

Chapter 7: Vocabulary Information

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CQLA uses a multi-pronged approach to vocabulary study—one that incorporates the most superior ways that a student learns vocabulary and develops strong reading comprehension: (1) within context, (2) through discussion, (3) by using vocabulary himself, (4) from studying parts of words (using affixes and roots), and (5) via learning similar words together.

Within context. A student who is constantly reminded to look around a difficult word, study trigger words and clue words, and read before and after a challenging sentence or word may literally teach himself to learn. CQLA's Definition Dissection (DD) assignments will help your student learn how to learn. They will force him to think about context each week, which will carry over into his other subjects' comprehension and vocabulary learning (and ultimately all of his life's reading).

Discussion. By his copying the passage, completing the vocabulary studies, writing from the passage, and eventually taking dictation over the passage, you and your student will have many opportunities to talk about its content. Discussion is the best way to build comprehension of the written and spoken word and will probably aid a student in all subject areas more than any other form of "teaching."

Using vocabulary himself. CQLA has assignments for students to look up definitions, synonyms, and antonyms in the dictionary and thesaurus, but writing a definition or synonym verbatim from another source is not the best way to learn vocabulary. *Using* the vocabulary is. This is why CQLA has many opportunities for students to write definitions in their own words, write original sentences using words, and create hints and tips to remember words (such as homophones and other confusing words) for themselves.

Studying parts of words. CQLA's Roots and Affixes Chart will help a student think about words all the time. It teaches students to look for parts of words they already know--the root words, the prefixes, and the suffixes. After a few months of doing this aspect of Definition Dissection, do not be surprised if your student dissects words all the time for you! (Studying roots and affixes combined with discussing them is doubly powerful vocabulary building.)

Learning similar words. CQLA uses two aspects of similar words to teach vocabulary: (1) words that have to do with the character quality and each other in the opening Vocabulary Boxes at the beginning of each weekly lesson and (2) Similar Words charts given in the curriculum and assigned as a choice of vocabulary study each week (in newer versions). The words in the Vocabulary Boxes are used by the student in the sentences they write about the passage and are assigned in the Checklist Challenge to be used in their reports and essays. The Similar Words charts contain words from standardized testing and other "words you should know" lists and are grouped according to their meanings (i.e. words that all have to do with reconciliation, for instance). Learning words together with similar meanings is another strong vocabulary study method.

This chapter contains the Definition Dissection, Roots and Affixes box, and Similar Words charts. These boxes/pages are in the very back of your student's CQLA book (in newer versions). Two copies of this "packet" are provided in the back of each levels A, B, and C student books. (There are two packets since the student will use them the entire school year. Put one back to photocopy as needed when his original one gets tattered.) They are also provided in the *Teacher's Guide* so that you may help your student with his vocabulary studies as needed. TFT recommends that you work on the Definition Dissection assignments in your student's CQLA book with him or her for the first two or three months of CQLA use. This will help him become an independent learner (in terms of vocabulary) much better than if he tries to dissect words all by himself at first.

Definition Dissection

You know a lot more than you think you do! And you can use what you already know to unlock even more information. Definition Dissection (DD) is going to help you use what you already know to learn even more.

When you read, especially if you read challenging books and materials, you probably come across words that stump you. When this happens, it is especially difficult to understand what you are reading. However, if you use one of the six tricks given below, you will learn how to learn. You will, in essence, teach yourself many things that you do not already know--or, at the very least, remind yourself of what you do know. So, when you come across an unfamiliar or completely unknown word in your reading, try using one of the Definition Dissection tricks listed below to unlock it.

Definition Dissection Tricks

1. **CLUE WORDS--Figure out the type of the word in question by using clue words.** Clue words are words in the rest of the sentence that might help you. You can use the context of the sentence (the meaning of the rest of the sentence) to help you tell what type of word the questionable word is. If you read the sentence containing the word, leaving out the challenging word, you can often tell if the word is a **positive** word, **negative** word, **neutral** word, or an **extremely positive** or **negative** word.

- a. For example, in the sentence below, even if I do not know the meaning of the word *abject*, I can tell that the word I am studying is *not* a positive word--but is actually an **extremely negative** one. I can tell this because of the words *bad news* and *difficult*. These words tell me that the questionable word is going to be negative.

The bad news just seemed to keep pouring in; these **abject** circumstances were extremely difficult for Amy.

- b. For example, in the sentence below, even if I did not know the meaning of the word *obtuse*, I could tell that it is a **neutral** word--and that it has something to do with something being *obvious*. I can tell this because *account pass words* that are public information (phone numbers or addresses) are too easily stolen or discovered.

Banks often tell people not to use account passwords that are so **obtuse**, like their phone numbers or addresses.

Using This DD Trick

- (1) Underline the word in question with one color of highlighter.
- (2) With another color highlighter, box "clue words"--those words that help you determine what type of word the difficult word is (like *difficult* or *password/phone numbers* in the examples given above).
- (3) Using the word or words that you boxed in step two, determine whether the questionable word is **positive**, **negative**, **neutral**, or **other**.
- (4) Now read the sentence aloud, substituting a word you know (one that "fits") for the questionable one. This word quite possibly could be a synonym (word that means the same) for the questionable word.

Examples:

The bad news just seemed to keep pouring in; these **abject** circumstances were extremely **difficult** for Amy.

Could substitute *negative, bad, horrible, lowly, base, dejected, deplorable, forlorn*

Banks often tell people not to use **account passwords** that are so **obtuse**, like **phone numbers or addresses**.

Could substitute *obvious, personal, known, imperceptive, opaque, stolid*

2. **PARTS OF SPEECH**--Figure out what part of speech the questionable word is. Sometimes the meaning of a word, and even the entire sentence, can be unlocked for you if you can discern the part of speech that the challenging word is. There are some definite keys to longer words that unlock the part of speech the word is often used as.

a. Nouns--**Nouns** often end in the suffixes *tion, sion, ance, ence, age, ige, ia, um, ian, ade, acy, ology, onomy, tude*

Examples: association, ascension, annoyance, intelligence, vestige, curricula, curriculum, thespian, tirade, theocracy, biology, taxonomy, solitude

b. Verbs--**Verbs** often end in the suffixes *ate, er, ire, ose*

Examples: remediate, alter, transpire, transpose

c. Adjectives--**Adjectives** often end in the suffixes *ful, ent, ant, ate* (like verbs often do), *ious, ous, ar, able, ial, al, ic, ible, ine, an*

Examples: beautiful, opulent, extravagant, immediate, vicious, popular, veritable, ursine, American, ulterior, trivial, transcendental, geometric, tangible, taurine

d. Adverbs--**Adverbs** often end in the suffix *ly*

Examples: extravagantly, immediately, affordably, accurately

Using This DD Trick

- (1) Underline the word in question with one color of highlighter.
- (2) Box the part of the word that can possibly tell you what part of speech it is.
- (3) Once you think you know the meaning of the word, substitute a word that is the same part of speech to see if it fits. (It doesn't have to be a synonym for the word; you're just looking for part of speech now.)
- (4) Once you know the part of speech of the questionable word, see if the context of the sentence will help you further unlock the word.
- (5) Try combining this DD trick with another one for especially challenging words.
- (6) List other words that are the same part of speech that the questionable word is--ones that could have similar meanings.

Example:

The boy was ag**ile** on the balance beam, **so** his routine was **flawless**.

Choose a synonym for *agile*:

- a. athlete
- b. acrobatic
- c. spry
- d. gymnast

If you had learned to determine parts of speech, you would know that *athlete* and *gymnast* are nouns, whereas *agile* is an adjective. You would not choose a noun to substitute for an adjective. (Of course, you have the DD hints in this sentence too--the trigger word *so* and the positive descriptor *flawless*.)

Note: This trick is especially helpful for standardized testing. For example, if you can tell that the questionable word in the sample is an adjective, you will know that you should not choose a noun for the blank.

3. ROOTS AND AFFIXES---Use your knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

- a. Root word--**A root word** (sometimes called a base word) is a **word without an affix (prefix or suffix)**. In other words, it is a base word that has nothing else added to the beginning or end of it. Since we have accumulated our vocabulary from other countries and cultures, many of our words are related to each other. That is, they have similar roots that all mean the same thing. If you can look at a word's root (base) and see that you know the meaning of it (or know words that also contain that same root), you can often determine a challenging word's meaning.

For example, you probably already know the root to each of the words given below, even if you do not know the meaning of the word itself:

- (1) **Pagina tion** : Because you can see the root word *page*, you can tell that *pagination* has something to do with pages, possibly numbering pages. Because you know that *tion* words are often nouns, you can know that *pagination* is a **thing** having to do with (a process) of **numbering pages**.

pagination--Do you see part of the word *page* there?

- (2) **Illustri ous** : Because you can see the root word *illustrate*, you can tell that *illustrious* has something to do with illustrating--or something beautiful. Because you know that *ous* words are often adjectives, you can know that *illustrious* is a **describer**, telling that something is **like an illustration**--or is beautiful.

illustrious--Do you see part of the word *illustrate* there?

- (3) **Subordina tion** : Because you can see the root word *subordinate*, you can tell that *subordination* has something to do with *subordinate*--something lower than something else. Because you know that *tion* words are often nouns, you can know that *subordination* is a **noun**, something that is **lower than something else**.

subordination--Do you see part of the word *subordinate* there?

- b. Affixes--**Affixes** are letters that are **attached (or "affixed") to a word**. (Do you see the root *affix*--meaning to attach, there?)

There are two kinds of affixes:

- (1) Prefix--A **prefix** is a letter or letters added to the **beginning** of the root word. (The word prefix is a combination of *pre*--meaning before and *fix*--meaning attach.) A prefix is **more important to meaning** than a suffix because it alters the **meaning** of the root word--often making it mean just the opposite. It is important for spelling that you understand that a **prefix does not change the spelling of** a root word--it is just attached to the beginning of the root word without any spelling change.

- (a) unkind--*un* means *not*; *unkind* means *not kind*
(b) disheartening--*dis* means *not*; *disheartening* means *not heartening*
(c) nonnegotiable--*non* means *not*; *nonnegotiable* means *not negotiable*

- (2) Suffix--A **suffix** is a letter or letters attached to the **end** of a root word. A suffix is more important to **spelling** than a prefix because a suffix often changes the *spelling* of the root word. A suffix does **not usually change the meaning** of a word, but it **does often change the part of speech** of the word (which can also aid in understanding meaning).

- (a) joyfully--*ly* tells you this is probably an adverb--this word usually means *doing something with joy*
(b) graciousness--*ness* tells you this word is a noun; this word means the *idea (noun) of grace*
(c) elongate--*ate* tells you this word is probably a verb; this word means the *act of making longer* (see "long" in it?)

Using This DD Trick

- (1) Underline the word in question with one color of highlighter.
- (2) Box any roots, prefixes, and suffixes you can locate with different color highlighters.
- (3) First of all, see if you know the meaning of the root word or partial root word you boxed.
- (4) Then, see if you know the meaning of the prefix. (See roots and affixes list coming up)
- (5) Next, see if the suffix and the place it is used in the sentence can tell you the part of speech of the word.
- (6) If you still cannot discern the word's meaning, use another DD trick with the steps above.

Example:

He was in an **un** **character** istical **ly** foul mood.

1. un = not
2. character = has to do with a person's character or personality
3. ly = adverb

Thus, in this sentence it means that the describer *foul* is not normally in his character or personality.

4. **TRIGGER WORDS**--Find a trigger word that tells you what the questionable word might mean. A trigger word is a word in the part of the sentence with your questionable word that tells you that, that part of the sentence is going to be **in agreement or disagreement with another part**. Trigger words are similar to clue words, but they will be easier for you to find since you probably already know many of them through CQLA grammar studies. They are strong writing techniques because they add variety to your sentence structure--but they also have meaning. There are two main types of trigger words, both taught extensively in CQLA grammar and through the Checklist Challenge.

a. Conjunctive adverbs

Result: *therefore, consequently, of course*

Concession: *nevertheless, yet, still, after all, of course*

Apposition: *for example, for instance, that is, namely, in other words*

Addition: *moreover, furthermore, also, in addition, likewise, further, in addition to, similarly*

Time: *meanwhile, in the meantime*

Contrast: *however, instead, on the contrary, on the other hand, in contrast, rather*

Summary: *thus, in conclusion, then*

Reinforcement: *further, in particular, indeed, above all, in fact*

b. Coordinating conjunctions

F or, **A** nd, **N** or, **B** ut, **O** r, **Y** et, **S** o (FANBOYS)

***Notice how both of those grammar terms have *conjunct* in them--they are both joining types of words--joining parts of sentences together, often to either tell how each part is the same (*and, thus, moreover, etc.*) or how each part is different (*however, but, on the contrary, etc.*).

Using This DD Trick

(1) Underline the word in question with one color of highlighter.

(2) With another color highlighter, box any "trigger words."

(3) Using the word or words you boxed in step two, determine whether the questionable word is in agreement or disagreement with other parts of the sentence.

(4) Now read the sentence aloud, substituting a word (one that "might fit") you know for the questionable one. This word quite possibly could be a synonym (word that means the same) for the questionable word.

Examples:

I thought she was fairly friendly; however, when I got to know her better, I found her to be contentious.

However tells you that the questionable word is going to be the *opposite* of the word *friendly*.

I thought she was fairly friendly; moreover, when I got to know her better, I found her to be absolutely exuberant.

Moreover tells you that the questionable word is going to be *similar to* (even more so!) the word *friendly*.

5. **CONTEXT.** As shown in the clue words and trigger words examples earlier, the context of the passage can tell you a lot about a word's definition. Using other words in the sentence can help you tell what a questionable word means, but so can other sentences around the difficult word. Sometimes it helps to carefully examine the **sentence before and the sentence after** the one containing the questionable word.

Using This DD Trick

- (1) Underline the word in question with one color of highlighter.
- (2) Read the entire sentence to see if you can find any trigger words or clue words within the sentence.
- (3) Examine the questionable word for a familiar root, prefix, or suffix.
- (4) If you still cannot determine the word's meaning, underline the sentence before the one containing the difficult word with one color of highlighter as you read it aloud.
- (5) Underline the sentence following the one containing the difficult word with a different color highlighter, as you read it aloud.
- (6) Do you see any clue words, trigger words, etc. in those sentences that can help you with your difficult word? Box those.
- (7) Now use all of the hints above to decipher the questionable word.

Example:

The girl was miserable in the small train car. She had not realized that she was claustrophobic until her trip. However, that vacation left little doubt about it.

Miserable and *small train car* can help us know that the girl's misery has something to do with the train car; *small cars* tells us it has something to do with the size of the train car.

6. **SYNONYMS**--Learn words together that have similar meanings. This trick will not necessarily help you determine the meaning of a word you encounter, but it will help you to expand your vocabulary--which will eventually help you comprehend challenging words in text.

CQLA has a list of vocabulary words at the beginning of each weekly lesson that all have something to do with each other. Many times these are synonyms--words that mean the same as other words. **By learning words that have similar meanings together, you are more likely to remember their meanings.** You will have a "learning hook" on which to put new words--hooks that already contain words you know.

Example:

All of the words below have something to do with (are synonyms for) or are similar to the word *lazy*: *idle, indolent, shiftless, slothful, apathetic, languorous, lazyish, lethargic, listless, sluggish, torpid*

If you learn these words together, you will be more likely to remember them. Also, since you already know many of them, it is easier to relate the unknown words to the known ones.

Using This DD Trick

- (1) Underline the word in question with one color of highlighter.
- (2) Go to an online thesaurus or book thesaurus and key the word in the search (or look it up in your book).
- (3) Write down all of the words that are synonyms or near synonyms for the word in question.
- (4) Re-read the sentence containing the questionable word aloud, substituting any of the synonyms from your list that you are familiar with.
- (5) Optional: Study the Similar Words Chart and choose one list of words to work on. Write sentences using some of these words according to your teacher's direction.

Roots and Affixes List

(a) GEN--*birth, race, kind*
generous, generate, generation, geneology, gender

(b) DIC, DICT, DIT--*tell, say, word*
dictate, verdict, edict, contradict, predict, diction, indict

(c) SPEC, SPIC, SPIT--*look, see*
perspective, aspect, spectator, spectacle, suspect

(d) SUPER, SUR, SUM--*above*
surpass, summit, supersede, superstition

(e) TENT, TENS, TEND, TENU--*stretch, thin*
tension, extend, tendency, tendon, tent, distend

(f) TRANS--*across*
transfer, transient, transitory, transgress, transport

(g) DOC, DUC, DAC--*teach, lead*
conduct, document, doctrine, induce, indoctrinate

(h) CO, CON, COM--*with, together*
company, collaborate, comply, congruent,

(i) VERS, VERT--*turn*
convert, revert, subvert, divert, diverse, extrovert, versatile

(j) LOC, LOG, LOQU--*word, speech*
eloquent, logic, apology, monologue, dialogue, prologue

(k) SEN--*feel, sense*
sensitive, sensation, consent, dissent, assent, sentiment

(l) DE--*away, down, off*
denounce, defraud, decry, deplete, devoid, defile

(m) NOM, NOUN, NOWN, NAM, NYM--*name, order, rule*
anonymous, nominate, renounce, renown, misnomer

(n) CLA, CLO, CLU--*shut, close*
closet, enclose, disclose, include, conclude, seclude

(o) VO, VOC, VOK, VOW--*call*
vocal, advocate, vocation, convoke, revoke, avow

(p) MAL--*bad*
malicious, malady, dismal, malign, malevolent

(q) FRA, FRAC, FRAG--*break*
fracture, fraction, fragment, fragile, frail, fractious

(r) OB--*against*
objective, obsolete, obscure, obstruct, obstinate

(s) SUB--*under*
submissive, subordinate, sublime, subtle, subversion

(t) AB--*from, away*
abandon, abhor, abstain, absolve, abstruse, abstract

(u) GRESS, GRAD--*step*
progress, regress, gradual, digress, degrade, transgress

(v) SEC, SEQU--*follow*
second, sequel, sequence, consequence, prosecute

(w) PRO--*much, for, a lot*
prolific, profuse, prodigal, protracted, prodigy, propensity

(x) QUE, QUIS--*ask, seek*
inquire, question, request, quest, query, acquire, querulous

(y) SACR, SANCT, SECR--*sacred*
sacrifice, sanctuary, sanctify, sanction, consecrate

(z) SCRIB, SCRIP--*write*
scribble, describe, script, prescribe, ascribe, inscribe

(aa) PATHY, PAS, PAT--*feeling*
apathy, sympathy, empathy, antipathy, passionate

(bb) DIS, DIF--*not*
disdain, dissuade, dismay, disparate, disparage

(cc) CIRCU--*around*
circumference, circulation, circumstances, circumvent

(dd) NON, UN, IN, AN, A--*no or not*
nonviolent, uncooperative, inappreciative, anonymous

(ee) AD--*to*
adhere, adjective, addict, adverb

(ff) INFRA--*below*
infrastructure, infraction, infrared, infra-bass

(gg) AMBI--*both*
ambidextrous, amibguous, ambition, ambivalent

(hh) EPI--*on*
epidemic, epic, epitomy, episode

Similar Words Box

Agreeable

1. Affable (adj): *easy-going; friendly*
Everyone liked to talk to the girl. She was so **affable**.
2. Amenable (adj): *responsive; agreeable*
Everyone seemed **amenable** to my suggestion of a party.
3. Camaraderie (noun): *goodwill between friends*
There was great **camaraderie** in the team. They all got along.
4. Cordial (adj): *friendly; sincere*
To Sarah's surprise, her enemy was warm and **cordial**.
5. Facetious (adj): *playfully humorous*
The students loved math class because the teacher was **facetious**.

Beautiful

1. Embellish (verb): *to make beautiful by ornamenting; to decorate*
The woman added buttons to **embellish** her scrapbook page.
2. Florid (adj): *describing flowery or elaborate speech*
The speech was so **florid** that no one understood it.
3. Opulent (adj): *exhibiting a display of great wealth*
It was one **opulent**, glorious ball. They spared no expense.
4. Ornate (adj): *elaborately decorated*
The carving was so **ornate** that all who saw it were amazed.
5. Ostentatious (adj): *describing a showy or pretentious display*
The rich, showy ruler had an **ostentatious** way about him.
6. Poignant (adj): *profoundly moving; touching*
The song was so **poignant** that all were moved to tears.

Better

1. Alleviate (verb): *to ease a pain or a burden*
Sarah took an aspirin to **alleviate** the pain from the headache.
2. Asylum (noun): *a place of retreat or security*
The soldiers found **asylum** underground from the bombs.
3. Auspicious (adj): *favorable; promising*
The vacation began in an **auspicious** way; everything went well.
4. Benevolent (adj): *well-meaning; generous*
The **benevolent** man donated money to the charity.
5. Benign (adj): *kind and gentle*
He was a **benign** person; all who talked to him were encouraged.
6. Emollient (noun): *softening and soothing; something that softens*
The pastor's kind words served as an **emollient** for the family.
7. Mollify (verb): *to calm or soothe*
The mother began to **mollify** the frightened child.
8. Reclamation (noun): *the act of making something useful again*
The business began **reclamation** on their fallen policies.
9. Sanction (verb): *to give official authorization or approval*
The teacher **sanctioned** the use of IPODS; the kids were thrilled.

Determined, Stubborn

1. Assiduous (adj): *hard-working*
The man was **assiduous**. He got a lot done.
2. Compelling (adj): *forceful; urgently demanding attention*
The speaker made a **compelling** point. All were listening.
3. Diligent (adj): *marked by painstaking effort; hard-working*
The girl was so **diligent** that everyone wanted to hire her.
4. Dogged (adj): *stubbornly persevering*
Her **dogged** efforts finally paid off.
5. Endure (verb): *to put up with; to survive a hardship*
Christ **endured** much on our behalf at Calvary.
6. Intrepid (adj): *courageous; fearless*
The **intrepid** soldier became a hero because of his bravery.
7. Maverick (noun): *one who is independent, resists adherence to a group*
In Star Wars, Han Solo was a **maverick**. He did his own thing.
8. Obdurate (adj): *stubborn; inflexible*
John was **obdurate**. He would never change his schedule.
9. Obstinate (adj): *stubbornly adhering to an opinion or a course of action*
Dad was **obstinate** about his directions, so they got lost.
10. Proliferate (verb): *to grow or increase rapidly*
To **proliferate** the plants, Sarah tried watering them daily.
11. Tenacity (noun): *persistence*
The pastor's **tenacity** eventually led Jeff to Christ.
12. Vitality (noun): *energy; power to survive*
After rest, the football player regained his usual **vitality**.

Difficult to Get Along With

1. Brusque (adj): *rudely abrupt*
Mr. Jones was a **brusque** teacher with little time for his students.
3. Feral (adj): *savage; untamed*
The **feral** beast was dangerous to be around.
5. Incurable (adj): *unable to be reformed*
The boy was **incurable**. Soon everyone gave up on him.
7. Insolent (adj): *insulting in manner or speech*
Peter was very **insolent** when he mimicked the teacher.
9. Pugnacious (adj): *combative; belligerent*
The gang was a **pugnacious** group that mostly fought.
2. Caustic (adj): *bitingly sarcastic or witty*
His **caustic** wit caused people to be offended often.
4. Fractious (adj): *quarrelsome; unruly*
The **fractious** relationship was rarely on good terms.
6. Ingrate (noun): *an ungrateful person*
Clara was such an **ingrate** that her mother didn't get her any gifts.
8. Notorious: *known widely and usually unfavorably*
The outlaw was **notorious** for his shifty ways.
10. Reprehensible (adj): *worthy of blame*
The felon's **reprehensible** track-record was appalling.

Difficult, Unknown

1. Convoluted (adj): *intricate; complex*
The young man was stumped by the **convoluted** puzzle.
3. Futile (adj): *having no useful purpose; pointless*
Their efforts for change were **futile**. Nothing changed.
5. Obscure (adj): *relatively unknown; to conceal or make indistinct*
The professor had never heard of such an **obscure** book.
2. Cryptic (adj): *difficult to comprehend*
The signs were **cryptic**; no one understood them.
4. Impede (verb): *to slow the progress of*
They tore down the bridge to **impede** their enemies.
6. Quandary (noun): *a state of uncertainty or perplexity*
The detective was in a **quandary** because he had no clues.

Environment

1. Arid (adj): *describing a dry, rainless climate*
The dry desert is known for its **arid** climate.
3. Nocturnal (adj): *of or occurring in the night*
The **nocturnal** animal slept during the day and was awake at night
2. Conflagration (noun): *a widespread fire*
There was a **conflagration** in the woods. It all burnt down.
4. Sonorous (adj): *producing a deep or full sound*
John's **sonorous** voice sounded commanding and manly.

Excessive

1. Ebullience (noun): *intense enthusiasm*
She was filled with **ebullience** when she left for Florida.
3. Egregious (adj): *conspicuously bad or offensive*
The doctor made an **egregious** error in not cleaning his tools.
5. Frenetic (adj): *wildly excited or active*
The boy was **frenetic** about going to Disney World.
7. Superfluous (adj): *extra; unnecessary*
After the cake was made, they had some **superfluous** sugar.
2. Effusive (adj): *emotionally unrestrained; gushy*
The baby was **effusive** about not wanting to go to sleep.
4. Flagrant (adj): *extremely or deliberately shocking or noticeable*
Burning the flag shows **flagrant** disrespect for our country.
6. Gratuitous (adj): *given freely; unearned; unwarranted*
Grandma gave the disobedient boy a **gratuitous** gift.

Fake, Lying

1. Dubious (adj): *doubtful; of unlikely authenticity*
The **dubious** evidence was not enough to convict.
3. Hypocrisy (noun): *practice of pretending to be something one is not*
Those who say one thing and do the other are guilty of **hypocrisy**.
5. Spurious (adj): *not genuine; false, counterfeit*
The man made a **spurious** claim when he said the sun was blue.
2. Fabricated (adj): *made; concocted in order to deceive*
The **fabricated** story had many loopholes.
4. Slander (noun): *false charges malicious oral statements*
The book was so outrageous that the author was guilty of **slander**.

Higher and Lower

1. **Condescending** (adj): *treating people as weak or inferior*
The children felt inferior because she was **condescending**.
2. **Contemptuous**: *feeling hatred; scornful*
He didn't get along with her because of his **contemptuous** spirit.
3. **Despotic** (adj): *exercising absolute power; tyrannical*
He was a **despotic** ruler because everything depended on him.
4. **Dictatorial**: *domineering; oppressively overbearing*
He was **dictatorial**; he expected everyone to listen to him.
5. **Disdain** (noun): *contempt, scorn; to look down on*
I felt nothing but **disdain** for the person who cheated on the test.
6. **Haughty**: *arrogant; vainly proud*
His **haughty** attitude showed that he thought he was the best.
7. **Imperious** (adj): *arrogantly domineering or overbearing*
She bossed everyone around with her **imperious** attitude.
8. **Patronizing**: *treating in a condescending manner*
He was so **patronizing**; he treated everyone like little kids.

Highly Consider

1. **Catalog** (verb): *to make an itemized list of*
Katie decided to **catalog** her expenses to be organized.
2. **Exemplary** (adj): *commendable; worthy of imitation*
Jay's **exemplary** behavior caused others to want to be like him.
3. **Facile** (adj): *done or achieved with little effort; easy*
The homework was so **facile** that Dylan finished it all quickly.
4. **Fastidious** (adj): *having careful attention to detail; hard to please*
Lisa's **fastidious** decorating made things intricately beautiful.
5. **Hierarchy** (noun): *a group organized by rank*
The social **hierarchy** caused many to feel left out.
6. **Idealize** (verb): *to consider perfect*
The fans **idealized** the new pitcher. He was going to disappoint.
7. **Laudatory** (adj): *giving praise*
The teacher was **laudatory** to her students. They got high scores.
8. **Meticulous** (adj): *extremely careful and precise*
His **meticulous** gingerbread house looked perfect.
9. **Paramount** (adj): *of chief concern or importance*
The **paramount** issue is the salvation of each person.
10. **Pragmatic** (adj): *practical*
John was too **pragmatic** to go to the movies at midnight.
11. **Solvent** (adj): *able to pay one's debts*
After losing money for years, the Smith's finally became **solvent**.
12. **Venerated** (verb): *highly respected*
President Lincoln is **venerated** for keeping our country together.

Inborn, Closeness

1. **Inherent** (adj): *inborn; built-in*
One of Kara's **inherent** weaknesses was her height.
2. **Innate** (adj): *possessed at birth; inborn*
Dogs have an **innate** ability to sense another dog's presence.
3. **Inveterate** (adj): *long established; deep-rooted; habitual*
No one ever believed Jodie. She was an **inveterate** liar.
4. **Proximity** (noun): *closeness*
They tried not to be in the same **proximity** of the weird man.

Knowing, Understanding

1. **Acquired** (verb): *developed or learned; not naturally occurring*
To the mother's surprise, Sarah had **acquired** cooking skills.
2. **Conception** (noun): *the ability to form or understand an idea*
Humans have no **conception** of the sacrifice Jesus made.
3. **Conviction** (noun): *a fixed or strong belief*
Zoe spoke with **conviction**. She believed in what she said.
4. **Dogmatic** (adj): *stubbornly adhering to insufficiently proved beliefs*
Her **dogmatic** beliefs were not convincing to the onlooker.
5. **Enlightening** (verb): *informative; contributing to one's awareness*
Enlightening Krista with the wonders of cars was fun for Nathan.
6. **Impression** (noun): *a feeling or understanding resulting from an experience*
The girl's attitude gave Tim a bad **impression** of her.
7. **Intuition** (noun): *knowing things without thinking; sharp insight*
Woman's **intuition** gives us the ability to have keen insight.
8. **Misconception** (noun): *an incorrect understanding or interpretation*
Tom's **misconception** about football was disproven.
9. **Perception** (noun): *awareness; insight*
The woman knew something was up because of her **perception**.
10. **Perspective** (noun): *point of view*
Joe began to understand the **perspective** of his opponent.
11. **Profound** (adj): *having great depth or seriousness*
There was a **profound** moment when Cami began thanking God.

Large, Dispersed

1. Ample (adj): *describing a large amount of something*
Tom was convicted; there was **ample** evidence that he was guilty.
2. Comprehensive (adj): *large in scope or context*
The **comprehensive** test covered the whole book.
3. Copious (adj): *plentiful; having a large quantity*
The **copious** Thanksgiving meal left everyone stuffed.
4. Permeated (verb): *spread or flowing throughout*
The scent of the baking apple pie **permeated** the kitchen.
5. Pervasive (adj): *dispersed throughout*
The film had **pervasive** language. It was in every scene.
6. Prodigious (adj): *enormous*
The **prodigious** paper took hours to write.
7. Replete (adj): *abundantly supplied; filled to capacity*
After hours of picking, the basket was **replete** with blueberries.

Laziness

1. Dilatory (adj): *habitually late*
Everyone was used to waiting for John; he was a **dilatory** man.
2. Indolent (adj): *lazy*
Timothy was **indolent** because he didn't study hard.
3. Insipid (adj): *uninteresting; unchallenging*
The student fell asleep in class because his teacher was **insipid**.
4. Listless (adj): *lacking energy*
She was so **listless** that she seemed boring.
5. Torpor (noun): *laziness; inactivity; dullness*
The humid weather made everyone bored and **torpor**.

Legal Terms

1. Arbitrator (noun): *a judge who decides a disputed issue*
An **arbitrator** was hired to settle the much-disputed will.
2. Biased (adj): *prejudiced*
Mr. Darcy was snobbish at first because he was **biased**.
3. Exculpate (noun): *to free from guilt or blame*
They decided to **exculpate** the suspect after they heard his alibi.
4. Impartial (adj): *not in favor of one side or the other, unbiased*
The judge was not **impartial** because he knew the witness.
5. Incontrovertible (adj): *indisputable; not open to question*
The signed confession was **incontrovertible** proof of his guilt.
6. Integrity (noun): *trustworthiness; completeness*
The **integrity** of the man made everyone believe him.
7. Jurisprudence (noun): *the philosophy or science of law*
Tim loved **jurisprudence** so much that he became a lawyer.
8. Objectivity (noun): *treating facts without influence from personal feelings*
The jury heard the case with **objectivity**; they made a fair decision.
9. Penitent (adj): *expressing remorse for one's misdeeds*
His desire to make things right showed that he was **penitent**.
10. Plausible (adj): *seemingly valid or acceptable; credible*
The man's alibi seemed **plausible**, so they let him off.
11. Substantiated (verb): *supported with proof or evidence; verified*
The tape **substantiated** the claim that the man was guilty.
12. Vindicated (verb): *freed from blame*
John was **vindicated** after his friend confessed to the crime.

Negative Words and Behaviors

1. Condemn (verb): *to express strong disapproval of; denounce*
Angela would **condemn** everyone. No one liked being around her.
2. Discredit (verb): *to cause to be doubtful*
John's bad reputation was a huge **discredit** to himself.
3. Disparage (verb): *to speak of in a slighting way or negatively; to belittle*
The teenager **disparaged** her poor little sister every day.
4. Pejorative (adj): *descriptive words that speak negatively of someone*
The teacher was fired for using **pejorative** phrases.
5. Plagiarism (noun): *act of writing another's ideas or words as one's own*
He knew **plagiarism** was stealing another's words. He did it anyway.
6. Vilify (verb): *to make a vicious statement about*
To get revenge, Charles decided to **vilify** her in print.

New

1. Innovative (adj): *introducing something new*
The business was so **innovative** that it always had new ideas.
2. Naive (adj): *lacking sophistication*
The idea that all people are kind is a very **naive** thought.
3. Nascent (adj): *coming into existence; emerging*
Her **nascent** abilities began to shine after a while.
4. Novel (adj): *strikingly new or unusual*
Kara had a **novel** idea; no one else had ever thought of it.
5. Novice (noun): *a beginner*
The quarterback was obviously a **novice**. He made unwise decisions.

Not Practical

1. Abstract (adj): *not applied to actual objects*
A perfect world is an **abstract** idea. It can never really happen.
2. Apparatus (noun): *equipment; a group of machines*
The store house had an **apparatus** for fixing the building.
3. Paradigm (noun): *an example or model*
The **paradigm** for the ornament looked nothing like ours.
4. Phenomenon (noun): *an unusual, observable event*
The falling meteor **phenomenon** had everyone talking.
5. Rational (adj): *logical; motivated by reason rather than feeling*
Jeffrey's **rational** approach to life left little room for his emotions.
6. Theoretical (adj): *lacking application or practical application*
Theoretical physics is about ideas, but not how to apply them.

Rank, Unequal

1. Alienated (verb): *removed or disassociated from*
The girl **alienated** herself from the class when she sat by herself.
2. Alliance (noun): *a union of two or more groups*
The class formed an **alliance** to study for the test.
3. Disparity (noun): *inequality in age, rank, or degree; difference*
There was a great **disparity** between the rich and the poor.
4. Servile (adj): *submissive; like a servant*
The girl's **servile** attitude caused her to do every job.
5. Suppressed (verb): *subdued; kept from being circulated*
They try to keep the Bible **suppressed** in some countries.

Sadness, Interference

1. Impinge (verb): *hinder; interfere with*
Sarah thought her parents were **impinging** because they said no.
2. Lament (verb): *express grief for; mourn*
The sweet little boy began to **lament** the death of the fish.
3. Melancholy (noun): *sadness; depression*
Joy was in a state of **melancholy** when she failed her test.
4. Sanction (noun): *a measure put in place to punish another country*
The U.S. imposed an economic **sanction** on Cuba.
5. Truncated (verb): *shortened; cut off*
The audience was getting bored, so John **truncated** the speech.

Secretive, Crafty

1. Astute (adj): *shrewd; clever*
The financially **astute** man made a lot of money.
2. Camouflage (verb): *hide by blending in with surroundings*
The soldier tried to **camouflage** himself so the enemy would not see him.
3. Clandestine (adj): *secretive*
The illegal group held a **clandestine** meeting every night.
4. Coup (noun): *a brilliantly executed plan*
Our success in finding the decorations early was a **coup**.
5. Disingenuous (adj): *not straightforward; crafty*
The man was **disingenuous** when he hinted at needing money.
6. Ruse (noun): *a crafty trick*
The advertisement was a **ruse** to get people interested.
7. Stratagem (noun): *a clever trick used to deceive or outwit*
The **stratagem** worked perfectly. Everyone was deceived.
8. Surreptitiously (adv): *done by secretive means*
Sarah took the pills **surreptitiously**. No one knew she was sick.
9. Wary (adj): *on guard; watchful*
The family was **wary** about the homeless man at their house.
10. Wily (adj): *cunning*
The **wily** lawyer knew exactly what to say.

Small Amounts

1. Inconsequential (adj): *unimportant*
The **inconsequential** conversation gained no ground in the case.
2. Superficial (adj): *shallow; only concerned with surface things*
The girl was **superficial**. She only cared about her appearance.
3. Tenuous (adj): *having little substance or strength; shaky; unsure*
His **tenuous** behavior made many uneasy. He was clueless.
4. Trivial (adj): *of little importance or significance*
Sam loved **trivial** pleasures, like playing on the computer.

Speaking and Understanding

1. Assertion (noun): *a declaration or statement*
They were astonished at the man's **assertion**.
2. Clarity (noun): *clearness in thought or expression*
Kayla spoke with such **clarity** that everyone understood.
3. Cogent (adj): *convincing; reasonable*
Sarah's speech was so **cogent** that everyone agreed with her.
4. Coherent (adj): *logically connected*
The debater lost because his arguments weren't **coherent**.
5. Cohesive (adj): *condition of sticking together*
The report was **cohesive** because each point flowed naturally.
6. Didactic (adj): *intended to instruct*
The DVD was **didactic**; the kids who watched it learned a lot.
7. Discourse (noun): *verbal expression or exchange; conversation*
Their **discourse** was varied from history to current events.
8. Eloquence (noun): *ability to speak vividly or persuasively*
He had such **eloquence** that he made any subject sound good.
9. Emphasize (verb): *to give special attention to something, to stress*
The teacher **emphasized** the value of understanding your terms.
10. Fluid (adj): *easily flowing*
The girl has a **fluid** essay; you can follow what she wrote.
11. Implication (noun): *the act of suggesting or hinting*
Clara made an **implication** that she wanted to eat at McDonalds.
12. Lucid (adj): *easily understood; clear*
Because of a long day, the students were not **lucid**.
13. Pundit (noun): *an authority who expresses his/her opinions*
The political **pundit** promised much, but things didn't change.
14. Rhetoric (noun): *art of using language effectively and persuasively*
The politician used **rhetoric** to win the crowd

The Arts

1. Aesthetic (adj): *having to do with the appreciation of beauty*
An **aesthetic** woman decorated the house. It looked beautiful.
2. Anthology (noun): *a collection of literary pieces*
The **anthology** included all of Jane Austen's works.
3. Contemporary (adj): *current, modern; from the same time*
Instead of using old ideas, they tried a more **contemporary** script.
4. Dilettante (noun): *one with an amateurish or superficial understanding*
The **dilettante** had no idea what was really going on.
5. Eclectic (adj): *made up of a variety of sources or styles*
John has an **eclectic** taste in music. He listens to everything.
6. Excerpt (noun): *a selected part of a passage or scene*
Joy decided to give a speech from an **excerpt** of the book.
7. Genre (noun): *describing a category of artistic endeavor*
Sarah preferred the romantic **genre** of movies.
8. Medley: *an assortment or a mixture, normally of musical pieces*
The **medley** included hymns and choruses.
9. Mural (noun): *a large painting applied directly to a wall or ceiling*
It took the artist hours to complete the intricate **mural**.
10. Narrative (noun): *characterized by the telling of a story; a story*
Grandpa began the **narrative** about his life as a soldier.
11. Parody (noun): *artistic work that imitates another for comic effect*
The comical story was a **parody** of *Pride and Prejudice*.
12. Realism (noun): *artistic representation that aims for visual accuracy*
The photograph had a haunting **realism** dealing with war.
13. Virtuoso (noun): *a tremendously skilled artist*
Alberto's flawless paintings proved he was a **virtuoso**.

Unpredictable

1. Ambiguous (adj): *open to more than one interpretation*
The **ambiguous** speech left people with different opinions of it.
2. Ambivalent (adj): *simultaneously having opposing feelings; uncertain*
Mr. Darcy was **ambivalent** about the choices of meat.
3. Apathetic (adj): *feeling or showing little emotion*
The hard-hearted man took an **apathetic** look at the tragedy.
4. Arbitrary (adj): *determined by impulse rather than reason*
John reacted to the problem with an **arbitrary** solution.
5. Capricious (adj): *impulsive and unpredictable*
Our uncle made a **capricious** decision to go bungee-jumping.
6. Equivocate (verb): *to avoid making a definite statement*
To get out of answering, Joshua decided to **equivocate**.
7. Indifferent (adj): *not caring one way or the other*
Kayla was **indifferent** about what movie they chose to see.
8. Spontaneous (adj): *unplanned; naturally occurring*
They made a **spontaneous** decision to go bowling.