

# VOCABULARY WORDS FOR CROSSWORD PUZZLES

## VOCABULARY 1

**burnish (v)** to make or become smooth, bright, and glossy

**fragment (n)** broken piece; incomplete piece

**incisive (adj)** cutting into

**layouts (n)** ways things are arranged; designs of printed matter

**quandary (n)** dilemma; problem

**rummage (v)** search thoroughly

**vertigo (n)** dizziness

## VOCABULARY 2

**connect (v)** to associate mentally or emotionally

**deplete (v)** to reduce; to empty

**euphony (n)** pleasant sound

**incognito (adj)** unidentified; disguised; concealed

**original (adj)** new; fresh; inventive

**partisan (adj)** biased; one-sided

**pivotal (adj)** of vital or critical importance

**promote (v)** to help or encourage to exist or flourish; further

**savored (v)** having received pleasure from; enjoyed

## VOCABULARY 3

**famished (adj)** extremely hungry

**frenetic (adj)** frantic; frenzied

**genocide (n)** the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group

**indicted (v)** charged with a crime

**massacre (v)** to kill unnecessarily and indiscriminately, esp. a large number

**passive (adj)** submissive; unassertive

**subjugate (v)** to make submissive or subservient; enslave

## VOCABULARY 4

**canvass (v)** to go through (places) or among (people) asking for (votes, opinions, orders, etc.)

**discontented (adj)** dissatisfaction; restless desire for something more or different

**garrulous (adj)** talking much about unimportant things

**lustrous** (*adj*) bright; radiant  
**prosaic** (*adj*) tiresome; ordinary  
**reckless** (*adj*) careless; heedless  
**servile** (*adj*) slavish, groveling  
**vicinity** (*n*) a nearby, surrounding, or adjoining region; a neighborhood  
**winsome** (*adj*) agreeable; charming; delightful

## VOCABULARY 5

**boycott** (*v*) to refuse to deal with something/someone  
**endorse** (*v*) support somebody or something  
**ephemeral** (*adj*) temporary; brief; short-lived  
**penchant** (*n*) a strong liking or fondness  
**repeals** (*v*) abolishes or undoes a law  
**tractable** (*adj*) easily led or managed

## VOCABULARY 6

**arrogant** (*adj*) acting superior to others; conceited  
**effluvium** (*n*) an outflow in the form of vapor  
**pedagogue** (*n*) teacher (can be dogmatic or pedantic)  
**ratifies** (*v*) formally approves a plan or an agreement  
**sanguine** (*adj*) optimistic; cheerful  
**visionary** (*adj*) characterized by impractical ideas

## VOCABULARY 7

**cascade** (*v*) pour; rush; fall  
**condition** (*n*) factor affecting something (the game)  
**evaluate** (*v*) to examine and judge something (the game)  
**indulgent** (*adj*) lenient; patient  
**macerate** (*v*) to torment  
**modifies** (*v*) makes small changes to something  
**saturnine** (*adj*) heavy; grave; gloomy

## VOCABULARY 8

**austere** (*adj*) harsh; severe; strict  
**exemplary** (*n*) serving as an example; outstanding  
**impartial** (*adj*) not biased  
**mandatory** (*adj*) authoritatively commanded or required

**raucous** (*adj*) disagreeable to the sense of hearing; harsh

## VOCABULARY 9

**absolve** (*v*) to forgive; to acquit

**authentic** (*adj*) real; genuine; trustworthy

**convert** (*v*) to change someone's religious beliefs

**digress** (*v*) stray from the subject; wander from topic

**legacies** (*n*) things handed down from the past

**manifest** (*adj*) evident; obvious; apparent

**maverick** (*n*) person who acts independent of a group

## VOCABULARY 10

**accolade** (*n*) approving or praising mention

**discern** (*v*) to distinguish or discriminate

**dissolve** (*v*) break up

**meander** (*v*) wind on a course; go aimlessly

**secession** (*n*) the act of withdrawing from an organization or alliance

**solicit** (*v*) ask; seek

## VOCABULARY 11

**accrues** (*v*) collect; build up

**baleful** (*adj*) sinister; threatening; evil; deadly

**blockade** (*v*) to block access to a place

**inherent** (*adj*) innate; basic; inborn

**permeable** (*adj*) porous; allowing to pass through

**ransack** (*v*) rob and despoil something

## VOCABULARY 12

**concise** (*adj*) in few words; brief; condensed

**criteria** (*n*) a standard of judgment or criticism; a rule or principle for evaluating or testing something

**haggard** (*adj*) tired-looking; fatigued

**innocuous** (*adj*) harmless; innocent

**objective** (*n*) purpose; goal; target

**sporadic** (*adj*) rarely occurring or appearing; intermittent

**uncanny** (*adj*) of a strange nature; weird

## VOCABULARY 13

**behoove (v)** to be advantageous; to be necessary

**hampers (v)** interferes with; hinders

**innovate (v)** introduce a change; depart from the old

**perpetual (adj)** enduring for all time

**redundant (adj)** repetitious; unnecessary

**spurious (adj)** false; counterfeit

**subsidy (n)** money or other things of value that a government contributes to an enterprise (business)

## VOCABULARY 14

**adamant (adj)** not yielding; firm

**condone (v)** to overlook; forgive

**cupcake (n)** a sweet and innocent child who becomes sardonic after continual exposure to malevolent pedagogues

**disparage (v)** to belittle; undervalue

**haphazard (adj)** disorganized; random

**innuendo (n)** an indirect remark, gesture, or reference

**pertinent (adj)** relating to the matter at hand

**squalid (adj)** foul; filthy

## VOCABULARY 15

**adversary (n)** an enemy; foe

**disparity (n)** difference in form, character, or degree

**haughty (adj)** proud and disdainful

**jingles (n)** catchy tune usually rhyming, simple, and repetitious used to promote a product