

substantiated sub STAN shee ay tid
supported with proof or evidence; verified

The fingerprint evidence substantiated the detective's claim that the suspect had been at the scene of the crime.

vindicated VIN duh kayt id
freed from blame

Mrs. Layton was finally vindicated after her husband admitted to the crime.

YOU'RE SO VAIN

condescending kon de SEND ing
treating people as weak or inferior

Robert always looked down on his sister and treated her in a condescending manner.

contemptuous kun TEMP choo us
feeling hatred; scornful

She was so contemptuous of people who wore fur that she sprayed red paint on them.

despotic des PAHT ik
exercising absolute power; tyrannical

He was a despotic ruler whose every law was enforced with threats of violence or death.

dictatorial dik tuh TOR ee ul
domineering; oppressively overbearing

The coach had a dictatorial manner and expected people to do whatever he demanded.

disdain dis DAYN
(n.) contempt, scorn, (v.) to regard or treat with contempt; to look down on

(n.) I felt nothing but disdain for the person who stole my lunch—what a jerk!

(v.) A self-proclaimed gourmand, he disdains to eat any meal that comes in a box.

haughty HAW tee
arrogant; vainly proud

His haughty manner made it clear that he thought he was better than everyone else.

imperious im PEER ee us
arrogantly domineering or overbearing

She had a very imperious way about her; she was bossy and treated everyone as if they were beneath her.

patronizing PAY truh ny zing
treating in a condescending manner

Patrick had such a patronizing attitude that he treated everyone around him like a bunch of little kids.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

convoluted kon vuh LOO tid

intricate; complex

The directions were so convoluted that we drove all around the city and got lost.

cryptic KRIP tik

difficult to comprehend

The writing on the walls of the crypt was cryptic; none of the scientists understood it.

futile FEW tul

having no useful purpose; pointless

It is futile to try to explain the difference between right and wrong to your pet.

impede im PEED

to slow the progress of

The retreating army constructed barbed-wire fences and destroyed bridges to impede the advance of the enemy.

obscure ub SKYUR

(adj.) relatively unknown, (v.) to conceal or make indistinct

Scott constantly makes references to obscure cult films, and no one ever gets his jokes. The man in front of me was so tall that his head obscured my view of the movie.

quandary KWAHN dree

a state of uncertainty or perplexity

Ann was in a quandary because she had no soap with which to do her laundry.

I'M A LOSER, BABY

indolent IN duh lunt

lazy

Mr. Lan said his students were indolent because they had not done their homework.

insipid in SIP id

uninteresting; unchallenging

That insipid movie was so boring and predictable.

listless LIST luss

lacking energy

Because he is accustomed to an active lifestyle, Mark feels listless when he has nothing to do.

torpor TOR per

laziness; inactivity; dullness

The hot and humid day filled everyone with an activity-halting torpor.