LITERACY PHASE 4 VOCABULARY SCRIPT

dread great fear (noun); to fear something greatly (verb)

Old English

The sight of the fire filled them with dread.

I dread to think what will become of him.

gauge a measurement or measuring instrument (noun); to measure or estimate (verb)

Old French

The gauge was of standard size.

I tried to gauge his height.

probity honesty or integrity

Latin probus (good, honest)

He showed great probity in his business dealings.

baffled puzzled or confused

She was absolutely baffled by the complexity of the problem.

poverty being poor; a lack or scarcity

Old French

The slum dwellers lived in poverty.

The students suffered from a poverty of ideas.

prohibit to forbid or ban

Latin prohibere (keep in check)

I prohibit you from smoking in the street.

perfect as good as it is possible to be; absolute and complete (adjective)

to make something free from faults or defects (verb)

Middle English

They tried to be the perfect couple.

He acted like a perfect stranger.

He practised hard to perfect his bowling action.

resolve find a solution to a problem; decide on a particular course of action (verb)

firm determination to do something (noun)

Latin resolvere (to loosen)

They decided to resolve their quarrel.

He resolved to take the left hand turning.

The student showed great resolve in his studies.

address the details of a package’s destination; a formal speech or presentation (noun)

to write the destination details on a package; to speak to an assembly of people; to start thinking about an issue/problem; taking up a stance to hit a ball

Middle English

The address on the parcel was clearly visible.

She gave an address to the conference.

He addressed the envelope

The teacher addressed the assembled students.

They addressed the problem.

The cricketer prepared to address the ball.

wealth the state of being rich; a plentiful supply

Middle English

She enjoyed the trappings of wealth.

There was a wealth of fruit on the island.

tenacity the quality of persistence; being able to hold fast

Latin tenere (to hold)

She showed great tenacity in completing the London Marathon.

emulate to try to do as well as somebody or something, particularly by imitating them

Latin aemulus (a rival)

He tried to emulate his father’s success.

challenge a task or activity that is new and exciting but also difficult (noun)

to question whether something is true or correct (verb)

Old French

He took up the challenge of learning to swim.

She challenged her boss’s authority.

stipulate to insist on something as part of an agreement

Latin stipulare (to demand)

She stipulated that there would be no children at the wedding.

gigantic extremely large or huge

Latin gigantis (of a giant)

The Empire State Building looked gigantic.

miniscule very small (can also have the spelling minuscule)

Latin minus (small)

The houses looked miniscule from the aeroplane.

mortified humiliated or very ashamed

Latin mors (death)

He was mortified by the crushing defeat.

enigmatic mysterious or puzzling

Greek

Although they had been married for a long time she remained enigmatic to her husband.

exaggerate to represent something as larger, better or worse than reality; to overstate

Latin exaggerare (to pile up, accumulate)

He tended to exaggerate the scale of the problem.

articulate having or showing the ability to speak fluently (adjective)

pronounce something clearly and distinctly (verb)

Latin articulare (to utter distinctly)

She was a very articulate orator.

He always articulated his words very carefully.

compromise an agreement or settlement of a dispute that is achieved by both sides making concessions (noun)

to settle a dispute by mutual concession; to accept standards that are lower than originally desired (verb)

Middle English

They reached a compromise in the argument.

Both parties compromised to settle the disagreement.

superlative of the highest quality or degree

Latin superlatus (carried beyond)

The service at the hotel was superlative.

interrogate to ask questions of someone closely, aggressively or formally

Latin interrogare (to ask between)

The police officers interrogated the suspect.

professional competent or skilled in a particular area; belonging to a profession

Middle English

He was professional at all times in his business dealings.

miscellaneous of various types; from different sources

Latin miscere (to mix)

The file marked ‘miscellaneous’ contained material on a wide range of subjects.