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VOCABULARY

- 1. Robust:** strong and unlikely to break or fail.
 - **Synonyms:** resilient, sound
 - **Antonyms:** fragile, vulnerable
 - **Example:** The company implemented a robust cybersecurity system to protect sensitive data.
- 2. Cushion:** something that protects you against something unpleasant that might happen.
 - **Synonyms:** safeguard, buffer
 - **Antonyms:** vulnerability, susceptibility
 - **Example:** The government implemented a stimulus package to provide a financial cushion for struggling businesses.
- 3. Bolstered:** supported something, or made something stronger.
 - **Synonyms:** buttressed, fortified
 - **Antonyms:** undermined, hindered
 - **Example:** Sarah bolstered her confidence by practicing public speaking regularly.

4. Trepid: not enthusiastic

- **Synonyms:** lukewarm, lackadaisical
- **Antonyms:** hearty, zealous
- **Example:** The reception to the new policy was tepid among the employees.

5. Dichotomy: a difference between two completely opposite ideas or things.

- **Synonyms:** polarity, contrast
- **Antonyms:** harmony, concurrence
- **Example:** The dichotomy of opinions among the team members led to a lengthy discussion.

6. Persist: to continue to exist.

- **Synonyms:** endure, linger
- **Antonyms:** cease, expire
- **Example:** The old building though worn by time, continued to persist as a symbol of the town's history.

7. Apprehensions: worry or fear that something unpleasant may happen.

- **Synonyms:** disquiet, trepidation
- **Antonyms:** aplomb, serenity
- **Example:** His apprehension about public speaking made him nervous before the presentation.

8. **Mull**: think about a fact, proposal, or request deeply and at length.

- **Synonyms**: ponder, ruminate
- **Antonyms**: neglect, disregard
- **Example**: She liked to mull ideas before making decisions.

9. **Echelons**: a rank or position of authority in an organisation or a society.

- **Synonyms**: stratum, tier
- **Antonyms**: disorganisation, sameness
- **Example**: The luxury hotel reserved its top floor for guests in the highest echelon of membership.

10. **Quirk**: an unusual habit or part of someone's personality, or something that is strange and unexpected.

- **Synonyms**: peculiarity, oddity
- **Antonyms**: normalcy, uniformity
- **Example**: The antique clock has a quirk; it chimes twice every hour instead of once.

11. **Credulity**: willingness to believe that something is real; or true, especially when this is unlikely.

- **Synonyms**: naivete, gullibility
- **Antonyms**: scepticism, incertitude
- **Example**: The scam took advantage of people's credulity, promising incredible returns on investment.

12. **Mettle:** ability and determination when competing or doing something difficult.

- **Synonyms:** fortitude, pluck
- **Antonyms:** timidity, cowardice
- **Example:** Despite facing challenges, she showed remarkable mettle in completing the project.

13. **Industrious:** working hard; busy.

- **Synonyms:** diligent, conscientious
- **Antonyms:** indolent, unambitious
- **Example:** An industrious student, he consistently achieved high grade in his classes.

14. **Stymie:** to prevent something from happening or someone from achieving a purpose.

- **Synonyms:** impede, thwart
- **Antonyms:** facilitate, expedite
- **Example:** A lack of resources can often stymie progress on a project.