

## New Vocabulary Words

### Impasse

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**(noun)** A situation with no way out or forward

**Example:** The budget negotiations reached an **impasse** when neither side would compromise.

### Whittle

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**(verb)** To cut away small bits or reduce gradually

**Example:** The team had to **whittle** down their presentation to just five minutes.

### Authoritative

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**(adjective)** Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge

**Example:** The teacher's **authoritative** tone immediately quieted the noisy classroom.

### Shambles

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**(noun)** A complete mess or state of total disorder

**Example:** After the party, my room was in absolute **shambles** with pizza boxes everywhere.

### Aspirant

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**(noun)** Someone who hopes to achieve something important

**Example:** As a presidential **aspirant**, she worked tirelessly on her campaign.

## Tesla's Turnaround: 5 SAT Words Hidden in Elon's Success Story

### Scene 1 *impasse*



In 2008, Tesla hit a financial **impasse** with barely enough cash to survive another month. Elon Musk faced what seemed like a dead-end with investors fleeing and production problems mounting.

## Scene 2 *whittle*



Determined to save the company, Musk began to **whittle** down expenses, cutting costs everywhere possible.

He even sold his houses and borrowed money from friends to keep Tesla's dream alive!

## Scene 3 *authoritative*



Taking an **authoritative** approach to leadership, Musk made bold decisions that shocked the auto industry.

His commanding presence convinced engineers to achieve what others called impossible deadlines.



## Scene 4 *shambles*



The factory was in absolute **shambles** during early Model 3 production, with robots malfunctioning and parts scattered everywhere.

Musk even slept on the factory floor to fix the chaotic production line that threatened Tesla's future.

## Scene 5 *aspirant*



From struggling **aspirant** in the car industry to revolutionary leader, Musk transformed Tesla into the world's most valuable automaker.

His journey proved that even the most ambitious dreams can become reality with enough persistence.

## Vocabulary Quizzes

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1. Spell the word with the meaning: Someone who hopes to achieve something important

2. What is the meaning of authoritative?

- A. A complete mess or state of total disorder
- B. Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge
- C. A situation with no way out or forward
- D. To cut away small bits or reduce gradually

3. What is the meaning of whittle?

- A. Someone who hopes to achieve something important
- B. To cut away small bits or reduce gradually
- C. A complete mess or state of total disorder
- D. Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge

4. Which word can fit in the blank in the following sentence?

*The teacher's \_\_\_\_\_ tone immediately quieted the noisy classroom.*

- A. impasse
- B. shambles
- C. aspirant
- D. authoritative

5. Spell the word with the meaning: To cut away small bits or reduce gradually

6. Which word can fit in the blank in the following sentence?

*The team had to \_\_\_\_\_ down their presentation to just five minutes.*

- A. shambles
- B. whittle
- C. authoritative
- D. impasse

7. Which word can fit in the blank in the following sentence?

*The budget negotiations reached an \_\_\_\_\_ when neither side would compromise.*

- A. aspirant
- B. impasse
- C. authoritative
- D. whittle

8. What is the meaning of aspirant?

- A. Someone who hopes to achieve something important
- B. Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge
- C. A situation with no way out or forward
- D. A complete mess or state of total disorder

9. Which word can fit in the blank in the following sentence?

*As a presidential \_\_\_\_\_, she worked tirelessly on her campaign.*

- A. whittle
- B. impasse
- C. aspirant
- D. authoritative

10. Spell the word with the meaning: Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge

11. Spell the word with the meaning: A complete mess or state of total disorder

12. What is the meaning of impasse?

- A. Someone who hopes to achieve something important
- B. A situation with no way out or forward
- C. A complete mess or state of total disorder
- D. To cut away small bits or reduce gradually

13. Spell the word with the meaning: A situation with no way out or forward

14. What is the meaning of shambles?

- A. A situation with no way out or forward
- B. Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge
- C. Someone who hopes to achieve something important
- D. A complete mess or state of total disorder



15. Which word can fit in the blank in the following sentence?

*After the party, my room was in absolute \_\_\_\_\_ with pizza boxes everywhere.*

- A. shambles
- B. impasse
- C. whittle
- D. authoritative

## Answer Key

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|---|--------------|
| 1. aspirant   | (spelling)   |
| 2. Commanding and confident; showing you're in charge | (meaning)    |
| 3. To cut away small bits or reduce gradually         | (meaning)    |
| 4. authoritative                                      | (in context) |
| 5. whittle  | (spelling)   |
| 6. whittle  | (in context) |
| 7. impasse  | (in context) |
| 8. Someone who hopes to achieve something important   | (meaning)    |
| 9. aspirant   | (in context) |
| 10. authoritative                                     | (spelling)   |
| 11. shambles  | (spelling)   |
| 12. A situation with no way out or forward            | (meaning)    |
| 13. impasse   | (spelling)   |
| 14. A complete mess or state of total disorder        | (meaning)    |
| 15. shambles  | (in context) |