

Vocabulary 4

- annul** (ə nəl') (v.) to reduce to nothing; to make ineffective or inoperative; to declare legally invalid or void
The state legislators voted by an overwhelming majority to _____ the out-of-date law.
SYNONYMS: cancel, abolish, invalidate, nullify
ANTONYMS: validate, authorize, ratify
- blasé** (blā zā') (adj.) indifferent, bored as a result of having enjoyed many pleasures; apathetic
Battle-hardened soldiers may tend to become a bit _____ about the dangers they face.
ANTONYMS: enthusiastic, passionate, fervent
- bolster** (bɒl' stər) (v.) to support, give a boost to; (n.) a long pillow or cushion; a supporting post
When you write a research paper, you should always use appropriate facts to _____ your case.
The sofa has four comfortable _____.
SYNONYMS: (v.) strengthen, reinforce, buttress, validate
ANTONYMS: (v.) undermine, weaken, impair
- deplore** (dɪ plɔr') (v.) to feel or express regret or disapproval
Social critics _____ what they believe is a widespread decline in good manners.
SYNONYMS: lament, bemoan, bewail
ANTONYMS: approve, commend, extol
- frivolous** (friv' ə ləs) (adj.) of little importance, not worthy of serious attention; not meant seriously
I'll ignore your _____ suggestion.
SYNONYMS: silly, foolish, inane, petty, trifling
ANTONYMS: serious, important, significant
- muster** (məs' tər) (v.) to bring together for service or battle; to gather or summon; to amount to, comprise, include; (n.) a list of men for military service; a gathering, accumulation
You will need to _____ up your courage to face the bully who has been tormenting you.
The sleepy new recruits assembled on the parade ground for the early morning _____.
SYNONYMS: (v.) mobilize, marshal; (n.) roster, inventory
ANTONYMS: (v.) disband, dismiss, disperse
- nonentity** (nɒn en' tə tē) (n.) a person or thing of no importance
We may not be movie stars, but we did not deserve to be treated as _____ by the presumptuous headwaiter.
SYNONYM: nobody
ANTONYMS: celebrity, superstar
- obsess** (əb ses') (v.) to trouble, haunt, or fill the mind
If you allow fear of failure to _____ you, you will find it difficult or even impossible to achieve your goals in life.
SYNONYM: preoccupation
- ornate** (ɔr nāt') (adj.) elaborately decorated; showily splendid
If you ask me, an _____ gilded frame distracts the viewer's eye from a simple drawing.
SYNONYMS: fancy, elaborate, flashy, flamboyant
ANTONYMS: simple, plain, stark, austere
- oust** (aúst) (v.) to remove, drive out of a position or place
Military leaders _____ the duly elected president and took over the government.
SYNONYMS: expel, eject
ANTONYMS: admit, welcome
- peruse** (pə rüz') (v.) to read thoroughly and carefully
It is wise to have a lawyer _____ an agreement before you sign it.
SYNONYMS: study, pore over, scrutinize
- porous** (pɔr' əs) (adj.) full of tiny holes; able to be penetrated by air or water
Some synthetic materials are as _____ and strong as natural sponges.
SYNONYMS: leaky, permeable
ANTONYMS: airtight, waterproof, impermeable
- promontory** (prəm' ən tɔr ē) (n.) a high point of land extending into water
We chose a high _____ overlooking the sea as the perfect spot for our picnic lunch.
SYNONYMS: cliff, headland
- prone** (prɒn) (adj.) lying face down; inclined, likely
Unfortunately, I am _____ to earaches and sinus infections.
SYNONYMS: prostrate, liable, apt
ANTONYMS: standing upright, unlikely
- qualm** (kwäm) (n.) a pang of conscience, uneasiness, misgiving, or doubt; a feeling of faintness or nausea
Don't you have serious _____ about voting for such a relatively unknown and inexperienced candidate?
SYNONYMS: regret, second thought, scruple
- recourse** (rē' kɔrs) (n.) a person or thing turned to for help or advice; the act of seeking help or protection
If my letter of complaint fails to get results, I will still have _____ to a higher authority.
SYNONYMS: redress, remedy, resort
- residue** (rez' ə dū) (n.) a remainder, that which remains when a part has been used up or removed
A _____ of sticky taffy made the pan difficult to clean.
SYNONYMS: remnant, remains, leftovers
- solicitous** (sə lɪs' ə təs) (adj.) showing concern or care; fearful or anxious about someone or something
Neighbors made _____ inquiries about the state of the elderly couple's health.
SYNONYM: concerned
ANTONYMS: unconcerned, indifferent, apathetic
- staid** (stāid) (adj.) serious and dignified; quiet or subdued in character or conduct
Many companies have a dress code which requires that all employees wear _____ colors such as navy or gray.
SYNONYMS: sedate, sober, prim
ANTONYMS: gaudy, jaunty, unconventional
- sustain** (sə stān') (v.) to support, nourish, keep up; to suffer, undergo; to bear up under, withstand; to affirm the validity of
You may _____ a serious eye injury if you forget to wear your safety goggles when you work with chemicals or power tools.
SYNONYMS: foster, maintain