Kinds/Types of Writing

- **Expository**: explain/inform
- **Persuasive**: argue for or against something
- **Analysis**: provide analysis (response to literature, author's purpose, AP/SAT essays)
- **Research**: expository or persuasive
- **Descriptive**: show/describe
- **Narrative**: tells story/event
- **Summary**: 1/3 original text
- **Technical/Business**: directions, resume, proposal, manual
- **Letter**: personal, business, complaint

Essay Terminology

### Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attention Getter</th>
<th>Curb appeal</th>
<th>Hook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify title and author (if applies)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Statement</td>
<td>Controlling Idea</td>
<td>Subject + Position</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Sentence</th>
<th>Mini-thesis</th>
<th>Argument</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Supporting Details</td>
<td>Fact or Example</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quotation</td>
<td>Paraphrase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>Opinion</td>
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<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
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### Conclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Re-state thesis</th>
<th>Highlight</th>
<th>Final Commentary</th>
<th>&quot;Tell'em what you already told'em&quot;</th>
<th>Close</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
ESSAY TEMPLATE

The Introduction

Attention-Getter (1-2 sentences)

Funnel this idea to thesis statement (1-2 sentences)

Thesis

The Body Paragraph (2+)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concrete Detail/Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentary/Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete Detail/Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentary/Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concluding Sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Conclusion

3+ sentences
# Essay Requirements: Components of an Essay

**Prompt:** Describes/outlines what is required of the essay writer. Good writers take time to fully understand the prompt before they begin reading or writing. The paper by stating the position of the author in direct response to the prompt.

**Organization:** The paper should include evidence that the author took time to structure the paper in a logical way to outline an idea that addresses the prompt.

**Introduction:** Commences the paper with some kind of background familiarize the reader to the subject of the paper and includes a thesis (typically at the end).

**Topic Sentences:** The first sentence of a body paragraph (b.p.) that has an argument/opinion that supports/connects to thesis which guides the entire paragraph.

## CLOVIS NORTH ESSAY RUBRIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay Requirements: Components of an Essay</th>
<th>6 Clearly superior, excellent in all respects</th>
<th>5 Displays a developing sense of style with some precision and insight</th>
<th>4 Adequate achievement</th>
<th>3 Demonstrates developing competence but is flawed</th>
<th>2 Attempts the assignment, but the essay is seriously flawed</th>
<th>1 Does not meet minimal standards for an essay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prompt:</td>
<td>• Addresses all aspects of the prompt very well. Makes an insightful connection to the prompt.</td>
<td>• Addresses all aspects of the prompt efficiently.</td>
<td>• Addresses most aspects of the prompt.</td>
<td>• Neglects prompt, or demonstrates inability to interpret and/or develop necessary aspects of the prompt</td>
<td>• Indicates serious confusion/gross misread of the text/prompt or neglects important aspects of the prompt</td>
<td>• Essay is not legible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization: The paper should include evidence that the author took time to structure the paper in a logical way to outline an idea that addresses the prompt.</td>
<td>• Organization and structure appropriate to purpose and paragraphs are well developed and logical.</td>
<td>• Creates an organization and structure appropriate to purpose and paragraphs are effectively argued.</td>
<td>• Demonstrates ability to reasonably organize and develop ideas by having definite separation of paragraphs from introduction to conclusion</td>
<td>• Organized minimally, probably has an introduction and body paragraphs but paragraphs themselves may be disorganized</td>
<td>• There is very little attempt to separate different thoughts. The paper appears to be written without any attempt at pre-writing or drafting.</td>
<td>• Essay far too brief (skeletal development, can be one or two paragraphs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction orients the reader to the situation in an engaging manner</td>
<td>• Introduction orients the reader to the situation.</td>
<td>• Introduction orients the reader to the situation.</td>
<td>• Introduction orients the reader to the situation, however briefly.</td>
<td>• Introduction limited and fails to orient the reader to the situation Connection of introduction to thesis is disjointed</td>
<td>• Demonstrates very weak organization or very little development of ideas</td>
<td>• No thesis evident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis appears in introduction of essay and is well connected.</td>
<td>• Thesis appears in introduction of essay and is well connected.</td>
<td>• Thesis appears in introduction of essay and is reasonably connected.</td>
<td>• Thesis appears in introduction of essay and is reasonably connected.</td>
<td>• Thesis is simple and general, is mostly plot summary</td>
<td>• Thesis may not appear in the introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic sentences guide paragraphs with strong opinion and clarify connections to thesis seamlessly.</td>
<td>• Topic sentences guide paragraphs with strong opinions and connect to thesis.</td>
<td>• Topic sentences support thesis but lack insight and/or connection to thesis.</td>
<td>• Topic sentences are mostly plot summary or quoted text and no connection to thesis.</td>
<td>• True topic sentence not present (see definition).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>True topic sentence not present (see definition).</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Components of an Essay continued:</td>
<td>6 Clearly superior, excellent in all respects</td>
<td>5 Displays a developing sense of style with some precision and insight</td>
<td>4 Good, adequate achievement</td>
<td>3 Demonstrates developing competence but is flawed</td>
<td>2 Attempts the assignment, but the essay is seriously flawed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Style: sentence structure, elevated diction and a sense of voice is established in the paper and is interesting to read. Helps the audience understand the argument of the essay.</td>
<td>Demonstrates sophistication of style, insightful analysis, with a seamless flow of ideas by using elements of creative writing such as extended metaphors, sophisticated lead-in to thesis, keen sense of audience, varied sentence structures, precise language/excellent use of diction and virtually error free (e.g. mechanics, punctuation).</td>
<td>Presents ideas clearly and a develops a sense of style and creativity. Uses precise language/good use of diction.</td>
<td>Ideas are reasonably presented but lack a sense of style and creativity. Minimal awareness of audience. Demonstrates adequate sentence control, but uses mostly simple sentences and average diction and/or misuses of effective diction. Contains few errors that do not detract from meaning (e.g. mechanics, punctuation).</td>
<td>Expresses ideas in an unclear and confusing manner. Demonstrates a minimal sense of organization and/or lack of sentence control. Diction is elementary. Errors confuse the reader, interrupts the presentation of thought and/or detract from meaning (e.g. mechanics, punctuation).</td>
<td>Shows inadequate sentence control and diction</td>
<td>Shows inadequate or no sentence control and extremely limited diction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concrete Details: Support the topic sentence with direct quotations and/or paraphrases from the prompt or text. Synonyms for concrete detail: evidence, facts

| Uses impressive, compelling and relevant supporting details, examples, evidence, facts | Uses effective and relevant details/evidence/examples/facts | Uses sufficient general/adequate textual evidence/concrete details/examples/facts | Uses some evidence but relies too much on paraphrasing and can be repetitious. Evidence does not consistently connect to topic sentence | Uses little or no evidence that is often irrelevant; mostly plot summary | Appears to not understand text |

Commentary: Analyzes the evidence as it relates to the argument.

| Writes commentary/Analysis that is plentiful, insightful, persuasive, and original | Writes commentary/analysis that is plentiful, insightful, and persuasive | Writes commentary/analysis that can be plentiful, but also repetitive and/or commonplace | Writes minimal analysis/commentary – almost all summary | Little or no commentary |

Conclusion: final paragraph of an essay

| Creatively and/or sophisticatedly reinforces arguments and main idea of essay | Effectively reinforces arguments and main idea of essay | Adequately reinforces arguments and main idea of essay | Restates or rewrites thesis/introduction | Uses no conclusion | Uses a one sentence conclusion | No conclusion |
BEYOND THE FORMULA

Now that you are in high school and are in the process of elevating your writing, please consider omitting the following words from your essays:

1. Stuff
2. Thing
3. Every + thing, one, body, etc. (absolutes)
4. So
5. First, Second, Third...
6. In the beginning, in the middle, in the end...
7. Personal pronouns (I, you, etc.)
8. Contractions
9. Slang (uber, texting language
10. Should of, could of, would of
11. Symbols
12. Excessing ending punctuation
13. This shows that/this also shows
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**DURING READING**

Annotation of a Text – Leaving Tracks of Thinking

*Annotating is recording what a reader is thinking while reading—it helps a reader remember what s/he has read.*

Annotation also provides an opportunity for a reader to *wrestle with the meaning of the text.*

*Nothing matters more than THINKING while reading.*

---

**Throw away the highlighter—underline and make notes with a pen or pencil.**

Highlighting can actually distract from the business of learning and dilute your comprehension. Highlighting only seems like an active reading strategy, but it can actually lull you into *passivity* rather than *thinking* about the text.

---

**Mark up the margins of your text with WORDS or ILLUSTRATIONS.** These are ideas that occur to you, notes about things that seem important to you, reminders of how issues in a text may connect with class discussion or course themes. This kind of interaction keeps you conscious of the *reason* you are reading and the *purposes* your instructor has in mind. Later in the term, when you are reviewing for a test or project, your margin notes may become useful memory triggers. Make a list of your ideas, write phrases or complete sentences—it is up to you! Just *interact* with the text by *writing* and *marking it up!* (Post-it notes work too!)

---

**Get in the habit of hearing yourself ASK QUESTIONS.** What does this mean? Why is the author drawing that conclusion? Why is the class reading this text? How would this happen? Where have I heard of this idea before? When will it happen? Who would it affect? Write the questions down in your margins, at the beginning or end of the reading, in a notebook, or elsewhere.

**WHEN READING, STOP-THINK-REACT. (STRategy) I wonder…**

---

**Develop your own symbol system.** Asterisk a key idea in the text, for example, or use an exclamation point for the surprising, absurd, bizarre, or question marks for unclear passages or straight lines or crooked lines beside certain passages… Like your margin notes, your hieroglyphs can help you reconstruct the important observations that you made at an earlier time, and they will be indispensable when you return to a text later in the term, in search of a passage, an idea for a topic, or while preparing for an exam or project.

---

**Some annotation ideas:** When I annotate, what do I write? Sometimes I…

| Record a REACTION to the reading. |
| Ask a QUESTION of the reading. What do I WONDER about? |
| Give an OPINION of the reading. |
| Make a CONNECTION to my own experiences, or local, national, or global situations, or other readings. |
| PARAPHRASE or SUMMARIZE sections of the reading—a line or two of summary per paragraph, perhaps. |
| Respond to how I would RELATE if I were in that situation. |
| Record the *“WHAT and WHERE and HOW and WHY and WHEN and WHO.”* Describe what is significant about the process and what conditions make the event or situation possible, where it happens, how it happens, where else it *could* happen, and speculate about why it happens… |
| Record an ANALOGY. Compare the reading to something that is already understood. (For example, lines of military defense compared to the lines of the immunity system’s defense) |
| Circle WORDS that I need to define. Keep a list of new words. |

---

**Text Code Ideas:**

| ✔ for something known | ?? for confusion | R for a connection (reminds me…)
| L for new learning | ⭐ for important information |
| ? for a question | ! for exciting or surprising information |

Ideas adapted from Harvey Daniels, Stephanie Harvey, and Cris Tovani
# 10th Grade Vocabulary

<table>
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<th>Unit 2</th>
<th>Unit 3</th>
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<th>Unit 5</th>
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## Roots

<table>
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**Roots**

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<td>rupt</td>
<td>to break or to burst</td>
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<td>re</td>
<td>again or back</td>
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<td>far or far off</td>
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<td>hot, warm, or heat</td>
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<td>decagram</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td>crat</td>
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<td>a science or study of</td>
<td>zoological</td>
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<td>a science or study of</td>
<td>entomologist</td>
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<td>logy</td>
<td>a speech</td>
<td>eulogy</td>
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<td>mill</td>
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<td>to breathe or breath</td>
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<td>to breathe or breath</td>
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<td>to throw or cast</td>
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<tr>
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<td>across or through</td>
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<td>dict</td>
<td>to say, to speak, to tell</td>
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<td>Example</td>
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<td>under or below</td>
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| **asperity** | n. Sharpness or harshness of manner. 
  There was a noticeable asperity in her voice as she scolded the children for teasing Andrea. |
| **bane** | n. A person or thing that destroys or causes harm. 
  Jonathan’s little brother was the bane of our slumber party. |
| **buffoon** | n. A person who often makes attempts to be funny; a clown; a fool. 
  Although he acted like a buffoon at parties, Matt was usually rather serious. |
| **doleful** | adj. Mournful or full of sorrow; causing grief. 
  The doleful look on her face told me she has not gotten the grant to go to the summer program. |
| **extrovert** | n. A person whose attention is focused on others and on what is going on around her or him, rather than on her or his own feels. 
  Ray is an extrovert now, but he was rather shy as a young child. |
| **garish** | adj. Excessively bright and flashy; tastelessly glaring. 
  I told Henry that his tie was too garish to wear to a job interview. |
| **hierarchy** | n. A group or system in which potions of power are ranked, usually from lowest to highest. 
  In the state government hierarchy, the governor is at the top. |
| **imbue** | v. To fill completely with a feeling or idea; to inspire. 
  The really great athletes are imbued with a desire to excel. |
| **instigate** | v. To stir up or urge on; to provoke. 
  Because Joy was jealous of Dara’s friendship with Kim, she instigated an argument between them. |
| **penchant** | n. A strong attraction or leaning. 
  Susan and Carl shared a penchant for crossword puzzles and made a ritual of doing them together every Sunday morning. |
| **rambunctious** | adj. Behaving in a wild and unruly manner. 
  When the puppies get too rambunctious in their play, the trainer separates them. |
| **repertoire** | n. The list of pieces an actor, musician, etc., is ready to perform; the skills or accomplishments of a person or group. 
  The band knew most of the requests, but several songs were not part of its repertoire. |
| **rudiment** | n. A basic principle or skill. |
This book teaches the **rudiments** of cooking, but it will not make you a master chef.

**undermine**  
v. To attack by indirect, secret, or underhanded means.  
During World War II, the French underground sought to **undermine** the Nazi occupation.

**unremitting**  
adj. Not stopping or slowing down; constant.  
The **unremitting** sounds of the city kept me awake in my hotel room all night.

**Lesson 2**

**adjudicate**  
v. To hear and decide judicially; to judge.  
Since her case was still being **adjudicated**, the defendant didn’t want to speak to the press.

**centennial**  
n. A one-hundredth anniversary or its celebration.  
The nation celebrated its **centennial** in 1876, one hundred years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

**countenance**  
n. A person’s face; the expression on a person’s face.  
Luke’s **countenance** was doleful when he heard the news that the class trip was cancelled.

**disgruntle**  
v. To make dissatisfied; to put in a bad mood  
The employees, who haven’t been given a raise in over two years, are **disgruntled** with their wages and want to increase in pay.

**equilibrium**  
n. A state of balance  
The United States government is most effective when its executive, legislative, and judicial branches are all working in **equilibrium**.

**expedite**  
v. To speed up a process; to facilitate  
The company hired additional workers to **expedite** the delivery of holiday order.

**gird**  
v. To encircle, bind, or surround  
He **girded** his waist with a wide leather belt.

**gratuitous**  
adj. No called for; unnecessary  
The violence in that movie was **gratuitous** because it didn’t add to the plot.

**illusory**  
adj. Unreal or imagined; deceiving  
His chances of getting a raise were **illusory** since he had such a poor work record.

**implacable**  
adj. Incapable of being placated, soothed, or significantly changed; relentless  
Despite Gina’s apologies, Karen still felt hurt by her friend’s betrayal and remained **implacable**.

**luminary**  
n. A source of light, especially from the sky, such as the sun or moon.
The moon far outshines all other luminaries in the night sky.

**manifesto**

n. A public statement explaining the intentions, motives, or views of an individual or group

In their 1848 Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels outlined their philosophies about class and economics.

**mesmerize**

v. To fascinate or hypnotize

The agile, death-defying moves of the trapeze artist kept the audience mesmerized during her performance.

**precedent**

n. The act of statement that may serve as an example or justification for a later one

The successful revolt of the American colonies provided a precedent for the French Revolution.

**spurious**

adj. Not genuine; false

Spurious reports that Elvis Presley was alive kept appearing in the tabloids.

**Lesson 3**

**curtail**

v. To cut short or reduce

The performance was curtailed when a fire broke out in the theater.

**discriminate**

v. The act of making a distinction in favor of or against a person or thing on the basis of the group or category rather than according to actual merit.

Federal law prohibits discrimination based on race or creed.

**espionage**

n. The act of spying, especially a government spy obtaining secrets of another government.

Counterintelligence specialists use their knowledge of high-tech spying equipment to thwart acts of espionage.

**inalienable**

adj. Not able to be taken or given away

United States citizens are promised certain inalienable rights that are spelled out in the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution.

**incarcerate**

v. To confine or to put in prison.

Maximum security prisoners were incarcerated on Alcatraz, an island in San Francisco Bay, until 1963.

**indignity**

n. An insult to one’s pride; offensive or humiliating treatment

His mother waited until they got home to reprimand her son, in order to spare him the indignity of being criticized in front of his friends.

**indiscriminate**

adj. Not marked by careful distinctions; haphazard

She was an indiscriminate reader and devoured everything from comics to history books.

**infamous**

adj. Having a very bad reputation; notorious
The CIA’s infamous agent, Aldrich Ames, sold compromising information to the Soviets that cost the lives of many Soviet secret agents.

**intercede**  
v. To act or plead on another’s behalf; to try to smooth the differences between two parties.  
Instead of **interceding**, my parents encouraged my brother and me to resolve our differences on our own.

**malign**  
v. To say negative and unfair things about; slander  
The proprietor thought **maligning** his competitor’s products would boost his own sales.

**perpetrate**  
v. To commit, as a crime or other antisocial act  
The con artist was guilty of **perpetrating** a minor scam.

**rampant**  
adj. Threateningly wild, without restraint or control; widespread.  
The **rampant** vines covered the slope and began to climb the surrounding trees.

**rancor**  
n. A deep, long-held feeling of hatred or bitterness.  
His rancor for the group turned him into its **implacable** foe.

**reparation**  
n. A mending or repair  
The building needed major **reparation** after the tornado.

**smattering**  
n. A small amount  
She wrote thousands of letters, of which only a **smattering** have been published.

**Lesson 4**

**accolade**  
n. An expression of approval or respect for special merit; a award.  
In England, knighthood is a high **accolade** given for service to the state.

**adamant**  
adj. Not yielding; firm.  
I missed the TV show because of my mother’s **adamant** refusal to let me watch television before I’m done with my homework.

**adulate**  
v. To flatter or admire excessively; to idolize.  
Opera lovers **adulate** the Mexican singing sensation Rosaria Rosario; her performances are often sold out.

**altercation**  
n. A loud and determined dispute; a noisy quarrel  
After the hockey player purposely tripped a member of the opposing team, an **altercation** broke out.

**annals**  
n. A historical record of events, often arranged in a yearly sequence.  
I can easily research the history of my town because its **annals** have been preserved consistently since 1685.

**assiduous**  
adj. Diligent and persistent.
Maureen was the most assiduous researcher in our biology lab.

chary  adj. Exercising caution; hesitant
Be chary about making promises that you might not be able to keep.

clique  n. A small, exclusive group; a group held together by like interests or purpose.
The new student found it difficult to fit in at the high school because many of the students there belonged to cliques that didn’t welcome newcomers.

decrepit  adj. Worn-out with use; broken-down
The decrepit buildings were torn down and replaced with a modern apartment complex.

endow  v. To provide with a quality, a thing, or a gift or money
Connie was endowed with a beautiful singing voice.

ephemeral  adj. Lasting a very short time.
The pleasures of our few days in the mountains were ephemeral, with only a faint memory remaining.

ingratiate  v. To work to gain the favor of someone
He attempted to ingratiate himself with his teacher by helping out after class.

pantheon  n. A group of people held in high esteem for their great achievements.
Albert Einstein is one of the most famous figures in the pantheon of great scientists.

perverse  adj. turned away form what is right; wicked
He gets a perverse satisfaction from teasing the dog.

tutorial  n. Instruction, protection. Or guardianship
I prepared for the test under the tutelage of my math teacher.

Lesson 5

acrimony  n. Bitterness or sharpness of temper, manner, or speech; hostility.
The political debates were marred by the unremitting acrimony of the candidates.

affinity  n. Attraction for someone or something with which one feels a closeness or kinship.
Rob and Luis developed an affinity for one another as soon as they met and have remained close friends ever since.

ambivalent  adj. Having mixed, often opposing, feeling about something or someone; indecisive.
He was ambivalent about his future; he couldn’t decide whether to go to college or join the Coast Guard.

cessation  n. A stopping, either final or temporary.
There was a cessation of mail delivery during the severe snowstorm.
emaciated adj. Very thin or wasted away, especially from lack of nourishment; scrawny
Sufferers from the eating disorder anorexia often starve themselves to the point of becoming emaciated.

enclave n. A distinct region or community enclosed within a larger territory
Chicago’s Chinatown is an enclave of Chinese American Residents.

engender v. To bring into being, to produce
Honesty engenders trust in others.

exacerbate v. To make more severe, bitter, or violent
Running in the race on Saturday exacerbated Marina’s knee injury.

illicit adj. Not allowed, improper, or unlawful
During the days of Prohibition, bootlegging was one of Al Capone’s many illicit activities.

indigenous adj. naturally living or growing in a certain area; native.
The turkey is indigenous to North America.

inexorable adj. Not to be persuaded, stopped, or moved by entreaty or plea; relentless
The inexorable move toward the rainforest’s destruction is a serous concern for environmentalists.

infatuated adj. filled with excessive, shallow, or foolish love or desire
My parents are infatuated with the idea of sailing around the world, so they attend every boat show they can.

insatiable adj. never satisfied; greedy
My nephew is endowed with an insatiable curiously and is constantly asking questions.

poignant adj. Painfully moving, affecting, or touching.
The poignant ending of the movie brought tears to my eyes.

proselytize v. To convert someone to a faith, belief, or cause.
She’s an adamant socialist; she’s always trying to proselytize people she meets.

Lesson 6

ameliorate v. To make better; to become better; to improve
The snowplows were put to work to ameliorate the dangerous driving conditions that resulted from the storm.

baleful adj. Expressing hatred or evil; harmful, ominous.
Roger gave me a baleful look when I accused him of lying.

berate v. To criticize vigorously; to scold vehemently.
Ms. Alanso told the older students to berate the younger ones when they made mistakes.
circumvent  v. To avoid through craftiness
She boasted that she was able to circumvent the tax laws by using every loophole she could find.

compunction  n. A feeling of uneasiness or anxiety caused by guilt
Robin Hood had no compunction about stealing from the rich to give to the poor.

condone  v. To overlook or accept without punishment; to pardon or excuse
Mr. Hagopian said that he could not condone keeping a library book for the whole school year, because that made it unavailable to other students.

diminutive  adj. Very small; tiny
On the dollhouse kitchen table there was a diminutive bowl of fruit.

euphemism  n. A polite term used to avoid directly naming something considered offensive or unpleasant
“Pass away” is a euphemism for “die.”

expendable  adj. Able to be used up and then discarded or replaced
Paper, envelopes, and pencils, are expendable office items.

heresy  n. The expression of shocking or unacceptable views.
In the 1800’s the belief that women should vote was considered heresy by some.

infirmity  n. Physical or mental weakness or defect
Brittle bones is a common infirmity of the elderly.

profane  v. Disrespectful of sacred things
Dancing as considered profane by the Puritans

recompense  v. To pay or compensate
The insurance company recompensed us for the damage to the roof caused by the storm.

repast  n. Food and drink; a meal.
His usual midday repast was a sandwich and a glass of milk.

servitude  n. A lack of freedom forced labor
The United States Constitution bans involuntary servitude except as a legally justified punishment for a crime.
**Lesson 7**

**castigate**  
_v._ To punish by criticizing sharply; to berate  
Our former principal used to castigate students in public; Ms. Abrosino would never do that.

**colloquial**  
_adj._ Characterized by informal language  
Most of the lecturers were formal and boring, but the last one was more engaging and lively because of her colloquial speech.

**epitaph**  
_n._ The words carved on a tombstone in memory of the deceased  
The gravestone had no epitaph, just the name Al Cott and the dates 1813-1865.

**exodus**  
_n._ A mass departure  
Poverty and political misrule caused the exodus of Haitians form their homeland to the United States.

**inter**  
_v._ To put in a grave; to bury  
Soon after the funeral, his body was interred in its grave.

**lacerate**  
_v._ To tear or cut roughly  
My legs were lacerated by the rocks as we climbed to the peak.

**largesse**  
_n._ The act of giving generously; gifts  
After donating a large amount of money to a homeless shelter, the ma received an award in recognition of his largesse.

**obituary**  
_n._ A notice of someone’s death, such as in a newspaper, usually with a brief summary of that person’s life.  
I didn’t know she’d died until I saw her obituary in the local paper.

**omnivorous**  
_adj._ Eating all kinds of food, including both animal and vegetable food  
Even though some people are vegetarians, the human species is classified as omnivorous, because humans may eat both animal and vegetable products.

**permeate**  
_v._ To spread throughout; to pass through  
The smell of garlic permeated the kitchen.

**rendition**  
_n._ An interpretation or translation; a performance  
The choir’s poignant rendition of the hymn was the high point of the concert.
resurgence  n. A rising again to life. Use. Acceptance. Or prominence; a revival
A resurgence in ballroom dancing got everyone rushing to learn the tango and the fox-trot.

stereotype  n. A generalization that is used to characterize a person without acknowledging individual differences.
Some people believe the stereotype that football players are unintelligent and insensitive.

stipend  n. A regular and fixed amount of pay for work done or to help cover living or work expenses.
My part-time summer job as a lifeguard carried with it a weekly stipend of ninety dollars.

subservient  adj. Serving or acting in a subordinate manner; servile.
The host tried to ingratiate himself with his guests by acting in a subservient manner, attending to their every whim.

Lesson 8

adjacent  adj. Near or next to; adjoining.
The two couples requested adjacent rooms when they checked into the boat.

beset  v. To surround or attack repeatedly
Mosquitoes beset the campers as soon as they entered the woods.

cede  v. To give up or transfer, especially by treaty or formal agreement
France ceded vast territories to the United States as part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

circuitous  adj. Roundabout; indirect
Before the Panama Canal was completed in 1914, ships had to travel circuitous route around South America.

desultory  adj. Proceeding or carried out in an aimless or random way
After my best friend moved away, our phone conversations became more and more desultory.

galvanize  v. To excite or arouse action.
The discovery of gold in California galvanized Easterners to West to seek their fortunes.

implement  v. To carry out
The governor implemented his plan for health care reform as soon as he took office.

inconsequential  adj. Lacking importance or worth; unable to make an impact; trivial
The issue of cafeteria hours seemed so inconsequential that I didn’t brother to raise it as the meeting.
magnitude  n. Greatness of size, power, or influence
The magnitude of the success of her book thrilled the author.

materialize  v. To appear in physical form, especially suddenly
The trapped miners were about to abandon hope when the rescue crew materialized.

muster  v. To summon or call forth; to gather
Sam wanted to ask for a raise but couldn’t muster the courage to ask his boss.

prohibitive  adj. Serving to restrain action or discourage use of
Many students couldn’t attend the concert because the ticket prices were prohibitive.

reminisce  v. To think or talk about one’s past
My grandparents like to reminisce about when they were our age.

vanguard  n. The leading or forwards position in a movement
Andy Warhol was in the vanguard of the pop art movement.

visionary  adj. Able to see what might be accomplished in the future
President Kennedy had the visionary goal of landing people on the moon.

Lesson 9

cautionary  adj. Offering or serving as a warning
Aesop’s fables are cautionary tales; their morals are intended to teach lessons.

constrain  v. To confine, inhibit, or hold back by force or necessity
Abraham Lincoln was not constrained by his humble birth.

flotilla  n. A fleet of boats or small ships
A flotilla of tall ships sailed into Baltimore’s Inner Harbor as part of the city’s celebrations.

gossamer  n. Thin, sheer fabric resembling gauze.
Her veil was gossamer and revealed her radiant face.

ignominious  adj. Marked by, deserving, or causing shame or disgrace
The off-key singer made an ignominious exit from the stage, foregoing the encore he had planned.

incur  v. To bring upon oneself something undesirable, such as a debt.
When she voted against giving out raises this year, the supervisor further incurred the hostility of her disgruntled workers.

liquidate  v. To settle the affairs of a business; to convert into cash
They liquidated their assets by selling almost all of their possessions, and used the proceeds to pay their debts.

magnate  n. An important, often wealthy, person prominent in a large industry or business
Andrew Carnegie was the steel magnate who endowed 2,800 libraries across the country.

misnomer n. A name that does not fit
“Vegetable” is sometimes considered to be a misnomer for the tomato, since tomatoes are actually classified as fruits.

onerous adj. Burdensome; oppressive.
After working hard all day, my mother considers cleaning up after us an onerous task.

pandemonium n. a state or place of great confusion or uproar.
A shout of “Fire!” created pandemonium in the crowded theater.

quixotic adj. Romantic and idealistic, but impractical.
Creating a huge public park in the middle of Manhattan must have seemed a quixotic notion when it was first proposed.

tenacious adj. Holding fast; persistent in adhering to something valued or habitual.
Bulldogs are known for their tenacious grip once they seize something in their jaws.

vestige n. A trace of something that once was present.
These ancient bones are the vestiges of a once-mighty dinosaur.

zephyr n. A light, gently breeze.
An afternoon zephyr carried the scent from the rose garden through the open window.

Lesson 10

attest v. To declare or be evidence of something as true, genuine, or accurate
The constant long lines at Romolo’s bakery attest to its popularity.

axiom n. A statement or principle that requires no proof because its truth is obvious
My pleasure-loving aunt believes in the axiom that no one lives forever.

churlish adj. Lacking good manners; rude, impolite
Barrett’s churlish remarks started an altercation.

concoct v. To make up, prepare, or invent
We were able to concoct a delicious meal from the leftovers in the refrigerator.

derivative n. Something that grows out of or results from an earlier form or condition
The artificial sweetener saccharin is a derivative of coal tar.

differentiate v. To see the difference; to distinguish
The twins looked so much alike I could not differentiate between them.

disparage v. To criticize in a negative, disrespectful manner.
I didn’t mean to disparage your relationship with Corey when I said that he was not a loyal person.
dissipate  v. To break up and spread out so thinly as to disappear; to scatter or be scattered. The sun **dissipated** the morning fog.

esoteric  adj. Not generally known or understood; familiar to only a relatively small number of people. Arabic used to be so **esoteric** that almost no one in America studied it, but it has become much more popular recently.

olfactory  adj. Relating to the sense of small. His **olfactory** sense told him that he was close to a chocolate factory.

plethora  n. Too great a number; an excess. Of the **plethora** of suggestions, there were a few that were useful.

refurbish  v. To make like new; to renovate. We **refurbished** the guest room before our cousins came to stay with us.

secrete  v. To produce and give off. Enzymes **secreted** by the stomach aid in digestion.

vagary  n. A departure from the normal, expected course; a whim or unpredictable action. The **vagaries** of the marketplace make it difficult to predict how well the stock market will perform each year.

volatile  adj. Evaporating quickly. Gasoline is a **volatile** substance.

**Lesson 11**

agrarian  adj. Having to do with farming or agriculture. At the state fair, everyone was talking about the grain harvest and other **agrarian** concerns.

burgeon  v. To grow and expand rapidly; to flourish. The **burgeoning** population of Las Vegas puts a strain on the area’s resources.

cataclysm  n. A sudden and violent change; a catastrophe. It would take a long time to rebuild the city of New Orleans fully after the cataclysm of 2005’s Hurricane Katrina.

culinary  adj. Having to do with cooking. Julia Child, a well-known cookbook author and chef, had a great deal of **culinary** expertise.

denigrate  v. To attack the reputation of; to criticize in a derogatory manner. The sales manager **denigrated** his competitors’ products.
gourmet  n. A person who likes fine food and is a good judge of its quality
To his great satisfaction, the meal Tom had spent hours preparing was fit for a gourmet.

grandiloquent  adj. Using lofty or pompous speech or expression
He began in grandiloquent fashion by addressing his listeners as “My fellow toilers
In the vineyard of scientific truth.”

hybrid  n. The offspring of two animals or plants of different species or varieties.
The sweet corn hybrid is disease resistant.

manifold  adj. Having many different kinds, forms, or parts
As head of the student council, her duties were manifold: she did everything from stuffing envelopes to addressing the PTA.

palatable  adj. Acceptable or pleasing, especially to the sense of taste
Although raw fish didn’t sound very appetizing to me, it was, in fact, surprisingly palatable.

panacea  n. Something that is supposed to cure all ills or difficulties; a cure-all
Nuclear power plants were once hailed as the panacea for the world’s energy problems.

plebeian  adj. Of or pertaining to the common people; common; unrefined
Although she was from a plebeian family, she was highly educated and had managed to travel a great deal.

scourge  n. Something that causes great pain and suffering; a social evil.
The scourge of AIDS affects populations worldwide.

stalemate  n. A halt in a struggle because both sides are equally strong and neither side will give in; a deadlock
Both parties left the room when the negotiations turned into a stalemate.

temperate  adj. Mild, moderate; restrained
Josh doesn’t like living in a temperate climate; he prefers the extreme heat of the tropics.

Lesson 12

aftermath  n. A consequence or result, often a negative one
Thousands of people were left without shelter in the aftermath of the earthquake.

aphorism  n. A short of truth or principle; an adage
My mother often warned me to slow down, citing the aphorism, “Haste makes waste.”

catharsis  n. A releasing of the emotions, often through the arts, that brings about spiritual renewal or a relieving of tension.
By drawing pictures reflecting their traumatic experiences, children often experience **catharsis**.

**cohort**
n. One who assists another, especially in a dubious or criminal activity; an accomplice
He denied being a **cohort** of a crime boss.

**culpable**
adj. Deserving blame or censure
Because of his negligence, the driver of the car that crashed was found **culpable**.

**diabolical**
adj. Devilish; wicked or evil
The **diabolical** plot to assassinate the chief justice was discovered before it could be implemented.

**enormity**
n. The state or quality of being monstrous or outrageous
After the dictator was toppled from power, the **enormity** of his crimes was revealed.

**gibe**
v. To utter taunting, sarcastic words
The fans **gibed** at the referee for ignoring the deliberate foul.

**innocuous**
adj. Harmless; unlikely to offend
The reporter’s questions seemed **innocuous**, yet I was chary of giving out any information.

**necessitate**
v. To require; to make necessary
This new situation **necessitates** a different approach to the problem.

**odyssey**
n. A long, adventurous journey
My South American **odyssey** took me through half a dozen countries and lasts almost six months.

**partisan**
n. A strong supporter or advocate.
The young volunteers were **partisans** of the newest candidate for mayor.

**posterity**
n. A person’s descendants; future generations
Is it quixotic to want to make the world a better place for **posterity**?

**premeditated**
adj. Fully planned beforehand; deliberate.
The lawyer argued that the defendant’s action was impulsive and not **premeditated**.

**scurrilous**
adj. Vulgar; coarsely abusive
These **scurrilous** rumors were perpetrated by someone trying to denigrate your character.

**Lesson 13**

**adjunct**
n. Something or someone joined or added to something else but not essentially a part of it.
The roadside stand was an **adjunct** to the orchard’s pick-your-own apples business.

**believe**  
v. To give a false impression of; to contradict  
His temperate tone **believed** the inflammatory content of his speech.

**carnage**  
n. Great destruction of life; slaughter  
An entire generation recoiled in horror from the **carnage** of World War 1

**dilemma**  
n. A problem that seems to have no satisfactory solution; a difficult choice  
His **dilemma** was whether to go to his daughter’s play or his son’s recital, both of which were on the same right.

**diverse**  
adj. Differing from one another; having various or distinct parts  
The fair had a **diverse** selection of food; everything from Italian and French to Ethiopian and Indian cuisine was available.

**eradicate**  
v. To get rid of; to uproot  
The goal of the literacy project is to **eradicate** illiteracy.

**flout**  
v. To ignore in a disrespectful or scornful way  
Miranda **flouted** convention by wearing jeans to graduation.

**foment**  
v. To stir up, to rouse; to instigate  
In the 1960’s, anti-war activists **fomented** student demonstrations and strikes that shook the Johnson and Nixon administrations.

**insurrection**  
n. An open revolt against legal authority; a rebellion  
According to Lincoln, the Confederacy’s withdrawal from the Union was an **insurrection**.

**mandatory**  
adj. Ordered by an authority; required  
Courses in English, math. And science are **mandatory** for all first-year students.

**mitigate**  
v. To make or become less serious or severe; to ameliorate  
The unusually warm weather **mitigated** the effects of the ice storm by melting all the ice and snow.

**pretext**  
n. An effort to conceal the real intention or state of affairs; an excuse  
He always went to that restaurant because he was infatuated with the waitress, but he made a **pretext** of going because of the food.

**singular**  
adj. Extraordinary; exceptional  
Audiences were captivated by the **singular** beauty of Hermann Prey’s voice.

**somnolent**  
adj. Tending to cause sleepiness  
The motion of the train had a **somnolent** effect, and I had to shake myself to stay alert.

**stalwart**  
adj. Strong; sturdy
The football squad was a **stalwart** group as I’d seen in a long time.

**Lesson 14**

- **aberration** *n.* A departure from the norm or what is considered right, natural, or normal; a flaw or defect.
  
  The mid-April snowstorm was an **aberration** that is unlikely to recur next year.

- **antiquated** *adj.* Grown old; out-of-date
  
  Kirsten tends to dismiss her parents’ views as hopelessly **antiquated**.

- **celestial** *adj.* Of or relating to the skies or heavens.
  
  The appearance of a comet s a dramatic **celestial** occurrence.

- **certitude** *n.* The state of being certain of the truth or rightness of something
  
  I can say with **certitude** that the stock market will continue to be unpredictable.

- **disburse** *v.* To distribute something or pay out money, especially from a public or other fund
  
  At Midtown Auto, paychecks are **disbursed** every Friday.

- **galaxy** *n.* A vast cluster of stars and other matter, billions of which make up the known universe.
  
  Our **galaxy** is known as the Milky Way.

- **intractable** *adj.* Hard to manage, tame, or control; stubborn; not easily cured
  
  That horse is too **intractable** to be ridden by a beginner.

- **juncture** *n.* A joining or coming together; the place where such a connection occurs.
  
  There is a traffic light at the **juncture** of 55tgh Street and Hyde Park Boulevard.

- **juxtapose** *v.* To place side by side
  
  The original sketch and the finished portrait were **juxtaposed** to show the artist’s technique.

- **maelstrom** *n.* A large and violent whirlpool or something resembling a whirlpool.
  
  It is believed that the solar system was formed over five billion years ago out of a great **maelstrom** of whirling dust.

- **optimum** *adj.* Best or most favorable
  
  Clear skies at night provided **optimum** conditions for viewing Mars through the telescope.

- **pillory** *v.* To expose to public scorn or contempt
  
  The press **pilloried** the First Lady for taking part in important policy matters.

- **proliferate** *v.* To grow, expand, or multiply at a rapid rate
  
  College courses on women’s studies have **proliferated** since the 1980’s.

- **remit** *adj.* Negligent; careless; lax
A late notice reminded me that I was **remiss** in paying my electric bill.

**titanic**  
adj. Marked by great strength, size, or influence  
The **titanic** winds of the tornado hurled the car through the air.

**Lesson 15**

**abominate**  
v. To hate or loathe intensely  
Many who **abominated** slavery worked unremittingly for its cessation.

**abridge**  
v. To shorten in duration or extent; to diminish  
The publishers plan to **abridge** the 900-page novel to a more-manageable 600 pages.

**animosity**  
n. Intense ill will.  
His **animosity** was clear from the baleful looks he gave them.

**auspicious**  
adj. Favorable, promising.  
The speaker felt he was off to an **auspicious** beginning when the audience laughed at his opening anecdote.

**beleaguer**  
v. To surround with troubles; to harass  
The actress was **beleaguered** by the freezing theatre, the small audience and her costar’s cold.

**confidant**  
n. A person to whom secrets are told  
Not even the governor’s closest **confidants** knew whether or not he would run for reelection.

**constituent**  
n. One of the parts that make up a whole  
Oxygen the nitrogen are the main **constituents** of the air we breathe.

**iniquitous**  
adj. Unjust; wicked  
The **iniquitous** practice of making young children work long hours has been banned in some countries but is still in effect in others.

**inure**  
v. To adjust to and accept unpleasant or undesirable conditions  
People living on Blakeslee Street soon became **inured** to the smells form the nearby paper mill.

**inveigh**  
v. To complain or protest strongly  
The newspaper’s education columnist **inveighed** against the school’s decision to institute an additional testing program.

**predecessor**  
n. A person or thing that has held a position or office before another  
President Clinton’s **predecessor** was George H.W. Bush.

**sabotage**  
n. Acts that intentionally damage, hinder, or seek to discredit
Hiding the notes for my final report wasn’t a practical joke, it was **sabotage**.

**sadistic** adj. Taking pleasure in causing pain
Some **sadistic** person thought it amusing to tie tin cans to the cat’s tail.

**scathing** adj. Harshly critical
The author was devastated by the **scathing** reviews of his book; his previous book had been a best-seller.

**transpire** v. To become apparent; to come to light
It **transpired** that the two senators knew about the planned invasion all along.

*Lesson 16*

**aura** n. A distinctive atmosphere or feeling that seems to surround someone or something; a distinctive appearance or impression.
There was an **aura** of serenity about the woman sitting quietly in the corner.

**banal** adj. Lacking freshness; trite.
The plot of that movie was so **banal**, I predicted the ending within the first half hour.

**bemuse** v. To confuse or bewilder
The noise and hubbub of Times Square **bemused** the tourists, who had come from a rural area for their first trip to New York City.

**cognizant** adj. Fully aware; taking notice.
Janine was so mesmerized by the clown at the fair that she was not **cognizant** of her surroundings.

**conundrum** n. A riddle whose answer is a play on words
Answer this **conundrum**: “What’s the difference between an engineer and a professor?”

**evanescent** adj. Short-lived; staying temporarily
Evening showers are an **evanescent** phenomenon in the tropics.

**factotum** n. A helper or assistant with a wide range of duties and responsibilities
The studio head made the decisions, and his **factotum** handles the details.

**grandiose** adj. Impressive because of large size or scope
Gothic cathedrals are **grandiose** structures that continue to attract tourists.

**induce** v. To influence or persuade
We finally **induced** my grandmother to use the air conditioner we put in her bedroom.

**intransigent** adj. Refusing to compromise or change one’s position on an issue
The new committee’s **intransigent** attitude made it impossible to work out any sort of compromise with the veteran employees.
laudatory adj. Full of praise
A laudatory review in the St. Louis Post-dispatch guaranteed a successful run for the new play.

panache n. Dash or flamboyance in style or action
The chef chopped and diced the vegetables with awe-inspiring panache.

picayune adj. Petty or insignificant; concerned with trifling matters
When evaluating the house, the inspector looked at the most picayune details, practically checking.

predilection n. An inclination; preference
I have a predilection for Thai food and eat it or at least once a week.

promontory n. A high point of land that juts out into water
We had a beautiful view of the whole surrounding bay from the rocky promontory.

Lesson 17

aggregate n. A group of things gathered into a whole; sum total.
The aggregate of human experience had been compressed into that one extraordinary volume.

allocate v. To set aside for a specific purpose; to allot.
Courtney allocated at least one hour a day for exercise.

augur v. To predict future events, especially from omens
From the animal’s strange behavior, the farmer could augur the imminent arrival of bad weather.

bastion n. A fortified area or position; a person, place, or thing that is a source of strength
The math advisor was a bastion of strength for students who were taking the advanced placement test.

decorum n. Suitable, proper behavior or speech
Talking loudly during a movie shows a lack of decorum.

defunct adj. No longer existing or functioning
The typewriter store, once a thriving business, is defunct now that computers have become popular.

disarray n. A lack or order; confusion
It was hard to find anything on Sonje’s desk because it was in complete disarray.

halcyon adj. Calm, peaceful, and happy; prosperous
Cassandra remembered the halcyon days when she was a little girl. Playing with her best friend, Anissa.
**homily**  
n. A lecture usually long, on how to behave morally.  
Ms. Perkins was known for frequently delivering homilies to students who treated others rudely.

**hyperbole**  
n. Extravagant exaggeration  
Charisse was using hyperbole when she described Ted as being as tall as a giraffe.

**importune**  
v. To plead for persistently  
Lynette repeatedly importuned Chrissy to go shopping with her.

**jurisdiction**  
n. Legal authority to govern or control  
The federal government has jurisdiction over the nation’s air traffic control system.

**ruminat**e  
v. To think over again and again; to ponder  
I spent weeks ruminating about the meaning of Kafka’s novella Metamorphosis.

**temerity**  
n. Reckless boldness without regard to danger or opposition  
Desmond did not have the temerity to correct the French teacher’s faulty pronunciation.

**winnow**  
v. To separate and remove what is undesirable and leave what is desirable; to blow away  
the chaff from again  
I was Nadia’s job to interview potential employees, winnow out the unqualified candidates, and recommend the qualified candidates for a second interview.

**Lesson 18**

**acoustic**  
adj. Relating to sound or hearing  
A tiny acoustic device improved Grandfather’s hearing.

**assemblage**  
n. A collection or gathering of people or things  
The assemblage at Camp Tamarack included people from all over the country.

**august**  
adj. Inspiring great respect or admiration; noble  
Thomas Jefferson’s august presence made a deep impression on those privileged to know him.

**auspices**  
n. Protection, support, or guidance; patronage  
The concert is being given under the auspices of the town’s arts foundation.

**cavil**  
n. A minor criticism  
My only cavil with the restaurant is that they don’t warm the bread.

**curator**  
n. A person in charge of an exhibition; an overseer of a museum or library collection  
The curator wrote brief explanations for all the works in the Picasso exhibit.

**extant**  
adj. Still existing; not lost or destroyed
I had an opportunity to view one of the few extant copies of the first edition of Middlemarch.

**gamut**  
n. The entire range of something  
Stars run the gamut from Earth-sized white dwarfs to red giants, which are hundreds of times bigger than the truth.

**ineffable**  
adj. Incapable of being expressed in words  
They sat gazing at the ineffable beauty of the Green Mountains.

**mellifluous**  
adj. Sweetly flowing; pleasant to the ear  
The mellifluous sound of a cello filled the rehearsal room.

**mien**  
n. A person’s manner, appearance, or expression; bearing  
Although Sandro was worried about all the work he had to do, you couldn’t tell that from his untroubled mien.

**nonpareil**  
n. A person or thing without an equal  
Claire followed her brother’s example of how to behave at the function because he was considered the nonpareil of decorum.

**patina**  
n. A green film that forms on copper exposed to the elements  
The patina of the building’s roof indicates that it is sheathed with copper.

**rapt**  
adj. Fully absorbed; engrossed  
We listen with rapt attention to her song.

**resuscitate**  
v. To revive from unconsciousness or apparent death; to revive or restore to health or vigor  
Our first aid class taught us how to resuscitate someone who has nearly drowned.

*Lesson 19*

**amenable**  
adj. Responsive; willing to be controlled or to take advice.  
The director was amenable to out suggested changes in the schedule and implemented them promptly.

**ascribe**  
v. To attribute to a source or a cause  
The Passionate Pilgrim is a collection of poems, some of which are ascribed to Shakespeare; the authorship of the others is unknown.

**charisma**  
n. A special quality in a person that inspires devotion or fascination in others  
Charisma is a definite asset if you’re running for office.

**dearth**  
n. Scarcity; a shortage  
There was a dearth of good restaurants around the waterfront until the city extended the subway there.
demoralize  v. To destroy the morals or morale of someone; to weaken the spirit or courage of someone
The band members were demoralized by the poor attendance at their final concert.

ebullient     adj. Bubbling with enthusiasm or high spirits
Ebullient fans, ecstatic over their team’s victory, carried the captain of the team off the field in triumph.

entrepreneur  n. An individual who manages and takes the risk of a business
The Small Business Administration gives loans and advice to entrepreneurs starting new businesses.

fatuous     adj. Foolish; silly; stupid
Jenna was getting annoyed at Malcolm for the fatuous grin with which he greeted her every suggestion.

harbinger    n. A person or thing that is a symbol of what is to come
According to American tradition, the appearance of a groundhog’s shadow on February 2 is a harbinger of six more weeks of winter.

homogeneous   adj. Of a similar kind or nature; uniform throughout
The walking club was made up of a homogeneous group of middle-class, working mothers.

incumbent    n. One who occupies an office or position
George Washington was the first incumbent of the U.S. presidency.

matriarchy  n. A society that is headed by a female
African elephants live in a matriarchy that excluded males from the herd when they reach about five years old.

neophyte     n. A beginner; a novice
Most students in the playwriting class were neophytes who had never written a play before.

prerogative   n. A special right limited to a person, group, or office; a privilege
It is the governor’s prerogative to pardon convicted felons.

sibling      n. One of two or more people who have the same parents; brother or sister
Sila had seven siblings: three sisters and four brothers.

Lesson 20

accost       v. To approach and speak to in an aggressive or challenging way
When Greta was leaving the store, the owner accosted her and asked her what was in her tote bag.
avarice  n. Greed for wealth
Corey’s avarice led her to overcharge her customers for her services as a consultant.

bilk  v. To cheat our of what is due
Michael hired a neighbor to mow his lawn, and then bilked him out of the fee they had agreed upon.

consummate  adj. Extremely skilled; complete or perfect
Devin was a consummate cook who had received several awards for her culinary creations.

conversant  adj. Having knowledge or experience; well-informed
Are you conversant with Einstein’s theory of relativity?

credulous  adj. Willing to believe things with only slight or no evidence; easily convinced
The credulous crowd listened with rapt attention to the reports of UFO abductions.

euphoria  n A feeling of great happiness or well-being
Jared was overcome with euphoria when he found out that he was going to be cast in a movie.

fortuitous  adj. Happening by lucky chance; accidental
The old friends ran into each other at the bookstore, and after their fortuitous meeting, they decided to go to a movie together.

hypothetical  adj. Based on something that is not actual but assumed or supposed
Zoe considered the hypothetical question of what she would wish for if she were granted three wishes.

incoherent  adj. Not connected; confused; rambling
Because the lecturer had not time to prepare for her talk, she delivered an incoherent speech that was hard to follow.

minuscule  adj. Very small in size or importance
Tyrone added just a minuscule amount of chili pepper to the soup because his mother doesn’t like it when it’s too spicy.

pleasantry  n. An agreeable, casual remark
Whitney and Yvette didn’t know each other very well, so when they ran into each other on the street, they would simply exchange pleasantries about their families and the weather.

procrastinate  v. To put off until later
Instead of starting her homework as soon as she came home, Meredith usually procrastinated by watching TV or calling friends first.

qualm  n. A feeling of uneasiness as to whether what one id doing is right or wise; a misgiving.
Noah had **qualms** about accepting money for shopping for his elderly neighbor.

**stigma**  
n. A mark of shame or disgrace
After she was caught cheating on the Spanish test, Sasha had to deal with the **stigma** of being seen as dishonest.