

1984: Book I Vocabulary

contrived	devise; invent	“It was contrived so that the eyes follow you about when you move.”
tableaux	a picture, as of a scene	“Nothing remained of his childhood except a series of bright-lit tableaux .”
procure	get by care	“He had procured [a pen], furtively and with some difficulty.”
furtive	sly	“He had procured [a pen], furtively and with some difficulty.”
nebulous	confused; cloudy	“It happened that morning at the Ministry, if anything so nebulous could be said to happen.”
orthodox	customary or conventional	“In an intellectual way, Syme was venomously orthodox .”
heresy	unorthodox opinion	“Perhaps Withers had been suspected of heretical tendencies.”
din	loud noise	“It was the sort of words that are uttered in the din of battle.”
drudge	slave-like worker	Parson is a devoted drudge who helps the Party be stable.
mutable	changeable	“Newspeak, doublethink, the mutability of the past.”
myriad	countless	“The myriad windows of the Ministry looked grim.”
zealot	fanatic	“Some nosing zealot in the ministry might start wondering why he had been writing.”
gesticulate	gesture	Winston saw them gesticulating in the Two Minutes Hate.
garble	mix-up; distort; scramble	Ampleforth was engaged in producing garbled versions of poems.
pedant	one who excessively displays his learning	Syme continued to speak with a sort of pedant 's passion.
vapid	flat; dull; lifeless	“A sort of vapid eagerness flitted across Winston's face.”
reverie	daydream	“He was dragged out of his reverie with a violent jerk.”
fornication	sexual intercourse while not married	“The smell was inextricably mixed up with fornication .”
wince	flinch	“As soon as he touched her she seemed to wince and stiffen.”
chastity	abstaining from sex	“ Chastity was as deeply ingrained in them as Party loyalty.”
petty	of little importance	Petty quarrels filled up the Proles' minds.

invariably	constant	“The thing you invariably came back to was the impossibility of knowing what life was like before the Revolution.”
posterity	future generations	“They were executed, and their fate was recorded in the Party histories, a warning to posterity .”
axiom	saying	He wrote the important axiom : “Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two makes four.”
solitude	living or being alone	To do anything that suggested a taste of solitude was dangerous.
pugnacious	belligerent; warlike	The old man straightened his shoulders pugnaciously .
bourgeoisie	middle class (negative connotation)	They are lackeys of the bourgeoisie ! Flunkies of the ruling class!
knell	funeral bell	Like a leaden knell the words came back at him.