

English 10A
American Literature / Vocabulary 8

Define the following words:

1. derogatory - SHOWING A CRITICAL OR DISRESPECTFUL ATTITUDE : *SHE TELLS ME I'M FAT AND IS ALWAYS MAKING DEROGATORY REMARKS.*
2. desiccate - REMOVE THE MOISTURE FROM (SOMETHING, ESP. FOOD), TYPICALLY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE IT : *DESICCATED COCONUT. [AS ADJ.] (DESICCATED) FIGURATIVE LACKING INTEREST, PASSION, OR ENERGY : A DESICCATED HISTORY OF IDEAS.*
3. despondent - IN LOW SPIRITS FROM LOSS OF HOPE OR COURAGE.
4. destitute - WITHOUT THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE : *THE CHARITY CARES FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN.*
5. desultory - LACKING A PLAN, PURPOSE, OR ENTHUSIASM : *A FEW PEOPLE WERE LEFT, DANCING IN A DESULTORY FASHION.*
6. dialectical - RELATING TO THE LOGICAL DISCUSSION OF IDEAS AND OPINIONS : *DIALECTICAL INGENUITY.*
7. didactic - INTENDED TO TEACH, PARTICULARLY IN HAVING MORAL INSTRUCTION AS AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE : *A DIDACTIC NOVEL THAT SET OUT TO EXPOSE SOCIAL INJUSTICE.*
8. diffident - MODEST OR SHY BECAUSE OF A LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE : *A DIFFIDENT YOUTH.*
9. digress - LEAVE THE MAIN SUBJECT TEMPORARILY IN SPEECH OR WRITING : *I HAVE DIGRESSED A LITTLE FROM MY ORIGINAL PLAN.*
10. dilettante - A PERSON WHO CULTIVATES AN AREA OF INTEREST, SUCH AS THE ARTS, WITHOUT REAL COMMITMENT OR KNOWLEDGE : [AS ADJ.] *A DILETTANTE APPROACH TO SCIENCE.*
11. discreet - CAREFUL AND CIRCUMSPECT IN ONE'S SPEECH OR ACTIONS, ESP. IN ORDER TO AVOID CAUSING OFFENSE OR TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE : *WE MADE SOME DISCREET INQUIRIES.*
12. discrete - INDIVIDUALLY SEPARATE AND DISTINCT : *SPEECH SOUNDS ARE PRODUCED AS A CONTINUOUS SOUND SIGNAL RATHER THAN DISCRETE UNITS.*
13. disparage - REGARD OR REPRESENT AS BEING OF LITTLE WORTH : *HE NEVER MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISPARAGE HIS COMPETITORS* | [AS ADJ.] (**DISPARAGING**) *DISPARAGING REMARKS.*
14. disparate - ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT IN KIND; NOT ALLOWING COMPARISON : *THEY INHABIT DISPARATE WORLDS OF THOUGHT.*
15. disseminate - SPREAD OR DISPERSE (SOMETHING, ESP. INFORMATION) WIDELY : *HEALTH AUTHORITIES SHOULD FOSTER GOOD PRACTICE BY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION.*
16. dissolution - THE CLOSING DOWN OR DISMISSAL OF AN ASSEMBLY, PARTNERSHIP, OR OFFICIAL BODY : *THE DISSOLUTION OF THEIR MARRIAGE* | *HENRY VIII DECLARED THE ABBEY'S DISSOLUTION IN 1540.*
17. distend - CAUSE (SOMETHING) TO SWELL BY STRETCHING IT FROM INSIDE : *AIR IS INTRODUCED INTO THE STOMACH TO DISTEND IT* | [AS ADJ.] (**DISTENDED**) *A DISTENDED BELLY.*
18. dogmatic - INCLINED TO LAY DOWN PRINCIPLES AS INCONTROVERTIBLY TRUE : *HE GIVES HIS OPINION WITHOUT TRYING TO BE DOGMATIC.*
19. domestic - OF OR RELATING TO THE RUNNING OF A HOME OR TO FAMILY RELATIONS : *DOMESTIC CHORES* | *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.*
20. doctrinaire - SEEKING TO IMPOSE A DOCTRINE IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES WITHOUT REGARD TO PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS : *A DOCTRINAIRE SOCIALIST.*