

The Fall of the House of Usher

by Edgar Allen Poe

Definitions



The Fall of the House of Usher

Definitions



1.	acuity	uh KEW uh tee	sharpness of perception
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> denseness
	His acuity in determining the facts made him a good judge.		
	Derivatives >>	acuties, acute, acuteness	
2.	affinity	uh FIN uh tee	a likeness, a natural relationship, a kinship
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> repulsion
	Having suffered himself, he felt an affinity for the homeless.		
	Derivatives >>	affinitive	
3.	anomalous	uh NAHM uh lus	out of place, abnormal
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> fitting a pattern
	Seeing a Toyota in the background of that World War II movie was anomalous.		
	Derivatives >>	anomalously, anomalousness, anomaly, anomalies	
4.	antiquity	an TIK wuh tee	the quality of being ancient; ancient times
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	Many scholars spend years studying the records left from antiquity.		
	Derivatives >>	antiquities, antiquarian	
5.	apathy	AP uh thee	a lack of concern or feeling, indifference
	Synonyms >>	phlegm, stoicism, stolidness	Antonym >> enthusiastic devotion
	The man looked upon the turn of events with apathy.		
	Derivatives >>	apathetic, apathetical, apathetically	
6.	desolate	DES uh lit	deserted, without inhabitants, barren
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> populous
	Some of the western states have large areas that are desolate.		
	Derivatives >>	desolately, desolateness, desolater, desolating, desolation	
7.	dirge	DURJ	funeral hymn, lament
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> dance
	The music was so morose and solemn that it sounded like a dirge.		
	Derivatives >>	dirgeful, dirges	
8.	discern	deh SURN	to differentiate between two or more things
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to ignore; to be oblivious; to
	Because of the fog, I was barely able to discern the landing strip.		
	Derivatives >>	discerner, discernible, discernable, discernibleness, discernibly, discernably, discerningly, discernment	
9.	discord	DIS kord	lack of agreement, tension, strife
	Synonyms >>	contention, dissension, variance	Antonym >> harmony; agreement
	There is a lot of discord in the nation over the issue of abortion.		
	Derivatives >>	discordance, discordancy, discordant, discordantly, discordantness	
10.	dissolution	dis uh LOO shun	disintegration, decomposition and dispersion
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> integration
	The dissolution of the partnership caused him much grief.		
	Derivatives >>	dissolute, dissolutely, dissoluteness, dissolutive, dissoluble	
11.	emaciated	eh MAY she ay tid	very thin (usually as a result of starvation), wasting away
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> fat; corpulent
	As a result of receiving little food, most prisoners of concentration camps become extremely emaciated.		
	Derivatives >>	emaciate, emaciation	

12.	equivocal	eh KWIV uh kul	ambiguous (usually intended to mislead)
	Synonyms >>	abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic, enigmatic, obscure, recondite	Antonym >> clear; straightforward
	His speech was difficult to understand because of all his equivocal statements.		
	Derivatives >>	equivocacy, equivocality, equivocally, equivocalness, equivocate, equivocation, equivocator, equivocality	
13.	fervid	FUR vid	ardent, burning, impassioned
	Synonyms >>	fervent, passionate, fervid	Antonym >> indifferent
	The evangelist is a fervid crusader against sin.		
	Derivatives >>	fervidity, fervidly, fervidness	
14.	goad	GODE	to urge on in a negative sense
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to dissuade
	He was goaded by his friends to take drugs.		
	Derivatives >>	goaded, goading	
15.	hideous	HID ee us	very ugly, offensive, shocking
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> delightful
	Some characters in the horror movie had hideous faces.		
	Derivatives >>	hideously, hideousness, hideosity	
16.	impetuous	im PECH oo us	violent, hasty, rash, impulsive
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> reserved
	His impetuous behavior caused him to make many mistakes.		
	Derivatives >>	impetuosity, impetuously, impetuousness, impetus	
17.	import	IM port	relative importance, significance
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> meaninglessness
	The full import of today's events will not be realized for years.		
	Derivatives >>	importance	
18.	insipid	in SIP id	boring and stupid
	Synonyms >>	banal, flat, inane, jejune, vapid	Antonym >> spirited and animated; zestful
	I am bored by your insipid talk.		
	Derivatives >>	insipidity, insipidly, insipidness	
19.	interred	in TURD	buried
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> exhumed; disinterred
	He was interred by the avalanche.		
	Derivatives >>	inter, interment	
20.	malady	MAL eh dee	a disease or unwholesome condition
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> good health
	The poor old woman seems to suffer one malady after another.		
	Derivatives >>	maladies	
21.	melancholy	MEL un kol ee	depression of spirits
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> happiness
	After Dad lost his job, he fell into a state of melancholy.		
	Derivatives >>	melancholia, melancholic, melancholiac, melancholically, melancholily, melancholiness, melancholious	
22.	morbidity	mor BID eh tee	unwholesomeness and gloominess, gruesomeness
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> wholesomeness
	The boy talked about dead people and gruesome things. He soon frightened me with his morbidity.		
	Derivatives >>	morbid, morbidity	
23.	munificent	myoo NIF eh sent	very generous
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> parsimonious; stingy
	The munificent gift to the school was appreciated by all of the students.		
	Derivatives >>	munificence, munificency, munificently, munificentness	
24.	orthodox	OR thuh doks	conforming to established standards, conventional
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> unconventional
	The church is founded upon a set of orthodox views.		
	Derivatives >>	orthodoxness, orthodoxical, orthodoxically, orthodoxism, orthodoxly, orthodoxy	
25.	pallor	PAL ur	extreme paleness usually relating to the face
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> ruddy color
	The strange disease left the man with a sickly pallor.		
	Derivatives >>	pallors	

26.	palpable	PAL puh bul	tangible, perceptible, easily noticeable
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	I do not see how I overlooked such a palpable miscalculation.		
	Derivatives >>	palpability, palpably, palpableness	
27.	paradoxical	pair uh DOKS uh kul	something that appears false or contradictory but is actually correct
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	It is paradoxical that a man from the South, Lyndon Johnson, led the fight for the passage of a civil rights bill.		
	Derivatives >>	paradoxicality, paradoxicalness, paradoxology, paradoxality	
28.	pertinacity	pur tuh NAS eh tee	stubborn persistence or act of refusing to yield on an opinion or belief
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> vacillation
	Because of his pertinacity, the fighter was able to go the entire twelve rounds and win the fight.		
	Derivatives >>	pertinacious, pertinaciously, pertinaciousness	
29.	ponderous	PON dur us	very heavy, unwieldy from weight
	Synonyms >>	cumbersome, cumbrous	Antonym >> lightweight
	The ponderous furniture was hard to move, and thus became a burden.		
	Derivatives >>	ponderosity, ponderously, ponderousness	
30.	potent	POTE unt	powerful, having a strong effect
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> ineffectual
	They gave me a potent pain killer to stop the throbbing sensation in my leg.		
	Derivatives >>	potence, potency	
31.	precipitous	preh SIP eh tus	marked by great rapidity, haste, or lack of caution
	Synonyms >>	hasty, sudden, rash; steep, sheer	Antonym >> gradual
	Her precipitous behavior led her to make silly mistakes. The precipitous slope rose before us.		
	Derivatives >>	precipitously, precipitousness, precipice	
32.	prodigious	pruh DIJ us	extraordinary in bulk, quantity, or degree, great in size, enormous
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> puny; minuscule
	His prodigious appetite allowed him to eat the entire turkey.		
	Derivatives >>	prodigiously, prodigiousness	
33.	profuse	pruh FYOOS	extravagantly abundant, flowing freely
	Synonyms >>	lavish, lush, luxuriant, prodigal	Antonym >> meager
	Cutting that artery will cause profuse bleeding.		
	Derivatives >>	profusely, profuseness, profusion, profusive, profusively	
34.	prostration	pros TRAY shun	a stretching out due to lacking vitality and being completely overcome
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> vitality
	During late summer football practices, players sometimes suffer from heat prostration.		
	Derivatives >>	prostrate, prostrator, prostrating	
35.	protract	pro TRAKT	to prolong
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to shorten
	The union hopes to protract the strike in order to force management to settle.		
	Derivatives >>	protractedly, protractedness, pretractible, protraction, protractive	
36.	quaint	KWAYNT	unusual in character or appearance
	Synonyms >>	eccentric, peculiar, queer, unique	Antonym >> ordinary
	When we go to New England, we like to stay in a quaint old inn that gives us the flavor of the area.		
	Derivatives >>	quaintish, quaintly, quaintness	
37.	rend	REND	to tear violently, to split
	Synonyms >>	cleave, rive	Antonym >> to unify
	He tried to rend the flag as a protest against the war.		
	Derivatives >>	rent, rended, rending, rends	
38.	reverie	REV uh ree	daydreaming
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> attentiveness
	Spring seems to lend itself to reverie.		
	Derivatives >>	reveries, reverist	
39.	stealthy	STEL the	acting in a secret and sneaky way--this is a negative term
	Synonyms >>	clandestine, covert, furtive, surreptitious, underhanded	Antonym >> open; indiscreet
	The secret organization moves by stealth to gather information on its enemies.		
	Derivatives >>	stealthyful, stealthfully, stealthily, stealthiness, stealth	

40.	sublime	suh BLIME	exalted, noble, uplifting
	Synonyms >>	resplendent, superb	Antonym >>
	The romantic dinner, which included delicious food, soft music, and a beautiful setting, was simply sublime.		
	Derivatives >>	sublimely, sublimeness, sublimer	
41.	tarry	TARE ee	to delay in coming or going, to linger
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to depart promptly
	Please do not tarry; I want you to be here on time.		
	Derivatives >>	tarriness, tarried, tarries	
42.	tempestuous	tem PES choo us	turbulent, stormy
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> calm
	The mayoral candidates had a tempestuous debate in which they exchanged many personal accusations.		
	Derivatives >>	tempestuously, tempestuousness, tempest	
43.	tenuous	TEN yoo us	flimsy, barely attached
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> firm or substantial
	His position with the law firm became tenuous when he objected to hiring women.		
	Derivatives >>	tenuously, tenuousness, tenuity	
44.	trepidation	trep eh DAY shun	fear, trembling, agitation
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> fearlessness
	Since I did not have time to study, I have a lot of trepidation about this examination.		
	Derivatives >>	trepidate, trepidant, trepid, trepidly, trepidity	
45.	trifling	TRY fling	not significant, frivolous
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> important; significant
	Some think that watching MTV is a trifling experience.		
	Derivatives >>	trifle, trifled, trifling, trifles	
46.	trivia	TRIV ee uh	insignificant matters
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> important matters
	The English teacher is looking for substance, not trivia, in themes.		
	Derivatives >>	trivial, triviality, trivialization, trivialize, trivially	
47.	unobtrusive	un ob TRUE siv	not readily noticeable, inconspicuous
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> noticeable; obvious
	He is very unobtrusive sitting over there in the corner.		
	Derivatives >>	unobtrusiveness, unobtrusively	
48.	upbraid	up BRADE	to scold harshly, to reproach
	Synonyms >>	berate, rail at, revile, vituperate	Antonym >> to praise
	I must upbraid my son for staying out past his curfew.		
	Derivatives >>	upbraided, upbraider, upbraiding, upbraidingly	
49.	utter	UT ur	to express by speaking
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to leave unspoken
	The teacher told me not to utter another word.		
	Derivatives >>	utters, uttered, uttering, utterance	
50.	vivacious	vi VAY shus	full of life, very animated
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> sluggish
	Game shows are looking for vivacious contestants who are fun to watch and who will liven up the show.		
	Derivatives >>	vivaciously, vivaciousness, vivacity	
51.	vivid	VIV id	bright, distinct, and clear
	Synonyms >>	graphic	Antonym >> lackluster
	I have vivid memories of my trip to Europe.		
	Derivatives >>	vividly, vividness, vividity, vivific, vivificate, vivification, vivifier, vivify	
52.	wan	WAHN	very pale and sickly
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> full of vitality
	I knew that something very serious was wrong by his wan appearance.		
	Derivatives >>	waned, wanning	

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These words which appear in *The Fall of the House of Usher* have been identified as words or derivatives of words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They are listed here in alphabetical order.

1. acuity	14. goad	27. paradoxical	40. sublime
2. affinity	15. hideous	28. pertinacity	41. tarry
3. anomalous	16. impetuous	29. ponderous	42. tempestuous
4. antiquity	17. import	30. potent	43. tenuous
5. apathy	18. insipid	31. precipitous	44. trepidation
6. desolate	19. interred	32. prodigious	45. trifling
7. dirge	20. malady	33. profuse	46. trivia
8. discern	21. melancholy	34. prostration	47. unobtrusive
9. discord	22. morbidity	35. protract	48. upbraid
10. dissolution	23. munificent	36. quaint	49. utter
11. emaciated	24. orthodox	37. rend	50. vivacious
12. equivocal	25. pallor	38. reverie	51. vivid
13. fervid	26. palpable	39. stealthy	52. wan

These words which appear in *The Fall of the House of Usher* have been identified as words or derivatives of words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They are listed here in the order in which they appear in the novel.

1. melancholy	14. paradoxical	27. insipid	40. interment
2. hideous	15. affinity	28. trivial	41. impetuous
3. goading	16. discernible	29. palpable	42. tempestuous
4. sublime	17. antiquity	30. dissolution	43. anomalies
5. precipitous	18. stealthy	31. emaciated	44. prodigious
6. acute	19. trepidation	32. apathy	45. protracted
7. malady	20. profuse	33. prostrating	46. tarried
8. munificent	21. vivacious	34. dirges	47. import
9. unobtrusive	22. wan	35. reveries	48. rending
10. orthodox	23. tenuity	36. fervid	49. upbraid
11. trifling	24. pallor	37. desolate	50. potency
12. quaint	25. utterance	38. discordant	51. ponderous
13. equivocal	26. morbid	39. pertinacity	52. vividly

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Vocabulary Test 1

Directions: Match the word in the left column with the correct definition in the right column.

Exercise A

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|--|
| _____ | 1. | acuity | a. | deserted, without inhabitants |
| _____ | 2. | affinity | b. | to differentiate differences in two or more things |
| _____ | 3. | anomalous | c. | lack of concern or feeling, indifference |
| _____ | 4. | antiquity | d. | disintegration, decomposition and dispersion |
| _____ | 5. | apathy | e. | the quality of being ancient |
| _____ | 6. | desolate | f. | unwholesomeness and gloominess; gruesomeness |
| _____ | 7. | dirge | g. | to be very thin usually as a result of starvation |
| _____ | 8. | discern | h. | out of place, abnormal |
| _____ | 9. | discord | i. | ambiguous (statements) usually intended to mislead |
| _____ | 10. | dissolution | j. | likeness, a natural relationship, kinship |
| _____ | 11. | emaciated | k. | funeral hymn, lament |
| _____ | 12. | equivocal | l. | sharpness of perception |
| _____ | 13. | morbidity | m. | lack of agreement, tension, strife |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------------|----|---|
| _____ | 14. | goad | n. | very generous |
| _____ | 15. | hideous | o. | relative importance, significance |
| _____ | 16. | impetuous | p. | conforming to established standards; conventional |
| _____ | 17. | import | q. | violent, hasty, rash, impulsive |
| _____ | 18. | insipid | r. | ardent, burning, impassioned |
| _____ | 19. | interred | s. | boring and stupid |
| _____ | 20. | malady | t. | extreme paleness usually relating to the face |
| _____ | 21. | melancholy | u. | depression of spirits |
| _____ | 22. | fervid | v. | very ugly, offensive, shocking |
| _____ | 23. | munificent | w. | buried |
| _____ | 24. | orthodox | x. | tangible, perceptible, easily noticed |
| _____ | 25. | pallor | y. | a disease or unwholesome condition |
| _____ | 26. | palpable | z. | to urge on in a negative sense |

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Vocabulary Test 2

Directions: Match the word in the left column with the correct definition in the right column.

Exercise A

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|--|
| _____ | 1. | paradoxical | a. | marked by great rapidity, haste, or lack of caution |
| _____ | 2. | pertinacity | b. | stubborn persistence, refusing to yield on an opinion |
| _____ | 3. | ponderous | c. | to delay in coming or going; linger |
| _____ | 4. | potent | d. | extravagantly abundant, flowing freely |
| _____ | 5. | precipitous | e. | very heavy, unwieldy from weight |
| _____ | 6. | tarry | f. | daydreaming |
| _____ | 7. | profuse | g. | prolong |
| _____ | 8. | prostration | h. | something that appears false but is actually correct |
| _____ | 9. | protract | i. | unusual in character or appearance |
| _____ | 10. | quaint | j. | acting in a secret and sneaky way |
| _____ | 11. | rend | k. | stretched out due to lacking vitality and being overcome |
| _____ | 12. | reverie | l. | powerful, having a strong effect |
| _____ | 13. | stealth | m. | tear violently, split |

Exercise B

- | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------------|----|--|
| _____ | 14. | sublime | n. | not significant, frivolous |
| _____ | 15. | prodigious | o. | very pale and sickly |
| _____ | 16. | tempestuous | p. | fear, trembling, agitation |
| _____ | 17. | tenuous | q. | exalted, noble, uplifting |
| _____ | 18. | trepidation | r. | not readily noticeable, inconspicuous |
| _____ | 19. | trifling | s. | scold harshly, reproach |
| _____ | 20. | trivia | t. | extraordinary in bulk, quantity, or degree; enormous |
| _____ | 21. | unobtrusive | u. | bright, distinct, clear |
| _____ | 22. | upbraid | v. | insignificant matters |
| _____ | 23. | utter | w. | full of life, very animated |
| _____ | 24. | vivacious | x. | turbulent, stormy |
| _____ | 25. | vivid | y. | to express by speaking |
| _____ | 26. | wan | z. | flimsy, barely attached |

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Vocabulary Test 1

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. l | 2. j | 3. h | 4. e | 5. c | 6. a | 7. k |
| 8. b | 9. m | 10. d | 11. g | 12. i | 13. f | 14. z |
| 15. v | 16. q | 17. o | 18. s | 19. w | 20. y | 21. u |
| 22. r | 23. n | 24. p | 25. t | 26. x | | |

Vocabulary Test 2

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. h | 2. b | 3. e | 4. l | 5. a | 6. c | 7. d |
| 8. k | 9. g | 10. i | 11. m | 12. f | 13. j | 14. q |
| 15. t | 16. x | 17. z | 18. p | 19. n | 20. v | 21. r |
| 22. s | 23. y | 24. w | 25. u | 26. o | | |