Rea091 Vocabulary Words, Set 1, Pilot’s Wife

1. distraught (adj.) agitated with doubt or mental conflict, driven mad, crazed, harassed
   
   a. People say things when they’re distraught, things they wouldn’t say later.
   b. The parents of the lost child were quite distraught when he had not been found by the end of the day.
   c. He was vehemently opposed to my new idea. As a result I became very distraught.

2. condescending (adj.) to descend to a level regarded as lower, to deal with others in a patronizing way, being snobbish or arrogant
   
   a. The summer people who for all their patronizing of her grandmother’s shop, and all their invariable condescending curiosity about the small town, remained anonymous.
   b. People who become rich and famous will sometimes develop a condescending attitude toward their old friends and neighbors.
   c. We were bothered by his condescending manner but we stifled our anger and stayed calm.

3. imperceptible (adj.) not easily perceived by the senses or the mind; very slight, gradual, subtle
   
   a. It was just a gradual sliding away, so gradual as to sometimes be almost imperceptible, until one day it occurred to Kathryn that she and Jack had not made love in over two weeks.
   b. I had one inch cut from my long hair yesterday. The change was so minor, it was really imperceptible.
   c. The subliminal message in the commercial was missed by many people. It was imperceptible to them.

4. wrenched (verb) a sudden, violent twist or pull, a sudden feeling of anguish, grief, etc. as from separation, to twist or pull violently
   
   a. Kathryn put her arm around Mattie but she wrenched herself away from her mother.
   b. The girl was not interested in talking to him at the party so she wrenched herself away and proceeded to move into the other room.
   c. Because he was so pugnacious, I wrenched myself away. I don’t like to deal with argumentative people.

5. imminent (adj.) likely to happen without delay, impending
   
   a. Mattie’s voice was tight and high, a tone Kathryn knew from previous experiences indicated strenuous control over imminent hysteria.
   b. They knew that driving through a drug infested neighborhood at midnight would put them in imminent danger.
   c. There was a plethora of problems with his plan so we knew that failure was imminent.
6. eccentricities (noun) eccentric (adj.) out of the ordinary, deviating from the norm in conduct; odd, unconventional

   a. Even its eccentricities, Kathryn had come to appreciate: the sloping floors in the bedrooms and the shallow closets that had been designed for nuns.
   b. Everyone has their own eccentricities, those odd but unique characteristics, habits or interests that make them stand out as an individual.
   c. He dressed flamboyantly. His brightly colored clothes made him appear eccentric compared to his conservative friends.

7. summit (noun) the highest point, peak, top, zenith, pinnacle, the highest degree or state

   a. If they were to walk further up the hill to its actual summit, they would be able to see the ocean.
   b. Experienced skiers will climb to the mountains summit before beginning their descent.
   c. They ventured climbing to the summit of Mt. Everest and a few of them lost their lives.

8. altercation (noun) a quarrel; a heated or angry dispute, a clash, an argument

   a. The cockpit voice recorder may reveal an altercation between the pilot and the flight engineer moments before the explosions.
   b. My sister and I had frequent altercations when we were young. We fought over everything.
   c. He never got involved in altercations at work. He averted arguments at all costs.

9. derisive (adj.) deride (verb)- ridiculing, laughing at scornfully, mocking irreverent

   a. Jack made a short derisive sound. Dad isn’t exactly the correct word. My father was an asshole.
   b. When political campaigns get nasty, the candidates can say derisive, offensive things about each other.
   c. My brother often taunts me. He says derisive things just to get me enraged.

10. voracious (adj.) greedy in eating, ravenous, very eager or greedy in some desire or pursuit

    a. And the voracious momentum of that night changed their marriage so that they would more often look into each other’s eyes and say something meaningful.
    b. Because he was a voracious reader, he read at least one book a week.
    c. His voracious appetite was a problem for him. He seemed to be oblivious to how much he had already eaten and he ate more.