

“Atlanta Compromise Speech”
By Booker T. Washington

Vocabulary List

Paragraphs 1-2

Enterprise – A project undertaken or to be undertaken, especially one that is important or difficult or that requires boldness or energy.

Welfare – The good fortune, health, happiness, prosperity, etc. of a person, group, or organization; well-being.

Exposition – A large scale public exhibition or show.

Stump Speaking – Giving a speech that is made many times by a politician who is traveling to different places during a campaign for an election.

Cement – To make something stronger.

Industrial – Of or relating to the process of making products by using machinery and factories.

Cast – To throw or fling with great force.

Cultivating – Furthering or encouraging.

Paragraphs 3-4

Heeding – Giving careful attention to.

Injunction – A command or order; an order from a court of law that says that something must be done or not done.

Proportion – Comparative relation between things as to size, quantity, number, etc.

Superficial – Shallow; not of deep meaning or thorough.

Substantial – Important or essential.

Gewgaws – Small things that have little value.

Tilling – Preparing soil or a piece of land for growing crops.

Grievances – Feelings of having been treated unfairly.

Paragraph 5

Treacherous – Not able to be trusted.

Law-abiding – Obedient to law.

Fidelity – The quality of being faithful or loyal to a country, organization, etc.

Mutual – Shared between two or more people or groups.

Paragraphs 6-7

Stimulating – Rousing to action or effort, as by encouragement or pressure.

Oppressor – Someone who treats a person or group of people in a cruel or unfair way.

Abreast – Side by side; beside each other in a line.

Veritable – Being truly or very much so.

Stagnating – Stopping development, growth, progress or advancement.

Retarding – Making slow; delaying the development or progress of an action, process, etc.

Body Politic – A group of persons politically organized under a single governmental authority.

Paragraphs 8-9

Implements – Any articles used in some activity, especially instruments, tools, or utensils.

Statuary – A collection of figures usually of a person or animal that is made from stone, metal, etc.

Trodden – Formed by the action of walking or trampling.

Thistles – Any of various prickly plants.

Philanthropists – Wealthy people who give away money and time to help make life better for others.

Agitation – Persistent urging of a political or social cause or theory before the public.

Folly – Foolish action, practice, idea, etc.

Ostracized – Excluded, by general consent, from society, friendship, conversation, privileges, etc.

Infinitely – Immeasurably great.

Paragraph 10

Altar – A raised place on which sacrifices and gifts are offered in some religions.

Intricate – Having many interrelated parts or facets; entangled or involved.

Blotting – Wiping out; destroying.

Sectional – Local or regional rather than general in character.

Animosities – Strong feelings of dislike or hatred.

Mandates – Authoritative orders or commands.