

Vocabulary Words

To Kill a Mockingbird chapters 8-14

innate	adj	existing in one from birth; inborn; native	innate musical talent; innate understanding of right and wrong. Root: <i>nasc/nat = born</i>
vehement	adj	characterized by intensity of emotions or convictions, or forcefulness of expression; acting with great force or energy; strong	"The struggle was long and vehement ; but his sense of duty would not be stifled or enfeebled, and finally triumphed over every impediment" (Charles Brockden Brown, <i>Three Gothic Novels</i>). See Word of the Day
umbrage	n	offense, annoyance, displeasure; shade or shadows	to feel umbrage at a social snub; to give umbrage to someone; to take umbrage at someone's rudeness. Think of Prof. Umbridge: dark, shadowy, and always displeased with Harry.
undulate	v	to form or move in waves	"Rather than tuna, several hundred white-sided dolphins come into focus, undulating crisply through the sea surface below" (Carl Safina, Song for the Blue Ocean: Encounters Along the World's Coasts and Beneath the Seas). See Word of the Day
garish	adj	gaudy, excessively ornate; glaring	" garish lights of Las Vegas" / "I thought of those cold scenes of his, with their picturesque peasants and cypresses and olive-trees. They must look queer in their garish frames on the walls of the peasant house" (W. Somerset Maugham, <i>Moon & Sixpence</i>).
formidable	adj	arousing fear, dread or alarm; difficult to defeat	"a formidable opponent"
obliquely	adv	indirectly; not in a straightforward manner	"His wife had never shown any jealousy of Mattie, but of late she had grumbled increasingly over the housework and found oblique ways of attracting attention to the girl's inefficiency" (Edith Wharton, <i>Ethan Frome</i>).
pensive	adj	musingly or dreamily thoughtful; suggestive of sad thoughtfulness, melancholy	visual image: The Thinker. "He sat pensively thinking about the devastation in Haiti." Root: <i>pens/pend/pond= to weigh; hang down</i>
infallible	adj	incapable of making a mistake	"But human beings are fallible . We know we all make mistakes" (Robert S. McNamara, "et al.", <i>Argument Without End</i>). Root: <i>fallere, "to deceive."</i> It is related to <i>fail, false, fallacy, fault, and faucet!</i> See Word of the Day