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| **Vocabulary** | **Definition / 2 synonyms** | **2 antonyms** | **Sample Sentence** |
| abhor | Detest, abominate, loathe  Hate, despise | Admire, adore  Love | If you abhor racism, you can make a difference in the world.  I was abhorrent when I saw the monster; I abhor the taste of seafood. |
| placid | Tranquil, serene, peaceful, calm | Excited, agitated, tumultuous, chaotic | The watched the placid surface of the sea. The stock market has been far from placid during the economic crisis. |
| abrasive | Harsh, careless, corrosive, erosive, rough | Caring, nice | The bully was abrasive by laughing at the girl with the broken arm. He was so abrasive that they would have divorced eventually. |
| covert | Secret, undercover | Overt, unconcealed | The spy went to great lengths to make sure enemies would not discover his covert plans. |
| nuance | Degree, shade, gradation, shadow, subtle difference | Exact, perfect, distinct | After a while, you can grasp the subtle nuance of water-colored clouds as the sun rose in the sky. |
| nullify | Cancel, invalidate, void | Approve, accept, commit, continue | The credit card company nullified the rental car payment. Nullify the contract so he doesn’t have to pay you back. |
| tangible | Material, real, visible | Abstract, theoretical | The atmosphere of neglect and abandonment was almost tangible in the orphanage. I prefer a reward more tangible than praise, say cash. |
| blasphemy | Profanity, swearing, insult, debate | Godliness, devoted faith, acceptance, recognition | The nuns would punish me three times a week for my blasphemy. |
| reprehensible | Deplorable, disgraceful, blameworthy | Praiseworthy, creditable, admirable | Your conduct, cursing at the teacher, is reprehensible and will not be tolerated. |
| blatant | Flagrant, glaring, undisguised | Inconspicuous, shame-faced, subtle | Her mouth dropped open at the blatant threat. |
| reprieve | Pardon, spare, postpone | Punishment, penalty | Under the new regime, prisoners with the death sentence were reprieved. |
| abstain | Forbear, desist, refrain, hold away | Indulge | Catholics are calling for criminals to abstain from voting. The man abstained from doing drugs. |
| haughtiness | Arrogant, disdainful, conceited, prideful | Modest, humble, humility, meekness | Because of her haughtiness, she did not have many friends. |
| plethora | Glut, deluge, excess, plenty, surplus | Few, rarity, surfeit, dearth | You have a plethora of food at the buffet. |
| lackluster | Uninspired, no vitality, bland, deadened | Inspired, exciting, lively | The lackluster performance made the audience fall asleep. |
| tenacious | Clinging, adhering, a firm hold, adamant, tight | Surrendering, weak, loose | My tenacious wife protested the proposed legal changes. The tenacious student studied every day after school to get on the principal’s list. |
| accolade | Honor, award, praise, approval | Dishonor, insult, criticism | The veteran had many accolades from the war in Vietnam. Mrs. Smith is such a great teacher that she is always getting one accolade after another. |
| cryptic | Enigmatic, confusing, ambiguous, mystifying | Clear, open, understandable | He failed to make the cryptic words in any way friendly. |
| lamentation | Weeping, mourning, crying | Celebration, praise, laughing, smiling | You could see her lamentation as she was crying her eyes out when her puppy was run over. |
| tentative | Conjectural, uncertain | Sure, definite | She was tentative about going to speak in front of the class. She answered in a tentative voice because she was nervous. The tentative plan on Friday is to go to the beach if it doesn’t rain. |