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I See Both Sides

10C Words Defined

antagonize / apathy / arbitrate / bestow / bigot / capsize / compromise / epidemic / haggle / homicide / irate / permanent / persist / rant / wrath

Below you'll find each vocabulary word that was used in the song. Each word is followed by the part of speech, a simple definition and a meaningful sentence. Some words will also have synonyms, antonyms and other forms of the word listed.

1. antagonize

(verb) to make an enemy of; to stir up anger or dislike
Insulting your opponents on the basketball court is an easy way to *antagonize* them.
Synonyms: anger, annoy, offend
Antonyms: aid, compliment

2. apathy

(noun) a lack of interest or concern
C-Ray is filled with so much *apathy*; I don't think he would even care if his best friend moved away forever.
Synonyms: indifference, aloofness
Antonyms: care, concern, sympathy
Other forms: Instead of caring, Vlad was *apathetic* (adj) to our problems.

3. arbitrate

(verb) to settle a disagreement between two parties by having a third party make a decision after hearing both sides
Ms. Dessario *arbitrated* our big disagreement about who really won the student election.
Synonyms: make a deal, negotiate
Other forms: We were looking for some *arbitration* (noun) to settle who really owned the tree between our houses. The mayor served as the *arbitrator* (noun).

4. bestow

(verb) to give as an honor; to present as a gift
Our teacher *bestowed* lots of praise on the kids who had performed in the talent show.
Synonyms: award, confer
Antonyms: deprive

5. bigot

(noun) one who is not tolerant of people who are different
We knew Ryan was a bigot when we heard him talk about how women shouldn't be allowed to run companies.
Synonyms: prejudiced person
Antonyms: open-minded person
Other forms: Though the Nazis were well organized, their entire movement was based on *bigotry* (noun).



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Some people think Mark Twain was *bigoted* (adj) because he uses an offensive racial term in *Huckleberry Finn*.

6. capsize

(verb) to turn bottom-side-up; overturn
Don't rock the boat or it will *capsize*!
Synonyms: roll over, flip over

7. compromise

(noun) the settlement of a disagreement by having each side give up something
After arguing for hours, the four leaders reached a *compromise*.
Antonyms: disagreement, dispute
Other forms: *Compromise* is used just as often as a verb: Unable to *compromise*, the two students ended up not getting anything done.

8. epidemic

(noun) a rapid spread or increase in the occurrence of something, especially a disease
Cell phone use among teens is sweeping the country like an *epidemic*.
Synonyms: outbreak, rash

9. haggle

(verb) to argue in a petty, back-and-forth manner, especially about a price
They spent 20 minutes *haggling* over the price of a dozen chicken wings.
Synonyms: bicker, quarrel
Antonyms: agree

10. homicide

(noun) the killing of one person by another
As a detective specializing in *homicides*, Bianca has seen lots of gruesome murder scenes.
Synonyms: murder

11. irate

(adj) very angry; furious
Courtney got *irate* when I told her that I had taken her iPod and lost it.
Antonyms: happy

12. permanent

(adj) lasting for a long time, maybe forever
Spilling grape juice on my white T-shirt left a *permanent* stain.
Synonyms: fixed
Antonyms: temporary



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13. persist

(verb) to continue steadily in an action, to refuse to stop or be changed; to last, remain
Despite growing scientific knowledge, certain superstitions have *persisted* for thousands of years.

Synonyms: carry on, stick it out

Antonyms: give up, quit
Other forms: Thanks to his *persistence* (noun), Chiavas finally got a job at Taco Bell.

14. rant

(verb) to speak wildly and violently

The man standing on the street corner was *ranting* about how the end of the world was coming next Tuesday.

Synonyms: rave

Other forms: *Rant* can also be a noun meaning “a loud, violent speech”: I had to listen to Nate’s *rant* about how a secret society is taking over the world.

15. wrath

(noun) intense anger

The king yelled down for all to hear: “If you betray me, you will feel my *wrath!*”

Synonyms: rage, fury

Antonyms: love



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10D Fix the Mistake

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Each of the sentences below has a mistake. The wrong vocabulary words have been used, so the sentences don't make sense. Rewrite each sentence using the correct vocabulary word from this unit.

1. Scooter is such a bully; I stopped riding the school bus because I'm tired of him **arbitrating** me every morning.

2. King Arthur **capsized** a jeweled sword upon Sir Lancelot to thank the knight for his years of service.

3. If you write your name on the wall with this **irate** marker, you'll never be able to scrub it off!

4. When Clay visited India, he spent one afternoon **ranting** with a shopkeeper over the price of a carpet he wished to buy.

5. Terrence was so **permanent** when he learned his younger brother had broken his stereo that he had to leave the house for a while to calm down.

6. I wanted to see a different movie than Carrie, so we **bestowed** by seeing a movie neither of us really wanted to see

7. It was clear that Jennifer and I just didn't see eye to eye, so we asked our friend Genevieve to **haggle** the discussion.



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8. The mighty Zeus unleashed his **apathy** upon the world by throwing lightning bolts down upon all who did not worship him.

9. My uncle is such an **epidemic** when it comes to people of other races that I'm afraid other people will think I'm a racist if I talk to him in public.

10. The morning show DJ has been **antagonizing** about how orange juice is overpriced for at least 45 minutes.

11. If you ever expect to lose weight, you must **compromise** in eating healthy and exercising regularly, even if you don't feel like it.

12. Politics fills me with **wrath**; I really don't care who gets elected or who's even running.

13. Mrs. Steelers was a suspect for **bigotry** when her husband died under mysterious circumstances.

14. There's been a **homicide** of bad hip-hop songs lately; every time I turn on the radio I hear nothing but weak rhymes and recycled beats.

15. I'm afraid the canoe will **persist** because of the rapids in the river.



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10G Understanding What You Read

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Read the passage below. Then answer the questions.

A Birthday Surprise

I had never seen my father so irate before.

“Can you believe this guy?” he ranted to my mother. “Honestly, I think he gets a sick thrill out of antagonizing me. And on my birthday, no less. My birthday!”

“Now, Herman,” my mother said. “Sal probably just stepped out for a minute. Let’s walk to that little restaurant on the corner—I’m sure we’ll all feel better with some food in our stomachs.”

We had come to Miami on my father’s birthday to visit his brother, Salvatore. For as long as I’ve been alive, Uncle Sal has been a constant source of my dad’s wrath. They’re great friends, but they sure do rub each other the wrong way sometimes. For example, when they go out to dinner together, they always haggle over who’s going to pay the bill. Sometimes I think that if my mom and I weren’t there to arbitrate, one of them might end up in jail for homicide!

I couldn’t really blame my dad for being angry. We had just spent three hours in an airplane to get to Sal’s place. When we arrived on his doorstep, however, the door was locked—and Sal was nowhere to be found. “He better be in the hospital with some kind of permanent disability,” my dad grumbled. “Or I’m going to put him there.”

We decided to head right to the restaurant. When we got there, my dad tried the door. “Just great,” he said. “They’re not open.”

“They aren’t?” my mom asked, perplexed. “But they must be open. You just have to be persistent.” She tried the doorknob herself. “I said, THEY MUST BE OPEN,” she repeated in a louder voice.

“Why are you shouting?” my dad asked.

From inside the restaurant, I heard the sound of a lock being turned. My dad gave the doorknob one more twist. This time, it opened.

“SURPRISE!”

We stepped into the restaurant to find about 20 people standing in front of a big banner that read “Happy 50th Birthday, Herman!” In the center of the group, my Uncle Sal stood holding a birthday cake. He took one look at the shocked expression on my dad’s face and broke into peals of laughter.

“Gotcha!” he said.



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1. The narrator's mother could best be described as

- (A) Excitable
- (B) Distrustful
- (C) Patient
- (D) Forgetful

2. Read this sentence from the passage: "They're great friends, but they sure do rub each other the wrong way sometimes." To "rub someone the wrong way" is to

- (A) Ignore them
- (B) Annoy them
- (C) Amuse them
- (D) Confuse them

3. From which point of view is this story told?

- (A) First person
- (B) Second person
- (C) Third person
- (D) Stream of consciousness

4. The relationship between Herman and Uncle Sal could best be described as

- (A) Gracious
- (B) Hateful
- (C) Tender
- (D) Combative

5. Based on the behavior of the narrator's mother, you can guess that she

- (A) Had not eaten for days
- (B) Was angry with her husband
- (C) Had never been to Miami before
- (D) Knew about the surprise party