

Vocabulary List for To Kill a Mockingbird

Chapters 1 - 6

consult

seek information from

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We were far too old to settle an argument with a fist-fight, so we **consulted** Atticus.*

unsullied

spotlessly clean and fresh

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Atticus's office in the courthouse contained little more than a hat rack, a spittoon, a checkerboard and an **unsullied** Code of Alabama.*

satisfactory

meeting requirements

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem and I found our father **satisfactory**: he played with us, read to us, and treated us with courteous detachment.*

tyrannical

characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule; having absolute sovereignty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had been with us ever since Jem was born, and I had felt her **tyrannical** presence as long as I could remember.*

absence

failure to be present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Our mother died when I was two, so I never felt her **absence**.*

revelation

an enlightening or astonishing disclosure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Dill had seen Dracula, a **revelation** that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect.*

concede

be willing to concede

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was all right to shut him up, Mr. Radley **conceded**, but insisted that Boo not be charged with anything: he was not a criminal.*

employ

put into service; make work or employ for a particular purpose or for its inherent or natural purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nobody knew what form of intimidation Mr. Radley **employed** to keep Boo out of sight, but Jem figured that Mr. Radley kept him chained to the bed most of the time.*

decline

refuse to accept

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In all his life, Jem had never **declined** a dare.*

foray

a sudden short attack

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem threw open the gate and sped to the side of the house, slapped it with his palm and ran back past us, not waiting to see if his **foray** was successful.*

miserable

very unhappy; full of misery

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We saw him off on the five o'clock bus and I was **miserable** without him until it occurred to me that I would be starting to school in a week.*

condescend

do something that one considers to be below one's dignity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem **condescended** to take me to school the first day, a job usually done by one's parents, but Atticus had said Jem would be delighted to show me where my room was.*

compel

force somebody to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now that I was **compelled** to think about it, reading was something that just came to me, as learning to fasten the seat of my union suit without looking around, or achieving two bows from a snarl of shoelaces.*

expound

add details, as to an account or idea; clarify the meaning of and discourse in a learned way, usually in writing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Atticus was **expounding** upon farm problems when Walter interrupted to ask if there was any molasses in the house.*

erratic

liable to sudden unpredictable change

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She was furious, and when she was furious Calpurnia's grammar became **erratic**.*

contradict

prove negative; show to be false

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"There's some folks who don't eat like us," she whispered fiercely, "but you ain't called on to **contradict** 'em at the table when they don't.*

humiliation

strong feelings of embarrassment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I retrieved my plate and finished dinner in the kitchen, thankful, though, that I was spared the **humiliation** of facing them again.*

amiable

diffusing warmth and friendliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He waited in **amiable** silence, and I sought to reinforce my position: "You never went to school and you do all right, so I'll just stay home too.*

exclusive

not divided or shared with others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He said that the Ewells were members of an **exclusive** society made up of Ewells.*

withdraw

remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I stood on tiptoe, hastily looked around once more, reached into the hole, and **withdrew** two pieces of chewing gum minus their outer wrappers.*

unanimous

in complete agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mrs. Dubose lived two doors up the street from us; neighborhood opinion was **unanimous** that Mrs. Dubose was the meanest old woman who ever lived.*

arbitrate

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem **arbitrated**, awarded me first push with an extra time for Dill, and I folded myself inside the tire.*

inquisitive

showing curiosity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If he wanted to stay inside his own house he had the right to stay inside free from the attentions of **inquisitive** children, which was a mild term for the likes of us.*

peculiar

beyond or deviating from the usual or expected

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*What Mr. Radley did might seem **peculiar** to us, but it did not seem **peculiar** to him.*

ramshackle

in deplorable condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The back of the Radley house was less inviting than the front: a **ramshackle** porch ran the width of the house; there were two doors and two dark windows between the doors.*

Vocabulary

Chapters 7 - 11

reassure

give or restore confidence in; cause to feel sure or certain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I **reassured** him: "Can't anybody tell what you're gonna do lest they live in the house with you, and even I can't tell sometimes."*

assure

inform positively and with certainty and confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The second grade was grim, but Jem **assured** me that the older I got the better school would be, that he started off the same way, and it was not until one reached the sixth grade that one learned anything of value.*

delete

cut or eliminate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Atticus told me to **delete** the adjectives and I'd have the facts.*

crude

not carefully or expertly made

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One was the figure of a boy, the other wore a **crude** dress.*

miniature

being on a very small scale

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were almost perfect **miniatures** of two children.*

yield

give or supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The following week the knot-hole **yielded** a tarnished medal.*

verge

the limit beyond which something happens or changes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had been on the **verge** of telling me something all evening; his face would brighten and he would lean toward me, then he would change his mind.*

stark

complete or extreme

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem was facing me when he looked up, and I saw him go **stark** white.*

yonder

distant but within sight ('yon' is dialectal)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Mr. Radley, ah-did you put cement in that hole in that tree down **yonder**?"*

unfathomable

impossible to come to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For reasons **unfathomable** to the most experienced prophets in Maycomb County, autumn turned to winter that year.*

seldom

not often

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Old Mrs. Radley died that winter, but her death caused hardly a ripple-the neighborhood **seldoms** saw her, except when she watered her cannas.*

caricature

a representation of a person that is exaggerated for comic effect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"You can't go around making **caricatures** of the neighbors."*

devour

destroy completely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We stood watching the street fill with men and cars while fire silently **devoured** Miss Maudie's house.*

quell

suppress or crush completely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Miss Maudie's tin roof **quelled** the flames.*

disregard

lack of attention and due care

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He began pouring out our secrets right and left in total **disregard** for my safety if not for his own, omitting nothing, knot-hole, pants and all.*

shambles

a condition of great disorder

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With most of her possessions gone and her beloved yard a **shambles**, she still took a lively and cordial interest in Jem's and my affairs.*

fanatical

marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Aunt Alexandra was **fanatical** on the subject of my attire.*

gallantly

in a gallant manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Uncle Jack **gallantly** bowed me to the bathroom.*

absorb

take in, also metaphorically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*What bothers me is that she and Jem will have to **absorb** some ugly things pretty soon.*

acquainted

having fair knowledge of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The jury couldn't possibly be expected to take Tom Robinson's word against the Ewells' - are you **acquainted** with the Ewells?"*

vehemently

in a vehement manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Atticus shook his head **vehemently**: "Don't just stand there, Heck!"*

simultaneous

occurring or operating at the same time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With movements so swift they seemed **simultaneous**, Atticus's hand yanked a ball-tipped lever as he brought the gun to his shoulder.*

disrespectful**exhibiting lack of respect; rude and discourteous**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Besides being the sassiest, most **disrespectful** mutts who ever passed her way, we were told that it was quite a pity our father had not remarried after our mother's death.***accustom****make psychologically or physically used (to something)**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I had become almost **accustomed** to hearing insults aimed at Atticus.***abide** **dwell**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The one thing that doesn't **abide** by majority rule is a person's conscience."***Vocabulary Chapter 12 – 15****reckon****expect, believe, or suppose**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His appetite was appalling, and he told me so many times to stop pestering him I consulted Atticus: "**Reckon** he's got a tapeworm?"***acquired****gotten through environmental forces**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Overnight, it seemed, Jem, had **acquired** an alien set of values and was trying to impose them on me: several times he went so far as to tell me what to do.***unbearable****incapable of being put up with**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With him, life was routine; without him, life was **unbearable**.***invade****to intrude upon, infringe, encroach on, violate**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had trusted Jem for years, but that night she **invaded** his privacy and provoked an outburst: "Can't anybody take a bath in this house without the whole family lookin'?"***dispel****to cause to separate and go in different directions**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was dim inside, with a damp coolness slowly **dispelled** by the gathering congregation.***garish****tastelessly showy**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*At each seat was a cheap cardboard fan bearing a **garish** Garden of Gethsemane, courtesy Tyndal's Hardware Co.***qualm****uneasiness about the fitness of an action**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I did likewise with no **qualms**.***linger****remain present although waning or gradually dying**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Music again swelled around us; the last note **lingered** and Zeebo met it with the next line: "And we only reach that shore by faith's decree."***propel****cause to move forward with force**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I wanted to stay and explore, but Calpurnia **propelled** me up the aisle ahead of her.***modest****marked by simplicity; having a humble opinion of yourself**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That Calpurnia led a **modest** double life never dawned on me.***tactful****having or showing a sense of what is fitting and considerate in dealing with others**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I realized that this was not a **tactful** question.***extract****remove, usually with some force or effort; also used in an abstract sense**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was a story behind all this, but I had no desire to **extract** it from her then: today was Sunday, and Aunt Alexandra was positively irritable on the Lord's Day.***ponder****reflect deeply on a subject**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I understood, **pondered** a while, and concluded that the only way I could retire with a shred of dignity was to go to the bathroom, where I stayed long enough to make them think I had to go.*

indulge**treat with excessive indulgence**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If anything, she's been harder on them in some ways than a mother would have been . . . she's never let them get away with any- thing, she's never **indulged** them the way most colored nurses do.***edification****uplifting enlightenment**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Still, everything he read he passed along to me, but with this difference: formerly, because he thought I'd like it; now, for my **edification** and instruction.***fetch****go or come after and bring or take back**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He went to the kitchen and **fetch**ed the broom.***ominous****threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was a murmur among the group of men, made more **ominous** when Atticus moved back to the bottom front step and the men drew nearer to him.***tranquil****not agitated; without losing self-possession**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I sometimes think Atticus subjected every crisis of his life to **tranquil** evaluation behind *The Mobile Register*, *The Birmingham News* and *The Montgomery Advertiser*.***prevail****be larger in number, quantity, power, status or importance**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fake peace that **prevailed** on Sundays was made more irritating by Aunt Alexandra's presence.***prohibited****forbidden by law**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shooting on Sundays was **prohibited**, so Dill and I kicked Jem's football around the pasture for a while, which was no fun.***incapable****(followed by `of') lacking capacity or ability**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In *Maycomb*, if one went for a walk with no definite purpose in mind, it was correct to believe one's mind **incapable** of definite purpose.***oblivious****(followed by `to' or `of') lacking conscious awareness of**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was sitting in one of his office chairs, and he was reading, **oblivious** of the nightbugs dancing over his head.***acquiescence****agreement with a statement or proposal to do something**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We were accustomed to prompt, if not always cheerful **acquiescence** to Atticus's instructions, but from the way he stood Jem was not thinking of budging.***uncomfortable****providing or experiencing physical discomfort**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He seemed **uncomfortable**; he cleared his throat and looked away.***affection****a positive feeling of liking**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As they passed under a streetlight, Atticus reached out and massaged Jem's hair, his one gesture of **affection**.***Vocabulary Chapters 16 – 19****despise****look down on with disdain**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"He **despises** Negroes, won't have one near him."***quote****repeat a passage from**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I guess that the foot-washers thought that the Devil was **quoting** Scripture for his own purposes, as the driver speeded his mules.***formidable****extremely impressive in strength or excellence**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Why they objected to Miss Maudie's yard was a mystery, heightened in my mind because for someone who spent all the daylight hours outdoors, Miss Maudie's command of Scripture was **formidable**.*

elucidate**make clear and (more) comprehensible**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We asked Miss Maudie to **elucidate**: she said Miss Stephanie seemed to know so much about the case she might as well be called on to testify.***affluent****having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The more **affluent** chased their food with drugstore Coca-Cola in bulb-shaped soda glasses.***convene****meet formally**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was from Abbottsville; we saw him only when court **convened**, and that rarely, for court was of no special interest to Jem and me.***scrutiny****the act of examining something closely (as for mistakes)**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The jury, thinking themselves under close **scrutiny**, paid attention; so did the witnesses, thinking likewise. ". . . in your own words, Mr. Tate," Mr. Gilmer was saying.***turbulent****characterized by unrest or disorder or insubordination**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With his infinite capacity for calming **turbulent** seas, he could make a rape case as dry as a sermon.***devoid****completely wanting or lacking**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Here Judge Taylor glanced sharply at the witness and must have decided his speculations **devoid** of evil intent, for he subsided sleepily.***distracted****having the attention diverted especially because of anxiety**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I was too **distracted** about Mayella to run after him.***descent****a movement downward**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The witness made a hasty **descent** from the stand and ran smack into Atticus, who had risen to question him.***ambidextrous****equally skillful with each hand**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"About your writing with your left hand, are you **ambidextrous**, Mr. Ewell?"***contorted****twisted (especially as in pain or struggle)**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mayella's face **contorted**, and I was afraid that she would cry again.***courteous****characterized by courtesy and gracious good manners**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"We've done business in this court for years and years, and Mr. Finch is always **courteous** to everybody.***contrary****exact opposition**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Atticus, let's get on with these proceedings, and let the record show that the witness has not been sassed, her views to the **contrary**."***hostility****a state of deep-seated ill-will**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mayella's **hostility**, which had subsided to grudging neutrality, flared again.***involuntary****not subject to the control of the will**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He did not see her **involuntary** jump, but it seemed to me that he knew she had moved.***detached****showing lack of emotional involvement**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Atticus's voice had lost its comfortableness; he was speaking in his arid, **detached** professional voice.***recollect****recall knowledge from memory; have a recollection**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"No, I don't **recollect** if he hit me.***smother****deprive of oxygen and prevent from breathing**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Even the babies were still, and I suddenly wondered if they had been **smothered** at their mothers' breasts.*

exodus

a journey by a large group to escape from a hostile environment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As a rule, a recess meant a general **exodus**, but today people weren't moving.*

volition

the act of making a choice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He seemed to be a respectable Negro, and a respectable Negro would never go up into somebody's yard of his own **volition**.*

expunge

remove by erasing or crossing out or as if by drawing a line

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Judge Taylor told the reporter to **expunge** anything he happened to have written down after Mr. Finch if you were a nigger like me you'd be seared too, and told the jury to disregard the interruption.*

conscience

motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"If you had a clear **conscience**, why were you scared?"*

grope

feel about uncertainly or blindly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"He's not an example, Dill, he's... I was trying to **grope** in my memory for a sharp phrase of Miss Maudie Atkinson's.*

Vocabulary Chapters 20 – 25**iota**

a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The state has not produced one **iota** of medical evidence to the effect that the crime Tom Robinson is charged with ever took place.*

effort

earnest and conscientious activity intended to do or accomplish something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I have nothing but pity in my heart for the chief witness for the state, but my pity does not extend so far as to her putting a man's life at stake, which she has done in an **effort** to get rid of her own guilt.*

motivated

provided with a motive or given incentive for action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I say guilt, gentlemen, because it was guilt that **motivated** her.*

victim

an unfortunate person who suffers from some adverse circumstance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She is the **victim** of cruel poverty and ignorance, but I cannot pity her: she is white.*

circumstantial

fully detailed and specific about particulars

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We don't know, but there is **circumstantial** evidence to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left.*

temerity

fearless daring

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"And so a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated **temerity** to 'feel sorry' for a white woman has had to put his word against two white people's.*

context

the set of facts or circumstances that surround a situation or event

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There is a tendency in this year of grace, 1935, for certain people to use this phrase out of **context**, to satisfy all conditions.*

idealist

someone guided more by ideals than by practical considerations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I'm no **idealist** to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and in the jury system-that is no ideal to me, it is a living, working reality.*

passion

a strong feeling or emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I am confident that you gentlemen will review without **passion** the evidence you have heard, come to a decision, and restore this defendant to his family.*

precisely**indicating exactness or preciseness**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"They're right up yonder in the colored balcony -been there since **precisely** one-eighteen P.M."***remorse****a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When you oughta be hangin' your head in shame you go along laughin'---" Calpurnia revived a series of rusty threats that moved Jem to little **remorse**, and she sailed up the front steps with her classic, "If Mr. Finch don't wear you out, I will get in that house, sir!"***tacit****implied by or inferred from actions or statements**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem went in grinning, and Calpurnia nodded **tacit** consent to having Dill in to supper.***convict****find or declare guilty**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Don't see how any jury could **convict** on what we heard."***overpower****overcome by superior force**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Apparently you had to kick and holler, you had to be **overpowered** and stomped on, preferably knocked stone cold.***convincing****causing one to believe the truth of something**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Perhaps I was too **convincing**, because Jem hushed and never discussed the subject again.***impassive****having or revealing little emotion or sensibility; not easily aroused or excited**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Atticus was standing under the street light looking as though nothing had happened: his vest was buttoned, his collar and tie were neatly in place, his watch-chain glistened, he was his **impassive**self again.***heathen****a person who does not acknowledge your god**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And I thought to myself, well, we're making a step-it's just a baby-step, but it's a step."**" 't's all right to talk like that-can't any Christian judges an' lawyers make up for **heathen** juries," Jem muttered.***prompt****give an incentive for action**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Ewell was a veteran of an obscure war; that plus Atticus's peaceful reaction probably **prompted** him to inquire, "Too proud to fight, you nigger-lovin' bastard?"***credibility****the quality of being believable or trustworthy**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I destroyed his last shred of **credibility** at that trial, if he had any to begin with.***misgiving****uneasiness about the fitness of an action**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He said he didn't have any quarrel with the rape statute, none whatever, but he did have deep **misgivings** when the state asked for and the jury gave a death penalty on purely circumstantial evidence.***improbable****having a probability too low to inspire belief**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There's always the possibility, no matter how **improbable**, that he's innocent."***apprehension****fearful expectation or anticipation**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ladies in bunches always filled me with vague **apprehension** and a firm desire to be elsewhere, but this feeling was what Aunt Alexandra called being "spoiled."***preface****furnish with a preface or introduction**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had a curious habit of **prefacing** everything she said with a soft sibilant sound.***tribute****something given or done as an expression of esteem**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Whether Maycomb knows it or not, we're paying the highest **tribute** we can pay a man.*

demise

the time when something ends

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Maycomb had lost no time in getting Mr. Ewell's views on Tom's **demise** and passing them along through that English Channel of gossip, Miss Stephanie Crawford.*

Vocabulary Chapters 26 – 31

cease

put an end to a state or an activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Radley Place had **ceased** to terrify me, but it was no less gloomy, no less chilly under its great oaks, and no less uninviting.*

privilege

a special advantage or immunity or benefit not enjoyed by all

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"'Equal rights for all, special **privileges** for none'," I quoted.*

clarify

make clear and (more) comprehensible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I went away, not sure that I could explain to Atticus what was on my mind, not sure that I could **clarify** what was only a feeling.*

escort

accompany or escort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He thought Jem might **escort** me if I asked him.*

gait

a person's manner of walking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We had slowed to a cautious **gait**, and were feeling our way forward so as not to bump into the tree.*

alleged

declared but not proved

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We squandered our first nickels on the House of Horrors, which scared us not at all; we entered the black seventh grade room and were led around by the temporary ghoul in residence and were made to touch several objects **alleged** to be the component parts of a human being.*

dismay

the feeling of despair in the face of obstacles

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Somebody's mashed my costume," I wailed in **dismay**.*

strain

to exert much effort or energy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We began crossing the black schoolyard, **straining** to see our feet.*

barely

in a sparse or scanty way

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I turned to look at him, but his outline was **barely** visible.*

inconvenience

the quality of not being useful or convenient

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jem knew as well as I that it was difficult to walk fast without stumping a toe, tripping on stones, and other **inconveniences**, and I was barefooted.*

flounder

behave awkwardly; have difficulties

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Metal ripped on metal and I fell to the ground and rolled as far as I could, **floundering** to escape my wire prison.*

scuffle

fight or struggle in a confused way at close quarters

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From somewhere near by came **scuffling**, kicking sounds, sounds of shoes and flesh scraping dirt and roots.*

frantically

in an uncontrolled manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I went to where I thought he had been and felt **frantically** along the ground, reaching out with my toes.*

conceive

have the idea for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I can't **conceive** of anyone low down enough to do a thing like this, but*

instinctive**unthinking; prompted by (or as if by) instinct**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For once in his life, Atticus****instinctive** courtesy failed him: he sat where he was.***reprimand****an act or expression of criticism and censure**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As I said it, I half pointed to the man in the corner, but brought my arm down quickly lest Atticus **reprimand** me for pointing.***timid****showing fear and lack of confidence**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His lips parted into a **timid** smile, and our neighbor's image blurred with my sudden tears.***astound****affect with wonder**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Dr. Reynolds's voice was as breezy as his step, as though he had said it every evening of his life, an announcement that **astounded** me even more than being in the same room with Boo***elude****escape, either physically or mentally**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A curious contest, the nature of which **eluded** me, was developing between my father and the sheriff.***competent****properly or sufficiently qualified or capable or efficient**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I'd take somebody mighty used to the dark to make a **competent** witness."***uncertain****lacking or indicating lack of confidence or assurance**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Every move he made was **uncertain**, as if he were not sure his hands and feet could make proper contact with the things he touched.***dreadful****exceptionally bad or displeasing**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He coughed his****dreadful** raling cough, and was so shaken he had to sit down again.***incredible****beyond belief or understanding**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Having been so accustomed to his absence, I found it **incredible** that he had been sitting beside me all this time, present.***release****release, as from one's grip**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He gently **released** my hand, opened the door, went inside, and shut the door behind him.***snug****enjoying or affording comforting warmth and shelter especially in a small space**