Vocabulary: Synonyms & Antonyms

English meanings, synonyms, antonyms, and idiom explanations

Vocabulary Words (Questions 1–10)

Word	English Meaning	Synonyms	Antonyms
1. Esoteric	Intended for or understood by only a small group of people with special knowledge.	Obscure, arcane, abstruse	Familiar, common, obvious
2. Probity	The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.	Integrity, honesty, rectitude	Dishonesty, corruption, deceit
3. Enervate	To make someone feel weak, tired, or lacking in energy.	Weaken, exhaust, debilitate	Energize, invigorate, strengthen
4. Alacrity	Cheerful readiness and eagerness to do something quickly.	Eagerness, promptness, briskness	Reluctance, hesitation, lethargy
5. Palliate	To reduce the severity of pain, a problem, or an unpleasant situation without necessarily removing its cause.	Alleviate, soothe, assuage	Aggravate, intensify, worsen
6. Obfuscate	To make something unclear, confusing, or difficult to understand.	Confuse, obscure, bewilder	Clarify, explain, elucidate
7. Truculent	Aggressively argumentative or eager to fight.	Aggressive, belligerent, hostile	Peaceful, amiable, gentle
8. Lugubrious	Looking or sounding extremely sad, gloomy, or mournful.	Mournful, gloomy, doleful	Cheerful, joyful, exuberant
9. Pejorative	Expressing disrespect, disapproval, or contempt; insulting in nature.	Derogatory, disparaging, insulting	Complimentary, praising, laudatory
10. Ebullient	Full of energy, excitement, happiness, and enthusiasm.	Exuberant, enthusiastic, buoyant	Depressed, gloomy, apathetic

Idioms and Phrases (Questions 11–14)

11. To run the gauntlet

Meaning: To face criticism, danger, or a series of difficulties.

Similar idea: face an ordeal

Opposite idea: avoid confrontation

12. To tilt at windmills

Meaning: To fight imaginary enemies or battle unrealistic problems.

Similar idea: fight imaginary battles

Opposite idea: face a real threat

13. A Pyrrhic victory

Meaning: A victory achieved at such a great cost that it is almost like defeat.

Similar expression: costly victory

Opposite idea: success with little loss

14. To set the Thames on fire

Meaning: To do something remarkable or impressive. In negative expressions, it can mean failing to make a significant impression.

Similar expression: make a sensation

Opposite idea: fail to impress

Exam tips: Esoteric = understood by only a few; Enervate = weaken (opposite: invigorate); Palliate = lessen severity without necessarily curing; Pejorative = expressing contempt or disapproval; Ebullient = full of enthusiasm and energy.