

VO CAB-u-lous!

Build a Fabulous Vocab

Words That Begin With *D*

Name _____

Date _____

“The finest words in the world are only vain sounds, if you cannot comprehend them.”

—Anatole France (*Jacques Anatole Thibault*), French writer
and winner of the 1921 Nobel Prize in Literature, 1844-1924

That’s why your dictionary is such a great tool. The word *dowager* can refer to the widow of a king or describe the hump on the back of a person with osteoarthritis. What about *doppelganger*? Is it a ghost? a look-alike? both? Use a word from the Word Bank to complete each sentence below. Notice that one of the words fits two sentences. Yes, *please* use your dictionary.

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|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Word Bank | dandy | deciduous | deleterious | denizen | diffident |
| | discombobulated | | doctrinaire | dollop | doyen |

1. A _____ of North Adams for 40 years, Mrs. Farrell held important positions on several town committees.
2. Antwan’s _____ allegiance to the idea of building a bridge across Long Island Sound struck his opponents as foolish and downright dangerous.
3. The faculty advisor said that Selena’s lack of organization was _____ to the goals of the student government.
4. “Well, I really shouldn’t have, but I ate a tiny piece of the pie with just a _____ of ice cream,” Lisa admitted to her friends.
5. The basketball team’s solid defense and ability to score in transition completely _____ its cross-town rivals.
6. Combined with the top hat and tails Rich wore to the costume party, the walking stick and fawn-colored gloves made him look like a 19th-century _____.
7. Long considered the _____ of American literary criticism, Harold Bloom’s pronouncements about literature are taken as gospel by many people.
8. As the days grow shorter and the temperature falls, the _____ trees of New England explode in a riot of color.
9. “Well, that’s just _____,” Neil muttered in disgust after he finished shoveling a foot of snow from the driveway, only to discover that he had a flat tire.
10. Marilyn’s _____ manner often caused her classmates to overlook or forget about her entirely.