

English 10A

American Literature / Vocabulary 9

“Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors.”

- T.H. Huxley

Define the following words:

1. dubious – (adj.) doubtful, of uncertain quality (*Suspicious that he was only trying to get a raise, she found his praise dubious.*)
2. duplicity – (n.) crafty dishonesty (*His duplicity involved convincing his employees to let him lower their salaries and increase their stock options, and then to steal the money he saved and run the company into the ground.*)
3. ebullient – (adj.) extremely lively, enthusiastic (*She became ebullient upon receiving an acceptance letter from her first-choice college.*)
4. eclectic – (adj.) consisting of a diverse variety of elements (*That bar attracts an eclectic crowd: lawyers, artists, circus clowns, and investment bankers.*)
5. edify – (v) instruct or improve (someone) morally or intellectually.
6. efface - (v.) to wipe out, obliterate, rub away (*The husband was so angry at his wife for leaving him that he effaced all evidence of her presence; he threw out pictures of her and gave away all her belongings.*)
7. effusion – (n) an instance of giving off something such as a liquid, light, or smell : *a massive effusion of poisonous gas.*
8. egalitarian – (adj) of, relating to, or believing in the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities : *a fairer, more egalitarian society.*
9. egocentric – (adj) thinking only of oneself, without regard for the feelings or desires of others; self-centered : *their egocentric tendency to think of themselves as invulnerable.*
10. egregious - (adj.) extremely bad (*The student who threw sloppy joes across the cafeteria was punished for his egregious behavior.*)
11. elliptical – (adj) round, elongated, oval, egg shaped
12. eminent - 1. (adj.) distinguished, prominent, famous (*Mr. Phillips is such an eminent scholar that every professor on campus has come to hear him lecture.*) 2. (adj.) conspicuous (*There is an eminent stain on that shirt.*)
13. empirical - 1. (adj.) based on observation or experience (*The scientist gathered empirical data on the growth rate of dandelions by studying the dandelions behind his house.*) 2. (adj.) capable of being proved or disproved by experiment (*That all cats hate getting wet is an empirical statement: I can test it by bathing my cat, Trinket.*)
14. emulate - (v.) to imitate (*I idolize Britney Spears so much that I emulate everything she does: I wear her outfits, sing along to her songs, and date a boy named Justin.*)
15. endemic - (of a disease or condition) regularly found among particular people or in a certain area : *areas where malaria is endemic*
16. enervate - (v.) to weaken, exhaust (*Writing these sentences enervates me so much that I will have to take a nap after I finish.*)
17. enfranchise - (v.) to grant the vote to (*The Nineteenth Amendment enfranchised women.*)
18. engender – (v.) to bring about, create, generate (*During the Olympics, the victories of U.S. athletes engender a patriotic spirit among Americans.*)
19. ephemeral - (adj.) short-lived, fleeting (*She promised she'd love me forever, but her "forever" was only ephemeral: she left me after one week.*)
20. epitome - (n.) a perfect example, embodiment (*My mother, the epitome of good taste, always dresses more elegantly than I do.*)