

# DEADLY SINFUL WORDS

*Avocabo Word List 52*

ACRIMONY, AVARICE, BEGRUDGE, COVETOUS, DEBAUCHERY, DUDGEON, GOURMAND, HUBRIS, INDOLENT, IRASCIBLE, JAUNDICE, LACKADAISICAL, LASCIVIOUS, PIQUE, RAPACIOUS, RAVENOUS, SALACIOUS, SUPERCILIOUS, TORPID, VORACITY

The modern concept of the Seven Deadly Sins is linked to the works of the 4th century monk Evagrius Ponticus, who listed eight evil thoughts in Greek which were then translated into the Latin of Roman Catholic spiritual *pietas* (or Catholic devotions), as listed below:

- *Gula* (gluttony)
- *Fornicatio* (fornication, lust)
- *Avaritia* (avarice/greed)
- *Tristitia* (sorrow/despair)
- *Ira* (wrath)
- *Acedia* (acedia)
- *Vanagloria* (vainglory)
- *Superbia* (pride)

In AD 590, some years after Evagrius, Pope Gregory I revised this list to form the more common Seven Deadly Sins, by folding sorrow/despair into acedia, vainglory into pride, and adding extravagance and envy, while removing fornication from the list. In the order used by both Pope Gregory and by Dante Alighieri in his epic poem *The Divine Comedy*, the seven deadly sins are as follows:

1. luxuria (extravagance/lust)
2. gula (gluttony)
3. avaritia (avarice/greed)
4. Socordia (sloth/acedia)
5. ira (wrath)
6. invidia (envy)
7. superbia (pride)

The identification and definition of the seven deadly sins over history has been a fluid process and the idea of what each of the seven actually encompasses has evolved over time.

**Exercise 52-1: Definitions** *Fill in the blank with the best word above that matches each definition. (20 marks)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, Bitterness or ill feeling
2. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, Having or showing a great desire to possess something, typically something belonging to someone else
3. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others
4. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, The state of wanting or devouring great quantities of food
5. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, Lacking enthusiasm and determination; carelessly lazy
6. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures
7. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, Aggressively greedy or grasping
8. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, A state or feeling of negativity or bitterness arising especially from envy or world-weariness.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, A feeling of offense or deep resentment
10. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, Marked by hot temper and easily provoked anger
11. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* (Of a person, manner, or gesture) feeling or revealing an overt and often offensive sexual desire
12. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, A feeling of irritation or resentment resulting from a slight, esp. to one's pride
13. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, Mentally or physically inactive; lethargic
14. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, Having a great eagerness for food, satisfaction, or gratification
15. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.*, (Of writing, pictures, or talk) treating sexual matters in an indecent way and typically conveying undue interest in or enjoyment of the subject

16. \_\_\_\_\_ *adj.* Wanting to avoid activity or exertion;  
*lazy*

17. \_\_\_\_\_ *v.t.*, To envy (someone) the possession or  
*enjoyment of (something)*

18. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, Extreme greed for wealth or material  
*gain*

19. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, Excessive pride or self confidence

20. \_\_\_\_\_ *n.*, One who is excessively fond of eating and  
*drinking*

**Exercise 52-2: Fill-in-the-blanks** Complete each sentence with the  
*most appropriate word from those in the word list. (17 marks)*

1. The border between confidence and \_\_\_\_\_ is  
often difficult to see. In an instant, one's declaration of  
conviction can be viewed as haughtiness, arrogance or even  
pomposity.

2. Electronics retailers are ramping up their growth plans  
and casting a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ eye at the empty storefronts  
in prime retail spots left behind by Circuit City who went  
into bankruptcy in January this year.

3. She may be wealthy and a prominent figure in the com-  
munity, but she is not very well liked because of her \_\_\_\_\_  
attitude toward everyone she meets.

4. The hockey coach was accused of fondling a teenage  
player on his team and was arrested and charged with lewd  
and \_\_\_\_\_ behavior towards a child under sixteen.

5. Hunger and \_\_\_\_\_ have always coexisted, in all  
societies. But seldom has the juxtaposing of the two been so  
stark as in today's India, where reports of children's starva-  
tion deaths feature next to advertisements for slimming  
clinics, liposuction procedures, boutique gyms that promise  
to turn flab into sinew chic.

6. Due to the economic downturn, home buying activity has  
been unusually \_\_\_\_\_ in recent months. As a result  
of the sluggish real estate market, house prices have slid  
steadily to a new three-year low.

7. Jacob Marley and the Christmas Spirits successfully liber-  
ated Scrooge from his paranoid \_\_\_\_\_, allowing  
him to emerge on Christmas morning with a new and more  
altruistic worldview, trading off his material gain for moral  
redemption.

8. The youths of today who choose to remain aimless and  
\_\_\_\_\_ will never benefit from any self-help pro-  
grams.

9. Tiger Woods addressed reporters yesterday in advance of  
the Masters, ending a mostly silent period since the golfer  
crashed his Escalade last November and uncorked a stream  
of \_\_\_\_\_ stories about his numerous extramarital  
affairs.

10. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ defence gave up three unanswered  
goals in the last period, resulting in the defeat of the Wash-  
ington Capitals to the underdog Montreal Canadiens.

11. \_\_\_\_\_ grips the legislature again even after a  
warning a day earlier from the Speaker of the house for  
members to refrain from aiming corrosive, nasty, and per-  
sonal attacks, innuendo and insinuations at each other.

12. Teenage boys and men in their early twenties are notori-  
ous for having \_\_\_\_\_ appetites, but despite their  
mindless eating, they seem to be able to keep the excess  
weight off.

13. They pay most of their salaries on food because they are  
both \_\_\_\_\_ who really indulge themselves in binge  
eating.

14. The irascible New York Press movie critic pranced  
around in high \_\_\_\_\_ when a publicist delisted him  
from a critic's screening of Avatar because of something he  
once wrote about James Cameron.

15. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Jobs or Bill Gates a single  
penny of their fortunes because I benefit every day in ways  
unthinkable years ago from the innovations they, and many  
others, helped develop and bring to market.

**Exercise 52-3: Matching** Match each of the seven deadly sins with its inversely corresponding virtue. (7 marks)

SIN	VIRTUE
_____ Sloth	a) Chastity
_____ Gluttony	b) Charity
_____ Wrath	c) Patience
_____ Envy	d) Temperance
_____ Lust	e) Kindness
_____ Greed	f) Humility
_____ Pride	g) Diligence

**Exercise 52-4: Identify** Identify which list words belong together using the related words as a guide, then name their corresponding sin. (27 marks)

- materialism, acquisitiveness  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- overeating, insatiability  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- passion, lechery  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- apathy, listlessness,  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- resentment, jealousy  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- vexation, rage  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- arrogance, conceit,  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 52-5: Parts of Speech** Write the correct variant of the list word in the form specified. Be careful! Not all words can take the specified part of speech. (6 marks)

- avarice (adjective) \_\_\_\_\_
- pique (adjective) \_\_\_\_\_
- hubris (adjective) \_\_\_\_\_
- jaundice (adverb) \_\_\_\_\_
- dungeon (adjective) \_\_\_\_\_
- irascible (noun) \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 52-6: Making Connections** In one or two sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words. (5 marks)

- rapacious Scrooge  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- pique umbrage  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- hubris humility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- jaundice yellow  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- venial 7 deadly sins  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Avocabo Unit by Stephanie Chan, May 2010*