

Capital Punishment – Word List

- **A.D.** = after the birth of Christ
- **abolish** = to get rid of, do away with
- **absorb** = take in
- **airtight chamber** = room where air cannot get in or escape
- **ancient** = old, from a long time ago
- **anesthetic** = medicine that stops you from feeling pain
- **apply** = use
- **appropriate** = correct, right
- **attach** = fasten
- **attitude** = what you think or feel about something
- **awful** = terrible
- **ban** = forbid
- **behead** = to cut someone's head off as a form of punishment
- **blank ammunition** = there is no bullet in a weapon, and it only makes a noise when fired
- **blindfold** = to put a cloth or band across your eyes
- **capital punishment** = the death penalty
- **century** = a hundred years
- **citizen** = a person who lives in a country and has rights there
- **civilian** = person who is not a soldier
- **commit** = carry out
- **common** = popular
- **constitution** = set of rules and laws that a country is organized by
- **convict** = to sentence and put into prison
- **correspond** = to be in agreement with
- **court** = place where a trial is held; a room in which a judge and a jury decide if a person is guilty or not
- **criminal** = a person who has done something illegal and needs to be punished
- **crucifixion** = death on a cross
- **cyanide** = very strong poison
- **death row** = cells of a prison in which people who are waiting to be executed are locked up
- **decapitate** = to cut a person's head off
- **declare** = to say officially
- **defendant** = person who is charged with a crime
- **determine** = here: pronounce, to make official
- **deterrent** = warning; to show someone that doing something will have bad results
- **DNA** = material that carries the genetic information of the cells in your body
- **dominate** = to stand out
- **effective** = useful; something that really works
- **electricity** = power that is carried through wires and cables, used to make machines work or give light
- **ethnic minorities** = small groups of people from other countries
- **execute** = to officially kill a person
- **exercise** = here: to carry out
- **eyewitness** = a person who sees something happen
- **fate** = the things that will happen to someone
- **firing squad** = group of people who shoot a person
- **gurney** = narrow table on wheels, used to move patients in hospital
- **heart attack** = when your heart suddenly stops beating
- **humane** = gentle, soft, more civilized

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- **immoral** = not right
- **inmate** = prisoner
- **innocent** = not guilty
- **inquisition** = Roman Catholic organization in the Middle Ages that tried to find and punish people who had different beliefs
- **judicial system** = system of law and courts in a country
- **life imprisonment** = being locked up in prison for your whole life
- **mentally disabled** = your brain does not work correctly and you cannot make the right decisions
- **millennium** = the beginning of a new thousand-year period
- **non-believer** = a person who has a different religion
- **noose** = ring formed by the end piece of a rope through which a prisoner puts their head
- **overturn** = to reverse, decide differently than the first time
- **oxygen** = colorless gas in the air, that we need to breathe
- **paralyze** = you cannot move or use parts of your body
- **persecute** = bully, punish, discriminate against
- **poisonous** = deadly
- **potential** = possible, future
- **primary** = main, most common
- **prison** = place where criminals are locked up
- **punishment** = making someone suffer because they have done something against the law
- **rape** = to force someone to have sex with you
- **refer to as** = call
- **review** = to think about something again
- **revolutionary** = here: during a revolution or uprising
- **ruling** = decision
- **sentence** = to give someone their punishment
- **serious** = grave, big, important
- **serve** = to work as
- **severe** = strong, bad
- **slide** = glide
- **snap** = break
- **solution** = liquid into which a gas or chemical has been mixed
- **sponge** = soft material full of small holes that can suck up liquid
- **stake** = long pole, made out of wood, to which you tie someone
- **stoning** = when you throw stones at someone until they die
- **strap** = bind, fasten
- **strength** = how strong something is
- **struggle** = fight
- **suffocation** = choke to death
- **suspend** = interrupt, stop
- **throughout** = in all of
- **towards** = near
- **trap door** = door that you can open and fall through
- **treason** = crime in which you do something against your government and help their enemies
- **unethical** = bad, wrong, immoral
- **warden** = guard
- **widespread** = common, popular
- **wrongful execution** = when a person who has been executed is proven to be innocent