

## Advanced Vocabulary 3

1

Diana was **smitten** with the handsome prince.

to be smitten – to be strongly attracted to someone or something.

I could say more, but my lips are **sealed**.

lips are sealed – used to convey that one will not discuss or reveal something

Some tourist towns on the coast are distressed by all the **troublemakers** who drink too much.

a troublemaker – a person who habitually causes difficulty or problems, especially by inciting others to defy those in authority.

We are looking **forward** to seeing you at the party this evening.

to look forward to doing - to anticipate with pleasure or satisfaction; to await eagerly

**Tabloid** newspapers have always published lots of fake news.

tabloid – vividly shocking and sensational newspapers and media

George Lucas went too **far** with Jar Jar Binks and nearly ruined the franchise.

to go too far – to exceed the limits of what is reasonable or acceptable.

It is a light-**hearted** romantic comedy, which revolves around a group of young friends and 10 days in their lives.

light-hearted – amusing and entertaining

Things went from bad to **worse** with the authoritarian leader and major newspapers struggled to defend themselves from the president's attacks.

to go from bad to worse – into an even worse state.

Speculating about life in other solar systems is a **pointless** exercise if there is no way of proving it.

pointless - having little or no sense, use, or purpose.

Most people in Spain have a Catholic **upbringing**.

upbringing - the treatment and instruction received by a child from its parents throughout its childhood.

Many students feel that they are **labelled** as failures, when in fact a system of education which regularly fails 40-50% of the students is itself obviously a failure.

to label – to assign to a category, especially inaccurately or restrictively.

In the movie, Rocky is a lonely, over the **hill** loser, who is nothing like the great fighter that he used to be.

to be over the hill – to be old and past one's best.

I wasn't exactly **thrilled** to hear of Trump's election.

to thrill – to cause someone to have a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure.

Not only did his wife ask for a divorce, but he also got **sacked** from his job.

to get sacked – to be fired or dismissed from employment

He is unable to **tell** the difference between fantasy and reality.

to tell the difference - to differentiate between two or more things or people.

The couple had gone out on just one **date** before they fell deeply in love.

a date – a romantic appointment

What happened to me during the tsunami was not **ordinary** and average and commonplace and I reject any word that makes it appear so.

ordinary - not interesting or exceptional; commonplace.

Oh, by the **way**, while you were away somebody called and I took a message.

by the way - incidentally (used to introduce a new, less important topic).

My father was so **grateful** to the surgeon who had operated on him.

grateful - feeling or showing thanks or an appreciation for something done or received.

The more you **challenge** yourself, the more you will learn.

to challenge – to test and make demands on.

2

I was so grateful to have been given the **chance** to visit New York City. It was so wonderful.

to give a chance – to give an opportunity

The police have not found anyone **fitting** that description.

to fit – to match; to be compatible or in agreement with.

The protesters begged the policemen not to fire on unarmed **fellow** citizens.

a fellow (person) – sharing a particular activity, quality, or condition with someone or something.

There is a gap between the level that you have now and the level that you want to reach. If you memorize a lot more vocabulary words, you can **narrow** the gap.

to narrow the gap – to reduce the difference; to make less wide

Students have to learn how to **pay** attention, even when the lecture is boring.

to pay attention – to take notice of someone or something.

Many teachers **struggle** to get much enthusiasm and commitment from their students.

to struggle - to work hard to achieve or get something despite the difficulty or resistance.

The president's relationship with major newspapers continues to **spiral** downward as further evidence of his misbehavior is uncovered.

to spiral downward – to decrease or deteriorate continuously.

Four films were in the **running** for best film at the Oscars.

to be in (or out of) the running - to have (or not have) a good chance for an award, victory, or a place in a team.

The most **compelling** scene of the film is the one where Clint Eastwood stands in the pouring rain as his lover drives away with her husband.

compelling – creating interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way.

Scarlett Johansson stole the **limelight** at the Oscars last week and no one even noticed her co-host.

to hog or steal the limelight - to draw the focus of attention to oneself at the expense of others.

It was really **touching** when the blind boy hugged his service dog.

touching – arousing feelings of sympathy or gratitude

Trump **portrayed** legitimate newspapers as enemies of the people.

to portray – to describe (someone or something) in a particular way.

We spent the summer vacation just **hanging** out with our friends, talking and relaxing.

to hang out with - to spend time relaxing or enjoying oneself.

The government has not even started to **address** the issue yet.

to address – to think about and begin to deal with a problem, issue or question

Besides traditional methods, artists are **embracing** new technologies.

embrace – to accept (a belief, theory, or change) willingly and enthusiastically.

A friend of mine always **gets** out of paying for drinks when we go out.

to get out of - to manage to avoid or escape a responsibility

The boy **showed** off his skateboarding skills, trying to make a really big impression.

to show off – to proudly display one's abilities or accomplishments

The festival was **crowded** with partiers.

to crowd – to fill a space almost completely with people

She wanted to **set** the record straight and deny that she had ever been convicted.

to set or put the record straight – to give the true version of events that have been reported incorrectly.

His new Mohawk-style haircut is a bit over the **top**.

over the top - to an excessive or exaggerated degree.

3

If the corrupt politician had been caught, he might have had to **face** the music.

to face the music – to be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.

He had no desire to get **caught** up in political activities.

get caught up in – to get involved in something that one had not intended to get involved in.

I can share personal memories and in-**jokes** with him, and compliment him on his fine choice of tattoo.

in-joke – a joke that is understood or appreciated by only a small group of people.

The political party **pulled** in 10 percent of the vote.

pull someone/something in – to succeed in securing or obtaining something.

The lights have gone out and there is no electricity? Then, we may as **well** go for a walk, because we cannot watch TV.

(might or) may as well - used to make an unenthusiastic suggestion.

He made some very valid **points** in his argument.

the point – an argument or idea

All I can say about it is that nice people are easy to deal with and unpleasant people are much more difficult to **cope** with.

to cope with – to deal effectively with something difficult.

It's **about** time that the youth of this country woke up to the fact that democracy is in danger. They must start voting.

it's about time – used to convey that something now happening should have happened earlier

I've been feeling under the **weather** lately, so I decided to stay in bed this morning and get some much needed sleep.

to be/feel under the weather – to feel slightly unwell or in low spirits.

I was always quite fat as a child, I used to get teased about it and **picked** on by bullies.

to pick on – to repeatedly single someone out for criticism or unkind treatment in a way perceived to be unfair.

Although the OLED TV had the best screen he had ever seen, the lag he experienced while playing video games was definitely not up to the **mark**.

to be up to the mark - to reach the standard

Life has a lot of ups and downs and can be a real **rollercoaster** ride.

a rollercoaster ride - a journey or experience of extreme and rapid changes.

The problems in the system of education, such as the high rate of failure, **stem** from general ignorance about the causes and solutions to these problems.

to stem from – to originate in or be caused by

Lawyers seem to think that complex **jargon** impresses their clients.

jargon - special words or expressions used by a profession or group that are difficult for others to understand.

It was a **moving** experience to visit my old friend at the cemetery.

moving – producing strong emotion, especially sadness or sympathy

America needs to **wake** up to the fact that they've elected someone who's anti-democratic.

wake up to – to become alert or aware of

She had pressed her mother until Mary finally lost patience and **snapped**.

to snap - to suddenly lose one's self-control

The three bullies **laid** into the poor kid and left him bleeding on the sidewalk.

to lay into – to attack violently with words or strikes.

I am still struggling to take in the situation but the amount of **fuss** around me tells me that something pretty damned big has happened!

a big fuss – a display of unnecessary or excessive excitement, activity, or interest.

George was immediately smitten and asked her to marry him on the **spot**.

on the spot - immediately, without any delay.

Mary hated to have to choose between retirement and continuing working. She wanted to do both so she could live in the best of both **worlds**.

the best of both (or all possible) worlds – to enjoy the benefits of widely differing situations at the same time.