

## Vocabulary ANSWER KEY for Grade 12: Something Wicked List ONE

### **Activity 1: In-Context Predictions**

#### *Correct Definitions:*

1. Comply (verb) to obey an order or rule; to act the way others request Related: compliance
2. Conjecture (noun) an opinion or conclusion based on incomplete information; a guess
3. Derision (noun) ridicule and mockery; an attitude that shows scorn Related: deride
4. Impunity (noun) freedom from punishment for or the unpleasant consequences of one's actions (she lied with impunity)
5. Irrevocable (adjective) cannot be changed or reversed; final Related: revoke
6. Nonchalance (noun) a state of cool calm and unconcern (James Bond's nonchalance in the face of danger)
7. Obliterate (verb) destroy completely; wipe out
8. Retribution (noun) punishment for wrongdoing or crime; vengeance
9. Trifle (verb) to treat someone or something as if it were unimportant or of little value; to toy with
10. Vindictive (adjective) having or showing a desire for revenge

### **Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentence**

1. Trifling
2. Deride
3. Irrevocable
4. Compliance
5. Nonchalant
6. Vindictive
7. Impunity
8. Retribution
9. Conjecture
10. Obliteration

### **Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenario**

*Student explanations will vary, but should show an understanding of each word's meaning.*

1. Obliterate
2. Conjecture
3. Irrevocable
4. Retribution
5. Comply
6. Vindictive
7. Nonchalance
8. Trifling
9. Derision
10. Impunity

### **Activity 4: Matching**

1. Obey
2. Guess
3. Mockery
4. Free pass
5. Permanent
6. Calm
7. Destroy
8. Payback
9. Unimportant
10. Petty

### **Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary**

*Student answers will vary, but each answer should include the underlined vocabulary word.*

## Vocabulary for Grade 12: Something Wicked LIST ONE

**Directions:** In the first activity in this packet, you will use context clues to try and determine the meaning of each of your new vocabulary words. The example below shows you how to do this activity.


- Begin by looking at the **photo**.  
Ask yourself, **What do I see?**  
*I see birds flying in the air. They are not being controlled or told where to go.*
- Next, look at the **caption**.  
Ask yourself, **what word could I put in place of the underlined vocabulary word?**  
*Here I might substitute "all" or "complete" for absolute.*
- Then, look at the **example sentence**.  
Ask yourself, **do my substitutions from the caption — "all" and "complete" — make sense in this sentence?**  
*Yes, "complete" works in the example sentence as well.*
- Finally, **write or type a prediction** in the last box.

**Example: Absolute (ab-suh-loot)**

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My mother's no was absolute. Once she said it, there was no chance of changing her mind.

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Birds have absolute freedom to go wherever they like.

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What's your **prediction**?

My Answer: *complete*


### Let's begin!

**1. Comply (kuhm-plahy)**

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Even though Catalina thought her parents' expectations were unfair, she tried to comply with their wishes.

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If you don't comply with the parking rules, they will tow your car.

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What's your **prediction**?


My Answer:

**2. Conjecture (kuhn-jek-cher)**

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The star was photographed with a man who's not her husband; it led to a lot of conjecture about her marriage.

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My conjecture that he's starting a business is based on his reading list.

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What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

### 3. Derision (dih-rizh-uh n)

The first Apple computer was greeted with derision by people who disliked the features which made it unique.



The embarrassing picture made Matt the object of everyone's derision.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

### 4. Impunity (im-pyoo-ni-tee)

Because her parents never discipline her, Aisha thinks she can do whatever she wants with impunity.



Clara used steroids with impunity — the judges let her race anyway.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

### 5. Irrevocable (ih-rev-uh-kuh-buh l)

By the time the ambulance reached him, the poison had already done irrevocable damage to Roberto's liver.



The contract is irrevocable, so think carefully before committing yourself.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

### 6. Nonchalance (non-shuh-lahns)

Of course the hero of an action movie reacts with total nonchalance to a fiery explosion behind him.



I couldn't believe his nonchalance as he coolly gazed over the edge.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

**7. Obliterate** (*uh-blit-uh-reyt*)

The killer hoped that the fire he set would obliterate all evidence of his crime.



The waves will soon obliterate our footprints.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

**8. Retribution** (*re-truh-byoo-shuhn*)

In retribution for her cruel comments, Tom posted an unflattering picture of Janet on social media.



LaQuan feared his sister would seek retribution for her broken phone.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

**9. Trifle** (*trahy-fuhl*)

Stop laughing at my ideas! I don't enjoy being trifled with and treated like a child!



Amira was crushed to realize that Laura had trifled with her emotions.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

**10. Vindictive** (*vin-dik-tiv*)

You don't want to cross Regina George: she's so vindictive and she *will* come for you!



My vindictive cat pees on my bed if I don't pay enough attention to him.

What's your **prediction**?

My Answer:

**Let's review the definitions of the words.**

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1. **Comply** (verb) to obey an order or rule; to act the way others request *Related: compliance*
2. **Conjecture** (noun) an opinion or conclusion based on incomplete information; a guess
3. **Derision** (noun) ridicule and mockery; an attitude that shows scorn *Related: deride*
4. **Impunity** (noun) freedom from punishment for or the unpleasant consequences of one's actions (she lied with *impunity*)
5. **Irrevocable** (adjective) cannot be changed or reversed; final *Related: revoke*
6. **Nonchalance** (noun) a state of cool calm and unconcern (James Bond's *nonchalance* in the face of danger)
7. **Obliterate** (verb) destroy completely; wipe out
8. **Retribution** (noun) punishment for wrongdoing or crime; vengeance
9. **Trifle** (verb) to treat someone or something as if it were unimportant or of little value; to toy with
10. **Vindictive** (adjective) having or showing a desire for revenge

## Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentences

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks using the correct vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

Compliance Conjecture Deride Impunity Irrevocable Nonchalant Obliteration Retribution Trifling Vindictive

	My answer
1. The Prime Minister is a very important woman; please don't waste her time with these _____ problems.	
2. Marco designs clothes that are so unique and visionary that many people cannot accept them and _____ them as "ugly" and "weird."	
3. There was a time in history when it was nearly impossible for the average person to get divorced, so marriage was a(n) _____ choice.	
4. When one joins the military, one trades individuality and freedom of choice for _____ with orders and group norms.	
5. Hiding her anxiety, Trina asked in a(n) _____ voice, "How did it go?"	
6. Mara knew her bad review at work was her boss's _____ reaction to her refusing to date him.	
7. Because his uncle — who's the mayor — protects him, Brian can do anything he wants in this town with _____.	
8. I know you want _____ for what was done to you, but you must know that going after the ones who hurt you will only make things worse.	
9. None of you know the facts of the case; all I've heard here is baseless _____!	
10. In my opinion, Thanos is the ultimate comic book villain because his goal is the _____ of half the life in the universe.	

### Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenarios

Fill in the blanks using the correct vocabulary word to complete each scenario. Then, explain why that vocabulary word fits best based on context clues provided in the scenario. You may have to change the form of the word (ex: go, going, gone).

**For Example:**

Every single day, Bryan wakes up at 5 o'clock in the morning to take a 10-mile jog. Then, he goes to the gym to lift weights. Afterwards, he does 20 laps in the pool. And this is before he goes to practice with the team every afternoon! Bryan is _____ about training because _____.	
My Answer	My Reason
relentless	He is extremely dedicated and exercises all of the time. He runs 10 miles, lifts weights, swims, and attends practice every day.

Comply   Conjecture   Derision   Impunity   Irrevocable   Nonchalance   Obliterate   Retribution   Trifle   Vindictive

- Albert Einstein wasn't thinking of weapons in 1905 when he developed his most famous scientific theory: special relativity. But 40 years later, that theory would be the basis for the atomic bombs that leveled two Japanese cities, killing more than 100,000 people. Einstein feared that these new bombs would eventually end life on Earth. He spent the last ten years of his life advocating for a ban on all nuclear weapons.

Einstein thought nuclear weapons could \_\_\_\_\_ humanity because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

- Franz can't stand the 24-hour news channels. He says that an hour-long program contains about 10 minutes of facts and 50 minutes of guesses. He told me that a program like that is a completely unreliable news source.

Franz dislikes the \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

- All officers in the United States military must swear an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." They are held to this oath throughout their military service. If a military court ever finds that they have abandoned this oath, they can be demoted, kicked out of the military, or even imprisoned.

An officer's oath is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

4. In the novel *The Hunter*, there is no honesty among thieves. The main character, Parker, is betrayed by his fellow thieves after a robbery when they shoot him, leave him for dead, and take all the money. The rest of the novel describes Parker's efforts to track down his former friends and take revenge.

Parker wants \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

5. Dr. Stanley Milgram's famous experiments at Yale investigated whether the average person would obey orders to do things they felt were wrong. His experiments revealed that people are surprisingly obedient to such orders in a situation where an authority figure says that they will not be blamed for any outcomes.

People will \_\_\_\_\_ with immoral orders because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

6. President Richard Nixon is often remembered as a suspicious person who held grudges. In taped conversations in the Oval Office, Nixon can be heard assigning people to spy on his enemies and planning ways to get back at them. Sadly, this part of his personality has overshadowed his accomplishments in America's memory.

Nixon is seen as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ person because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

7. Clint Eastwood built his career by playing tough-guy characters who face dangerous situations in a cool, almost casual way. In his most famous role as *Dirty Harry*, he holds another character at gunpoint and calmly says, "You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do you, punk?"

Eastwood's characters are known for their \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

8. In the movie *Notting Hill*, a movie star starts a relationship with a bookstore owner. Things are going well until the bookseller brings her to meet his family and friends. Although they find the movie star charming, they ask her not to play with their friend's emotions. The bookseller has fallen hard for the star, and his friends are afraid she is just fooling around and will soon drop him.

They think the star is \_\_\_\_\_ with their friend because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason



9. In the 1800s, many women died in childbirth from what was called “childbed fever.” An Austrian doctor named Ignaz Semmelweis noticed that fewer women died if doctors washed their hands before delivering babies. But when he shared this idea with the medical community, he was ridiculed all across Europe. Eventually Semmelweis was fired from his position at a hospital in Vienna; he ended his life in an insane asylum. However, scientists would eventually discover the existence of bacteria and all would know that Semmelweis’s “crazy” idea had been right after all.

Semmelweis faced \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

10. From 1858 to 1872, the most powerful person in New York City was William “Boss” Tweed, the head of the political machine known as Tammany Hall. By handing out city jobs and contracts in exchange for votes, Boss Tweed was able to control city politicians. He then proceeded to demand kickbacks from city contracts. He stole more than \$25 million from the city and was even elected to the United States Senate. Because judges were elected and police chiefs were appointed by the mayor — who was also in Tweed’s pocket — no one could stop his corrupt practices.

Tweed operated with \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Answer	My Reason

### Activity 4: Matching

Match the following vocabulary words to their synonyms from the box. Write your answer in the column next to the word.

**Synonyms:** Destroy Mockery Unimportant Guess Calm Payback Petty Obey Permanent Free pass

Words	My Answer
1. Comply	
2. Conjecture	
3. Derision	
4. Impunity	
5. Irrevocable	
6. Nonchalance	
7. Obliterate	
8. Retribution	
9. Trifling	
10. Vindictive	

**Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary**

Answer each question in 1-2 **complete sentences**. Make sure that you **use the underlined vocabulary word** in your answer.

1. Do you think eighteen-year-olds are obligated to comply with their parents' wishes? Why or why not?

2. Do you think it's acceptable for the hosts of news shows to conjecture on air? Why or why not?

3. Why do you think people so often deride new ideas in science?

4. Name a fictional character or historical figure who committed crimes with impunity. How did they get away with it?

5. Give an example of a situation in which someone might sue for "irrevocable harm."

6. It's often considered cool to hide one's enthusiasm and act nonchalant. Why do you think that is?

7. If you could undergo a medical procedure that would obliterate your most embarrassing memory, would you? Why or why not?

8. Sir Francis Bacon wrote that "it is the glory of a man to pass by an offence." What do you think: is it better to offer forgiveness or retribution?

9. Give an example of a fictional character who trifles with others. What do they do? How does this turn out for them?

10. Do you think vindictive behavior would help or hinder a person's career? Explain why.