



## Vocabulary List For **SNAKE FOOD**

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Note: some words have more than one meaning. In this glossary, words are defined according to how the word is used in the book, Snake Food. To learn additional meanings, use a dictionary to look up the words. The words are broken into syllables but are not spelled phonetically. To hear the pronunciation, go to a dictionary application and type in the word.

**AKA** Pronounced as separate letters of the alphabet: 'A' 'K' 'A'

Abbreviation for *also known as*.

*Fred, AKA Fast Freddie, was the best ice cream scooper at Snow's Ice Cream Parlor.*

**Absorbed** ab-sorbed

Caught up in something, intent.

*Sally was absorbed by her romance novel during the long flight.*

**aftermath** af-ter-math

The outcome or results of something.

*In the aftermath of the war, the damaged village had to be rebuilt.*

**agitate** ag-i-tate

To mix up or swirl.

*I always agitate my salad dressing to mix the oil and vinegar.*

**aloft** a-loft

Overhead, above.

*The airplane took off. We were aloft at last!*

**alternatives** al-ter-na-tives

Options, back-up plans.

*Foul weather can make it necessary to have alternatives to outdoor plans.*

**amino acids** a-mi-no a-cids

Compounds that combine to form proteins.

*Eating food rich in amino acids is important for good health.*

**amphibious** am-phem-i-ous

Able to live or operate in land and in water.

*River sandals are made to be amphibious.*

**anesthetic** an-es-the-tic

A substance that causes a loss of feeling, often given before an operation to prevent pain from a medical procedure.

*Dr. Jones gave his patient an anesthetic before resetting his broken arm.*

**antidote** an-ti-dote

A medicine that stops or reverses the effects of a poison, toxin, disease, etc.

*An antidote for bee stings is available for people who are allergic to bees.*

**aqueous** aque-ous

Watery; of, like, or containing water.

*The mysterious substance was aqueous, and it shook like jello.*

**aspect** as-pect

A distinct feature or part of a problem or situation.

*A scary aspect of the dam is that it could flood the town if it broke.*

**atomizer** at-om-iz-er

A spray bottle: a device that reduces liquid to a fine spray.

*She bought a fancy glass atomizer for her favorite perfume.*

**audible** au-dib-ble

Loud enough to be heard.

*Softspoken people are not always audible if there is background noise.*

**balderdash and poppycock** bal-der-dash and pop-py-cock

A saying that indicates something is silly, senseless, or nonsensical.

*“Balderdash and poppycock!” cried the professor. “You are lying through your yellow teeth!”*

**banishment** ban-ish-ment

To send away from, to force someone to go away.

*Throughout history, traitors were punished with banishment from their country.*

**beakers and vials** beak-ers and vi-als

Scientific equipment for measuring, mixing, and storing liquids, etc., often found in a laboratory.

*The beakers and vials we needed for the experiment were assembled on the table.*

**befuddled** be-fud-dled

Confused, bewildered.

*Tom is befuddled by numbers, and he doesn't do well in math class.*

**brioche** bri-oche

A rich egg bread.

*There is nothing as delicious as freshly baked brioche with butter and jam.*

**calculus** cal-cu-lus

A branch of mathematics requiring complicated calculations for a variety of purposes including methods of finding lengths, areas, and volumes.

*Tom is particularly confused in his calculus class.*

**camouflage** cam-ou-flage

To disguise or hide by blending in with the background.

*Lizards and snakes have natural camouflage to blend into the landscape.*

**centrifuge** cen-tri-fuge

A machine that rotates at high speed to separate solids from liquids, etc.

*A centrifuge is often used in the process of developing vaccines.*

**charitable** char-i-ta-ble

Generous in giving to those in need.

*Raymond Rockrose, a very wealthy man, donates money to his favorite charitable causes.*

**chateaubriand** cha-teau-bri-and

A cut of beef for grilling, broiling, or roasting.

*The caterer sliced the succulent chateaubriand into thick medallions.*

**compounds** com-pounds

Substances containing two or more ingredients or parts.

*Our local pharmacist makes unique compounds based on an individual's needs.*

**confiscated** con-fis-ca-ted

Taken away, removed from one's possession.

*The teacher confiscated everyone's cellphones until the end of class.*

**credentials** cre-den-tials

Papers, letters, or certificates that describe a person's skills and background.

*Superman's credentials include rescuing beautiful maidens from dire circumstances.*

**deactivating** de-ac-ti-vat-ing

Stopping something from being able to operate; to make inoperable.

*Deactivating the crazy robot was essential to avoid damage to the room.*

**debris** de-bris (bris has a long 'e' sound: de-bree)

Scattered fragments or litter, waste material.

*The hurricane left mounds of debris in its wake.*

**dimensions** di-men-sions

Size in length, width, and thickness.

*Over ten feet tall and 17 feet in length are the dimensions of the dinosaur skeleton.*

**dire** dire is a one syllable word that rhymes with tire.

Dreadful, causing fear or trouble.

*The news anchor predicted dire circumstances from the approaching tornado.*

**diversions** di-ver-sions

Amusing distractions, entertainments.

*There are many wonderful diversions at the county fair.*

**doddering** dod-der-ing

Old and not of sound mind.

*Unfortunately, the next-door neighbor is a doddering busybody.*

**eavesdrop** eaves-drop

To listen without permission.

*When Alex accidentally eavesdropped, he overheard a secret no one was supposed to know.*

**emitted** e-mit-ted

Sent out, given forth (as a sound).

*Fluffy, the cute poodle, emitted a series of barks when her human left her alone in the apartment.*

**epidemic** ep-i-dem-ic

A disease or condition that affects many persons at the same time.

*Covid 19, an infectious virus, caused an epidemic across the world.*

**eradication** e-rad-i-ca-tion

Attempt to wipe out or get rid of; to destroy.

*To end the bedbug problem, we called a company to eradicate them.*

**ergonomic** er-go-nom-ic

Designed for comfort, ease of use, efficiency, and safety.

*Julio bought an ergonomic keyboard for his laptop, which was better for his hands.*

**escapade** es-ca-pade

A reckless adventure.

*Ditching school is a risky escapade that can get you in trouble.*

**garments** gar-ments

Items of clothing.

*A foot high pile of garments lay on Tia's bedroom floor, waiting for her to hang them up.*

**ghoulish** ghou-lish

Monstrous, cruel, creepy.

*Part of his act was giving a ghoulish laugh when he caught his prey.*

**gilt-edged** gilt-edged

Edged with gold.

*The beautiful old book was gilt-edged and bound in fine leather.*

**hydraulic** hy-drau-lic

A type of pressure created by water, or other liquids, that can then move or operate something.

*A screech of the hydraulic brakes preceded the sound of the freeway wreck.*

**intercepted** in-ter-cept-ed

Taken or seized before getting to the intended destination.

*Officer Murray intercepted the drugs during a daring arrest at a gang hangout.*

**Jane Eyre** jayn ehr

A classic novel by Charlotte Bronte.

*Mandy was so absorbed with reading Jane Eyre that she didn't hear the doorbell ring.*

**makeshift** make-shift

A temporary substitute.

*The homeless man wore makeshift shoes that were bundles of sticks and leaves tied together.*

**meager** mea-ger

Small amount.

*Oliver Twist and the orphans were fed meager amounts of watery oatmeal and moldy cheese.*

**metric** met-ric

A system of measuring weight, length, etc., used in most of the world.

*During a field trip, our biology class used the metric system to measure a beached whale.*

**microscopic** mi-cro-scop-ic

Unable to be seen by the eye; very small.

*A bright red spider of microscopic size was discovered and declared a new species.*

**mirthless** mirth-less

With a lack of humor or true amusement.

*Rather than radiating good cheer, Amy's laughter was mirthless and hollow.*

**miscellaneous** mis-cel-la-neous

Made up of a variety of things.

*Miscellaneous belongings spilled out of the suitcase that burst open at the security checkpoint.*

**mooring** moor-ing

Something a boat or vessel is tied to.

*The hurricane level wind tore the sailboat from its moorings.*

**napalm** na-palm

A flammable substance used in chemical warfare.

*When napalm was dropped on villages during the Vietnam war, the victims suffered severe burns.*

**ocelot** o-cel-ot

A spotted, leopard-like cat.

*Unfortunately, the ocelot is now on the endangered species list.*

**on pointe** on point

Ballet dancing in hard-toed shoes that allow dancers to balance on their toes.

*Learning how to dance on pointe requires tough toes and good balance.*

**operative** o-per-a-tive

Secret agent, spy, person operating under cover.

*Samantha, who looks so sweet and innocent, is really an anti-terrorist operative.*

**parlor** par-lor

Old-time name for living rooms or rooms in which guests were entertained.

*The parlor was filled with overstuffed armchairs and elegant side tables.*

**perilous** per-i-lous

Dangerous, risky.

*Their only escape was a narrow, perilous path hugging the edge of the cliff.*

**perimeter** pe-rim-e-ter

A border or outside boundary around something.

*The giant's head had a perimeter ten times larger than the head of a typical human.*

**piranha** pir-an-ha

A South American fish that eat other fish and sometimes attack large animals that enter the water.

*Don't go swimming with a bunch of hungry piranhas!*

**pituitary** pi-tu-i-tary

A gland in the human body that controls growth and hormone production.

*Swollen pituitary glands can cause headaches.*

**potential** po-ten-tial

What something is capable of being or becoming.

*Heavy rainstorms have the potential to cause flooding.*

**predicament** pre-dic-a-ment

A difficult or dangerous situation.

*If a troublesome predicament arises while on a trip abroad, visit your county's embassy for help.*

**rogue** rog (the o is a long o sound)

A dishonest person, crook.

*Only a mean rogue would steal a kid's lunch money!*

**ruefully** rue-ful-ly

*"I'm sorry I broke your crystal bowl," Bambi said ruefully.*

**rummaged** rum-maged



searched, examined quickly, shuffled through

*Tim rummaged through his drawer until he found his favorite good luck coin.*

**scoundrel** scoun-drel

Villain, a bad person.

*We are hoping that the scoundrel who stole our car gets caught and put in jail.*

**sarin gas** sar-in gas

A type of poisonous gas, a toxic chemical used in warfare.

*Using sarin gas and other nerve gasses is a war crime.*

**serum** ser-um

A scientific substance developed for a special purpose or effect.

*Grandma uses an antiaging facial serum every night before bed.*

**skedaddle** ske-dad-dle

Leave in a hurry.

*“Oh no! You threw the ball through the neighbor’s window! Hurry! We better skedaddle!”*

**slip...slip**

A place where a boat is pulled in and tied up.

*Julio eased the motorboat into the slip and secured it to the mooring.*

**specimens** spec-i-mens

Samples of something for examination or study.

*The petri dishes held specimens of several types of cancer cells.*

**squeamish** squeam-ish

Feeling queasy; sick to one’s stomach.

*Laura ate so much of the delicious meal that she felt squeamish afterward.*

**sterilized** ster-il-ized

Made very clean and free of germs and bacteria.

*Emergency rooms at hospitals need to be sterilized daily.*

**still** still

A device used to make alcohol.

*Operating a still was illegal when alcohol was outlawed in the 1930s.*

**toxic** tox-ic

Poisonous, harmful, dangerous to one's health.

*Hard rock mining can create toxic wastes.*

**trussed** one syllable word that sounds like 'trust'

Tied up, bound.

*Mom trussed the turkey's legs together before she put it in the oven to roast.*

**tumor** tu-mor

growth of body tissue that is not normal.

*Treatment of a cancerous tumor is determined by the type of tumor, its location, and other factors.*

**ultimate** ul-ti-mate

The highest or most significant point, desire, or goal.

*The peak of Mount Everest was Fred's ultimate climbing goal.*

**underestimate** un-der-es ti-mate

To misjudge or undervalue.

*Underestimating the depth of a pool of water before diving into it can lead to head injuries.*

**uproariously** up-roar-i-ous-ly

Noisily, with a sense of fun.

*Everyone laughed uproariously at the comedian's joke.*

**vaccinations** vac-cin-a-tions

Shots or injections given to prevent diseases.

*Flu vaccinations change every year to fight the predicted virus of the year.*

**vamoose** va-moose

To make a quick get-away, to leave, to depart.

*It's getting late, so we had better vamoose.*

**vermin** ver-min

Creepy crawly creatures such as fleas, lice, bedbugs, and rats.

*The box of crackers was filled with vermin; weevils had gotten in and had a fine supper.*

**vestibule** ves-ti-bule

The enclosed car of a train that passengers enter or exit from.

*We crowded into the vestibule to be the first to step off the hot, stuffy train.*