

Advanced Vocabulary 1

He was a **conscientious** man and he took his duties very seriously.

conscientious - wishing to do one's work or duty well and thoroughly

If selfish and **narrow**-minded interests are allowed to rule a country, there will be fewer good things for the country and the citizens as a whole.

narrow-minded - not willing to listen to or tolerate other people's views; prejudiced

A family was pulled from their burning home by a **courageous** next-door neighbor.

courageous – brave; not discouraged by danger or pain

He shared her **unconventional** love of rude words and dirty jokes.

unconventional - not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed

He brings with him a deep spirituality, a wide range of experience and an abundance of good-natured humor and **down**-to-earth common sense.

down-to-earth - with no illusions or pretensions; practical and realistic

She's always been very **outgoing** and she's got lots of friends.

outgoing - friendly and socially confident; extroverted

I admit that I am not very **knowledgeable** about modern rock music.

knowledgeable - intelligent and well informed

The girl **shrieked** with laughter, slapping the boy on the chest.

to shriek – to scream with a high-pitched piercing sound or words, especially as an expression of terror, pain, or excitement

We started fighting over who had to wash the dishes and we were really **nasty** to each other.

nasty – behaving in an unpleasant or spiteful way

My classmates were envious and made **spiteful** little jokes about me.

spiteful – showing malice or caused by malice

The press failed to **grasp** the significance of what had happened and the story was not reported in the newspapers.

to grasp – to comprehend fully

When parents are having a hard time, their tension can easily **rub** off on the kids.

to rub off on – to be transferred by contact or association

Detected fraud is only the **tip** of the iceberg; Ninety percent goes undetected.

the tip of an/the iceberg - The small perceptible part of a much larger situation or problem that remains hidden

Words leave the page and become real, and you gain rare **insight** into the authors, their books, and their passions.

Insight - The capacity to gain an accurate and deep understanding of someone or something

It was a **shock** to face such hostile attitudes from such usually nice people.

a shock - a sudden upsetting or surprising event or experience

As always, his sermon began slowly with self-**deprecating** jokes.

self-deprecating humor - modest about or critical of oneself in a slightly funny way

The company **stands** to gain quite a lot from this government scheme.

stand to gain - is likely to obtain

Grandma is so set in her **ways**, she's unlikely to change now.

set in one's ways – to be inflexible and fixed one's habits.

In all the ups and downs of his life he never lost his **sense** of humour.

sense of humour - a person's ability to appreciate something funny.

His friend did not believe in chances nor did he believe in **relying** solely on anyone else.

to rely on – to depend on with full trust or confidence