DICTION WORDS

1. **pedantic** [puh-dan-tik] - overly concerned with minute details or formalisms, esp. in teaching; **ostentatious** (pretentious/intended to attract notice or attention of others) in one’s learning

2. **euphemistic** - substituting a mild term for a harsher or distasteful one. “Upset Stomach” instead of puke, barf, up chuck

3. **pretentious** - characterized by assumption of dignity or importance; making an exaggerated outward show; **ostentatious**

4. **sensuous** - Of, relating to, or derived from the senses; Appealing to or gratifying the senses

5. **exact** - precise; characterized by or using strict accuracy

6. **cultured** - enlightened; refined; the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc

7. **plain** - clear to the mind; evident, manifest, or **obvious**; without intricacies or difficulties; with little or no embellishment, decoration, or enhancing elaboration; **ordinary**

8. **literal** - in accordance with, involving, or being the primary or strict meaning of the word or words; not figurative or metaphorical: **the literal meaning of a word**

9. **colloquial** - characteristic of or appropriate to ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing; **informal**

10. **artificial** - lacking naturalness or spontaneity; forced; contrived; **feigned**; **synthetic**, **counterfeit**

11. **detached** - impartial or **objective**; disinterested; **unbiased**; not involved or concerned; **aloof**

12. **poetic** - possessing the qualities or charm of poetry: **poetic descriptions of nature**

13. **moralistic** - Characterized by or displaying a concern with morality; marked by narrow-minded morality

14. **slang** - very informal usage in vocabulary and idiom that is characteristically more metaphorical, playful, elliptical, vivid, and ephemeral than ordinary language, as **Hit the road**.

15. **idiomatic** - peculiar to or characteristic of a particular language or dialect. **idiomatic French**. having a distinct style or character, esp. in the arts: **idiomatic writing**; an **idiomatic composer**. containing or using many idioms (idiom = an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements, as **kick the bucket** or **hang one’s head**, or from the general grammatical rules of a language; regional speech or dialect **eat crow**)

16. **esoteric** - understood by or meant for only the select few who have special knowledge or interest; **private**; **secret**; **confidential**; belonging to a select few
17. symbolic-characterized by or involving the use of symbols
18. simple-not grand or sophisticated; unpretentious; not complex or complicated; natural, unembellished; ordinary
19. figurative-of the nature of or involving a figure of speech, esp. a metaphor; metaphorical; not literal: a figurative expression
20. bombastic-of speech, writing, etc.) high-sounding; high-flown; inflated; pretentious; pompous; grandiose,
21. abstruse-hard to understand; recondite; esoteric; secret, hidden
22. grotesque-odd or unnatural in shape, appearance, or character; fantastically ugly or absurd; bizarre, distorted, deformed, weird
23. vulgar-characterized by ignorance of or lack of good breeding or taste; indecent; obscene; lewd
24. scholarly-concerned with academic learning; of, like, or befitting a scholar; academic
25. insipid-without distinctive, interesting, or stimulating qualities; vapid: an insipid personality. bland
26. precise-definitely or strictly stated, defined, or fixed, carefully distinct, explicit
27. learned-having much knowledge; scholarly; erudite;
28. picturesque-strikingly graphic or vivid; creating detailed mental images: a picturesque description of the Brazilian jungle; having pleasing or interesting qualities; strikingly effective in appearance
29. homespun-plain; unpolished; unsophisticated; simple; rustic: homespun humor
30. provincial-belonging or peculiar to some particular province; local; having or showing the manners, viewpoints, etc., considered characteristic of unsophisticated inhabitants of a province; rustic; narrow or illiberal; parochial: a provincial point of view.
31. trite-lacking in freshness or effectiveness because of constant use or excessive repetition; hackneyed; stale: the trite phrases in his letter; characterized by hackneyed expressions, ideas, etc.: The commencement address was trite and endlessly long; ordinary; common; everyday
32. obscure-not clear or plain; ambiguous, vague, or uncertain: an obscure sentence in the contract.; not clear to the understanding; hard to perceive: obscure motivations; not expressing the meaning clearly or plainly
33. archaic-marked by the characteristics of an earlier period; primitive; ancient; old
34. verbose-characterized by the use of many or too many words; wordy: a verbose report
35. abstract-difficult to understand; abstruse; thought of apart from concrete realities, specific objects, or actual instances
36. biting-cutting, sarcastic
37. brusque-abrupt in manner; blunt
38. **cacophonous**-having a harsh or unpleasant sound; **dissonant, strident, grating, raucous**
39. **casual**-without definite or serious intention; careless or offhand; seeming or tending to be indifferent to what is happening; apathetic; unconcerned
40. **caustic**-severely critical or **sarcastic; biting, mordant, bitter, scathing**,
41. **concrete**-constituting an actual thing or instance; real; pertaining to or concerned with realities or actual instances rather than abstractions; **particular**
42. **colorful**-richly eventful or **picturesque**; presenting or suggesting vivid or striking scenes; **spirited**
43. **connotative**-having the power of implying or suggesting something in addition to what is explicit; The set of associations implied by a word in addition to its literal meaning; an idea or meaning suggested by a thing
44. **crisp**-invigorating, fresh, brisk, bracing
45. **curt**-rudely brief in speech or **abrupt** in manner; short, brief, concise
46. **denotative**-the primary or specific meaning of a word. Dictionary definition
47. **divisive**-creating **dissension** or **discord**; forming or expressing **division**
48. **emotional**-pertaining to or involving emotion or the emotions; appealing to the emotions; showing or revealing strong emotions, **temperamental, effusive, demonstrative, sentimental**
49. **euphonious**-pleasant in sound; agreeable to the ear; characterized by euphony
50. **fanciful**-characterized by or showing fancy; **capricious** or whimsical in appearance; suggested by fancy; **imaginary; unreal; visionary; illusory**
51. **flowery**-rhetorically ornate or precious; **showy; bombastic**
52. **formal**-of, reflecting, or noting a usage of language in which syntax, pronunciation, etc., adhere to traditional standards of correctness and usage is characterized by the absence of casual, contracted, and colloquial forms
53. **inflammatory**-tending to arouse anger, **hostility, passion; fiery; provocative**
54. **informal**-suitable to or characteristic of casual and familiar, but educated, speech or writing; unconventional
55. **insincere**-not sincere; not honest in the expression of actual feeling; **hypocritical; deceitful; disingenuous**
56. **jargon**-the language, esp. the vocabulary, peculiar to a particular trade, profession, or group
57. **loaded**-charged with emotional or associative significance that hinders rational or unprejudiced consideration of the terms involved in a discourse
58. **lyrical**-characterized by or expressing spontaneous, direct feeling; having the form and musical quality of a song, and esp. the character of a songlike outpouring of the poet's own thoughts and feelings
59. **melodious**-of the nature of or characterized by melody; tuneful; **sweet-sounding**
60. monosyllabic—having a vocabulary composed primarily of monosyllables or short, simple words.

61. nostalgic—a wistful desire to return in thought or in fact to a former time in one’s life, to one’s home or homeland, or to one’s family and friends; a sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time.

62. offensive—causing resentful displeasure; highly irritating, angering, or annoying; insulting; displeasing, vexatious, vexing, unpleasant.

63. ornate—ostentatious, elaborately adorned, showy, embellished with rhetoric, high-flown (extravagant in aims/pretentious).

64. passionate—having, compelled by, or ruled by intense emotion or strong feeling; fervid; zealous; ardent; enthusiastic; glowing; fiery.

65. patriotic—expressing or inspired by patriotism; love of one’s country.

66. political—of, pertaining to, or concerned with politics; government.

67. romantic—of, pertaining to, or of the nature of romance; characteristic or suggestive of the world of romance; fanciful; impractical; unrealistic: romantic ideas; imbued with or dominated by idealism, a desire for adventure, chivalry; pertaining to, or characteristic of a style of literature and art that subordinates form to content, encourages freedom of treatment, emphasizes imagination, emotion, and introspection, and often celebrates nature, the ordinary person, and freedom of the spirit.

68. sentimental—expressive of or appealing to sentiment, esp. the tender emotions and feelings, as love, pity, or nostalgia; weakly emotional; mawkishly susceptible or tender; romantic, tender, nostalgic; maudlin, bathetic.

69. shocking—causing intense surprise, disgust; horror; staggering, astounding, startling, appalling.

70. sincere—free of deceit, hypocrisy, or falseness; earnest; genuine; real; pure; unmixed; unadulterated; frank, candid, honest, open, guileless; straightforward.

71. subdued—quiet; inhibited; repressed; controlled; lowered in intensity or strength; reduced in fullness of tone, as a color or voice; muted.

72. tame—lacking in excitement; dull; insipid; softened; meek; subdued.

73. technical—peculiar to or characteristic of a particular art, science, profession, trade; using terminology or treating subject matter in a manner peculiar to a particular field, as a writer or a book.

74. unifying—to make or become a single unit; unite; combine, merge, fuse.

75. uppity—affecting an attitude of inflated self-esteem; haughty; snobbish; presumptuously arrogant.