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VOCABULARY

1. **Reckons:** to calculate or guess (an amount, number, value, etc); to have or form a general idea about (something).
 - **Synonyms:** suppose, believe
 - **Antonyms:** disregard, ignore
 - **Example:** I reckon it's best to start early to avoid traffic.
2. **Splicing:** joining between two pieces of something so that they form one long piece.
 - **Synonyms:** binding, fusing
 - **Antonyms:** splitting, severing
 - **Example:** The geneticist aims to splice specific genes to enhance crop resilience.
3. **Hobbled:** made it more difficult for somebody to do something or for something to happen.
 - **Synonyms:** hindered, impeded
 - **Antonyms:** furthered, facilitated
 - **Example:** The heavy rain threatened to hobble the progress of the outdoor event.
4. **Tardy:** slow or late in happening or arriving.
 - **Synonyms:** delayed, belated
 - **Antonyms:** punctual, prompt
 - **Example:** Jane realised she was tardy in responding to the email and quickly replied.

5. **Unpalatably**: in an unpleasant manner.

- **Synonyms**: abysmally, appallingly
- **Antonyms**: pleasantly, pleasingly
- **Example**: The new software update made the user interface unpalatably confusing.

6. **Equitable**: treating everyone fairly and in the same way.

- **Synonyms**: impartial, fair
- **Antonyms**: biased, prejudiced
- **Example**: An equitable sharing of responsibilities fosters a harmonious work environment.

7. **Convolutd**: extremely complicated and difficult to understand

- **Synonyms**: byzantine, confusing
- **Antonyms**: straightforward, clear
- **Example**: Her explanation of the plot was so convoluted that I had a hard time following the story.

8. **Underscore**: to emphasise or to show that something is important or true.

- **Synonyms**: stress, accentuate
- **Antonyms**: downplay, understate
- **Example**: The detective tried to underscore the crucial details during the investigation.

9. **Dismal**: sad and without hope

- **Synonyms**: bleak, gloomy
- **Antonyms**: comforting, heartening
- **Example**: the economic report painted a dismal picture of declining market trends.

10. **Detrimental:** causing harm or damage.

- **Synonyms:** adverse, deleterious
- **Antonyms:** beneficial, wholesome
- **Example:** Excessive screen time before bedtime may have a detrimental impact on your sleep quality.

11. **Engender:** to make a feeling or situation exist.

- **Synonyms:** effect, induce
- **Antonyms:** halt, terminate
- **Example:** Education has the power to engender positive social change.

PHRASAL VERBS

12. **Hinge on:** to depend on something, or to need something in order to be successful.

APHORISM

13. **A rising tide lifts all boats:** when general economic conditions improve, everyone benefits, regardless of individual circumstances. It suggests that positive changes in the overall economy benefit everyone within that economy.

IDIOM

14. **At the root of:** the reason for something.