

## Vocabulary List #11

1. **Brevity** (n.) shortness

The speech was notable more for its \_\_\_\_\_ than for its clarity.

**Synonyms:** conciseness, terseness, pithiness

**Antonyms:** verbosity, long-windedness, prolixity

2. **Comport** (v.) to conduct or bear oneself, behave; to be in agreement

As the students left the building, the principal reminded them to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves as emissaries of the school.

**Synonyms:** deport oneself, agree, concur

3. **Concise** (adj.) expressing much in a few words

As a rule of thumb, editors and readers appreciate writing that is \_\_\_\_\_ and forceful.

**Synonyms:** brief, succinct, terse, pithy, to the point

**Antonyms:** wordy, verbose, long-winded, prolix

4. **Demure** (adj.) sober or serious in manner, modest

Despite her \_\_\_\_\_ appearance, she is a competitive skateboarder.

**Synonyms:** shy, diffident, sedate, seemly, decorous

**Antonyms:** bold, forward, assertive, immodest

5. **Depreciation** (n.) a lessening in value; a belittling

The accountant calculated the \_\_\_\_\_ of the car over a period of five years.

**Synonyms:** cheapening, lowering, devaluation

**Antonyms:** increase, appreciation, enhancement

6. **Deteriorate** (v.) to lower in quality or value; to wear away

It is painful for anyone, particularly a doctor, to watch someone's health \_\_\_\_\_.

**Synonyms:** worsen, decline, degenerate, debase

**Antonyms:** improve, fix up, enhance

7. **Divulge** (v.) to tell, reveal; to make public

On some occasions, scrupulous reporters cannot \_\_\_\_\_ their sources of information.

**Synonyms:** disclose, impart, spill the beans, "leak"

**Antonyms:** hide, conceal, cover up, secrete, keep under wraps

8. **Enlightened** (adj.) free from ignorance and false ideas; possessing sound understanding

An \_\_\_\_\_ society is ruled by knowledge and reason rather than superstition and prejudice.

**Synonyms:** knowing, informed, aware, cultivated

**Antonyms:** ignorant, unaware, untaught, benighted

9. **Forestall** (v.) to prevent by acting first

Sometimes it is possible to \_\_\_\_\_ a cold by taking Vitamin C.

**Synonyms:** hinder, thwart, preclude, ward off

**Antonyms:** welcome, accept, allow, submit, abide by

10. **Garble** (v.) to distort in such a way as to make unintelligible

If you've played "telephone", you know how easy it is to inadvertently \_\_\_\_\_ a message.

**Synonyms:** jumble, scramble, confuse, misrepresent

**Antonyms:** clarify, elucidate, articulate

11. **Proponent** (n.) one who puts forward a proposal; one who supports a cause or belief

Lucretia Coffin Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were among the first \_\_\_\_\_ of women's suffrage in the United States.

**Synonyms:** supporter, advocate, exponent

**Antonyms:** opponent, critic, foe, adversary

12. **Quaver** (v.) to shake, tremble, to trill

My voice \_\_\_\_\_ whenever I try to reach a high note.

**Synonyms:** quiver, vibrate, shiver, quake, palpitate

13. **Recoil** (v.) to spring back, shrink; (n.) the act of springing back

In the Speckled Band, sleuth Sherlock Holmes points out that "violence does, in truth, \_\_\_\_\_ upon the violent."

**Synonyms:** (v.) flinch; (n.) kickback

**Antonyms:** (v.) advance, proceed, gain ground

14. **Recoup** (v.) to make up for, regain

I plan to \_\_\_\_\_ my family's lost fortune by working hard, earning extra money, and investing wisely.

**Synonyms:** recover, retrieve

**Antonyms:** lose, default, forfeit, kiss goodbye

15. **Reek** (n.) an unpleasant smell; (v.) to give off unpleasant smells; to give a strong impression

The unmistakable \_\_\_\_\_ of spoiled food greeted us as we entered the long-abandoned cabin.

**Synonyms:** (n.) stench; (v.) stink, smell

**Antonyms:** (n.) fragrance, perfume, bouquet

16. **Relentless** (adj.) unyielding, harsh, without pity

The novel Les Misérables recounts ex-convict Jean Valjean's lifelong flight from a \_\_\_\_\_ police inspector.

**Synonyms:** stern, merciless, persistent, unremitting

**Antonyms:** merciful, accommodating, indulgent

17. **Rivulet** (n.) a small stream

While we could hear the running water, dense vegetation hid the \_\_\_\_\_ from view.

**Synonyms:** brook, creek, rill

18. **Squander** (v.) to spend foolishly, waste

I think that it is criminal to \_\_\_\_\_ our natural resources.

**Synonyms:** misspend, dissipate

**Antonyms:** save, economize, hoard, squirrel away

19. **Staccato** (adj.) detached or disconnected in sound or style

We strain to listen, and we heard \_\_\_\_\_ hoofbeats striking the pavement.

**Synonyms:** abrupt, disjointed

**Antonyms:** continuous, flowing, unbroken

20. **Statute** (n.) a law

The student body I governed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the university.

**Synonyms:** rule, ordinance, enactment