

Word of the week

3rd September 2018 to 9th September 2018

Class: V

Cull (verb)

Meaning: *reduce the population by selective slaughter.*

Origin: *middle English from old French coillier*

Synonyms: *slaughter, kill, destroy, obtain*

Antonyms: *decline, refuse, reject, and turn down*

Sentences

1. *I was happy to cull elements and let them stand alone.*
2. *Five years ago, they were only selling the Angora culls.*
3. *It made everyone see that we had to cull the herd.*
4. *Communities have used a variety of methods to cull their herds.*

Class VI

Dour (Adjective)

Meanings: *relentlessly severe, stern.*

Origin: *the earliest reference to this word is probably from Scottish Gaelic dúr 'dull, obstinate, stupid', perhaps from Latin durus 'hard'*

Synonyms: *unfriendly, gruff*

Antonyms: *cheerful, friendly*

Sentences

1. *The dour man would not laugh at any of the comedian's jokes.*
2. *The dour police officer gave me a speeding ticket for going one mile over the maximum speed.*
3. *Because the coach was disappointed in his team's behaviour, he wore a dour expression when he gave his post-game speech.*

Class VII

Cleave (verb)

Origin: *Old English cleofan, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch klieven and German klieben*

Meaning: *split or serve (something), especially along a natural line or grain*

Synonym: *split, divide, and serve*

Antonym: *close, combine, join*

Sentences:

1. *In the horror movie, the killer used a chainsaw to cleave his victims in half.*
2. *He saw Jillian's blow cleave the Traveler apart the moment he materialized down the hall.*
3. *You can use the axe to cleave the tree.*

Class VIII

Blandishment (Noun)

Meaning: *something that tends to coax*

Origin: *Middle English, from Anglo – French blandiss, stem of blandir, from Ltin blandiri*

First use: *14th century*

Synonyms: *adulation, blarney, praise*

Antonym: *criticism*

Sentences:

1. *As Derek waited for Missy to come to the phone, he tried to think of a suitable blandishment to provide before he asked her to go out with him.*
2. *Richard was the type of person who needed the occasional blandishment to stroke his ego, so he surrounded himself with yes-men.*
3. *Despite his nervousness at meeting his in-laws, Dylan was able to offer just the right blandishment to get their approval.*

Class IX

Defunct (Adjective)

Origin: *Mid 16th century: from latin defunctus 'dead'.*

Meaning: *1.No longer functioning or existing.*

2. A handwriting of the past.

Synonyms: *disused, unused, non-functioning, unusable, inoperative, obsolete*

Antonyms: *useful, working, extant, alive, living*

Sentences:

1. *After being hit by a hurricane, the entire neighbourhood was defunct.*
2. *A fire swept through the city, leaving many houses defunct.*
3. *Realizing the elevator was defunct, they were forced to take the stairs instead.*

Class X

Sacrosanct (Adjective)

Meaning: *too important and respected to be changed (sacred), criticized*

Origin: *Latin sacrosanctus, probably from sacrosanctus hallowed by a sacred rite.*

First use: *1601*

Synonyms: *hallowed, holy, inviolable, sacred,*

Antonyms: *deconstructed, desacralized, unhallowed*

Sentences:

1. *There is something sacrosanct about the relationship between owner and dog.*
2. *Peace process thus become sacrosanct and must be kept going at all costs.*
3. *Government officials say that the independence of the bank will remain sacrosanct.*
4. *Weekends are sacrosanct in our family.*
5. *Through the sacrosanct medium of competition, it put everyone in the right place.*

Class XI

Pusillanimity (Noun)

Meaning: *lacking courage and resolution*

Origin: *late Middle English: from pussilus- 'very small'+ animus 'mind'+ ous*

Synonyms: *Timid, scared, frightened, feeble*

Antonyms: *courageous, fearless, brave*

Sentence:

1. *He is too pusillanimous to stand up to his opponents.*
2. *One day, his family will be in trouble because of his pusillanimity.*

Class XII

Turpitude (Noun)

Meaning: *a very evil quality or way of behaving*

Origin: *middle French, from Latin turpitude, from turpis vile, base.*

First use: *15th century*

Synonyms: *abjection, corruptness, decadence.*

Antonyms: *decency, goodness, honor.*

Sentences:

1. *The criminal was sentenced to life in prison for the acts of turpitude he committed.*
2. *Although James is not guilty of carrying out any forms of turpitude, he is far from being a choirboy.*
3. *If you commit acts of moral turpitude, you may find it difficult to get employment as a law enforcement officer.*