Rea091 Vocabulary Words, Set 2, Pilot’s Wife

1. doltish (adj.) acting slow-witted, behaving stupidly or foolishly, feeling dumb
   a. She feels slow and **doltish**. The surprises are piling up before she can sort them out.
   b. Everyone was using technical words and I felt rather **doltish** since I don’t understand computer language.
   c. She felt **doltish** when her doctor spoke to her in medical **jargon**. She couldn’t even pronounce the medical terms he used so frequently to explain her injury.

2. goaded (verb) a driving impulse, to urge on, provoke, incite, prod
   a. Kathryn utters a long moan, knowing that it had all gone too far and that she has caused it. She has **goaded** him.
   b. Sometimes confrontational people will **goad** others just to start an argument.
   c. Since he **goaded** me relentlessly, it **engendered** bad feelings between us forever.

3. vacillates (verb) to waver, to fluctuate, to show indecision, to sway to and fro
   a. For awhile she **vacillates** between anger and concern until she falls asleep on the couch.
   b. Politicians often **vacillate** on controversial issues. First they are promoting gun control and then they are condemning it.
   c. I find it **disconcerting** to listen to that speaker. He **vacillates** on the issue and never takes a clear stand for or against stem cell research.

4. lugubrious (adj.) dismal, mournful ; usually implying ridiculously excessive grief
   a. I hate Irish music. Why is it so **lugubrious**? It doesn’t exactly cheer you up.
   b. She had a rather **lugubrious** reaction to her dog’s death. She cried for weeks about it.
   c. The police **scrutinized** her overly emotional behavior. She was so **lugubrious** that they thought she might be putting on an act that she was **distracted** by the news of his murder.

5. acclimated (verb) to become accustomed to a new climate, culture or different environment
   a. Perhaps it was after a series of shocks, the body **acclimated** itself, like being inoculated-each subsequent shock delivering less impact.
   b. The students became **acclimated** to the college environment by their sophomore year.
   c. I became **acclimated** to their **banter**. They chatted nonstop every morning about nonsense.
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6. dissipated (verb) to scatter or disperse, to make disappear slowly
   a. A veil of protective mist dissipated, and she saw all that was possible.
   b. After several hours, the smoke dissipated and the people could walk into the house to see what remained.
   c. I sat in the back between boxes of vegetables and watched the dust boil from behind the truck, forming gray clouds that rose quickly and hung over the road in the heavy air before slowly dissipated from the lack of wind.

7. engender (verb) to bring into being, to cause, to produce
   a. Kathryn speculated on the intensity of love that constant separation might engender.
   b. His nasty and argumentative behavior engendered bad feelings between him and his children.
   c. His stealth nature engendered distrust between him and the jurors. His sneaky and sly manner caused them to question his claims of innocence.

8. abated (verb) to end, to quash, to beat down, to make less in amount or degree
   a. The need for security was abated with the passing months but they knew they would never lead a normal life again.
   b. The anger and frustration of the parents of the victim was only abated when he was given a life sentence for his crimes.
   c. His penchant for violence was only abated when he attended counseling and anger management classes.

9. stoical (adj.) stoically (adv.) showing austere indifference to grief, joy, pain etc.; impassive, apathetic, uncomplaining, showing no emotions
   a. Even more stoically, she had helped Robert take the Christmas tree down.
   b. Some patients’ responses to illness are stoical. They remain so calm and courageous.
   c. There wasn’t a modicum of emotion noticeable in his behavior, he remained stoical throughout the crisis.

10. formidable (adj.) causing dread, fear or awe, hard to handle or overcome, difficult
    a. Julia looked pretty formidable to me. I’m not sure I’d want to try and get past her now.
    b. The movers had to undertake the formidable task, moving the grand piano up the narrow staircase.
    c. Enforcing the Emancipation Proclamation was a formidable challenge in the 1860’s. Ending slavery was a major disruption to life especially in the South.