

To Kill a Mockingbird Vocabulary (Chapters 1-10)

1. [asinine](#): devoid of intelligence

“Lastly, we were to stay away from that house until we were invited there, we were not to play an **asinine** game he had seen us playing or make fun of anybody on this street or in this town.”

2. [arbitrate](#): act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

“Jem **arbitrated**, awarded me first push with an extra time for Dill, and I folded myself inside the tire.”

3. [ambrosia](#): (classical mythology) the food and drink of the gods; mortals who ate it became immortal

“But her cooking made up for everything: three kinds of meat, summer vegetables from her pantry shelves; peach pickles, two kinds of cake and **ambrosia** constituted a modest Christmas dinner.”

4. [amble](#): walk leisurely

“They **ambled** across the square, shuffled in and out of the stores around it, took their time about everything.”

5. [begrudge](#): be envious of; set one's heart on

“I don't know of any landowner around here who **begrudges** those children any game their father can hit.”

6. [obstreperous](#): noisily and stubbornly defiant

“It was **obstreperous**, disorderly and abusive - You gonna give me a chance to tell you?”

7. [perpetrate](#): perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

“You've **perpetrated** a near libel here in the front yard.”

8. [vapid](#): lacking significance or liveliness or spirit or zest

“But by the end of August our repertoire was **vapid** from countless reproductions, and it was then that Dill gave us the idea of making Boo Radley come out.”

9. [fractious](#): easily irritated or annoyed

“She had always been too hard on me, she had at last seen the error of her **fractious** ways, she was sorry and too stubborn to say so.”

10. [repertoire](#): the entire range of skills or aptitudes or devices used in a particular field or occupation

“But by the end of August our **repertoire** was vapid from countless reproductions, and it was then that Dill gave us the idea of making Boo Radley come out.”

11. [ramshackle](#): in deplorable condition

“The back of the Radley house was less inviting than the front: a **ramshackle** porch ran the width of the house; there were two doors and two dark windows between the doors.”

12. [nebulous](#): lacking definite form or limits

“Boo's transition from the basement to back home was **nebulous** in Jem's memory.”

13. [quibble](#): evade the truth of a point or question by raising irrelevant objections

“Jem decided there was no point in **quibbling**, and was silent.”

14. [unsullied](#): (of reputation) free from blemishes

“Atticus's office in the courthouse contained little more than a hat rack, a spittoon, a checkerboard and an **unsullied** Code of Alabama.”

15. [contentious](#): inclined or showing an inclination to dispute or disagree, even to engage in law suits

"Ain't got no mother," was the answer, "and their paw's right **contentious**."

16. [assuage](#): provide physical relief, as from pain

“When it healed, and Jem's fears of never being able to play football were **assuaged**, he was seldom self-conscious about his injury.”

17. [stricture](#): severe criticism

“Mindful of John Wesley's **strictures** on the use of many words in buying and selling, Simon made a pile practicing medicine, but in this pursuit he was unhappy lest he be tempted into doing what he knew was not for the glory of God...”

18. [aberration](#): a state or condition markedly different from the norm

“Mr. Avery said it was written on the Rosetta Stone that when children disobeyed their parents, smoked cigarettes and made war on each other, the seasons would change: Jem and I were

burdened with the guilt of contributing to the **aberrations** of nature, thereby causing unhappiness to our neighbors and discomfort to ourselves.”

19. [furore](#): an interest followed with exaggerated zeal

“The cootie's host showed not the faintest interest in the **furore** he had wrought.”

20. [disapprobation](#): an expression of strong disapproval; pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable

"I'm afraid our activities would be received with considerable **disapprobation** by the more learned authorities."

21. [predilection](#): a predisposition in favor of something

“The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a **predilection** unforgivable in Maycomb.”

22. [taciturn](#): habitually reserved and uncommunicative

“Their sister Alexandra was the Finch who remained at the Landing: she married a **taciturn** man who spent most of his time lying in a hammock by the river wondering if his trot-lines were full.”

23. [rudiment](#): the elementary stages of any subject (usually plural)

“Uncle Jack instructed us in the **rudiments** thereof; he said Atticus wasn't interested in guns.”

24. [foray](#): a sudden short attack

“Jem threw open the gate and sped to the side of the house, slapped it with his palm and ran back past us, not waiting to see if his **foray** was successful.”

25. [tacit](#): implied by or inferred from actions or statements

“Our **tacit** treaty with Miss Maudie was that we could play on her lawn, eat her scuppernongs if we didn't jump on the arbor, and explore her vast back lot, terms so generous we seldom spoke to her, so careful were we to preserve the delicate balance.”

26. [auspicious](#): auguring favorable circumstances and good luck

“The remainder of my school days were no more **auspicious** than the first.”

27. [invective](#): abusive or venomous language used to express blame or censure or bitter deep-seated ill will

“He simply murmured, “Her use of bathroom **invective** leaves nothing to the imagination.”

28. [indigenous](#): originating where it is found

“The class murmured apprehensively, should she prove to harbor her share of the peculiarities **indigenous** to that region.”

29. [benign](#): kindness of disposition or manner

“Until Jem and Dill excluded me from their plans, she was only another lady in the neighborhood, but a relatively **benign** presence.”

30. [quell](#): suppress or crush completely

“Through all the head-shaking, **quelling** of nausea and Jem-yelling, I had heard another sound, so low I could not have heard it from the sidewalk.”

31. [accost](#): speak to someone

“When we were on the sidewalk in front of Miss Maudie's, Mr. Avery **accosted** us.”

32. [ensue](#): issue or terminate (in a specified way, state, etc.); end

“Jem said Mr. Avery misfigured, Dill said he must drink a gallon a day, and the **ensuing** contest to determine relative distances and respective prowess only made me feel left out again, as I was untalented in this area.”

33. [pestilence](#): any epidemic disease with a high death rate

“Miss Maudie's face likened such an occurrence unto an Old Testament **pestilence**.”

34. [concession](#): the act of conceding or yielding

“Jem stood in thought so long that Dill made a mild **concession**: ‘I won't say you ran out on a dare an' I'll swap you The Gray Ghost if you just go up and touch the house.’”

35. [analogous](#): similar or equivalent in some respects though otherwise dissimilar

“Had I ever harbored the mystical notions about mountains that seem to obsess lawyers and judges, Aunt Alexandra would have been **analogous** to Mount Everest: throughout my early life, she was cold and there.”