quagmire refers to an inextricable difficulty. Someone in a quagmire feels hopelessly stuck and unable to get out.

By derivation, a dilemma is a choice between two equally undesirable, unfavorable, or disagreeable propositions. Hamlet's famous dilemma was "to be or not to be."

Colloquial or informal expressions for the state of being in a dilemma include "in a fix," "in a pickle," "between a rock and a hard place," and "between the devil and the deep blue sea."

Word 4: TRANSITORY (TRAN-si-TOR-ee or TRAN-zii-TOR-ee)
Passing, temporary, fleeting, not permanent or enduring.
The words transitory, transient, ephemeral, and evanescent all mean passing, temporary.

Evanescent (Ev-uh-NES-ant) comes from the Latin verb evanesco, to vanish, disappear, and refers to something that appears briefly and then fades quickly away: evanescent memories, evanescent joy.

Ephemeral (a-FEM-uh-ruhl) means literally lasting only a day, but in a broad sense it refers to anything conspicuously short-lived: Our precious youth is ephemeral—lasting, it would seem, but a day. (Did you remember that lifeword rhymes with lived?)

Transient (TRAN-shint, not TRAN-zee-jnt) refers to anything that lasts or stays only for a short while: a transient occupant, a transient event.

Transit and our keyword transitory both come from the Latin transire, to go or pass over, the source also of the familiar words transit and transition. Transitory refers to something that by nature must pass or come to an end: Life is transitory, and sometimes so is love.

Word 5: PHILANTHROPIC (FiL-un-THRAHP-ik)
Charitable, benevolent, humane; motivated by or done out of a desire to help or improve the welfare of others.
The corresponding noun philanthropy means a desire to help others, especially through charitable giving.
Philanthropy and philanthropic both come from the Greek philanthros, phil, to love, and anthropos, man. Philanthropy means literally "love of mankind"; the adjective philanthropic means literally "loving mankind."

You can see the Greek phil, to love, in such words as philosophy, literally love of wisdom; and philharmonic, literally loving or devoted to music. You can see the Greek anthropos, man, in anthropology, the study of mankind, of human customs, habits, and traditions; and anthropomorphic (AN-throh-puh-MOR-ik), shaped like or resembling a man or human being.
The words philanthropic, humanitarian, altruistic (AL-troo-IST-ik), and charitable all mean helping others. Charitable refers specifically to giving money to help others. Altruistic suggests unselfish giving. Humanitarian applies to persons or organizations devoted to reducing the pain and suffering of others. Philanthropic literally means motivated by a desire to help others; today the word is used chiefly of persons or organizations that make large charitable gifts, fund endowments, or finance humanitarian or cultural institutions.

Word 6: LETHARGY (LETH-ur-jee)
Lack of energy, sluggishness, dulness, apathy, stupor; an abnormally dull, drowsy, inactive condition or state of mind.
The corresponding adjective is lethargic, which means sluggish, drowsy, dull, apathetic: "Dar always felt lethargic after a big business lunch"; "Whenever we visit the zoo, the bears and the lions seem lethargic"; "Weeks after getting over the flu, Emily still felt lethargic."

According to the third edition of The American Heritage Dictionary (1992), lethargy "may be caused by factors such as illness, fatigue, or overwork, but it manifests itself in drowsy dulness or apathy."

Apathy (AP-uh-thee) and lethargy are close in meaning. Apathy suggests an indifferent state of mind, a thorough lack of emotion or concern: "Analysts predict that voter apathy will result in a low turnout for the election." Lethargy is a prolonged state of dulness, inactivity, or lack of energy, a sluggish condition either of body or of mind: "The Renaissance roused Europe from the intellectual lethargy of the Middle Ages." "As every college professor knows, nothing can penetrate or cure the lethargy of the college student who has partied too hard the night before."

More difficult synonyms of lethargy include torpor (TOR-pur), somnolence (SAHM-nuh-ljnts), lassitude (LAS-i-t(y)ood), languor (LANG-gur), and stupefaction (ST(Y)OO-puh-FAK-shn).

Word 7: EXONERATE (eg-ZAHN-ur-aht)
To free from blame, free from a charge or the imputation of guilt, declare blameless or innocent.