Confusing Words Exercise

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word or phrase.

1. Just because you are old doesn’t mean you have to be ……………………….
   idle
   idol
   idyll

2. Hindus worship ………………………
   idols
   idylls
   idles

3. Our Caribbean holiday was a perfect ………………………………………
   idyll
   idol
   idle

4. The police are cracking down on ………………………………. gambling.
   elicit
Confusing Words Exercise

illicit
illicit

5. The investigator was able to ........................................... a confession from the accused.

evict
elicit
illicit

6. The .................................................. of youth fade with maturity.

allusions
illusions
elusions

7. The .................................................. state of tranquility soon erupted into war.

illusory
allusory
illusive
8. An ............................ set director can always enhance the play.

imaginary
imaginative
imaginational

9. Lending someone your passport is an ............................ thing to do.

imbecilic
idiotic
Either could be used here

10. The young men consumed an ............................ amount of wine and fell asleep.

immodest
immoderate
immaculate

11. The management and the trade union have reached an ............................

impasse
Confusing Words Exercise

passe
impass

12. The water shortage ........................................... the city’s firefighting capacity.

impaled
impaired
unpaired

Answers

1. Just because you are old doesn’t mean you have to be idle.

2. Hindus worship idols.

3. Our Caribbean holiday was a perfect idyll.

4. The police are cracking down on illicit gambling.

5. The investigator was able to elicit a confession from the accused.

6. The illusions of youth fade with maturity.

7. The illusory state of tranquility soon erupted into war.

8. An imaginative set director can always enhance the play.
Confusing Words Exercise

9. Lending someone your passport is an imbecilic / idiotic thing to do.

10. The young men consumed an immoderate amount of wine and fell asleep.

11. The management and the trade union have reached an impasse.

12. The water shortage impaired the city’s fire-fighting capacity.