



Test Ninjas

VOCABULARY STUDY SERIES

GRE VOCABULARY

GRE Vocabulary: Character & Temperament

174 focused words in Character & Temperament

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UNIQUE WORDS

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CATEGORIES

GRE

EXAM FOCUS



About this study guide

This vocabulary guide was prepared and published by Test Ninjas as an independent study resource. It is designed to help students build the precise word knowledge needed for demanding academic reading and reasoning.

How to use this guide

Study in short, repeated sessions. Read each definition, say the word aloud, and use the example to understand how the word functions in context. Return to unfamiliar words until you can explain them without looking at the definition.

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001 abstemious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not self-indulgent, especially regarding eating and drinking; moderate

Her **abstemious** lifestyle stood in stark contrast to the lavish habits of her peers.

MEMORY CUE: At the feast, an abstemious guest takes only a modest portion.

002 acquisitive *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Excessively interested in acquiring money or material things; greedy

The **acquisitive** collector amassed over three thousand rare manuscripts in a single decade.

MEMORY CUE: An acquisitive shopper keeps acquiring bags but never feels satisfied.

003 acquisitiveness *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Excessive interest in acquiring money or material things; greediness

Her **acquisitiveness** extended beyond material goods to an insatiable hunger for knowledge and credentials.

MEMORY CUE: Picture acquisitiveness as grasping hands continually reaching for more possessions.

004 adroit *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Clever or skillful in using the hands or mind

The diplomat was **adroit** at navigating complex international negotiations.

MEMORY CUE: An adroit hand moves deftly through a delicate repair.

005 affability *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The quality of being friendly, good-natured, and easy to talk to

The diplomat's **affability** masked a shrewd and calculating mind that rarely conceded a negotiating point.

MEMORY CUE: Affability opens a friendly conversational door that makes others comfortable.

006 alacrity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Brisk and cheerful readiness; eager willingness

The volunteers accepted the challenging assignment with surprising **alacrity**.

MEMORY CUE: Alacrity looks like springing up cheerfully before anyone finishes asking.

007 aloof *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant; detached

The professor remained **aloof** during department meetings, contributing only when directly addressed.

MEMORY CUE: An aloof person stands behind a distant closed gate while others gather.

008 aloofness *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The state of being distant or detached in manner

What some interpreted as **aloofness** was actually a profound shyness that the novelist never fully overcame.

MEMORY CUE: Aloofness stands apart on a balcony, cool and emotionally distant.

009 ambivalence *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The state of having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something

The memoir captures the author's **ambivalence** toward her hometown—a place she both loved and longed to escape.

MEMORY CUE: Ambivalence is an emotional tug-of-war: one feeling pulls yes while another pulls no.

010 amenable *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled; susceptible

The committee proved **amenable** to revising the policy once presented with compelling new data.

MEMORY CUE: An amenable mind opens its door to suggestion and persuasion.

011 apathetic *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Showing or feeling no interest, enthusiasm, or concern; indifferent

Voter turnout dropped to historic lows as an increasingly **apathetic** electorate lost faith in both parties.

MEMORY CUE: An apathetic person sleeps while an exciting parade passes by.

012 apathy *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern

The administration mistook the public's **apathy** for approval and was blindsided by the backlash that followed.

MEMORY CUE: Apathy shrugs without interest, energy, enthusiasm, or concern.

013 apprehensive *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen

The crew grew **apprehensive** as storm clouds gathered on the horizon with no harbor in sight.

MEMORY CUE: An apprehensive person watches tomorrow's calendar beneath an anxiety cloud.

014 ardor *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Enthusiasm or passion; intense feeling

She pursued her research with an **ardor** that inspired her graduate students.

MEMORY CUE: Ardor burns like a warm inner fire of passion and enthusiasm.

015 arrogance *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

An exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities; overbearing pride

The general's **arrogance** blinded him to the tactical advantages his opponents possessed in the rugged terrain.

MEMORY CUE: Arrogance inflates a person's importance until everyone else looks small.

016 ascetic *adjective/noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from indulgence

The philosopher lived an **ascetic** life, owning nothing beyond a few books and simple clothing.

MEMORY CUE: An ascetic strips life down through strict discipline and denied pleasures.

017 astute *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Having an ability to accurately assess situations and turn them to one's advantage; shrewd

The **astute** investor recognized the market trend months before her competitors.

MEMORY CUE: An astute observer spots the crucial clue and makes a sharp judgment.

018 audacious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks; impudent

The **audacious** plan to restructure the entire department met with both admiration and resistance.

MEMORY CUE: An audacious climber boldly steps onto the risky ledge.

019 austere *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance; having no comforts or luxuries

The monastery's **austere** stone walls and bare furnishings reflected the monks' commitment to simplicity.

MEMORY CUE: An austere room has bare stone walls, strict lines, and no comfort.

020 austerity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Severity or strictness of manner or attitude; extreme plainness and simplicity of style; conditions of reduced spending

Years of government **austerity** left hospitals underfunded and schools struggling to retain qualified teachers.

MEMORY CUE: Austerity removes comforts and spending until only strict necessities remain.

021 avarice *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Extreme greed for wealth or material gain

The novel paints a portrait of corporate **avarice** at the expense of environmental responsibility.

MEMORY CUE: Avarice is a vault whose greedy owner always demands more gold.

022 avidity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Extreme eagerness or enthusiasm; keen interest

The young scholar pursued rare manuscripts with an **avidity** that impressed even the most seasoned bibliophiles.

MEMORY CUE: Avidity is eagerness with both hands reaching enthusiastically toward an interest.

023 avidly *adverb***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

With great interest, enthusiasm, or eagerness

He **avidly** consumed every new publication on quantum mechanics, filling notebook after notebook with questions.

MEMORY CUE: Someone reading avidly devours each page with intense interest.

024 belligerent *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Hostile and aggressive; eager to fight

The ambassador's **belligerent** tone during the summit alarmed delegates who had come expecting constructive dialogue.

MEMORY CUE: A belligerent person raises fists and eagerly starts a conflict.

025 **bemused** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Puzzled, confused, or bewildered

The professor looked **bemused** when a student challenged the foundational premise of the entire lecture.

MEMORY CUE: A bemused listener wears a puzzled expression, unsure what just happened.

026 **benign** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Gentle, kindly; not harmful in effect

What initially appeared to be a **benign** policy shift turned out to have far-reaching economic consequences.

MEMORY CUE: A benign presence offers a gentle hand that causes no harm.

027 **benignity** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

The quality of being gentle, kind, or harmless

The queen's reputation for **benignity** endeared her to subjects who had suffered under her predecessor's harsh rule.

MEMORY CUE: Benignity is gentle kindness that intends and causes no harm.

028 **blithe** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper

His **blithe** disregard for the safety regulations eventually led to a serious accident.

MEMORY CUE: A blithe person whistles cheerfully while ignoring a serious danger.

029 **capricious** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Given to sudden, unpredictable changes of mood or behavior

The **capricious** funding decisions of the arts council left theater companies unable to plan more than a season ahead.

MEMORY CUE: A capricious mood arrow changes direction without warning.

030 **circumspect** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Wary and unwilling to take risks; careful to consider all circumstances

A **circumspect** leader, she consulted advisors from across the political spectrum before making any major decision.

MEMORY CUE: A circumspect traveler looks around every side before taking a risk.

031 **civility** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech

Even in the heat of the debate, both candidates maintained a level of **civility** that impressed the moderators.

MEMORY CUE: Civility keeps speech formally polite even during sharp disagreement.

032 **complacency** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

A feeling of smug self-satisfaction with oneself or one's situation, unaware of potential dangers

The team's early success bred **complacency**, and by midseason their performance had deteriorated sharply.

MEMORY CUE: Complacency naps smugly while an unnoticed danger approaches.

033 **consummate** *adjective/verb*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Showing a high degree of skill and flair; complete in every detail

A **consummate** professional, she handled the crisis with poise and efficiency.

MEMORY CUE: A consummate performer completes every detail with exceptional mastery.

034 **contrite** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Feeling or expressing remorse at having done wrong

The **contrite** executive issued a public apology for the company's lapses in safety.

MEMORY CUE: A contrite wrongdoer lowers their head in sincere remorse.

035 **crestfallen** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Sad and disappointed; dejected

The **crestfallen** candidate conceded the election shortly after midnight, thanking supporters through tears.

MEMORY CUE: A crestfallen person's lifted crest droops with disappointment.

036 **cynical** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Believing that people are motivated purely by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity

The columnist took a **cynical** view of the politician's sudden interest in education reform during an election year.

MEMORY CUE: A cynical observer assumes a generous act hides selfish motives.

037 cynicism *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A distrustful and contemptuous attitude toward the motives of others

Years of broken promises had bred a deep **cynicism** among voters who once believed in the democratic process.

MEMORY CUE: Cynicism wears dark glasses that make every motive look selfish.

038 daunt *verb***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

To make someone feel intimidated or apprehensive

The sheer scale of the project did not **daunt** the experienced architect.

MEMORY CUE: A towering challenge can daunt you by making courage shrink.

039 demeanor *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Outward behavior or bearing

The witness's calm **demeanor** under cross-examination impressed the jury more than any single piece of evidence.

MEMORY CUE: Demeanor is the outward manner others see you carrying.

040 desultory *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; occurring randomly or intermittently

Their **desultory** conversation touched on many topics but explored none in depth.

MEMORY CUE: Desultory effort wanders among random arrows with no plan, purpose, or enthusiasm.

041 detached *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Separate; aloof and objective; not involved emotionally

The journalist maintained a **detached** perspective, reporting the facts without editorializing about either side.

MEMORY CUE: A detached observer stands apart, separate and emotionally uninvolved.

042 detachment *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The state of being objective, aloof, or emotionally uninvolved

Scientific **detachment** is essential when evaluating data, especially when the results challenge one's own hypothesis.

MEMORY CUE: Detachment unhooks emotion so judgment can remain objective and aloof.

043 diffidence *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Modesty or shyness resulting from a lack of self-confidence

His **diffidence** in social settings contrasted sharply with the confidence he displayed in the laboratory.

MEMORY CUE: Diffidence whispers from the back row, held there by low confidence.

044 dilatory *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Slow to act; intended to cause delay

The committee's **dilatory** tactics prevented the bill from reaching a vote before the recess.

MEMORY CUE: A dilatory response drags its feet in order to delay.

045 dilettante *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

A person who cultivates an area of interest without real commitment or knowledge; an amateur

Serious scholars dismissed him as a **dilettante** who lacked the rigor for genuine research.

MEMORY CUE: A dilettante samples an art but never digs deeply enough for mastery.

046 disaffection *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

A state of dissatisfaction, especially with people in authority or a system of control

Growing **disaffection** among the rank and file led to a wave of strikes across the industrial sector.

MEMORY CUE: Disaffection is loyalty souring into dissatisfaction with leaders or institutions.

047 disgruntled *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Angry or dissatisfied; discontented

Disgruntled employees leaked internal documents that revealed unsafe working conditions at the plant.

MEMORY CUE: A disgruntled worker wears an angry frown beside an empty satisfaction gauge.

048 dispassionate *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Not influenced by strong emotion; able to be rational and impartial

A **dispassionate** analysis of the evidence reveals that both sides of the debate have overstated their case.

MEMORY CUE: A dispassionate judge moves emotion aside and weighs facts rationally.

049 disposition *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A person's inherent qualities of mind and character; temperament

The child's cheerful **disposition** endeared her to teachers and classmates alike.

MEMORY CUE: Disposition is the inner tilt of a person's characteristic temperament.

050 dogmatism *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The tendency to lay down principles as incontrovertibly true, without consideration of evidence

The scientist's **dogmatism** about her theory prevented her from considering evidence that might have led to a breakthrough.

MEMORY CUE: Dogmatism bolts a belief shut against evidence or reconsideration.

051 dolorous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Feeling or expressing great sorrow or distress

The cellist's **dolorous** interpretation of the elegy moved several audience members to tears.

MEMORY CUE: A dolorous song carries deep sorrow in every mournful note.

052 ebullient *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Cheerful and full of energy; enthusiastic

The **ebullient** crowd erupted in applause when the results were announced.

MEMORY CUE: Ebullient joy bubbles over with cheerful energy.

053 eccentric *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Unconventional and slightly strange; deviating from the norm

The **eccentric** mathematician lived in near-total seclusion, communicating with colleagues only through handwritten letters.

MEMORY CUE: An eccentric orbit circles away from the conventional center.

054 ecstatic *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Feeling or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement

The team was **ecstatic** when the probe successfully landed on the asteroid after a seven-year journey.

MEMORY CUE: An ecstatic figure bursts upward with overwhelming happiness.

055 effrontery *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Insolent or impertinent behavior; shameless boldness

The employee had the **effrontery** to demand a raise after being reprimanded for chronic tardiness.

MEMORY CUE: Effrontery barges forward with shameless, insolent boldness.

056 effusiveness *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

The quality of expressing feelings of gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained way

The critic's **effusiveness** about the debut novel struck some readers as excessive, setting unrealistic expectations.

MEMORY CUE: Effusiveness overflows like praise poured too freely from a full pitcher.

057 elated *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Ecstatically happy; in high spirits

The researchers were **elated** when the clinical trial produced results that exceeded even their most optimistic projections.

MEMORY CUE: An elated person floats upward beneath balloons of ecstatic happiness.

058 ennui *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

A feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of excitement; boredom

The existentialist novel captured the profound **ennui** of postwar European intellectuals.

MEMORY CUE: Ennui is boredom stretched into listless dissatisfaction with everything available.

059 equanimity *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation

She faced the devastating news with remarkable **equanimity**, calmly reassuring her colleagues.

MEMORY CUE: Equanimity keeps the mind's scales level during a difficult storm.

060 euphoric *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Characterized by or feeling intense excitement and happiness

The nation was **euphoric** after winning the World Cup, with celebrations lasting well into the following week.

MEMORY CUE: A euphoric person rises on a surge of intense excitement and happiness.

061 exuberant *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Filled with energy, excitement, and cheerfulness; lavishly abundant

The **exuberant** crowd spilled out of the stadium and into the streets, singing and waving flags.

MEMORY CUE: Exuberant energy bursts outward like bright confetti from a lively person.

062 fastidious *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail; meticulous

The **fastidious** editor reviewed every footnote and citation in the manuscript.

MEMORY CUE: A fastidious inspector spots one tiny speck and insists on exact accuracy.

063 fastidiousness *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Excessive attention to detail and accuracy; meticulous care

The curator's **fastidiousness** about proper lighting conditions preserved the collection's fragile watercolors for future generations.

MEMORY CUE: Fastidiousness uses a magnifying glass to perfect every tiny detail.

064 fatuous *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Silly and pointless; devoid of intelligence

The interviewer's **fatuous** questions wasted the time of the distinguished panelists.

MEMORY CUE: A fatuous remark sounds foolish, empty, and entirely pointless.

065 fervent *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Having or displaying a passionate intensity

The **fervent** supporters lined up hours before the rally to secure front-row positions.

MEMORY CUE: A fervent belief burns with a steady flame of passionate intensity.

066 finesse *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Impressive delicacy and skill; subtle handling of a situation

The conductor led the orchestra with a **finesse** that brought out subtleties in the score no one had noticed before.

MEMORY CUE: Finesse handles a delicate problem with subtle skill instead of force.

067 fixated *adjective / past participle***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Obsessively focused on or attached to something; unable to shift attention

The researcher became so **fixated** on one hypothesis that she overlooked data pointing to a far simpler explanation.

MEMORY CUE: A fixated gaze is mentally glued to one object or concern.

068 fractiousness *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The quality of being irritable, quarrelsome, or difficult to control

The **fractiousness** of the coalition government made it nearly impossible to pass any significant legislation.

MEMORY CUE: Fractiousness makes cooperation crack into irritation, rebellion, and quarrels.

069 frivolity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lack of seriousness; lightheartedness; triviality

The philosopher condemned the court's **frivolity** at a time when the nation faced existential threats on every border.

MEMORY CUE: Frivolity tosses serious purpose aside for light, trivial amusement.

070 frivolous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not having any serious purpose or value; trivial

The judge dismissed the lawsuit as **frivolous**, noting that the plaintiff had no legal standing to bring the claim.

MEMORY CUE: A frivolous lawsuit has little serious purpose or value.

071 gauche *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lacking ease or grace; unsophisticated and socially awkward

His **gauche** attempt at humor during the formal dinner offended several guests.

MEMORY CUE: A gauche guest moves left-footedly through an awkward social encounter.

072 gawkiness *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Nervously awkward and ungainly quality of movement

The adolescent **gawkiness** of the young dancer gave way, almost overnight, to a graceful command of the stage.

MEMORY CUE: Gawkiness tangles long limbs into nervous, awkward movement.

073 gracious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Courteous, kind, and pleasant; showing grace and good manners

The host was unfailingly **gracious**, making even the most reserved guests feel welcome at the reception.

MEMORY CUE: A gracious host makes kindness, courtesy, and good manners feel effortless.

074 gregarious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Fond of company; sociable; tending to live in groups

The **gregarious** sales director thrived at networking events and industry conferences.

MEMORY CUE: A gregarious person happily moves toward the center of every group.

075 hedonistic *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Devoted to the pursuit of pleasure; self-indulgent

The novel's protagonist abandons a **hedonistic** lifestyle in Rome to pursue spiritual meaning in a remote monastery.

MEMORY CUE: A hedonistic life treats pleasure as the destination of every choice.

076 hoarding *noun/verb***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The practice of accumulating and storing a supply of something, often secretly

Panic buying led to the **hoarding** of essential supplies, leaving store shelves empty for weeks.

MEMORY CUE: Hoarding piles supplies into a hidden heap instead of using or sharing.

077 hubris *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Excessive pride or self-confidence; arrogance

The CEO's **hubris** in dismissing all outside advice led directly to the company's spectacular collapse.

MEMORY CUE: Hubris builds an enormous self-confidence tower that eventually tips into downfall.

078 humdrum *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lacking excitement or variety; dull and monotonous

The memoir transforms the **humdrum** details of small-town life into a meditation on the nature of happiness.

MEMORY CUE: Humdrum days hum the same dull, monotonous tune.

079 impasse *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A situation in which no progress is possible; a deadlock

The negotiations reached an **impasse** when neither side would compromise on the key issue.

MEMORY CUE: An impasse is a solid wall where opposing routes can make no progress.

080 impassioned *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Filled with or showing great emotion or feeling

The senator delivered an **impassioned** speech on the Senate floor, drawing on personal experience to advocate for the bill.

MEMORY CUE: An impassioned plea burns with intense feeling and emotion.

081 imperiously *adverb***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

In a manner befitting an emperor; in a domineering, arrogantly overbearing way

The director **imperiously** dismissed suggestions from the cast, insisting that every scene be performed exactly as she envisioned.

MEMORY CUE: An imperious command sounds like an emperor expecting instant obedience.

082 impervious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not allowing fluid to pass through; unable to be affected by

The senator seemed **impervious** to criticism, maintaining her position despite intense public pressure.

MEMORY CUE: An impervious raincoat lets no water or outside effect pass through.

083 impetuous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Acting or done quickly without thought or care; rash; impulsive

The young officer's **impetuous** charge into enemy territory cost the regiment dearly in both lives and strategic position.

MEMORY CUE: An impetuous person leaps before the THINK sign can light.

084 impetuously *adverb***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Acting quickly and without thought or care; rashly

She **impetuously** signed the contract without reading the fine print and spent the next year regretting it.

MEMORY CUE: Acting impetuously means leaping first and leaving thought behind.

085 imprudent *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not showing care for the consequences of an action; rash

The treasurer's **imprudent** investments of pension funds in volatile markets left retirees facing an uncertain future.

MEMORY CUE: An imprudent person runs past the consequences sign without checking the danger.

086 indecision *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The inability to make a decision quickly; vacillation

The general's **indecision** at the critical moment allowed the enemy to regroup and mount a devastating counterattack.

MEMORY CUE: Indecision stands frozen between two doors, unable to choose.

087 indecorous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not in keeping with good taste and propriety; improper

The diplomat's **indecorous** remark at the state dinner created an international incident that took weeks to smooth over.

MEMORY CUE: An indecorous joke violates the room's standards of proper behavior.

088 indifferent *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Having no particular interest or concern; apathetic

The committee appeared **indifferent** to the concerns raised by residents who would be most affected by the rezoning.

MEMORY CUE: An indifferent person shows no movement on the interest or concern gauge.

089 indolent *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Wanting to avoid activity or exertion; lazy

The **indolent** student relied on natural talent rather than effort to pass his courses.

MEMORY CUE: An indolent person avoids the task list and returns to the hammock.

090 infatuation *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

An intense but short-lived passion or admiration for someone or something

What began as an **infatuation** with the city's nightlife gradually deepened into a genuine appreciation for its culture.

MEMORY CUE: Infatuation is a bright, intense flame that often burns out quickly.

091 injudicious *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Showing very poor judgment; unwise

The manager's **injudicious** comments to the press revealed confidential details about the merger negotiations.

MEMORY CUE: An injudicious choice ignores judgment and proves unwise.

092 intemperate *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Having or showing a lack of self-control; immoderate

His **intemperate** outburst at the press conference drew widespread condemnation.

MEMORY CUE: Intemperate behavior breaks the thermostat of self-control and becomes excessive.

093 intrepid *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Fearless; adventurous and brave

The **intrepid** journalist traveled to the conflict zone to report firsthand on the situation.

MEMORY CUE: An intrepid explorer walks fearlessly into an unknown adventure.

094 intrinsic frivolity *noun phrase*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

An inherent quality of lacking seriousness or being trivially silly

The critic dismissed the entire genre on the grounds of its **intrinsic frivolity**, a judgment many readers found unfair.

MEMORY CUE: Intrinsic frivolity means unserious silliness is built into the thing's nature.

095 inured *adjective/verb*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Accustomed to something unpleasant; hardened

Decades of covering war zones had **inured** the journalist to scenes that would shock most civilians.

MEMORY CUE: Someone inured to noise has hardened through repeated unpleasant exposure.

096 inveterate *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Having a habit or interest that is long-established and unlikely to change

An **inveterate** optimist, she believed every setback contained the seed of an opportunity.

MEMORY CUE: An inveterate habit has deep old roots that resist being pulled.

097 irascible *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Having or showing a tendency to be easily angered

The **irascible** professor was known for snapping at students who arrived late to class.

MEMORY CUE: An irascible person has an anger switch that flips very easily.

098 largesse *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Generosity in bestowing money or gifts upon others

The philanthropist's **largesse** funded the construction of three new hospitals.

MEMORY CUE: Largesse opens a large hand to bestow money or generous gifts.

099 lassitude *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A state of physical or mental weariness; lack of energy

A pervasive **lassitude** settled over the office during the long, hot summer afternoons.

MEMORY CUE: Lassitude feels like heavy blankets of weariness draining every impulse to move.

100 lethargic *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Affected by lethargy; sluggish and apathetic

The **lethargic** economy showed few signs of the recovery experts had predicted.

MEMORY CUE: A lethargic figure moves slowly beside a nearly empty energy gauge.

101 levity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Humor or lack of seriousness, especially during a serious occasion

A moment of **levity** during the tense negotiations helped ease the mood.

MEMORY CUE: Levity makes a heavy occasion briefly lighter with humor.

102 magnanimous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Very generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person

The victor proved **magnanimous** in defeat's reverse, pardoning former adversaries and inviting them into the new government.

MEMORY CUE: A magnanimous winner offers a generous hand to the defeated rival.

103 malevolence *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The state or condition of being malevolent; the quality of wishing evil to others

The novel's villain is driven not by rational self-interest but by a deep, almost primal **malevolence**.

MEMORY CUE: Malevolence secretly wishes that harm or evil will reach another.

104 malignant *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Disposed to cause harm or suffering; virulently harmful

The **malignant** influence of propaganda warped public opinion and silenced legitimate dissent.

MEMORY CUE: A malignant force grows aggressively and is disposed to cause harm.

105 malleable *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Easily influenced; pliable; capable of being shaped or formed

Young minds are particularly **malleable**, making early education critically important.

MEMORY CUE: Malleable clay bends easily under another hand's influence.

106 menacing *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Suggesting the presence of danger; threatening

The **menacing** tone of the ultimatum left little doubt that military action would follow if demands were not met.

MEMORY CUE: A menacing shadow suggests danger is approaching.

107 mercurial *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Subject to sudden or unpredictable changes; volatile

The director's **mercurial** temperament made rehearsals unpredictable—praise one moment, fury the next.

MEMORY CUE: A mercurial mood moves like liquid mercury, changing direction suddenly.

108 meticulous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise

The restorer's **meticulous** attention to detail preserved the painting's original colors beneath centuries of grime.

MEMORY CUE: A meticulous inspector checks every tiny detail with a precision lens.

109 monotonous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety

The **monotonous** landscape of the salt flats stretched to the horizon without a single distinguishing feature.

MEMORY CUE: A monotonous sound repeats one tone until attention turns dull.

110 morose *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Sullen and ill-tempered; gloomy

The **morose** atmosphere in the office reflected the anxiety everyone felt about the impending layoffs.

MEMORY CUE: A morose person sits beneath a dark cloud with a sullen frown.

111 mundane *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lacking interest or excitement; dull; of this earthly world rather than heavenly

The biographer refused to gloss over the **mundane** details of the artist's life, finding in them clues to her creative process.

MEMORY CUE: A mundane routine rolls through the same dull, everyday motions.

112 munificent *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Larger or more generous than is usual or necessary

The **munificent** donation transformed the small library into a state-of-the-art research facility.

MEMORY CUE: A munificent giver sends an unusually enormous mountain of gifts.

113 myopic *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Lacking imagination, foresight, or intellectual insight; nearsighted

Critics called the economic plan **myopic**, arguing it sacrificed long-term stability for short-term gain.

MEMORY CUE: A myopic plan sees what is near but misses distant consequences.

114 nausea *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A feeling of sickness with an inclination to vomit

The side effects of the treatment included **nausea**, dizziness, and fatigue that persisted for several days.

MEMORY CUE: Nausea turns the stomach toward the urge to vomit.

115 nefarious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Wicked, villainous, or criminal in nature

The investigation uncovered the **nefarious** scheme to defraud thousands of elderly investors.

MEMORY CUE: A nefarious plan travels a dark path marked wicked and criminal.

116 neophyte *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A person who is new to a subject, skill, or belief; a beginner

As a **neophyte** in the world of finance, she relied heavily on her experienced colleagues.

MEMORY CUE: A neophyte is newly planted in a field of knowledge.

117 nonchalant *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed; not displaying anxiety

Despite the gravity of the accusations, the defendant maintained a **nonchalant** demeanor.

MEMORY CUE: A nonchalant person calmly sips tea while a high-stakes clock ticks.

118 obdurate *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action; hard-hearted

The **obdurate** negotiator refused to make even the smallest concession.

MEMORY CUE: An obdurate mind is a hard door stubbornly refusing to move.

119 oblivious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around one

The tourists were **oblivious** to the historical significance of the ruins they were casually photographing.

MEMORY CUE: An oblivious person ignores the parade passing directly behind them.

120 obsequious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Excessively compliant or submissive; fawning

The courtier's **obsequious** flattery disgusted even the king, who preferred honest counsel to empty praise.

MEMORY CUE: An obsequious servant bows excessively while flattering every command.

121 officious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Asserting authority in a domineering way, especially regarding trivial matters

The **officious** bureaucrat insisted on reviewing every minor procedural detail.

MEMORY CUE: An officious busybody acts like an officer over every trivial matter.

122 **ostentatious** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress

The **ostentatious** mansion stood in stark contrast to the modest homes surrounding it.

MEMORY CUE: An ostentatious display flashes jewels and signs demanding LOOK AT ME.

123 **overweening** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Showing excessive confidence or pride; arrogant, presumptuous

The general's **overweening** confidence in his strategy blinded him to the vulnerabilities his opponents would exploit.

MEMORY CUE: Overweening pride swells beyond proper limits into arrogant presumption.

124 **panache** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Flamboyant confidence of style or manner; dash and verve

The chef presented each dish with a **panache** that transformed a simple meal into a theatrical experience.

MEMORY CUE: Panache enters the room wearing flamboyant style and fearless confidence.

125 **penchant** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

A strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something

The director had a **penchant** for casting unknown actors in leading roles.

MEMORY CUE: A penchant is a strong habitual leaning toward a favorite activity.

126 **penitential** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Relating to or expressing penitence (sorrow and regret for sin or wrongdoing); self-punishing

The pilgrim's **penitential** journey across the desert was meant to atone for a lifetime of perceived moral failings.

MEMORY CUE: A penitential act bends under sorrow and regret for wrongdoing.

127 **peremptory** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Insisting on immediate attention or obedience, especially in a brusquely imperious way

The CEO's **peremptory** directive left no room for discussion or dissent.

MEMORY CUE: A peremptory command slams the door on discussion and demands immediate obedience.

128 **perfunctoriness** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

The quality of carrying out a duty with minimal effort; superficial or cursory treatment

The **perfunctoriness** of the safety inspection—lasting barely five minutes—raised serious concerns about regulatory oversight.

MEMORY CUE: Perfunctoriness checks the box with minimal effort and no real care.

129 **phlegmatic** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Having an unemotional and calm disposition; not easily excited

The **phlegmatic** captain remained calm as the crew panicked during the storm.

MEMORY CUE: A phlegmatic person remains cool and unemotional while others become excited.

130 **piously** *adverb*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

In a devoutly religious manner; with hypocritical righteousness

The senator **piously** invoked family values while voting against legislation that would have supported working parents.

MEMORY CUE: Someone acting piously displays religious devotion, sincerely or self-righteously.

131 **placid** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Not easily upset or excited; calm and peaceful

The village's **placid** exterior concealed long-simmering tensions between old residents and recent arrivals.

MEMORY CUE: A placid pond remains calm and peaceful without a ripple.

132 **precocious** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Having developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual

The **precocious** child was reading university-level textbooks by the age of ten.

MEMORY CUE: A precocious child reaches an advanced skill rung years earlier than expected.

133 **predilection** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

A preference or special liking for something; a bias in favor of something

The curator's **predilection** for abstract art was evident in every exhibition she organized.

MEMORY CUE: A predilection is a preference leaning toward one favored choice.

134 prodigies *noun (plural)***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

People, especially young ones, endowed with exceptional abilities or qualities

Musical **prodigies** often face immense pressure to fulfill the expectations placed on them before they reach adulthood.

MEMORY CUE: Prodigies display exceptional ability while still remarkably young.

135 propensity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

An inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way

His **propensity** for exaggeration made his colleagues skeptical of his claims.

MEMORY CUE: A propensity is an inner slope naturally tilting behavior one way.

136 pugnacious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight; combative

The **pugnacious** debater challenged every point raised by the opposing team.

MEMORY CUE: A pugnacious person keeps argumentative fists mentally raised for a fight.

137 punctilious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Showing great attention to detail or correct behavior

The **punctilious** accountant double-checked every figure in the annual report.

MEMORY CUE: A punctilious editor checks every punctuation mark and minute detail.

138 querulous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Complaining in a petulant or whining manner

The **querulous** tone of the letter undermined the validity of its legitimate complaints.

MEMORY CUE: A querulous voice whines repeatedly about every small irritation.

139 quixotic *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical

The senator's **quixotic** campaign to abolish the electoral college attracted idealistic supporters but few political allies.

MEMORY CUE: A quixotic knight charges an impossible windmill for an idealistic dream.

140 reclusiveness *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The tendency to avoid others; living in seclusion

The author's **reclusiveness** only intensified public curiosity, turning every rare interview into front-page news.

MEMORY CUE: Reclusiveness draws the curtains and withdraws from other people.

141 reluctance *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Unwillingness or disinclination to do something

Her **reluctance** to publish the findings stemmed not from doubt about their accuracy but from concern about their implications.

MEMORY CUE: Reluctance pulls backward when action asks you to move forward.

142 resilience *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The capacity to recover quickly or withstand difficulty

The community's **resilience** in the face of repeated natural disasters became a model studied by disaster preparedness agencies.

MEMORY CUE: Resilience is a spring that bends under pressure and quickly returns to shape.

143 resolute *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering

The captain remained **resolute** in her decision to stay the course, even as the storm intensified around the ship.

MEMORY CUE: A resolute person anchors both feet and points firmly toward the chosen goal.

144 restive *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Restlessly impatient; unable to keep still; uneasy

The **restive** crowd grew increasingly agitated as the delay stretched from minutes into hours.

MEMORY CUE: A restive crowd cannot rest, growing impatient and uneasy.

145 reticence *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The quality of being reserved or restrained in manner; reluctance to speak freely

The scientist's **reticence** about discussing his methodology raised suspicions among colleagues who valued transparency.

MEMORY CUE: Reticence keeps words behind closed lips through reserve or restraint.

146 reticent *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily; reserved

Normally **reticent** in interviews, the reclusive novelist surprised everyone by speaking candidly about her creative process.

MEMORY CUE: A reticent person keeps thoughts behind a zipped mouth.

147 rigidity *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The quality of being unyielding, stiff, or inflexible

The **rigidity** of the curriculum left teachers no room to adapt lessons to the needs of individual students.

MEMORY CUE: Rigidity keeps a structure or opinion stiff, unyielding, and inflexible.

148 rumination *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Deep, careful thought or contemplation

The essay is less an argument than a **rumination**—a thoughtful, meandering reflection on the nature of memory.

MEMORY CUE: Rumination slowly chews an idea through deep, repeated thought.

149 sagacious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; shrewd

The **sagacious** investor foresaw the market downturn and adjusted her portfolio accordingly.

MEMORY CUE: A sagacious guide combines sharp discernment with a well-worn book of wisdom.

150 sanguine *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Optimistic or positive, especially in a difficult situation

Despite the grim economic forecasts, the finance minister remained **sanguine** about the country's long-term prospects.

MEMORY CUE: A sanguine person holds a bright sun above a storm and expects a good outcome.

151 scrupulous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Diligent, thorough, and extremely attentive to details; having moral integrity

The journalist's **scrupulous** fact-checking ensured that every claim in the article could withstand legal scrutiny.

MEMORY CUE: A scrupulous worker examines every detail and completes every duty thoroughly.

152 sedulous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Showing dedication and diligence; persistent and hardworking

The **sedulous** researcher spent years painstakingly assembling the complete archive.

MEMORY CUE: A sedulous worker carefully persists through every task.

153 self-absorption *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Preoccupation with one's own thoughts, feelings, or interests

The memoirist was accused of **self-absorption**, though defenders argued that introspection was the genre's defining feature.

MEMORY CUE: Self-absorption turns every mental mirror toward one's own concerns.

154 skittish *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Nervously inclined to shy away; easily frightened; excitable and unpredictable

Investors grew **skittish** after the unexpected earnings report, and the stock dropped sharply in after-hours trading.

MEMORY CUE: A skittish horse startles and shies away at the slightest movement.

155 staunchness *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

The quality of being very loyal and committed in attitude; firmness

The community's **staunchness** in defending its traditions impressed anthropologists who had expected rapid cultural assimilation.

MEMORY CUE: Staunchness stands firm with unwavering loyalty and commitment.

156 stolid *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation

The **stolid** farmer showed no outward reaction to the news, though his neighbors were frantic.

MEMORY CUE: A stolid face remains calm, dependable, and almost expressionless.

157 sycophant *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

A person who acts obsequiously toward someone important to gain advantage; a flatterer

The CEO surrounded himself with **sycophants** who told him only what he wanted to hear.

MEMORY CUE: A sycophant flatters power excessively to harvest personal advantage.

158 **taciturnity** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

The quality of being reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying very little

The diplomat's **taciturnity** during negotiations unnerved opponents accustomed to more talkative counterparts.

MEMORY CUE: Taciturnity keeps conversation sparse because the speaker says very little.

159 **temerity** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Excessive confidence or boldness; audacity; rashness

The junior analyst had the **temerity** to challenge the chairman's conclusions in front of the entire board.

MEMORY CUE: Temerity steps brazenly forward where caution would advise retreat.

160 **temperance** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Moderation or self-restraint, especially in drinking alcohol; the movement advocating abstinence from alcohol

The **temperance** movement of the early twentieth century ultimately led to the passage of Prohibition in the United States.

MEMORY CUE: Temperance keeps appetite within moderate limits through self-restraint.

161 **tenacity** *noun*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

The quality of being very determined; persistence and resolve

Her **tenacity** in pursuing the investigation eventually led to a breakthrough.

MEMORY CUE: Tenacity grips a goal and refuses to release it.

162 **torpid** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Mentally or physically inactive; lethargic; sluggish

The **torpid** economy showed no signs of recovering from the prolonged recession.

MEMORY CUE: A torpid creature remains almost motionless in body and mind.

163 **tractable** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Easy to control or influence; manageable

The problem, once considered impossible, proved **tractable** with the new mathematical framework.

MEMORY CUE: A tractable animal follows the guiding rope without resistance.

164 **tranquil** *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Free from disturbance; calm; peaceful

The **tranquil** surface of the mountain lake reflected the snow-capped peaks with mirror-like clarity.

MEMORY CUE: A tranquil lake has an unbroken surface beneath a quiet sky.

165 truculent *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant

The **truculent** spokesperson refused to answer questions and berated the journalists.

MEMORY CUE: A truculent opponent leans aggressively into every chance to fight.

166 undemonstrative *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Not tending to express feelings openly; reserved

His **undemonstrative** manner led colleagues to underestimate the depth of his commitment to the cause.

MEMORY CUE: An undemonstrative person keeps feelings inside rather than displaying them openly.

167 unprincipled *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Not acting in accordance with moral principles; unscrupulous

The biographer portrayed the tycoon as an **unprincipled** opportunist who exploited every crisis for personal gain.

MEMORY CUE: An unprincipled action cuts itself loose from the moral compass.

168 unseemly *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Not proper or appropriate; not in good taste

The candidates' **unseemly** personal attacks during the debate disappointed voters who had hoped for a substantive discussion.

MEMORY CUE: Unseemly behavior visibly fails the occasion's standard of propriety.

169 vacillate *verb*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

To alternate or waver between different opinions or actions; to be indecisive

The committee **vacillated** for weeks before finally reaching a decision.

MEMORY CUE: Vacillate like a pointer wavering repeatedly between two choices.

170 venal *adjective*

CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT

Showing or motivated by susceptibility to bribery; corrupt

The mayor's **venal** administration sold building permits to the highest bidder, ignoring safety codes entirely.

MEMORY CUE: A venal official puts integrity up for sale to bribes.

171 voracious *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Wanting or devouring great quantities; having a very eager approach to an activity

A **voracious** reader, she consumed several books a week across every genre.

MEMORY CUE: A voracious appetite devours great quantities with eager hunger.

172 wary *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems

Investors remained **wary** of the market's sudden rally, suspecting it might be a temporary correction rather than a genuine recovery.

MEMORY CUE: A wary traveler checks every step for possible danger.

173 zeal *noun***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective

The reformer's **zeal** for social justice inspired a generation of activists who continued her work long after her death.

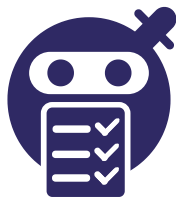
MEMORY CUE: Zeal fuels energetic enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause.

174 zealous *adjective***CHARACTER & TEMPERAMENT**

Having or showing zeal; great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause

The prosecutor's **zealous** pursuit of the case raised questions about whether the investigation had been conducted impartially.

MEMORY CUE: A zealous supporter guards the cause with a bright flame of devotion.



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