

Vocabulary Warm-up Word Lists

Study these words from the selection. Then, complete the activities.

Word List A

congregation [kahn gre GAY shun] *n.* people gathered for religious worship

The rabbi asked his congregation to hold a fundraiser for homeless people.

discourse [DIS kawrs] *n.* a complete or thorough discussion of a topic

The professor gave a long discourse explaining the reasons for the Civil War.

dignity [DIG ni tee] *n.* honor; self-respect; the quality of deserving esteem or respect

The singer ignored the boos and walked off the stage with dignity, holding his head high.

pulpit [PUHL pit] *n.* a platform from which a religious leader speaks to worshippers

The preacher spoke to the crowd from the pulpit at the front of the church.

sermon [SUR muhn] *n.* a lecture on right and wrong, often by a religious leader

The preacher spoke for half an hour; his sermon was about forgiveness.

vanity [VAHN i tee] *n.* too much pride in your appearance or accomplishments

Out of vanity, the ninety-year-old movie star had surgery to remove his wrinkles.

vice [VYS] *n.* bad or evil habit

I think lying is a vice worse than laziness.

wary [WAYR ee] *adj.* on guard; watchful

They told me their dog was friendly, but I was still wary of it and kept my distance.

Word List B

adversary [AHD vuhr ser ee] *n.* enemy; opponent

The wrestler stood in the ring facing his adversary.

betray [bee TRAY] *v.* be unfaithful or disloyal; break someone's trust

Do not betray your friends by telling their secrets to others.

counsel [KOWN suhl] *n.* advice; guidance

When buying a used car, it is a good idea to get the counsel of a mechanic.

cultivate [KUHL ti vayt] *v.* help something grow or develop; nurture

To cultivate good manners in yourself, always consider the feelings of others.

deceive [di SEEV] *v.* fool; mislead

My friends tried to deceive me about the box, but I knew that it was my birthday present.

hypocrisy [hi POK ruh see] *n.* false appearance of being good or of following a belief

She says that television is junk, but I realized her hypocrisy when I found her watching.

prudent [PROO duhnt] *adj.* using good judgment or common sense; careful

He was prudent and checked if the lightbulb was still hot before he tried to unscrew it.

slandering [SLAN duhr ing] *adj.* spreading nasty rumors about someone

In the politician's slandering speech, he said that his opponent did not know how to read.