

DECEMBER 2019

Word of the week

exonerate (*verb*) to absolve from blame; to relieve from a responsibility, obligation.

#WOTW

The judge looked to **exonerate** the defendant by issuing a not-guilty verdict.

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Word of the week

archetype (*noun*) the most typical or perfect example of a particular kind of person or thing

#WOTW

She is the **archetype** of an American movie star.

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Word of the week

plethora (*noun*) a large or excessive amount of something.

#WOTW

Some coffee shops have a **plethora** of drinks to choose from, while others stick to the basics.

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Word of the week

instil (*verb*) to gradually but firmly establish an idea or attitude in a person's mind.

#WOTW

Regularly completing your homework on time will help to **instil** good habits such as organisation that will last a lifetime.

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JANUARY 2020

Word of the week

tangible *(adjective) real and not imaginary; able to be shown, touched, or experienced*

#WOTW

We need **tangible** evidence if we're going to take legal action.

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Word of the week

impetus *(noun) something that makes a process or activity happen or happen more quickly.*

#WOTW

His attacking play brought real impetus to his team's efforts when he came on as a substitute.

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Word of the week

condemn *(verb) to criticise something or someone strongly, usually for moral reasons.*

#WOTW

The Opposition has **condemned** the government's proposed tax increases.

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Word of the week

condone *(verb) to accept or allow behaviour that is wrong.*

#WOTW

The school does not **condone** any form of antisocial behaviour.

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FEBRUARY 2020

Word of the week

empathy (*noun*) the ability to share someone else's feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

#WOTW

He was able to show **empathy** towards his friend as he'd also experienced something similar.

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Word of the week

insurmountable

(*adjective*) describing something as too great to overcome.

#WOTW

Although the job of tidying her room seemed **insurmountable**, Sarah was determined to give it a try.

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Word of the week

hubris (*noun*) excessive pride or self-confidence.

#WOTW

Hubris brought him down in the end.

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Word of the week

etiquette (*noun*) the set of rules or customs that control accepted behaviour in particular social groups or social situations.

#WOTW

The couple exhibited poor **etiquette** when they left the party without saying good-bye to the host and hostess.

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MARCH 2020

Word of the week

controversial

(adjective) causing or likely to cause disagreement.

#WOTW

The use of VAR in the Premier League this season has been **controversial**.

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Word of the week

ubiquitous *(adjective)*

seeming to be everywhere.

#WOTW

Mobile phones have become **ubiquitous** in today's society.

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Word of the week

camaraderie *(noun)*

mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together.

#WOTW

A real sense of **camaraderie** was created within the community.

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Word of the week

obligation *(noun)*

something that you must do.

#WOTW

We all have an **obligation** to support one another at this difficult time.

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APRIL 2020

Word of the week

perseverance *(noun)*

persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

#WOTW

It took planning and **perseverance** for their business to be successful.

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Word of the week

unprecedented

(adjective) never having happened or existed in the past.

#WOTW

It is up to everybody to do their bit in these **unprecedented** times.

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MAY 2020

Word of the week

collaborative *(adjective)*

an effort involving two or more people working together for a specific purpose.

#WOTW

In order to combat the threat of COVID-19, a **collaborative** effort is needed from everyone.

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Word of the week

resilient *(adjective)* being able

to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.

#WOTW

The community was highly spirited and **resilient** despite the difficulties it faced.

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Word of the week

enlighten *(verb)* to give

someone greater knowledge and understanding about a subject or situation.

#WOTW

Reading can build confidence, **enlighten** and entertain.

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Word of the week

gratitude *(noun)* a strong

feeling of appreciation to someone or something for what the person has done to help you.

#WOTW

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

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JUNE 2020

Word of the week

eradicate (*verb*) to get rid of or destroy something completely.

#WOTW

We need to work together in order to **eradicate** the problem.

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Word of the week

exacerbate (*verb*) to make something that is already bad even worse.

#WOTW

The violence that was on show only served to **exacerbate** an already difficult situation.

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Word of the week

vigilance (*noun*) the action or state of keeping alert for possible danger or difficulties.

#WOTW

It is important the population continue show **vigilance** when going about their daily lives.

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Word of the week

conscientious (*adjective*) to put care and effort into your work.

#WOTW

They are a **conscientious** group of students who consistently strive to do their best.

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JULY 2020

Word of the week

acrimonious *(adjective)*

full of anger, arguments and bad feeling.

#WOTW

After an **acrimonious** discussion, a decision was finally made.

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Word of the week

cessation *(noun)* the process of something ending or stopping.

#WOTW

The early **cessation** of standard school activities was brought about by the current pandemic.

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SEPTEMBER 2020

Word of the week

fluctuation (*noun*) an irregular rising and falling in number or amount; a variation.

#WOTW

TV channel executives called the drop in viewing figures "a short-term **fluctuation**".

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Word of the week

cacophony (*noun*) a harsh discordant mixture of sounds.

#WOTW

A **cacophony** of distressing alarms bells rang out as they tried to escape.

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Word of the week

adapt (*verb*) to change, or to change something, to suit different conditions or uses.

#WOTW

Sometimes you have to **adapt** the design to suit the customer's requirements.

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OCTOBER 2020

Word of the week

community (*noun*) the people living in one particular area; people who are considered a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality.

#WOTW

There's a real sense of **community** in this neighbourhood.

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Word of the week

aspire (*verb*) to want something or hope to achieve something or be successful.

#WOTW

Most of his students **aspire** to get jobs in the business sector.

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Word of the week

endeavour (*verb & noun*) to try to do something.

#WOTW

The **endeavour** displayed by the shop assistant to help his customer was commendable.

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NOVEMBER 2020

Word of the week

discombobulated

(adjective) a feeling of confusion or discomfort.

#WOTW

The directions I was given left me feeling extremely **discombobulated**.

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Word of the week

infringement *(noun)* an

action that breaks a rule or law.

#WOTW

A free kick was taken from where the original **infringement** took place.

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Word of the week

consternation *(noun)* a

feeling of anxiety, shock or confusion.

#WOTW

To his **consternation**, when he arrived at school he found he'd forgotten his PE kit.

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Word of the week

obliterate *(verb)* to destroy

utterly or to wipe out.

#WOTW

If deforestation continues at its current rate, it will **obliterate** vast amounts of habitats.

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DECEMBER 2020

Word of the week

schadenfreude *(noun)*

a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction when something bad happens to someone else.

#WOTW

A feeling of **schadenfreude** rose in me as I watched the driver, who had parked illegally across my driveway, argue with the traffic warden.

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Word of the week

filibuster *(noun & verb)* to

make a long speech in order to delay or prevent a new law being made.

#WOTW

She began to **filibuster** as she did not feel the proposed changes were in the interests of her constituents.

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Word of the week

egregious *(adjective)*

extremely bad in a way that is very noticeable.

#WOTW

The judge said it was the most **egregious** act she had ever seen!

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