

Voc 4 Definition & Sentence

1. **contemptuous** p. 56 showing or expressing or disdain; scornful; disrespectful.
At the SeaBreeze, I'm shown around by a large, **contemptuous** guy who tells me there are no problems here because he's a retired cop and his son-in-law is a cop too, and everyone knows this, but I can't tell whether I'm supposed to feel reassured or warned.
2. **callow** p. 71 immature or inexperienced
Prophetically enough, I caught a rerun of that very show on PBS over the weekend and was struck by how terribly correct the servants looked in their black-and-white uniforms and how much wiser they were than their **callow**, egotistical masters.
3. **gaunt** extremely thin and bony; haggard and drawn
For this I get a wrinkled nose from Rhoda and a one-sided grin from Lynne, the **gaunt** blonde who's working bras.
4. **mundane** common; ordinary; banal; unimaginative.
In that line of business, you can think all you want, but sooner or later you have to get to the bench and plunge into the everyday chaos of nature, here surprises lurk in the most **mundane** measurements.
5. **niche** a place or position suitable or appropriate for a person or thing
On my first Friday at Hearthsides there is a "mandatory meeting for all restaurant employees," which I attend, eager for insight into our overall marketing strategy and the **niche** (your basic Ohio cuisine with a tropical twist?) we aim to inhabit.
6. **oafish** like a clumsy, stupid person;
We too have uniforms, though they are more oafish than dignified-ill-fitting and in an overloud combination of kelly-green pants and a blinding sunflower-yellow polo shirt.
7. **pariah** an outcast
Or maybe it's low-wage work in general that has the effect of making you feel like a **pariah**.
8. **reprimand** a severe sharp, stern disapproval, especially a formal one by a person in authority
I am **reprimanded** by the team leader for failing to vacuum far enough under the Persian rugs scattered around on the hardwood floors, because this owner likes to leave little mounds of dirt there just so she can see if they're still there when we're done.
9. **tenacity** the quality or property of being persistent, stubborn, or obstinate
His **tenacity** and political skill have caused problems for the government during his time as shadow education secretary.
10. **Unilaterally** relating to, occurring on, or involving one side only
Those who do step out of line often face little unexplained punishments, such as having their schedules or their work assignments **unilaterally** changed.
11. **viable** practicable; workable
The other problem, in addition to the less-than-nurturing management style, is that this job shows no sign of being financially **viable**.
12. **congenial** agreeable, suitable, or pleasing in nature or character
In real life I am moderately brave, but plenty of brave people shed their courage in POW camps, and maybe something similar goes on in the infinitely more **congenial** milieu of the low-wage American workplace.
13. **deficiencies** the state of being incomplete
She itemizes its **deficiencies**: the bedrooms are tiny; the block is infested with drug dealers; the dining room ceiling leaks whenever the bathroom above it is used; the toilet can be flushed only by pouring in a bucket of water.
14. **ambiguity** - doubtfulness or uncertainty of meaning or intention
Around me, they feel no need to cower in corners faced with the **ambiguity**, general squishiness and uncertainty of biology.