



## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

These words can appear in the 11+ in questions about synonyms, antonyms and comprehension. Every child should be confident with all of them.

### Tier 1 – Must Know – Feelings and Emotions

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>ecstatic</b>	Extremely happy and excited	She was ecstatic when she found out she had passed the exam.	elated, jubilant, overjoyed, thrilled	miserable, devastated	ecstatically (adv)
<b>elated</b>	Very happy and proud	The team felt elated after winning the final match.	ecstatic, jubilant, delighted	despondent, miserable	elation (n)
<b>jubilant</b>	Feeling or showing great joy	The crowd was jubilant when the goal was scored.	ecstatic, elated, triumphant	dejected, mournful	jubilation (n)
<b>exultant</b>	Feeling triumphant delight, usually after a victory	She felt exultant as she crossed the finish line in first place.	triumphant, jubilant, overjoyed	despondent, defeated	exultation (n)
<b>sorrow</b>	Deep sadness or grief	She felt great sorrow when her pet died.	grief, misery, sadness, despair	joy, happiness, delight	sorrowful (adj)
<b>melancholy</b>	A feeling of deep, lasting sadness	A feeling of melancholy swept over him as he left his old home.	sadness, sorrow, gloom, grief	happiness, joy, cheerfulness	melancholic (adj)
<b>desolate</b>	Empty, bare and lonely; feeling very sad and alone	She felt desolate when her best friend moved away.	miserable, forlorn, wretched	content, cheerful	desolation (n)
<b>wretched</b>	Very unhappy or unwell; very poor in quality	The wretched man had nowhere to sleep.	miserable, unhappy, pitiful	fortunate, happy, content	wretchedly (adv)
<b>dismayed</b>	Feeling shocked and upset	He was dismayed to find the test much harder than expected.	horrified, alarmed, distressed	pleased, delighted, relieved	dismay (n), dismay (v)
<b>frustration</b>	The feeling of being annoyed or unable to do something	He felt frustration when he kept getting the same question wrong.	irritation, annoyance, exasperation	satisfaction, contentment	frustrated (adj), frustrate (v)
<b>wonder</b>	A feeling of great surprise and admiration	She gazed at the stars with wonder.	amazement, awe, astonishment	indifference, boredom	wonderful (adj)
<b>amazement</b>	A feeling of great surprise	His amazement was clear when he saw the magician's trick.	astonishment, wonder, disbelief	indifference	amazed (adj), amaze (v)
<b>despair</b>	A complete loss of hope	He sank into despair when he couldn't find an answer.	hopelessness, misery, anguish	hope, optimism	despairing (adj)
<b>apprehensive</b>	Worried or nervous about what might happen	She was apprehensive before her first day at secondary school.	nervous, anxious, uneasy, worried	calm, confident, reassured	apprehensively (adv), apprehension (n)
<b>sullen</b>	Bad-tempered and not talking much	He sat in sullen silence after losing the argument.	sulky, resentful, moody, brooding	cheerful, good-humoured, bright	sullenly (adv)
<b>empathetic</b>	Able to understand and share the feelings of others	The empathetic teacher noticed her student was struggling.	compassionate, understanding, sensitive	indifferent, cold, unsympathetic	empathy (n), empathise (v)





# 11+ Vocabulary Word List

## Tier 1 – Must Know – Character and Personality

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>daring</b>	Willing to do dangerous or difficult things; brave	The daring explorer climbed to the top of the mountain.	bold, brave, adventurous, fearless	timid, cowardly, cautious	daringly (adv)
<b>bold</b>	Confident and brave; not afraid to take risks	It was a bold decision to start a new school.	daring, confident, brave, fearless	timid, cautious, meek	boldly (adv), boldness (n)
<b>timid</b>	Shy and nervous; lacking confidence	The timid puppy hid behind the sofa.	shy, fearful, meek, nervous	bold, daring, confident	timidly (adv), timidity (n)
<b>resolute</b>	Very determined; not changing your mind	She was resolute in her decision to finish the race.	determined, firm, steadfast, unwavering	hesitant, wavering, indecisive	resolutely (adv), resolution (n)
<b>tenacious</b>	Determined and not giving up easily	Her tenacious attitude helped her master even the hardest questions.	determined, persistent, stubborn, resolute	weak-willed, giving up	tenaciously (adv), tenacity (n)
<b>ambitious</b>	Having a strong desire to succeed	She was an ambitious student who worked hard for top grades.	determined, driven, motivated, aspiring	unmotivated, contented	ambition (n)
<b>meticulous</b>	Paying very careful attention to every detail	She was meticulous in checking every answer before handing in her paper.	precise, thorough, painstaking, careful	careless, sloppy, hasty	meticulously (adv)
<b>cunning</b>	Clever at getting what you want, especially by tricking people	The cunning fox found a way into the henhouse.	crafty, sly, devious, artful	honest, straightforward, naive	cunningly (adv)
<b>humble</b>	Not thinking you are better than other people; modest	Despite his success, he remained humble.	modest, unassuming, meek	arrogant, conceited, boastful	humbly (adv), humility (n)
<b>obstinate</b>	Refusing to change your mind even when you are wrong; stubborn	She was so obstinate that she refused to listen to any advice.	stubborn, determined, headstrong	flexible, open-minded, compliant	obstinately (adv), obstinacy (n)
<b>hasty</b>	Done too quickly without thinking carefully	He made a hasty decision that he later regretted.	rushed, hurried, impulsive, rash	careful, cautious, considered	hastily (adv), haste (n)
<b>thoughtful</b>	Thinking carefully about things; kind and considerate	It was thoughtful of her to remember his birthday.	considerate, caring, reflective, kind	thoughtless, careless, selfish	thoughtfully (adv)
<b>nimble</b>	Quick and light in movement; agile	Her nimble fingers flew across the piano keys.	agile, quick, light-footed, deft	clumsy, slow, awkward	nimbly (adv)
<b>weary</b>	Very tired, especially from long effort	After the long hike, they were weary and hungry.	exhausted, tired, worn out, fatigued	energetic, refreshed, alert	wearily (adv), weariness (n)
<b>idle</b>	Not working; avoiding effort; lazy	He was accused of being idle when he should have been studying.	lazy, inactive, sluggish, unoccupied	busy, hardworking, active	idly (adv), idleness (n)





# 11+ Vocabulary Word List

## Tier 1 – Must Know – Actions and Movement

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>accelerate</b>	To move or happen faster; to speed up	The car began to accelerate as it joined the motorway.	speed up, quicken, hasten	decelerate, slow down, brake	acceleration (n)
<b>agile</b>	Able to move quickly and easily	The agile gymnast leapt across the beam.	nimble, flexible, quick, lithe	clumsy, stiff, rigid	agility (n)
<b>trudge</b>	To walk slowly and heavily, as if with great effort	They trudged through the mud to reach the other side of the field.	plod, tramp, slog	stride, sprint, glide	—
<b>stagger</b>	To walk or move in an unsteady way, as if about to fall	He staggered back to the touchline, exhausted.	lurch, sway, stumble	stride, march, glide	—
<b>waver</b>	To be uncertain; to move unsteadily	She began to waver in her confidence as the exam approached.	hesitate, falter, vacillate	decide firmly, persist	—
<b>hinder</b>	To make it difficult for something to happen	The heavy snow hindered their journey.	obstruct, delay, block, impede	assist, help, aid	hindrance (n)
<b>aid</b>	To help or support someone	The charity works to aid people in need.	assist, support, help	hinder, obstruct, harm	aide (n)
<b>assist</b>	To help someone do something	She assisted her younger brother with his homework.	aid, help, support	hinder, obstruct	assistance (n), assistant (n)
<b>seize</b>	To take hold of something suddenly and forcefully	The police seized the stolen goods.	grab, grasp, capture	release, free, let go	seizure (n)
<b>release</b>	To set free; to let go of something	They released the birds back into the wild.	free, liberate, let go	seize, capture, hold	release (n)
<b>disperse</b>	To spread out in different directions	The crowd dispersed after the event ended.	scatter, spread, distribute	gather, assemble, collect	dispersal (n)
<b>distribute</b>	To give things out to a number of people	The teacher distributed the worksheets to the class.	spread, share out, disperse, hand out	collect, gather	distribution (n)
<b>reduce</b>	To make something smaller in size or amount	They tried to reduce the amount of waste they produced.	decrease, lessen, lower, cut	increase, raise, expand	reduction (n)
<b>pursue</b>	To follow or try hard to achieve something	He decided to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.	follow, chase, seek, strive for	abandon, give up, avoid	pursuit (n)
<b>erase</b>	To remove written or recorded material	She erased the pencil marks carefully.	rub out, delete, remove	write, record, add	erasure (n), eraser (n)
<b>endure</b>	To suffer something difficult or painful patiently; to last	She endured weeks of training before the competition.	withstand, bear, tolerate, persist	give in, surrender	endurance (n), enduring (adj)
<b>coax</b>	To gently persuade someone to do something	She coaxed the nervous cat out from under the bed.	persuade, tempt, encourage, cajole	force, bully, demand	—





# 11+ Vocabulary Word List

## Tier 1 – Must Know – Thinking and Understanding

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>consider</b>	To think carefully about something	She considered all her options before making a decision.	reflect on, ponder, weigh up	ignore, dismiss, disregard	consideration (n), considerable (adj)
<b>disregard</b>	To pay no attention to something; to ignore	He disregarded the warning signs and kept going.	ignore, overlook, dismiss	consider, notice, heed	disregard (n)
<b>ponder</b>	To think about something carefully	She paused to ponder the difficult question.	consider, reflect, contemplate	ignore, dismiss	—
<b>reveal</b>	To make something known that was hidden or secret	The magician slowly revealed the card.	disclose, uncover, expose, show	conceal, hide, cover up	revelation (n)
<b>conclude</b>	To decide something based on information; to finish	After looking at the evidence, they concluded it was an accident.	decide, determine, finish, end	begin, start, continue	conclusion (n), conclusive (adj)
<b>amend</b>	To make small changes to something to improve or correct it	She amended her essay after getting feedback.	correct, revise, adjust, edit	worsen, damage	amendment (n)
<b>permit</b>	To allow something to happen	The rules do not permit mobile phones in the classroom.	allow, let, authorise	forbid, ban, prevent	permission (n), permissible (adj)
<b>feign</b>	To pretend to have a feeling or illness	He feigned illness to avoid the maths test.	pretend, fake, simulate, act	be genuine, be honest	—
<b>resemble</b>	To look or be similar to someone or something	She resembles her mother very closely.	look like, be similar to, take after	differ from	resemblance (n)

## Tier 1 – Must Know – Describing Things and Situations

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>superior</b>	Better than others; higher in rank or quality	This model is superior to the older version.	better, greater, excellent	inferior, lesser, worse	superiority (n)
<b>complex</b>	Made up of many parts; difficult to understand	The problem was too complex to solve quickly.	complicated, intricate, difficult	simple, straightforward	complexity (n)
<b>precise</b>	Exact and accurate; with no errors	The scientist made precise measurements.	exact, accurate, specific	approximate, rough, vague	precisely (adv), precision (n)
<b>approximate</b>	Close to the correct amount but not exact	Can you give me an approximate idea of how long it will take?	rough, estimated, close	precise, exact, accurate	approximately (adv)
<b>transparent</b>	Able to be seen through; clear	The tank was made of transparent glass.	clear, see-through, crystal-clear	opaque, solid, cloudy	transparency (n)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 1 – Must Know – Describing Things and Situations continued

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>transparent</b>	Able to be seen through; clear	The tank was made of transparent glass.	clear, see-through, crystal-clear	opaque, solid, cloudy	transparency (n)
<b>hollow</b>	Having an empty space inside; not solid	The squirrel hid nuts inside the hollow tree.	empty, vacant	solid, full	hollow (n, v)
<b>vague</b>	Not clear or definite; uncertain	Her instructions were so vague that nobody knew what to do.	unclear, hazy, indefinite, imprecise	clear, precise, definite	vaguely (adv), vagueness (n)
<b>flexible</b>	Able to bend without breaking; able to change easily	Gymnasts need to be very flexible.	adaptable, supple, agile, bendable	rigid, stiff, inflexible	flexibility (n)
<b>delicate</b>	Easily broken or damaged; light and fine	She handled the delicate vase with great care.	fragile, fine, dainty, frail	sturdy, robust, tough	delicately (adv)
<b>robust</b>	Strong and sturdy; healthy and vigorous	The robust bridge had stood for over a hundred years.	strong, sturdy, tough, durable	weak, fragile, delicate	robustly (adv)
<b>outrageous</b>	Shocking and unacceptable; wildly unusual	The prices at the theme park were outrageous.	shocking, scandalous, extreme	acceptable, reasonable, moderate	outrageously (adv)
<b>perplexing</b>	Confusing and difficult to understand	The puzzle was perplexing — nobody could work out the answer.	confusing, baffling, puzzling, bewildering	clear, simple, straightforward	perplex (v), perplexed (adj)
<b>rapid</b>	Happening in a short time; fast	The patient made a rapid recovery.	fast, quick, swift, speedy	slow, gradual, leisurely	rapidly (adv)
<b>arduous</b>	Needing a lot of effort and hard work; very tiring	It was an arduous climb to the top of the mountain.	tough, difficult, demanding, exhausting	easy, effortless, simple	arduously (adv)
<b>serene</b>	Calm and peaceful; not worried or upset	The serene lake reflected the mountains perfectly.	calm, tranquil, peaceful, placid	troubled, agitated, chaotic	serenely (adv), serenity (n)
<b>tranquil</b>	Quiet and calm; free from worry	The garden was tranquil in the early morning.	peaceful, serene, calm, still	chaotic, noisy, turbulent	tranquillity (n)
<b>turbulent</b>	With a lot of sudden changes and disorder; stormy	The plane flew through turbulent weather.	chaotic, stormy, rough, unstable	calm, peaceful, stable	turbulence (n)
<b>majestic</b>	Having a grand, impressive quality	The majestic eagle soared above the cliffs.	grand, magnificent, impressive, stately	ordinary, unimpressive, plain	majestically (adv), majesty (n)
<b>lofty</b>	Very high or tall; showing too much pride	The castle stood on a lofty hill above the town.	high, towering, tall, elevated	low, humble	loftily (adv)





# 11+ Vocabulary Word List

## Tier 1 – Must Know – Having, Keeping and Happening

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>possess</b>	To have or own something	He possesses great talent for painting.	own, have, hold	lack, be without	possession (n), possessive (adj)
<b>obtain</b>	To get something, especially through effort	She worked hard to obtain the highest score.	get, acquire, gain, secure	lose, give up	obtainable (adj)
<b>acquire</b>	To gain something through effort or experience	He acquired a love of reading at a very young age.	obtain, gain, get, develop	lose, give away	acquisition (n)
<b>sustain</b>	To keep something going over a period of time	It was hard to sustain her enthusiasm over the long project.	maintain, keep up, uphold, continue	abandon, stop, give up	sustainable (adj)
<b>maintain</b>	To keep something in good condition or at the same level	He maintained a consistent pace throughout the race.	keep up, sustain, preserve, uphold	neglect, abandon	maintenance (n)
<b>terminate</b>	To bring something to an end	The company decided to terminate his contract.	end, conclude, finish, stop	begin, start, continue	termination (n)
<b>mature</b>	Fully grown or developed; behaving like an adult	Grapes mature in late summer.	developed, grown, ripe	immature, young	maturity (n)
<b>develop</b>	To grow or change over time; to create something new	Scientists worked to develop a new vaccine.	grow, progress, advance, expand	decline, deteriorate	development (n)
<b>essential</b>	Absolutely necessary; the most important	Water is essential for survival.	vital, necessary, crucial, fundamental	unnecessary, optional	essentially (adv)
<b>vital</b>	Extremely important and necessary	It is vital that you read the instructions first.	essential, crucial, critical, necessary	unimportant, unnecessary	vitality (adv), vitality (n)
<b>sufficient</b>	Enough for a particular purpose	Make sure you have sufficient time to finish the test.	enough, adequate, ample	insufficient, lacking, inadequate	sufficiently (adv)
<b>occur</b>	To happen; to take place	The accident occurred early in the morning.	happen, take place, arise	—	occurrence (n)
<b>outcome</b>	The result or effect of an event or action	The outcome of the vote was a surprise.	result, consequence, effect, conclusion	cause, origin	—
<b>engage</b>	To take part in or be involved with something	She tried to engage the students in a discussion.	participate, involve, interact	disengage, withdraw	engagement (n), engaging (adj)
<b>pollute</b>	To make air, water or land dirty and harmful	Factories can pollute rivers if waste is not treated.	contaminate, poison, taint	clean, purify	pollution (n), pollutant (n)
<b>lament</b>	To express great sadness about something	He lamented the loss of his favourite book.	mourn, grieve, regret, weep over	celebrate, rejoice	lamentation (n), lamentable (adj)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 1 – Must Know – Words with Multiple Meanings

Word	Meaning 1	Meaning 2	Example
<b>spring</b>	To jump suddenly	A source of water from the ground; the season after winter	She had to spring out of the way to avoid the puddle.
<b>passage</b>	A narrow corridor or hall	A section of a written text	They walked through the narrow passage to reach the garden.
<b>plot</b>	A plan, especially a secret one	A small piece of land; the main story of a book	The villains hatched a plot to steal the jewels.
<b>counter</b>	A flat surface in a shop or kitchen	To argue against something	She placed her shopping on the counter.
<b>impression</b>	An effect or feeling	A mark left by pressing	The speaker made a strong impression on the audience.
<b>permit</b>	To allow something	A document that allows something	Photography is not permitted inside the museum.
<b>steep</b>	Having a sharp slope	To soak something in liquid	The path was too steep for the younger children to climb.
<b>grave</b>	A place where someone is buried	Serious and worrying	His expression was grave as he shared the news.
<b>faint</b>	Difficult to see, hear or smell	To lose consciousness briefly	She heard a faint sound coming from the next room.





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

Words from reading comprehension passages, analogy questions and academic writing. These appear less frequently in direct questions but are vital for understanding the texts children read.

### Tier 2 – Strong – Personality and Behaviour (Comprehension Passages)

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>eloquent</b>	Able to express ideas clearly and persuasively	She gave an eloquent speech that moved the whole audience.	articulate, fluent, expressive, persuasive	inarticulate, tongue-tied	eloquently (adv), eloquence (n)
<b>placid</b>	Calm and not easily upset	The placid child sat quietly while the others played loudly.	calm, serene, even-tempered, gentle	excitable, agitated	placidly (adv)
<b>benevolent</b>	Kind and helpful; generous	The benevolent teacher always helped students who were struggling.	kind, generous, charitable, caring	cruel, selfish, unkind	benevolently (adv), benevolence (n)
<b>callous</b>	Unkind and not caring about the feelings of others	His callous response made everyone feel shocked.	heartless, unfeeling, cold, cruel	kind, compassionate, caring	callously (adv), callousness (n)
<b>pompous</b>	Thinking you are more important than you are; using very grand language	The pompous teacher expected to be treated like royalty.	arrogant, self-important, haughty	humble, modest, unassuming	pompously (adv)
<b>insolent</b>	Rude and disrespectful	The insolent reply earned him a detention.	rude, disrespectful, impertinent, cheeky	respectful, polite, deferential	insolently (adv), insolence (n)
<b>gregarious</b>	Enjoying being with other people; sociable	She was naturally gregarious and always surrounded by friends.	sociable, outgoing, friendly	shy, introverted, solitary	—
<b>affable</b>	Friendly and easy to talk to	The affable shopkeeper always had time for a chat.	friendly, pleasant, good-natured, approachable	unfriendly, cold, aloof	affably (adv), affability (n)

### Tier 2 – Strong – Difficulty, Strength and Challenge

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>insurmountable</b>	Too great to overcome; impossible to deal with	The team faced what seemed like an insurmountable challenge.	overwhelming, impossible	achievable, manageable	surmount (v)
<b>irreparable</b>	Too badly damaged to be fixed	The storm caused irreparable damage to the roof.	permanent, irreversible, beyond repair	fixable, repairable	irreparably (adv)
<b>incessant</b>	Never stopping; continuing without pause	The incessant noise from the building site was exhausting.	constant, non-stop, continuous, relentless	occasional, intermittent	incessantly (adv)
<b>persevering</b>	Continuing to do something despite difficulty	Her persevering attitude helped her master the tricky topic.	persistent, determined, tenacious	giving up, quitting	persevere (v), perseverance (n)
<b>vigorously</b>	With great energy and strength	She shook the bottle vigorously before opening it.	energetically, forcefully, powerfully	gently, weakly, lazily	vigorous (adj), vigour (n)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 2 – Strong – Difficulty, Strength and Challenge continued

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>formidable</b>	Causing fear or respect because of being very impressive	The team faced a formidable opponent in the final.	impressive, daunting, powerful, fearsome	weak, unimpressive, easy	formidably (adv)
<b>precarious</b>	Not safe or certain; likely to fall	The pile of books was in a precarious position on the edge of the shelf.	unstable, risky, shaky, dangerous	safe, stable, secure	precariously (adv)

### Tier 2 – Strong – Appearance and Description

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>ancient</b>	Very old; from a very long time ago	The archaeologists discovered an ancient coin buried in the soil.	old, historic, antique, age-old	modern, new, recent	—
<b>dilapidated</b>	Old and in very poor condition; falling apart	The dilapidated barn hadn't been used in years.	run-down, crumbling, neglected, decrepit	pristine, well-kept	dilapidation (n)
<b>habitable</b>	Suitable for people to live in	After the repairs, the house was finally habitable again.	liveable, suitable	uninhabitable	inhabit (v), inhabitant (n)
<b>magnificent</b>	Extremely beautiful, impressive or grand	The magnificent castle stood on top of the hill.	grand, splendid, glorious, impressive	ordinary, plain, dull	magnificence (n)
<b>perishable</b>	Likely to go off or decay quickly	Milk and cheese are perishable foods.	short-lived, temporary	durable, long-lasting	perish (v)
<b>derelict</b>	Abandoned and in a very bad condition	The derelict factory had been empty for twenty years.	neglected, abandoned, run-down, dilapidated	occupied, well-maintained	—
<b>conspicuous</b>	Easy to see; standing out	The bright red coat was conspicuous in the crowd.	obvious, noticeable, prominent	inconspicuous, hidden	conspicuously (adv)
<b>destitute</b>	Having no money, food or shelter	After losing everything in the fire, the family was completely destitute.	poor, penniless, impoverished	wealthy, prosperous, comfortable	destitution (n)
<b>verdant</b>	Covered with green plants or grass; lush	The verdant valley was beautiful in spring.	green, lush, leafy	barren, dry, arid	—





# 11+ Vocabulary Word List

## Tier 2 – Strong – Academic and Reasoning Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>identify</b>	To recognise and name something	Can you identify the odd word out in this group?	spot, recognise, find, pinpoint	miss, overlook	identification (n)
<b>demonstrate</b>	To show how something works or is done	She demonstrated the technique to the whole class.	show, illustrate, prove, display	hide, conceal	demonstration (n)
<b>interpret</b>	To decide what something means	It is important to interpret the question carefully.	understand, explain, decode	misinterpret	interpretation (n)
<b>evidence</b>	Information that shows whether something is true	He presented evidence to support his argument.	proof, facts, data	—	evident (adj), evidently (adv)
<b>accurate</b>	Correct and without errors	Make sure your calculations are accurate.	correct, precise, exact	inaccurate, wrong, approximate	accuracy (n)
<b>correspond</b>	To match or be similar to something; to write letters	The labels should correspond to the correct diagrams.	match, relate to, agree with	differ from	correspondence (n)
<b>potential</b>	Having the ability to develop into something	She has the potential to become a great scientist.	possible, promising, likely	—	potentially (adv)
<b>consecutive</b>	Following one after another without interruption	She won three consecutive championships.	successive, sequential, unbroken	non-consecutive	consecutively (adv)
<b>dubious</b>	Not sure about whether something is true or right; suspicious	She was dubious about his excuse for being late.	doubtful, uncertain, suspicious, sceptical	certain, convinced, trusting	dubiously (adv)
<b>plausible</b>	Seeming reasonable and likely to be true	She gave a plausible explanation for why she was late.	believable, convincing, credible	implausible, unbelievable	plausibly (adv)
<b>bias</b>	An unfair tendency to favour one side	The report was criticised for showing bias towards one team.	prejudice, favouritism, one-sidedness	impartiality, fairness	biased (adj)
<b>justify</b>	To give good reasons for something	She had to justify her decision to the rest of the group.	explain, defend, support, account for	—	justification (n)





# 11+ Vocabulary Word List

## Tier 2 – Strong – Positive Character Traits

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>diligent</b>	Hardworking and careful	A diligent student always checks their work.	hardworking, thorough, conscientious	lazy, careless, negligent	diligently (adv), diligence (n)
<b>resilient</b>	Able to recover quickly from difficult situations	She was resilient enough to bounce back from the setback.	tough, adaptable, hardy, strong	fragile, sensitive, vulnerable	resilience (n)
<b>inquisitive</b>	Curious and eager to learn	The inquisitive child asked endless questions.	curious, enquiring, eager	incurious, disinterested	inquisitiveness (n)
<b>discern</b>	To recognise or understand something that is not obvious	She could discern a pattern in the data.	detect, notice, distinguish, identify	miss, overlook	discerning (adj), discernment (n)
<b>ingenious</b>	Very clever and creative, especially at solving problems	It was an ingenious solution to a difficult problem.	clever, creative, inventive, resourceful	uninventive, unimaginative	ingeniously (adv), ingenuity (n)
<b>integrity</b>	The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles	She was known for her integrity – she always told the truth.	honesty, honour, principles, decency	dishonesty, corruption, deceit	—
<b>impartial</b>	Treating all people or groups equally; not favouring one side	The judge must remain impartial throughout the trial.	fair, neutral, unbiased, objective	biased, partial, one-sided	impartially (adv), impartiality (n)
<b>articulate</b>	Able to express ideas clearly and effectively	She was very articulate when explaining her point.	eloquent, expressive, fluent, clear	inarticulate, muddled	articulately (adv)
<b>valiant</b>	Showing courage, especially in a difficult situation	The valiant firefighters worked through the night.	brave, courageous, heroic, fearless	cowardly, timid, fearful	valiantly (adv), valour (n)
<b>relentless</b>	Never stopping or becoming less intense; determined	The relentless rain lasted for three days.	unstoppable, persistent, unceasing	sporadic, gentle, giving up	relentlessly (adv)
<b>forthright</b>	Direct and confident in saying what you think	He gave a forthright answer that surprised everyone.	direct, frank, candid, outspoken	evasive, secretive, indirect	forthrightly (adv)
<b>wary</b>	Cautious and careful because of possible danger	She was wary of the dog at first, but it was friendly.	cautious, careful, alert, suspicious	reckless, trusting, careless	warily (adv), wariness (n)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 2 – Strong – Feelings in Context (Comprehension Passages)

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>agitated</b>	Feeling nervous, worried and unable to keep still	He became agitated when the results took so long to arrive.	flustered, anxious, unsettled, troubled	calm, composed, serene	agitation (n), agitate (v)
<b>indignant</b>	Feeling angry because something seems unfair	She was indignant at being blamed for something she hadn't done.	outraged, offended, affronted, annoyed	pleased, satisfied	indignantly (adv), indignation (n)
<b>petrified</b>	Extremely frightened; unable to move from fear	He was petrified of heights and couldn't look down.	terrified, frozen with fear, panic-stricken	fearless, brave, calm	petrify (v)
<b>jovial</b>	Cheerful and friendly	The jovial host made everyone feel welcome immediately.	cheerful, merry, good-humoured, jolly	gloomy, sullen, miserable	jovially (adv), joviality (n)
<b>nonchalant</b>	Behaving in a calm, relaxed way that suggests you are not worried	She gave a nonchalant shrug, as if she didn't care at all.	casual, relaxed, indifferent, laid-back	anxious, concerned, agitated	nonchalantly (adv)
<b>solemn</b>	Serious and formal; not cheerful	A solemn silence fell over the room as the news was announced.	serious, grave, formal, sober	lighthearted, cheerful, playful	solemnly (adv), solemnity (n)
<b>fervent</b>	Having very strong feelings about something	She was a fervent supporter of equal rights.	passionate, intense, enthusiastic, devoted	indifferent, apathetic, half-hearted	fervently (adv), fervour (n)
<b>bewildered</b>	Completely confused and unable to understand	He looked bewildered when asked to explain his answer.	confused, baffled, perplexed, puzzled	clear-headed, understanding	bewilderment (n), bewilder (v)

### Tier 2 – Strong – Actions and Change

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>conceal</b>	To hide something; to prevent it from being seen	She tried to conceal her disappointment with a smile.	hide, cover up, disguise, mask	reveal, expose, show	concealment (n)
<b>provoke</b>	To make someone angry; to cause a reaction	His comment was designed to provoke an argument.	irritate, annoy, stir up, trigger	calm, pacify, soothe	provocation (n), provocative (adj)
<b>falter</b>	To become weaker or less confident; to hesitate	Her voice faltered as she read the difficult passage aloud.	hesitate, stumble, waver, stutter	proceed, continue confidently	—
<b>diminish</b>	To become or make smaller, weaker or less important	The noise gradually diminished as they walked away.	reduce, decrease, lessen, dwindle	increase, grow, intensify	diminution (n)
<b>suppress</b>	To prevent something from being expressed, known or seen	He tried to suppress his laughter during the serious speech.	hold back, restrain, stifle, conceal	express, release, reveal	suppression (n)
<b>restore</b>	To return something to its original condition	They worked to restore the old painting to its former glory.	repair, renew, rebuild, revive	damage, destroy, ruin	restoration (n)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 2 – Strong - Actions and Change continued

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>flourish</b>	To grow or develop well; to wave something dramatically	The business began to flourish once the new manager took over.	thrive, prosper, grow, bloom	decline, wither, fail	—
<b>thrive</b>	To grow and develop well; to be successful	Plants thrive when they have enough water and sunlight.	flourish, prosper, bloom, grow	struggle, wither, fail	thriving (adj)
<b>dispute</b>	An argument or disagreement; to argue that something is wrong	There was a dispute between the two teams about the final score.	argument, disagreement, debate, quarrel	agreement, harmony	dispute (v)
<b>negotiate</b>	To discuss something with others to reach an agreement	The two sides had to negotiate before they could reach a deal.	discuss, agree, bargain, mediate	—	negotiation (n), negotiator (n)
<b>devious</b>	Using tricks or dishonest methods to get what you want	She took a devious route to avoid her responsibilities.	cunning, sly, crafty, sneaky	honest, straightforward, open	deviously (adv), deviousness (n)
<b>reform</b>	To change something to improve it	The new government planned to reform the education system.	change, improve, overhaul, revise	preserve, maintain	reformation (n)

### Tier 2 – Strong – Scale, Amount and Degree

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>meagre</b>	Very small in quantity; not enough	The meagre portion left everyone still feeling hungry.	small, scanty, insufficient, paltry	generous, ample, plentiful	meagrely (adv)
<b>lavish</b>	Very generous; luxurious; spending or giving a great deal	They threw a lavish party with enormous amounts of food.	generous, extravagant, abundant, luxurious	meagre, frugal, sparse	lavishly (adv), lavishness (n)
<b>scarce</b>	Not enough of something; hard to find	Fresh water was scarce in the drought.	rare, limited, insufficient, sparse	plentiful, abundant, common	scarcely (adv), scarcity (n)
<b>frugal</b>	Careful not to waste money or food; using only what is needed	He was frugal with his pocket money, saving every penny.	economical, thrifty, careful, sparing	wasteful, extravagant, lavish	frugally (adv), frugality (n)
<b>prominent</b>	Important and well-known; easy to see; sticking out	She was a prominent scientist whose work was known worldwide.	well-known, notable, leading, conspicuous	unknown, minor, obscure	prominently (adv), prominence (n)
<b>imminent</b>	About to happen very soon	The dark clouds suggested rain was imminent.	approaching, impending, close, near	distant, unlikely, far off	imminently (adv)
<b>vivid</b>	Producing powerful feelings or strong, clear images	She had a vivid memory of the day she won the prize.	bright, striking, intense, lifelike	dull, faint, vague	vividly (adv), vividness (n)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 2 – Strong – Nature and Environment

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>surge</b>	A sudden strong movement forward; to move powerfully	A surge of water rushed through the broken dam.	rush, wave, flood, burst	trickle, ebb	surge (v)
<b>cascade</b>	Water flowing downward quickly; to fall or hang in large amounts	The waterfall cascaded down the rocky cliff.	waterfall, torrent, rush, flow	trickle	cascade (v)
<b>tempestuous</b>	Very stormy; full of strong and uncontrolled emotions	The tempestuous seas made the crossing extremely dangerous.	stormy, turbulent, wild, violent	calm, peaceful, tranquil	tempestuously (adv)
<b>bleak</b>	Without hope; cold and grey and unpleasant; not encouraging	The outlook for the team was bleak after losing their best player.	grim, depressing, desolate, hopeless	cheerful, bright, hopeful	bleakly (adv), bleakness (n)
<b>arid</b>	Very dry; with very little rain	The desert landscape was arid and bare.	dry, parched, barren	fertile, lush, verdant	aridity (n)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

Higher-level academic vocabulary. These words appear in comprehension passages for the most selective schools and in harder CEM papers.

### Tier 3 – Stretch

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>conceive</b>	To form an idea or plan in your mind	It's hard to conceive of a world without electricity.	imagine, devise, think up, plan	—	concept (n), conception (n)
<b>controversy</b>	Strong disagreement about something	The new school rules caused great controversy among parents.	debate, dispute, disagreement	agreement, consensus	controversial (adj)
<b>conscience</b>	The sense of what is right and wrong that guides your behaviour	Her conscience told her to return the lost wallet.	moral sense, principles	—	conscientious (adj)
<b>prejudice</b>	An unfair opinion about someone based on who they are	The campaign aimed to fight prejudice in sport.	bias, discrimination, intolerance	fairness, open-mindedness	prejudiced (adj)
<b>privilege</b>	A special right or advantage that not everyone has	It was a privilege to meet the author of her favourite book.	advantage, benefit, honour	disadvantage, burden	privileged (adj)
<b>ambiguous</b>	Able to be understood in more than one way; unclear	Her ambiguous answer left everyone confused.	unclear, vague, uncertain	clear, definite	ambiguity (n)
<b>antagonist</b>	The main opponent or villain in a story	The antagonist tried to stop the hero at every turn.	villain, opponent, enemy, adversary	protagonist, hero, ally	antagonistic (adj)
<b>protagonist</b>	The main character in a story	The protagonist faced many challenges on her journey.	hero, main character, lead	antagonist, villain	—
<b>chronological</b>	Arranged in the order in which events happened	The museum displayed the artefacts in chronological order.	sequential, in order, time-ordered	random, jumbled	chronologically (adv), chronology (n)
<b>perceive</b>	To become aware of something through the senses or the mind	She perceived a change in his mood immediately.	notice, sense, recognise, detect	miss, overlook	perception (n), perceptive (adj)
<b>reluctant</b>	Unwilling or hesitant to do something	He was reluctant to admit he had made a mistake.	unwilling, hesitant, resistant	willing, eager	reluctantly (adv), reluctance (n)
<b>compel</b>	To force someone to do something	The evidence compelled her to change her mind.	force, oblige, drive	discourage, allow	compulsory (adj)
<b>inevitable</b>	Certain to happen; unable to be avoided	Some mistakes are inevitable when you're learning something new.	unavoidable, certain, inescapable	avoidable, unlikely	inevitably (adv), inevitability (n)
<b>immense</b>	Extremely large or great	She felt immense pride when she received her results.	enormous, vast, huge, great	tiny, insignificant, minute	immensely (adv)
<b>relinquish</b>	To give up something important	He had to relinquish his position as captain due to injury.	give up, surrender, hand over, let go of	keep, hold on to, maintain	—





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 3 – Stretch

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>thwart</b>	To prevent someone from doing what they want to do	The security guard thwarted the escape attempt.	prevent, stop, block, foil	help, assist, allow	—
<b>profound</b>	Having a very great effect; very serious and deep	The book had a profound effect on how she thought about the world.	deep, significant, meaningful, intense	shallow, trivial, insignificant	profoundly (adv)
<b>futile</b>	Having no effect; not successful	It seemed futile to argue any further.	useless, pointless, hopeless, fruitless	worthwhile, effective, productive	futilely (adv), futility (n)
<b>adept</b>	Very skilled at something	She was adept at solving even the most difficult puzzles.	skilled, expert, proficient, talented	unskilled, incompetent	adeptly (adv)
<b>diplomatic</b>	Able to deal with people in a way that does not upset them	She gave a diplomatic answer that pleased everyone in the room.	tactful, sensitive, careful	blunt, tactless, rude	diplomatically (adv), diplomacy (n)
<b>notorious</b>	Famous for something bad	The villain was notorious for his cruel tricks.	infamous, well-known for wrongdoing, disreputable	unknown, reputable	notoriously (adv), notoriety (n)
<b>perpetual</b>	Continuing without stopping; happening again and again	She lived in perpetual fear of forgetting her lines.	constant, endless, continuous, never-ending	temporary, occasional, brief	perpetually (adv)
<b>spontaneous</b>	Happening naturally without planning	The class burst into spontaneous applause.	unplanned, impulsive, natural	planned, deliberate, calculated	spontaneously (adv), spontaneity (n)
<b>wistful</b>	Feeling a quiet sadness about something you want but cannot have	She cast a wistful glance at the old photographs.	nostalgic, longing, yearning, pensive	content, satisfied	wistfully (adv)

### Tier 3 – Stretch – Literary and English Craft Terms

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>foreshadow</b>	To be a sign of what is going to happen later in a story	The stormy weather foreshadowed the disaster that was to come.	hint at, suggest, signal, indicate	—	foreshadowing (n)
<b>imagery</b>	Words and descriptions that create pictures in the reader's mind	The poem was full of vivid imagery of the sea.	description, figurative language, pictures in words	—	—
<b>tone</b>	The feeling or attitude expressed in writing or speech	The tone of the letter was formal and serious.	mood, atmosphere, manner	—	—
<b>portrayal</b>	The way something or someone is shown or described	The portrayal of the villain was surprisingly sympathetic.	depiction, representation, description	—	portray (v)





## 11+ Vocabulary Word List

### Tier 3 – Stretch – Atmosphere, Mood and Sensory Writing

Word	Definition	Example	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word family
<b>ominous</b>	Suggesting that something bad is about to happen	The ominous silence before the storm made everyone uneasy.	threatening, foreboding, sinister, menacing	reassuring, promising, hopeful	ominously (adv)
<b>sinister</b>	Seeming evil or dangerous; suggesting something bad	There was something sinister about the way he smiled.	menacing, threatening, dark, ominous	reassuring, benign, friendly	sinisterly (adv)
<b>eerie</b>	Strange and frightening; making you feel uneasy	An eerie silence fell over the empty street.	unsettling, uncanny, ghostly, strange	familiar, comforting, ordinary	eerily (adv)
<b>loom</b>	To appear as a large, threatening shape; to seem about to happen	The dark mountain loomed above them through the mist.	tower, hover, overshadow, threaten	—	looming (adj)
<b>gleam</b>	A small, bright light; to shine with a soft light	A gleam of light appeared through the curtains.	glimmer, shine, glint, sparkle	darkness, shadow	gleaming (adj)
<b>glimmer</b>	A faint or unsteady light; a small sign of something	A glimmer of hope appeared when help finally arrived.	gleam, flicker, shimmer, hint	blaze, darkness	glimmering (adj)
<b>murmur</b>	A low, soft, continuous sound; to say something quietly	She heard a murmur of voices from the next room.	whisper, hum, rustle, mutter	shout, roar	murmuring (adj)
<b>ethereal</b>	Extremely light and delicate; seeming not quite of this world	The ethereal music drifted through the forest like a dream.	delicate, otherworldly, ghostly, unearthly	solid, heavy, earthly	ethereally (adv)
<b>smoulder</b>	To burn slowly without flames; to feel strong emotion without showing it	The fire smouldered in the grate long after everyone had gone to bed.	burn slowly, fester, seethe	blaze, extinguish	smouldering (adj)
<b>stark</b>	Complete and total; harsh and bare; obvious and unpleasant	The stark landscape offered no shelter from the wind.	harsh, bare, bleak, severe	lush, comfortable, mild	starkly (adv), starkness (n)
<b>luminous</b>	Giving out light; very bright and glowing	The luminous moon lit up the path through the forest.	glowing, radiant, bright, shining	dark, dim, dull	luminously (adv), luminosity (n)
<b>harrowing</b>	Very upsetting and distressing	It was a harrowing experience that she never forgot.	distressing, upsetting, traumatic, agonising	comforting, pleasant, uplifting	harrowingly (adv)
<b>skulk</b>	To hide or move around quietly, as if doing something wrong	The fox skulked around the edge of the garden.	lurk, creep, slink, prowl	stride, march confidently	skulking (adj)
<b>dusk</b>	The time just after sunset when it begins to get dark	They arrived at the village just as dusk was falling.	twilight, nightfall, sunset, gloaming	dawn, sunrise, daybreak	dusky (adj)
<b>hustle</b>	Busy, noisy activity; to push or move someone roughly	The hustle of the crowded market was overwhelming.	bustle, commotion, activity, rush	stillness, calm, quiet	hustling (adj)

