Stretch vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

1. THINK FIRST

anguish

TURN TO CHECK

Terrible suffering of the mind or body.

noun. Similar meanings: agony, torment, distress. Opposite meanings: comfort, bliss.

Her face twisted in anguish as she realised the letter from Grandpa had blown into the canal.

2. THINK FIRST

despondent

TURN TO CHECK

Very unhappy and without much hope that things will improve.

adjective. Similar meanings: hopeless, gloomy, defeated. Opposite meanings: hopeful, optimistic.

Weeks of rain had ruined the strawberries, and the growers were despondent about the summer.

3. THINK FIRST

forlorn

TURN TO CHECK

Sad and lonely, as if nobody cares or nothing can help.

adjective. Similar meanings: lonely, miserable, abandoned. Opposite meanings: hopeful, comforted.

A single forlorn puppy sat shivering by the gate, watching every car that passed without stopping.

4. THINK FIRST

seethe

TURN TO CHECK

To feel very angry.

verb. Similar meanings: fume, simmer, smoulder. Opposite meanings: calm down.

Hannah smiled politely at the referee, but underneath she was seething at the unfair decision.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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5. THINK FIRST

conscientious

TURN TO CHECK

Careful to do your work properly and to do what is right.

adjective. Similar meanings: diligent, dutiful, thorough. Opposite meanings: careless, negligent.

A conscientious monitor, Ravi checked every window was shut before leaving the classroom.

6. THINK FIRST

earnest

TURN TO CHECK

Very serious and sincere, meaning every word you say.

adjective. Similar meanings: serious, heartfelt, wholehearted. Opposite meanings: flippant, half-hearted.

In an earnest voice, Maya promised she would feed the guinea pigs every single morning.

7. THINK FIRST

fickle

TURN TO CHECK

Changing your mind or your likes very often and without good reason.

adjective. Similar meanings: changeable, unpredictable, flighty. Opposite meanings: loyal, constant.

Our fickle cat adores the salmon flavour one day and turns her nose up at it the next.

8. THINK FIRST

haughty

TURN TO CHECK

Proud and looking down on other people as if they are beneath you.

adjective. Similar meanings: snobbish, disdainful, superior. Opposite meanings: humble, modest.

With a haughty sniff, the duchess in the play refused to sit on the wooden bench.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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9. THINK FIRST

bolster

TURN TO CHECK

To support or strengthen something so it does not fail.

verb. Similar meanings: support, boost, strengthen. Opposite meanings: undermine, weaken.

A cheer from the crowd helped bolster the tired runners as they climbed the final hill.

10. THINK FIRST

magnanimous

TURN TO CHECK

Kind and forgiving towards others, especially those you have beaten.

adjective. Similar meanings: generous, forgiving, big-hearted. Opposite meanings: petty, spiteful.

The winning captain was magnanimous, praising the other team's goalkeeper in front of everyone.

11. THINK FIRST

assert

TURN TO CHECK

To state something firmly and confidently as a fact.

verb. Similar meanings: declare, claim, insist. Opposite meanings: deny, retract.

Maya asserted that the footprints in the mud belonged to a badger, not a fox.

12. THINK FIRST

interrogate

TURN TO CHECK

To ask someone many questions, often in a stern or forceful way.

verb. Similar meanings: question, quiz, cross-examine.

When the biscuit tin turned up empty, Gran interrogated each of us in turn.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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13. THINK FIRST

rebuke

TURN TO CHECK

To tell someone sharply that they have done something wrong.

verb. Similar meanings: scold, tell off, reprimand. Opposite meanings: praise, compliment.

The librarian rebuked the boys for sliding down the banister, though her eyes were twinkling.

14. THINK FIRST

lurch

TURN TO CHECK

To move suddenly and unsteadily, as if about to fall.

verb. Similar meanings: sway, pitch, reel. Opposite meanings: glide, steady.

The ferry lurched sideways as a big wave hit it, and everyone grabbed the rails.

15. THINK FIRST

manoeuvre

TURN TO CHECK

A careful or skilful movement, especially one that is tricky to do.

noun. Similar meanings: move, operation, tactic.

Getting the sofa up the narrow staircase took a clever manoeuvre and a lot of shouting.

16. THINK FIRST

saunter

TURN TO CHECK

To walk in a slow, relaxed way, as if you have all day.

verb. Similar meanings: stroll, amble, wander. Opposite meanings: hurry, dash.

Hands in pockets, Ollie sauntered along the promenade, licking an ice cream.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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17. THINK FIRST

toil

TURN TO CHECK

To work very hard for a long time at something tiring.

verb. Similar meanings: labour, slog, work hard. Opposite meanings: rest, relax.

All afternoon the volunteers toiled in the community garden behind the flats, digging out weeds in the heat.

18. THINK FIRST

contemplate

TURN TO CHECK

To think about something deeply and for a long time.

verb. Similar meanings: reflect on, think over, muse. Opposite meanings: ignore, dismiss.

Sitting on the harbour wall, Ruby contemplated what to do with the rest of the holidays.

19. THINK FIRST

conundrum

TURN TO CHECK

A confusing problem or question that is very hard to solve.

noun. Similar meanings: puzzle, riddle, problem.

How to fit six of us and the dog into Gran's tiny car was a real conundrum.

20. THINK FIRST

fathom

TURN TO CHECK

To understand something after thinking hard about it.

verb. Similar meanings: understand, work out, comprehend. Opposite meanings: misunderstand.

Nobody could fathom why the hens had stopped laying until we spotted the fox's tracks.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

21. THINK FIRST

lucid

TURN TO CHECK

Clear and easy to understand.

adjective. Similar meanings: clear, plain, coherent. Opposite meanings: confusing, muddled, obscure.

The guide gave such a lucid explanation of the tides that even my little brother followed it.

22. THINK FIRST

counterfeit

TURN TO CHECK

Made to look real in order to cheat people.

adjective. Similar meanings: fake, forged, imitation. Opposite meanings: genuine, authentic.

The bank clerk held the note up to the light and spotted at once that it was counterfeit.

23. THINK FIRST

guile

TURN TO CHECK

Sly cleverness used to trick or outwit other people.

noun. Similar meanings: cunning, craftiness, trickery. Opposite meanings: honesty, innocence.

With considerable guile, the smallest player drew the defenders left before passing the ball right.

24. THINK FIRST

ruse

TURN TO CHECK

A clever plan used to fool someone.

noun. Similar meanings: trick, ploy, dodge.

Pretending to have lost her scarf was just a ruse to get Mum out of the room.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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25. THINK FIRST

intrepid

TURN TO CHECK

Very brave when facing something difficult or dangerous.

adjective. Similar meanings: fearless, bold, daring. Opposite meanings: timid, cowardly.

Our intrepid guide waded straight into the icy stream while the rest of us hung back.

26. THINK FIRST

jeopardy

TURN TO CHECK

A state of being at risk of harm or loss.

noun. Similar meanings: danger, peril, risk. Opposite meanings: safety, security.

One more late library book and Sam's chance of the reading prize would be in jeopardy.

27. THINK FIRST

skirmish

TURN TO CHECK

A short, small fight between two groups.

noun. Similar meanings: scuffle, clash, tussle. Opposite meanings: truce, peace.

What began as a skirmish over the last slice of cake soon had every cousin involved.

28. THINK FIRST

dearth

TURN TO CHECK

A serious shortage of something that is needed.

noun. Similar meanings: shortage, lack, scarcity. Opposite meanings: abundance, surplus.

There was such a dearth of umbrellas at the fete that people sheltered under the cake stall.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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29. THINK FIRST

fluctuate

TURN TO CHECK

To keep changing, rising and falling without a steady pattern.

verb. Similar meanings: vary, waver, swing. Opposite meanings: stabilise, settle.

The temperature in the greenhouse fluctuated wildly, roasting the tomatoes by day and chilling them at night.

30. THINK FIRST

magnitude

TURN TO CHECK

The great size or importance of something.

noun. Similar meanings: size, scale, extent. Opposite meanings: smallness, insignificance.

Only when they reached the foot of the dam did the children grasp the magnitude of it.

31. THINK FIRST

paltry

TURN TO CHECK

So small an amount that it is almost worthless.

adjective. Similar meanings: measly, meagre, trifling. Opposite meanings: generous, substantial.

Ten pence was a paltry reward for an afternoon spent weeding Mr Okafor's entire allotment.

32. THINK FIRST

belated

TURN TO CHECK

Coming or happening later than it should have.

adjective. Similar meanings: late, overdue, delayed. Opposite meanings: punctual, prompt, timely.

Grandad's belated birthday card arrived in March, three weeks after the last slice of cake had gone.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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33. THINK FIRST

elapse

TURN TO CHECK

To pass or go by, used about time.

verb. Similar meanings: pass, go by, slip away. Opposite meanings: remain, stand still.

Three whole weeks elapsed before the seeds Amara had planted finally pushed through the soil.

34. THINK FIRST

fleeting

TURN TO CHECK

Lasting only a very short time.

adjective. Similar meanings: brief, momentary, passing. Opposite meanings: lasting, permanent.

We caught a fleeting glimpse of the kingfisher before it flashed away down the river.

35. THINK FIRST

precipice

TURN TO CHECK

A very high, steep cliff face or rock edge with a sheer drop.

noun. Similar meanings: cliff, sheer drop, crag.

The path ended at a precipice, and the sheep grazed calmly a metre from the drop.

36. THINK FIRST

secluded

TURN TO CHECK

Hidden away and not easily seen; quiet and private.

adjective. Similar meanings: hidden, sheltered, private, tucked away. Opposite meanings: exposed, busy.

Behind the tall hedge lay a secluded garden that few visitors to the park ever found.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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37. THINK FIRST

undulating

TURN TO CHECK

Describing land that rises and falls gently in wave-like slopes.

adjective. Similar meanings: rolling, wavy, hilly. Opposite meanings: flat, level.

From the train window we watched undulating fields roll past like a green sea.

38. THINK FIRST

cacophony

TURN TO CHECK

A harsh, unpleasant mixture of loud sounds all happening at once.

noun. Similar meanings: din, racket, uproar, clamour. Opposite meanings: harmony, silence.

The school orchestra's first practice was a cacophony of squeaks, honks and clattering cymbals.

39. THINK FIRST

dappled

TURN TO CHECK

Describing something marked with patches of light and shade or colour.

adjective. Similar meanings: speckled, mottled, spotted, flecked. Opposite meanings: plain, uniform.

The pony stood in dappled shade beneath the apple tree, spots of sunlight moving on its back.

40. THINK FIRST

pungent

TURN TO CHECK

Strong, sharp and hard to ignore, of a smell or taste.

adjective. Similar meanings: sharp, strong, acrid, overpowering. Opposite meanings: mild, bland.

The pungent smell of vinegar from the chip shop reached us before we turned the corner.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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41. THINK FIRST

translucent

TURN TO CHECK

Describing something that lets light through but is not fully see-through.

adjective. Similar meanings: semi-transparent, frosted, milky. Opposite meanings: opaque.

The sea glass was translucent, glowing green when Amira held it up to the sun.

42. THINK FIRST

evoke

TURN TO CHECK

To bring a feeling, memory or picture into someone's mind.

verb. Similar meanings: summon, conjure up, stir, call to mind. Opposite meanings: dispel, blot out.

The smell of chlorine can evoke the whole of last summer's swimming holiday in a second.

43. THINK FIRST

hyperbole

TURN TO CHECK

Deliberate exaggeration used for effect, not meant to be taken literally.

noun. Similar meanings: exaggeration, overstatement. Opposite meanings: understatement.

'I've told you a million times to shut the gate' is hyperbole, not a real count.

44. THINK FIRST

irony

TURN TO CHECK

In verbal irony, someone says the opposite of what they mean, often for humour.

noun. Similar meanings: verbal irony, ironic expression. Opposite meanings: sincerity, earnestness.

'Lovely weather for a picnic,' said Mum with irony, as hail bounced off the car roof.

Stretch vocabulary flashcards

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45. THINK FIRST

invariably

TURN TO CHECK

Always happening in the same way, without a single exception.

adverb. Similar meanings: always, without fail, unfailingly, consistently. Opposite meanings: occasionally, sometimes.

The ice-cream van invariably arrives just as we sit down to dinner.

46. THINK FIRST

notwithstanding

TURN TO CHECK

Used to say that something is true in spite of another thing.

preposition. Similar meanings: despite, in spite of, regardless of.

Notwithstanding the wasps, the picnic by the canal was a great success.

47. THINK FIRST

subsequently

TURN TO CHECK

After that; at a later time.

adverb. Similar meanings: afterwards, later, next. Opposite meanings: previously, beforehand.

The library flooded in January and subsequently closed for three months while the carpets dried out.