

Versatile Vocabulary

solid, real	concrete	abstract	not physical, an idea
tidy, controlled, clear	order	chaos	confusion, disorder
difficult to harm	secure	vulnerable	easy to harm, fragile
stubborn, unchangeable	dogmatic	malleable	able to be changed, flexible
stable, the same	constant	volatile	unpredictable, uncertain
every so often	intermittent	perpetual	cyclical, repetitive, incessant
can be touched, real	tangible	intangible	cannot be touched
can be touched, real	physical	metaphysical	not physical, not real
expected, logical, usual	natural	supernatural	beyond laws of nature, magical
expected, logical, usual	normal	abnormal	beyond what is expected
original, basic, true	literal	metaphorical	symbolic, not literal
logical, using reason	rational	emotional	using mood or feelings
lasting forever	permanent	ephemeral	lasting for a short time, temporary
make stronger, support	reinforce	transgress	go against
right, good	moral	immoral	wrong, bad
kind, good	benevolent	malevolent	unkind, evil
gullible	credulous	duplicitous	two-faced
inside	interior	exterior	outside
unaware; not guilty	innocent	corrupt	wrong, bad, dishonest
less than	inferior to	superior to	better than
the best world	utopia	dystopia	the worst world
staying still	static	active	moving
hunted	prey	predator	hunter
calming	comforting	unsettling	disturbing
free	liberated	imprisoned	trapped
not enough, a lack	paucity	excess	too much, extra
generous, loves people	philanthropic	misanthropic	mean, hates people
dull, boring, ordinary	banal	idiosyncratic	individual, unique, quirky, extraordinary
all the same	homogeneous	heterogeneous	varied, mixed, diverse
can end, will end	finite	infinite	will never end, eternal

Versatile Vocabulary

1. What is 'Versatile Vocabulary'?

The vocabulary is arranged in pairs or **binary opposites** (extreme opposites that contrast with each other). They are words that will help you express your ideas in a confident way if they are used carefully and correctly. They should be learned and used to help analyse texts in English Language.

2. Why do I need it?

When you approach the reading or writing of a text, whether you have seen it before or not, it is really helpful to have a range of vocabulary that you feel confident about using. This is so that you can use this vocabulary to push forward your thinking. When you express yourself using these words, you are able to give sophisticated and perceptive responses.

3. When can I use it?

Any time! You can use this vocabulary when you analyse literature and language texts, in your speaking and listening assessment and in your non-fiction and fiction writing. When you start writing, it is useful to ask yourself questions like 'is this **tangible** or **intangible**?' or 'is there **order** or **chaos** here?'

4. How can I remember the vocabulary?

Quiz yourself using the 'look, cover, write, check' technique. When you revise for English Literature, try to link the vocabulary to the characters of themes. For example, Mr Birling is **dogmatic** or Shakespeare exposes the **duplicity** of the supernatural.