

# Words

deluge	debate	dinghy	dawdle	depot
dainty	dilemma	defective	deficient	debris
divert	doe	daring	dwelling	digit
dart	deceive	dispute	deadline	dedicated

- 1 Small, pretty and delicate.
- 2 Brave and not afraid to take chances.
- 3 To move suddenly and quickly.
- 4 To waste time by moving or doing something very slowly.
- 5 A time or date when you have to finish a job or some work.
- 6 A discussion, especially at a public meeting.
- 7 Scattered pieces of things that have been destroyed, or rubbish.
- 8 To make somebody believe something that is not true.
- 9 Devoted to something or somebody.
- 10 Having faults; not working properly.
- 11 Lacking in a particular thing, short of something; maybe like vitamins.
- 12 A very heavy fall of rain, a flood.
- 13 A place for storing goods or a place where buses are parked overnight.
- 14 Another word for a finger or toe.
- 15 A difficult situation where you have to choose between two options.
- 16 A small inflatable boat.
- 17 To argue, to say something is not true.
- 18 To turn something in another direction, maybe due to roadworks.
- 19 A female deer.
- 20 A place to live in.


1. ambition (*n*)                      goal, target, wish

Jack's *ambition* is to become a professional footballer.

2. amuse (*v*)                          make you laugh or smile.

I think this joke will *amuse* you.

3. anonymous (*adj*)                  nameless, unidentified, unknown

The writer of the letter wished to remain *anonymous*.

4. bewildered (*adj*)                confused, puzzled, baffled

We were all *bewildered* by the directions on the map.

5. bizarre (*adj*)                      strange, odd, peculiar.

'Speedy' is a *bizarre* name for a tortoise.

6. blatant (*adj*)                      obvious, brazen

Do you expect me to believe such a *blatant* lie?

7. blend (*v*)                          mix, stir together

*Blend* the butter and sugar together in a large mixing bowl.

8. blurred (*adj*)                    fuzzy, hazy, misty

Without my glasses, everything looks *blurred* to me.

9. blunder (*n*)                        mistake, error, slip-up

Forgetting her mother's birthday was a terrible *blunder*.

10. blustery (*adj*)                  windy, gusty, blowy

It was a typical, *blustery* day in December.

11. brisk (*adj*)                      quick, fast, energetic

Mr Jones went for a *brisk* walk every morning and evening.

12. brittle (*adj*)                      easily breakable, fragile, delicate

The bones of the Egyptian skeleton were dry and *brittle*.

13. bulky (*adj*)                      large, big

The parcel's too *bulky* to go through the letterbox.

14. chaos (*n*)                        confusion, disorder, a muddle

There was complete *chaos* in the classroom before the supply teacher came into the room.

- 1 Another word or phrase for accelerate is:
  - a lead
  - b jolt
  - c quicken
  - d dispatch
  
- 2 A synonym for change is:
  - a alter
  - b appear
  - c assort
  - d assure
  
- 3 Another word for ally would be:
  - a foe
  - b pathway
  - c friend
  - d enemy
  
- 4 Skin has a natural \_\_\_\_\_ to heal itself after a cut.
  - a choice
  - b ability
  - c tender
  - d immune
  
- 5 Another word for affectionate is:
  - a affected
  - b stylish
  - c sweet
  - d loving
  
- 6 Why were you \_\_\_\_\_ from the meeting yesterday?
  - a busy
  - b attending
  - c different
  - d absent

## Synonyms in context - Mystery Story

specific	instantly	identified	consented	escort	hurried
refuted	hide	plotted	reserved	distressed	met
lavish	account	eventually	declined	surely	comprehend

In 1889, the year of the Great Exhibition, Paris was packed with businessmen, buyers and tourists. Most hotels were fully booked.

In May, an English mother and her daughter arrived in the city from Marseilles; they had disembarked from a steamer from India. They had booked<sup>1</sup> two single rooms at one of the most famous hotels in Paris. They signed their names in the hotel register and were taken up to their rooms. The mother was allocated room number 342, a luxurious<sup>2</sup> apartment with rose-coloured velvet curtains and leather furniture.

Almost immediately<sup>3</sup>, the mother began to feel ill and took to her bed. The hotel doctor was called and he examined her and put some questions to the daughter. The doctor and the hotel manager then began to whisper anxiously in a corner of the room. Though the little girl did not speak French, she was able to understand<sup>4</sup> the instructions slowly spelt out to her by the doctor. Her mother was dangerously ill and required a particular<sup>5</sup> medicine available only at his surgery on the other side of Paris. As he himself could not leave his patient, he asked the hotel manager to hail the little girl a taxi carriage and asked that a member of the hotel staff accompany<sup>6</sup> her on her journey to the surgery. After a agonisingly slow journey across Paris, a long wait at the surgery and an equally slow journey back, she finally<sup>7</sup> returned with the medicine. Four hours had elapsed.

Jumping from her taxi carriage, she rushed<sup>8</sup> into the hotel foyer and asked how her mother was. The man at the desk stared blankly at her. 'To whom do you refer?' he asked. Taken aback, she blurted out an explanation<sup>9</sup> of her mother's plight. 'But, I know nothing of your mother, you arrived here alone.'

Distraught<sup>10</sup>, the little girl protested: 'But we signed the register here less than six hours ago. Look in the book.' The hotel manager produced the register, and ran his finger down the page. Half-way down was the girl's signature, but immediately above it, where her mother had signed, was the name of a stranger. 'We both signed,' the little girl insisted, 'and my mother was shown to room number 342. She will be there now. Please take me to her at once.'

The manager assured her that the room was occupied by a French family, but agreed<sup>11</sup> to take the girl to see for herself. Room 342 was empty save for the personal belongings of strangers. There were no rose-coloured velvet curtains and no leather sofas.

Downstairs again the girl encountered<sup>12</sup> the hotel doctor and tackled him about her mother's fate. He too denied<sup>13</sup> ever having met her before and swore he had never attended her mother.

The girl reported her story to the British Ambassador who refused<sup>14</sup> to believe her; nor would the police or newspapers. Eventually, she no choice but to return to England where she was judged to be insane and was placed in an asylum.

One explanation of this strange story is that the mother had contracted the plague whilst in India. The hotel doctor, having quickly recognised<sup>15</sup> the symptoms, had conspired<sup>16</sup> with the hotel manager to conceal<sup>17</sup> the illness as it would certainly<sup>18</sup> have ruined the Great Exhibition. But could room 342 really have been redecorated in just four hours? What happened to the mother's body? The mysteries remain!

The 709 third-class - or steerage - passengers aboard *The Titanic* would have slept on F Deck and below in cabins that would have slept 6 or more people in bunk-beds. They enjoyed food that would be simple but plentiful. The dinner served on April 14th, the ship's last day afloat, consisted of roast beef, gravy, sweetcorn and potatoes, followed by fruit. Below are four of the 181 survivors from the lower decks:

### Millvina Dean 2/2/1912 - 31/05/2009

As a two-month-old baby, Millvina Dean was the youngest passenger on board the giant liner when it sank on its maiden voyage with the loss of more than 1,500 lives. Her parents had decided to leave England for America, where her father had family in Kansas and hoped to open a tobacco shop there. The family had not chosen to be aboard *The Titanic*, but because of a coal strike they were transferred to the ship and boarded it as third-class passengers at Southampton. Her father felt the crunch of the ship's collision with the iceberg on the night of 14th April 1912, and went up to investigate. He returned to their cabin telling his wife to dress the children and go up on deck. Millvina, her mother, and brother were placed in lifeboat 2 and were among the first to be lowered from the liner out of the 706 passengers and crew who escaped. Her father, however, remained aboard and was among those who drowned when the giant ship finally went down in the early hours of the next day. Millvina was to become the last ever remaining survivor of the disaster and she died on 31st May 2009.

### Daniel Buckley 28/9/1890 - 15/10/1918

Buckley was asleep in a communal third-class cabin near the bow when the collision took place. He awoke to find seawater ankle deep on the floor. He tried to wake his nine bunkmates but when they did not listen to his warnings he fled the cabin, closing the door behind him. He did not see them again. He made his way up to the open decks but when he neared the steps to the first class area he found himself surrounded by hundreds of other steerage passengers who were being refused access by members of the crew. A steward then locked the gate. A man smashed the lock and the passengers, among them Daniel Buckley, forced their way through. Now on the boat deck, Buckley and numerous other male passengers leapt into the sixth lifeboat, all of the other men were dragged out but Buckley remembered later how a woman covered him in a ladies shawl and he was still aboard when the boat was eventually lowered into the water. Although he survived the disaster, Buckley was killed in action 2 years later in World War I.

### Thomas McCormack 11/12/1892 - 4/11/1975

At the time of the collision McCormack was asleep in his cabin. His cousins woke him and he quickly dressed and hurried from his cabin but got separated from them in the crowds. He made for the open decks and jumped down into the water, striking out for a lifeboat and managing to cling onto the side of the craft before being repelled by sailors using their oars, sustaining bruising to his head. He eventually managed to haul himself into another lifeboat and winched to the safety of *The Carpathia* at 08:00am.

### Nellie O'Dwyer 2/7/1888 - 3/5/1917

Nellie was making a second trip to New York as she boarded *The Titanic* at Queenstown as a third-class passenger. She had been asked to accompany another Limerick passenger for his first trip across the Atlantic, 16-year-old Patrick Lane. At the time of the collision Nellie was in bed and almost asleep when she was startled by a jarring sensation. Then noticing the engines stop, she and her cabin mates went out to investigate and a steward told them that the ship had struck a small iceberg but was in no danger, admonished them for their alarm and told them to go back to bed immediately, which they did. However, the continued commotion outside their cabin drew them out into the communal areas again as by now they were certain that something was amiss so they made their way to the open decks and somehow managed to find their way to the boat deck, and safely onto Lifeboat 12.

Her friend Patrick's cabin was on the other side of the boat deck and she never saw him again.

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1 Which of his relatives was Thomas McCormack travelling with?

- A He was travelling with his three brothers.
  - B His two daughters.
  - C He was on board the ship with some of his cousins.
  - D His wife and baby son.
- 

2 Of all the children on board the Titanic, who had been born most recently?

- A Eva Hart.
  - B Michel Navratil.
  - C Edmond Navratil.
  - D Millvina Dean.
- 

3 How many third class passengers lost their lives when the Titanic sunk?

- A 709.
  - B 528.
  - C 181.
  - D 706.
- 

4 How many siblings did Millvina Dean have?

- A One, a younger brother.
  - B None - she was an only child.
  - C One, an older brother.
  - D Millvina had two older sisters.
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5 How many third-class passengers were sleeping in Daniel Buckley's cabin on the night of April 14th?

- A Ten.
- B Nine.
- C Six.
- D Twelve.

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6 '...a steward told them that the ship had struck a small iceberg but was in no danger, admonished them for their alarm and told them to go back to bed immediately, which they did'.

What does the word 'admonished' mean in this context?

- A Comforted.
- B Cruelly teased.
- C Patiently calmed.
- D Strongly criticised.

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7 What do you think became of Patrick Lane?

- A He was the last male passenger to be rescued from Lifeboat 9.
- B He disappeared from the other side of the boat deck and therefore presumed drowned.
- C He stayed in New Yorker and became a railway worker.
- D He returned to Limerick and worked on his father's farm.

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8 Why do you think Daniel Buckley wasn't thrown off the lifeboat that was designated as being for the rescue of women and children only?

- A He appeared to be female as he wore a woman's shawl over his shoulders.
- B He was very youthful looking for his age and the other passengers thought that he was a child.
- C He wore his hair unusually long and he was able to pass himself off as female.
- D He wrapped a scarf tightly over his face in order to cover up his features.

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9 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Millvina Dean was 97 years old when she died.
- Option 2 Daniel Buckley woke suddenly on the night of April 14th to discover that there was seawater in his cabin that came up above his knees.
- Option 3 Thomas McCormack sustained frostbite from being in the icy seas for too long.
- Option 4 Nellie O'Dwyer travelled from Dublin in Ireland on what was her second trip to New York.

- A Option 2 only.
  - B Options 1 and 2.
  - C Options 1, 2, 3 and 4.
  - D Option 1 only.
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10 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Millvina Dean's father planned to run a tobacco shop in New York.
- Option 2 The ship's third-class dining room served roast chicken on the evening of April 14.
- Option 3 Nellie O'Dwyer had to be woken by her cabin mates on the night of the sinking.
- Option 4 Daniel Buckley, although fortunate to have survived the tragedy of Titanic, was later to lose his life whilst serving as a soldier during World War I.

- A Options 3 and 4.
  - B Option 3 only.
  - C Option 4 only.
  - D Options 1, 2 and 4.
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# Answers

## Words

1	dainty
2	daring
3	dart
4	dawdle
5	deadline
6	debate
7	debris
8	deceive
9	dedicated
10	defective
11	deficient
12	deluge
13	depot
14	digit
15	dilemma
16	dingy
17	dispute
18	divert
19	doe
20	dwelling

## Vocab

1	c	quicken
2	a	alter
3	c	friend
4	b	ability
5	d	loving
6	d	absent

## Synonyms in context

1	reserved	10	distressed
2	lavish	11	consented
3	instantly	12	met
4	comprehend	13	refuted
5	specific	14	declined
6	escort	15	identified
7	eventually	16	plotted
8	hurried	17	hide
9	account	18	surely

## Comprehension

1	C	He was on board the ship with some of his cousins.
2	D	Millvina Dean.
3	B	528.
4	C	One, an older brother.
5	A	Ten.
6	D	Strongly criticised.
7	B	He disappeared from the other side of the boat deck and therefore presumed drowned.
8	A	A He appeared to be female as he wore a woman's shawl over his shoulders.
9	D	Option 1 only.
10	C	Option 4 only.