



A Dog's Life Vocabulary Boosters

Use these 20 vocabulary words from *A Dog's Life* to strengthen vocabulary and comprehension. (Note: these are in the order they appear in the book)

1. predator (pred-uh-tur)

noun

An animal that lives by hunting other animals for food. Lions, sharks, and hawks are predators.

2. investigate (in-vess-tuh-gate)

verb

If you **investigate** something, such as a crime, you find out as much as possible about it.

3. consider (kuhn-sid-ur)

verb

1. To think about something carefully before deciding what to do.
2. To believe that something is true. *Shelley considers school to be a waste of time.*
3. To take something into account. *We must consider Danny's feelings.*

4. abandon (uh-ban-duhn)

verb

1. To leave forever.
2. To give up.

5. wary (wair-ee)

adjective

Cautious and careful. *Danny is always very wary of dogs.*

6. scramble (skram-buhl)

verb

1. To climb over rocks or hills.
2. To rush or struggle to get somewhere or something. *Jessica scrambled to get to the front row.*
3. To mix up or mix together. *Scramble the letters in the game.*
4. To alter an electronic signal so that it requires a special receiver to decode the message. *The cable television company scrambled its signal so that only subscribers could receive it.*

7. emerge (i-murj)

verb

If you emerge from somewhere, you come out into the open.

8. haunch (hawnych)

noun

The hip, buttock, and upper thigh of an animal or person.

9. menace (men-iss)

noun

A threat or a danger. *Drunk drivers are a menace to everyone else on the road.*

10. rabid (rab-id)

adjective

1. Affected with rabies, an often fatal disease that can affect humans, dogs, bats, and other warm-blooded animals. Rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the brain and spinal cord and is spread by the bite of an infected animal.
2. Extremely violent.
3. Going to extreme lengths in expressing or pursuing a feeling, interest, or opinion.

11. retreat (ri-treet)

verb

To move back or withdraw from a difficult situation. *The enemy retreated into the woods.*

12. venture (ven-chur)

verb

To put yourself at risk by doing something daring or dangerous. *The explorers ventured cautiously into the dense jungle.*

13. desperate (dress-pur-it)
adjective

1. If you are **desperate**, you will do anything to change your situation.
2. Dangerous or difficult, as in *a desperate act*.

14. asphalt (ass-fawlt)
noun

A black, tarlike substance that is mixed with sand and gravel and then rolled flat to make roads.

15. independent (in-di-pen-duhnt)
adjective

Free from the control of other people or things. *The colonists wanted to be independent of England.*

16. scrounge (skrounj)
verb

1. To get things from people without paying. *Can I scrounge a sandwich from you?*
2. To get or collect things with difficulty. *He scrounged up enough money to pay for lunch.*

17. stalk (stawk)
verb

To hunt or track a person or an animal in a quiet, secret way. *The leopard stalked its prey.*

18. vicious (vish-uhss)
Adjective

1. Cruel and mean, as in *vicious lies*.
2. Evil or wicked, as in *a vicious crime*.
3. Fierce or dangerous, as in *a vicious dog*.

19. contraption (kuhn-trap-shuhn)
noun

A strange or odd device or machine.

20. instinct (in-stingkt)
noun

Behavior that is natural rather than learned. *Ducks swim by instinct.*