

The Pearl

by John Steinbeck

Definitions



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Definitions



1.	benign	buh NINE	not causing harm, of gentle disposition, beneficial
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> malignant, harmful
	The minister was loved because of his benign attitude toward all types of people.		
	Derivatives >>	benignly, benignant, benignancy, benignantly, benignity	
2.	bulwark	BOOL wark	a strong defense or something that defends
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> weakness
	Nuclear arms are our bulwark against invasion.		
	Derivatives >>	bulwarks	
3.	deft	DEFT	skillful, adroit
	Synonyms >>	clever, cunning, dexterous, ingenious	Antonym >> clumsy
	He was very deft in handling the questions from the reporter.		
	Derivatives >>	deftness, deftly	
4.	diffuse	deh FYOOZ	to spread in all directions
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to bring together
	The rioting crowd was diffused by tear gas and water hoses.		
	Derivatives >>	diffusedness, diffusedly, diffusely, diffuseness, diffuser, diffusibility, diffusion, diffusible	
5.	dissemble	deh SEM bul	to disguise, to pretend
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to reveal
	Although he tried to dissemble his motive for seeing me, I knew the real reason.		
	Derivatives >>	dissembled, dissembling, dissembler, dissemblingly	
6.	edifice	ED uh fis	a very large building
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> shack; small building
	This particular edifice has the title of being the tallest building in the world.		
	Derivatives >>		
7.	furtive	FUR tiv	secret in an underhanded way, stealthy
	Synonyms >>	clandestine, covert, stealthy, surreptitious, underhanded	Antonym >> bold
	During the test, he made some furtive glances at other classmates' papers.		
	Derivatives >>	furtively, furtiveness	
8.	germane	jer MANE	important to the issue at hand, pertinent
	Synonyms >>	applicable, apposite, apropos, material	Antonym >> unimportant
	The judge ruled that the testimony was germane to the trial and allowed it to be entered into the record.		
	Derivatives >>	germanely, germaneness	
9.	gravity	GRAV eh tee	seriousness, importance
	Synonyms >>	earnestness, sedateness, sobriety, solemnity, staidness	Antonym >> unimportance
	The gravity of the situation was heightened by the death of the president .		
	Derivatives >>	grave, graver, gravely	
10.	irresolute	eh REZ uh loot	indecisive, unsure of how to proceed
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> sure; decisive; certain
	The confused child stood irresolute, waiting for some instruction.		
	Derivatives >>	irresolutely, irresoluteness, irresolution	
11.	legerdemain	lej ur duh MANE	sleight of hand, deception or trickery resulting from use of the hands
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	A magician must be able to perform feats of legerdemain.		
	Derivatives >>	legerdermains	

12.	malign	muh LINE	to utter injuriously misleading reports about
	Synonyms >>	traduce, asperse, vilify, calumniate, defame	Antonym >> to extol
		Several old gossips in the neighborhood had maligned the woman.	
	Derivatives >>	malignance, malignancy, malignant, malignantly	
13.	monolithic	mon uh LITH ik	massive and rigidly fixed uniformly
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
		Some argue that communism is monolithic, and others say that there are many types of communism.	
	Derivatives >>	monolith, monolithism	
14.	monotony	moh NOT uh nee	sameness
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> diversity
		There is so much monotony in my life that I need a change	
	Derivatives >>	monotoness, monotonous, monotonously, monotonousness, monotone	
15.	obscure	uh SKYOOOR	difficult to see, vague
	Synonyms >>	abstruse, ambiguous, cryptic, enigmatic, equivocal,	Antonym >> clear; apparent
		Because the meaning of the play was obscure, I was unable to enjoy it.	
	Derivatives >>	obscuration, obscurative, obscuredly, obscurely, obscurement, obscureness, obscurity	
16.	petulance	PECH uh luns	unreasonable touchiness or irritability
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> serenity
		Petulance is sometimes the trait of a child who is not getting his way.	
	Derivatives >>	petulant, petulancy, petulantly	
17.	precipitate	preh SIP eh tate	to cause to speedily occur, to throw headlong
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to delay
		Coming home late at my house will always precipitate a fight.	
	Derivatives >>	precipitation, precipitancy, precipitately, precipitator, precipitous	
18.	stalwart	STAL wurt	one who supports a cause with firm partisanship
	Synonyms >>	resolute , strong	Antonym >>
		That justice was known as a stalwart in defending 1st amendment rights.	
	Derivatives >>	stalwartly, stalwartness	
19.	subjugate	SUB juh gate	to bring under one's control
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
		It was the intent of the dictator to subjugate all the people in the land and control them.	
	Derivatives >>	subjugable, subjugation, subjugator	
20.	undulant	UN juh lunt	moving with or resembling a wavelike motion
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> motionless
		Playing golf on an undulant terrain is usually difficult.	
	Derivatives >>	undulance, undulate, undulated, undulating, undulation, undulatory	
21.	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 Pearl** have been identified as words or derivatives of words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They appear here in alphabetical order.

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|------------------|------------------|
| 1. benign | 11. legerdemain |
| 2. bulwark | 12. malignant |
| 3. deftly | 13. monolithic |
| 4. diffused | 14. monotonously |
| 5. dissembling | 15. obscured |
| 6. edifice | 16. petulant |
| 7. furtive | 17. precipitated |
| 8. germane | 18. stalwart |
| 9. gravely | 19. subjugation |
| 10. irresolution | 20. undulating |
| | 21. wanning |

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| | 21. malignant |

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Vocabulary Test

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

Exercise A

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----|---|
| _____ 1. | benign | a. | a strong defense, something that defends |
| _____ 2. | bulwark | b. | a very large building |
| _____ 3. | deftly | c. | not causing harm, beneficial |
| _____ 4. | diffused | d. | secret in an underhanded way, stealthy |
| _____ 5. | dissembling | e. | seriously, importantly |
| _____ 6. | edifice | f. | skillfully, adroitly |
| _____ 7. | furtive | g. | indecisive, unsure how to proceed |
| _____ 8. | germane | h. | disguising, pretending |
| _____ 9. | gravely | i. | important to the issue at hand, pertinent |
| _____ 10. | irresolute | j. | spread in all directions |

Exercise B

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|----|---|
| _____ 11. | legerdemain | k. | unreasonably touchy or irritable |
| _____ 12. | malignant | l. | massive and rigidly fixed uniformly |
| _____ 13. | monolithic | m. | difficult to see, vague |
| _____ 14. | monotony | n. | growing very sickly and pale; losing vitality |
| _____ 15. | obscure | o. | intensely hostile, injuriously misleading |
| _____ 16. | petulant | p. | to bring under one's control |
| _____ 17. | precipitated | q. | caused to speedily occur, thrown headlong |
| _____ 18. | stalwart | r. | sleight of hand |
| _____ 19. | subjugate | s. | sameness |
| _____ 20. | undulating | t. | one who firmly supports a cause |
| _____ 21. | wanning | u. | moving with or resembling a wavelike motion |

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Vocabulary Test

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