

Vocabulary Unit #1 - 8th grade

1. **Adage** (n.) a proverb, wise saying SYNONYM: maxim, saw, aphorism
2. **Bonanza** (n.) rich mass of iron ore in a mine, a very valuable, thing; profitable, rewarding; a source of wealth/prosperity; a large amount; sudden gain or profit SYNONYM: windfall
3. **Churlish** (adj.) lacking politeness or good manners; lacking sensitivity; difficult to deal with; rude SYNONYMS: surly, ill-tempered ANTONYM: courteous, civil, polite
4. **Citadel** (n.) a fortress that overlooks and protects a city; a strong, commanding place SYNONYM: fort, stronghold, bulwark, bastion
5. **Collaborate** (v.) to work with or together SYNONYM: team up, join forces with
6. **Decree** (n.) an order having the force of law; (v.) to issue such an order; to command firmly or forcefully SYNONYM: proclamation, edict, proclaim
7. **Discordant** (adj.) disagreeable in sound, jarring; lacking in harmony, conflicting SYNONYM: grating, shrill, different, divergent ANTONYM: harmonious, in agreement
8. **Evolve** (v.) to develop gradually, to rise to a higher level SYNONYM: unfold, emerge ANTONYM: wither, shrivel up, atrophy
9. **Excerpt** (n.) a passage taken from a book, article, etc. (v.) to take such a passage; to quote SYNONYM: portion, section, extract
10. **Grope** (v.) to feel about hesitantly with the hands; to search blindly and uncertainly SYNONYM: to fumble for, to cast about for
11. **Hover** (v.) to float or hang suspended over; to move back and forth uncertainly over or around SYNONYM: linger, waver, seesaw ANTONYM: soar
12. **Jostle** (v.) to make one's way by pushing or elbowing SYNONYM: push, shove
13. **Laggard** (n.) a person who moves slowly or falls behind; (adj.) falling behind, slow to move, act, or respond SYNONYM: slowpoke, straggler ANTONYM: early bird, speedy
14. **Plaudits** (n. pl.) applause, enthusiastic praise or approval SYNONYM: cheers, acclaim ANTONYM: boos, disapproval, ridicule
15. **Preclude** (v.) to make impossible, to shut out, or prevent SYNONYM: hinder, check, stop ANTONYM: help, promote, facilitate
16. **Revert** (v.) to return, to go back SYNONYM: relapse, regress ANTONYM: progress, advance
17. **Rubble** (n.) broken stones or bricks, ruins SYNONYM: wreckage, debris
18. **Servile** (adj.) of or relating to a slave; behavior suitable for a slave or servant, menial; lacking spirit or independence, submissive ANTONYM: masterly, overbearing
19. **Vigil** (n.) to watch, especially at night; any period of watchful attention
20. **Wrangle** (v.) to quarrel or argue in a noisy way; to obtain by argument; to herd (n.) a noisy quarrel SYNONYM: squabble, bicker ANTONYM: agree, concur

Vocabulary Unit 2 – 8th grade

1. **Antics** (n.pl.) ridiculous, unpredictable actions SYNONYM: pranks, shenanigans
2. **Avowed** (adj., part.) declared openly w/out shame, acknowledged SYNONYM: admitted, sworn
ANTONYM: unacknowledged, undisclosed
3. **Banter** (v.) to tease, exchange playful remarks SYNONYM: joking, raillery ANTONYM: serious talk
4. **Bountiful** (adj.) giving freely, generous, plentiful, abundant SYNONYM: liberal, copious
ANTONYM: scarce, in short supply
5. **Congested** (adj.,part.) overcrowded, filled, occupied to excess
SYNONYM: jammed, packed, choked ANTONYM: uncluttered, unimpeded
6. **Detriment** (n.) harm or loss; injury, damage; a disadvantage SYNONYM: hindrance, liability
7. **Durable** (adj.) sturdy, not easily worn out or destroyed, lasting a long time
SYNONYM: long-lasting, enduring ANTONYM: fragile, perishable, fleeting
8. **Enterprising** (adj.) energetic, willing and able to start something new; showing boldness or imagination
SYNONYM: vigorous, ambitious, aggressive, audacious ANTONYM: lazy, timid, indolent, diffident
- 9 **Frugal** (adj.) economical, avoiding waste and luxury; scanty, poor, meager
SYNONYM: thrifty, scrimp ANTONYM: wasteful, improvident, lavish, extravagant
10. **Gingerly** (adj., adv.) with extreme caution or care
SYNONYM: cautiously, warily ANTONYM: firmly, confidently, aggressively
11. **Glut** (v.) to provide more than what is needed or wanted; to feed to overstuffing
SYNONYM: flood, inundate, surplus, plethora ANTONYM: shortage, scarcity, dearth
12. **Incognito** (adj., adv.) in a disguised state, under an assumed name or identity; (n.) the state of being disguised. SYNONYM: disguised ANTONYM: undisguised
13. **Invalidate** (v.) to make valueless, to take away all force or effect
SYNONYM: cancel, annul, disapprove, discredit ANTONYM: support, confirm, back up
14. **Legendary** (adj.) described in well-known stories; existing in old stories instead of real life
SYNONYM: mythical, famous, celebrated, fabulous
15. **Maim** (v.) to cripple, disable, injure, mar, disfigure, mutilate
16. **Minimize** (v.) to make as small as possible, to make smaller than before
SYNONYM: belittle, downplay, underrate ANTONYM: magnify, enlarge, exaggerate
17. **Oblique** (adj.) slanting or sloping; not straightforward or direct
SYNONYM: diagonal or indirect ANTONYM: direct, straight to the point
18. **Veer** (v.) to change direction or course, turn aside, shift or swerve suddenly
19. **Venerate** (v.) to regard with reverence, look up to with great respect
SYNONYM: worship, revere, idolize ANTONYM: despise, detest, ridicule, deride
20. **Wanton** (adj.) reckless, heartless, unjustifiable, loose in morals; (n.) a pampered, spoiled person
SYNONYM: malicious, rash, spiteful ANTONYM: responsible, justified

Vocabulary Unit 3 - 8th grade

1. **Allot** - (v.) to assign in portion or shares SYNONYM: Parcel out, allocate, apportion
2. **Amass** (v.) to bring together, collect, gather, especially for oneself; to assemble or come together
SYNONYM: accumulate, pile up, garner
3. **Audacious** (adj.) bold, adventurous, recklessly daring
SYNONYM: enterprising, brave ANTONYM: timid, cowardly
4. **Comply** (v.) to yield to a request or command
SYNONYM: submit to, consent to, acquiesce in ANTONYM: reject, refuse, decline
5. **Devoid** (adj.) not having or using, lacking
SYNONYM: wanting, bereft ANTONYM: full, teeming
6. **Elite** (n.) the choice part of a group of people or things (adj.) superior
SYNONYM: upper crust, cream of the crop ANTONYM: rank and file, dregs of society
7. **Grapple** (n.) an iron hook used to grab and hold (v.) to come to grips with, wrestle or fight with
SYNONYM: tackle, confront, struggle with
8. **Incapacitate** (v.) to deprive of strength and ability; to make legally ineligible
SYNONYM: disable, debilitate, paralyze, cripple ANTONYM: rehabilitate, restore
9. **Instigate** (v.) to urge on; to stir up, provoke, incite, start up ANTONYM: stop, squash
10. **Longevity** (n.) long life, duration of life ANTONYM: brevity, transience
11. **Myriad** (adj.) in great numbers (v.) a great number
SYNONYM: innumerable, countless ANTONYM: few, scant, sparse
12. **Perspective** (n.) a point of view or standpoint from which things are viewed; the appearance to the eye of various objects at a given time SYNONYM: viewpoint
13. **Perturb** (v.) to trouble, make uneasy; to disturb greatly; to throw into confusion
SYNONYM: upset, agitate, anger, irritate ANTONYM: delight, gladden, please
14. **Prodigious** (adj.) immense, extraordinary in bulk, size, or degree
SYNONYM: gigantic, tremendous, astounding ANTONYM: puny, miniscule
15. **Relevant** (adj.) connected to the matter at hand SYNONYM: pertinent, germane, applicable
ANTONYM: unconnected, extraneous
16. **Skittish** (adj.) extremely nervous and easily frightened; shy or timid; extremely cautious, unstable, undependable SYNONYM: jumpy, fickle ANTONYM: bold, daring
17. **Tether** (n.) a rope or chain to fasten something to a fixed object; the outer limit of strength or resources (v.) to fasten with a rope or chain SYNONYM: tie up, leash, chain ANTONYM: untie, let loose
18. **Unison** (n.) a sounding together; agreement or accord SYNONYM: harmony, assent
19. **Vie** (v.) to compete, strive for a win or victory SYNONYM: contend, rival
20. **Willful** (adj.) stubbornly self-willed; deliberate SYNONYM: headstrong, obstinate, premeditated
ANTONYM: docile, obedient, tractable

Vocabulary Unit #4 - 8th grade

1. **Annul** (v.) to reduce to nothing; to make ineffective or inoperative
SYNONYM: cancel, abolish, invalidate, nullify ANTONYM: validate, authorize, ratify
2. **Blasé** (adj.) indifferent, bored, apathetic ANTONYM: enthusiastic, fervent
3. **Bolster** (v.) to support, give a boost to (n.) a long pillow or cushion; a support post
SYNONYM: strengthen, reinforce, buttress, validate ANTONYM: undermine, weaken
4. **Deplore** (v.) to feel or express regret or disapproval
SYNONYM: lament, bemoan, bewail ANTONYM: approve, commend, extol
5. **Frivolous** (adj.) of little importance, nor worthy of attention; not meant seriously
SYNONYM: silly, foolish, inane, petty ANTONYM: serious, important, significant
6. **Mustering** (v.) to bring together for service or battle; to gather or summon; to include
(n.) a list of men for military service; a gathering SYNONYM: mobilize, marshal; roster, inventory
ANTONYM: disband, dismiss, disperse
7. **Nonentity** (n.) a person or thing of no importance
SYNONYM: nobody ANTONYM: celebrity, superstar
8. **Obsess** (v.) to trouble, haunt, or fill the mind SYNONYM: preoccupy
9. **Ornate** (adj.) elaborately decorated, showy or splendid
SYNONYM: fancy, elaborate, flamboyant ANTONYM: simple, stark, plain, austere
10. **Oust** (v.) to remove, drive out of a position or place
SYNONYM: expel, eject ANTONYM: admit, welcome
11. **Peruse** (v.) to read thoroughly and carefully SYNONYM: study, scrutinize
12. **Porous** (adj.) full of tiny holes; able to be penetrated by air or water
SYNONYMS: leaky, permeable ANTONYM: airtight, waterproof, impermeable
13. **Promontory**(n.) a high point of land extending into water SYNONYM: cliff, headland
14. **Prone** (adj.) Lying face down, inclined, likely
SYNONYM: prostrate, liable, apt ANTONYM: standing upright, unlikely
15. **Qualm** (n.) a pang of conscience, uneasiness, misgiving, or doubt; a feeling of faintness or nausea
SYNONYMS: regret, second thought, scruple
16. **Recourse** (n.) a person or a thing turned to for help or advice; the act of seeking help or protection
SYNONYM: redress, remedy, resort
17. **Residue** (n.) a remainder, that which remains SYNONYM: remnant
18. **Solicitous** (adj.) showing concern or care; fearful or anxious about something
SYNONYM: concerned ANTONYM: unconcerned, indifferent, apathetic
19. **Staid** (adj.) serious and dignified; quiet or subdued in character or conduct
SYNONYM: sedate, sober, prim ANTONYM: gaudy, jaunty, unconventional
20. **Sustain** (v.) to support, nourish, keep up; to suffer, undergo; to bear, withstand
SYNONYM: foster, maintain

Vocabulary Unit #5 - 8th grade

1. **Aghast** (adj.) filled with amazement, disgust, fear, or terror
SYNONYM: shocked, horrified, stupefied ANTONYM: delighted, overjoyed
2. **Ample** (adj.) more than enough, large, spacious
SYNONYM: sufficient, adequate, considerable ANTONYM: inadequate, insufficient
3. **Apparition** (n.) a ghost or ghostly figure SYNONYM: phantom, specter, ghost
4. **Assert** (v.) to declare or state as truth, maintain or defend, put forward forcefully,
SYNONYM: affirm, avow
5. **Cower** (v.) to crouch or shrink away from in shame or fear
SYNONYM: cringe, flinch ANTONYM: stand up to
6. **Disdain** (v.) to look upon with scorn; to refuse scornfully; (n.) a feeling of contempt
SYNONYM: spurn, reject ANTONYM: revere, venerate, esteem, respect
7. **Epitaph** (n.) a brief statement written on a tomb or grave SYNONYM: tombstone
8. **Ethical** (adj.) having to do with moral values, right and wrong; in accordance with standards of right conduct SYNONYM: upright, virtuous, honest ANTONYM: immoral, unscrupulous, dishonest
9. **Facetious** (adj.) humorous, not meant seriously
SYNONYMS: comical, witty, tongue-in-cheek ANTONYM: serious, humorless
10. **Inaudible** (adj.) not able to be heard SYNONYM: indistinct ANTONYM: audible
11. **Indiscriminate** (adj.) without restraint or control; unselective
SYNONYM: haphazard, random, uncritical ANTONYM: selective, discriminating, judicious
12. **Intrigue** (n.) crafty dealings, underhanded plotting; (v.) to form and carry out plots
SYNONYM: scheme, plot, conspiracy ANTONYM: fair play
13. **Jurisdiction** (n.) an area of authority or control; the right to administer justice SYNONYM: purview
14. **Plausible** (adj.) appearing true, reasonable SYNONYM: believable, probable
15. **Plebeian** (adj.) common, vulgar, lower-class (n.) a common person or member of the lower class
SYNONYM: lowborn, proletarian, coarse, unrefined ANTONYMYM: aristocratic, refined, cultivated
16. **Prodigal** (adj.) wastefully extravagant, lavish or abundant (n.) one who is wasteful and self-indulgent
SYNONYM: improvident, spendthrift ANTONYM: frugal, stingy
17. **Proximity** (n.) nearness, closeness ANTONYMS: distance, remoteness
18. **Pulverize** (v.) to ground to a powder or dust; to destroy or overcome; to smash
SYNONYM: crush, demolish
19. **Sequel** (n.) that which follows, a result: a literary work or film continuing the story of one made earlier
SYNONYM: follow-up or continuation ANTONYM: prelude, overture
20. **Volatile** (adj.) highly changeable, fickle; tending to become violent or explosive; changing readily from the liquid to the gaseous state SYNONYM: unstable, erratic ANTONYM: stable, steady, static, inert, dormant

