

English 11-A*

Vocabulary Unit 10

acrimonious (AK ruh MOH nee us)

acumen (AK yuh men)

acute (uh KYOOT)

adage (AD ig)

adamant (AD uh munt)

catholic (KATH uh lik)

caustic (KAW stik)

celibacy (SEL uh buh see)

catharsis (kuh THAR sis)

cerebral (SER uh brul or suh REE brul)

bequest (be KWEST)

bereft (be REFT)

beset (be SET)

blasphemy (BLAS feh me)

blatant (BLAY tunt)

decadent (dek uh dunt)

decimate (DES uh MATE)

decorous (DEK uh rus)

deduce (de DOOS)

defame (de FAME)

	To kill or destroy a large part of	
	To libel or slander; to ruin the good name of	
	Abstinence from sex	
	Brainy; intellectually refined	
	To harass; to surround	
	Unpleasantly or offensively noisy; glaring	
	An old saying; a familiar bit of wisdom	
	Keeness of judgment; mental sharpness	
	Something left to someone in a will	
	Decaying or decayed, especially in terms of morals	
	Universal; embracing everything	
	Irreverence; an insult to something held sacred; profanity	
	Sharp; shrewd	
	Deprived or left desolate, especially through death	
	Purification that brings emotional relief or renewal	
	Full of spite; bitter; nasty	
	Proper; in good taste; orderly	
	Like acid; corrosive	
	To conclude from the evidence; to infer	
	Stubborn; unyielding; completely inflexible	

1. Relations between the competing candidates were so _____ that each refused to acknowledge the presence of the other.
2. Candice was _____; she would never go out with Paul again.

3. Problems _____ the expedition almost from the beginning, and the mountain climbers soon returned to their base camp.
4. Because of their religious beliefs, many people believe _____ is the best choice until one is married.
5. A _____ discussion is one that is filled with big words and concerns abstruse matters that ordinary people can't understand.
6. To _____ someone is to make accusations that harm that person's reputation.
7. If your next door neighbor leaves you all his millions in a will, the money is a _____ from him to you.
8. If your eyesight is _____, you can see things that other people can't.
9. A _____ is a sometimes traumatic event after which one feels better.
10. When locusts attack a crop, they sometimes _____ it, leaving very little that's fit for human consumption.
11. From the footprints on the ground, the detective _____ that the criminal had feet.
12. Da Vinci was a _____ genius who excelled in everything he did.
13. A person who engages in _____ behavior is a person whose morals have decayed or fallen into ruin.
14. David was _____ critical of our efforts; that is, he was noisy and obnoxious in making his criticisms.
15. The New Year's Eve crowd was relatively _____ until midnight, when they went wild.
16. The _____ detergent ate right through Henry's laundry.
17. The new widow was still _____ or bereaved when we saw her.
18. "Honesty is the best policy" is an _____. It can also be called a cliché.
19. Ernie's near-total lack of _____ led him to invest all his money in a company that had already gone out of business.
20. In the strictest sense, to commit _____ is to say nasty, insulting things about God. The word is used more broadly, though, to cover a wide range of nasty, insulting comments.