

The Kite Runner
by Khaled Hosseini
Vocabulary Study



Sharon Serrago, Inc.

972.234.4040 1.877.610.4040

850 N. Dorothy Dr., Suite 502
Richardson, TX 75081

www.sharonserrago.com
sharon@serrago.com

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini



These vocabulary words which appear in the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini have also appeared on past SAT and PSAT tests. This list presents the words in the order they appear in the novel. Definitions of these words, along with tests over each set, are on the following pages. Tests will cover words in order of appearance in the groupings listed below. Answers appear on the last page.

Test 1 Chap. 1-3	Test 2 Chap. 4-7	Test 3 Chap. 8-12	Test 4 Chap. 13-17	Test 5 Chap 18-21	Test 6 Chap. 22-25
aloof	austere	amiable	affable	animosity	ascertain
appendage	bellowed	arrogant	alluding	arduous	epiphany
atrophy	buoyed	bludgeoned	ambivalent	arid	foreboding
disdain	contrite	burly	averting	benevolence	impunity
garrulous	feigned	chasm	daunting	cursorly	obligatory
impish	gravely	droned	exuded	destitute	profusely
infidelity	imbecile	furrowed	lineage	emaciated	prudence
jostled	imminent	furtive	melancholic	empathy	remorse
martyr	impeccable	harried	meticulous	oblivion	replete
notorious	morose	interminable	nonchalantly	protruding	rivulets
oscillating	nemesis	kindle	pragmatic	ruminate	serpentine
quell	nuance	palliative	presumptuous	stupefied	surreal
unscrupulous	subtle	periphery	rotund	surly	tactless
shard	summoned	portly	tranquil	undulating	terse
veracity	taut	precipitous	wary		
	trepidation	pungent			
	vehemently	queries			
	viable	reticence			
		rueful			
		snippet			

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



These vocabulary words which appear in the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini are listed here in alphabetical order. Definitions of these words, also in alphabetical order, appear at the end of these study materials.

affable	droned	morose	rueful
alluding	emaciated	nemesis	ruminates
aloof	empathy	nonchalantly	serpentine
ambivalent	epiphany	notorious	shard
amiable	exuded	nuance	snippet
animosity	feigned	obligatory	stupefied
appendage	foreboding	oblivion	subtle
arduous	furrowed	oscillating	summoned
arid	furtive	palliative	surly
arrogant	garrulous	periphery	surreal
ascertain	gravely	portly	tactless
atrophy	harried	pragmatic	taut
austere	imbecile	precipitous	terse
averting	imminent	presumptuous	tranquil
bellowed	impeccable	profusely	trepidation
benevolence	impish	protruding	undulating
bludgeoned	impunity	prudence	unscrupulous
buoyed	infidelity	pungent	vehemently
burly	interminable	quell	veracity
chasm	jostled	queries	viable
contrite	kindle	remorse	wary
cursory	lineage	replete	
daunting	martyr	reticence	
destitute	melancholic	rivulets	
disdain	meticulous	rotund	

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Study 1 Chapters 1 - 3

aloof (uh LOOF) **Definition:** apart, indifferent, detached, incurious, unconcerned

Synonyms: detached, incurious, unconcerned

Derivatives: aloofness

While the girls giggled and chattered, their father stood aloof in a corner, looking at his watch occasionally.

append (uh PEND) **Definition:** to add in a supplementary manner

Synonyms: adjoin, affix, annex, fasten, supplement

Derivatives: appendage, appendant, appendance, appended

The committee decided to append the agreement by adding in several more stipulations.

atrophy (AT row fee) **Definition:** to waste away, to wither

Synonyms: decline, degeneration, deterioration

Derivatives: atrophied, atrophying, atrophic

If you don't use your muscles, they will atrophy.

disdain (dis DANE) **Definition:** intense dislike; to treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy

Synonyms: (to be) arrogant, haughty, high-handed, insolent, lordly, supercilious

Derivatives: disdained, disdaining, disdainer, disdainful, disdainfully, disdainfulness

I disdain liars and gossips: I won't even speak to people like that.

garrulous (GAR yuh lus) **Definition:** talkative, rambling; voluble

Synonyms: voluble

Derivatives: garrulously, garrulousness, garrulity

I'm amazed when my garrulous grandmother stops talking long enough to breathe!

impish (IM pish) **Definition:** mischievous, befitting an imp

Synonyms: devilish, knavish, prankish, roguish, wicked

Derivatives: imp, impishly, impishness

His impish grin let us all know that he was about to trick us.

infidel (IN feh dul) **Definition:** a person who has no religious faith; unbeliever

Synonyms: atheist

Derivatives: infidelity

When he left the church, his family labeled him as an infidel.

jostled (JOS eld) **Definition:** to bump or push, as in a crowd; elbow or shove roughly

Synonyms: crowded, jolted, nudged, pushed, shoved, thrust

Derivatives:

The child was jostled back and forth by the crowd as he tried to maneuver his way.

martyr (MAR ter) **Definition:** someone who suffers persecution and death for refusing to renounce a cause

Synonyms: sufferer

Derivatives: martyrish, martyrly, unmartyred

She died the death of a martyr as she burned at the stake, always refusing to renounce her ideology.

notorious (no TOR e us) **Definition:** widely and unfavorably known

Synonyms: disreputable, infamous

Derivatives: notoriously

The man was notorious for his criminal ways.

oscillating (OS uh lay ting) **Definition:** moving back and forth, swinging, varying

Synonyms: fluctuating, swaying, undulating, vacillating

Derivatives: oscillate, oscillates, oscillated, oscillation, oscillator, oscillatory

The swing was oscillating in the slow breeze.

quell (KWELL) **Definition:** to quiet or to put down a disturbance

Synonyms: mollify, hush, calm

Derivatives: quelled, quelling, quells

I hope this antacid can quell my indigestion.

scrupulous (SKROO pyuh lus) **Definition:** very principled, careful and conscientious; meticulous, punctilious

Synonyms: meticulous, punctilious

Derivatives:

Her scrupulous attention to detail saved the company from a million-dollar mistake.

shard (SHARD) **Definition:** a fragment of a brittle substance such as glass or pottery

Synonyms: fragment, particle, remnant, scrap

Derivatives:

We found shards of the vessels lying in the cave.

veracity (vuh RAS eh tee) **Definition:** devotion to the truth; truthfulness, accuracy, correctness

Synonyms: truthfulness, accuracy, correctness

Derivatives: veracious, veraciously, veraciousness

I can attest to this woman's veracity: she's never told a lie in all the time I've known her.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Test 1

Directions: For each definition, select the best answer from among the choices given.

- _____1. mischievous, befitting an imp
a. impish b. aloof c. garrulous d. notorious e. disdainful
- _____2. something added in a supplementary manner
a. infidelity b. martyr c. shard d. veracity e. appendage
- _____3. bumped or pushed, as in a crowd; elbowed or shoved roughly
a. oscillating b. jostled c. quelled d. disdained e. atrophied
- _____4. an action of a person who has no religious faith; the act of an unbeliever
a. aloofness b. martyr c. shard d. infidelity e. veracity
- _____5. apart, indifferent, detached, incurious, unconcerned
a. unscrupulous b. quelled c. aloof d. jostled e. garrulous
- _____6. devotion to the truth; truthfulness, accuracy, correctness
a. disdain b. appendage c. veracity d. impish e. infidelity
- _____7. One who faces rejection or death rather than renounce a cause or a belief
a. appendage b. martyr c. shard d. veracity e. imp
- _____8. a fragment of a brittle substance such as glass or pottery
a. veracity b. disdain c. appendage d. shard e. infidelity
- _____9. to waste away, to wither
a. martyr b. atrophy c. oscillate d. quell e. jostle
- _____10. moving back and forth, swinging, varying
a. atrophying b. quelling c. oscillating d. jostling e. disdaining
- _____11. to quiet or to put down a disturbance
a. shard b. oscillate c. atrophy d. disdain e. quell
- _____12. unprincipled; not careful or conscientious
a. aloof b. garrulous c. unscrupulous d. impish e. jostled
- _____13. intense dislike; to treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy
a. disdain b. infidelity c. notorious d. atrophy e. veracity
- _____14. widely and unfavorably known
a. garrulous b. disdainful c. unscrupulous d. aloof e. notorious
- _____15. talkative, rambling; voluble
a. disdainful b. quelling c. oscillating d. garrulous e. impish

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Study 2 Chapters 4 - 7

austere (aw STEER) **Definition:** strict, stern; unadorned, ascetic

Synonyms: severe

Derivatives: austereness, austere, austerity

The governess was dressed in a prim, austere outfit of gray tweed.

bellow (BELL oh) **Definition:** to cry out loudly, as in anger or pain

Synonyms: scream, cry, howl

Derivatives:

The child began to bellow when he was denied the toy.

buoyant (BOY unt) **Definition:** capable of floating; cheerful

Synonyms: happy, lighthearted, jaunty

Derivatives: buoyancy, buoyance, buoyantly, buoyantness, buoy

Amazingly, her spirits were buoyant even when her team lost the championship.

contrite (kun TRITE) **Definition:** extremely apologetic, remorseful, repentant, penitent

Synonyms: penitent

Derivatives: contritely, contriteness, contrition

My brother lost my bike, but he was so contrite I found it easy to forgive him.

feint (FAYNT) **Definition:** a false appearance, a fake punch to occupy defenses allowing a real blow

Synonyms: artifice, ruse, stratagem, trick, wile

Derivatives: feign, feigned, feigning, feignedly, feigner

He pretended to fight the monster with a fake blow, a mere feint.

gravity (GRAV eh tee) **Definition:** seriousness, importance

Synonyms: earnestness, sedateness, sobriety, solemnity, staidness

Derivatives: grave, graver, gravely

Only after he was asked to leave the school permanently did he finally understand the gravity of his infractions.

imbecile (EM buh sul) **Definition:** a person affected with mental retardation; idiot, fool

Synonyms: airhead, birdbrain, bonehead, ignoramus

Derivatives:

He was acting like an imbecile after he drank so much alcohol.

immanent (IM muh nunt) **Definition:** indwelling, inherent; within the limits of possible experience or knowledge

Synonyms: inborn, innate, intrinsic, natural, indigenous

Derivatives: immanence, immanently

The woman's beauty came from within; it was something immanent, not something imposed.

impeccable (im PEK uh bul) **Definition:** free from fault or blame

Synonyms: flawless, irreproachable

Derivatives: impeccability, impeccableness, impeccably

She was dressed with impeccable style, from her chandelier earrings to her high-heeled boots.

morose (muh ROSE) **Definition:** being sullen or gloomy; glum, saturnine, sulky
Synonyms: crabbed, glum, saturnine, sulky, surly
Derivatives: morosely, moroseness, morosity
I jumped and cheered for the team, but morose Mike just muttered, "I bet we lose anyhow."

nemesis (NEM uh sis) **Definition:** source of harm, powerful opponent
Synonyms: rival, undoing, downfall
Derivatives:
Bobby has been my nemesis since first grade, when he stole my best crayons.

nuance (NOO awns) **Definition:** a subtle distinction or difference
Synonyms: gradation, hint, shade, tinge, touch, trace
Derivatives: nuances, nuanced, nuancing
Using limes instead of lemons in this recipe gives it an interesting nuance.

subtle (SUT ul) **Definition:** delicate, elusive, not obvious
Synonyms:
Derivatives: subtilist, subtlety, subtilization, subtilize, subtilizer, subtleness, subtlety
The difference between lemon flavor and lime flavor is subtle, but I can taste it.

summon (SUM un) **Definition:** to call together, to send for or to request to appear
Synonyms: convene, convoke, muster
Derivatives: summoner, summons
When the principal summons you to his office, you have to go.

taut (TAUT) **Definition:** tightly drawn, having no slack
Synonyms: tight
Derivatives: tautly, tautness, tauten
The tightrope walker tested the rope to make sure it was taut enough.

trepidation (trep eh DAY shun) **Definition:** fear, trembling, agitation
Synonyms:
Derivatives: trepitate, trepidant, trepid, trepidly, trepidity
The lowly slave approached the queen with trepidation, terrified that he would be punished or sent away.

vehement (VEE uh munt) **Definition:** forcefully expressing emotion or conviction
Synonyms:
Derivatives: vehemence, vehemency, vehemently
When he was asked about his involvement, his vehement denials convinced even the police chief.

viable (VIE uh bul) **Definition:** capable of working, functioning, or developing adequately
Synonyms:
Derivatives: viability, viably
No, making a bonfire of your assignments is not a viable answer to your homework issues.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Test 2 Chapters 4 - 7

Directions: Find the correct word from the box below to complete the sentences that follow.

Exercise A

austere bellow buoyant contrite feign
gravity imbecile immanent impeccable morose

1. Although I tried to _____ interest in the discussion, my boredom was apparent to all.
2. The child clung to the _____ life preserver floating in the turbulent water.
3. The seriousness of his demeanor underlined the _____ of the ceremony.
4. The monk's surroundings were _____, only a bare bed, unadorned stone walls, and a small window.
5. What an _____ he is, acting like an absolute idiot!
6. I was in a really bad mood, too _____ to smile or talk or even go outside.
7. The hit from the stray bullet caused the angry man to _____ in pain.
8. His record is _____; he's never been faulted for misconduct during his time in the Navy.
9. The judge sensed that the _____ young man was sincerely remorseful concerning his theft of the car.

Exercise B

nemesis nuance subtle summon
taut trepidation vehement viable

10. Have the secretary make some calls and _____ the entire council to come together on Tuesday.
11. The subtle difference between her face and her twin's is only a _____.
12. She was _____ in her support for the bill, expressing her conviction passionately to the Senate.
13. She was terrified of rejection, but she overcame her _____ and dropped the application into the mailbox.
14. The _____ scent of a delicate perfume wafted around me, but I couldn't tell who was wearing it.
15. If this solution isn't _____, we must keep thinking until we find one that will work.
16. Kryptonite is Superman's _____, the only thing that can harm him.
17. Her face was drawn _____ upon hearing the news; the natural slackness was quickly replaced by a grim expression.

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Study 3 Chapters 8 & 12

amiable (A mee uh bul) **Definition:** friendly, sociable, and congenial; civil and urbane, obliging
Synonyms: good-natured, obliging, complaisant
Derivatives: amiableness, amiably, amicable, amicability, amiability
The three old friends enjoyed an amiable stroll around the ranch.

arrogant (AIR uh gunt) **Definition:** overbearingly assuming; insolently proud
Synonyms: presumptuous, haughty, imperious, brazen
Derivatives: arrogance, arrogancy, arrogantly
The coach was arrogant in assuming that her team could never lose.

bludgeoning (BLUD juhn) **Definition:** to hit with heavy impact
Synonyms: bang, bash, clobber, strike
Derivatives: bludgeon, bludgeoned
No one could condone the bludgeoning of the man, even though he was wrong to have committed his crime.

burly (BUR lee) **Definition:** great in bodily size, sturdy; brusque
Synonyms: stocky, brawny, hefty, strapping
Derivatives: burlier, burliest, burly, burliness
The burly wrestler entered the ring with an air of confidence.

chasms (KAA zum) **Definition:** a deep cleft in the surface of something; gorge; a marked division or difference
Synonyms: abyss
Derivatives:
The miles that separate the two countries are like chasms that cannot be crossed.

drone (DRONE) **Definition:** speaking in a monotonous tone; a continuous low humming sound
Synonyms: monotone; murmur
Derivatives: droned, droning, drones, droner, droningly, dronish
The drone of the machinery was always in the background vanquishing any hopes of silence in the room.

furrow (FUR ow) **Definition:** to make wrinkles or grooves
Synonyms: crease, crinkle, fluting, ridge, trench
Derivatives: furrowed, furrowing
He furrowed his brow in contemplation of the remark.

furtive (FUR tiv) **Definition:** secret in an underhanded way, stealthy
Synonyms: clandestine, covert, stealthy, surreptitious, underhanded
Derivatives: furtively, furtiveness
He glanced furtively at his neighbor's test paper, hoping the teacher wouldn't notice.

harried (HAIR eed) **Definition:** harassed, tormented
Synonyms: annoyed, worried, troubled
Derivatives: harry, harrying, unharried
The harried expression on her face told the story of her inner torment.

interminable (in TUR mun uh bul) **Definition:** having or seeming to have no end, wearisomely protracted
Synonyms: ceaseless, endless, everlasting, incessant, perpetual, unceasing
Derivatives: interminability, interminableness, interminably, interminate
In our geography class, we have to copy interminable lists of countries' currencies, imports, and exports.

kindle (KIN dul) **Definition:** to start a fire, to stir up
Synonyms: blaze, burn, flare, ignite, inflame, alight
Derivatives: kindled, kindling, kindles
Martin Luther King, Jr., wanted to kindle a new spirit of brotherhood in the nation.

pall (PAWL) **Definition:** to lose interest or attraction, to become wearisome
Synonyms: jade, satiate, surfeit
Derivatives:
I had listened to him so long that his rhetoric began to pall.

peripheral (puh RIF ur ul) **Definition:** on the edge, not important
Synonyms: external, incidental, irrelevant, minor, superficial, tangential
Derivatives: peripheral, peripheric, peripheralism, peripherally, peripherically, periphery
When you drive on a busy street, good peripheral vision helps you keep track of the other cars.

portly (PORT lee) **Definition:** heavy or rotund in a stately manner, stout
Synonyms: ample, burly, corpulent, fleshy, rotund
Derivatives: portliness
The portly dog was happy to perform tricks in exchange for treats and belly rubs.

precipitous (preh SIP eh tus) **Definition:** marked by great rapidity, haste, or lack of caution
Synonyms: hasty, sudden, rash; steep, sheer
Derivatives: precipitously, precipitousness, precipice
Her precipitous and unwise actions caused problems for everyone in the group.

pungent (PUN junt) **Definition:** sharp or irritating to the taste or smell, acrid
Synonyms: piquant, poignant, racy
Derivatives: pungence, pungency, pungently
When Victorian ladies fainted, someone would wave pungent "smelling salts" under their noses to wake them up.

query (KWEER ee) **Definition:** an inquiry; to ask
Synonyms: interrogation, question
Derivatives: queried
If you aren't sure, write the company a query and ask the questions directly.

reticent (RET uh suns) **Definition:** restrained in speech, reluctant to speak, reserve, taciturnity
Synonyms: reserve, taciturnity
Derivatives: reticency, reticent, reticently
She wanted to correct the teacher, but instead, remained reticent.

rue (ROO) **Definition:** to be sorry for, to regret
Synonyms: apologize, deplore, remorse, grieve, lament, mourn
Derivatives: rueful, ruefully, ruefulness, rues
I rue the harsh words we exchanged, and I hope we can be friends in spite of them.

snippet (SNIP it) **Definition:** a small amount, morsel
Synonyms: bit, fragment, morsel, piece, smidgen, snip
Derivatives: snippiness, snippety, snippy
He made an inaccurate assumption based on a snippet of a conversation he had overheard.

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Test 3 Chapters 8 - 12

Directions: Match the vocabulary word to its definition.

Practice 1

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. amiable | a. great in bodily size, sturdy; brusque |
| _____ 2. arrogant | b. harassed, tormented |
| _____ 3. bludgeon | c. to hit with heavy impact |
| _____ 4. burly | d. to speak or make noise in a monotonous tone |
| _____ 5. chasm | e. friendly, sociable, and congenial; civil and obliging |
| _____ 6. drone | f. secret in an underhanded way, stealthy |
| _____ 7. furrow | g. overbearingly assuming; insolently proud |
| _____ 8. furtive | h. seeming to have no end, wearisomely protracted |
| _____ 9. harried | i. a deep cleft in the surface; gorge; a marked division |
| _____ 10. interminable | j. to make wrinkles or grooves |

Practice 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 11. kindle | k. heavy or rotund in a stately manner, stout |
| _____ 12. palliative | l. having the ability to ease or make better |
| _____ 13. peripheral | m. sharp or irritating to the taste or smell, acrid |
| _____ 14. portly | n. a small amount, morsel |
| _____ 15. precipitous | o. to start a fire, to stir up |
| _____ 16. pungent | p. an inquiry |
| _____ 17. query | q. marked by great rapidity, haste, or lack of caution |
| _____ 18. reticent | r. on the edge, not important |
| _____ 19. rue | s. to be sorry for, to regret |
| _____ 20. snippet | t. restrained in speech, reluctant to speak |

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Study 4 Chapters 13 - 17

affable (AF uh bul) **Definition:** friendly, courteous, amiable, cordial

Synonyms: cordial, genial, gracious, sociable

Derivatives: affability, affableness, affably

She was so affable and helpful that I felt comfortable with her right away.

allusion (uh LOO zhuh n) **Definition:** a passing or casual reference; an incidental mention of something

Synonyms: implication, inference, mention, suggestion

Derivatives:

The author made an allusion to Shakespeare in his novel when he mentioned the Bard's memorable sonnets.

ambivalent (am BIV uh lunt) **Definition:** having contrary feelings or attitudes, uncertain as to course of action

Synonyms: undecided

Derivatives: ambivalence

He was ambivalent, unable to decide between theater classes and the football team.

aversion (uh VER shun) **Definition:** strong disinclination, disliking

Synonyms: hesitance, loathing, reluctance

Derivatives: averseness, aversely, averse

Since I have a strong aversion to stinging insects, I run away if one flies toward me.

daunt (DAWNT) **Definition:** to intimidate, to dismay

Synonyms: subdue, discourage, dispirit

Derivatives: dauntless, dauntlessly, dauntlessness

The long road ahead did not daunt her; on the contrary, with great determination she started her walk.

exude (ig ZOOD) **Definition:** to come out gradually in drops through pores or small openings

Synonyms: ooze out; emit

Derivatives: exuded, exuding, exudes

The pierced tube began to exude wet paint from the tiny hole.

lineage (LEN ee ij) **Definition:** line of descent or tradition

Synonyms: background, ancestry

Derivatives: lineages

You must trace your lineage for entrance into a genealogical society.

melancholy (MEL un kol ee) **Definition:** depression of spirits

Synonyms: sadness, dejection

Derivatives: melancholia, melancholic, melancholiac, melancholically, melancholily, melancholiness, melancholious

After I saw that sad movie, the feeling of melancholy stayed with me for days.

meticulous (muh TIK yuh lus) **Definition:** taking great care

Synonyms: punctilious, scrupulous

Derivatives: meticulously, meticulousness

Her meticulous work on the car resulted in a perfectly running engine.

nonchalance (non shuh LAWNS) **Definition:** indifference, a showing of little interest

Synonyms: casualness, disregard, indifference, insouciance

Derivatives: nonchalant, nonchalantly, nonchalantness

Just once, I wanted him to shake off that nonchalance and get really excited about something!

pragmatic (prag MAT ik) **Definition:** practical, dealing with facts

Synonyms: realistic

Derivatives: pragmatical, pragmaticality, pragmatically, pragmaticalness, pragmaticism

If you are practical, you will make a pragmatic decision, not one based on emotion.

presumptuous (preh ZUMP choo us) **Definition:** brazenly overstepping bounds, arrogant

Synonyms: audacious, conceited, egotistic, insolent, pompous, pretentious, supercilious

Derivatives: presume, presumer, presumption, presumptive, presumptively, presumptuously, presumptuousness

He was fired for his presumptuous actions and stubborn attitude.

rotund (roe TUND) **Definition:** very plump, round

Synonyms: beefy, burly, elephantine, hefty, portly, stout

Derivatives: rotundity, rotundly, rotundate

The man's rotund stomach was a sure sign that he needed to lose some weight.

tranquil (TRANG kwul) **Definition:** peaceful, calm

Synonyms: placid, serene

Derivatives: tranquilization, tranquilize, tranquility, tranquilness, tranquilizer

The lake house is the most tranquil spot I can imagine, so I go there to rest and meditate.

wary (WARE ee) **Definition:** watchful or on one's guard; cautious; careful

Synonyms: alert, vigilant, guarded, circumspect, prudent

Derivatives: warier, wariest, warily, wariness

The speaker was wary of grammatical errors.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Test 4 Chapters 13 - 17

Directions: For each definition, select the best answer from among the choices given.

- _____1. making a passing or casual reference; making an incidental mention of something
a. averting b. daunting c. exuding d. pragmatic e. alluding
- _____2. taking great care; punctilious, scrupulous
a. pragmatic b. meticulous c. nonchalant d. ambivalent e. affable
- _____3. having contrary feelings or attitudes, uncertain as to course of action
a. ambivalent b. exuded c. rotund d. tranquil e. wary
- _____4. indifference, a showing of little interest
a. averting b. meticulousness c. nonchalance d. lineage e. rotund
- _____5. friendly, courteous, amiable, cordial, genial, gracious, sociable
a. ambivalent b. pragmatic c. meticulous d. affable e. presumptuous
- _____6. watchful or on one's guard; cautious; careful
a. tranquil b. wary c. pragmatic d. daunting e. affable
- _____7. practical, dealing with facts
a. affable b. ambivalent c. daunting d. nonchalant e. pragmatic
- _____8. depression of spirits
a. melancholy b. daunting c. affable d. tranquil e. rotund
- _____9. brazenly overstepping bounds, arrogant
a. affable b. averting c. presumptuous d. wary e. ambivalent
- _____10. line of descent or tradition
a. ambivalence b. aversion c. lineage d. pragmatism e. tranquility
- _____11. peaceful, calm
a. wary b. tranquil c. pragmatic d. daunting e. affable
- _____12. to come out gradually in drops through pores or small openings
a. exude b. avert c. daunt d. allude e. rotund
- _____13. very plump, round
a. wary b. pragmatic c. tranquil d. rotund e. daunting
- _____14. strong disinclination, disliking, hesitance, loathing, reluctance
a. pragmatism b. ambivalence c. aversion d. tranquility e. affability
- _____15. intimidating, dismaying
a. affable b. wary c. presumptuous d. meticulous e. daunting

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Study 5 Chapters 18 - 21

animosity (an uh MAH suh tee) **Definition:** harsh feelings, enmity, resentment, hatred
Synonyms: animus, antagonism, antipathy, hostility, rancor
Derivatives: animus
Name-calling can only breed animosity; can't we work this out like civilized people?

arduous (AR jew us) **Definition:** very difficult to accomplish or to achieve, very demanding (task)
Synonyms: hard, toilsome, onerous, wearisome
Derivatives: arduously, arduousness
Early in the morning, the team began the arduous trip up Mount Everest.

arid (AIR id) **Definition:** very dry
Synonyms: barren, parched
Derivatives: aridity, aridness, aridly
The arid climate of the American Southwest makes it a good place for people who are depressed by rain.

benevolence (buh NEV uh lunz) **Definition:** kindness, generosity, charity
Synonyms: goodwill
Derivatives: benevolent, benevolently
The old man's benevolence was known by all; the little children even called him "Santa."

cursory (KUR suh ree) **Definition:** superficial, casual, hastily done
Synonyms: brief, desultory, perfunctory, speedy
Derivatives: cursorily, cursoriness
Poetry analysis requires much more than a cursory reading of the poem.

destitution (des teh TOO shun) **Definition:** state of being extremely poor, in extreme want
Synonyms: impecunity, indigence, penury, want
Derivatives: destitute, destitutely, destituteness
After the hurricane the family was left homeless, facing destitution.

emaciated (eh MAY see a ted) **Definition:** thin, wasted, puny, gaunt as a result of little food
Synonyms: atrophied, cadaverous, gaunt, haggard, skeletal, wasted
Derivatives: emaciate, emaciation
The emaciated child had not eaten for days.

empathy (EM puh the) **Definition:** understanding or identification with another's feelings or situation
Synonyms: affinity, compassion, concord, pity, sympathy
Derivatives: empathetic, empathetically, empathize
The empathy he received from the other survivors helped him through the tragedy he had experienced.

oblivious (uh BLIV ee un) **Definition:** unaware

Synonyms: absentminded, distracted, heedless, neglectful, negligent

Derivatives: oblivious, obliviously

The young man was oblivious to the pain he caused his friends when he turned his back on them.

protrusion (pro TROO zhun) **Definition:** something sticking out

Synonyms: bulge, projection, protuberance, swelling

Derivatives: protusive, protusively, protusiveness

For days after she bumped her head, the protrusion of the "knot" was noticeable even through her hair.

ruminate (ROO muh nate) **Definition:** to consider for a long time at a slow pace, to ponder

Synonyms: meditate, muse, ponder

Derivatives: ruminatingly, ruminator, ruminative, ruminant, ruminantly

We thought the old man had sat down to ruminate over some problem; instead, he had fallen asleep!

stupefy (STOO puh fie) **Definition:** to dull the senses as to put into a stupor

Synonyms:

Derivatives: stupefyingly, stupefaction, stupefacient, stupefactive

The movie's boring plot line stupefied audiences.

surly (SUR lee) **Definition:** churlishly rude or bad-tempered; unfriendly, hostile

Synonyms:

Derivatives: surlier, surliest, surlily, surliness

The boy's surly attitude was only made worse by the constant taunting at recess.

undulant (UN juh lunt) **Definition:** moving with or resembling a wavelike motion

Synonyms:

Derivatives: undulance, undulate, undulated, undulating, undulation, undulatory

The undulant sidewinder slithers over the desert floor, avoiding other snakes.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Vocabulary Study 5 Chapters 18 - 21

Directions: Select the best answer from among the choices given to complete each sentence.

- As I touched the wall, I noticed a ____: something was sticking out between the stones!
a. benevolence b. rumination c. protrusion d. stupefaction e. destitution
- The ____ work of editing is the most demanding task of the writing process.
a. arid b. cursory c. emaciated d. arduous e. oblivious
- I had all day to come up with an answer, so I took time to _____ over all my options.
a. ematiate b. ruminate c. protrude d. undulate e. empathize
- The lecture was so dull and boring that we were all _____ by the time it was over.
a. emaciated b. undulated c. arid d. ruminated e. stupefied
- The hatred of one man for another can grow into _____ between their families.
a. benevolence b. empathy c. animosity d. oblivion e. surly
- Like the plight of other extremely poor people, this family's _____ went unnoticed for some time.
a. animosity b. empathy c. surly d. destitution e. protrusion
- Because the desert is so dry, finding an oasis to drink from is like a miracle in this _____ region.
a. arid b. arduous c. benevolent d. empathetic e. oblivious
- A _____ look at that letter is too superficial to give you a real understanding of what it says.
a. destitute b. ruminated c. cursory d. stupefied e. surly
- His _____ attitude does nothing to win him friends; no one wants to deal with his constant bad moods.
a. arduous b. surly c. arid d. undulating e. empathetic
- I completely understand your feelings, but my _____ isn't enough to solve your problem.
a. animosity b. benevolence c. destitution d. oblivion e. empathy
- The children were having so much fun that they were _____ of the time, unaware that they would be late.
a. arid b. surly c. oblivious d. destitute e. arduous
- I got seasick from watching the _____ movement of the ocean waves: up and down, up and down...
a. protruding b. emaciated c. arduous d. undulating e. cursory
- When he proved his generosity yet again, nobody who knew him well was surprised by his _____.
a. rumination b. benevolence c. animosity d. stupefaction e. oblivion
- The _____ child was too thin and weak even to talk to the rescue workers who brought him food.
a. arduous b. surly c. stupefied d. protruding e. emaciated

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Study 6 Chapters 22 - 25

ascertain (as sur TANE) **Definition:** to find out definitely; to determine

Synonyms: learn

Derivatives: ascertainable, ascertainableness, ascertainably, ascertainment, ascertained
The detective attempted to ascertain the truth through his questioning of the suspect.

epiphany (uh PIF uh nee) **Definition:** a sudden perception or insight into the reality of something

Synonyms: revelation, understanding, insight

Derivatives: epiphanies

When he heard the prophetic word, he had a sudden epiphany about what was about to come.

foreboding (fore BOE ding) **Definition:** premonition of evil, an ominous omen

Synonyms: prediction, portent, presentiment

Derivatives: forebode, foreboder

When Calpurnia heard that the sky was raining fire outside, she was filled with foreboding.

impugn (im PYOON) **Definition:** to assail or to attack one's honor or integrity

Synonyms: attack, asperse, malign, criticize, censure

Derivatives: impugnable, impugnation, impugnement

Because of his hatred, he began to impugn his enemy with a verbal attack.

obligatory (ob LIG uh tor ee) **Definition:** required as a matter of obligation

Synonyms: mandatory, required, necessary, imperative

Derivatives: obligatoriness, obligatorily

His obligatory statement was not one of conviction, but rather one of obligation.

profuse (pro FUSE) **Definition:** bountiful, pouring forth liberally; exhibiting great abundance

Synonyms: copious galore, lavish

Derivatives: profusely, profuseness

She continued to offer profuse apologies for her behavior.

prudent (PROOD unt) **Definition:** wise and careful about practical matters

Synonyms: judicious, sage, sane, sapient

Derivatives: prudence, prudential, prudently

A prudent student studies consistently rather than only before an exam.

remorseless (re MORSE less) **Definition:** without remorse; pitiless
Synonyms: merciless; ruthless; cruel
Derivatives: remorse, remorseless, remorsefully
The criminal was completely remorseless about having committed the crime.

replete (reh PLETE) **Definition:** filled to capacity, abundantly supplied
Synonyms: plenary
Derivatives: repletiness, repletion, repletive
After the harvest, the bins were replete with wheat.

rivulet (RIV yuh let) **Definition:** a small stream, brook
Synonyms: bourn, channel, creek, rill, runlet, runnel, streamlet
Derivatives: rivulets
We made our way through the forest to the rivulet where we would have our picnic.

serpentine (SUR pen teen) **Definition:** resembling a serpent, wily or tempting; diabolical
Synonyms: cagey, cunning, sinuous, wily
Derivatives: serpentina, serpentinizing, serpentine
The serpentine wall curved like a snake around the property.

surreal (suh REAL) **Definition:** having the disorienting, hallucinatory quality of a dream
Synonyms: unreal; fantastic
Derivatives:
The entire experience seemed surreal; it was like a fantasy.

tact (TAKT) **Definition:** a keen sense for what is appropriate or tasteful in delicate situations
Synonyms: diplomacy, perception, sensitivity, poise
Derivatives: tactful, tactfully, tactfulness
With great tact, the arbitrator made both sides feel that they had won.

terse (TERS) **Definition:** concise; succinct, summary
Synonyms: compendious, laconic, pithy
Derivatives: tersely, terseness
A good toast should be terse, not long-winded.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Test 6 Chapters 22 & 25

Directions: Select the best answer from among the choices given to complete each sentence.

- His _____ deference to the king was required of the man; it was not given freely.
a. ascertain b. foreboding c. obligatory d. remorseful e. terse
- The medication made him totally disoriented, making his surroundings seemingly _____.
a. surreal b. obligatory c. profuse d. prudent e. tactless
- As the climax approached, the ominous music filled the audience with _____.
a. epiphany b. foreboding c. impunity d. remorse e. rivulets
- When customers are angry, it takes great _____ to know the appropriate way to calm them.
a. remorse b. impunity c. tact d. foreboding e. serpentine
- I will use these reference books to _____ the information I have to find out.
a. impugn b. profuse c. replete d. ascertain e. surreal
- His was sweating so _____ that perspiration poured freely from his forehead into his eyes.
a. remorsefully b. prudently c. surreally d. tersely e. profusely
- That _____ message spoke volumes in only a few words.
a. ascertain b. terse c. foreboding d. profuse e. replete
- The evil magician tricked the villagers with his diabolical, _____ plan.
a. terse b. tactless c. surreal d. prudent e. serpentine
- His sudden realization of the truth was an _____ not only to him, but to the entire group of onlookers.
a. impunity b. obligatory c. epiphany d. oblivion e. empathy
- When the man was insulted by his opponent, he retaliated and began to _____ the other's reputation.
a. impugn b. ascertain c. terse d. ruminate e. emaciate
- The girl stepped quickly from stone to stone to cross the small _____.
a. terse b. epiphany c. rivulet d. foreboding e. replete
- During the holidays, the food bank is usually _____ with a huge supply of canned vegetables.
a. replete b. foreboding c. prudent d. serpentine e. terse
- Even after his sentence had been mandated by the judge, the man remained _____ for the crimes he had committed.
a. tactless b. prudent c. remorseless d. terse e. profuse
- We thought it would be _____ if we checked with Mom first, since she always tells us to be wise and careful.
a. tactless b. replete c. epiphany d. prudent e. terse

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Vocabulary Words Alphabetical Listing

affable (AF uh bul) **Definition:** friendly, courteous, amiable

Synonyms: cordial, genial, gracious, sociable

Derivatives: affability, affableness, affably

She was so affable and helpful that I felt comfortable with her right away.

allusion (uh LOO zhuh n) **Definition:** a passing or casual reference; an incidental mention of something

Synonyms: implication, inference, mention, suggestion

Derivatives: allude, alluding, alluded

The author made an allusion to Shakespeare in his novel when he mentioned the Bard's memorable sonnets.

aloof (uh LOOF) **Definition:** apart, indifferent, detached, incurious, unconcerned

Synonyms: detached, incurious, unconcerned

Derivatives: aloofness

While the girls giggled and chattered, their father stood aloof in a corner, looking at his watch occasionally.

ambivalent (am BIV uh lunt) **Definition:** having contrary feelings or attitudes, uncertain as to course of action

Synonyms: undecided

Derivatives: ambivalence

He was ambivalent, unable to decide between theater classes and the football team.

amiable (A mee uh bul) **Definition:** friendly, sociable, and congenial; civil and urbane, obliging

Synonyms: good-natured, obliging, complaisant

Derivatives: amiableness, amiably, amicable, amicability, amiability

The three old friends enjoyed an amiable stroll around the ranch.

animosity (an uh MAH suh tee) **Definition:** harsh feelings, enmity, resentment, hatred

Synonyms: animus, antagonism, antipathy, hostility, rancor

Derivatives: animus

Name-calling can only breed animosity; can't we work this out like civilized people?

append (uh PEND) **Definition:** to add in a supplementary manner

Synonyms: adjoin, affix, annex, fasten, supplement

Derivatives: appendage, appendant, appendance, appended

The committee decided to append the agreement by adding in several more stipulations.

arduous (AR jew us) **Definition:** very difficult to accomplish or to achieve, very demanding (task)

Synonyms: hard, toilsome, onerous, wearisome

Derivatives: arduously, arduousness

Early in the morning, the team began the arduous trip up Mount Everest.

arid (AIR id) **Definition:** very dry, without moisture

Synonyms: barren, parched

Derivatives: aridity, aridness, aridly

The arid climate of the American Southwest makes it a good place for people who are depressed by rain.

arrogant (AIR uh gunt) **Definition:** overbearingly assuming; insolently proud

Synonyms: presumptuous, haughty, imperious, brazen

Derivatives: arrogance, arrogancy, arrogantly

The coach was arrogant in assuming that her team could never lose.

ascertain (as sur TANE) **Definition:** to find out definitely; to determine

Synonyms: learn

Derivatives: ascertainable, ascertainableness, ascertainably, ascerner, ascertainment, ascertained

The detective attempted to ascertain the truth through his questioning of the suspect.

atrophy (AT row fee) **Definition:** to waste away, to wither

Synonyms: decline, degeneration, deterioration

Derivatives: atrophied, atrophying, atrophic

If you don't use your muscles, they will atrophy.

austere (aw STEER) **Definition:** strict, stern; unadorned, ascetic

Synonyms: severe

Derivatives: austereity, austereity, austereity

The governess was dressed in a prim, austere outfit of gray tweed.

aversion (uh VER shun) **Definition:** strong disinclination, disliking

Synonyms: hesitance, loathing, reluctance

Derivatives: averseness, aversely, averse

Since I have a strong aversion to stinging insects, I run away if one flies toward me.

bellow (BELL oh) **Definition:** to cry out loudly, as in anger or pain

Synonyms: scream, cry, howl

Derivatives:

The child began to bellow when he was denied the toy.

benevolence (buh NEV uh lunz) **Definition:** kindness, generosity, charity

Synonyms: goodwill

Derivatives: benevolent, benevolently

The old man's benevolence was known by all; the little children even called him "Santa."

bludgeoning (BLUD juhn) **Definition:** to hit with heavy impact

Synonyms: bang, bash, clobber, strike

Derivatives: bludgeon, bludgeoned

No one could condone the bludgeoning of the man, even though he was wrong to have committed his crime.

buoyant (BOY unt) **Definition:** capable of floating; cheerful

Synonyms: happy, lighthearted, jaunty

Derivatives: buoyancy, buoyance, buoyantly, buoyantness, buoy

Amazingly, her spirits were buoyant even when her team lost the championship.

burly (BUR lee) **Definition:** great in bodily size, sturdy; brusque

Synonyms: stocky, brawny, hefty, strapping

Derivatives: burlier, burliest, burly, burliness

The burly wrestler entered the ring with an air of confidence.

chasms (KAA zum) **Definition:** a deep cleft in the surface of something; gorge; a marked division or difference

Synonyms: abyss

Derivatives:

The miles that separate the two countries are like chasms that cannot be crossed.

contrite (kun TRITE) **Definition:** extremely apologetic, remorseful, repentant, penitent

Synonyms: penitent

Derivatives: contritely, contriteness, contrition

My brother lost my bike, but he was so contrite I found it easy to forgive him.

cursory (KUR suh ree) **Definition:** superficial, casual, hastily done

Synonyms: brief, desultory, perfunctory, speedy

Derivatives: cursorily, cursoriness

Poetry analysis requires much more than a cursory reading of the poem.

daunt (DAWNT) **Definition:** to intimidate, to dismay

Synonyms: subdue, discourage, dispirit

Derivatives: dauntless, dauntlessly, dauntlessness

The long road ahead did not daunt her; on the contrary, with great determination she started her walk.

destitution (des teh TOO shun) **Definition:** state of being extremely poor, in extreme want

Synonyms: impecunity, indigence, penury, want

Derivatives: destitute, destitutely, destituteness

After the hurricane the family was left homeless, facing destitution.

disdain (dis DANE) **Definition:** intense dislike; to treat with scorn or contempt, to reject as unworthy

Synonyms: (to be) arrogant, haughty, high-handed, insolent, lordly, supercilious

Derivatives: disdained, disdaining, disdainer, disdainful, disdainfully, disdainfulness

I disdain liars and gossips: I won't even speak to people like that.

drone (DRONE) **Definition:** speaking in a monotonous tone; a continuous low humming sound

Synonyms: monotone; murmur

Derivatives: droned, droning, drones, droner, droningly, dronish

The drone of the machinery was always in the background vanquishing any hopes of silence in the room.

emaciated (eh MAY see a ted) **Definition:** thin, wasted, puny, gaunt as a result of little food

Synonyms: atrophied, cadaverous, gaunt, haggard, skeletal, wasted

Derivatives: emaciate, emaciation

The emaciated child had not eaten for days.

empathy (EM puh the) **Definition:** understanding or identification with another's feelings or situation

Synonyms: affinity, compassion, concord, pity, sympathy

Derivatives: empathetic, empathetically, empathize

The empathy he received from the other survivors helped him through the tragedy he had experienced.

epiphany () **Definition:**

Synonyms: revelation, understanding, insight

Derivatives:

When he heard the prophetic word, he had a sudden epiphany about what was about to come.

exude (ig ZOOD) **Definition:** to come out gradually in drops through pores or small openings

Synonyms: ooze out; emit

Derivatives: exuded, exuding, exudes

The pierced tube began to exude wet paint from the tiny hole.

feint (FAYNT) **Definition:** a false appearance, a fake punch to occupy defenses allowing a real blow

Synonyms: artifice, ruse, stratagem, trick, wile

Derivatives: feign, feigned, feigning, feignedly, feigner

He pretended to fight the monster with a fake blow, a mere feint.

foreboding (fore BOE ding) **Definition:** premonition of evil, an ominous omen
Synonyms: prediction, portent, presentiment
Derivatives: forebode, foreboder
When Calpurnia heard that the sky was raining fire outside, she was filled with foreboding.

furrow (FUR ow) **Definition:** to make wrinkles or grooves
Synonyms: crease, crinkle, fluting, ridge, trench
Derivatives: furrowed, furrowing
He furrowed his brow in contemplation of the remark.

furtive (FUR tiv) **Definition:** secret in an underhanded way, stealthy
Synonyms: clandestine, covert, stealthy, surreptitious, underhanded
Derivatives: furtively, furtiveness
He glanced furtively at his neighbor's test paper, hoping the teacher wouldn't notice.

garrulous (GAR yuh lus) **Definition:** talkative, rambling; voluble
Synonyms: voluble
Derivatives: garrulously, garrulousness, garrulity
I'm amazed when my garrulous grandmother stops talking long enough to breathe!

grandiose (GRAN dee ose) **Definition:** impressive, imposing
Synonyms: grand, magnificent, majestic, stately
Derivatives: grandiosely, grandioseness, grandiosity
The grandiose plan for the party included a five-tier champagne fountain and a foot-high cherry cheesecake.

grave (GRAV eh tee) **Definition:** serious, important
Synonyms: earnestness, sedateness, sobriety, solemnity, staidness
Derivatives: grave, graver, gravely, gravity
Only after he was asked to leave the school permanently did he finally understand the gravity of his infractions.

harried (HAIR eed) **Definition:** harassed, tormented
Synonyms: agitated, anxious, beset, distressed, stressed, troubled
Derivatives:
The harried expression on her face told the story of her inner torment.

imbecile (EM buh sul) **Definition:** a person affected with mental retardation; idiot, fool
Synonyms: airhead, birdbrain, bonehead, ignoramus
Derivatives:
He was acting like an imbecile after he drank so much alcohol.

immanent (IM muh nunt) **Definition:** indwelling, inherent; being within the limits of possible experience
Synonyms: inborn, innate, intrinsic, natural, indigenous
Derivatives: immanence, immanently
The woman's beauty came from within; it was something immanent, not something imposed.

impeccable (im PEK uh bul) **Definition:** free from fault or blame
Synonyms: flawless, irreproachable
Derivatives: impeccability, impeccableness, impeccably
She was dressed with impeccable style, from her chandelier earrings to her high-heeled boots.

impish (IM pish) **Definition:** mischievous, befitting an imp
Synonyms: devilish, knavish, prankish, roguish, wicked
Derivatives: imp, impishly, impishness
His impish grin let us all know that he was about to trick us.

impugn (im PYOON) **Definition:** to assail or to attack one's honor or integrity
Synonyms: contradict, dispute, negate, question, smear, traduce
Derivatives: impugnable, impugnation, impugment
Because of his hatred, he began to impugn his enemy with a verbal attack.

infidel (IN feh dul) **Definition:** a person who has no religious faith; unbeliever
Synonyms: atheist
Derivatives: infidelity
When he left the church, his family labeled him as an infidel.

interminable (in TUR mun uh bul) **Definition:** having or seeming to have no end, wearisomely protracted
Synonyms: ceaseless, endless, everlasting, incessant, perpetual, unceasing
Derivatives: interminability, interminableness, interminably, interminate
In our geography class, we have to copy interminable lists of countries' currencies, imports, and exports.

jostled (JOS eld) **Definition:** to bump or push, as in a crowd; elbow or shove roughly
Synonyms: crowded, jolted, nudged, pushed, shoved, thrust
Derivatives:
The child was jostled back and forth by the crowd as he tried to maneuver his way.

kindle (KIN dul) **Definition:** to start a fire, to stir up
Synonyms: blaze, burn, flare, ignite, inflame, alight
Derivatives: kindled, kindling, kindles
Martin Luther King, Jr., wanted to kindle a new spirit of brotherhood in the nation.

lineage (LEN ee ij) **Definition:** line of descent or tradition
Synonyms: background, ancestry
Derivatives: lineages
You must trace your lineage for entrance into a genealogical society.

martyr (MAR ter) **Definition:** someone who suffers persecution and death for refusing to renounce a cause
Synonyms: sufferer
Derivatives: martyrish, martyrly, unmartyred
She died the death of a martyr as she burned at the stake, always refusing to renounce her ideology.

melancholy (MEL un kol ee) **Definition:** depression of spirits
Synonyms: blue, despondent, disconsolate, gloomy, pensive, weebegone
Derivatives: melancholia, melancholic, melancholiac, melancholically, melancholily, melancholiness, melancholious
After I saw that sad movie, the feeling of melancholy stayed with me for days.

meticulous (muh TIK yuh lus) **Definition:** taking great care
Synonyms: punctilious, scrupulous
Derivatives: meticulously, meticulousness
Her meticulous work on the car resulted in a perfectly running engine.

morose (muh ROSE) **Definition:** being sullen or gloomy; glum, saturnine, sulky
Synonyms: crabbed, glum, saturnine, sulky, surly
Derivatives: morosely, moroseness, morosity
I jumped and cheered for the team, but morose Mike just muttered, "I bet we lose anyhow."

nemesis (NEM uh sis) **Definition:** source of harm, powerful opponent
Synonyms: rival
Derivatives:
Bobby has been my nemesis since first grade, when he stole my best crayons.

nonchalance (non shuh LAWNS) **Definition:** indifference, a showing of little interest

Synonyms: casualness, disregard, indifference

Derivatives: nonchalant, nonchalantly, nonchalantness

Just once, I wanted him to shake off that nonchalance and get really excited about something!

notorious (no TOR e us) **Definition:** widely and unfavorably known

Synonyms: disreputable, infamous

Derivatives: notoriously

The man was notorious for his criminal ways.

nuance (NOO awns) **Definition:** a subtle distinction or difference

Synonyms: gradation, hint, shade, tinge, touch, trace

Derivatives: nuances, nuanced, nuancing

Using limes instead of lemons in this recipe gives it an interesting nuance.

obligatory (ob LIG uh tor ee) **Definition:** required as a matter of obligation

Synonyms: mandatory, required, necessary, imperative

Derivatives: obligated

His obligatory statement was not one of conviction, but rather one of obligation.

oblivious (uh BLIV ee un) **Definition:** unaware

Synonyms: absentminded, distracted, heedless, neglectful, negligent

Derivatives: oblivious, obliviously

The young man was oblivious to the pain he caused his friends when he turned his back on them.

oscillating (OS uh lay ting) **Definition:** moving back and forth, swinging, varying

Synonyms: fluctuating, swaying, undulating, vacillating

Derivatives: oscillate, oscillates, oscillated, oscillation, oscillator, oscillatory

The swing was oscillating in the slow breeze.

pall (PAWL) **Definition:** to lose interest or attraction, to become wearisome

Synonyms: jade, satiate, surfeit

Derivatives:

I had listened to him so long that his rhetoric began to pall.

peripheral (puh RIF ur ul) **Definition:** on the edge, not important

Synonyms: external, incidental, irrelevant, minor, superficial, tangential

Derivatives: peripheral, peripheric, peripheralism, peripherally, peripherically, periphery

When you drive on a busy street, good peripheral vision helps you keep track of the other cars.

portly (PORT lee) **Definition:** heavy or rotund in a stately manner, stout

Synonyms: ample, burly, corpulent, fleshy, rotund

Derivatives: portliness

The portly dog was happy to perform tricks in exchange for treats and belly rubs.

pragmatic (prag MAT ik) **Definition:** practical, dealing with facts

Synonyms: realistic

Derivatives: pragmatism, pragmatism, pragmatically, pragmaticalness, pragmaticism

If you are practical, you will make a pragmatic decision, not one based on emotion.

precipitous (preh SIP eh tus) **Definition:** marked by great rapidity, haste, or lack of caution

Synonyms: hasty, sudden, rash; steep, sheer

Derivatives: precipitously, precipitousness, precipice

Her precipitous and unwise actions caused problems for everyone in the group.

presumptuous (preh ZUMP choo us) **Definition:** brazenly overstepping bounds, arrogant
Synonyms: audacious, conceited, egotistic, insolent, pompous, pretentious, supercilious
Derivatives: presume, presumer, presumption, presumptive, presumptively, presumptuously, presumptuousness
He was fired for his presumptuous actions and stubborn attitude.

profuse (pro FUSE) **Definition:** bountiful, pouring forth liberally; exhibiting great abundance
Synonyms: copious galore, lavish
Derivatives: profusely, profuseness
She continued to offer profuse apologies for her behavior.

protrusion (pro TROO zhun) **Definition:** something sticking out
Synonyms: bulge, projection, protuberance, swelling
Derivatives: protusive, protusively, protusiveness
For days after she bumped her head, the protrusion of the "knot" was noticeable even through her hair.

prudent (PROOD unt) **Definition:** wise and careful about practical matters
Synonyms: judicious, sage, sane, sapient
Derivatives: prudence, prudential, prudently
A prudent student studies consistently rather than only before an exam.

pungent (PUN junt) **Definition:** sharp or irritating to the taste or smell, acrid
Synonyms: piquant, poignant, racy
Derivatives: pungence, pungency, pungently
When Victorian ladies fainted, someone would wave pungent "smelling salts" under their noses to wake them up.

quell (KWELL) **Definition:** to quiet or to put down a disturbance
Synonyms: mollify, hush, calm
Derivatives: quelled, quelling, quells
I hope this antacid can quell my indigestion.

query (KWEER ee) **Definition:** an inquiry
Synonyms: inquiry, interrogation, question
Derivatives: question, ask
If you aren't sure, write the company a query and ask the questions directly.

remorseless (re MORSE less) **Definition:** without remorse; pitiless
Synonyms: merciless; ruthless; cruel
Derivatives:
The criminal was completely remorseless about having committed the crime.

replete (reh PLETE) **Definition:** filled to capacity, abundantly supplied
Synonyms: plenary
Derivatives: repletiness, repletion, repletive
After the harvest, the bins were replete with grain.

reticent (RET uh suns) **Definition:** restrained in speech, reluctant to speak
Synonyms: reserve, taciturnity
Derivatives: reticency, reticent, reticently
She wanted to correct the teacher, but instead, remained reticent.

rivulet (RIV yuh let) **Definition:** a small stream, brook
Synonyms: bourn, channel, creek, rill, runlet, runnel, streamlet
Derivatives: rivulets
We made our way through the forest to the rivulet where we would have our picnic.

rotund (roe TUND) **Definition:** very plump, round
Synonyms: beefy, burly, elephantine, hefty, portly, stout
Derivatives: rotundity, rotundly, rotundate
The man's rotund stomach was a sure sign that he needed to lose some weight.

rue (ROO) **Definition:** to be sorry for, to regret
Synonyms: deplore, remorse, grieve, lament, mourn
Derivatives: rueful, ruefully, ruefulness, rues
I rue the harsh words we exchanged, and I hope we can be friends in spite of them.

ruminate (ROO muh nate) **Definition:** to consider for a long time at a slow pace, to ponder
Synonyms: meditate, muse, ponder
Derivatives: ruminatingly, ruminator, ruminative, ruminant, ruminantly
We thought the old man had sat down to ruminate over some problem; instead, he had fallen asleep!

scrupulous (SKROO pyuh lus) **Definition:** principled, very careful and conscientious; meticulous, punctilious
Synonyms: meticulous, punctilious
Derivatives:
Her scrupulous attention to detail saved the company from a million-dollar mistake.

serpentine (SUR pen teen) **Definition:** resembling a serpent, wily or tempting; diabolical
Synonyms: cagey, cunning, sinuous, wily
Derivatives: serpentinely, serpentingly, serpentize
The serpentine wall curved like a snake around the property.

shard (SHARD) **Definition:** a fragment of a brittle substance such as glass or pottery
Synonyms: fragment, particle, remnant, scrap
Derivatives:
We found shards of the vessels lying in the cave.

snippet (SNIP it) **Definition:** a small amount, morsel
Synonyms: bit, fragment, piece, smidgen, snip
Derivatives: snippiness, snippety, snippy
He made an inaccurate assumption based on a snippet of a conversation he had overheard.

stupefy (STOO puh fie) **Definition:** to dull the senses as to put into a stupor
Synonyms:
Derivatives: stupefyingly, stupefaction, stupeficient, stupefactive
The movie's boring plot line stupefied audiences.

subtle (SUT ul) **Definition:** delicate, elusive, not obvious
Synonyms:
Derivatives: subtilist, subtlety, subtilization, subtilize, subtilizer, subtleness, subtlety
The difference between lemon flavor and lime flavor is subtle, but I can taste it.

summon (SUM un) **Definition:** to call together, to send for or to request to appear
Synonyms: convene, convoke, muster
Derivatives: summoner, summons
When the principal summons you to his office, you have to go.

surlly (SUR lee) **Definition:** churlishly rude or bad-tempered; unfriendly, hostile
Synonyms:
Derivatives: surlier, surliest, surlily, surliness
The boy's surly attitude was only made worse by the constant taunting at recess.

surreal (suh REAL) **Definition:** having the disorienting, hallucinatory quality of a dream

Synonyms: unreal; fantastic

Derivatives:

The entire experience seemed surreal; it was like a fantasy.

tact (TAKT) **Definition:** a keen sense for what is appropriate or tasteful in delicate situations

Synonyms: diplomacy, perception, sensitivity, poise

Derivatives: tactful, tactfully, tactfulness

With great tact, the arbitrator made both sides feel that they had won.

taut (TAUT) **Definition:** tightly drawn, having no slack

Synonyms: tight

Derivatives: tautly, tautness, tauten

The tightrope walker tested the rope to make sure it was taut enough.

terse (TERS) **Definition:** concise; succinct, summary

Synonyms: compendious, laconic, pithy

Derivatives: tersely, terseness

A good toast should be terse, not long-winded.

tranquil (TRANG kwul) **Definition:** peaceful, calm

Synonyms: placid, serene

Derivatives: tranquilization, tranquilize, tranquility, tranquillness, tranquilizer

The lake house is the most tranquil spot I can imagine, so I go there to rest and meditate.

trepidation (trep eh DAY shun) **Definition:** fear, trembling, agitation

Synonyms:

Derivatives: trepitate, trepidant, trepid, trepidly, trepidity

The lowly slave approached the queen with trepidation, terrified that he would be punished or sent away.

undulant (UN juh lunt) **Definition:** moving with or resembling a wavelike motion

Synonyms:

Derivatives: undulance, undulate, undulated, undulating, undulation, undulatory

The undulant sidewinder slithers over the desert floor, avoiding other snakes.

vehement (VEE uh munt) **Definition:** forcefully expressing emotion or conviction

Derivatives: vehemence, vehemency, vehemently

When he was asked about his involvement, his vehement denials convinced even the police chief.

veracity (vuh RAS eh tee) **Definition:** devotion to the truth; truthfulness, accuracy, correctness

Synonyms: truthfulness, accuracy, correctness

Derivatives: veracious, veraciously, veraciousness

I can attest to this woman's veracity: she's never told a lie in all the time I've known her.

viable (VIE uh bul) **Definition:** capable of working, functioning, or developing adequately

Synonyms:

Derivatives: viability, viably

No, making a bonfire of your assignments is not a viable answer to your homework issues.

wary (WARE ee) **Definition:** watchful or on one's guard; cautious; careful

Synonyms: alert, vigilant, guarded, circumspect, prudent

Derivatives: warier, wariest, warily, wariness

The speaker was wary of grammatical errors.

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini



Answers

Test 1

1. a
2. e
3. b
4. d
5. c
6. c
7. b
8. d
9. b
10. c
11. e
12. c
13. a
14. e
15. d

Test 2

1. feign
2. buoyant
3. gravity
4. austere
5. imbecile
6. morose
7. bellow
8. impeccable
9. contrite
10. summon
11. nuance
12. vehement
13. trepidation
14. subtle
15. viable
16. nemesis
17. taut

Test 3

1. e
2. g
3. c
4. a
5. i
6. d
7. j
8. f
9. b
10. h
11. o
12. l
13. r
14. k
15. q
16. m
17. p
18. t
19. s
20. n

Test 4

1. e
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. d
6. b
7. e
8. a
9. c
10. c
11. b
12. a
13. d
14. c
15. e

Test 5

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. e
5. c
6. d
7. a
8. c
9. b
10. e
11. c
12. d
13. b
14. e

Test 6

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. d
6. e
7. b

Test 6

8. e
9. c
10. a
11. c
12. a
13. c
14. d