1. **Affable – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The connotation for this word is highly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Someone affable would likely make a good friend and be someone who you could feel comfortable confiding in. An affable tone is a friendly, kind, and inviting.

*Examples: Benvolio, Luna Lovegood*

1. **Depraved – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Yikes! Cut this person out of your friend circle, *immediately*. This word has a heavily \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *moral* connotation. So, let’s say we have a character who is a robot programmed to kill humans. One might argue that, despite that character’s obviously terrible actions, it is not technically depraved, as robots are devoid of emotional and moral thinking. Someone speaking in a depraved tone would likely make you feel *very* uncomfortable (unless of course you yourself are also depraved), as they are probably reveling in some seriously evil business.

*Examples: Voldemort, Darth Vader, Maleficent*

1. **Devout – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

This word has a religious connotation (so we probably wouldn’t apply it to an atheistic or secular character, even if they are a very good person) and is, on its own, neutral in terms of severity (meaning it’s not really inherently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). What this means is you must look at the context in which the author creates this trait or employs this tone. For example, you might have a character who lives strictly by a religion’s teachings but also uses those teachings to oppress or ostracize other characters; this character could be described as devout in a negative way. Likewise, a speaker could take on a devout tone that is uplifting or condemning, just depending on how the text is structured.

*Examples: Friar Lawrence, Pi (for all 3 of his religious affiliations)*

1. **Insolent – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

These people are **knowingly** disrespectful (unlike a gauche character, who might be inadvertently insubordinate) and typically act in this way to assert superiority over another character. An insolent character is going to be in some sort of position that indicates that they **should** be demonstrating respect toward someone else – they’re younger, of a lower social standing, etc. We wouldn’t say a character who uses their position of power to disrespect others is being insolent – for example, although their interactions are frustrating to read, we wouldn’t say that Nanny is being insolent toward Janie. This word usually has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connotation, although literature often champions characters who are oppressed in some way, which means we must look at the context in which the character functions. For example, we readers generally favor Katniss Everdeen’s blatant insolence toward President Snow, as he is an oppressive tyrant. A character or speaker taking on an insolent tone might make the audience feel angry and indignant or inspired and proud, depending on whether or not we’re on the same side as the speaker.

*Examples: Draco Malfoy toward Dumbledore, Geoffrey Lannister, Katniss Everdeen toward President Snow*

1. **Diplomatic-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

If you have the ability to say the right thing when two friends are fighting, making both sides \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you are diplomatic. You have tact. You are a peacemaker.

You can be diplomatic in your personal life if you’re polite, easy to get along with, and able to deliver bad news in a kind way. You can also be professionally diplomatic — diplomats are important members of the U.S. State Department. Diplomats keep the peace and maintain good relationships with other countries, even as they try to get other countries to see and do things our way. That's why keeping the peace in smaller ways is also called diplomatic.

*Examples: Haimon’s interactions with Creon early in Antigone, Slim’s peacemaking activities in Of Mice and Men,*

1. **Obstinate- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

When someone is beyond stubborn, use the word obstinate instead: "You obstinate old mule! Get out of my way!"

While stubborn may have positive or negative connotations, obstinate is most definitely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, because it implies a kind of hard-headed determination not to change your mind even when it might be best to rethink your position. "The obstinate Man does not hold Opinions, but they hold him," wrote Samuel Butler way back in the seventeenth century. The word still does the trick if you want a put-down for someone you think is being a pig-headed fool or a stick in the mud.

*Examples: Antigone, Creon, Marji, Jack from Lord of the Flies*