**‘The Pedestrian’ by Ray Bradbury Vocabulary List**

1. [concrete](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/concrete)

a strong hard building material made with gravel and cement

To enter out into that silence that was the city at eight o'clock of a misty evening in November, to put your feet upon that buckling **concrete** walk, to step over grassy seams and make your way, hands in pockets, through the silences, that was what Mr. Leonard Mead most dearly loved to do.

1. [intersection](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/intersection)

a junction where one street or road crosses another

He would stand upon the corner of an **intersection** and peer down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference; he was alone in this world of A.D. 2053, or as good as alone, and with a final decision made, a path selected, he would stride off, sending patterns of frosty air before him like the smoke of a cigar.

1. [glimmer](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/glimmer)

a flash of light

And on his way he would see the cottages and homes with their dark windows, and it was not unequal to walking through a graveyard where only the faintest **glimmers** of firefly light appeared in flickers behind the windows.

1. [manifest](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/manifest)

reveal its presence or make an appearance

Sudden gray phantoms seemed to **manifest** upon inner room walls where a curtain was still undrawn against the night, or there were whisperings and murmurs where a window in a tomblike building was still open.

1. [intermittent](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/intermittent)

stopping and starting at irregular intervals

For long ago he had wisely changed to sneakers when strolling at night, because the dogs in **intermittent** squads would parallel his journey with barkings if he wore hard heels, and lights might click on and faces appear and an entire street be startled by the passing of a lone figure, himself, in the early November evening.

1. [infrequent](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/infrequent)

not occurring regularly or at short intervals

He listened to the faint push of his soft shoes through autumn leaves with satisfaction, and whistled a cold quiet whistle between his teeth, occasionally picking up a leaf as he passed, examining its skeletal pattern in the **infrequent** lamplights as he went on, smelling its rusty smell.

1. [revue](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/revue)

a variety show with topical sketches and songs

"What is it now?" he asked the houses, noticing his wrist watch. "Eight-thirty P.M.? Time for a dozen assorted murders? A quiz? A **revue**? A comedian falling off the stage?"

1. [hesitate](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/hesitate)

interrupt temporarily an activity before continuing

He **hesitated**, but went on when nothing more happened.

1. [stumble](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/stumble)

miss a step and fall or nearly fall

He **stumbled** over a particularly uneven section of sidewalk.

1. [vanish](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/vanish)

decrease rapidly and disappear

The cement was **vanishing** under flowers and grass.

1. [ceaseless](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/ceaseless)

uninterrupted in time and indefinitely long continuing

During the day it was a thunderous surge of cars, the gas stations open, a great insect rustling and a **ceaseless** jockeying for position as the scarab-beetles, a faint incense puttering from their exhausts, skimmed homeward to the far directions.

1. [radiance](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/radiance)

the quality of being bright and sending out rays of light

But now these highways, too, were like streams in a dry season, all stone and bed and moon **radiance**.

1. [destination](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/destination)

the place designated as the end, as of a race or journey

He was within a block of his **destination** when the lone car turned a corner quite suddenly and flashed a fierce white cone of light upon him.

1. [illumination](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/illumination)

the quality of providing light

He stood entranced, not unlike a night moth, stunned by the **illumination**, and then drawn toward it.

1. [halt](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/halt)

stop moving

"Stand still. Stay where you are! Don't move!"   
He **halted**.

1. [ebb](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/ebb)

fall away or decline

Crime was **ebbing**

1. [wander](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/wander)

move about aimlessly or without any destination

there was no need now for the police, save for this one lone car **wandering** and **wandering** the empty streets.

1. [profession](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/profession)

an occupation requiring special education

"Business or **profession**?"   
"I guess you'd call me a writer."   
"No **profession**," said the police car, as if talking to itself.

1. [specimen](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/specimen)

an example regarded as typical of its class

The light held him fixed, like a museum **specimen**, needle thrust through chest.

1. [fancy](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/fancy)

imagination, especially of a casual or whimsical kind

Magazines and books didn't sell any more. Everything went on in the tomblike houses at night now, he thought, continuing his **fancy**.

1. [tomb](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tomb)

a place for the burial of a corpse

The **tombs**, ill-lit by television light, where the people sat like the dead, the gray or multicolored lights touching their faces, but never really touching them.

1. [phonograph](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/phonograph)

a machine that plays records

"No profession," said the **phonograph** voice, hissing. "What are you doing out?"

1. [accusation](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/accusation)

an assertion that someone is guilty of a fault or offence

There was a crackling quiet that in itself was an **accusation**.

1. [fiery](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/fiery)

very intense

"Not married," said the police voice behind the **fiery** beam.

1. [purpose](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/purpose)

an anticipated outcome that guides your planned actions

"Just walking, Mr. Mead?"   
"Yes."   
"But you haven't explained for what **purpose**."   
"I explained; for air, and to see, and just to walk."

1. [peer](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/peer)

look searchingly

He put his hand to the door and **peered** into the back seat, which was a little cell, a little black jail with bars.

1. [rivet](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/rivet)

fasten with a metal fastener

It smelled of **riveted** steel.

1. [antiseptic](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/antiseptic)

a substance that destroys harmful microorganisms

It smelled of harsh **antiseptic**; it smelled too clean and hard and metallic.

1. [alibi](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/alibi)

proof that someone accused of a crime could not have done it

"Now if you had a wife to give you an **alibi**," said the iron voice.

1. [faint](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/faint)

lacking clarity, brightness, or loudness

The car hesitated, or rather gave a **faint** whirring click, as if information, somewhere, was dropping card by punch-slotted card under electric eyes.

1. [regressive](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/regressive)

opposing progress; returning to a former less advanced state

"To the Psychiatric Center for Research on **Regressive** Tendencies."

1. [thud](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/thud)

a heavy, dull sound

The door shut with a soft **thud**.

1. [dim](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/dim)

lacking in light; not bright or harsh

The police car rolled through the night avenues, flashing its **dim** lights ahead.

1. [particular](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/particular)

distinct from others of the same group or category

They passed one house on one street a moment later, one house in an entire city of houses that were dark, but this one **particular** house had all of its electric lights brightly lit, every window a loud yellow illumination, square and warm in the cool darkness.

1. [motion](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/motion)

the act of changing location from one place to another

The car moved down the empty river-bed streets and off away, leaving the empty streets with the empty side-walks, and no sound and no **motion** all the rest of the chill November night.