

Oscar Wilde – Glossary

admirable adjective

an admirable quality, action, or person deserves to be admired and respected

ambition noun [uncount]

determination to become successful, rich, or famous

case noun [count]

a legal matter that will be decided in a court:
He was confident that the case against him would be dropped.

collapse verb [intransitive]

to suddenly fail or stop existing:
The country's economy is collapsing.

commit verb [transitive]

to do something that is illegal or morally wrong:
He had admitted to committing adultery.

conduct noun [uncount] FORMAL

the way someone behaves:
The coach criticized his team for their conduct.

downfall noun [singular]

a sudden loss of power, status, or success, or something that causes this loss:
His greed was his downfall.

exquisite adjective

extremely beautiful and delicate:
an exquisite hand-painted vase

failure noun [count]

someone or something that has not been successful
I feel such a failure.

forgive (past tense **forgave**; past participle

forgiven) verb [transitive]
to decide to stop being angry with someone who has done something that is bad:
John has never forgiven himself for the accident.

goodness noun [uncount]

the quality of being morally good

gossip noun [count or uncount]

talk or a conversation about things that are not important or about people's private lives:
an interesting piece of gossip

guilty adjective

someone who is guilty has committed a crime or has done something wrong:

find someone guilty/not guilty of something

(=officially decide that they are guilty/not guilty):
He was found guilty of murder.

labour noun [count or uncount]

work, especially physical work:
The price includes the cost of labour.

honesty noun [uncount]

an honest way of behaving, speaking, or thinking:
She is a woman of honesty and integrity.

humorous adjective

funny: *a humorous story*

improper adjective

not suitable or right according to accepted standards of behaviour

indecent adjective

offensive or shocking

insult verb [transitive]

to say or do something that is offensive:
She has no right to insult us like that.

intellect noun [uncount]

the ability to think in an intelligent way and to understand difficult or complicated ideas and subjects: *a lawyer of great intellect*

judge verb [intransitive or transitive]

to form an opinion about something after considering all the details or facts:

lead (past tense and past participle **led**) verb

lead to something
to begin a process that causes something to happen: *There is no doubt that stress can lead to physical illness.*

lecture verb [intransitive]

to give a lecture or a series of lectures

libel noun [count or uncount]

the illegal act of writing bad things that are not true about someone

literary adjective

relating to literature

pleasure noun [count]

something that makes you feel happy and satisfied:
Music is one of the greatest pleasures in life.

prison noun [count or uncount]

an institution where people are kept as a punishment for committing a crime:
He's currently in prison for tax fraud.

productive adjective

producing or achieving a lot:
a very productive meeting

publish verb [transitive]

to have something that you have written printed and sold:
In 1934 he published another successful novel.

quotation noun [count]

words from a book, play, film etc that are used by someone else

refuge noun [count or uncount]

a place you go to in order to protect yourself from something dangerous or threatening

rely verb

rely on someone/something

to trust someone or something to do something for you: *Sometimes you just have to rely on your own judgment.*

revelation noun [count]

a surprising piece of information:
revelations about his private life

Revelations a book (chapter) from the New Testament in The Bible

satisfied adjective

pleased with what has happened, or with what you have achieved: *a satisfied customer*

sentence verb [transitive]

if a judge sentences someone, they officially say what that person's punishment will be:
He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

spectacular adjective

extremely impressive

steal (past tense **stole**; past participle **stolen**) verb [intransitive or transitive]

to take something that belongs to someone else without permission:

steal something from someone/something:

She was caught stealing food from the supermarket.

ugly adjective

unpleasant to look at