

# Advanced English Vocabulary Challenge

## Definitions and Sample Sentences

### Part Ten – Words 136 to 150

Read the sentences aloud, for better memorization and pronunciation practice.

136.       **to grapple with** - *phrasal verb* - to attempt to deal with something difficult; to try hard to understand or solve something

The city has to **grapple with** the problem of homelessness.

I accidentally took a calculus class and had to **grapple with** my lack of math skills.

Many businesses are still grappling with how and when to reopen.

I didn't want to harm the environment, so I **grappled with** having to drive everywhere.

137.       **to growl** - *verb* - to speak in a deep, angry voice; to snarl; when an animal makes a deep, angry sound

The dog **growled** at me when I walked by its food dish.

Batman **growls** at his enemies right before he attacks them.

The teacher **growled** at the students who were not paying attention.

138.       **to hasten** - *verb* - to speed up the event; to act quickly, to make something happen faster

I tried to **hasten** his decision by sharing more advantages.

Instead of helping him, the treatment may have **hastened** his death.

When the tornado sirens sounded, we **hastened** to the basement.

139.       **to intertwine** - *verb* - to mix or twist something together, making them hard to separate

The branches of that tree are **intertwined**.

Sometimes the problems of poverty and crime are closely **intertwined**.

His fingers **intertwined** with hers.

140.       **to lull** - *verb* - to make someone sleepy; to calm someone so they feel safe

I was **lulled** by the peaceful sound of the ocean.

I **lulled** my baby to sleep in the rocking chair.

Don't be **lulled** into a false sense of security.

My dog was scared of thunder, so I **lulled** it by petting it during the storm.

The soft music **lulled** me to sleep.

141.       **to lure** - *verb* - to tempt someone by offering a reward; to persuade; to attract

The chocolate cake **lured** the children away from the birthday party games.

The university **lured** the top scientist by offering him more vacation time and better pay.

He **lured** the investors into the scam by offering them promises he couldn't keep.

142.       **to mar** - *verb* - to damage or spoil; to make something less attractive

The campaign was **marred** by his negativity.

The car race was **marred** by a terrible accident.

When I walked outside from work, I caught the vandal **marring** my car door with his key.

143.       **to meander** - *verb* - to walk slowly; to wander without aim or direction, meandering - *adjective* - moving in a winding way; a geographic feature moving in a natural way

I often see cows **meandering** through that village.

The river **meandered** through the mountains in Colorado.

I often see cows **meandering** through that village.

While hiking, I **meandered** through the Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas.

144.       **to mitigate** - *verb* - to calm a serious situation; to make less intense

They're making every effort to **mitigate** the impact of the situation.

The boss **mitigated** the problem by firing the argumentative employee.

I **mitigated** the problem by moving students to different groups.

Our cell phone bill is too costly, so I **mitigated** the problem by picking a new provider.

145.       **to muster** - *verb* - to gather; to bring together (often used with "muster the courage " or muster the strength")

He managed to **muster** the courage to ask her out on a date.

I **mustered** all the strength I had to chop down that tree.

To win this game, the team will need all the strength they can **muster**.

The soldiers had to **muster** by the flag before their exercises.

146.       **to offset** – *verb* - to compensate; to balance the effect; to use a cost to cover for another cost or activity; to improve something by placing the opposite near it

They laid off some employees to **offset** the cost of production.

The athlete's lack of skill is **offset** by his speed.

I **offset** the price I paid for my house by not going on vacation.

My gorgeous Corvette **offset** the ugliness of the rusty pickup truck.

147.       **to outdo** - *verb* - to be better than someone else; to excel - *irregular verb*:  
outdo, outdid, outdone

The rivals were constantly trying to **outdo** each other.

They **outdid** their competitors by offering better service and lower prices.

Nadal **outdid** Federer in the last tennis tournament.

Not to be **outdone**, Mariah Carey had to show off her impressive range in her latest song.

148.       **to outnumber** - *verb* - to have more in number; to be larger in number

In elementary schools, female teachers **outnumber** male teachers.

In some US states, cows **outnumber** people.

Someday, self-driving cars will **outnumber** traditional ones.

Their army was hopelessly **outnumbered** by the enemy.

149.       **to pant** - *verb* - to breathe rapidly; to breathe hard and quickly

The dog **panted** in the heat.

After running the marathon, the runners bent over and **panted** in exhaustion.

I was **panting** after rushing to my seat.

150.       **to pine for** - *phrasal verb* - miss something or someone a lot; to desire  
intensely, to the point of getting depressed

I **pine for** the days when people talked on the phone instead of texted.

During the quarantine, I **pined for** the days when I could actually go to work.

After a few nights at camp, the children **pined for** the comforts of home.