

## Forbidden City by William Bell, p. 66-131



22 words

February 3, 2015 By [Jason B.](#)

This vocabulary list for use by students in secondary school to use with William Bell's Forbidden City. Created by Jason W. Brunken.

### 1. **turmoil**

1.

a violent disturbance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tripoli has been hit with series of car bombs and shootings amid **turmoil** following the country's 2011 civil war.*

— [Los Angeles Times \(Jan 27, 2015\)](#)

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### 2. **commandeer**



take arbitrarily or by force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Entire hospitals have been **commandeered** for the fighters," he said.*

— [Seattle Times \(Jan 30, 2015\)](#)

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### 3. **demeaning**



causing awareness of your shortcomings

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Critics say the Robin Thicke song is **demeaning** to women.*

— [Washington Times \(Jan 9, 2015\)](#)

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### 4. **vague**



lacking clarity or distinctness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nor have authorities elaborated on a **vague** statement that Rezaian has been charged with unspecified activities outside the bounds of journalism.*

— [Washington Post \(Jan 28, 2015\)](#)

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### 5. **obligation**



the state of being obligated to do or pay something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Speaking to the media therefore is a player **obligation** because it is in the best interest in the NFL brand.*

— [Forbes \(Jan 31, 2015\)](#)

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## 6. smuggle



import or export without paying customs duties

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Most are penniless, having already paid human trafficking gangs to **smuggle** them into the EU in the first place.*

— [BBC \(Jan 30, 2015\)](#)

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## 7. skirmish



a minor short-term fight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The newspaper has started live blogging the “flashpoints” of the budding conflict today, indicating they anticipate intensifying **skirmishes** between separatists and Kiev forces.*

— [Newsweek](#)

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## 8. trundle

move heavily

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This device **trundles** back and forth over paper as it puts down ink.*

— [Newsweek](#)

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## 9. reconnoiter



explore, often with the goal of finding something or somebody

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Voyager 1, which **reconnoitered** Titan in 1980, saw nothing but orange haze, its cameras unable to penetrate the opaque cloud cover.*

— [Time \(Oct 25, 2013\)](#)

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## 10. demented



affected with madness or insanity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was the most **demented** episode of “I Didn’t Know I Was Pregnant” ever.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 3, 2014\)](#)

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## 11. desolate



providing no shelter or sustenance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After an hour’s drive, the convoy pulled onto a **desolate** plain, where the Taliban conveyed one final insult before vanishing down the road.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 5, 2015\)](#)

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## 12. conspicuous



obvious to the eye or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I tried to act **conspicuous** while waiting for the theater to open — hey, look at me, on assignment!*

— *but no one I knew passed by.*  
— [New York Times \(Jan 29, 2015\)](#)

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13. **bewildered** ✓

perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements; filled with bewilderment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shin was **bewildered** by much of the reporting about North Korea on the radio.*  
— [Escape from Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West](#)

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14. **stalemate** ✓

a situation in which no progress can be made or no advancement is possible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On the line, football is not a game of throwing and catching and running but rather of struggle, a violent and existential **stalemate**.*  
— [Slate \(Jan 30, 2015\)](#)

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15. **truncheon** ✓

a short stout club used primarily by policemen

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But on Friday, the protest grew, and riot police officers waving **truncheons** interposed themselves between the two sides.*  
— [New York Times \(Dec 19, 2014\)](#)

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16. **melee** ✓

a noisy riotous fight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One security officer was killed in the **melee** along with three demonstrators.*  
— [US News \(Jan 16, 2015\)](#)

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17. **indefinitely** ✓

to an indefinite extent; for an indefinite time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he was cautious about relying on oil prices to stay low **indefinitely**.*  
— [New York Times \(Feb 3, 2015\)](#)

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18. **stymie** ✓

hinder or prevent the progress or accomplishment of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Encryption may foil foreign cyber spies but also **stymie** law enforcement.*  
— [BBC \(Jan 15, 2015\)](#)

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19. **ricochet** ✓

## a glancing rebound

### EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The man was pronounced dead at the scene, police said, and the teen was grazed by a bullet, possibly when it **ricocheted** off his friend.*  
— [Los Angeles Times \(Jan 23, 2015\)](#)

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## 20. phalanx



any closely ranked crowd of people

### EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He appears in public with a **phalanx** of armed bodyguards, said to be former agents of the U.S.*  
— [BusinessWeek \(Dec 11, 2014\)](#)

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## 21. indiscriminately

in an indiscriminate manner

### EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Another witness told the organization the killers fired **indiscriminately**, killing small children and a woman who was delivering a baby.*  
— [Los Angeles Times \(Jan 15, 2015\)](#)

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## 22. jamming

deliberate radiation or reflection of electromagnetic energy for the purpose of disrupting enemy use of electronic devices or systems

### EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The petition seeks to use network-management equipment from Cisco and others rather than unauthorized **jamming** devices.*  
— [Wall Street Journal \(Dec 23, 2014\)](#)

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