

Name: _____

Due: _____

Vocab 1—Words for High School Seniors

WORD	DEFINITION	IN A SENTENCE	SYNONYM	ANTONYM	REMINDS ME
ACUMEN (n)	Keeness, depth of perception or discernment	Her political acumen won her the election			
ASSUAGE (v)	To lessen the intensity or ease something. To pacify/quiet	The mother tried to assuage the crying baby.			
AVARICE (n)	Excessive, insatiable desire for gain/wealth	The corporate world is plagued by avarice and a thirst for power.			
BANAL (adj)	Lacking originality, freshness	The writing itself was bad, though the plot was interesting.			
BIFURCATE (v)	To divide into branches or parts	The stream bifurcated into two narrow channels.			
DISINGENUOUS (adj)	Giving false appearance of sincerity; lacking truth/candor	Her offer to help was disingenuous—she never meant to lend a hand.			
ECLECTIC (adj)	Composed of elements from various sources;	The collection includes an eclectic mix of historical artifacts.			
ETHEREAL (adj)	Lacking material substance, celestial, heavenly, spiritual	The windows give the church an ethereal glow.			
FETID (adj)	Having a strong, unpleasant smell	The fetid odor of rotting vegetables made me gag.			
GARISH (adj)	Excessively or too vivid or bright; tastelessly showy	Her garish makeup was so thick I wanted to scrape it off with my fingernail.			
INANE (adj)	Empty, insubstantial; lacking significance or meaning	The film's plot was inane and full of clichés			
LEVITY (adj)	Excessive or unseemly frivolity or lightheartedness;	They managed to find some levity amidst the calamities.			
MILIEU (n)	The physical or social setting something occurs in; environment	Young, innovative artists often thrive in progressive urban milieu.			
PALPABLE (adj)	Capable of being touched or felt; tangible. Easily perceptible, noticeable	I felt a palpable sense of relief.			

PEJORATIVE (n)	A word or phrase that inherently insulting or belittling.	The pejorative overtones of the lecture made the students feel ignorant and stupid.			
RIFE (adj)	Abundant, common Prevalent.	The local government was rife with corruption			
SUCCINCT (adj)	Using few words to express an idea; marked by compact and precise expression.	He gave a succinct overview of the expansion project.			
UBIQUITOUS (adj)	Existing or being everywhere at once; widespread	The song seemed ubiquitous for two months.			
UNILATERAL (adj)	Done or undertaken by one person/party; having/affecting one side	The bill only had unilateral support and later failed.			
VILIFY (v)	To say or write harsh and critical things about someone/thing; to slander/defame	He was vilified in the press for his political comments.			

* taken from various sources such as the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, mydictionary.com, thesaurus.com, dictionary.com