**Vocabulary Bank 1**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adjustable | capable of being changed | 可调整的 | This is an **adjustable** strap, which you can loosen or tighten to ensure a more comfortable fit. |
| Factual | characterized by facts or truisms | 事实的 | These are pieces of **factual** evidence and would be hard to disprove. |
| Venture | to risk going somewhere dangerous or unpleasant | 勇于做 (某事） | The students were all warned not to **venture** far from the campsite. |
| Motivate | to give an incentive for action | 激励 | To motivate ourselves is one of the hardest things to do and requires great force of will. |
| Recession | a period when the economy is in decline | 衰退 | During a **recession**, the prices of all goods would seem very high to the people. |
| Clarity | ease of understanding | 清晰 | Melissa's essay showed wisdom and **clarity** of thought. |
| Acrimony | full of anger and bad feelings | 刻毒 | They are not keen to continue working in a group as there has been too much **acrimony**. |
| Pragmatically | in a realistic manner | 实际地 | He has chosen to **pragmatically** deal with matters as they arise and not to allow them to snowball. |
| Jar | to shock or cause a jolt | 刺激 | The aftershocks of the earthquake would continue to **jar** any disoriented survivors and cause them to panic. |
| Invigorate | to make someone feel fresher or more energetic | 使精力充沛 | We were **invigorated** by the refreshing bath and were ready to resume our work again. |
| Accusatory | suggesting that one believes someone has done something wrong | 指责的 | My sister gave me an **accusatory** look when I entered the room, causing me to be indignant. |
| Absenteeism | a situation where people are at work or school but they are not | 旷课 | The increasing rate of **absenteeism** in school should be a cause for concern. |
| Accountable | expected to justify one's actions | 有责任的 | Everyone should be held **accountable** for their actions and decisions. |
| Administrative | relating to the running of an organization | 行政的 | He is in charge of all the **administrative** tasks for this project. |
| Antagonise | to make someone dislike you | 使对立 | You should try not to **antagonise** him and make the situation worse. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 1**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. This strap is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so you can change its size.
2. The report was based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ evidence.
3. The coach tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the team before the big game.

**Medium**

1. During a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, many people lose their jobs.
2. The speaker explained the complex topic with great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. He decided to deal with the problem \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than emotionally.

**Difficult**

1. The loud noise would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anyone awake.
2. A high rate of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a problem in many schools.
3. She gave me an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ look when I arrived late.
4. You should be held \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for your actions.
5. There was a lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between the two groups, making it hard for them to work together.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. He was warned not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ too far into the woods.
2. She tried not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her boss, as she wanted to keep her job.
3. The refreshing bath helped to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us after a long day.
4. He is responsible for all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tasks in the office.

**Vocabulary Bank 2**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Beneficiary | a person or group who receives money or advantages | 受益人 | The son was the sole **beneficiary** of the late tycoon's estate. |
| Vengeful | disposed to seek revenge | 报复性的 | The fire was started by a **vengeful** former employee. |
| Induce | to persuade someone to do something | 诱导 | The campaign is meant to **induce** people to eat more healthily. |
| Necessity | the state or fact of being required | 必需品 | Having clean drinking water is a **necessity** for survival. |
| Opportunistic | using a situation to obtain an advantage | 投机取巧的 | The **opportunistic** investor bought the shares at a low price and sold them when the price rose. |
| Intensify | to become greater or more serious | 增强 | The competition for the limited slots to represent the school in the competition has **intensified**. |
| Discriminate | to treat differently on the basis of sex, race, or other differences | 歧视 | It is unethical to **discriminate** against people because of their culture or gender. |
| Depression | feeling of despondency | 沮丧 | Mr. Ong fell into a state of **depression** after losing his job. |
| Arbitrate | to make a judgment in an argument | 公断 | A special committee was asked to **arbitrate** in the dispute. |
| Abstinence | the practice of restricting oneself from indulging in something | 节制 | The man credited the success of his good health to his **abstinence** from alcohol and cigarettes. |
| Analytical | examining things carefully | 分析性的 | He has an **analytical** mind and pays a lot of attention to details. |
| Applicable | relevant or appropriate | 适用的 | This archaic law is no longer **applicable**. |
| Argumentative | wanting to argue | 好争论的 | The **argumentative** boy refused to listen to reason and continued to protest vehemently. |
| Authenticate | to prove that something is true | 认证 | The scientists are carrying out tests to **authenticate** the samples found at the site. |
| Comprehensive | complete | 全面的 | We managed to come up with a **comprehensive** list of the items we needed. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 2**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. Clean water is a basic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for survival.
2. The new rules are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to all students.
3. He has an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mind and loves solving puzzles.

**Medium**

1. The company tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people to buy their product with a special offer.
2. The argument began to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as more people got involved.
3. The judge was asked to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the dispute between the two parties.

**Difficult**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ investor took advantage of the market crash.
2. The will stated that she was the sole \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his estate.
3. She struggled with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after her pet passed away.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ employee sought revenge on their former boss.
5. It is against the law to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against someone based on their race.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nature made it difficult to have a calm conversation.
2. The scientist had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the ancient artifact.
3. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from sweets helped him lose weight.
4. We need a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ report that covers all aspects of the issue.

**Vocabulary Bank 3**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nefarious | wicked or criminal | 极坏的 | Her **nefarious** scheme to sabotage their plans was soon exposed. |
| Repentance | regret or remorse | 悔悟 | He showed true **repentance** for his crime which he had committed in a moment of folly. |
| Admission | an acknowledgement of the truth of something | 承认 | The **admission** of guilt is looked upon by the law as being a statement of truth. |
| Intimidation | the action of frightening or threatening someone | 恐吓 | He reported the acts of **intimidation** by the bully to the teacher. |
| Negative | having the quality of something unpleasant | 消极的 | The **negative** emotions he felt spilled over into his discussions with his team members. |
| Detectable | able to be noticed or discovered | 可察觉的 | There was no **detectable** tone of resentment in his voice after he was scolded. |
| Indicative | serving as a sign of something | 指示的 | The falling enrollment was **indicative** of the falling birth rate. |
| Agonise | to spend a lot of time trying to make a decision | 苦苦思索 | He **agonised** for many days before deciding to take up the scholarship to study overseas. |
| Cohesive | united and working together | 有凝聚力的 | The **cohesive** forces managed to work together to defeat the enemy. |
| Composure | the feeling of being calm | 镇静 | He managed to maintain his **composure** despite being taunted by the crowd. |
| Contemptible | despicable | 可鄙的 | The organisation's attempts to cheat their consumers were **contemptible**. |
| Correspondence | a connection between two things | 通信 | They did not manage to find a **correspondence** between the employment rate and the number of people who graduated from university. |
| Cowardice | a lack of bravery | 胆怯 | He was accused of **cowardice** for not speaking up when he had the chance. |
| Credible | able to be believed or trusted | 可信的 | Her story was **credible** and made a lot of sense. |
| Distinguishable | able to be discerned | 可区分的 | This watch has a few details that are **distinguishable** from the previous one. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 3**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. This evidence is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so we can trust it.
2. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ actions were finally brought to light.
3. She showed genuine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for her mistakes.

**Medium**

1. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of guilt surprised everyone in the courtroom.
2. The bully used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to get what he wanted.
3. The falling sales figures were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a larger economic problem.

**Difficult**

1. The subtle change in his expression was barely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The team was not very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and struggled to work together.
3. He had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for hours before making his final decision.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ behavior towards the vulnerable members of society was shocking.
2. Despite the pressure, she maintained her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. They could not find any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between the two sets of data.
4. He was accused of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for refusing to participate in the dangerous mission.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere in the office made it difficult to be productive.

**Vocabulary Bank 4**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Declaration | an important official announcement | 宣布 | He caught the attention of everyone when he made a public **declaration** of his intentions. |
| Cautionary | serving as a warning | 警告的 | This is a **cautionary** tale of how one should be careful of online scams. |
| Defiance | bold disobedience | 违抗 | Her **defiance** in the face of authority was shocking. |
| Agitation | worry and anxiety | 焦虑 | Ian was in a state of **agitation** after hearing the bad news. |
| Provocative | causing anger or another strong reaction | 挑衅的 | Her **provocative** statements served to rile everyone. |
| Relinquish | to give up | 放弃 | They are not going to **relinquish** their authority over this department unless there is good reason for them to do so. |
| Resolution | a firm decision to do something; an official decision | 决心 | It is doubtful whether any **resolution** can be achieved at this time. |
| Industrialise | to develop a system of industries | 工业化 | This country is trying hard to **industrialise** to create many jobs for its citizens. |
| Contemplation | deep reflective thought | 沉思 | He stood in silent **contemplation** of his choices. |
| Refutation | the action of proving a statement to be false | 反驳 | The scientist provided a convincing **refutation** of the theory that was proposed. |
| Dominance | power and influence over others | 优势 | This team had a period of **dominance** when it was the champion for five years in a row. |
| Enduring | lasting for a long time | 持久的 | It is admirable that Mr Ong has managed to forge a number of **enduring** friendships. |
| Evocative | making you remember something pleasant | 唤起情感的 | This painting is **evocative** of the Baroque period in art history. |
| Exemplify | to be the typical example of something | 举例说明 | The décor of this house **exemplifies** the trend during that time period. |
| Profession | a paid occupation, especially one that involves prolonged training and a qualification | 职业 | The doctor talked to students who are thinking about entering the **profession**. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 4**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. The government made a public \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the new policy.
2. The story serves as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tale about the dangers of greed.
3. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was evident in her refusal to follow the rules.

**Medium**

1. He was in a state of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after the accident.
2. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ remarks were intended to provoke a response.
3. They will not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their claim to the land easily.

**Difficult**

1. The committee struggled to reach a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the matter.
2. The country is working to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ its economy.
3. He spent the morning in quiet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about his future.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. The lawyer presented a strong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the prosecution's argument.
2. For many years, the company enjoyed a period of market \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. She has formed many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationships throughout her life.
4. The artist's style is very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a particular historical movement.
5. The success of this project will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the effectiveness of our team.
6. Many years of training are required to enter the medical \_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_.**

**Vocabulary Bank 5**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Astronomy | the branch of science that studies celestial bodies and the universe as a whole | 天文学 | The science of **astronomy** is fascinating to many students. |
| Presumption | the act of believing that something is true without proof | 假设 | Kenneth was scolded for making a baseless **presumption**. |
| Consequential | having important issues or results | 作为结果的 | There are more **consequential** outcomes than the petty ones you have brought up. |
| Incentivise | to motivate or encourage someone to do something | 激励 | It is hard for the company to **incentivise** its employees to do better without trust. |
| Provisional | arranged or existing for the present | 临时的 | We made a **provisional** booking for the venue but will need to confirm it at a later date. |
| Disdain | lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike | 蔑视 | The **disdain** he felt for his enemies could be seen on his face. |
| Documentation | material containing important information | 文件资料 | Those who want to apply for this policy should have the proper **documentation**. |
| Rationale | a logical explanation of the fundamental reasons | 基本原理 | The **rationale** for carrying out this experiment twice was not made clear to all of us. |
| Desirability | the quality of being wanted | 可取性 | The **desirability** of owning land in this area has pushed up property prices. |
| Indulgence | something done for pleasure or enjoyment | 放纵 | His **indulgence** in seafood led to him developing health problems. |
| Investigative | concerned with finding out something | 调查的 | The company carried out some **investigative** work to find out what really happened. |
| Justifiable | able to be shown to be right or reasonable | 正当的 | The findings showed that his actions were **justifiable** and the charges against him were dropped. |
| Conversant | having knowledge about something | 精通的 | He impressed the panel because he was **conversant** with the issues that were discussed. |
| Audacious | disposed to venture or take risks | 大胆的 | His **audacious** approach to taking risks has paid off handsomely. |
| Prevalence | the fact of something existing or happening often | 流行 | The **prevalence** of this nonchalant attitude among young people is a cause for concern. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 5**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the scientific study of stars and planets.
2. Making a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without evidence can lead to mistakes.
3. His rude behavior showed clear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Medium**

1. The company tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ employees with bonuses.
2. We made a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plan that we can adjust later.
3. Having the correct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is essential for this application.

**Difficult**

1. The high \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of social media use has both benefits and drawbacks.
2. The detective conducted an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ study to uncover the truth.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for this decision needs to be explained more clearly.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. The consequences of ignoring safety regulations can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in excessive spending proved detrimental to his finances.
3. The explorer's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ journey across the desert was remarkable.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of owning a home in a good neighborhood is high.
5. The committee found his actions to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after reviewing the evidence.
6. She is highly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the latest research in her field.

**Vocabulary Bank 6**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indignant | angered by something unjust or wrong | 愤慨的 | They are **indignant** that all their efforts have been thwarted by her carelessness. |
| Exclamatory | expressing surprise or strong emotion | 感叹的 | The tone in this piece of writing is **exclamatory** and difficult to read. |
| Ritual | social rites | 仪式 | The **rituals** of this festival are quite quaint. |
| Festive | offering fun and gaiety | 节日的 | All the **festive** fun of the season can be experienced in this country. |
| Paranoid | suffering from being obsessively anxious or mistrustful | 多疑 | She was so **paranoid** about burglaries that she installed many locks. |
| Resilience | toughness in recovering from the experience of adversity or difficulty | 弹力 | Her **resilience** was her strength in times of adversity. |
| Reversal | a change to an opposite direction or course of action | 逆转 | The **reversal** of fortunes of the characters in the film was a poignant moment. |
| Expectancy | the feeling that something exciting or something good is going to happen | 预期 | We waited with an air of **expectancy** for the concert to begin. |
| Expertise | a high level of knowledge or skill | 专门知识 | You can approach him for help as he has much **expertise** in this area. |
| Extensive | covering a large area | 广阔的 | There was **extensive** coverage of this incident in the mass media. |
| Fatalistic | having the belief that all things are predetermined | 宿命论的 | He has a **fatalistic** attitude and does not believe he can do anything to affect the outcome. |
| Foreseeable | able to be predicted | 可预见的 | I do not think that anything will change in the **foreseeable** future. |
| Formalise | to make something official | 使正式 | You should not count your chickens before they are hatched as nothing has been **formalised** yet. |
| Laborious | needing a lot of time and effort | 费力的 | We spent a lot of time and effort on the **laborious** task. |
| Negligent | failing to take proper care of something | 疏忽的 | He was found to be **negligent** in his duties and given a stern warning. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 6**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. They were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the unfair accusations.
2. The sentence ended with an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mark, showing strong emotion.
3. The town celebrated with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ decorations and events.

**Medium**

1. The community observed the traditional \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with great care.
2. She became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and suspicious after the incident.
3. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helped her overcome many challenges.

**Difficult**

1. The sudden \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the company's policy surprised everyone.
2. We waited with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the announcement of the winner.
3. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in software development made him a valuable asset.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. The media provided \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reporting on the unfolding events.
2. He has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ outlook on life and believes everything is predetermined.
3. Nothing significant is expected to change in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ future.
4. They need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the agreement before it becomes official.
5. The task was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and took many hours to complete.
6. The driver was found to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and caused the accident.

**Vocabulary Bank 7**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| bite someone's head off | to answer someone sharply and tersely | 厉声责骂 | Mother **bit my head off** when I informed her that I had scored badly in my test. |
| come clean | to tell the truth about something | 坦白交代 | She decided to **come clean** with her mother by admitting she was the one who had eaten all the chocolate in the refrigerator. |
| get someone's goat | to make someone very annoyed | 惹恼某人 | The condescending attitude of the staff of the shop **got his goat** and he left without purchasing anything. |
| be pure as the driven snow | to be morally good | 清白无辜 | She acted like she **was pure as the driven snow** when she also had a part to play in the incident. |
| put two and two together | to work out some puzzling detail or details | 根据线索推断 | I finally **put two and two together** and figured out the reason for her bad temper the past week. |
| blow one's top | to lose one's temper in an explosive way | 勃然大怒 | He did not mean to **blow his top** but he had been driven to breaking point by all the insults directed at him by his classmates. |
| keep a cool head | to control one's temper in the face of provocation | 保持冷静 | She lost her temper—there was no way she could have **kept a cool head** after hearing her classmates insult her so callously. |
| put one's finger on something | to identify the cause of something puzzling | 指出问题所在 | She did not quite manage to **put her finger on** what was bothering her, which frustrated her immensely. |
| be off the mark | be inaccurate or wrong | 不着边际；不准确 | He **was off the mark** in thinking that his last-minute efforts would be sufficient to enable him to ace the examinations. |
| rub someone up the wrong way | annoy someone immensely | 惹某人不高兴 | The two of them hardly get along and are constantly **rubbing** each other **up the wrong way.** |
| get on like a house on fire | get along very well and becoming friends very fast | 一见如故 | Both of them **got on like a house on fire** after their initial meeting. |
| blow something out of proportion | to make something more important or serious than it really is | 夸大其词；小题大做 | He **blew** the issue **out of proportion** when it was actually a small misunderstanding. |
| soften the blow | to make a bad situation less serious | 减轻打击 | I tried to **soften the blow** of my bad news by telling a few jokes first. |
| be firing on all cylinders | to be operating as effectively as possible | 全力以赴 | The team was firing on all cylinders after taking a short break. |
| sail close to the wind | to do something dangerous | 冒险行事 | He sailed close to the wind when he employed this risky strategy to overcome his opponent. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 7**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct idiom from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. When I told my dad I scratched the car, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. She decided to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and admit she broke the vase.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after meeting at the party and became instant friends.

**Medium**

1. His constant questions started to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. I finally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ why the door was unlocked.
3. He didn't mean to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he got upset about the mistake.

**Difficult**

1. She acted like she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when she was also involved in the prank.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in thinking he could pass the test without studying.
3. They were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the small disagreement and made it a huge issue.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. Despite the chaos, she managed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. I tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by bringing her favorite flowers.
3. The team was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as they worked efficiently to finish the project on time.
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he decided to invest all his savings in that risky venture.
5. Their personalities just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and they couldn't stand each other.

**Vocabulary Bank 8**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a baptism of fire | a very difficult first experience of something | 严峻考验 | The young athlete was given **a baptism of fire** in his first game when he was drawn to face the current world champion. |
| set the cat among the pigeons | causing a fight or doing something undesirable or unexpected, so as to cause disturbance to people | 惹是生非；挑起事端 | His insensitive remark **set the cat among the pigeons**, making many people very unhappy. |
| while the cat's away, the mice will play | when the person in charge is not around, people will behave badly | 山中无老虎，猴子称大王 | The class made a lot of noise when there was no teacher in the classroom for **while the cat's away, the mice will play**. |
| not have a cat in hell's chance | to be unable to achieve something | 毫无机会 | We were feeling down for we did **not have a cat in hell's chance** to win the match. |
| look like something the cat dragged in | to look very untidy and dirty | 看起来很邋遢；狼狈不堪 | He needs to wash up and make himself presentable for he **looks like something the cat dragged in**. |
| curiosity killed the cat | how being overly-inquisitive can land you in deep trouble | 好奇害死猫 | You should mind your own business for **curiosity killed the cat**. |
| like a cat on a hot tin roof | to be very nervous | 如热锅上的蚂蚁 | Mrs Wong was **like a cat on a hot tin roof** as she waited for her daughter to return home. |
| fight like cat and dog | to have angry arguments all the time | 水火不容；争吵不休 | The children always **fight like cat and dog** but still continue to play with one another. |
| be in the bag | to be certain to achieve something | 十拿九稳；胜券在握 | The team was certain that victory **was in the bag** and relaxed during the second half. |
| by the skin of your teeth | to only just succeed in doing something | 侥幸；险胜 | He managed to pass the examination **by the skin of his teeth**. |
| get under your skin | to make one annoyed or angry | 惹恼某人；使某人烦躁 | The din from the apartment **got under my skin** and I went over to give them a piece of my mind. |
| sleep on it | to wait before making a decision | 再考虑考虑；缓一缓再做决定 | You should **sleep on it** and think it over carefully before making a decision. |
| have a sharp tongue | to be someone who criticises | 说话尖刻；言辞犀利 | He **has a sharp tongue** and often hurts people with his words. |
| trips off the tongue | easy to say or pronounce | 顺口；容易说出 | This name **trips off the tongue** and is easy to remember. |
| grit your teeth | to accept a difficult situation and deal with it in a determined way | 咬紧牙关；下定决心 | He had to **grit his teeth** and put up with the difficulties he faced for he did not want his efforts to be wasted. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 8**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct idiom from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. The children always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but still play together.
2. The name of the new restaurant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is easy to say.
3. We were certain that victory was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and relaxed.

**Medium**

1. He managed to pass the test \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The noise from the street was starting to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. You should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before making such an important decision.

**Difficult**

1. His sharp remarks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, making everyone upset.
2. He had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and deal with the problem despite the difficulties.
3. He looked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after falling in the mud.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. Her first day on the job was a real \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. His rude comment \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, causing a lot of trouble.
3. When the teacher left the room, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of winning the competition against such strong opponents.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he ended up in a very dangerous situation.

**Vocabulary Bank 9**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| restive | unable to remain still, silent or submissive, especially because of boredom or dissatisfaction | 焦躁不安的 | The crowd began to feel **restive** waiting for many hours. |
| swingeing | severe or extreme in size, amount or effect | 严厉的；大幅度的（尤指惩罚或削减） | The **swingeing** cutbacks in public expenditure took its toll on the small community and left quite a few homes destitute. |
| quotidian | not exceptional in any way from any other day; ordinary and everyday in nature | 平凡的；日常的 | His unhappy story is an achingly human one, filled with **quotidian**, easily recognisable details. |
| deign | to do something beneath someone | 屈尊；俯就（通常用于否定句） | I will not **deign** to reply to his letter. |
| inveterate | having a particular habit, activity or interest that is long-established and unlikely to change | 积习难改的；根深蒂固的 | She is an **inveterate** irritant in every class she is in, screaming out every answer in class at the top of her voice. |
| studiously | with concentration; in a very deliberate manner; with a definite purpose in mind | 刻意地；认真地 | He read the book **studiously**, trying to fully understand the text. |
| scupper | to thwart something | 破坏；使失败 | Our plans were **scuppered** when it started raining. |
| winsome | pleasing in a child-like manner | 迷人的；讨人喜欢的 | The **winsome** girl quickly won over the hearts of the audience. |
| beguile | to charm someone in a deceptive manner | 欺骗；迷惑；使着迷 | He **beguiled** the audience with his charm. |
| horrendous | extremely unpleasant, horrifying, abhorrent or terrible | 可怕的；极其糟糕的 | The survivors of the **horrendous** disaster were finally rescued after several days. |
| pugnacious | quick to argue or fight | 好斗的；爱争吵的 | His **pugnacious** nature has got him into trouble a number of times. |
| finesse | great skill or style | 技巧；手腕；灵巧处理 | His work, while functional, lacked **finesse**. |
| wherewithal | the money necessary to do something | 必要的资金 | They lacked the **wherewithal** to finish the construction. |
| anaemic | lacking energy | 缺乏活力的 | The team's **anaemic** performance came as no surprise as they were suffering from jet lag. |
| apotropaic | believed to fend off evil influences | 驱邪的；避邪的（通常指符咒或仪式） | **Apotropaic** statues dotted the grounds of the holy temple. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 9**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. The crowd began to feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after waiting for so long.
2. His story was filled with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ details of everyday life.
3. He read the book \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, trying to understand it fully.

**Medium**

1. Our plans were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when the storm arrived unexpectedly.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ girl quickly charmed everyone she met.
3. The survivors of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disaster were finally rescued.

**Difficult**

1. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nature often got him into arguments.
2. His work, while functional, lacked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The team's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ performance was due to their jet lag.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. The government made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cutbacks in public spending.
2. I will not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to respond to such an insulting letter.
3. She has an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ habit of interrupting others.
4. They lacked the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to complete the construction project.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ statues were placed around the temple to ward off evil.

**Vocabulary Bank 10**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| urticate | to sting | 使发痒；像荨麻一样刺激 | The spines of the plant look like they should **urticate**, but they do not. |
| betide | to happen | (尤指坏事）发生；降临 | I waited with bated breath, not knowing what would **betide**. |
| affront | to insult or offend | 公然侮辱；冒犯 | I was **affronted** by his harsh words but kept a calm demeanour. |
| invective | critical or insulting language | 恶言谩骂 | The crowd hurled a stream of **invective** at the opposing team. |
| bumptious | irritatingly confident | 傲慢自负的 | The rude and **bumptious** fellow was just ejected from the restaurant. |
| mordant | (of humour) biting and sharp | 尖酸刻薄的；讽刺的 | His **mordant** sense of humour has led to many people misunderstanding his intentions. |
| espy | to catch sight of someone or something | (突然）看见；发现 | She **espied** a stranger coming round the corner towards her. |
| disquietude | a state of uneasiness | 焦虑不安；心神不宁 | Throughout dinner, I felt an increasing sense of **disquietude**, as if there was something bad about to happen. |
| surrogate | a substitute, especially a person deputising for another in a specific role or office | 替代的；代理人；代用品 | She served as the **surrogate** to the mayor when he was hospitalised. |
| apropos | appropriate to a given context or situation | 恰当地 | The choice of song seemed **apropos** for the situation. |
| exalt | to speak or think highly of someone | 赞扬 | The politicians **exalted** the athlete after his latest achievements. |
| abstemious | to indulge moderately | 有节制的 | He was **abstemious** and chose not to indulge in the large spread available. |
| irrepressible | full of energy and unable to be stopped | 抑制不住的；无法控制的 | His **irrepressible** spirit was not dampened by the bad news. |
| insensate | completely lacking sense or reason | 无感觉的；无情的 | His **insensate** babbling led to confused expressions on the audience's face. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 10**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. The spines of the plant look like they should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but they do not.
2. I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by his harsh words but kept a calm demeanour.
3. The crowd hurled a stream of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the opposing team.

**Medium**

1. The rude and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fellow was just ejected from the restaurant.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a stranger coming round the corner towards her.
3. Throughout dinner, I felt an increasing sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Difficult**

1. She served as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the mayor when he was hospitalised.
2. The politicians \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the athlete after his latest achievements.
3. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spirit was not dampened by the bad news.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. I waited with bated breath, not knowing what would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sense of humour has led to many people misunderstanding his intentions.
3. The choice of song seemed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the situation.
4. He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and chose not to indulge in the large spread available.
5. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ babbling led to confused expressions on the audience's face.

**Vocabulary Bank 11**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| arresting | strikingly eye-catching or worth remembering | 引人注目的 | Her **arresting** presence captivated the attention of the audience. |
| transfigure | to transform into something more beautiful or elevated | 使改观；使变形；美化 | She seemed to have been **transfigured** by stage make-up into a being almost resembling a fairy. |
| spadework | hard or routine preparatory work | 基础工作；筹备工作 | There were a few young interns on hand to help out with the **spadework**. |
| inordinately | unusually or disproportionately large; excessive | 过度地；过多 | The **inordinately** high number of students who admitted to dirtying the classroom caused the teacher to become suspicious. |
| pervade | to spread throughout | 弥漫；遍布 | Themes of loneliness and desperation **pervade** his work. |
| vantage | place or situation affording some advantage, especially a comprehensive view or commanding perspective | 有利位置 | From my **vantage** point, I could see the entire city. |
| prodigious | impressively great in extent | 巨大的；惊人的 | There was a **prodigious** amount of talent emerging from this school. |
| unassuming | modest | 谦逊的；不摆架子的 | She was a terrifying person despite her **unassuming** nature. |
| faction | a group within a larger group, usually with differing ideas from the main group | 派系；小集团 | Opposing **factions** clashed with one another throughout the week. |
| entreat | to ask earnestly to do something | 恳求；乞求 | His family **entreated** him to attend the event. |
| vertiginous | very high or steep to the extent where it causes dizziness | 令人眩晕的；高速旋转的 | You need to be careful when crossing the bridge as there is a **vertiginous** drop to the bottom. |
| allay | to soothe | 减轻；缓和 | The policeman did his best to **allay** the fears of the public. |
| bridle | to show one's displeasure at something | 控制；约束 | She **bridled** at the suggestion that she was inferior to her brother. |
| prime | to prepare for something | 做好准备 | She was **primed** for anything that may happen. |
| inaudible | unable to be heard | 听不见的 | She let out an almost **inaudible** whimper when the dog barked at her. |
| stymie | to prevent something from happening | 阻碍；使陷入困境 | Budget limitations have **stymied** scientific progress for years. |
| infiltrate | to sneak into a place | 渗透；潜入 | The spy successfully **infiltrated** the prison and released his captured comrades. |
| quietude | a sense of calmness | 宁静；平静 | A sense of **quietude** permeated through the library. |
| stratagem | a plan | 策略；计谋 | The general employed devious **stratagems** in order to defeat the enemy. |
| transfix | to become stunned | 使呆住；刺穿 | I was **transfixed** by the scene before me. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 11**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ presence captivated the audience.
2. There were a few interns to help with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. From my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I could see the entire city.

**Medium**

1. Themes of loneliness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his work.
2. She was a terrifying person despite her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nature.
3. His family \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him to attend the event.

**Difficult**

1. You need to be careful as there is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drop to the bottom.
2. Budget limitations have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ scientific progress for years.
3. The general employed devious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to defeat the enemy.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. She seemed to have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by stage make-up.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ high number of students raised suspicion.
3. Opposing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clashed throughout the week.
4. The policeman did his best to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the fears of the public.
5. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the suggestion that she was inferior.
6. She let out an almost \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whimper.
7. A sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ permeated the library.
8. I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the scene before me.

**Vocabulary Bank 12**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| mucilaginous | having a viscous or gelatinous consistency | 粘液质的；黏滑的 | The **mucilaginous** consistency of the pudding does not make it look very appetising. |
| voguish | popular or in fashion at a particular time | 时髦的；流行的 | His **voguish** dressing was way ahead of his time. |
| aberrant | departing from an accepted standard | 异常的；偏离常规的 | This rather **aberrant** behaviour on your part requires a detailed explanation! |
| raddled | showing signs of age or fatigue | 憔悴的；疲惫不堪的 | The young mother looked quite **raddled** ever since the birth of her second child. |
| ponderous | slow and clumsy because of great weight | 笨重的；沉闷的 | The slow and **ponderous** employee found it hard to be taken seriously. |
| preeminent | surpassing all others or demonstrating superiority | 卓越的；杰出的 | He is the **preeminent** expert in this field. |
| saturnine | (of a person or their manner) gloomy | 忧郁的；阴沉的 | Her **saturnine** temperament has not won her many friends in the office. |
| unwonted | unaccustomed or unusual | 不寻常的；罕见的 | The weight of **unwonted** responsibilities was beginning to show on her face. |
| self-conscious | excessively and uncomfortably aware of your appearance or behaviour | 不自然的；害羞的 | He is so **self-conscious** about people declaring to his face that he is unfair or unjust that he has become paranoid about it. |
| unfounded | having no foundation or basis in fact | 无根据的；没有理由的 | She realised that her **unfounded** doubts towards her mother had cost her dearly as her mother turned against her. |
| annihilate | to destroy completely | 消灭；彻底击败 | A bomb could **annihilate** the population of this village. |
| prevailing | existing at a particular time; current | 流行的；占优势的 | There was no way that the **prevailing** plans would be acceptable to the committee. |
| prescribe | to tell someone what they must do, or lay a rule of something | 规定；开处方 | The syllabus **prescribes** the specific texts that must be covered within the school term. |
| importunate | persistent, especially to the point of annoyance | 纠缠不休的；强求的 | She listened in irritation to the **importunate** customer who kept hogging her time in the shop with his irrelevant remarks. |
| imprudent | not showing care for the consequences of an action; rash | 轻率的；不明智的 | It would be **imprudent** for you to skip sunscreen on an excursion to the beach. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 12**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dressing was way ahead of his time.
2. He is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expert in this field.
3. A bomb could \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the population of this village.

**Medium**

1. This rather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ behaviour on your part requires a detailed explanation!
2. The slow and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ employee found it hard to be taken seriously.
3. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ temperament has not won her many friends in the office.

**Difficult**

1. The weight of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities was beginning to show on her face.
2. She realised that her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doubts towards her mother had cost her dearly.
3. There was no way that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plans would be acceptable to the committee.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consistency of the pudding does not make it look very appetising.
2. The young mother looked quite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ever since the birth of her second child.
3. He is so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about people declaring to his face that he is unfair or unjust that he has become paranoid about it.
4. The syllabus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the specific texts that must be covered within the school term.
5. She listened in irritation to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ customer who kept hogging her time in the shop.
6. It would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for you to skip sunscreen on an excursion to the beach.

**Vocabulary Bank 13**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| tumultuous | characterised by unrest or disorder | 骚乱的；喧嚣的；激动的 | His **tumultuous** life has been said by many to be more exciting than a soap opera. |
| destitution | poverty so extreme that one lacks the means to provide for oneself | 贫困 | She could not help but exclaim how unfair it was for her to be living a life of such **destitution**. |
| imperative | of vital importance; crucial | 必要的；紧急的 | It is **imperative** for students to study the sciences well in school. |
| disquieting | inducing feelings of anxiety or worry | 令人不安的；焦虑的 | Her refusal to admit her guilt was **disquieting** to say the least. |
| niggling | causing minor and persistent discomfort | 琐碎的；令人烦恼的 | The judge chose to believe the defendants in court, despite having some **niggling** doubts about their testimony. |
| confidant | a person with whom one shares a secret or private matter, trusting them not to repeat it to others | 知己；密友 | He has been a **confidant** to younger colleagues, as he believes in the value of lending a listening ear. |
| fortuitously | by chance rather than intention; fortunately | 偶然地；意外幸运地 | There are more events happening **fortuitously** as opposed to being by design. |
| devastated | to be rendered desolate | 毁坏的；极度悲伤的 | The **devastated** river was very polluted and filled with mosquitoes. |
| mortification | great embarrassment and shame | 屈辱；羞愧 | They mistook my **mortification** for an admission of guilt. |
| vociferously | loudly and forcefully | 大声地；喧嚷地 | They **vociferously** proclaimed their innocence and refused to back down. |
| assertively | referring to having or showing a confident and forceful personality | 自信地；坚定地 | This job calls for us to behave **assertively**. |
| scholastically | of or concerning schools and education | 学术上；学业上 | She wants to perform well **scholastically** and secure a good job later in life. |
| efficacious | successful in producing the intended result | 有效的 | He was extremely **efficacious** in his new role as managing director. |
| traumatise | to shock and upset someone severely and for a long time | 使受创伤；使受精神创伤 | **Traumatised** by a near-drowning incident in her childhood, she now refuses to enter any deep waters. |
| unprecedented | never done or known before | 前所未有的；空前的 | He combed through the archives with **unprecedented** speed and accuracy. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 13**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the table provided.

**Easy**

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for students to study hard.
2. She has been a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to many young colleagues.
3. He combed through the archives with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ speed.

**Medium**

1. Her refusal to admit guilt was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ proclaimed their innocence.
3. She wants to perform well \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Difficult**

1. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life was full of ups and downs.
2. She could not help but notice the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doubts in his testimony.
3. The river was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and polluted.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. She could not bear the thought of living a life of such \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. There are more events happening \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as opposed to being by design.
3. They mistook my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for an admission of guilt.
4. This job calls for us to behave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. He was extremely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his new role.
6. She was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the incident as a child.

**Vocabulary Bank 14**

| **Word/Phrase** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Example Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| bemuse | to be a mystery or be bewildering or baffling to behaviour | 使困惑（使某人感到困惑或迷茫） | He continues to **bemuse** others with his strange behaviour |
| befog | to confuse | 使模糊（使难以理解或看清） | They were asked not to **befog** others with lengthy explanations. |
| mellifluous | (of a sound) pleasingly smooth and musical to hear | 悦耳的（形容声音甜美流畅） | Her **mellifluous** voice was pleasing to the ear. |
| stunning | strikingly beautiful or attractive | 极好的/惊人的（形容极其美丽或令人震惊） | The crown was studded with **stunning** gemstones. |
| sanctimony | the action or practice of acting as if one were morally superior to other people | 伪善（假装道德高尚） | Her overly-pious **sanctimony** knows no bounds and she is unapologetic about her behaviour. |
| duplicity | deceitfulness | 欺骗（表里不一的行为） | The **duplicity** of his statements were quickly pointed out by sharp listeners. |
| didactic | in the manner of a teacher, particularly so as to appear patronising | 说教的（旨在教导，有时显得生硬） | Her **didactic** tone was not appreciated by her team members. |
| tyrannical | characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule | 暴虐的（专横残暴的） | The boss was **tyrannical** to the point whereby the employees were resigning in droves. |
| erudite | having or showing great knowledge or learning | 博学的（显示深厚学识的） | The **erudite** answers provided by the students pleased their teacher. |
| obtuse | annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand | 迟钝的（理解力慢的） | The retort she gave in response to widespread criticism made her sound **obtuse** and ignorant. |
| reticent | not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily | 沉默寡言的（不愿多说话的） | She was painfully **reticent** to the point of being almost invisible. |
| taciturn | tending to exercise reserve or introspection; (of a person) reserved or uncommunicative in speech, or saying extremely little | 沉默寡言的（天性不爱说话） | The boy was so **taciturn** that his parents wanted him to see a speech pathologist. |
| providential | occurring at a favourable time; opportune | 幸运的（像是上天安排的） | Her **providential** escape from death was widely reported in the newspapers. |
| auspicious | auguring favourable circumstances and good luck | 吉利的（预示成功的） | The **auspicious** couplets written for the newlyweds were favourably received by the couple. |
| facetious | treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour; flippant | 开玩笑的（不严肃的幽默） | He was so **facetious** in making his inappropriate remarks that no one clapped after he had concluded his speech. |
| berserk | out of control with anger or excitement; wild or frenzied | 狂怒的（完全失去控制的） | She went totally **berserk** and shocked the onlookers into silence. |
| indomitable | impossible to subdue or defeat | 不屈不挠的（无法被征服的） | Her **indomitable** spirit enabled her to complete even the most taxing projects. |
| enterprising | marked by imagination, initiative and a readiness to undertake new projects | 有进取心的（富有创新精神的） | His **enterprising** ways were pleasing to his bosses. |
| open-minded | willing to consider new ideas; unprejudiced | 思想开明的（愿意接受新观念的） | Let us be **open-minded**; she has only been on the job for three days and cannot be expected to produce results so soon. |
| profound | (of a state, quality, or emotion) very great or intense | 深刻的（意义深远的） | His **profound** words in his apology for his misdeeds moved them to tears. |
| requisite | made necessary for the achievement of a specified end | 必需的（必要的） | The applicants with the **requisite** qualifications were shortlisted for the next round of selection. |
| dire | extremely serious or urgent | 严重的（极其糟糕的） | Misuse of drugs carries **dire** consequences. |
| beneficent | (of a person) generous or doing good | 慈善的（行善的） | Being immensely **beneficent**, she did not bear a grudge against them even for having done her a great wrong. |
| solicitous | considerate of the feelings or well-being of others; characterised by or showing interest or concern | 关心的（体贴关怀的） | Her ever-**solicitous** ways were emulated by her children. |
| jocular | fond of or characterised by joking; humorous or playful | 爱开玩笑的（幽默的） | All were particularly **jocular** on this happy occasion whereby they all joyously celebrated. |
| upbeat | pleasantly or even unrealistically optimistic | 乐观的（积极向上的） | They remained **upbeat** in the face of adversity. |
| candid | openly straightforward and direct without reserve or secretiveness | 坦率的（诚实的） | She was **candid** about her chances for being promoted to the post of manager. |
| honourable | adhering to ethical and moral principles | 可敬的（值得尊敬的） | His **honourable** spirit would not allow him to take advantage of others. |
| droll | curious or unusual in a way that provokes dry amusement | 滑稽的（古怪有趣的） | Her **droll** self-mockery brought a breath of fresh air and laughter into the classroom. |
| riotous | characterised by wild and uncontrolled behaviour | 喧闹的（无法控制的） | He was simply **riotous** in his making of monkey faces all through the meeting. |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 14**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from Vocabulary Bank 14.

**Easy**

1. The crown was studded with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gemstones.
2. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ voice was pleasing to the ear.
3. They were asked not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others with lengthy explanations.

**Medium**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of his statements were quickly pointed out by sharp listeners.
2. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tone was not appreciated by her team members.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answers provided by the students pleased their teacher.

**Difficult**

1. She was painfully \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the point of being almost invisible.
2. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ escape from death was widely reported in the newspapers.
3. He was so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in making his inappropriate remarks that no one clapped after he had concluded his speech.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. Her overly-pious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ knows no bounds.
2. The boss was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the point whereby the employees were resigning in droves.
3. The retort she gave in response to widespread criticism made her sound \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ignorant.
4. The boy was so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that his parents wanted him to see a speech pathologist.
5. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spirit enabled her to complete even the most taxing projects.
6. Let us be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; she has only been on the job for three days.
7. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ words in his apology moved them to tears.
8. Misuse of drugs carries \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consequences.
9. Her ever- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ways were emulated by her children.
10. They remained \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the face of adversity.
11. She was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about her chances for being promoted.
12. Her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ self-mockery brought a breath of fresh air.
13. He was simply \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his making of monkey faces.

**Vocabulary Bank 15**

| **Word/Phrases** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Antonym**  **(反义词）** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| feral | wild and savage | 野性的；凶猛的 | domesticated |
| recusant | refusing to submit to obedient authority | 拒不服从的；倔强的 | compliant |
| momentous | critically meaningful or significant | 重大的；重要的 | insignificant |
| frivolous | frolicsome; serious lighthearted; flippant | 轻浮的；无聊的 | serious |
| intractable | incapable of compromise or flexibility | 难处理的；倔强的 | flexible |
| pliable | capable of being bent or flexed or twisted without breaking | 易弯曲的 | rigid |
| profligate | wasteful | 放荡的 | miserly |
| inchoate | emergent; beginning to happen or develop | 初期的；未成形的 | developed |
| jocund | cheerful and light-hearted | 欢乐的；愉快的 | sombre |
| mirthless | lacking laughter | 无欢乐的；强颜欢笑的 | cheerful |
| destitute | extremely poor | 赤贫的；一无所有的 | affluent |
| judicious | careful and sensible, and marked by sound judgment especially in practical matters | 明智的；审慎的 | reckless |
| irreproachable | beyond criticism; faultless | 无可指责的；完美的 | flawed |
| interim | lasting for only a limited period of time | 临时的；过渡期的 | permanent |
| sybaritic | fond of luxury | 奢侈享乐的 | ascetic |
| immutable | unchanging over time or unable to be changed | 不可改变的；永恒的 | changeable |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 15**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from Vocabulary Bank 15.

**Easy**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dog ran through the forest.
2. This is a very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occasion for our family.
3. The rope was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and easy to bend.

**Medium**

1. He was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to change his mind.
2. She was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in her spending habits.
3. His anger was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, just starting to bubble up.

**Difficult**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ children were playing in the park.
2. The family was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after losing their home.
3. Her judgment was always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, never rash.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. The law was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and could not be changed.
2. He lived a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle, surrounded by luxury.
3. The report was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and without fault.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ arrangement will only last a short time.
5. His words were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and full of cheer.
6. Her response was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, without any laughter.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people were given food by the charity.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ student refused to follow the rules.

**Vocabulary Bank 16**

| **Word/Phrases** | **Meaning** | **Chinese Meaning** | **Antonym**  **(反义词）** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| instrumental | relating to something's function and importance | 起重要作用的；有帮助的 | obstructive |
| malfunctioning | not working properly | 出故障的；运转失常的 | working |
| extricate | to free someone or something from a constraint or difficulty | 使摆脱；解救 | entangle |
| apprise | to inform or tell | 通知；告知 | conceal |
| pertinacity | persistent determination, doggedness or tenacity | 固执；坚持不懈 | irresolution |
| solace | comfort or consolation in a time of great distress or sadness | 安慰 | discord |
| indolent | to be idle and lazy | 懒惰的；怠惰的 | diligent |
| imbroglio | a confusing, complicated or embarrassing situation | 错综复杂的局面；纠纷 | harmony |
| assuage | to alleviate or ease an unpleasant feeling | 缓和；减轻 | aggravate |
| scant | hardly enough | 不足的；缺乏的 | plentiful |
| elan | enthusiastic and assured vigour and liveliness | 活力；热情 | listlessness |
| partisan | prejudiced to a certain cause | 党派性的；偏袒的 | fair |
| nondescript | lacking in interesting features | 平凡的；无特征的 | distinctive |
| illustrious | admired and respected | 杰出的；著名的 | insignificant |
| urbane | sophisticated and refined | 彬彬有礼的；温文尔雅的 | uncouth |

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 16**

**Instructions:** Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list below.

**Easy**

1. The equipment was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in completing the project on time.
2. The old radio was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and needed repairs.
3. He tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself from the difficult situation.

**Medium**

1. She needed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her team of the changes to the schedule.
2. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helped him complete the task despite challenges.
3. She found great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in her friend's words during her sorrow.

**Difficult**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ worker preferred to nap than finish his tasks.
2. The complex negotiation led to a significant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The medicine helped to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her headache.

**Bonus (Very Difficult)**

1. There was only a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amount of food left for the week.
2. The dancer moved with great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The newspaper was known to be very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in its political coverage.
4. The building was quite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lacking any unique features.
5. The scientist was an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ figure in his field.
6. His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ manners impressed everyone at the dinner party.

**Vocabulary Bank 17**

**Pop Quiz: Vocabulary Bank 17**