Vocab List 2.

aperture

a hole; an opening.

A window is an aperture for letting in light and air.

aroma

an agreeable odor.

The room was filled with the aroma of coffee.

astonishment

surprise; shock.

I was taken by astonishment when I won the lottery.

atrocity

great cruelty or reckless wickedness.

They're on trial for committing hundreds of war-time <u>atrocities</u> against the civilian population.

avalanche

the fall or sliding of a mass of snow or ice down a mountain-slope, often bearing with it rock.

Skiers should avoid the area because of the high risk of avalanches.

balm

anything that soothes or makes you feel better.

After running several miles, Tim reached the bridge where he'd hidden his water bottle, a <u>balm</u> for his parched throat.

bluejacket

a person enlisted in the United States or British Navy.

Because San Diego is a big Navy town, many of its nightclubs cater to <u>bluejackets</u> and attract few civilians.

braid

a thin strip of cloth.

The skirt had two rows of red braid round the hem.

capacity

mental or physical ability; ability to accommodate; the ability to hold or contain something.

The movie theater has a <u>capacity</u> of 500 people.

chic

stylish; up-to-date in fashion.

British politicians are not renowned for their chic.

coincidence

two or more things occurring at the same time by chance.

Was it just a <u>coincidence</u> that John met Nancy at the market for three days running, or was he deliberately trying to seek her out?

comical

amusing; funny.

Tell me the truth — do I look <u>comical</u> in this hat?

compose

poised; calm; cool; self-controlled; tranquil.

She looked remarkably composed, calm and controlled throughout the funeral.

condemn

to censure; to denounce; to express strong disapproval of.

The prisoner is sure to be <u>condemned</u> by the jury.

consistency

harmony of parts; accordance.

I am never quite sure of her political views -- they lack a little consistency.

contest

a competition; a game; a race.

The <u>contest</u> for deputy leadership of the party is gathering speed.

corruptible

open to bribery.

Perhaps some systems of government are more <u>corruptible</u> than others.

darkling

dark.

It is late, and I am tired of <u>darkling</u> colors.

deficit

a shortage, especially of money.

The national <u>deficit</u> is the amount by which the nation's revenues fall short of its expenditures.

desert

a barren region with little or no rainfall, usually sandy and without trees. The Sahara is a great <u>desert</u> in the northern part of Africa.

digress

to stray from the main subject; to wander off.

In his talk about carnivals, the speaker <u>digressed</u> by giving impressions of different cities.

disgrace

loss of honor or respect; shame.

The disgrace of being sent to prison was too much for him to bear.

dismay

to discourage; to frighten; to fill with great dread or fear.

The huge amount of work she had left to do dismayed her.

dogma

a doctrine; a belief taught to be true especially by some authority.

A country ruled by a dictator with <u>dogma</u> is as a dog walked by a man with a leash.

dusk

the darker stage of twilight before it is quite dark at night; the time just before dark.

<u>Dusk</u> is the time just before the night falls but it is not completely dark.

ecosystem

a community of living things, together with their environment.

Our local environmentalists are working to preserve the delicately balanced ecosystem of the wetlands.

eloquent

having the power of expressing one's feeling or thoughts with grace and force.

The speaker at the United Nations made an <u>eloquent</u> plea for better relations among nations.

engaged

employed; busy; betrothed; involved in conflict.

Engaged in an argument, they did not see me.

episode

one part or one event in a series.

The most famous <u>episode</u> in Gone with the Wind is probably the burning of Atlanta.

excursion

a trip, especially a short trip taken for interest or pleasure, often by a number of people together.

Our club went on an excursion to the mountains.