

## VOCABULARY LIST for THE LANGUAGE INSTINCT by STEVEN PINKER

**alluring** -> (atractivo, atrayente, seductor) *having a strongly attractive or enticing quality*

**blank slate** -> (tabla rasa, pizarra en blanco) *tabula rasa theory: the mind in its hypothetical primary blank or empty state before receiving outside impressions*

**blathering** -> (decir tonterías) *to talk for a long time in a silly or annoying way*

**bog down** -> (atascarse) *to cause (something) to sink in wet ground*

**bristling / bristle** -> (erizarse, ponerse de punta) *a short, stiff hair, usually one of many*

**clinch** -> (resolver de una vez, decidir) *to finally get or win something:*

**compelling** -> (irresistible) *Strong. If a reason, argument, etc. is compelling, it makes you believe it or accept it because it is so strong:*

**cross-purposes** -> (propósitos opuestos) *a purpose usually unintentionally contrary to another purpose of oneself or of someone or something else —usually used in plural*

**drab** -> (monótono) *monotonous*

**dreary** -> (triste) *dull, bleak, and lifeless; depressing*

**flout** -> (mofarse de) *openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention).*

**folly** -> (locura, disparate) *the fact of being stupid, or a stupid action, idea, etc.*

**gripping discovery** -> (descubrimiento cautivante o fascinante) *Something that is gripping is so interesting or exciting that it holds your attention completely. A discovery is the process of finding information, a place, or an object, especially for the first time*

**interplay** -> (interacción) *the effect that two or more things have on each other*

**nooks and crannies** -> (rincones y grietas) *Everywhere, as in I've searched for it in every nook and cranny, and I still can't find it. This metaphoric idiom pairs nook, which has meant "an out-of-the-way corner" since the mid-1300s, with cranny, which has meant "a crack or crevice" since about 1440.*

**savant** -> (erúdito) *a person with a high level of knowledge or skill, especially someone who is less able in other ways*

**screwball** -> (excentrico) *a person who behaves in a strange and funny way*

**sheer vastness** -> (pura inmensidad) *Sheer is an adjective used to emphasize how very great, important, or powerful a quality or feeling is. Vastness as a noun refers to the quality of being extremely big.*

**quaint** -> (pintoresco) *attractive because of being unusual and especially old-fashioned*

**suffused** -> (infundido, bañado) *gradually spread through or over*

**torrid** -> (tórrido) *very hot and dry; full of difficulty or tribulation.*

**wherewithal** -> (los medios) *a noun referring to the means or resources one has at one's disposal*