

things fall apart

# VOCABULARY 1

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1. **abomination**

*noun*

- 1 : something abominable
- 2 : extreme disgust and hatred : LOATHING

2. **approbation**

*noun*

- 1 : PROOF
- 2 a : an act of approving formally or officially
- b : COMMENDATION, PRAISE

3. **audacity**

*noun*

- 1 : the quality or state of being audacious : as
    - a : intrepid boldness
    - b : bold or arrogant disregard of normal restraints
  - 2 : an audacious act – usually used in plural
- synonym TEMERITY

4. **calabash**

*noun*

- 1 : a tropical American tree (*Crescentia cujete*) of the trumpet-creeper family; also : its hard globose fruit
- 2 : GOURD; especially : one whose hard shell is used for a utensil
- 3 : a utensil (as a bottle or dipper) made from the shell of a calabash

5. **capricious**

*adjective*

- governed or characterized by caprice : IMPULSIVE, UNPREDICTABLE
- synonym INCONSTANT

6. **cassava**

*noun*

- any of several plants (genus *Manihot* and especially *M. esculenta*) of the spurge family grown in the tropics for their fleshy edible rootstocks which yield a nutritious starch; also : the rootstock

7. **communal**

*adjective*

- 1 : of or relating to one or more communes
- 2 : of or relating to a community
- 3 a : characterized by collective ownership and use of property
- b : participated in, shared, or used in common by members of a group or community
- 4 : of, relating to, or based on racial or cultural groups

8. **contemptible**

*adjective*

- 1 : worthy of contempt
  - 2 : SCORNFUL, CONTEMPTUOUS
- synonyms CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE, PITIABLE, SORRY, SCURVY

**9. discern**

*verb*

- 1 a : to detect with the eyes
- b : to detect with senses other than vision
- 2 : to recognize or identify as separate and distinct : DISCRIMINATE
- 3 : to come to know or recognize mentally
- 4 : to see or understand the difference

**10. dregs**

*noun*

- 1 : sediment contained in a liquid or precipitated from it : LEES – usually used in plural
- 2 : the most undesirable part – usually used in plural
- 3 : the last remaining part : VESTIGE

**11. elusive**

*adjective*

tending to elude: as

- a : tending to evade grasp or pursuit
- b : hard to comprehend or define
- c : hard to isolate or identify

**12. emissary**

*noun*

- 1 : one designated as the agent of another : REPRESENTATIVE
- 2 : a secret agent

**13. esoteric**

*adjective*

- 1 a : designed for or understood by the specially initiated alone
- b : of or relating to knowledge that is restricted to a small group
- 2 a : limited to a small circle
- b : PRIVATE, CONFIDENTIAL

**14. faggot**

*noun*

usually disparaging : a male homosexual

**15. feign**

*verb*

- 1 a : to give a false appearance of : induce as a false impression
  - b : to assert as if true : PRETEND
  - 2 a : INVENT, IMAGINE
  - b : to give fictional representation to
  - 3 : DISGUISE, CONCEAL
  - 4 : PRETEND, DISSEMBLE
- synonym ASSUME

**16. hover**

*verb*

- 1 a : to hang fluttering in the air or on the wing
- b : to remain suspended over a place or object
- 2 a : to move to and fro near a place : fluctuate around a given point
- b : to be in a state of uncertainty, irresolution, or suspense

**17. impending**

*verb*

- 1 a : to hover threateningly : MENACE
- b : to be about to occur
- 2 : to hang suspended

**18. imperious**

*adjective*

1 a : befitting or characteristic of one of eminent rank or attainments : COMMANDING, DOMINANT

b : marked by arrogant assurance : DOMINEERING

2 : intensely compelling : URGENT

synonym MASTERFUL

**19. improvident**

*adjective*

not provident : not foreseeing and providing for the future

**20. incipient**

*adjective*

beginning to come into being or to become apparent

**21. interim**

*noun*

an intervening time : INTERVAL

**22. malevolent**

*adjective*

1 : having, showing, or arising from intense often vicious ill will, spite, or hatred

2 : productive of harm or evil

**23. mirth**

*noun*

gladness or gaiety as shown by or accompanied with laughter

**24. ordain**

*verb*

1 : to invest officially (as by the laying on of hands) with ministerial or priestly authority

2 a : to establish or order by appointment, decree, or law : ENACT

b : DESTINE, FOREORDAIN

3 : to issue an order

**25. plaintive**

*adjective*

expressive of suffering or woe : MELANCHOLY

**26. poignant**

*adjective*

1 : pungently pervasive

2 a (1) : painfully affecting the feelings : PIERCING

(2) : deeply affecting : TOUCHING

b : designed to make an impression : CUTTING

3 a : pleasurably stimulating

b : being to the point : APT

synonym PUNGENT, MOVING

**27. potent**

*adjective*

1 : having or wielding force, authority, or influence : POWERFUL

2 : achieving or bringing about a particular result : EFFECTIVE

3 a : chemically or medicinally effective

b : rich in a characteristic constituent

4 : able to copulate – usually used of the male

28. **pottage**

*noun*

a thick soup of vegetables and often meat

29. **proWess**

*noun*

1 : distinguished bravery; especially : military valor and skill

2 : extraordinary ability

30. **rebuKe**

*verb*

1 a : to criticize sharply : REPRIMAND

b : to serve as a rebuke to

2 : to turn back or keep down : CHECK

synonym REPROVE

31. **resignation**

*noun*

1 a : an act or instance of resigning something : SURRENDER

b : a formal notification of resigning

2 : the quality or state of being resigned : SUBMISSIVENESS

32. **revere**

*verb*

to show devoted deferential honor to : regard as worthy of great honor

synonyms REVERE, REVERENCE, VENERATE, WORSHIP, ADORE

33. **sisal**

*noun*

1 a : a strong durable white fiber used especially for hard fiber cordage and twine

b : a widely cultivated Mexican agave (*Agave sisalana*) whose leaves yield sisal

2 : any of several fibers similar to true sisal

34. **specious**

*adjective*

1 : SHOWY

2 : having deceptive attraction or allure

3 : having a false look of truth or genuineness : SOPHISTIC

35. **tendrils**

*noun*

1 : a leaf, stipule, or stem modified into a slender spirally coiling sensitive organ serving to attach a climbing plant to its support

2 : something suggestive of a tendril

36. **valediction**

*noun*

1 : an act of bidding farewell

2 : VALEDICTORY

37. **voluble**

*adjective*

1 : easily rolling or turning : ROTATING

2 : characterized by ready or rapid speech : GLIB, FLUENT

synonym TALKATIVE