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25 Challenging English Vocabulary Words from Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*

- 1. coterie
- 2. punctilious
- 3. obstinate
- 4. astrakhan ~
- 5. epaulet
- 6. assiduity
- 7. loquacity
- 8. iteration
- 9. confabulations
- 10. jocosely
- 11. contumely
- 12. calumny
- 13. appurtenances
- 14. pecuniary
- 15. inveterate
- 16. irascible
- 17. effervescing
- 18. metayers
- 19. avowal
- 20. timorously
- 21. verbose
- 22. laconic
- 23. disquisition
- 24. dilettanti
- 25. raillery

- A. Firmly or stubbornly adhering to a purpose, opinion, etc. Inflexible persistence, unyielding.
- B. Strict or exact in observing formalities and conduct.
- C. An ornamental shoulder piece worn by military officers.
- D. A group of people who associate closely, a clique.
- E. The fur of young lambs, close and curly wool, from the area by the same name.
- F. Talkativeness.
- G. A joking, jesting, humorous or playful manner
- H. A repetition, the act of repeating.
- I. Constant or close application of effort, diligence, etc.
- J. Conversation or discussion.
- K. Something being more important than another thing, apparatus or instruments.
- L. Settled or confirmed for a long time in habit, feeling or practice.
- M. Humiliating insult or treatment.
- N. Of or pertaining to money or monetary payments.
- O. A false and malicious statement meant to injure someone's reputation, slander.
- P. Easily provoked to anger, very irritable.
- Q. An open statement of agreement; frank acknowledgement.
- R. Full of fear, fearful or timid.
- S. To give off bubbles or gas; To be overcome with joyful emotion.
- T. A person who works the land using tools, seeds, etc., from the landlord who receives a share of the harvest in compensation.
- U. Being concise, expressing much in few words.
- V. A person who takes up an art or activity simply for amusement; A lover or art or science, especially of fine art.
- W. Overly wordy, the use of too many words to say something.
- X. Good humored ridicule or banter between people.
- Y. A formal discourse where a subject is examined and discussed, a dissertation.

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ANSWER KEY

- 1. D
- 2. B
- 3. A
- 4. E
- 5. C
- 6. I
- 7. F
- 8. H
- 9. J
- 10. G
- 11. M
- 12. O
- 13. K
- 14. N
- 15. L
- 16. P
- 17. S
- 18. T
- 19. Q
- 20. R
- 21. W
- 22. U
- 23. Y
- 24. V
- 25. X