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|  |  | Syn. | Ant. | Sentence |
| ambivalence | Noun | Doubt, uncertainty, indecision, hesitancy | Sureness, certainty, decisiveness | He felt ambivalence towards the inmates. The employees were ambivalent (adj) towards the organized labor movement. |
| cantankerous | Adj | Cranky, argumentative, bad-tempered uncooperative. | Cheerful, pleasant | A crusty, cantankerous old man yelled at the dog in his yard. Feeding and harnessing the cantankerous mules was the hardest part of the job. |
| derogatory | Adj | Demeaning, disrespectful, hurtful | Favorable, Flattering, respectful | The public criticized the basketball team owner after he made derogatory remarks about minorities. |
| ludicrous | Adj | Absurd , Ridiculous, insane, foolish | Sensible, logical, calm | Jacob you are acting LUDICROUS to your sister by throwing darts at her leg! |
| orthodox | Adj | CONSERVATIVE  STRICT, traditional proper | UNORTHODOX  UNTRADITIONAL, unconventional | The party leader’s orthodox views are failing to attract new, younger voters. |
| ameliorate | Verb | Improve, amend, make better | Worsen | Ameliorate your singing by taking a few vocal lessons. |
| desecration | Noun | Profanation, violation, insult | Honor, praise, protect | Having a party in a cemetery at night is one way to desecrate the resting place of the dead. |
| impoverished | Adj | Needy, Barren, make poor, penniless | Rich, Full, opulent, wealthy | **Impoverished** nations and people have everything to gain and nothing to lose by engaging in war. |
| amiable | Adj | Friendly, welcoming, good-humored | Distant, cold-shoulder, aloof, disagreeable | The amiable teacher was willing to tutor after school. Alex was amiable throughout the field trip but got upset when he had to ride the bus. |
| despondent | Adj | discourage, downhearted, dispirited | Hopeful, encourage, cheerful | The woman was despondent when she found out her father was sick. |
| inadvertent | Adj (usually as an adverb with –ly) | Unintentional, accidental | Deliberate, planned | He inadvertently said something said something disrespectful. An inadvertent administrative error resulted in overpayment. |
| predicament | Noun | Puzzle, unpleasant difficult situation | Ease, advantageous | Lowering prices is our only solution for the business predicament. |
| expedite | Verb | Accelerate, speed up, hasten, hurry | Slow down, decelerate, delay | The librarian expedited the project by providing laptops to students. |
| incessant | Adj. | Constant, nonstop, endless | Intermittent, occasional | Their dog's incessant barking was annoying and gave him a headache. |
| prerogative | Noun | Authority, birthright, entitlement, privilege | Obligation, duty | This provision does not extend to abridging the **prerogative** after the impeachment has been heard and determined.  Protestors claim that not everyone has the prerogative to marry someone with the same gender. |
| detrimental | Adj | Harmful, damaging | Benign, kind, friendly | The **detrimental** consequences of a ban could be offset by other forms of hunting. The bird flu was detrimental to farmers this year. |
| magnanimous | Adj | Generous  Big- Hearted, forgiving | Selfish  Mean-Spirited | You should always be magnanimous towards animals. |
| undermine | Verb | damage or weaken (someone or something), injure | enhance, strengthen | Find a way to undermine the opponent. A heavy backpack is destined to undermine your traveling pleasure. |
| anarchy | Noun | disorder, revolution, riot, nongovernment, chaos | peace, organization, harmony, law, government order | Able to dispense instant sentencing, Judges are the one thing preventing total **anarchy**. It was complete anarchy when the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775. |
| scapegoat | Noun | Fall guy, patsy, an event person or object that is used to lay the blame on for all that goes wrong | The one responsible for the problem | When we lost the game comments made Luis the scapegoat because he didn’t come to practice often. |

Write a + (positive), a – (negative) or a / (neutral) to indicate the connotation (feeling of the word) in the part of speech column. STRATEGY—understand parts of speech to help you use vocabulary words in a sentence!