



Vocabulary Power



Lesson 9 Word Usage

Having an insight can seem like suddenly being able to read a secret language. In a flash, you're able to see in to the heart of something, get beyond its surface meanings. The words you study in this lesson will help you talk about and understand the meaning of insight.

Word List

alacrity *al-lak-er-i-ty*

discreet

impudence

irreproachable

myriad *mye-er-i-ahd*

rudiment

skeptical

timorous

tranquillity

vertigo *vert-i-tal-go*

EXERCISE A Synonyms Sample synonyms and dictionary definitions are provided.

Each boldfaced vocabulary word below is paired with a synonym whose meaning you probably know. Think of other words related to the meaning of the synonym. Then, look up the vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning.

1. **impudence** : boldness *sassy, impertinent, lippy, insolent, obnoxious*

Dictionary definition *impudence: the quality of being offensively bold*

2. **alacrity** : swiftness *speed, quickness*

Dictionary definition *alacrity: speed, quickness*

3. **vertigo** : dizziness *giddiness, bewilderment, lightheadedness*

Dictionary definition *vertigo: sensation of dizziness*

4. **discreet** : modest *prudent, restrained, free from showiness*

Dictionary definition *discreet: showing prudence and wise self-restraint*

5. **timorous** : timid *fearful, shy, without self-confidence, hesitant, not bold*

Dictionary definition *timorous: timid, easily frightened*

6. **irreproachable** : faultless *perfect, without faults, blameless*

Dictionary definition *irreproachable: perfect, blameless*

7. **skeptical** : doubting *suspicious, not trusting, questioning*

Dictionary definition *skeptical: given to doubt*

8. **tranquillity** : calmness *peacefulness, serenity, lack of excitement, undisturbed, free from tension*

Dictionary definition *tranquillity: peacefulness*

9. **rudiment** : basic principle *fundamental thing, basic element, first thing to learn*

Dictionary definition *rudiment: fundamental element, principle, or skill*