Example Sentences

In order to do yoga, you must be extremely *pliable*, since most of the positions require bending, twisting and stretching of the body.

Large groups of people tend to be quite *pliable*; strong emotions multiply in a group, causing the people to be more easily influenced by what they hear.

reiterate (v)

- to say again, repeat



Example Sentence

In this LOTR meme, Legolas the elf is apparently tired of hearing the same thing *reiterated* over and over again. I'll bet his mother has told him over and over not to play with arrows in the house....

The teacher in *Ferris Beuller's Day Off* can't get anyone to answer his question, so he *reiterates* his invitation to do so. Anyone? Anyone? Anyone?

stolid (adj)

- not easily moved mentally or emotionally
- dull, unresponsive



KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP

IDIOMLAND.COM

Meaning

**DON'T SHOW YOUR FEELINGS
WHEN YOU ARE UPSET**

HE TRIED TO **KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP**
WHILE WATCHING TITANIC,
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO CRY
IN FRONT OF HIS FRIENDS

Example Sentences

The most **stolid** character in television history has to be Spock, of *Star Trek* fame. As a half-human, half-Vulcan being, he famously rejects all human emotions and lives strictly by logic, which makes him emotionally immoveable.

The English idiom “keep a stiff upper lip” means to remain **stolid** in the face of strong emotions, never letting on how you feel.

tentative (adj)

- experimental
in nature
- uncertain,
hesitant



Example Sentence

After hiding under the couch for two hours, the new kitten finally emerged and took a few *tentative*, uncertain steps out into the open to check out his new home.

unkempt (adj)

- not combed
- untidy
- not properly maintained
- unpolished, rude



Example Sentences

You should never come to school with bed head, unless you happen to sing in a boy band. On everyone else, it looks sloppy and *unkempt*.

Having an *unkempt* room or yard might lead other people to believe you are lazy or a slob, when actually you are just organizationally challenged.

verbatim (adj, adv)

- word for word
- exactly as written or spoken

Examples:

“Be extremely cautious what you say around children, as they will give a **verbatim** performance of it at the worst possible times!”

“I’ve watched *Lord of the Rings* so many times that I can quote many of the scenes **verbatim**.”

warily (adv)

- cautiously
- with great care



Example Sentences

Meerkats never leave their homes without warily surveying the area for any sign of predators. Without this cautious behavior, few would survive.

When Scooby-Doo and the gang pursue a monster, they proceed warily and carefully to avoid a surprise encounter that will make Shaggy say, “Zoinks!” and pass out.

THE END