Vocabulary List for *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Chapters 1 - 6**

**consult**
seek information from

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
We were far too old to settle an argument with a fist-fight, so we consulted Atticus.

**unsullied**
spotlessly clean and fresh

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Atticus’s office in the courthouse contained little more than a hat rack, a spittoon, a checkerboard and an unsullied Code of Alabama.

**satisfactory**
meeting requirements

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Jem and I found our father satisfactory: he played with us, read to us, and treated us with courteous detachment.

**tyrannical**
characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule; having absolute sovereignty

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
She had been with us ever since Jem was born, and I had felt her tyrannical presence as long as I could remember.

**absence**
failure to be present

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Our mother died when I was two, so I never felt her absence.

**revelation**
an enlightening or astonishing disclosure

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Dill had seen Dracula, a revelation that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect.

**concede**
be willing to concede

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
It was all right to shut him up, Mr. Radley conceded, but insisted that Boo not be charged with anything: he was not a criminal.

**employ**
put into service; make work or employ for a particular purpose or for its inherent or natural purpose

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Nobody knew what form of intimidation Mr. Radley employed to keep Boo out of sight, but Jem figured that Mr. Radley kept him chained to the bed most of the time.

**decline**
refuse to accept

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
In all his life, Jem had never declined a dare.

**foray**
a sudden short attack

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Jem threw open the gate and sped to the side of the house, slapped it with his palm and ran back past us, not waiting to see if his foray was successful.

**miserable**
very unhappy; full of misery

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
We saw him off on the five o'clock bus and I was miserable without him until it occurred to me that I would be starting to school in a week.

**condescend**
do something that one considers to be below one’s dignity

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Jem condescended to take me to school the first day, a job usually done by one’s parents, but Atticus had said Jem would be delighted to show me where my room was.

**compel**
force somebody to do something

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Now that I was compelled to think about it, reading was something that just came to me, as learning to fasten the seat of my union suit without looking around, or achieving two bows from a snarl of shoelaces.

**expound**
add details, as to an account or idea; clarify the meaning of and discourse in a learned way, usually in writing

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**
Atticus was expounding upon farm problems when Walter interrupted to ask if there was any molasses in the house.
erratic
liable to sudden unpredictable change
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
She was furious, and when she was furious Calpurnia's grammar became erratic.

contradict
prove negative; show to be false
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"There's some folks who don't eat like us," she whispered fiercely, "but you ain't called on to contradict 'em at the table when they don't.

humiliation
strong feelings of embarrassment
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I retrieved my plate and finished dinner in the kitchen, thankful, though, that I was spared the humiliation of facing them again.

amiable
diffusing warmth and friendliness
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He waited in amiable silence, and I sought to reinforce my position: "You never went to school and you do all right, so I'll just stay home too.

exclusive
not divided or shared with others
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He said that the Ewells were members of an exclusive society made up of Ewells.

withdraw
remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I stood on tiptoe, hastily looked around once more, reached into the hole, and withdrew two pieces of chewing gum minus their outer wrappers.

unanimous
in complete agreement
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Mrs. Dubose lived two doors up the street from us; neighborhood opinion was unanimous that Mrs. Dubose was the meanest old woman who ever lived.

arbitrate
act between parties with a view to reconciling differences
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Jem arbitrated, awarded me first push with an extra time for Dill, and I folded myself inside the tire.

inquisitive
showing curiosity
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
If he wanted to stay inside his own house he had the right to stay inside free from the attentions of inquisitive children, which was a mild term for the likes of us.

peculiar
beyond or deviating from the usual or expected
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
What Mr. Radley did might seem peculiar to us, but it did not seem peculiar to him.

ramshackle
in deplorable condition
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The back of the Radley house was less inviting than the front: a ramshackle porch ran the width of the house; there were two doors and two dark windows between the doors.

Vocabulary
Chapters 7 - 11

reassure
give or restore confidence in; cause to feel sure or certain
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I reassured him: "Can't anybody tell what you're gonna do lest they live in the house with you, and even I can't tell sometimes."

assure
inform positively and with certainty and confidence
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The second grade was grim, but Jem assured me that the older I got the better school would be, that he started off the same way, and it was not until one reached the sixth grade that one learned anything of value.

delete
cut or eliminate
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Atticus told me to delete the adjectives and I'd have the facts.

crude
not carefully or expertly made
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
One was the figure of a boy, the other wore a crude dress.

miniature
being on a very small scale
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
They were almost perfect miniatures of two children.
yield
give or supply
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The following week the knot-hole yielded a tarnished medal.

verge
the limit beyond which something happens or changes
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He had been on the verge of telling me something all evening; his face would brighten and he would lean toward me, then he would change his mind.

stark
complete or extreme
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Jem was facing me when he looked up, and I saw him go stark white.

yonder
distant but within sight (‘yon’ is dialectal)
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"Mr. Radley, ah-did you put cement in that hole in that tree down yonder?"

unfathomable
impossible to come to understand
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
For reasons unfathomable to the most experienced prophets in Maycomb County, autumn turned to winter that year.

seldom
not often
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Old Mrs. Radley died that winter, but her death caused hardly a ripple-the neighborhood seldom saw her, except when she watered her cannas.

caricature
a representation of a person that is exaggerated for comic effect
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"You can’t go around making caricatures of the neighbors."

deavor
destroy completely
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We stood watching the street fill with men and cars while fire silently devoured Miss Maudie’s house.

quell
suppress or crush completely
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Miss Maudie's tin roof quelled the flames.

disregard
lack of attention and due care
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He began pouring out our secrets right and left in total disregard for my safety if not for his own, omitting nothing, knot-hole, pants and all.

shambles
a condition of great disorder
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
With most of her possessions gone and her beloved yard a shambles, she still took a lively and cordial interest in Jem’s and my affairs.

fanatical
marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Aunt Alexandra was fanatical on the subject of my attire.

gallantly
in a gallant manner
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Uncle Jack gallantly bowed me to the bathroom.

absorb
take in, also metaphorically
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
What bothers me is that she and Jem will have to absorb some ugly things pretty soon.

acquainted
having fair knowledge of
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The jury couldn't possibly be expected to take Tom Robinson’s word against the Ewells’- are you acquainted with the Ewells?"

vehemently
in a vehement manner
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Atticus shook his head vehemently: "Don't just stand there, Heck!"

simultaneous
occurring or operating at the same time
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
With movements so swift they seemed simultaneous, Atticus’s hand yanked a ball-tipped lever as he brought the gun to his shoulder.
disrespectful
exhibiting lack of respect; rude and discourteous
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Besides being the sassiest, most disrespectful mutts who ever passed her way, we were told that it was quite a pity our father had not remarried after our mother's death.

accustom
make psychologically or physically used (to something)
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I had become almost accustomed to hearing insults aimed at Atticus.

abide
dwell
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience."

Vocabulary Chapter 12 – 15
reckon
expect, believe, or suppose
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
His appetite was appalling, and he told me so many times to stop pestering him I consulted Atticus: "Reckon he’s got a tapeworm?"

acquired
gotten through environmental forces
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Overnight, it seemed, Jem, had acquired an alien set of values and was trying to impose them on me: several times he went so far as to tell me what to do.

unbearable
incapable of being put up with
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
With him, life was routine; without him, life was unbearable.

invade
to intrude upon, infringe, encroach on, violate
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
She had trusted Jem for years, but that night she invaded his privacy and provoked an outburst: "Can’t anybody take a bath in this house without the whole family lookin’?"

dispel
to cause to separate and go in different directions
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
It was dim inside, with a damp coolness slowly dispelled by the gathering congregation.

garish
tastelessly showy
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
At each seat was a cheap cardboard fan bearing a garish Garden of Gethsemane, courtesy Tyndal's Hardware Co.

qualm
uneasiness about the fitness of an action
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I did likewise with no qualms.

linger
remain present although waning or gradually dying
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Music again swelled around us; the last note lingered and Zeebo met it with the next line: "And we only reach that shore by faith's decree."

propel
cause to move forward with force
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I wanted to stay and explore, but Calpurnia propelled me up the aisle ahead of her.

modest
marked by simplicity; having a humble opinion of yourself
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
That Calpurnia led a modest double life never dawned on me.

tactful
having or showing a sense of what is fitting and considerate in dealing with others
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I realized that this was not a tactful question.

extract
remove, usually with some force or effort; also used in an abstract sense
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
There was a story behind all this, but I had no desire to extract it from her then: today was Sunday, and Aunt Alexandra was positively irritable on the Lord's Day.

ponder
reflect deeply on a subject
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I understood, pondered a while, and concluded that the only way I could retire with a shred of dignity was to go to the bathroom, where I stayed long enough to make them think I had to go.
indulge
treat with excessive indulgence
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
If anything, she’s been harder on them in some ways than a mother would have been . . . she’s never let them get away with any-thing, she’s never indulged them the way most colored nurses do.

edification
uplifting enlightenment
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Still, everything he read he passed along to me, but with this difference: formerly, because he thought I’d like it; now, for my edification and instruction.

fetch
go or come after and bring or take back
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He went to the kitchen and fetched the broom.

ominous
threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
There was a murmur among the group of men, made more ominous when Atticus moved back to the bottom front step and the men drew nearer to him.

tranquil
not agitated; without losing self-possession
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I sometimes think Atticus subjected every crisis of his life to tranquil evaluation behind The Mobile Register, The Birmingham News and The Montgomery Advertiser.

prevail
be larger in number, quantity, power, status or importance
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The fake peace that prevailed on Sundays was made more irritating by Aunt Alexandra’s presence.

prohibited
forbidden by law
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Shooting on Sundays was prohibited, so Dill and I kicked Jem’s football around the pasture for a while, which was no fun.

incapable
(followed by `of') lacking capacity or ability
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
In Maycomb, if one went for a walk with no definite purpose in mind, it was correct to believe one’s mind incapable of definite purpose.

oblivious
(followed by `to' or `of') lacking conscious awareness of
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He was sitting in one of his office chairs, and he was reading, oblivious of the nightbugs dancing over his head.

acquiescence
agreement with a statement or proposal to do something
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We were accustomed to prompt, if not always cheerful acquiescence to Atticus’s instructions, but from the way he stood Jem was not thinking of budging.

uncomfortable
providing or experiencing physical discomfort
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He seemed uncomfortable; he cleared his throat and looked away.

affection
a positive feeling of liking
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
As they passed under a streetlight, Atticus reached out and massaged Jem’s hair, his one gesture of affection.

Vocabulary Chapters 16 – 19

despise
look down on with disdain
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
“He despises Negroes, won’t have one near him.”

quote
repeat a passage from
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I guess that the foot-washers thought that the Devil was quoting Scripture for his own purposes, as the driver speeded his mules.

formidable
extremely impressive in strength or excellence
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Why they objected to Miss Maudie’s yard was a mystery, heightened in my mind because for someone who spent all the daylight hours outdoors, Miss Maudie’s command of Scripture was formidable.
elucidate
make clear and (more) comprehensible
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We asked Miss Maudie to elucidate: she said Miss Stephanie seemed to know so much about the case she might as well be called on to testify.

affluent
having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The more affluent chased their food with drugstore Coca-Cola in bulb-shaped soda glasses.

convene
meet formally
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He was from Abbottsville; we saw him only when court convened, and that rarely, for court was of no special interest to Jem and me.

turbulent
characterized by unrest or disorder or insubordination
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
With his infinite capacity for calming turbulent seas, he could make a rape case as dry as a sermon.

scrutiny
the act of examining something closely (as for mistakes)
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The jury, thinking themselves under close scrutiny, paid attention; so did the witnesses, thinking likewise. "... in your own words, Mr. Tate," Mr. Gilmer was saying.

ambidextrous
equally skillful with each hand
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"About your writing with your left hand, are you ambidextrous, Mr. Ewell?"

contorted
twisted (especially as in pain or struggle)
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Mayella's face contorted, and I was afraid that she would cry again.

courteous
characterized by courtesy and gracious good manners
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"We've done business in this court for years and years, and Mr. Finch is always courteous to everybody.

contrary
exact opposition
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"Atticus, let's get on with these proceedings, and let the record show that the witness has not been sassed, her views to the contrary."

hostility
a state of deep-seated ill-will
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Mayella's hostility, which had subsided to grudging neutrality, flared again.

involuntary
not subject to the control of the will
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He did not see her involuntary jump, but it seemed to me that he knew she had moved.

detached
showing lack of emotional involvement
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Atticus's voice had lost its comfortableness; he was speaking in his arid, detached professional voice.

recollect
recall knowledge from memory; have a recollection
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"No, I don't recollect if he hit me.

smother
deprive of oxygen and prevent from breathing
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Even the babies were still, and I suddenly wondered if they had been smothered at their mothers' breasts.

devoid
completely wanting or lacking
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Here Judge Taylor glanced sharply at the witness and must have decided his speculations devoid of evil intent, for he subsided sleepily.

distracted
having the attention diverted especially because of anxiety
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I was too distracted about Mayella to run after him.

descent
a movement downward
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
The witness made a hasty descent from the stand and ran smack into Atticus, who had risen to question him.
**exodus**
a journey by a large group to escape from a hostile environment
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
As a rule, a recess meant a general exodus, but today people weren't moving.

**volition**
the act of making a choice
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He seemed to be a respectable Negro, and a respectable Negro would never go up into somebody's yard of his own volition.

**expunge**
remove by erasing or crossing out or as if by drawing a line
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Judge Taylor told the reporter to expunge anything he happened to have written down after Mr. Finch if you were a nigger like me you'd be seared too, and told the jury to disregard the interruption.

**conscience**
motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"If you had a clear conscience, why were you scared?"

**grop**
feel about uncertainly or blindly
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"He's not an example, Dill, he's... I was trying to grope in my memory for a sharp phrase of Miss Maudie Atkinson's.

**motivated**
provided with a motive or given incentive for action
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"I say guilt, gentlemen, because it was guilt that motivated her.

**victim**
an unfortunate person who suffers from some adverse circumstance
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
She is the victim of cruel poverty and ignorance, but I cannot pity her: she is white.

**circumstantial**
fully detailed and specific about particulars
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We don't know, but there is circumstantial evidence to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left.

**temerity**
fearless daring
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"And so a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated temerity to 'feel sorry' for a white woman has had to put his word against two white people's.

**context**
the set of facts or circumstances that surround a situation or event
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
There is a tendency in this year of grace, 1935, for certain people to use this phrase out of context, to satisfy all conditions.

**idealist**
someone guided more by ideals than by practical considerations
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"I'm no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and in the jury system-that is no ideal to me, it is a living, working reality.

**passion**
a strong feeling or emotion
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I am confident that you gentlemen will review without passion the evidence you have heard, come to a decision, and restore this defendant to his family.
precisely
indicating exactness or preciseness
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"They're right up yonder in the colored balcony - been there since precisely one-eighteen P.M."

remorse
a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
When you oughta be hangin' your head in shame you go along laughin'--- " Calpurnia revived a series of rusty threats that moved Jem to little remorse, and she sailed up the front steps with her classic, "If Mr. Finch don't wear you out, I will get in that house, sir!"

tacit
implied by or inferred from actions or statements
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Jem went in grinning, and Calpurnia nodded tacit consent to having Dill in to supper.

convict
find or declare guilty
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"Don't see how any jury could convict on what we heard."

overpower
overcome by superior force
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Apparently you had to kick and holler, you had to be overpowered and stomped on, preferably knocked stone cold.

convincing
causing one to believe the truth of something
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Perhaps I was too convincing, because Jem hushed and never discussed the subject again.

impassive
having or revealing little emotion or sensibility; not easily aroused or excited
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Atticus was standing under the street light looking as though nothing had happened: his vest was buttoned, his collar and tie were neatly in place, his watch-chain glistened, he was his impassive self again.

heathen
a person who does not acknowledge your god
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
And I thought to myself, well, we're making a step-it's just a baby-step, but it's a step."
"'t's all right to talk like that-can't any Christian judges an' lawyers make up for heathen juries," Jem muttered.

prompt
give an incentive for action
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Mr. Ewell was a veteran of an obscure war; that plus Atticus's peaceful reaction probably prompted him to inquire, "Too proud to fight, you nigger-lovin' bastard?"

credibility
the quality of being believable or trustworthy
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I destroyed his last shred of credibility at that trial, if he had any to begin with.

misgiving
uneasiness about the fitness of an action
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He said he didn't have any quarrel with the rape statute, none whatever, but he did have deep misgivings when the state asked for and the jury gave a death penalty on purely circumstantial evidence.

improbable
having a probability too low to inspire belief
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
There's always the possibility, no matter how improbable, that he's innocent."

apprehension
fearful expectation or anticipation
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Ladies in bunches always filled me with vague apprehension and a firm desire to be elsewhere, but this feeling was what Aunt Alexandra called being "spoiled."

preface
furnish with a preface or introduction
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
She had a curious habit of prefacing everything she said with a soft sibilant sound.

tribute
something given or done as an expression of esteem
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Whether Maycomb knows it or not, we're paying the highest tribute we can pay a man.
demise
the time when something ends
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Maycomb had lost no time in getting Mr. Ewell's views on
Tom's demise and passing them along through that English
Channel of gossip, Miss Stephanie Crawford.

Vocabulary Chapters 26 – 31

dismay
the feeling of despair in the face of obstacles
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
"Somebody's mashed my costume," I wailed in dismay.

strain
to exert much effort or energy
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We began crossing the black schoolyard, straining to see our
feet.

barely
in a sparse or scanty way
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I turned to look at him, but his outline was
barely visible.

inconvenience
the quality of not being useful or convenient
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Jem knew as well as I that it
was difficult to walk fast without stumping a toe, tripping on
stones, and other inconveniences, and I was barefooted.

clarify
make clear and (more) comprehensible
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I went away, not sure that I could explain to Atticus what was
on my mind, not sure that I could clarify what was only a
feeling.

escorted
accompany or escort
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He thought Jem might escort me if I asked him.

gait
a person's manner of walking
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We had slowed to a cautious gait, and were feeling our way
forward so as not to bump into the tree.

alleged
declared but not proved
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
We squandered our first nickels
on the House of Horrors, which scared us not at all; we
entered the black seventh grade room and were led around
by the temporary ghoul in residence and were made to touch
several objects alleged to be the component parts of a
human being.

frantically
in an uncontrolled manner
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I went to where I thought he had been and felt frantically
along the ground, reaching out with my toes.

conceive
have the idea for
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I can't conceive of anyone low down enough to do a thing like
this, but
instinctive
unthinking; prompted by (or as if by) instinct
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
For once in his life, Atticus

ingstinctive courtesy failed him: he sat where he was.

reprimand
an act or expression of criticism and censure
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
As I said it, I half pointed to the man in the corner, but brought my arm down quickly lest Atticus reprimand me for pointing.

timid
showing fear and lack of confidence
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
His lips parted into a timid smile, and our neighbor's image blurred with my sudden tears.

astound
affect with wonder
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Dr. Reynolds's voice was as breezy as his step, as though he had said it every evening of his life, an announcement that astounded me even more than being in the same room with Boo

elude
escape, either physically or mentally
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
A curious contest, the nature of which eluded me, was developing between my father and the sheriff.

competent
properly or sufficiently qualified or capable or efficient
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
I'd take somebody mighty used to the dark to make a competent witness."

uncertain
lacking or indicating lack of confidence or assurance
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Every move he made was uncertain, as if he were not sure his hands and feet could make proper contact with the things he touched.

dreadful
exceptionally bad or displeasing
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He coughed his dreadful raling cough, and was so shaken he had to sit down again.

incredible
beyond belief or understanding
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
Having been so accustomed to his absence, I found it incredible that he had been sitting beside me all this time, present.

release
release, as from one's grip
EXAMPLE SENTENCE:
He gently released my hand, opened the door, went inside, and shut the door behind him.

snug
enjoying or affording comforting warmth and shelter especially in a small space