**Word of the Day December 2021**

**1st December – Coarse/Course**

**Coarse** means rough or harsh in texture. Eg: The shirt was made of a **coarse** woollen cloth.

**Coarse** can also mean rude or vulgar. Eg: His language could be quite **coarse** at times, but his

manners were otherwise impeccable.

A **course** is the route or direction followed by a river. Eg: The river took a winding **course** through the

mountains and down to the sea.

**Course** can also mean a dish as part of a meal. Eg: The second **course** was a delicious stew.

**Course** can also describe a set of classes or a plan of study. Eg: I did a weekly **course** in photography and my skills soon improved

**2nd December - Complement / Compliment**

To **complement** means to go well with or to work well with something else. Eg: Cranberry sauce is

known to **complement** roast Turkey.

To **compliment** means to offer praise , usually to someone for something they have done or

achieved. Eg: I would like to **compliment** the chef on the delicious meal.

**6th December - Decent / Descent / Dissent**

**Decent** is an adjective meaning conforming with generally accepted standards or morals;

satisfactory. Eg: He was a **decent** person who they knew they could trust.

A **descent** is an act of moving downwards, dropping or falling. Eg: The plane had gone into a steep

**descent**.

**Descent** can also mean the origin or background of a person. Eg: She was of Spanish **descent** with

characteristic olive skin and dark hair.

**Dissent** is the holding or expression of opinions that oppose those commonly or officially held. Eg:

Church leaders permitted no **dissent** from church teachings.

**7th December - Defuse / Diffuse**

To **defuse** is to make a situation less tense or less dangerous. Eg: Teachers need to rely on all their

skills to **defuse** potentially explosive situations.

To **diffuse** is to spread over a wide area or to reduce concentration. Eg: Television is a powerful

medium with which to **diffuse** information.

**Diffuse** can be used as an adjective to mean spread out or not directed in one area. Eg: The company

has become large and **diffuse**.

**8th December - Definite / Definitive**

**Definite** is used to say that something is certain to happen; decided or unambiguous. Eg: Smoking

indoors was a **definite** no-no.

**Definitive** means done or reached decisively and with authority or considered to be the best of its

type. Eg: There is no **definitive** scientific evidence that coffee is harmful to health but it is wise not

to consume too many cups each day.

**9th December - Desert / Dessert**

A **desert** is a large dry sandy area within a landmass, often characterised by dunes and with little or no vegetation or water. Eg: The **desert** was barren and offered no shelter from the intense heat.

To **desert** is to abandon in a disloyal way. It can also mean to leave a place causing it to appear empty. Eg: Please do not **desert** me at my time of need.

A **dessert** is a sweet course usually eaten following the main meal of the day. Eg: Having enjoyed the main course they eagerly awaited dessert.

To help you remember : dessert has a double ‘s' and most people would like a double helping of dessert (but definitely not a double helping of desert).

**10th December - Disinterested / Uninterested**

**Disinterested** means impartial particularly in a legal matter; without a vested interest. Eg: Your

solicitor should always provide **disinterested** advice.

**Uninterested** means lacking interest or showing boredom in relation to something. Eg: He was

totally **uninterested** in politics and never listened to the news.

**13th December - Economic / Economical**

**Economic** means relating to the economy or to someone’s financial situation. Eg: The shop is not

doing much business in these difficult **economic** times.

**Economical** usually means inexpensive or giving good value but can also mean careful not to waste

or careful not to use more than is necessary. Eg: I am looking for a small **economical** car. They were

**economical** with the truth in an effort to spare his feelings.

**14th December - Empathy / Sympathy**

**Empathy** is the ability to see things from another person’s perspective; to be able to share their

feelings or experiences. Eg: I felt **empathy** when I saw the anguish in the eyes of victim's parents.

**Sympathy** is a feeling of sadness or compassion towards another person who is experience grief or

severe disappointment. Eg: The president sent a message of **sympathy** to the relatives of the dead

soldiers.

**15th December - Enquiry / Inquiry**

**Enquiry** is a noun used to indicate an informal question. Eg: I have received an **enquiry** about the

vacant apartment.

**Inquiry** is a noun used to indicate a more formal investigation. Eg: The commissioner promised to

launch an **inquiry** into the fraud case.

**16th December - Explicit / Implicit**

**Explicit** means direct or clearly expressed; not suggested, clearly visible. Eg: He was **explicit** in

demanding a pay rise.

**Implicit** means to be implied or expressed indirectly, suggested. Eg: There is always an **implicit** threat of violence at these types of events.

**17th December - Foul/ Fowl**

**Foul** means a bad, revolting or offensive. It can also mean an illegal or unfair play in a sport such as

football. Eg: There was a **foul** odour coming from the changing rooms. He committed his second **foul**

of the match and received a red card from the referee.

**Fowl** is a collective nouns for a group of farm, game or water birds such as chickens, turkeys, Guinea

fowl or ducks. It can also mean the flesh of these birds. Eg: There will be fish and **fowl** served at the

banquet tonight.

**20th December - Good / Well**

**Good** means of a fair or high standard: Eg: **Good** judgement comes from experience.

**Well** means in good health. Eg: I am feeling **well** today.

**Well** can also be used as an adverb. Eg: I am doing **well** in my exams.

**21st December - Heel/ Heal/ He’ll**

A **heel** is a part of the body located at the back of the foot. Eg: I have a large blister on my **heel**

because my shoes are too tight.

To help remember – heel and feet contain a double e.

**Heel** can also be used as a verb and means to put a heel on a boot or shoe or to bring a dog to a

position at your side. Eg: I need to ask the shoe repair guy to **heel** my boots. I ordered the dog to

**heel** as we waited for the traffic to pass.

To **heal** is to repair or make healthy. Eg: It took a long time for the wound to **heal**.

**He'll** is a contraction of ‘he will’. Eg: **He'll** go down in history as the best footballer of his generation.

**22nd December - Herd / Heard**

A **herd** is a large group of mammals, especially hoofed mammals or livestock. Eg: He struggled to

bring the **herd** of cattle together.

**Herd** can also be a verb meaning to move in a group (animals or people) or to look after livestock.

Eg: They began to herd towards the bus. He had to **herd** his sheep into the pen ready for their

vaccinations.

**Heard** is the past tense of to hear. To have been perceived with your ear or to have been told or

informed. Eg: I **heard** a beautiful song emanating from one of the apartment windows. I **heard** on

the grapevine that they have split up.

To help remember heard contains the word **ear**.