

In the **guise** of maintaining national unity under military rule, there was a paucity of even innocuous dissent.

You can't argue with success was his **pragmatic** reply to derogatory remarks about a movie star who had only superficial talent as an actor.

He was stigmatized as a **pariah** when he had the audacity to boast of his nefarious and sordid career printing bogus money.

When Mother is in a pique about some infraction of a rule, it takes all of our dexterity to **mollify** her.

The platitude, 'I know what like,' is often used to rationalize our lack of **criterion** for things about which we are dubious.

Those who are complacent about any **iniquity** in our society should be wary of the unsavory consequences for all.

We all have moments when we vacillate between selfish and **benevolent** desires.

It is easy to become a **cynic** when the same adults who inveigh most vehemently against the uncouth actions that they say permeate our youth drink to satiety and behave fatuously.

When it seemed that Reggie would **maim** his opponent, we broke up the fight.

There seems to be voluminous evidence that the mother's smoking **stunted** the baby's growth.

The coach knew he would have to add experienced players to **roster** to compensate for the spate of freshmen on the team.

The prodigy allowed his musical talent to **atrophy** as he redirected his career.

If you heap opprobrium on an impious child, it probably will not **ameliorate** the conditions that led to the rebelliousness.

We had to wince as we watched the newcomer try to wheedle and ingratiate himself into the teacher's favor in the most **unctuous** manner.

While his demeanor remained imperturbable, there was latent anger at the ignominious and **subservient** role he had to play.

He felt it would be ignominious for him to accept any **largess** from the charlatan whose Machiavellian schemes had made him affluent.

After every election we **repent**, in a belated criticism, the apathy and complacency of so many people who failed to vote.

Behind the facade of ostensible benevolence there was a **mercenary** streak.

Although many people say this is a propitious time to invest in the stock market, there is a tenable argument for remaining **aloof**.

After therapy, there remained hardly a **vestige** of his phobia.