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

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

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

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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 ...............................
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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.
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.