

# Vocabulary in *Rights of Man*

Compiled by AcadeMe for the Homer Project

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<b>ridiculous</b>	adj.	extremely silly or unreasonable <i>She looks ridiculous in that outfit.</i>
<b>whence</b>	adv.	from where <i>They returned to the land whence they came.</i>
<b>precedent</b>	n.	a similar action or event that happened at an earlier time <i>There are no precedents for these events. [=nothing like these events has ever happened before]</i>
<b>administer</b>	v.	to manage the operation of (something, such as a company or government) or the use of (something, such as property) <i>As a cost-saving measure, voters have elected to have the two towns administered jointly.</i>
<b>qualification</b>	n.	a special skill or type of experience or knowledge that makes someone suitable to do a particular job or activity usually plural <i>He has the best qualifications for the job.</i>
<b>exhaust</b>	v.	to use all of someone's mental or physical energy :to tire out or wear out (someone) completely <i>If you keep working these long hours, you're just going to exhaust yourself. = Working these long hours will just exhaust you.</i>
<b>null</b>	adj.	having no legal power <i>The contract was declared null. [=invalid]</i>
<b>tyranny</b>	n.	cruel and unfair treatment by people with power over others <i>The refugees were fleeing tyranny.</i>
<b>fury</b>	n.	violent anger :rage <i>I could see the fury in her eyes.</i>
<b>fashionable</b>	adj.	currently popular <i>fashionable clothes [=clothes that are popular; clothes that are in fashion]</i>
<b>pardon</b>	v.	to officially say that someone who is guilty of a crime will be allowed to go free and will not be punished <i>pardon a criminal</i>
<b>presumption</b>	n.	a belief that something is true even though it has not been proved often + that <i>The presumption is that the thief had a key to the store.</i>
<b>dispose</b>	v.	to cause (someone) to be likely to do or have something + to or toward <i>His upbringing disposes him to question authority.</i>
<b>reverence</b>	n.	honor or respect that is felt for or shown to (someone or something) <i>Her poems are treated with reverence by other poets.</i>
<b>vanity</b>	n.	the quality of people who have too much pride in their own appearance, abilities, achievements, etc. :the quality of being vain <i>The handsome actor's vanity was well-known.</i>
<b>contend</b>	v.	to argue or state (something) in a strong and definite way <i>These people contend that they have earned the right to the land.</i>
<b>immortal</b>	adj.	not capable of dying :living forever <i>the immortal soul</i>
<b>cultivate</b>	v.	to prepare and use (soil) for growing plants

		<i>Prehistoric peoples settled the area and began to cultivate the land.</i>
<b>repeal</b>	v.	to officially make (a law) no longer valid <i>The state legislature eventually repealed [=rescinded] the tax (law).</i>
<b>confine</b>	v.	to keep (someone or something) within limits :to prevent (someone or something) from going beyond a particular limit, area, etc. usually + to <i>Please confine [=restrict, limit] your comments to 200 words.</i>
<b>awe</b>	v.	to fill (someone) with awe <i>Her style both awes and perplexes me.</i>
<b>sans</b>	preposition	without <i>She went to the party sans her husband.</i>
<b>instruct</b>	v.	to teach (someone) a subject, skill, etc. usually + in or on <i>His friend instructed him in English.</i>
<b>preclude</b>	v.	to make (something) impossible :to prevent (something) from happening <i>She suffered an injury that precluded the possibility of an athletic career.</i>
<b>thereon</b>	adv.	on the thing that has been mentioned <i>The highway and structures thereon are being repaired.</i>
<b>dictate</b>	v.	to speak or read (something) to a person who writes it down or to a machine that records it <i>She's dictating a letter to her secretary.</i>
<b>provoke</b>	v.	to cause the occurrence of (a feeling or action) :to make (something) happen <i>His remarks provoked both tears and laughter.</i>
<b>marvelous</b>	adj.	extremely good or enjoyable :wonderful <i>We had a marvelous time at the party.</i>
<b>monstrous</b>	adj.	extremely or unusually large :gigantic <i>a monstrous billboard</i>
<b>precede</b>	v.	to happen, go, or come before (something or someone) <i>Riots preceded the civil war.</i>
<b>contradict</b>	v.	to say the opposite of (something that someone else has said) :to deny the truth of (something) <i>contradict a rumor</i>
<b>commence</b>	v.	to begin <i>The festivities will commence with a parade.</i>
<b>posterity</b>	n.	people in the future <i>Posterity will remember her as a woman of courage and integrity.</i>
<b>withhold</b>	v.	to hold (something) back <i>You can withhold the fee until the work is complete. [=you can wait to pay the fee until after the work is complete]</i>
<b>therefrom</b>	adv.	from that or it
<b>sectarian</b>	adj.	relating to religious or political sects and the differences between them <i>sectarian movements</i>
<b>formality</b>	n.	a formal quality <i>Her use of old-fashioned language lends an air of formality to her writing.</i>
<b>grind</b>	v.	to crush or break (something) into very small pieces by rubbing it against a rough surface or using a special machine <i>Grind (up) the coffee beans into a fine powder.</i>
<b>illuminate</b>	v.	to supply (something) with light :to shine light on (something) <i>Candles illuminate [=light] the church.</i>
<b>voluminous</b>	adj.	very large :containing a lot of space <i>a voluminous room</i>
<b>genealogy</b>	n.	the study of family history <i>an expert in genealogy</i>
<b>frenzy</b>	n.	great and often wild or uncontrolled activity

		<i>the buying frenzy just before Christmas</i>
<b>despise</b>	v.	to dislike (something or someone) very much <i>He despises [=hates, loathes] pop music.</i>
<b>infallible</b>	adj.	not capable of being wrong or making mistakes :not fallible <i>I never claimed to be infallible.</i>
<b>inconvenient</b>	adj.	causing trouble or problems :not convenient <i>The restaurant is in an inconvenient location.</i>
<b>explode</b>	v.	to suddenly break apart in a violent way with parts flying outward <i>The bomb could explode [=blow up, detonate] at any minute.</i>
<b>copious</b>	adj.	very large in amount or number <i>The storm produced a copious amount of rain.</i>
<b>epithet</b>	n.	a word or phrase that describes a person or thing <i>His charitable works have earned him the epithet Mr. Philanthropy.</i>
<b>omnipotent</b>	adj.	having complete or unlimited power :all-powerful <i>omnipotent gods</i>
<b>horrid</b>	adj.	very shocking or bad <i>People there are living in horrid conditions.</i>
<b>stag</b>	n.	an adult male deer
<b>turnpike</b>	n.	a major road that you must pay to use <i>the Massachusetts Turnpike</i>
<b>chasm</b>	n.	a deep hole or opening in the surface of the earth :gorge <i>Leaders tried to bridge a chasm [=split, divide] between the two religious groups.</i>
<b>insolent</b>	adj.	rude or impolite :having or showing a lack of respect for other people <i>an insolent [=impudent, disrespectful] child</i>
<b>posse</b>	n.	a group of people who were gathered together by a sheriff in the past to help search for a criminal <i>The sheriff and his posse rode out to look for the bandits.</i>
<b>annihilate</b>	v.	to destroy (something or someone) completely <i>Bombs annihilated the city.</i>
<b>credulity</b>	n.	ability or willingness to believe something <i>Although most of the book is believable, its ending tests/strains credulity. [=its ending is difficult to believe; its ending does not seem true or possible]</i>
<b>irritate</b>	v.	to make (someone) impatient, angry, or annoyed <i>It's his arrogance that really irritates me.</i>
<b>usurp</b>	v.	to take and keep (something, such as power) in a forceful or violent way and especially without the right to do so <i>Some people have accused city council members of trying to usurp the mayor's power.</i>
<b>dissolute</b>	adj.	used to describe someone (such as a person who often gets drunk) whose way of living is considered morally wrong <i>a dissolute drunk</i>
<b>upstart</b>	n.	a person who has recently begun an activity, become successful, etc., and who does not show proper respect for older and more experienced people <i>a young upstart from Harvard who thinks he knows more than the boss</i>
<b>congratulation</b>	n.	a message telling someone that you are happy because of his or her success or good luck :words that congratulate someone <i>Let me offer you my congratulations for/on being elected.</i>
<b>unlettered</b>	adj.	unable to read or write :illiterate <i>unlettered peasants</i>
<b>nonentity</b>	n.	a person who is not famous or important

		<i>She quickly went from being a nonentity [=nobody] to being one of the most famous women in the country.</i>
<b>consign</b>	v.	to put (someone) in a usually unpleasant place or situation + to <i>Survivors described how they were consigned to labor camps.</i>
<b>appertain</b>	v.	to belong to or be connected or related to something :pertain <i>the rights and privileges that appertain to marriage</i>
<b>incivility</b>	n.	a rude or impolite attitude or behavior :lack of civility <i>Never before have I been treated with such incivility! [=rudeness]</i>