

The Miracle Worker

by William Gibson

Definitions



The Miracle Worker Definitions



1.	accent	AK sent	to stress, to give prominence to; emphasize
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> avoid emphasizing
	In the job interview, I accented my experience.		
	Derivatives >>	accentor, accents, accented, accenting, accentual, accentuate, accentuation	
2.	apprehend	a pre HEND	to seize, arrest, take into custody; to understand; become aware of
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> turn loose
	Fortunately the police apprehended the man who stole my television.		
	Derivatives >>	apprehender, apprehensible, apprehensibility, apprehension	
3.	articulate	are TIK yuh late	to speak distinctly; expressing oneself clearly
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to speak indistinctly; to mumble
	An announcer must be articulate. A good politician must be able to articulate his views.		
	Derivatives >>	articulated, articulating, articulation, articulateness, articulative, articulately, articulator	
4.	ascend	uh SEND	to move upward, to rise from a lower station
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to descend; to go down
	The climbers ascended the mountain.		
	Derivatives >>	ascendancy, ascendancy, ascendant, ascension, ascending, ascended	
5.	asperity	uh SPARE uh tee	sharpness (as in temper); harshness
	Synonyms >>	severity, raucousness	Antonym >>
	These remarks spoken with asperity stung the boys to whom they were directed.		
	Derivatives >>	asperities	
6.	aversion	uh VER shun	strong disinclination, disliking
	Synonyms >>	hesitance, loathing, reluctance	Antonym >> inclination
	I have an aversion to getting married.		
	Derivatives >>	averseness, aversely, averse	
7.	benign	buh NINE	not causing harm, of gentle disposition, beneficial
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> malignant, harmful
	The minister was loved because of his benign attitude toward all types of people.		
	Derivatives >>	benignly, benignant, benignancy, benignantly, benignity	
8.	bizarre	buh ZAR	out of the ordinary, odd
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> ordinary
	Snow in May is a bizarre occurrence for Texans.		
	Derivatives >>	bizarrely, bizarreness	
9.	blunder	BLUN der	to make a mistake as a result of stupidity or carelessness
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> act wisely
	His election campaign was wrecked by one blunder after another		
	Derivatives >>	blunderer, blunderingly, blundering	
10.	boon	BOON	favorable; a blessing, a benefit
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> curse
	Hiring that young man was a boon for our company.		
	Derivatives >>	boons, boonless	
11.	broach	BROCH	to open up for the first time
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to close
	The man was reluctant to broach the subject of money for fear of beginning an argument.		
	Derivatives >>	broacher, broaches, broached, broaching	

12.	caricature	KARE uh kuh chur	a portrayal where features are distorted, a parody
	Synonyms >>	burlesque, travesty	Antonym >> somber portrait
		The caricature of the presidential nominee was hysterical.	
	Derivatives >>	caricatured, caricaturing, caricaturist	
13.	crescendo	kruh SHEN doe	a gradual increase in volume and intensity
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> decrescendo; decrease in sound
		The music began to crescendo into a loud blare.	
	Derivatives >>	crescendoeed, crescendoing	
14.	deference	DEF ur uns	courteous going along with the opinions or wishes of another
	Synonyms >>	homage, reverence, respect	Antonym >> disrespect
		In deference to your wishes, I will not see him again.	
	Derivatives >>	deferential, deferentially, deferentiality	
15.	deft	DEFT	skillful, adroit
	Synonyms >>	clever, cunning, dexterous, ingenious	Antonym >> clumsy
		He was very deft in handling the questions from the reporter.	
	Derivatives >>	deftness, deftly	
16.	desiccate	DES uh kate	to dry up
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to soak
		When traveling, desiccated milk or soup is easy to carry.	
	Derivatives >>	desiccated, desiccation, desiccative, desiccator, desiccatory	
17.	diminution	dim uh NOO shun	diminishment, reduction
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> escalation
		The diminution of nuclear weapons is a goal of arms control.	
	Derivatives >>	diminutive, diminutival, diminutively, diminutiveness	
18.	frivolous	FRIV uh lus	lacking in seriousness or importance
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> serious; sober
		A teacher should limit frivolous behavior in the classroom.	
	Derivatives >>	frivolity, frivolousness, frivolously	
19.	gravity	GRAV eh tee	seriousness, importance
	Synonyms >>	earnestness, sedateness, sobriety, solemnity, staidness	Antonym >> unimportance
		The gravity of the situation was heightened by the death of the president .	
	Derivatives >>	grave, graver, gravely	
20.	heed	HEED	to give attention to
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> pay no attention to
		People who do not heed the warnings of the weatherman about the hurricane may die.	
	Derivatives >>	heeded, heeding, heedfully, heedless, heedlessly	
21.	imperious	im PEER ee us	extremely overbearing
	Synonyms >>	domineering, imperative, masterful, preemptory	Antonym >> meek
		The imperious behavior of the dictator led to his overthrow.	
	Derivatives >>	imperiously, imperiousness	
22.	impertinent	im PUR tuh nunt	insolently rude, not within the proper bounds of good taste or manners
	Synonyms >>	intrusive, meddlesome, obtrusive, officious	Antonym >> reverent; respectful
		His impertinent remarks did not help his case in the eyes of the jury.	
	Derivatives >>	impertinence, impertinency, impertinently, impertinentness	
23.	impervious	im PUR vee us	incapable of being entered or penetrated, not capable of being damaged
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> penetrable
		Because this watch is impervious to water , I can go swimming while wearing it.	
	Derivatives >>	imperviously, imperviousness	
24.	impudent	IM pyuh dunt	disrespectful, characterized by improper bold behavior
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> respectful
		The student's impudent act of using profanity toward Mrs. Dove caused him to be expelled.	
	Derivatives >>	impudence, impudency, impudently, impudentness, impudicity	
25.	indolence	IN duh luns	laziness
	Synonyms >>	slothfulness	Antonym >> industriousness
		The hot and humid weather in the tropics encourages indolence.	
	Derivatives >>	indolent, indolency, indolently	

26.	indulgent	in DUL junt	lenient, especially toward oneself
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> harsh; strict
	The boy did not learn respect from his indulgent parents.		
	Derivatives >>	indulge, indulged, indulging, indulgence, indulgently, indulger	
27.	intractable	in TRAK tuh bul	stubborn, difficult to manage
	Synonyms >>	headstrong, recalcitrant, refractory, unruly, willful	Antonym >> manageable; agreeable
	The intractable child was a discipline problem in every class.		
	Derivatives >>	intractability, intractableness, intractably	
28.	iota	eye OH tuh	very small quantity
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> large quantity
	There is not one iota of evidence that I committed the crime.		
	Derivatives >>	iotas	
29.	irresolute	eh REZ uh loot	indecisive, unsure of how to proceed
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> sure; decisive; certain
	The confused child stood irresolute, waiting for some instruction.		
	Derivatives >>	irresolutely, irresoluteness, irresolution	
30.	lament	luh MENT	to mourn or to express sorrow in a demonstrative manner
	Synonyms >>	bemoan, bewail, deplore	Antonym >> to rejoice
	She lamented the death of her father in a very lachrymose manner.		
	Derivatives >>	lamented, lamenting, lamentation, lamentable	
31.	morose	muh ROSE	being sullen or gloomy
	Synonyms >>	crabbed, glum, saturnine, sulky, surly	Antonym >> cheerful
	He was very morose after his wife left him.		
	Derivatives >>	morosely, moroseness, morosity	
32.	oblivion	uh BLIV ee un	state of being forgotten
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> remembrance
	Until the singer's recent hit, his career had fallen into a state of oblivion.		
	Derivatives >>	oblivious, obliviously	
33.	obstinate	OB stuh nit	unyielding regardless of reason or logic
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> yielding
	He will not accept advice on many things because of his obstinate attitude.		
	Derivatives >>	obstinacy, obstinancy, obstinance, obstinately, obstinateness, obstination	
34.	oculist	OK yuh list	a doctor who specializes in treatment of the eyes
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	The eye disease had to be treated by an oculist.		
	Derivatives >>	ocular, ocularly, oculogetic, oculomotor, oculte	
35.	ominous	OM uh nus	threatening
	Synonyms >>	fateful, portentous	Antonym >> harmless; non-threatening
	The ominous clouds were harbingers of the tornado.		
	Derivatives >>	ominously, ominousness	
36.	parable	PAIR uh bul	a short fictitious story that has a moral
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >>
	Jesus often imparted knowledge to his disciples through parables.		
	Derivatives >>	parables	
37.	plaintive	PLANE tiv	mournful and expressing sorrow
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> joyful
	The dog moaned in a plaintive manner when her puppies were taken.		
	Derivatives >>	plaintively, plaintiveness	
38.	precocious	preh KOE shus	exceptionally early in development or occurrence
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> backward
	A child prodigy is a young person who is very precocious.		
	Derivatives >>	precociousness, precosity, precociously	
39.	protract	pro TRAKT	to prolong
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> to shorten
	The union hopes to protract the strike in order to force management to settle.		
	Derivatives >>	protractedly, protractedness, pretractible, protraction, protractive	

40.	protrusion	pro TROO zhun	something sticking out	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> indentation
	A large protrusion on his head was the result of being hit by the bat.			
	Derivatives >>	protusive, protusively, protusiveness		
41.	quack	KWAK	an unqualified or fake doctor, charlatan	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> qualified physician
	Fortunately the girl was saved from the scalpel of the quack who called himself a doctor.			
	Derivatives >>	quackery, quackish, quackishly, quackishness, quackism		
42.	refuge	REF yooj	shelter or place of protection	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> dangerous place
	Reservations were supposed to be places of refuge for Indians.			
	Derivatives >>	refuges		
43.	reproach	reh PROCH	to blame for something; a disgrace	
	Synonyms >>	admonish, castigate, chasten, chastise, chide, rebuke, reprove		Antonym >> to praise; accolade
	Her conduct was so good that it was beyond reproach.			
	Derivatives >>	reproachable, reproachful, reproachfully, reproachfulness, reproachingly		
44.	resolute	REZ uh loot	characterized by a decided purpose	
	Synonyms >>	staunch, steadfast, determined, resolved, faithful, firm		Antonym >>
	The business was run by a resolute man who set his mind on a goal and followed through with it.			
	Derivatives >>	resoluter, resolute, resolutely, resoluteness, resolution, resolutionary, resolutioner, resolute		
45.	rue	ROO	to be sorry for, to regret	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> to consider happily
	He will rue the day that he tangles with me.			
	Derivatives >>	rueful, ruefully, ruefulness, rues		
46.	serene	suh REEN	calm, placid	
	Synonyms >>	tranquil		Antonym >> agitated
	The mountain on a clear spring morning is a serene setting.			
	Derivatives >>	serenely, sereneness, serenity		
47.	stolid	STOL id	showing little emotion	
	Synonyms >>	apathetic, phlegmatic, stoic		Antonym >> emotional
	He always has a stolid appearance at the poker table.			
	Derivatives >>	stolidly, stolidity		
48.	subtle	SUT ul	delicate, elusive, not obvious	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> obvious; gross; blunt
	To avoid being obtrusive in the elegant restaurant, he used subtle gestures to call the waiter to his table.			
	Derivatives >>	subtilist, subtlety, subtilization, subtilize, subtilizer, subtleness, subtlety		
49.	temperate	TEM pur ut	exercising self-control	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> extreme
	Seeing the devastating effects of alcohol on his father, he was temperate in his own liquor consumption.			
	Derivatives >>	temperance, temperately, temperateness		
50.	trepidation	trep eh DAY shun	fear, trembling, agitation	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> fearlessness
	Since I did not have time to study, I have a lot of trepidation about this examination.			
	Derivatives >>	trepidate, trepidant, trepid, trepidly, trepidity		
51.	trifling	TRY fling	not significant, frivolous	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> important; significant
	Some think that watching MTV is a trifling experience.			
	Derivatives >>	trifle, trifled, trifling, trifles		
52.	unkempt	un KEMPT	disheveled in appearance	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> neat
	When the child came to school unkempt and dirty, I became concerned.			
	Derivatives >>	unkemptly, unkemptness		
53.	utter	UT ur	to express by speaking	
	Synonyms >>			Antonym >> to leave unspoken
	The teacher told me not to utter another word.			
	Derivatives >>	utters, uttered, uttering, utterance		

54.	vexation	vek SAY shun	discomfort or distress
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> pleasantry
	The young children were a source of vexation to their nervous, neurotic mother.		
	Derivatives >>	vex, vexatious, vexedly, vexedness, vexingly	
55.	virtuous	VIR choo us	having excellent morals; righteous
	Synonyms >>	ethical, noble	Antonym >> depraved
	One would expect nuns to be very virtuous.		
	Derivatives >>	virtuously, virtuousness, virtue	
56.	vivacious	vi VAY shus	full of life, very animated
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> sluggish
	Game shows are looking for vivacious contestants who are fun to watch and who will liven up the show.		
	Derivatives >>	vivaciously, vivaciousness, vivacity	
57.	voluminous	vuh LOO muh nus	marked by great volume or size
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> slight
	There are voluminous writings about most of our presidents.		
	Derivatives >>	voluminosity, voluminosly, voluminosness	
58.	whim	HWIM	a sudden and impulsive action
	Synonyms >>	caprice, crotchet, vagary	Antonym >>
	Our trip to Washington was a mere whim.		
	Derivatives >>	whims, whimmed, whimming	
59.	zeal	ZEEL	enthusiasm, fervor
	Synonyms >>		Antonym >> lack of enthusiasm
	To the delight of his students, he brought great zeal to the teaching profession.		
	Derivatives >>	zeals, zealless, zealot, zealotic, zealotism, zealotry	

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These words which appear in **The Miracle Worker** have been identified as words or derivatives of words that have appeared on past SAT tests. They are listed here in alphabetical order.

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|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. accent | 16. diminutive | 31. morosely | 46. serene |
| 2. apprehensive | 17. frivolous | 32. oblivious | 47. stolid |
| 3. ascend | 18. grave | 33. obstinate | 48. subtle |
| 4. asperity | 19. heed | 34. oculist | 49. temperance |
| 5. aversion | 20. imperious | 35. ominous | 50. trepidation |
| 6. benign | 21. impertinent | 36. parable | 51. trifle |
| 7. bizarre | 22. impervious | 37. plaintively | 52. unkempt |
| 8. blunders | 23. impudence | 38. precocious | 53. uttering |
| 9. boon | 24. inarticulate | 39. protracted | 54. vexedly |
| 10. broach | 25. indolent | 40. protruding | 55. virtue |
| 11. caricature | 26. indulgent | 41. quack | 56. vivacious |
| 12. crescendo | 27. intractably | 42. refuge | 57. voluminous |
| 13. deferential | 28. iota | 43. reproachfully | 58. whims |
| 14. deftly | 29. irresolute | 44. resolutely | 59. zeal |
| 15. desiccated | 30. laments | 45. ruefully | |

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- | | | | |
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| 1. indulgent | 16. obstinate | 31. deferential | 45. diminutive |
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| 14. accent | 29. oblivious | 44. intractably | 58. uttering |
| 15. grave | 30. temperance | | 59. imperious |

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Vocabulary Test 1

Directions: Match the word in the left column with the correct definition in the right column.

Exercise A

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----|--|
| _____ 1. | accent | a. | favorable; a blessing; a benefit |
| _____ 2. | apprehend | b. | out of the ordinary; odd |
| _____ 3. | articulate | c. | strong disinclination; disliking |
| _____ 4. | ascend | d. | to move upward; to rise from a lower station |
| _____ 5. | asperity | e. | to seize; to arrest; to take into custody |
| _____ 6. | averse | f. | to stress; to give prominence |
| _____ 7. | benign | g. | to speak distinctly, expressing oneself clearly |
| _____ 8. | bizarre | h. | sharpness (as in temper); harshness |
| _____ 9. | blunder | i. | not causing harm; of gentle disposition; beneficial |
| _____ 10. | boon | j. | to make a mistake as a result of stupidity or carelessness |

Exercise B

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----|--|
| _____ 11. | broach | a. | courteous going along with the opinions of another |
| _____ 12. | caricature | b. | lacking in seriousness or importance |
| _____ 13. | crescendo | c. | to open up for the first time |
| _____ 14. | deference | d. | a portrayal where features are distorted; a parody |
| _____ 15. | deft | e. | insolently rude |
| _____ 16. | desiccate | f. | a gradual increase in volume and intensity |
| _____ 17. | diminution | g. | seriousness; importance |
| _____ 18. | frivolous | h. | to dry up |
| _____ 19. | gravity | i. | skillful; adroit |
| _____ 20. | impertinent | j. | diminishment; reduction |

Exercise C

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----|--|
| _____ 21. | heed | a. | laziness |
| _____ 22. | imperious | b. | disrespectful; characterized by improper bold behavior |
| _____ 23. | impervious | c. | lenient, especially towards oneself |
| _____ 24. | impudent | d. | to mourn in a demonstrative manner |
| _____ 25. | indolence | e. | very small quantity |
| _____ 26. | indulgent | f. | state of being forgotten |
| _____ 27. | intractable | g. | to give attention to |
| _____ 28. | iota | h. | indecisive; unsure how to proceed |
| _____ 29. | irresolute | i. | doctor who specializes in treatment of the eyes |
| _____ 30. | lament | j. | extremely overbearing |
| _____ 31. | morose | k. | stubborn; difficult to manage |
| _____ 32. | oblivion | l. | being sullen or gloomy |
| _____ 33. | obstinate | m. | not capable of being entered or penetrated |
| _____ 34. | oculist | n. | unyielding regardless of reason or logic |

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Vocabulary Test 2

Directions: Select the word that **best** completes the following sentences.

ominous	parable	plaintively	protruding	refuge
resolutely	serene	stolid	temperance	trepidation
unkempt	virtue	voluminous	whims	

1. The appearance of the _____ rain clouds threatened to ruin the _____ repose of our peaceful afternoon picnic.
2. The professor's _____ notes were _____ from his briefcase, sticking out in all directions and threatening to burst it open by their sheer number.
3. The fearful child's _____ was evident as he sought _____ and protection in his mother's arms.
4. Jacob follows his _____ when dressing himself, the usual result of these impulses being an _____, disheveled appearance.
5. The prophet's _____ was a story about the _____ of a righteous woman.
6. He _____ adheres to the principle of _____, refusing to abandon his motto of "Moderation in all things."
7. Even the _____, unemotional Mr. Barrett broke down when he heard the choir _____ sing the mournful hymn.

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Vocabulary Test 2

Directions: Select the word that **best** completes the following sentences.

protracted precocious quacks reproachfully ruefully
subtle trifle uttering vexed vivacious
zeal

8. Always _____ and full of life, Sally's _____ for new challenges easily influenced her friends' enthusiasm as well.
9. Jack's distress was evident as he _____ attempted to deal with the funeral preparations.
10. Many _____ problems in philosophy are not obvious to an untrained student.
11. Far from being really important as an international story, the Super Bowl is a mere _____ to most of the world.
12. By _____ every silly catch-phrase and propagandist cliché he could think to say, Senator Foghorn _____ his acceptance speech, prolonging it to three hours.
13. It takes a very _____ individual to be a grand chess master at age ten.
14. Mrs. Nitz was _____ because of the small fortune she had spent on medical bills paid to _____, especially since they had not cured her vertigo.
15. The boy's mother glanced _____ at him, and he knew then that he was in for a scolding later.