Vocabulary Lists 16 -18

**List 16**

1. **abrogate** – v. to cancel, repeal, annul; *Whether or not the President alone can abrogate a treaty is an open question.*
2. **accost** – v. to salute, approach with a greeting; to encounter esp. in a hostile or challenging way *Melissa accosted me across campus, yelling "I can’t believe you finally came to visit!"*
3. **adjudicate** – v. to settle, decide, to act as a judge; *They participated in a mock trial to adjudicate the fairness of the new policy.*
4. **ameliorate** – v. to relieve, help, better, improve; *There is no cure for the common cold, but there are treatments that will ameliorate the symptoms.*
5. **antithesis** – n. opposite, contrast, opposed; *His behavior was the antithesis of bravery.*
6. **aquiline** – adj. curved, eagle or hawk-like, hooked. *His aquiline nose was a family trait.*
7. **benignant** – adj. kindly, gracious, beneficial; *The benignant sovereign offered pardons to the criminals.*
8. **bland** – adj. mild, smooth, suave, harmless; *Many parents were fooled by his bland, affable manner.*
9. **cant** – n. insincerity, meaningless phrases, hypocrisy, slang. *His grandparents couldn’t understand Jeremy’s cant.*
10. **chauvinism** – n. fanatical pride, contempt of another group, jingoism, condemning; *There are still too many examples of male chauvinism in the workplace for feminists to be happy.*
11. **contemporary** – adj. those of the same age, coevals, now, current; *I dislike reading historical fiction; I much prefer contemporary works.*
12. **convivial** – adj. sociable, jovial, fun-loving, companionable, friendly; *I found my roommates to be a convivial group.*
14. **decadent** – adj. declining, decaying, corrupted, deteriorating, self-indulgent; *In America, the 1920s was a decadent period – Prohibition did not stop alcoholism.*
15. **derision** – n. scornful laughter, taunting, mockery, ridicule. *The inept performance elicited derision from the audience.*

**List 17**

16. **disconcerted** – adj. confused, taken by surprise, embarrassed, startled, discouraged; *At first, Scarlett was disconcerted by the surprise party, but soon she was enjoying the conviviality.*
17. **effervescent** – adj. lively, bubbling, vivacious, sprightly; *Hermione’s effervescent personality made her well-liked among her peers.*
18. **embroil** – v. to entangle, involve, implicate, enmesh; *I don’t want to get embroiled in another one of your get-rich-quick schemes!*
19. **ennui** (pron. oh-wé) – n. boredom, the blues, melancholy, languor; *The endless lecture produced an unbearable ennui.*
20. **evanescent** – passing, transitory, ephemeral, brief, fleeting; *Summer is evanescent in Alaska; one day it’s sunny and warm, but all too soon it’s winter and snowing again.*
21. **frugality** – n. thriftiness, economy; *Many young couples must live with great frugality while they save money to buy a home.*
22. **heterogeneous** – n. varied, dissimilar, miscellaneous, mixed, diverse I want to attend a college with a heterogeneous mix of students.*
23. **ignominious** – adj. shameful, dishonorable, despicable, degrading *Our team suffered an ignominious defeat in the final playoffs.*
24. **incongruous** – adj. unsuitable, inharmonious, ill-assorted; *The DJ played an incongruous mix of jazz, new age, and Japanese folk music at the wedding reception.*
25. **insipid** – adj. uninterested, dull, vapid, weak I thought John’s new play was insipid; *I’ve seen more interesting productions at my local high school!*
26. **jocose** – adj. jolly, playful, humorous, hearty *The ad stated “A jocose older gentleman need to play Santa Claus in new film.”*
27. **judicious** – adj. wise, sensible, well-advised, careful *We made a judicious list of colleges that were right for me.*
28. **levy** – n. humor, frivolity, flippancy, thoughtlessness; *As he banged his gavel, the judge said, “This is a serious matter on trial, there will be no levy in my courtroom!”*
29. **magnanimity** – n. great-heartedness, generosity, nobility, high-souled Twenty-five years after his graduation, the businessman showed great magnanimity by donating 30 million dollars to his high school.*
30. **maladroit** – adj. unskilled, awkward, gauche, clumsy. *He was finally fired after his maladroit dealings with the customers.*

**List 18**

31. **metaphysics** – n. philosophy of the origin and essential nature of life; *He took a college course entitled “Metaphysics and the science of Evil”*
32. **most** – n. & adj. debatable, arguable, disputable, controversial and deprived of practical significance; *I left after the conversation drifted into a most discussion of grading kindergarteners.*
33. **mundane** – adj. commonplace, practical, earthy, worldly, pragmatic; *Mundane chores around the house, like vacuuming, can prove to be relaxing.*
34. **obdurate** – adj. stubborn, unyielding, inflexible, obstinate; *His obdurate personality was off-putting; people want to be friends with those that are more reasonable.*
35. **onerous** – adj. troublesome, laborious, burdensome, causing fatigue, tiring, oppressive; *I had the onerous task to inform the couple of the death of their only child.*
36. **paranoia** – n. mental disease where one is subject to delusions of hostility, suspicious, deluded; *Historians wonder if Joseph Stalin suffered from paranoia.*
37. **peccadillo** – n. trifling errors, faults, weaknesses, waywardness; *Cynthia realized her peccadillo of chewing gum with her mouth open was offensive to her date.*
38. **pernicious** – adj. harmful, destructive, noxious, corrupting, poisonous; *Someone was spreading a pernicious rumor about Jonathan’s cheating on an important test.*
39. **platitude** – n. clichés, banalities, trite sayings, truisms, commonplace; *The graduation speech was full of platitudes about “taking a great step into the future” and “thinking fondly of our alma mater.”*
40. **potpourri** (pron. Pó-pour-ri) – n. mixture, medley, miscellany, hodgepodge, compound; *The park’s history is a potpourri of natural and man-made attractions.*
41. **pristine** – adj. unspoiled, fresh, pure, uncontaminated, new; *Neemt took out a pristine sheet of paper and a new pen as he prepared to take the college-level exam.*
42. **prosaic** – adj. dull, matter-of-fact, commonplace unimaginative; *Although I had admired his previous novel for its imaginative situation, I found this one to be prosaic and pedantic.*
43. **punctilious** – adj. careful, proper, scrupulous, exact; *The characteristic most desired in a butler is his punctiliousness.*
44. **resilient** – adj. elastic, springy, rebounding, scrupulous, exact; *The characteristic most desired in a butler is his punctiliousness.*
45. **salacious** – adj. lustful, obscene, lecherous, indecent; *The movie had so many salacious scenes I was surprised it was only rated “R.”*
46. **sedition** – n. treason, inciting rebellion, subversive; *In some countries, any criticism of the government is considered sedition.*
47. **stoic** – adj. calm, brave, unmovable, enduring; *His stoic personality wouldn’t allow him to grieve during the many months of his wife’s suffering from terminal cancer.*
48. **superfluous** – adj. unnecessary, needless, redundant, supererogatory; *Many families now think a landline phone is superfluous and only have mobile phones.*
49. **verity** – n. truth, fact, reality, veracity, is true; *When the speaker said he’d invented the internet, I doubted the verity of the man.*
50. **vogue** – n. in fashion, style, mode, fad; *Long hair for young men was quite vogue in the ’60s.*