

ANNA UNIVERSITY TIRUNELVELI

CUMULATIVE SKILL LAB

Vth SEMESTER

VOCABULARY LIST

The colleges are requested to train the third year B.E/B.Tech students in the use of following words as part of the syllabus for Cumulative Skill Lab and it will be tested for 20 marks during the practical examinations.

abase v. lower; degrade; humiliate. Anna expected to have to curtsy to the King of Siam; when told to cast herself down on the ground before him, however, she refused to *abase* herself. **abasement**, n.

abash v. embarrass. He was not at all *abashed* by her open admiration.

■ **abate** v. subside or moderate. Rather than leaving immediately, they waited for the storm to *abate*.

abbreviate v. shorten. Because we were running out of time, the lecturer had to *abbreviate* her speech.

abdicate v. renounce; give up. When Edward VII *abdicated* the British throne, he surprised the entire world.

■ **aberrant** ADJ. abnormal or deviant. Given the *aberrant* nature of the data, we came to doubt the validity of the entire experiment.

aberration n. deviation from the expected or the normal; mental irregularity or disorder. Survivors of a major catastrophe are likely to exhibit *aberrations* of behavior because of the trauma they have experienced.

abet v. assist, usually in doing something wrong; encourage. She was unwilling to *abet* him in the swindle he had planned.

■ **abeyance** n. suspended action. The deal was held in *abeyance* until her arrival.

abhor v. detest; hate. She *abhorred* all forms of bigotry. **abhorrence**, n.

abject ADJ. wretched; lacking pride. On the streets of New York the homeless live in *abject* poverty, huddling in doorways to find shelter from the wind.

abjure v. renounce upon oath. He *abjured* his allegiance to the king. **abjuration**, n.

ablution n. washing. His daily *ablutions* were accompanied by loud noises that he humorously labeled "Opera in the Bath."

abnegation n. renunciation; self-sacrifice. Though Rudolph and Duchess Flavia loved one another, their love was doomed, for she had to wed the king; their act of *abnegation* was necessary to preserve the kingdom.

abolish v. cancel; put an end to. The president of the college refused to *abolish* the physical education requirement. **abolition**, n.

abominable ADJ. detestable; extremely unpleasant; very bad. Mary liked John until she learned he was also dating Susan; then she called him an *abominable* young man, with *abominable* taste in women.

abominate v. loathe; hate. Moses scolded the idol worshippers in the tribe because he *abominated* the custom.

aboriginal ADJ., n. being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native. Her studies of the primitive art forms of the *aboriginal* Indians were widely reported in the scientific journals. **aborigine**, n.

abortive ADJ. unsuccessful; fruitless. Attacked by armed troops, the Chinese students had to abandon their *abortive* attempt to democratize Beijing peacefully. **abort**, v.

abrasive ADJ. rubbing away; tending to grind down. Just as *abrasive* cleaning powders can wear away a shiny finish, *abrasive* remarks can wear away a listener's patience. **abrade**, v.

abridge v. condense or shorten. Because the publishers felt the public wanted a shorter version of *War and Peace*, they proceeded to *abridge* the novel.

abrogate v. abolish. The king intended to *abrogate* the decree issued by his predecessor.

abscission n. cutting off; separation. When a flower or leaf separates naturally from the parent plant, this process is called *abscission*.

■ **abscond** v. depart secretly and hide. The teller who *absconded* with the bonds went uncaptured until someone recognized him from his photograph on *America's Most Wanted*.

absolute ADJ. complete; totally unlimited; certain. Although the King of Siam was an *absolute* monarch, he did not want to behead his unfaithful wife without *absolute* evidence of her infidelity.

absolve v. pardon (an offense). The father confessor *absolved* him of his sins. **absolution**, n.

abstain v. refrain; withhold from participation. After considering the effect of alcohol on his athletic performance, he decided to *abstain* from drinking while he trained for the race.

■ **abstemious** ADJ. sparing in eating and drinking; temperate. Concerned whether her vegetarian son's *abstemious* diet provided him with sufficient protein, the worried mother pressed food on him.

abstinence n. restraint from eating or drinking. The doctor recommended total *abstinence* from salted foods. **abstain**, v.

abstract ADJ. theoretical; not concrete; nonrepresentational. To him, hunger was an *abstract* concept; he had never missed a meal.

abstruse ADJ. obscure; profound; difficult to understand. Baffled by the *abstruse* philosophical texts assigned in class, Dave asked Lexy to explain Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*.

abusive ADJ. coarsely insulting; physically harmful. An *abusive* parent damages a child both mentally and physically.

abut v. border upon; adjoin. Where our estates *abut*, we must build a fence.

abysmal ADJ. bottomless. His arrogance is exceeded only by his *abysmal* ignorance.

abyss n. enormous chasm; vast, bottomless pit. Darth Vader seized the evil emperor and hurled him into the *abyss*.

academic ADJ. related to a school; not practical or directly useful. The dean's talk about reforming *academic* policies was only an *academic* discussion; we knew little, if anything, would change.

accede v. agree. If I *accede* to this demand for black-mail, I am afraid that I will be the victim of future demands.

accelerate v. move faster. In our science class, we learn how falling bodies *accelerate*.

accessible ADJ. easy to approach; obtainable. We asked our guide whether the ruins were *accessible* on foot.

accessory n. additional object; useful but not essential thing. She bought an attractive handbag as an *accessory* for her dress. also ADJ.

acclaim v. applaud; announce with great approval. The sportscasters *acclaimed* every American victory in the Olympics and decried every American defeat. *acclamation*, n.

acclimate v. adjust to climate or environment; adapt. One of the difficulties of our present air age is the need of travelers to *acclimate* themselves to their new and often strange environments.

acclivity n. sharp upslope of a hill. The car could not go up the *acclivity* in high gear.

accolade n. award of merit. In Hollywood, an "Oscar" is the highest *accolade*.

accommodate v. oblige or help someone; adjust or bring into harmony; adapt. Mitch always did everything possible to *accommodate* his elderly relatives, from driving them to medical appointments to helping them with paperwork. (secondary meaning)

accomplice n. partner in crime. Because he had provided the criminal with the lethal weapon, he was arrested as an *accomplice* in the murder.

accord n. agreement. She was in complete *accord* with the verdict.

accost v. approach and speak first to a person. When the two young men *accosted* me, I was frightened because I thought they were going to attack me.

accoutre v. equip. The fisherman was *accoutred* with the best that the sporting goods store could supply. *accoutrement*, n.

accretion n. growth; increase. Over the years Bob put on weight; because of this *accretion* of flesh, he went from size M to size XL. *accrete*, v.

accrue v. come about by addition. You must pay the interest that has *accrued* on your debt as well as the principal sum. *accrual*, n.

acerbity n. bitterness of speech and temper. The meeting of the United Nations Assembly was marked with such *acerbity* that observers held little hope of reaching any useful settlement of the problem. *acerbic*, ADJ.

acetic ADJ. vinegary. The salad had an exceedingly *acetic* flavor.

acidulous ADJ. slightly sour; sharp; caustic. James was unpopular because of his sarcastic and *acidulous* remarks.

acknowledge v. recognize; admit. Although I *acknowledge* that the Beatles' tunes sound pretty dated nowadays, I still prefer them to the gangsta rap songs my brothers play.

acme n. peak; pinnacle; highest point. Welles's success in *Citizen Kane* marked the *acme* of his career as an actor; never again did he achieve such popular acclaim.

acoustics n. science of sound; quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in. Carnegie Hall is liked by music lovers because of its fine *acoustics*.

acquiesce v. assent; agree passively. Although she appeared to *acquiesce* to her employer's suggestions, I could tell she had reservations about the changes he wanted made. *acquiescence*, n.; *acquiescent*, ADJ.

acquittal n. deliverance from a charge. His *acquittal* by the jury surprised those who had thought him guilty. *acquit*, v.

acrid ADJ. sharp; bitterly pungent. The *acrid* odor of burnt gunpowder filled the room after the pistol had been fired.

acrimonious ADJ. bitter in words or manner. The candidate attacked his opponent in highly *acrimonious* terms. *acrimony*, n.

acrophobia n. fear of heights. A born salesman, he could convince someone with a bad case of *acrophobia* to sign up for a life membership in a sky-diving club.

actuarial ADJ. calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics. According to recent *actuarial* tables, life expectancy is greater today than it was a century ago:

actuate v. motivate. I fail to understand what *actuated* you to reply to this letter so nastily.

acuity n. sharpness. In time his youthful *acuity* of vision failed him, and he needed glasses.

acumen n. mental keenness. Her business *acumen* helped her to succeed where others had failed.

acute ADJ. quickly perceptive; keen; brief and severe. The *acute* young doctor realized immediately that the gradual deterioration of her patient's once-*acute* hearing was due to a chronic illness, not an *acute* one.

adage n. wise saying; proverb. There is much truth in the old *adage* about fools and their money.

adamant ADJ. hard; inflexible. In this movie Bronson played the part of a revenge-driven man, *adamant* in his determination to punish the criminals who destroyed his family. *adamancy*, n.

adapt v. alter; modify. Some species of animals have become extinct because they could not *adapt* to a changing environment.

addendum N. addition; appendix to book. Jane's editor approved her new comparative literature text but thought it would be even better with an *addendum* on recent developments in literary criticism.

addiction N. compulsive, habitual need. His *addiction* to drugs caused his friends much grief.

addle V. muddle; drive crazy; become rotten. This idiotic plan is confusing enough to *addle* anyone. addled ADJ.

address V. direct a speech to; deal with or discuss. Due to *address* the convention in July, Brown planned to *address* the issue of low-income housing in his speech.

adept ADJ. expert at. She was *adept* at the fine art of irritating people. also N.

adhere V. stick fast. I will *adhere* to this opinion until proof that I am wrong is presented. adhesion, N.; adherence, N.

adherent N. supporter; follower. In the wake of the scandal, the senator's one-time *adherents* quietly deserted him.

adulation N. flattery; admiration. The rock star thrived on the *adulation* of his groupies and yes-men. adulate, v.

■ **adulterate** V. make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances. It is a crime to *adulterate* foods without informing the buyer; when consumers learned that Beech-nut had *adulterated* its apple juice by mixing the juice with water, they protested vigorously. adulteration, N.

advent N. arrival. Most Americans were unaware of the *advent* of the Nuclear Age until the news of Hiroshima reached them.

adventitious ADJ. accidental; casual. She found this *adventitious* meeting with her friend extremely fortunate.

adjacent ADJ. adjoining; neighboring; close by. Philip's best friend Jason lived only four houses down the block, near but not immediately *adjacent*.

adjunct N. something (generally nonessential or inferior) added on or attached. Although I don't absolutely need a second computer, I plan to buy a laptop to serve as an *adjunct* to my desktop model. also ADJ.

adjuration N. solemn urging. Her *adjuration* to tell the truth did not change the witnesses' testimony. adjure, v.

adjutant N. staff officer assisting the commander; assistant. Though Wellington delegated many tasks to his chief *adjutant*, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, Somerset was in no doubt as to who made all major decisions.

■ **admonish** V. warn; reprove. He *admonished* his listeners to change their wicked ways. admonition, N.

adorn V. decorate. Wall paintings and carved statues *adorned* the temple. adornment, N.

adroit ADJ. skillful. Her *adroit* handling of the delicate situation pleased her employers.

adversary N. opponent; enemy. Batman struggled to save Gotham City from the machinations of his wicked *adversary*, the Joker.

adverse ADJ. unfavorable; hostile. The recession had a highly *adverse* effect on Father's investment portfolio: he lost so much money that he could no longer afford the butler and the upstairs maid.

■ **adversity** N. poverty; misfortune. We must learn to meet *adversity* gracefully.

advert V. refer (to). Since you *advert* to this matter so frequently, you must regard it as important.

advocacy *n.* support; active pleading on behalf of someone or something. No threats could dissuade Bishop Desmond Tutu from his *advocacy* of the human rights of black South Africans.

advocate *v.* urge; plead for. The abolitionists *advocated* freedom for the slaves. also *n.*

aegis *n.* shield; defense. Under the *aegis* of the Bill of Rights, we enjoy our most treasured freedoms

aerie *n.* nest of a large bird of prey (eagle, hawk). The mother eagle swooped down on the rabbit and bore it off to her *aerie* high in the Rocky Mountains.

■ **aesthetic** *adj.* artistic; dealing with or capable of appreciating the beautiful. The beauty of Tiffany's stained glass appealed to Alice's *aesthetic* sense. *aesthete*, *n.*

affable *adj.* easily approachable; warmly friendly. Accustomed to cold, aloof supervisors, Nicholas was amazed at how *affable* his new employer was. *affability*, *n.*

affected *adj.* artificial; pretended; assumed in order to impress. His *affected* mannerisms—his "Harvard" accent, his air of boredom, his use of obscure foreign words—bugged us: He acted as if he thought he was too good for his old high school friends. *affectation*, *n.*

affidavit *n.* written statement made under oath. The court refused to accept her statement unless she presented it in the form of an *affidavit*.

affiliation *n.* joining; associating with. His *affiliation* with the political party was of short duration for he soon disagreed with his colleagues.

affinity *n.* kinship. She felt an *affinity* with all who suffered; their pains were her pains.

affirmation *n.* positive assertion; confirmation: solemn pledge by one who refuses to take an oath. Despite Tom's *affirmations* of innocence, Aunt Polly still suspected he had eaten the pie.

affix *v.* attach or add on; fasten. First the registrar had to *affix* his signature to the license; then he had to *affix* his official seal.

affliction *n.* state of distress; cause of suffering. Even in the midst of her *affliction*, Elizabeth tried to keep up the spirits of those around her.

affluence *n.* abundance; wealth. Foreigners are amazed by the *affluence* and luxury of the American way of life.

affront *n.* insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect. When Mrs. Proudie was not seated beside the Archdeacon at the head table, she took it as a personal *affront* and refused to speak to her hosts for a week. also *v.*

agape *adj.* openmouthed. She stared, *agape*, at the many strange animals in the zoo.

agenda *n.* items of business at a meeting. We had so much difficulty agreeing upon an *agenda* that there was very little time for the meeting.

agglomeration *n.* collection; heap. It took weeks to assort the *agglomeration* of miscellaneous items she had collected on her trip.

aggrandize *v.* increase or intensify; raise in power, wealth, rank or honor. The history of the past quarter century illustrates how a President may *aggrandize* his power to act aggressively in international affairs without considering the wishes of Congress.

■ **aggregate** *v.* gather; accumulate. Before the Wall Street scandals, dealers in so-called junk bonds managed to *aggregate* great wealth in short periods of time. also *adj.* *aggregation*, *n.*

aggressor *n.* attacker. Before you punish both boys for fighting, see whether you can determine which one was the *aggressor*.

aghost *adj.* horrified; dumbfounded. Miss Manners was *aghost* at the crude behavior of the fraternity brothers at the annual toga party.

agility *n.* nimbleness. The *agility* of the acrobat amazed and thrilled the audience.

agitate *v.* stir up; disturb. Her fiery remarks *agitated* the already angry mob.

agnostic *n.* one who is skeptical of the existence of a god or any ultimate reality. *Agnostics* say we can neither prove nor disprove the existence of god; we simply have no way to know. also *adj.*

agog *adj.* highly excited; intensely curious. We were all *agog* at the news that the celebrated movie star was giving up his career in order to enter a monastery.

agrarian *adj.* pertaining to land or its cultivation. As a result of its recent industrialization, the country is gradually losing its *agrarian* traditions.

■ **alacrity** *n.* cheerful promptness; eagerness. Phil and Dave were raring to get off to the mountains; they packed up their ski gear and climbed into the van with *alacrity*.

alchemy *n.* medieval chemistry. The changing of baser metals into gold was the goal of the students of *alchemy*. *alchemist*, *n.*

alcove *n.* nook; recess. Though their apartment lacked a full-scale dining room, an *alcove* adjacent to the living room made an adequate breakfast nook for the young couple.

alias *n.* an assumed name. John Smith's *alias* was Bob Jones. also *adv.*

alienate *v.* make hostile; separate. Her attempts to *alienate* the two friends failed because they had complete faith in each other.

alimentary *adj.* supplying nourishment. The *alimentary* canal in our bodies is so named because digestion of foods occurs there. When asked for the name of the digestive tract, Sherlock Holmes replied, "*Alimentary*, my dear Watson."

alimony *n.* payments made to an ex-spouse after divorce. Because Tony had supported Tina through medical school, on their divorce he asked the court to award him \$500 a month in *alimony*.

allay v. calm; pacify. The crew tried to *allay* the fears of the passengers by announcing that the fire had been controlled.

allege v. state without proof. Although it is *alleged* that she has worked for the enemy, she denies the *allegation* and, legally, we can take no action against her without proof.
allegation, n.

allegiance n. loyalty. Not even a term in prison could shake Lech Walesa's *allegiance* to Solidarity, the Polish trade union he had helped to found.

allegory n. story in which characters are used as symbols; fable. *Pilgrim's Progress* is an *allegory* of the temptations and victories of the human soul. **allegorical**, ADJ.

■ **alleviate** v. relieve. This should *alleviate* the pain; if it does not, we shall have to use stronger drugs.

alliteration n. repetition of beginning sound in poetry. "The furrow followed free" is an example of *alliteration*.

allocate v. assign. Even though the Red Cross had *allocated* a large sum for the relief of the sufferers of the disaster, many people perished.

alloy n. a mixture as of metals. *Alloys* of gold are used more frequently than the pure metal.

alloy v. mix; make less pure; lessen or moderate. Our delight at the Mets' victory was *alloyed* by our concern for Dwight Gooden, who injured his pitching arm in the game.

allude v. refer indirectly. Try not to mention divorce in Jack's presence because he will think you are *alluding* to his marital problems with Jill.

allure v. entice; attract. *Allured* by the song of the sirens, the helmsman steered the ship toward the reef. also n.

allusion n. indirect reference. When Amanda said to the ticket scalper, "One hundred bucks? What do you want, a pound of flesh?" she was making an *allusion* to Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*.

alluvial ADJ. pertaining to soil deposits left by running water. The farmers found the *alluvial* deposits at the mouth of the river very fertile.

aloof ADJ. apart; reserved. Shy by nature, she remained *aloof* while all the rest conversed.

aloft ADV. upward. The sailor climbed *aloft* into the rigging.

altercation n. noisy quarrel; heated dispute. In that hot-tempered household, no meal ever came to a peaceful conclusion; the inevitable *altercation* sometimes even ended in blows.

altruistic ADJ. unselfishly generous; concerned for others. In providing tutorial assistance and college scholarships for hundreds of economically disadvantaged youths, Eugene Lang performed a truly *altruistic* deed. **altruism**, n.

■ **amalgamate** v. combine; unite in one body. The unions will attempt to *amalgamate* their groups into one national body.

amass v. collect. The miser's aim is to *amass* and hoard as much gold as possible.

amazon n. female warrior. Ever since the days of Greek mythology we refer to strong and aggressive women as *amazons*.

ambidextrous ADJ. capable of using either hand with equal ease. A switch-hitter in baseball should be naturally *ambidextrous*.

ambience n. environment; atmosphere. She went to the restaurant not for the food but for the *ambience*.

■ **ambiguous** ADJ. unclear or doubtful in meaning. His *ambiguous* instructions misled us; we did not know which road to take. **ambiguity**, n.

■ **ambivalence** n. the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes. Torn between loving her parents one minute and hating them the next, she was confused by the *ambivalence* of her feelings. **ambivalent**, ADJ.

amble n. moving at an easy pace. When she first mounted the horse, she was afraid to urge the animal to go faster than a gentle *amble*. also v.

ambrosia n. food of the gods. *Ambrosia* was supposed to give immortality to any human who ate it.

ambulatory ADJ. able to walk; not bedridden. Calvin was a highly *ambulatory* patient; not only did he refuse to be confined to bed, but also he insisted on riding his skateboard up and down the halls.

■ **ameliorate** v. improve. Many social workers have attempted to *ameliorate* the conditions of people living in the slums.

amenable ADJ. readily managed or willing to be led; answerable or accountable legally. Although the ambassador was usually *amenable* to friendly suggestions, he balked when we hinted he should pay his parking tickets. As a foreign diplomat, he claimed he was not *amenable* to minor local laws.

amend v. correct; change, generally for the better. Hoping to *amend* his condition, he left Vietnam for the United States.

amenities N. convenient features; courtesies. In addition to the customary *amenities* for the business traveler—fax machines, modems, a health club—the hotel offers the services of a butler versed in the social *amenities*.

amiable ADJ. agreeable; lovable; warmly friendly. In *Little Women*, Beth is the *amiable* daughter whose loving disposition endears her to all who know her.

amicable ADJ. politely friendly; not quarrelsome. Beth's sister Jo is the hot-tempered tomboy who has a hard time maintaining *amicable* relationships with those around her. Jo's quarrel with her friend Laurie finally reaches an *amicable* settlement, but not because Jo turns amiable overnight.

amiss ADJ. wrong; faulty. Seeing her frown, he wondered if anything were *amiss*. also ADV.

amity N. friendship. Student exchange programs such as the Experiment in International Living were established to promote international *amity*.

amnesia N. loss of memory. Because she was suffering from *amnesia*, the police could not get the young girl to identify herself.

amnesty N. pardon. When his first child was born, the king granted *amnesty* to all in prison.

amoral ADJ. nonmoral. The *amoral* individual lacks a code of ethics; he cannot tell right from wrong. The immoral person can tell right from wrong; he chooses to do something he knows is wrong.

amorous ADJ. moved by sexual love; loving. "Love them and leave them" was the motto of the *amorous* Don Juan.

amorphous ADJ. formless; lacking shape or definition. As soon as we have decided on our itinerary, we shall send you a copy; right now, our plans are still *amorphous*.

amphibian ADJ. able to live both on land and in water. Frogs are classified as *amphibian*. also N.

amphitheater N. oval building with tiers of seats. The spectators in the *amphitheater* cheered the gladiators.

ample ADJ. abundant. Bond had *ample* opportunity to escape. Why, then, did he let us capture him?

amplify V. broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make stronger. Charlie Brown tried to *amplify* his remarks, but he was drowned out by jeers from the audience. Lucy was smarter: she used a loudspeaker to *amplify* her voice.

amputate V. cut off part of body; prune. When the doctors had to *amputate* Ted Kennedy's leg to prevent the spread of cancer, he did not let the loss of his leg keep him from participating in sports.

amok (also *amuck*) ADV. in a state of rage. The police had to be called in to restrain him after he ran *amok* in the department store.

amulet N. charm; talisman. Around her neck she wore the *amulet* that the witch doctor had given her.

■ **anachronism** N. something or someone misplaced in time. Shakespeare's reference to clocks in *Julius Caesar* is an *anachronism*; no clocks existed in Caesar's time. *anachronistic*, ADJ.

analgesic ADJ. causing insensitivity to pain. The *analgesic* qualities of this lotion will provide temporary relief.

■ **analogous** ADJ. comparable. She called our attention to the things that had been done in an *analogous* situation and recommended that we do the same.

analogy N. similarity; parallelism. A well-known *analogy* compares the body's immune system with an army whose defending troops are the lymphocytes or white blood cells.

anarchist N. person who seeks to overturn the established government; advocate of abolishing authority. Denying she was an *anarchist*, Katya maintained she wished only to make changes in our government, not to destroy it entirely.

■ **anarchy** N. absence of governing body; state of disorder. The assassination of the leaders led to a period of *anarchy*.

anathema N. solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse. The Ayatolla Khomeini heaped *anathema* upon "the Great Satan," that is, the United States. To the Ayatolla, America and the West were *anathema*; he loathed the democratic nations, cursing them in his dying words. *anathematize*, V.

ancestry N. family descent. David can trace his *ancestry* as far back as the seventeenth century, when one of his *ancestors* was a court trumpeter somewhere in Germany. *ancestral*, ADJ.

anchor V. secure or fasten firmly; be fixed in place. We set the post in concrete to *anchor* it in place. *anchorage*, N.

ancillary ADJ. serving as an aid or accessory; auxiliary. In an *ancillary* capacity Doctor Watson was helpful; however, Holmes could not trust the good doctor to solve a perplexing case on his own. also N.

anecdote N. short account of an amusing or interesting event. Rather than make concrete proposals for welfare reform, President Reagan told *anecdotes* about poor people who became wealthy despite their impoverished backgrounds.

anemia N. condition in which blood lacks red corpuscles. The doctor ascribes her tiredness to *anemia*. **anemic**, ADJ.

anesthetic N. substance that removes sensation with or without loss of consciousness. His monotonous voice acted like an *anesthetic*; his audience was soon asleep. **anesthesia**, N.

anguish N. acute pain; extreme suffering. Visiting the site of the explosion, the president wept to see the *anguish* of the victims and their families.

angular ADJ. sharp-cornered; stiff in manner. Mr. Spock's features, though *angular*, were curiously attractive, in a Vulcan way.

animadversion N. critical remark. He resented the *animadversions* of his critics, particularly because he realized they were true.

animated ADJ. lively; spirited. Jim Carrey's facial expressions are highly *animated*; when he played Ace Ventura, he was practically rubber-faced.

animosity N. active enmity. He incurred the *animosity* of the ruling class because he advocated limitations of their power.

animus N. hostile feeling or intent. The *animus* of the speaker became obvious to all when he began to indulge in sarcastic and insulting remarks.

annals N. records; history. In the *annals* of this period, we find no mention of democratic movements.

anneal V. reduce brittleness and improve toughness by heating and cooling. After the glass is *annealed*, it will be less subject to chipping and cracking.

annex V. attach; take possession of. Mexico objected to the United States' attempts to *annex* the territory that later became the state of Texas.

annihilate V. destroy. The enemy in its revenge tried to *annihilate* the entire population.

annotate V. comment; make explanatory notes. In the appendix to the novel, the critic sought to *annotate* many of the more esoteric references.

annuity N. yearly allowance. The *annuity* she set up with the insurance company supplements her social security benefits so that she can live very comfortably without working.

annul V. make void. The parents of the eloped couple tried to *annul* the marriage.

anodyne N. drug that relieves pain; opiate. His pain was so great that no *anodyne* could relieve it.

anoint V. consecrate. The prophet Samuel *anointed* David with oil, crowning him king of Israel.

■ **anomalous** ADJ. abnormal; irregular. She was placed in the *anomalous* position of seeming to approve procedures that she despised.

anomaly N. irregularity. A bird that cannot fly is an *anomaly*.

anonymity N. state of being nameless; anonymousness. The donor of the gift asked the college not to mention her by name; the dean readily agreed to respect her *anonymity*. **anonymous**, ADJ.

antagonism N. hostility; active resistance. Barry showed his *antagonism* toward his new stepmother by ignoring her whenever she tried talking to him. **antagonistic**, ADJ.

antecede V. precede. The invention of the radiotelegraph *anteceded* the development of television by a quarter of a century.

antecedents N. preceding events or circumstances that influence what comes later; ancestors or early background. Susi Bechhofer's ignorance of her Jewish background had its *antecedents* in the chaos of World War II. Smuggled out of Germany and adopted by a Christian family, she knew nothing of her birth and *antecedents* until she was reunited with her Jewish family in 1989.

antediluvian ADJ. antiquated; extremely ancient. Looking at his great-aunt's antique furniture, which must have been cluttering up her attic since before Noah's flood, the young heir exclaimed, "Heavens! How positively *antediluvian*!"

anthem N. song of praise or patriotism. Let us now all join in singing the national *anthem*.

anthology N. book of literary selections by various authors. This *anthology* of science fiction was compiled by the late Isaac Asimov. **anthologize**, V.

anthropoid ADJ. manlike. The gorilla is the strongest of the *anthropoid* animals. also N.

anthropologist N. student of the history and science of humankind. *Anthropologists* have discovered several relics of prehistoric humans in this area.

anthropomorphic ADJ. having human form or characteristics. Primitive religions often have deities with *anthropomorphic* characteristics.

anticlimax N. letdown in thought or emotion. After the fine performance in the first act, the rest of the play was an *anticlimax*. **anticlimactic**, ADJ.

antidote N. remedy to counteract a poison or disease. When Marge's child accidentally swallowed some cleaning fluid, the local poison control hotline instructed Marge how to administer the *antidote*.

■ **antipathy** N. aversion; dislike. Tom's extreme *antipathy* for disputes keeps him from getting into arguments with his temperamental wife. Noise in any form is *antipathetic* to him. Among his other *antipathies* are honking cars, boom boxes, and heavy metal rock.

antiquated ADJ. obsolete; outdated. Accustomed to editing his papers on word processors, Philip thought typewriters were too *antiquated* for him to use.

antiseptic N. substance that prevents infection. It is advisable to apply an *antiseptic* to any wound, no matter how slight or insignificant. also ADJ.

antithesis *n.* contrast; direct opposite of or to. This tyranny was the *antithesis* of all that he had hoped for, and he fought it with all his strength. *antithetical* or *antithetic*, *ADJ.*

anvil *n.* iron block used in hammering out metals. After heating the iron horseshoe in the forge, the blacksmith picked it up with his tongs and set it on the *anvil*.

■ **apathy** *n.* lack of caring; indifference. A firm believer in democratic government, she could not understand the *apathy* of people who never bothered to vote. *apathetic*, *ADJ.*

ape *v.* imitate or mimic. In the comedy *Young Frankenstein*, when the servant Igor limps off, saying, "Walk this way," the hero *apes* him, hobbling after Igor in an imitation of his walk.

aperture *n.* opening; hole. She discovered a small *aperture* in the wall, through which the insects had entered the room.

apex *n.* tip; summit; climax. At the *apex* of his career, the star received offers of leading roles daily; two years later, he was reduced to taking bit parts in B-movies.

aphasia *n.* loss of speech due to injury or illness. After the automobile accident, the victim had periods of *aphasia* when he could not speak at all or could only mumble incoherently.

aphorism *n.* pithy maxim or saying. An *aphorism* is usually philosophic or scientific, as compared to an adage, which is usually more homely and concrete. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely" is an *aphorism*. "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink" is an adage. *aphoristic*, *ADJ.*

apiary *n.* a place where bees are kept. Although he spent many hours daily in the *apiary*, he was very seldom stung by a bee.

aplomb *n.* poise; assurance. Gwen's *aplomb* in handling potentially embarrassing moments was legendary around the office; when one of her clients broke a piece of her best crystal, she coolly picked up her own goblet and hurled it into the fireplace.

apocalyptic *ADJ.* prophetic; pertaining to revelations. The crowd jeered at the street preacher's *apocalyptic* predictions of doom. The *Apocalypse* or *Book of Revelations* of Saint John prophesies the end of the world as we know it and foretells marvels and prodigies that signal the coming doom. *apocalypse*, *n.*

apocryphal *ADJ.* untrue; made up. To impress his friends, Tom invented *apocryphal* tales of his adventures in the big city.

apogee *n.* highest point. When the moon in its orbit is furthest away from the earth, it is at its *apogee*.

apolitical *ADJ.* having an aversion or lack of concern for political affairs. It was hard to remain *apolitical* during the Vietnam War; even people who generally ignored public issues felt they had to take political stands.

apologist *n.* one who writes in defense of a cause or institution. Rather than act as an *apologist* for the current regime in Beijing and defend its brutal actions, the young diplomat decided to defect to the West.

apostate *n.* one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs. Because he switched from one party to another, his former friends shunned him as an *apostate*. *apostasy*, *n.*

apothecary *n.* druggist. In Holland, *apothecaries* still sell spices as well as ointments and pills.

apothegm *n.* pithy, compact saying. Proverbs are *apothegms* that have become familiar sayings.

apotheosis *n.* elevation to godhood; an ideal example of something. The *apotheosis* of a Roman emperor was designed to insure his eternal greatness: people would worship at his altar forever. On *Family Ties*, Alex Keaton was the *apotheosis* of yuppieness: he was the perfect upwardly bound young man on the make.

appall *v.* dismay; shock. We were *appalled* by the horrifying conditions in the city's jails.

apparition *n.* ghost; phantom. On the castle battlements, an *apparition* materialized and spoke to Hamlet, warning him of his uncle's treachery. In *Ghostbusters*, hordes of *apparitions* materialized, only to be dematerialized by the specialized apparatus wielded by Bill Murray.

■ **appease** *v.* pacify or soothe; relieve. Tom and Jody tried to *appease* the crying baby by offering him one toy after another. However, he would not calm down until they *appeased* his hunger by giving him a bottle. *appeasement*, *n.*

appellation *n.* name; title. Macbeth was startled when the witches greeted him with an incorrect *appellation*. Why did they call him Thane of Cawdor, he wondered, when the holder of that title still lived?

append *v.* attach. When you *append* a bibliography to a text, you have created an *appendix*.

application *n.* diligent attention. Pleased with how well Tom had whitewashed the fence, Aunt Polly praised him for his *application*. (secondary meaning) *apply*, *v.*

apposite *adj.* appropriate; fitting. She was always able to find the *apposite* phrase, the correct expression for every occasion.

appraise *v.* estimate value of. It is difficult to *appraise* old paintings; it is easier to call them priceless. *appraisal*, *n.*

appreciate *v.* be thankful for; increase in worth; be thoroughly conscious of. Little Orphan Annie truly *appreciated* the stocks Daddy Warbucks gave her, whose value *appreciated* considerably over the years.

apprehend *v.* arrest (a criminal); dread; perceive. The police will *apprehend* the culprit and convict him before long.

apprehensive *adj.* fearful; discerning. His *apprehensive* glances at the people who were walking in the street revealed his nervousness.

■ **apprise** *v.* inform. When she was *apprised* of the dangerous weather conditions, she decided to postpone her trip.

■ **approbation** *n.* approval. Wanting her parents' regard, she looked for some sign of their *approbation*.

■ **appropriate** *v.* acquire; take possession of for one's own use. The ranch owners *appropriated* the lands that had originally been set aside for the Indians' use.

appurtenances *n.* subordinate possessions. He bought the estate and all its *appurtenances*.

apropos *prep.* with reference to; regarding. I find your remarks *apropos* of the present situation timely and pertinent. also *adj.* and *adv.*

aptitude *n.* fitness; talent. The counselor evaluated his *aptitudes* before advising him about the career he should follow.

aquiline *adj.* curved, hooked. He can be recognized by his *aquiline* nose, curved like the beak of the eagle.

arable *adj.* fit for growing crops. The first settlers wrote home glowing reports of the New World, praising its vast acres of *arable* land ready for the plow.

arbitrator *n.* person with power to decide a matter in dispute; judge. As an *arbitrator* in labor disputes, she has won the confidence of the workers and the employers.

arbitrary *adj.* unreasonable or capricious; tyrannical. The coach claimed the team lost because the umpire made some *arbitrary* calls.

arbitrate *v.* act as judge. She was called upon to *arbitrate* the dispute between the union and the management.

arboretum *n.* place where different varieties of trees and shrubs are studied and exhibited. Walking along the treelined paths of the *arboretum*, Rita noted poplars, firs, and some particularly fine sycamores.

arcade *n.* a covered passageway, usually lined with shops. The *arcade* was popular with shoppers because it gave them protection from the summer sun and the winter rain.

arcane *adj.* secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated. Secret brotherhoods surround themselves with *arcane* rituals and trappings to mystify outsiders. So do doctors. Consider the *arcane* terminology they use and the impression they try to give that what is *arcane* to us is obvious to them.

archaeology *n.* study of artifacts and relics of early mankind. The professor of *archaeology* headed an expedition to the Gobi Desert in search of ancient ruins.

archaic *adj.* antiquated. "Methinks," "thee," and "thou" are *archaic* words that are no longer part of our normal vocabulary.

archetype *n.* prototype; primitive pattern. The Brooklyn Bridge was the *archetype* of the many spans that now connect Manhattan with Long Island and New Jersey.

archipelago *n.* group of closely located islands. When he looked at the map and saw the *archipelagoes* in the South Seas, he longed to visit them.

archives *n.* public records; place where public records are kept. These documents should be part of the *archives* so that historians may be able to evaluate them in the future.

ardor *n.* heat; passion; zeal. Katya's *ardor* was contagious; soon all her fellow demonstrators were busily making posters and handing out flyers, inspired by her *ardent* enthusiasm for the cause. *ardent*, *adj.*

■ **arduous** *adj.* hard; strenuous. Her *arduous* efforts had sapped her energy.

argot *n.* slang. In the *argot* of the underworld, she "was taken for a ride."

aria *n.* operatic solo. At her Metropolitan Opera audition, Marian Anderson sang an *aria* from *Norma*.

arid *ADJ.* dry; barren. The cactus has adapted to survive in an *arid* environment.

aristocracy *n.* hereditary nobility; privileged class. Americans have mixed feelings about hereditary *aristocracy*: we say all men are created equal, but we describe particularly outstanding people as natural *aristocrats*.

armada *n.* fleet of warships. Queen Elizabeth's navy was able to defeat the mighty *armada* that threatened the English coast.

aromatic *ADJ.* fragrant. Medieval sailing vessels brought *aromatic* herbs from China to Europe.

arraign *v.* charge in court; indict. After his indictment by the Grand Jury, the accused man was *arraigned* in the County Criminal Court.

array *v.* marshal; draw up in order. His actions were bound to *array* public sentiment against him. also *n.*

array *v.* clothe; adorn. She liked to watch her mother *array* herself in her finest clothes before going out for the evening. also *n.*

arrears *n.* being in debt. He was in *arrears* with his payments on the car.

arrhythmic *ADJ.* lacking rhythm or regularity. The doctors feared his *arrhythmic* heartbeat might be the first symptom of an imminent heart attack. *arrhythmia*, *n.*

arrogance *n.* pride; haughtiness. Convinced that Emma thought she was better than anyone else in the class, Ed rebuked her for her *arrogance*.

arroyo *n.* gully. Until the heavy rains of the past spring, this *arroyo* had been a dry bed.

arsenal *n.* storage place for military equipment. People are forbidden to smoke in the *arsenal* lest a stray spark set off the munitions stored there.

articulate *ADJ.* effective; distinct. Her *articulate* presentation of the advertising campaign impressed her employers. also *v.*

artifact *n.* object made by human beings, either handmade or mass-produced. Archaeologists debated the significance of the *artifacts* discovered in the ruins of Asia Minor but came to no conclusion about the culture they represented.

artifice *n.* deception; trickery. The Trojan War proved to the Greeks that cunning and *artifice* were often more effective than military might.

artisan *n.* a manually skilled worker. Artists and *artisans* alike are necessary to the development of a culture.

■ **artless** *ADJ.* without guile; open and honest. Red Riding Hood's *artless* comment, "Grandma, what big eyes you have!" indicates the child's innocent surprise at her "grandmother's" changed appearance.

ascendancy *n.* controlling influence. President Marcos failed to maintain his *ascendancy* over the Philippines.

ascertain *v.* find out for certain. Please *ascertain* her present address.

■ **ascetic** *ADJ.* practicing self-denial; austere. The wealthy, self-indulgent young man felt oddly drawn to the strict, *ascetic* life led by members of some monastic orders. also *n.* asceticism, *n.*

ascribe *v.* refer; attribute; assign. I can *ascribe* no motive for her acts.

aseptic *ADJ.* preventing infection; having a cleansing effect. Hospitals succeeded in lowering the mortality rate as soon as they introduced *aseptic* conditions.

ashen *ADJ.* ash-colored; deadly pale. Her face was *ashen* with fear.

asinine *ADJ.* stupid. Your *asinine* remarks prove that you have not given this problem any serious consideration.

askance *ADV.* with a sideways or indirect look. Looking *askance* at her questioner, she displayed her scorn.

askew *ADV.* crookedly; slanted; at an angle. When the clown placed his hat *askew* upon his head, the children in the audience laughed.

asperity *n.* sharpness (of temper). These remarks, spoken with *asperity*, stung the boys to whom they had been directed.

aspersion *n.* slanderous remark. Do not cast *aspersions* on her character.

aspirant *n.* seeker after position or status. Although I am an *aspirant* for public office, I am not willing to accept the dictates of the party bosses. also *ADJ.*

aspire *v.* seek to attain; long for. Because he *aspired* to a career in professional sports, Philip enrolled in a graduate program in sports management. *aspiration*, *n.*

assail *v.* assault. He was *assailed* with questions after his lecture.

assay *v.* analyze; evaluate. When they *assayed* the ore, they found that they had discovered a very rich vein. also *n.*

assent *v.* agree; accept. It gives me great pleasure to *assent* to your request. also *n.*

assert *v.* state strongly or positively; insist on or demand recognition of (rights, claims, etc.). When Jill *asserted* that nobody else in the junior class had such an early curfew, her parents *asserted* themselves, telling her that if she didn't get home by nine o'clock she would be grounded for the week. *assertion*, *n.*

assessment *n.* estimation; appraisal. I would like to have your *assessment* of the situation in South Africa.

■ **assiduous** *ADJ.* diligent. It took Rembrandt weeks of *assiduous* labor before he was satisfied with his portrait of his son.

assimilate *v.* absorb; cause to become homogenous. The manner in which the United States was able to *assimilate* the hordes of immigrants during the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries will always be a source of pride.

■ **assuage** *v.* ease or lessen (pain); satisfy (hunger); soothe (anger). Jilted by Jane, Dick tried to *assuage* his heartache by indulging in ice cream. One gallon later, he had *assuaged* his appetite but not his grief. *assuagement*, *n.*

assumption N. something taken for granted; the taking over or taking possession of. The young princess made the foolish *assumption* that the regent would not object to her *assumption* of power. *assume*, v.

assurance N. promise or pledge; certainty; self-confidence. When Guthrie gave Guinness his *assurance* that rehearsals were going well, he spoke with such *assurance* that Guinness was convinced. *assure*, v. *assured*, ADJ.

astral ADJ. relating to the stars. She was amazed at the number of *astral* bodies the new telescope revealed.

astrigent ADJ. binding; causing contraction; harsh or severe. The *astrigent* quality of the unsweetened lemon juice made swallowing difficult. also N.

astronomical ADJ. enormously large or extensive. The government seemed willing to spend *astronomical* sums on weapons development.

astute ADJ. wise; shrewd; keen. The painter was an *astute* observer, noticing every tiny detail of her model's appearance and knowing exactly how important each one was.

asunder ADV. into parts; apart. A fierce quarrel split the partnership *asunder*: the two partners finally sundered their connections because their points of view were poles *asunder*.

asylum N. place of refuge or shelter; protection. The refugees sought *asylum* from religious persecution in a new land.

asymmetric ADJ. not identical on both sides of a dividing central line. Because one eyebrow was set markedly higher than the other, William's face had a particularly *asymmetric* appearance. *asymmetry*, N.

asteroid N. small planet. *Asteroids* have become commonplace to the readers of interstellar travel stories in science fiction magazines.

astigmatism N. eye defect that prevents proper focus. As soon as his parents discovered that the boy suffered from *astigmatism*, they took him to the optometrist for corrective glasses.

atavism N. resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents; reversion to an earlier type; throwback. In his love for gardening, Martin seemed an *atavism* to his Tuscan ancestors who lavished great care on their small plots of soil. *atavistic*, ADJ.

atheistic ADJ. denying the existence of God. His *atheistic* remarks shocked the religious worshippers.

atone V. make amends for; pay for. He knew no way in which he could *atone* for his brutal crime.

atrocities N. brutal deed. In time of war, many *atrocities* are committed by invading armies.

atrophy N. wasting away. Polio victims need physiotherapy to prevent the *atrophy* of affected limbs. also v.

attentive ADJ. alert and watchful; considerate; thoughtful. Spellbound, the *attentive* audience watched the final game of the tennis match, never taking their eyes from the ball. A cold wind sprang up; Stan's *attentive* daughter slipped a sweater over his shoulders without distracting his attention from the game.

■ **attenuate** V. make thin; weaken. By withdrawing their forces, the generals hoped to *attenuate* the enemy lines.

attest v. testify; bear witness. Having served as a member of a grand jury, I can *attest* that our system of indicting individuals is in need of improvement.

attribute n. essential quality. His outstanding *attribute* was his kindness.

attribute v. ascribe; explain. I *attribute* her success in science to the encouragement she received from her parents.

attrition n. gradual decrease in numbers; reduction in the work force without firing employees; wearing away of opposition by means of harassment. In the 1960s urban churches suffered from *attrition* as members moved from the cities to the suburbs. Rather than fire staff members, church leaders followed a policy of *attrition*, allowing elderly workers to retire without replacing them.

atypical ADJ. not normal. The child psychiatrist reassured Mrs. Keaton that playing doctor was not *atypical* behavior for a child of young Alex's age. "Perhaps not," she replied, "but charging for house calls is!"

■ **audacious** ADJ. daring; bold. Audiences cheered as Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia made their *audacious*, death-defying leap to freedom and escaped Darth Vader's troops. *audacity*, n.

audit n. examination of accounts. When the bank examiners arrived to hold their annual *audit*, they discovered the embezzlements of the chief cashier. also v.

augment v. increase; add to. Armies *augment* their forces by calling up reinforcements; teachers *augment* their salaries by taking odd jobs.

augury n. omen; prophecy. He interpreted the departure of the birds as an *augury* of evil. *augur*, v.

august ADJ. impressive; majestic. Visiting the palace at Versailles, she was impressed by the *august* surroundings in which she found herself.

aureole n. sun's corona; halo. Many medieval paintings depict saintly characters with *aureoles* around their heads.

auroral ADJ. pertaining to the aurora borealis. The *auroral* display was particularly spectacular that evening.

auspicious ADJ. favoring success. With favorable weather conditions, it was an *auspicious* moment to set sail. Thomas, however, had doubts about sailing: a paranoid, he became suspicious whenever conditions seemed *auspicious*.

■ **austere** ADJ. forbiddingly stern; severely simple and unornamented. The headmaster's *austere* demeanor tended to scare off the more timid students, who never visited his study willingly. The room reflected the man, *austere* and bare, like a monk's cell, with no touches of luxury to moderate its *austerity*.

authenticate v. prove genuine. An expert was needed to *authenticate* the original Van Gogh painting, distinguishing it from its imitation.

authoritarian ADJ. subordinating the individual to the state; completely dominating another's will. The leaders of the *authoritarian* regime ordered the suppression of the democratic protest movement. After years of submitting to the will of her *authoritarian* father, Elizabeth Barrett ran away from home with the poet Robert Browning.

authoritative ADJ. having the weight of authority; peremptory and dictatorial. Impressed by the young researcher's well-documented presentation, we accepted her analysis of the experiment as *authoritative*.

autocratic ADJ. having absolute, unchecked power; dictatorial. A person accustomed to exercising authority may become *autocratic* if his or her power is unchecked. Dictators by definition are *autocrats*. Bosses who dictate behavior as well as letters can be *autocrats* too. *autocracy*, n.

automaton n. mechanism that imitates actions of humans. Long before science fiction readers became aware of robots, writers were creating stories of *automatons* who could outperform humans.

■ **autonomous** ADJ. self-governing. Although the University of California at Berkeley is just one part of the state university system, in many ways Cal Berkeley is *autonomous*, for it runs several programs that are not subject to outside control. *autonomy*, n.

autopsy n. examination of a dead body; postmortem. The medical examiner ordered an *autopsy* to determine the cause of death. also v.

auxiliary ADJ. offering or providing help; additional or subsidiary. To prepare for the emergency, they built an *auxiliary* power station. also n.

avalanche n. great mass of falling snow and ice. The park ranger warned the skiers to stay on the main trails, where they would be in no danger of being buried beneath a sudden *avalanche*.

avarice n. greediness for wealth. King Midas is a perfect example of *avarice*; he was so greedy that he wished everything he touched would turn to gold.

avenge v. take vengeance for something (or on behalf of someone). Hamlet vowed he would *avenge* his father's murder and punish Claudius for his horrible crime.

■ **aver** v. state confidently. I wish to *aver* that I am certain of success.

averse ADJ. reluctant; disinclined. The reporter was *averse* to revealing the sources of his information.

aversion n. firm dislike. Bert had an *aversion* to yuppies; Alex had an *aversion* to punks. Their mutual *aversion* was so great that they refused to speak to one another.

avert v. prevent; turn away. She *averted* her eyes from the dead cat on the highway.

aviary n. enclosure for birds. The *aviary* at the zoo held nearly 300 birds.

avid ADJ. greedy; eager for. He was *avid* for learning and read everything he could get. *avidity*, n.

avocation n. secondary or minor occupation. His hobby proved to be so fascinating and profitable that gradually he abandoned his regular occupation and concentrated on his *avocation*.

avow v. declare openly. Lana *avowed* that she never meant to steal Debbie's boyfriend, but no one believed her *avowal* of innocence.

avuncular ADJ. like an uncle. *Avuncular* pride did not prevent him from noticing his nephew's shortcomings.

awe N. solemn wonder. The tourists gazed with *awe* at the tremendous expanse of the Grand Canyon.

awl N. pointed tool used for piercing. She used an *awl* to punch additional holes in the leather belt she had bought.

awry ADV. distorted; crooked. He held his head *awry*, giving the impression that he had caught cold in his neck during the night. also ADJ.

axiom N. self-evident truth requiring no proof. Before a student can begin to think along the lines of Euclidean geometry, he must accept certain principles or *axioms*.
axiomatic, ADJ.

azure ADJ. sky blue. *Azure* skies are indicative of good weather.

babble V. chatter idly. The little girl *babbled* about her doll. also N.

bacchanalian ADJ. drunken. Emperor Nero attended the *bacchanalian* orgy.

badger V. pester; annoy. She was forced to change her telephone number because she was *badgered* by obscene phone calls.

badinage N. teasing conversation. Her friends at work greeted the news of her engagement with cheerful *badinage*.

baffle V. frustrate; perplex. The new code *baffled* the enemy agents.

bait V. harass; tease. The school bully *baited* the smaller children, terrorizing them.

baleful ADJ. deadly; having a malign influence; ominous. The fortune teller made *baleful* predictions of terrible things to come.

balk V. stop short, as if faced with an obstacle, and refuse to continue. The chief of police *balked* at sending his officers into the riot-torn area.

balk V. fail. When the warden learned that several inmates were planning to escape, he took steps to *balk* their attempt.

ballast N. heavy substance used to add stability or weight. The ship was listing badly to one side; it was necessary to shift the *ballast* in the hold to get her back on an even keel. also V.

balm N. something that relieves pain. Friendship is the finest *balm* for the pangs of disappointed love.

balmy ADJ. mild; fragrant. A *balmy* breeze refreshed us after the sultry blast.

■ **banal** ADJ. hackneyed; commonplace; trite; lacking originality. The hack writer's worn-out clichés made his comic sketches seem *banal*. He even resorted to the *banality* of having someone slip on a banana peel!

bandy V. discuss lightly or glibly; exchange (words) heatedly. While the president was happy to *bandy* patriotic generalizations with anyone who would listen to him, he refused to *bandy* words with unfriendly reporters at the press conference.

bane N. cause of ruin; curse. Lucy's little brother was the *bane* of her existence: his attempts to make her life miserable worked so well that she could have poisoned him with ratsbane for having such a *baneful* effect.

bantering ADJ. good-naturedly ridiculing. They resented his *bantering* remarks because they misinterpreted his teasing as sarcasm.

barb N. sharp projection from fishhook or other object; openly cutting remark. If you were a politician, which would you prefer, being caught on the *barb* of a fishhook or being subjected to malicious verbal *barbs*? Who can blame the president if he's happier fishing in Maine than being back in Washington listening to his critics' *barbed* remarks?

benign ADJ. kindly; favorable; not malignant. Though her *benign* smile and gentle bearing made Miss Marple seem a sweet little old lady, in reality she was a tough-minded, shrewd observer of human nature. **benignity**, N.

benison N. blessing. Let us pray that the *benison* of peace once more shall prevail among the nations of the world.

bent ADJ.; N. determined; natural talent or inclination. *Bent* on advancing in the business world, the secretary-heroine of *Working Girl* had a true *bent* for high finance.

bequeath V. leave to someone by means of a will; hand down. In his will, Father *bequeathed* his watch to Philip; the *bequest* meant a great deal to the boy. **bequest**, N.

berate V. scold strongly. He feared she would *berate* him for his forgetfulness.

bereavement N. state of being deprived of something valuable or beloved. His friends gathered to console him upon his sudden *bereavement*.

bereft ADJ. deprived of; lacking. The foolish gambler soon found himself *bereft* of funds.

berserk ADV. frenzied. Angered, he went *berserk* and began to wreck the room.

beseech V. beg; plead with. The workaholic executive's wife *beseached* him to spend more time with their son.

beset V. harass or trouble; hem in. Many vexing problems *beset* the American public school system. Sleeping Beauty's castle was *beset* on all sides by dense thickets that hid it from view.

besiege V. surround with armed forces; harass (with requests). When the bandits *besieged* the village, the villagers holed up in the town hall and prepared to withstand a long siege. Members of the new administration were *besieged* with job applications from people who had worked on the campaign.

besmirch V. soil, defile. The scandalous remarks in the newspaper *besmirched* the reputations of every member of the society.

bestial ADJ. beastlike; brutal; inhuman. According to legend, the werewolf was able to abandon its human shape and assume a *bestial* form. The Red Cross sought to put an end to the *bestial* treatment of prisoners of war.

bestow V. confer. He wished to *bestow* great honors upon the hero.

betoken V. signify; indicate. The well-equipped docks, tall piles of cargo containers, and numerous vessels being loaded all *betokened* Oakland's importance as a port.

betray V. be unfaithful; reveal (unconsciously or unwillingly). The spy *betrayed* his country by selling military secrets to the enemy. When he was taken in for questioning, the tightness of his lips *betrayed* his fear of incriminating himself. **betrayal**, N.

betroth V. become engaged to marry. The announcement that they had become *betrothed* surprised their friends who had not suspected any romance. **betrothal**, N.

bevy N. large group. The movie actor was surrounded by a *bevy* of starlets.

bicameral ADJ. two-chambered, as a legislative body. The United States Congress is a *bicameral* body.

bicker V. quarrel. The children *bickered* morning, noon and night, exasperating their parents.

biennial ADJ. every two years. Seeing no need to meet more frequently, the group held *biennial* meetings instead of annual ones. Plants that bear flowers *biennially* are known as *biennials*.

bifurcated ADJ. divided into two branches; forked. With a *bifurcated* branch and a piece of elastic rubber, he made a crude but effective slingshot.

bigotry N. stubborn intolerance. Brought up in a democratic atmosphere, the student was shocked by the *bigotry* and narrowness expressed by several of his classmates.

bilious ADJ. suffering from indigestion; irritable. His *bilious* temperament was apparent to all who heard him rant about his difficulties.

bilk V. swindle; cheat. The con man specialized in *bilking* insurance companies.

billowing ADJ. swelling out in waves; surging. Standing over the air vent, Marilyn Monroe tried vainly to control her *billowing* skirts.

bivouac N. temporary encampment. While in *bivouac*, we spent the night in our sleeping bags under the stars also V.

bizarre ADJ. fantastic; violently contrasting. The plot of the novel was too *bizarre* to be believed.

blanch V. bleach; whiten. Although age had *blanched* his hair, he was still vigorous and energetic.

bland ADJ. soothing or mild; agreeable. Jill tried a *bland* ointment for her sunburn. However, when Jack absent-mindedly patted her on the sunburned shoulder, she couldn't maintain her *bland* persona. **blandness**, N.

blandishment N. flattery. Despite the salesperson's *blandishments*, the customer did not buy the outfit.

blare N. loud, harsh roar or screech; dazzling blaze of light. I don't know which is worse: the steady *blare* of a boom box deafening your ears or a sudden *blare* of flashbulbs dazzling your eyes. also V.

blasé ADJ. bored with pleasure or dissipation. Although Beth was as thrilled with the idea of a trip to Paris as her classmates were, she tried to act supercool and *blasé*, as if she'd been abroad hundreds of times.

blasphemy N. irreverence; sacrilege; cursing. In my father's house, the Dodgers were the holiest of holies; to cheer for another team was to utter words of *blasphemy*. **blasphemous**, ADJ.

blatant ADJ. extremely obvious; loudly offensive. Caught in a *blatant* lie, the scoundrel had only one regret: he wished that he had lied more subtly. **blatancy**, N.

bleak ADJ. cold or cheerless; unlikely to be favorable. The frigid, inhospitable Aleutian Islands are *bleak* military outposts. It's no wonder that soldiers assigned there have a *bleak* attitude toward their posting.

blighted ADJ. suffering from a disease; destroyed. The extent of the *blighted* areas could be seen only when viewed from the air.

blithe ADJ. gay; joyous. Shelley called the skylark a "*blithe* spirit" because of its happy song.

bloated ADJ. swollen or puffed as with water or air. Her *bloated* stomach came from drinking so much water.

blowhard N. talkative boaster. After all Sol's talk about his big show business connections led nowhere, Sally decided he was just another *blowhard*.

bludgeon N. club; heavy-headed weapon. Attacked by Dr. Moriarty, Holmes used his walking stick as a *bludgeon* to defend himself. "Watson," he said, "I fear I may have *bludgeoned* Moriarty to death."

blunder N. error. The criminal's fatal *blunder* led to his capture. also v.

blurt V. utter impulsively. Before she could stop him, he *blurted* out the news.

bluster V. blow in heavy gusts; threaten emptily; bully. "Let the stormy winds *bluster*," cried Jack, "we'll set sail tonight." Jill let Jack *bluster*: she wasn't going anywhere, no matter what he said. also N.

bode V. foreshadow; portend. The gloomy skies and the sulfurous odors from the mineral springs seemed to *bode* evil to those who settled in the area.

bogus ADJ. counterfeit; not authentic. The police quickly found the distributors of the *bogus* twenty-dollar bills.

bohemian ADJ. unconventional (in an artistic way). Gertrude Stein ran off to Paris to live an eccentric, *bohemian* life with her writer friends. Oakland was not *bohemian*: it was too bourgeois, too middle-class.

boisterous ADJ. violent; rough; noisy. The unruly crowd became even more *boisterous* when he tried to quiet them.

■ **bolster** V. support; reinforce. The debaters amassed file boxes full of evidence to *bolster* their arguments.

bluff ADJ. rough but good-natured. Jack had a *bluff* and hearty manner that belied his actual sensitivity; he never let people know how thin-skinned he really was.

bluff N. pretense (of strength); deception; high cliff. Claire thought Lord Byron's boast that he would swim the Hellespont was just a *bluff*; she was astounded when he dove from the high *bluff* into the waters below.

bolt N. door bar; fastening pin or screw; length of fabric. The carpenter shut the workshop door, sliding the heavy metal *bolt* into place. He sorted through his toolbox for the nuts and *bolts* and nails required for the job. Before he cut into the *bolt* of canvas, he measured how much fabric he would need.

bolt V. dash or dart off; fasten (a door); gobble down. Jack was set to *bolt* out the front door, but Jill *bolted* the door. "Eat your breakfast," she said, "don't *bolt* your food."

bombardment N. attack (as with missiles). The enemy *bombardment* demolished the town. Members of the opposition party *bombarded* the prime minister with questions about the enemy attack.

■ **bombastic** ADJ. pompous; using inflated language. Puffed up with conceit, the orator spoke in such a *bombastic* manner that we longed to deflate him. bombast, N.

boon N. blessing; benefit. The recent rains that filled our empty reservoirs were a *boon* to the whole community.

■ **boorish** ADJ. rude; insensitive. Though Mr. Potts constantly interrupted his wife, she ignored his *boorish* behavior, for she had lost hope of teaching him courtesy.

bouillon N. clear beef soup. The cup of *bouillon* served by the stewards was welcomed by those who had been chilled by the cold ocean breezes.

bountiful ADJ. abundant; graciously generous. Thanks to the good harvest, we had a *bountiful* supply of food and we could be as *bountiful* as we liked in distributing food to the needy.

bourgeois ADJ. middle class; selfishly materialistic; dully conventional. Technically, anyone who belongs to the middle class is *bourgeois*, but, given the word's connotations, most people resent it if you call them that.

bovine ADJ. cowlike; placid and dull. Nothing excites Esther; even when she won the state lottery, she still preserved her air of *bovine* calm.

bowdlerize v. expurgate. After the film editors had *bowdlerized* the language in the script, the motion picture's rating was changed from "R" to "PG."

boycott v. refrain from buying or using. To put pressure on grape growers to stop using pesticides that harmed the farm workers' health, Cesar Chavez called for consumers to *boycott* grapes. also n.

brackish ADJ. somewhat saline. He found the only wells in the area were *brackish*; drinking the water made him nauseous.

braggadocio n. boasting. He was disliked because his manner was always full of *braggadocio*.

braggart n. boaster. Modest by nature, she was no *braggart*, preferring to let her accomplishments speak for themselves.

brandish v. wave around; flourish. Alarmed, Doctor Watson wildly *brandished* his gun until Holmes told him to put the thing away before he shot himself.

bravado n. swagger; assumed air of defiance. The *bravado* of the young criminal disappeared when he was confronted by the victims of his brutal attack.

brawn n. muscular strength; sturdiness. It takes *brawn* to become a champion weight-lifter. *brawny*, ADJ.

brazen ADJ. insolent. Her *brazen* contempt for authority angered the officials.

breach n. breaking of contract or duty; fissure or gap. Jill sued Jack for *breach* of promise, claiming he had broken their engagement. The attackers found a *breach* in the enemy's fortifications and penetrated their lines. also v.

breadth n. width; extent. We were impressed by the *breadth* of her knowledge.

brevity n. conciseness. *Brevity* is essential when you send a telegram or cablegram; you are charged for every word.

brindled ADJ. tawny or grayish with streaks or spots. He was disappointed in the litter because the puppies were *brindled*; he had hoped for animals of a uniform color.

bristling ADJ. rising like bristles; showing irritation. The dog stood there, *bristling* with anger.

brittle ADJ. easily broken; difficult. My employer's *brittle* personality made it difficult for me to get along with her.

broach v. introduce; open up. Jack did not even try to *broach* the subject of religion with his in-laws. If you *broach* a touchy subject, the result may be a *breach*.

brocade n. rich, figured fabric. The sofa was covered with expensive *brocade*.

brochure n. pamphlet. This *brochure* on farming was issued by the Department of Agriculture.

brooch n. ornamental clasp. She treasured the *brooch* because it was an heirloom.

brook v. tolerate; endure. The dean would *brook* no interference with his disciplinary actions. (secondary meaning)

browbeat v. bully; intimidate. Billy resisted Ted's attempts to *browbeat* him into handing over his lunch money.

browse v. graze; skim or glance at casually. "How now, brown cow, *browsing* in the green, green grass." I remember lines of verse that I came across while *browsing* through the poetry section of the local bookstore.

brunt n. main impact or shock. Tom Sawyer claimed credit for painting the fence, but the *brunt* of the work fell on others. However, Tom bore the *brunt* of Aunt Polly's complaints when the paint began to peel.

brusque ADJ. blunt; abrupt. She was offended by his *brusque* reply.

buccaneer n. pirate. At Disneyland the Pirates of the Caribbean sing a song about their lives as bloody *buccaneers*.

bucolic ADJ. rustic; pastoral. Filled with browsing cows and bleating sheep, the meadow was a charmingly *bucolic* sight.

buffet n. table with food set out for people to serve themselves; meal at which people help themselves to food that's been set out. (*Buffet* rhymes with *tray*.) Please convey the soufflé on the tray to the *buffet*.

buffet v. slap; batter; knock about. To *buffet* something is to rough it up. (*Buffet* rhymes with *Muffett*.) Was Miss Muffett *buffeted* by the crowd on the way to the buffet tray?

buffoonery n. clowning. In the Ace Ventura movies, Jim Carrey's *buffoonery* was hilarious: like Bozo the Clown, he's a natural *buffoon*.

bugaboo n. bugbear; object of baseless terror. If we become frightened by such *bugaboos*, we are no wiser than the birds who fear scarecrows.

bullion n. gold and silver in the form of bars. Much *bullion* is stored in the vaults at Fort Knox.

bulwark n. earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends. The navy is our principal *bulwark* against invasion.

bungle v. mismanage; blunder. Don't botch this assignment, Bumstead; if you *bungle* the job, you're fired!

buoyant ADJ. able to float; cheerful and optimistic. When the boat capsized, her *buoyant* life jacket kept Jody afloat. Scrambling back on board, she was still in a *buoyant* mood, certain that despite the delay she'd win the race. *buoyancy*, n.

bureaucracy n. overregulated administrative system marked by red tape. The Internal Revenue Service is the ultimate *bureaucracy*: taxpayers wasted so much paper filling out IRS forms that the IRS *bureaucrats* printed up a new set of rules requiring taxpayers to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act. *bureaucratic*, ADJ.

■ **burgeon** v. grow forth; send out buds. In the spring, the plants that *burgeon* are a promise of the beauty that is to come.

burlesque v. give an imitation that ridicules. In *Spaceballs*, Rick Moranis *burlesques* Darth Vader of *Star Wars*, outrageously parodying Vader's stiff walk and hollow voice. also n.

■ **burnish** v. make shiny by rubbing; polish. The maid *burnished* the brass fixtures until they reflected the lamplight.

■ **buttress** v. support; prop up. Just as architects *buttress* the walls of cathedrals with flying *buttresses*, debaters *buttress* their arguments with facts. also n.

buxom ADJ. full-bosomed; plump; jolly. High-fashion models usually are slender rather than *buxom*.

cabal n. small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests. The *cabal* was defeated when its scheme was discovered.

cache n. hiding place. The detectives followed the suspect until he led them to the *cache* where he had stored his loot. also v.

■ **cacophonous** ADJ. discordant; inharmonious. Do the students in the orchestra enjoy the *cacophonous* sounds they make when they're tuning up? I don't know how they can stand the racket. **cacophony**, n.

cadaver n. corpse. In some states, it is illegal to dissect *cadavers*.

cadaverous ADJ. like a corpse; pale. From his *cadaverous* appearance, we could see how the disease had ravaged him.

cadence n. rhythmic rise and fall (of words or sounds); beat. Marching down the road, the troops sang out, following the *cadence* set by the sergeant.

cajole v. coax; wheedle. Cher tried to *cajole* her father into letting her drive the family car. **cajology**, n.

calamity n. disaster; misery. As news of the *calamity* spread, offers of relief poured in to the stricken community.

calculated ADJ. deliberately planned; likely. Lexy's choice of clothes to wear to the debate tournament was carefully *calculated*. Her conventional suit was *calculated* to appeal to the conservative judges.

caldron n. large kettle. "Why, Mr. Crusoe," said the savage heating the giant *caldron*, "we'd love to have you for dinner!"

caliber n. ability; quality. Einstein's cleaning the blackboards again? Albert, quit it! A man of your *caliber* shouldn't have to do such menial tasks.

calligraphy n. beautiful writing; excellent penmanship. As we examine ancient manuscripts, we become impressed with the *calligraphy* of the scribes.

callous ADJ. hardened; unfeeling. He had worked in the hospital for so many years that he was *callous* to the suffering in the wards. **callus**, n.

callow ADJ. youthful; immature; inexperienced. As a freshman, Jack was sure he was a man of the world; as a sophomore, he made fun of freshmen as *callow* youths. In both cases, his judgment showed just how *callow* he was.

calorific ADJ. heat-producing. Coal is much more *calorific* than green wood.

calumny n. malicious misrepresentation; slander. He could endure his financial failure, but he could not bear the *calumny* that his foes heaped upon him.

camaraderie n. good-fellowship. What he loved best about his job was the sense of *camaraderie* he and his co-workers shared.

cameo n. shell or jewel carved in relief; star's special appearance in a minor role in a film. Don't bother buying *cameos* from the street peddlers in Rome: the carvings they sell are clumsy jobs. Did you enjoy Bill Murray's *cameo* in *Little Shop of Horrors*? He was onscreen for only a minute, but he cracked me up.

camouflage v. disguise; conceal. In order to rescue Han Solo, Princess Leia *camouflaged* herself in the helmet and cloak of a space bandit. also n.

canard n. unfounded rumor; exaggerated report. It is almost impossible to protect oneself from such a base *canard*.

candor n. frankness; open honesty. Jack can carry *candor* too far: when he told Jill his honest opinion of her, she nearly slapped his face. **candid**, ADJ.

canine ADJ. related to dogs; doglike. Some days the *canine* population of Berkeley seems almost to outnumber the human population.

canker n. any ulcerous sore; any evil. Poverty is a *canker* in the body politic; it must be cured.

canny ADJ. shrewd; thrifty. The *canny* Scotsman was more than a match for the swindlers.

canon n. collection or authoritative list of books (e.g., by an author, or accepted as scripture); rule or standard set by ecclesiastical authority. Scholars hotly debated whether the newly discovered sonnet should be accepted as part of the Shakespearean *canon*.

cant n. insincere expressions of piety; jargon of thieves. Shocked by news of the minister's extramarital love affairs, the worshippers dismissed his talk about the sacredness of marriage as mere *cant*. *Cant* is a form of hypocrisy: those who can, pray; those who *cant*, pretend.

cantankerous ADJ. ill-humored; irritable. Constantly complaining about his treatment and refusing to cooperate with the hospital staff, he was a *cantankerous* patient.

cantata n. story set to music, to be sung by a chorus. The choral society sang the new *cantata* composed by its leader.

canter n. slow gallop. Because the racehorse had outdistanced its competition so easily, the reporter wrote that the race was won in a *canter*. also v.

canto *n.* division of a long poem. Dante's poetic masterpiece *The Divine Comedy* is divided into *cantos*.

canvass *v.* determine or seek opinions, votes, etc. After *canvassing* the sentiments of his constituents, the congressman was confident that he represented the majority opinion of his district. also *n.*

capacious *ADJ.* spacious. In the *capacious* areas of the railroad terminal, thousands of travelers lingered while waiting for their train.

capacity *n.* mental or physical ability; role; ability to accommodate. Mike had the *capacity* to handle several jobs at once. In his *capacity* as president of Selectronics he marketed an electronic dictionary with a *capacity* of 200,000 words.

capillary *ADJ.* having a very fine bore. The changes in surface tension of liquids in *capillary* vessels is of special interest to physicists. also *n.*

capitulate *v.* surrender. The enemy was warned to *capitulate* or face annihilation.

caprice *n.* whim. She was an unpredictable creature, acting on *caprice*, never taking thought of the consequences.

■ **capricious** *ADJ.* unpredictable; fickle. The storm was *capricious*: It changed course constantly. Jill was *capricious*, too: She changed boyfriends almost as often as she changed clothes.

caption *n.* title; chapter heading; text under illustration. The *captions* that accompany *The Far Side* cartoons are almost as funny as the pictures. also *v.*

captious *ADJ.* faultfinding. His criticisms were always *captious* and frivolous, never offering constructive suggestions.

carafe *n.* glass water bottle; decanter. With each dinner, the patron receives a *carafe* of red or white wine.

carapace *n.* shell covering the back (of a turtle, crab, etc.). At the children's zoo, Richard perched on top of the giant turtle's hard *carapace* as it slowly made its way around the enclosure.

carat *n.* unit of weight for precious stones; measure of fineness of gold. He gave her a diamond that weighed three *carats* and was mounted in an eighteen-*carat* gold band.

carcinogenic *ADJ.* causing cancer. Many supposedly harmless substances have been revealed to be *carcinogenic*.

cardinal *ADJ.* chief. If you want to increase your word power, the *cardinal* rule of vocabulary-building is to read.

cardiologist *n.* doctor specializing in ailments of the heart. When the *pediatrician* noticed Philip had a slight heart murmur, she referred him to a *cardiologist* for further tests.

careen *v.* lurch; sway from side to side. The taxicab *careened* wildly as it rounded the corner.

caricature *n.* distortion; burlesque. The *caricatures* he drew always emphasized personal weaknesses of the people he burlesqued. also *v.*

carillon *n.* a set of bells capable of being played. The *carillon* in the bell tower of the Coca-Cola pavilion at the New York World's Fair provided musical entertainment every hour.

carnage *n.* destruction of life. The film *The Killing Fields* vividly depicts the *carnage* wreaked by Pol Pot's followers in Cambodia.

carnal ADJ. fleshly. Is the public more interested in *carnal* pleasures than in spiritual matters? Compare the number of people who read *Playboy* daily to the number of those who read the Bible every day.

carnivorous ADJ. meat-eating. The lion's a *carnivorous* beast; a hunk of meat makes up his feast. A cow is not a *carnivore*; she likes the taste of grain, not gore.

carousal N. drunken revel. The party degenerated into an ugly *carousal*.

carping N. petty criticism; fault-finding. Welcoming constructive criticism, Lexy appreciated her editor's comments, finding them free of *carping*. also ADJ.

carrion N. rotting flesh of a dead body. Buzzards are nature's scavengers; they eat the *carrion* left behind by other predators.

cartographer N. map-maker. Though not a professional *cartographer*, Tolkien was able to construct a map of his fictional world.

cascade N. small waterfall. We were too tired to appreciate the beauty of the many *casca*des because we had to detour around them to avoid being drenched by the torrents *casca*ding down.

caste N. one of the hereditary classes in Hindu society, social stratification; prestige. The differences created by *caste* in India must be wiped out if true democracy is to prevail in that country.

■ **castigation** N. punishment; severe criticism. Sensitive even to mild criticism, Woolf could not bear the *castigation* that she found in certain reviews. *castigate*, v.

casualty N. serious or fatal accident. The number of automobile *casualties* on this holiday weekend was high.

cataclysm N. deluge; upheaval. A *cataclysm* such as the French Revolution affects all countries. *cataclysmic*, ADJ.

■ **catalyst** N. agent that brings about a chemical change while it remains unaffected and unchanged. Many chemical reactions cannot take place without the presence of a *catalyst*.

catapult N. slingshot; hurling machine. Airplanes are sometimes launched from battleships by *catapults*. also v.

cataract N. great waterfall; eye abnormality. She gazed with awe at the mighty *cataract* known as Niagara Falls.

catastrophe N. calamity; disaster. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake was a *catastrophe* that destroyed most of the city. A similar earthquake striking today could have even more *catastrophic* results.

catcall N. shout of disapproval; boo. Every major league pitcher has off days during which he must learn to ignore *catcalls* and angry hisses from the crowd.

catechism N. book for religious instruction; instruction by question and answer. He taught by engaging his pupils in a *catechism* until they gave him the correct answer.

categorical ADJ. without exceptions; unqualified; absolute. Though the captain claimed he was never, never sick at sea, he finally qualified his *categorical* denial: he was "hardly ever" sick at sea.

catharsis N. purging or cleansing of any passage of the body. Aristotle maintained that tragedy created a *catharsis* by purging the soul of base concepts.

cathartic N. purgative. Some drugs act as laxatives when taken in small doses but act as *cathartics* when taken in much larger doses. ADJ.

catholic ADJ. universal; wide-ranging liberal. He was extremely *catholic* in his taste and read everything he could find in the library.

caucus N. private meeting of members of a party to select officers or determine policy. At the opening of Congress the members of the Democratic Party held a *caucus* to elect the majority leader of the House and the party whip.

caulk v. to make watertight (by plugging seams). When water from the shower leaked into the basement, we knew it was time to *caulk* the tiles at the edges of the shower stall.

causal ADJ. implying a cause-and-effect relationship. The psychologist maintained there was a *causal* relationship between the nature of one's early childhood experiences and one's adult personality. *causality*, N.

■ **caustic** ADJ. burning; sarcastically biting. The critic's *caustic* remarks angered the hapless actors who were the subjects of his sarcasm.

cauterize v. burn with hot iron or caustic. In order to prevent infection, the doctor *cauterized* the wound.

cavalcade N. procession; parade. As described by Chaucer, the *cavalcade* of Canterbury pilgrims was a motley group.

cavalier ADJ. casual and offhand; arrogant. Sensitive about having her ideas taken lightly, Marcia felt insulted by Mark's *cavalier* dismissal of her suggestion.

cavil v. make frivolous objections. I respect your sensible criticisms, but I dislike the way you *cavil* about unimportant details. also N.

cede v. yield (title, territory) to; surrender formally. Eventually the descendants of England's Henry II were forced to *cede* their French territories to the King of France. *cession*, N.

celerity N. speed; rapidity. Hamlet resented his mother's *celerity* in remarrying within a month after his father's death.

celestial ADJ. heavenly. She spoke of the *celestial* joys that awaited virtuous souls in the hereafter.

celibate ADJ. abstaining from sexual intercourse; unmarried. Though the late Havelock Ellis wrote extensively about sexual customs and was considered an expert in such matters, recent studies maintain he was *celibate* throughout his life. *celibacy*, N.

ensor N. overseer of morals; person who eliminates inappropriate matter. Soldiers dislike having their mail read by a *ensor* but understand the need for this precaution. also v.

ensorious ADJ. critical. *Censorious* people delight in casting blame.

censure v. blame; criticize. The senator was *censured* for behavior inappropriate to a member of Congress. also n.

centaur n. mythical figure, half man and half horse. I was particularly impressed by the statue of the *centaur* in the Roman Hall of the museum.

centigrade ADJ. denoting a widely used temperature scale (basically same as Celsius). On the *centigrade* thermometer, the freezing point of water is zero degrees.

centrifugal ADJ. radiating; departing from the center. Many automatic drying machines remove excess moisture from clothing by *centrifugal* force.

centrifuge n. machine that separates substances by whirling them. At the dairy, we employ a *centrifuge* to separate cream from milk. also v.

centripetal ADJ. tending toward the center. Does *centripetal* force or the force of gravity bring orbiting bodies to the earth's surface?

centurion n. Roman army officer. Because he was in command of a company of one hundred soldiers, he was called a *centurion*.

cerebral ADJ. pertaining to the brain or intellect. The content of philosophical works is *cerebral* in nature and requires much thought.

cerebration n. thought. Mathematics problems sometimes require much *cerebration*.

ceremonious ADJ. marked by formality. Ordinary dress would be inappropriate at so *ceremonious* an affair.

certitude n. certainty. Though there was no *certitude* of his getting the job, Lou thought he had a good chance of being hired.

cessation n. stoppage. The airline's employees threatened a *cessation* of all work if management failed to meet their demands. **cease**, v.

cession n. yielding to another; ceding. The *cession* of Alaska to the United States is discussed in this chapter.

chafe v. warm by rubbing; make sore (by rubbing). Chilled, he *chafed* his hands before the fire. The collar of his school uniform *chafed* Tom's neck, but not as much the school's strict rules *chafed* his spirit. also n.

chaff n. worthless products of an endeavor. When you separate the wheat from the *chaff*, be sure you throw out the *chaff*.

chaffing ADJ. bantering; joking. Sometimes Chad's flippant, *chaffing* remarks annoy us. Still, Chad's *chaffing* keeps us laughing.

chagrin n. vexation (caused by humiliation or injured pride); disappointment. Embarrassed by his parents' shabby, working-class appearance, Doug felt their visit to his school would bring him nothing but *chagrin*. A person filled with *chagrin* doesn't grin: he's too mortified.

chalice n. goblet; consecrated cup. In a small room adjoining the cathedral, many ornately decorated *chalices* made by the most famous European goldsmiths were on display.

chameleon n. lizard that changes color in different situations. Like the *chameleon*, he assumed the political coloration of every group he met.

champion v. support militantly. Martin Luther King, Jr., won the Nobel Peace Prize because he *championed* the oppressed in their struggle for equality. also n.

chaotic ADJ. in utter disorder. He tried to bring order into the *chaotic* state of affairs. chaos, n.

charisma n. divine gift; great popular charm or appeal. Political commentators have deplored the importance of a candidate's *charisma* in these days of television campaigning.

charlatan n. quack; pretender to knowledge. When they realized that the Wizard didn't know how to get them back to Kansas, Dorothy and her friends were sure they'd been duped by a *charlatan*.

chary ADJ. cautious; sparing or restrained about giving. A prudent, thrifty New Englander, DeWitt was as *chary* of investing money in junk bonds as he was *chary* of paying people unnecessary compliments.

chase v. ornament a metal surface by indenting. With his hammer, he carefully *chased* an intricate design onto the surface of the chalice. (secondary meaning)

chasm n. abyss. They could not see the bottom of the *chasm*.

chassis n. framework and working parts of an automobile. Examining the car after the accident, the owner discovered that the body had been ruined but that the *chassis* was unharmed.

chaste ADJ. pure; virginal; modest. To ensure that his bride would stay *chaste* while he was off to the wars, the crusader had her fitted out with a *chastity* belt. chastity, n.

chasten v. discipline; punish in order to correct. Whom God loves, God *chastens*.

chastise v. punish. I must *chastise* you for this offense.

chauvinist n. blindly devoted patriot; zealous adherent of a group or cause. A *chauvinist* cannot recognize any faults in his country, no matter how flagrant they may be. Likewise, a male *chauvinist* cannot recognize how biased he is in favor of his own sex, no matter how flagrant that bias may be. chauvinistic, ADJ.

check v. stop motion; curb or restrain. Thrusting out her arm, Grandma *checked* Bobby's lunge at his sister. "Young man," she said, "you'd better *check* your temper." (secondary meaning)

checkered ADJ. marked by changes in fortune. During his *checkered* career he had lived in palatial mansions and in dreary boardinghouses.

cherubic ADJ. angelic; innocent-looking. With her cheerful smile and rosy cheeks, she was a particularly *cherubic* child.

■ **chicanery** n. trickery; deception. Those sneaky lawyers misrepresented what occurred, made up all sorts of implausible alternative scenarios to confuse the jurors, and in general depended on *chicanery* to win the case.

chide v. scold. Grandma began to *chide* Steven for his lying.

chimerical ADJ. fantastically improbable; highly unrealistic; imaginative. As everyone expected, Ted's *chimerical* scheme to make a fortune by raising ermines in his backyard proved a dismal failure. chimera, n.

chisel n. wedge-like tool for cutting. With his hammer and *chisel*, the sculptor chipped away at the block of marble.

chisel v. swindle or cheat; cut with a chisel. That crook *chiseled* me out of a hundred dollars when he sold me that "marble" statue he'd *chiseled* out of some cheap hunk of rock.

chivalrous ADJ. courteous; faithful; brave. *Chivalrous* behavior involves noble words and good deeds.

choleric ADJ. hot-tempered. His flushed, angry face indicated a *choleric* nature.

choreography n. art of representing dances in written symbols; arrangement of dances. Merce Cunningham has begun to use a computer in designing *choreography*: a software program allows him to compose arrangements of possible moves and immediately view them onscreen.

chortle v. chuckle with delight. When she heard that her rival had just been jailed for embezzlement, she *chortled* with joy. She was *not* a nice lady.

chronic ADJ. long established, as a disease. The doctors were finally able to attribute his *chronic* headaches and nausea to traces of formaldehyde gas in his apartment.

chronicle v. report; record (in chronological order). The gossip columnist was paid to *chronicle* the latest escapades of the socially prominent celebrities. also n.

churlish ADJ. boorish; rude. Dismayed by his *churlish* manners at the party, the girls vowed never to invite him again.

ciliated ADJ. having minute hairs. The paramecium is a *ciliated*, one-celled animal.

cipher n. nonentity; worthless person or thing. She claimed her ex-husband was a total *cipher* and wondered why she had ever married him.

cipher n. secret code. Lacking his code book, the spy was unable to decode the message sent to him in *cipher*.

circlet n. small ring; band. This tiny *circlet* is very costly because it is set with precious stones.

circuitous ADJ. roundabout. Because of the traffic congestion on the main highways, she took a *circuitous* route. circuit, n.

circumlocution n. indirect or roundabout expression. He was afraid to call a spade a spade and resorted to *circumlocutions* to avoid direct reference to his subject.

circumscribe v. limit; confine. Although I do not wish to *circumscribe* your activities, I must insist that you complete this assignment before you start anything else.

cognate ADJ. related linguistically; allied by blood; similar or akin in nature. The English word "mother" is *cognate* to the Latin word "mater," whose influence is visible in the words "maternal" and "maternity." also N.

cognitive ADJ. having to do with knowing or perceiving related to the mental processes. Though Jack was emotionally immature, his *cognitive* development was admirable; he was very advanced intellectually.

cognizance N. knowledge. During the election campaign, the two candidates were kept in full *cognizance* of the international situation.

cohabit V. live together. Many unwed couples who *cohabit* peacefully for years wind up fighting night and day once they marry.

cohere V. stick together. Solids have a greater tendency to *cohere* than liquids.

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coin V. make coins; invent or fabricate. Mints *coin* good money; counterfeiters *coin* fakes. Slanderers *coin* nasty rumors; writers *coin* words. A neologism is a newly *coined* expression.

coincidence N. the chance occurrence, at the same time, of two or more seemingly connected events. Was it just a *coincidence* that John and she had met at the market for three days running, or was he deliberately trying to seek her out? coincidental, ADJ.

colander N. utensil with perforated bottom used for straining. Before serving the spaghetti, place it in a *colander* to drain it.

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circumspect ADJ. prudent; cautious. Investigating before acting, she tried always to be *circumspect*.

circumvent V. outwit; baffle. In order to *circumvent* the enemy, we will make two preliminary attacks in other sections before starting our major campaign.

cistern N. reservoir or water tank. The farmers were able to withstand the dry season by using rainwater they had stored in an underground *cistern*.

citadel N. fortress. The *citadel* overlooked the city like a protecting angel.

cite V. quote; commend. She could *cite* passages in the Bible from memory. citation, N.

civil ADJ. having to do with citizens or the state; courteous and polite. Although Internal Revenue Service agents are *civil* servants, they are not always *civil* to suspected tax evaders.

clairvoyant ADJ., N. having foresight; fortuneteller. Cassandra's *clairvoyant* warning was not heeded by the Trojans. clairvoyance, N.

clamber V. climb by crawling. She *clambered* over the wall.

clamor N. noise. The *clamor* of the children at play outside made it impossible for her to take a nap. also V.

clandestine ADJ. secret. After avoiding their chapéron, the lovers had a *clandestine* meeting.

clangor N. loud, resounding noise. The blacksmith was accustomed to the *clangor* of hammers on steel.

clapper N. striker (tongue) of a bell. Wishing to be undisturbed by the bell, Dale wound his scarf around the *clapper* to muffle its striking.

clarion ADJ. shrill, trumpetlike sound. We woke to the *clarion* call of the bugle.

claustrophobia N. fear of being locked in. His fellow classmates laughed at his *claustrophobia* and often threatened to lock him in his room.

clavicle N. collarbone. Even though he wore shoulder pads, the football player broke his *clavicle* during a practice scrimmage.

cleave V. split or sever; cling to; remain faithful to. With her heavy *cleaver*, Julia Child can *cleave* a whole roast duck in two. Soaked through, the soldier tugged at the uniform that *cleaved* annoyingly to his body. He would *cleave* to his post, come rain or shine. cleavage, N. cloven, ADJ.

cleft N. split. Trying for a fresh handhold, the mountain climber grasped the edge of a *cleft* in the sheer rockface. also ADJ.

clemency N. disposition to be lenient; mildness, as of the weather. The lawyer was pleased when the case was sent to Judge Smith's chambers because Smith was noted for her *clemency* toward first offenders.

cliché N. phrase dulled in meaning by repetition. High school compositions are often marred by such *clichés* as "strong as an ox."

clientele N. body of customers. The rock club attracted a young, stylish *clientele*.

climactic ADJ. relating to the highest point. When he reached the *climactic* portions of the book, he could not stop reading. climax, N.

clime N. region; climate. His doctor advised him to move to a milder *clime*.

clique N. small, exclusive group. Fitzgerald wished that he belonged to the *clique* of popular athletes and big men on campus who seemed to run Princeton's social life.

cloister N. monastery or convent. The nuns lived in the *cloister*.

clout N. great influence (especially political or social). Gatsby wondered whether he had enough *clout* to be admitted to the exclusive club.

claying ADJ. distasteful (because excessive); excessively sweet or sentimental. Disliking the *claying* sweetness of standard wedding cakes, Jody and Tom chose a homemade carrot cake for their reception. cloy, V.

■ **coagulate** V. thicken; congeal; clot. Even after you remove the pudding from the burner, it will continue to *coagulate* as it stands. coagulant, N.

coalesce V. combine; fuse. The brooks *coalesce* into one large river. When minor political parties *coalesce*, their *coalescence* may create a major coalition.

coalition N. partnership; league; union. The Rainbow *Coalition* united people of all races in a common cause.

■ **coda** N. concluding section of a musical or literary composition. The piece concluded with a distinctive *coda* that strikingly brought together various motifs.

coddle V. treat gently; pamper. Don't *coddle* the children so much; they need a taste of discipline.

codicil N. supplement to the body of a will. Miss Havisham kept her lawyers busy drawing up *codicils* to her already complicated will.

codify V. arrange (laws, rules) as a code; classify. We need to take the varying rules and regulations of the different health agencies and *codify* them into a national health code.

coercion N. use of force to get someone to obey. The inquisitors used both physical and psychological *coercion* to force Joan of Arc to recant her assertions that her visions were sent by God. coerce, V.

coeval ADJ. living at the same time as; contemporary. *Coeval* with the dinosaur, the pterodactyl flourished during the Mesozoic era.

cog N. tooth projecting from a wheel. A bicycle chain moves through a series of *cogs* in order to propel the bike.

■ **cogent** ADJ. convincing. It was inevitable that David chose to go to Harvard; he had several *cogent* reasons for doing so, including a full-tuition scholarship. Katya argued her case with such *cogency* that the jury had to decide in favor of her client.

cogitate V. think over. *Cogitate* on this problem; the solution will come.

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collaborate V. work together. Two writers *collaborated* in preparing this book.

collage N. work of art put together from fragments. Scraps of cloth, paper doilies, and old photographs all went into her *collage*.

collate V. examine in order to verify authenticity; arrange in order. They *collated* the newly found manuscripts to determine their age.

collateral N. security given for loan. The sum you wish to borrow is so large that it must be secured by *collateral*.

collation N. a light meal. Tea sandwiches and cookies were offered at the *collation*.

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colloquial ADJ. pertaining to conversational or common speech; informal. Some of the new, *colloquial* reading passages on standardized tests have a conversational tone intended to make them more appealing to test-takers.

colloquy N. informal discussion. I enjoy our *colloquies*, but I sometimes wish that they could be made more formal and more searching.

■ **collusion** N. conspiring in a fraudulent scheme. The swindlers were found guilty of *collusion*.

colossal ADJ. huge. Radio City Music Hall has a *colossal* stage.

colossus *n.* gigantic statue. The legendary *Colossus* of Rhodes, a bronze statue of the sun god that dominated the harbor of the Greek seaport, was one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

comatose *ADJ.* in a coma; extremely sleepy. The long-winded orator soon had his audience in a *comatose* state.

combustible *ADJ.* easily burned. After the recent outbreak of fires in private homes, the fire commissioner ordered that all *combustible* materials be kept in safe containers. also *n.*

comely *ADJ.* attractive; agreeable. I would rather have a poor and *comely* wife than a rich and homely one.

comestible *n.* something fit to be eaten. The roast turkey and other *comestibles*, the wines, and the excellent service made this Thanksgiving dinner particularly memorable.

comeuppance *n.* rebuke; deserts. After his earlier rudeness, we were delighted to see him get his *comeuppance*.

comity *n.* courtesy; civility. A spirit of *comity* should exist among nations.

commandeer *v.* to draft for military purposes; to take for public use. The policeman *commandeered* the first car that approached and ordered the driver to go to the nearest hospital.

commemorative *ADJ.* remembering; honoring. The new *commemorative* stamp honors the late Martin Luther King, Jr.

■ **commensurate** *ADJ.* equal in extent. Your reward will be *commensurate* with your effort.

commiserate *v.* feel or express pity or sympathy for. Her friends *commiserated* with the widow.

commodious *ADJ.* spacious and comfortable. After sleeping in small roadside cabins, they found their hotel suite *commodious*.

communal *ADJ.* held in common; of a group of people. When they were divorced, they had trouble dividing their *communal* property.

compact *n.* agreement; contract. The signers of the Mayflower *Compact* were establishing a form of government.

compact *ADJ.* tightly packed; firm; brief. His short, *compact* body was better suited to wrestling than to basketball.

compatible *ADJ.* harmonious; in harmony with. They were *compatible* neighbors, never quarreling over unimportant matters. compatibility, *n.*

compelling *ADJ.* overpowering; irresistible in effect. The prosecutor presented a well-reasoned case, but the defense attorney's *compelling* arguments for leniency won over the jury.

■ **compendium** *v.* brief, comprehensive summary. This text can serve as a *compendium* of the tremendous amount of new material being developed in this field.

compensatory *ADJ.* making up for; repaying. Can a *compensatory* education program make up for the inadequate schooling he received in earlier years?

compilation *n.* listing of statistical information in tabular or book form. The *compilation* of available scholarships serves a very valuable purpose.

compile *v.* assemble; gather; accumulate. We planned to *compile* a list of the words most frequently used on the GRE.

complacency *n.* self-satisfaction; smugness. Full of *complacency* about his latest victories, he looked smugly at the row of trophies on his mantelpiece. complacent, *ADJ.*

■ **complaisant** *ADJ.* trying to please; obliging. The courtier obeyed the king's orders in a *complaisant* manner.

complement *v.* complete; consummate; make perfect. The waiter recommended a glass of port to *complement* the cheese. also *n.*

complementary *ADJ.* serving to complete something. John and Lexy's skills are *complementary*; he's good at following a daily routine, while she's great at improvising and handling emergencies. Together they make a great team.

compliance *n.* readiness to yield; conformity in fulfilling requirements. Bullheaded Bill was not noted for his easy *compliance* to the demands of others. As an architect, however, Bill recognized that his design for the new school had to be in *compliance* with the local building code.

■ **compliant** *ADJ.* yielding; conforming to requirements. Because Joel usually gave in and went along with whatever his friends desired, his mother worried that he might be too *compliant*.

complicity *n.* participation; involvement. You cannot keep your *complicity* in this affair secret very long; you would be wise to admit your involvement immediately.

component *n.* element; ingredient. I wish all the *components* of my stereo system were working at the same time.

comport *v.* bear one's self; behave. He *comported* himself with great dignity.

composure *n.* mental calmness. Even the latest work crisis failed to shake her *composure*.

compound *v.* combine; constitute; pay interest; increase. The makers of the popular cold remedy *compounded* a nasal decongestant with an antihistamine. also *n.*

comprehensive *ADJ.* thorough; inclusive. This book provides a *comprehensive* review of verbal and math skills for the SAT.

compress *v.* close; squeeze; contract. She *compressed* the package under her arm.

comprise *v.* include; consist of. If the District of Columbia were to be granted statehood, the United States of America would *comprise* fifty-one states, not just fifty.

compromise *v.* adjust or settle by making mutual concessions; endanger the interests or reputation of. Sometimes the presence of a neutral third party can help adversaries *compromise* their differences. Unfortunately, you're not neutral. Therefore, your presence here *compromises* our chances of reaching an agreement. also *n.*

compunction *n.* remorse. The judge was especially severe in his sentencing because he felt that the criminal had shown no *compunction* for his heinous crime.

compute v. reckon; calculate. He failed to *compute* the interest, so his bank balance was not accurate.

concatenate v. link as in a chain. It is difficult to understand how these events could *concatenate* as they did without outside assistance.

concave ADJ. hollow. The back-packers found partial shelter from the storm by huddling against the *concave* wall of the cliff.

concede v. admit; yield. Despite all the evidence Monica had assembled, Mark refused to *concede* that she was right.

conceit n. vanity or self-love; whimsical idea; extravagant metaphor. Although Jack was smug and puffed up with *conceit*, he was an entertaining companion, always expressing himself in amusing *conceits* and witty turns of phrase.

concentric ADJ. having a common center. The target was made of *concentric* circles.

conception n. beginning; forming of an idea. At the first *conception* of the work, he was consulted. conceive, v.

concerted ADJ. mutually agreed on; done together. All the Girl Scouts made a *concerted* effort to raise funds for their annual outing. When the movie star appeared, his fans let out a *concerted* sigh.

concession n. an act of yielding. Before they could reach an agreement, both sides had to make certain *concessions*.

■ **conciliatory** ADJ. reconciling; soothing. She was still angry despite his *conciliatory* words. conciliate, v.

concise ADJ. brief and compact When you define a new word, be *concise*: the shorter the definition, the easier it is to remember.

conclave n. private meeting. He was present at all their *conclaves* as an unofficial observer.

conclusive ADJ. decisive; ending all debate. When the stolen books turned up in John's locker, we finally had *conclusive* evidence of the identity of the mysterious thief.

concoct v. prepare by combining; make up in concert. How did the inventive chef ever *concoct* such a strange dish? concoction, n.

concomitant n. that which accompanies. Culture is not always a *concomitant* of wealth. also ADJ.

concord n. harmony. Watching Tweedledum and Tweedledee battle, Alice wondered why the two brothers could not manage to live in *concord*.

concur v. agree. Did you *concur* with the decision of the court or did you find it unfair?

concurrent ADJ. happening at the same time. In America, the colonists were resisting the demands of the mother country; at the *concurrent* moment in France, the middle class was sowing the seeds of rebellion.

condescend v. bestow courtesies with a superior air. The king *condescended* to grant an audience to the friends of the condemned man. condescension, n.

condign ADJ. adequate; deservedly severe. The public approved the *condign* punishment for the crime.

condiments n. seasonings; spices. Spanish food is full of *condiments*.

condole v. express sympathetic sorrow. His friends gathered to *condole* with him over his loss. condolence, n.

■ **condone** v. overlook; forgive; give tacit approval; excuse. Unlike Widow Douglass, who *condoned* Huck's minor offenses, Miss Watson did nothing but scold.

conducive ADJ. helpful; contributive. Rest and proper diet are *conducive* to good health.

conduit n. aqueduct; passageway for fluids. Water was brought to the army in the desert by an improvised *conduit* from the adjoining mountain.

confidant n. trusted friend. He had no *confidants* with whom he could discuss his problems at home.

confine v. shut in; restrict. The terrorists had *confined* their prisoner in a small room. However, they had not chained him to the wall or done anything else to *confine* his movements. confinement, n.

confiscate v. seize; commandeer. The army *confiscated* all available supplies of uranium.

conflagration n. great fire. In the *conflagration* that followed the 1906 earthquake, much of San Francisco was destroyed.

confluence n. flowing together; crowd. They built the city at the *confluence* of two rivers.

conformity n. harmony; agreement. In *conformity* with our rules and regulations, I am calling a meeting of our organization.

■ **confound** v. confuse; puzzle. No mystery could *confound* Sherlock Holmes for long.

congeal v. freeze; coagulate. His blood *congealed* in his veins as he saw the dread monster rush toward him.

congenial ADJ. pleasant; friendly. My father loved to go out for a meal with *congenial* companions.

congenital ADJ. existing at birth. Doctors are able to cure some *congenital* deformities such as cleft palates by performing operations on infants.

conglomeration . N. mass of material sticking together. In such a *conglomeration* of miscellaneous statistics, it was impossible to find a single area of analysis.

congruence N. correspondence of parts; harmonious relationship. The student demonstrated the *congruence* of the two triangles by using the hypotenuse-leg theorem.

congruent ADJ. in agreement; corresponding. In formulating a hypothesis, we must keep it *congruent* with what we know of the real world; it cannot disagree with our experience.

conifer N. pine tree; cone-bearing tree. According to geologists, the *conifers* were the first plants to bear flowers.

conjecture N. surmise; guess. I will end all your *conjectures*; I admit I am guilty as charged. also v.

conjugal ADJ. pertaining to marriage. Their dreams of *conjugal* bliss were shattered as soon as their temperaments clashed.

conjure v. summon a devil; practice magic; imagine or invent. Sorcerers *conjure* devils to appear. Magicians *conjure* white rabbits out of hats. Political candidates *conjure* up images of reformed cities and a world at peace.

connivance N. pretense of ignorance of something wrong; assistance; permission to offend. With the *connivance* of his friends, he plotted to embarrass the teacher. connive, v.

■ **connoisseur** N. person competent to act as a judge of art, etc.; a lover of an art. She had developed into a *connoisseur* of fine china.

connotation N. suggested or implied meaning of an expression. Foreigners frequently are unaware of the *connotations* of the words they use.

connubial ADJ. pertaining to marriage or the matrimonial state. In his telegram, he wished the newlyweds a lifetime of *connubial* bliss.

consanguinity N. kinship. The lawsuit developed into a test of the *consanguinity* of the claimant to the estate.

conscientious ADJ. scrupulous; careful. A *conscientious* editor, she checked every definition for its accuracy.

conscript N. draftee; person forced into military service. Did Rambo volunteer to fight in Vietnam, or was he a *conscript*, drafted against his will? also v.

consecrate v. dedicate; sanctify. We shall *consecrate* our lives to this noble purpose.

consensus N. general agreement. The *consensus* indicates that we are opposed to entering into this pact.

consequential ADJ. pompous; self-important. Convinced of his own importance, the actor strutted about the dressing room with a *consequential* air.

conservatory N. school of the fine arts (especially music or drama). A gifted violinist, Marya was selected to study at the *conservatory*.

consign v. deliver officially; entrust; set apart. The court *consigned* the child to her paternal grandmother's care. consignment, N.

consistency N. absence of contradictions; dependability; uniformity; degree of thickness. Holmes judged puddings and explanations on their *consistency*; he liked his puddings without lumps and his explanations without improbabilities.

console v. lessen sadness or disappointment; give comfort. When her father died, Marius did his best to *console* Cosette. consolation, N.

consolidation N. unification; process of becoming firmer or stronger. The recent *consolidation* of several small airlines into one major company has left observers of the industry wondering whether room still exists for the "little guy" in aviation. consolidate, v.

consonance N. harmony; agreement. Her agitation seemed out of *consonance* with her usual calm.

consort v. associate with. We frequently judge people by the company with whom they *consort*.

consort N. husband or wife. The search for a *consort* for the young Queen Victoria ended happily.

conspiracy N. treacherous plot. Brutus and Cassius joined in the *conspiracy* to kill Julius Caesar.

constituent N. supporter. The congressman received hundreds of letters from angry *constituents* after the Equal Rights Amendment failed to pass.

constraint N. compulsion; repression of feelings. There was a feeling of *constraint* in the room because no one dared to criticize the speaker. constrain, v.

construe v. explain; interpret. If I *construe* your remarks correctly, you disagree with the theory already advanced.

consummate ADJ. complete. I have never seen anyone who makes as many stupid errors as you do; you must be a *consummate* idiot. also v.

contagion n. infection. Fearing *contagion*, they took drastic steps to prevent the spread of the disease.

contaminate v. pollute. The sewage system of the city so *contaminated* the water that swimming was forbidden.

contempt n. scorn; disdain. The heavyweight boxer looked on ordinary people with *contempt*, scorning them as weaklings who couldn't hurt a fly. We thought it was *contemptible* of him to be *contemptuous* of people for being weak.

contend v. struggle; compete; assert earnestly. In *Revolt of the Black Athlete*, sociologist Harry Edwards *contends* that young black athletes have been exploited by some college recruiters. *contention*, n.

■ **contention** n. claim; thesis. It is our *contention* that, if you follow our tactics, you will boost your score on the GRE. *contend*, v.

■ **contentious** ADJ. quarrelsome. Disagreeing violently with the referees' ruling, the coach became so *contentious* that the referees threw him out of the game.

contest v. dispute. The defeated candidate attempted to *contest* the election results.

context n. writings preceding and following the passage quoted. Because these lines are taken out of *context*, they do not convey the message the author intended.

contiguous ADJ. adjacent to; touching upon. The two countries are *contiguous* for a few miles; then they are separated by the gulf.

continence n. self-restraint; sexual chastity. At the convent, Connie vowed to lead a life of *continence*. The question was, could Connie be content with always being *continent*?

contingent ADJ. dependent on; conditional. Cher's father informed her that any increase in her allowance was *contingent* on the quality of her final grades. *contingency*, n.

contingent n. group that makes up part of a gathering. The New York *contingent* of delegates at the Democratic National Convention was a boisterous, sometimes rowdy lot.

contortions n. twistings; distortions. As the effects of the opiate wore away, the *contortions* of the patient became more violent and demonstrated how much pain she was enduring.

contraband n. illegal trade; smuggling; smuggled goods. The Coast Guard tries to prevent *contraband* in U.S. waters. also ADJ.

contravene v. contradict; oppose; infringe on or transgress. Mr. Barrett did not expect his frail daughter Elizabeth to *contravene* his will by eloping with Robert Browning.

■ **contrite** ADJ. penitent. Her *contrite* tears did not influence the judge when he imposed sentence. *contrition*, n.

contrived ADJ. forced; artificial; not spontaneous. Feeling ill at ease with his new in-laws, James made a few *contrived* attempts at conversation and then retreated into silence.

controvert v. oppose with arguments; attempt to refute; contradict. The witness's testimony was so clear and her reputation for honesty so well established that the defense attorney decided it was wiser to make no attempt to *controvert* what she said.

contumacious ADJ. disobedient; resisting authority. The *contumacious* mob shouted defiantly at the police. *contumacy*, n.

contusion n. bruise. Black and blue after her fall, Sue was treated for *contusions* and abrasions.

■ **conundrum** n. riddle; difficult problem. During the long car ride, she invented *conundrums* to entertain the children.

convene v. assemble. Because much needed legislation had to be enacted, the governor ordered the legislature to *convene* in special session by January 15.

convention n. social or moral custom; established practice. Flying in the face of *convention*, George Sand (Amandine Dudevant) shocked her contemporaries by taking lovers and wearing men's clothes.

conventional ADJ. ordinary; typical. His *conventional* upbringing left him wholly unprepared for his wife's eccentric family.

■ **converge** v. approach; tend to meet; come together. African-American men from all over the United States *converged* on Washington to take part in the historic Million Man March. *convergence*, n.

conversant ADJ. familiar with. The lawyer is *conversant* with all the evidence.

converse n. opposite. The inevitable *converse* of peace is not war but annihilation.

convert n. one who has adopted a different religion or opinion. On his trip to Japan, though the President spoke at length about the merits of American automobiles, he made few *converts* to his beliefs. also v.

convex ADJ. curving outward. She polished the *convex* lens of her telescope.

conveyance n. vehicle; transfer. During the transit strike, commuters used various kinds of *conveyances*.

conviction n. judgment that someone is guilty of a crime; strongly held belief. Even her *conviction* for murder did not shake Lord Peter's *conviction* that Harriet was innocent of the crime.

convivial ADJ. festive; gay; characterized by joviality. The *convivial* celebrators of the victory sang their college songs.

convoke v. call together. Congress was *convoked* at the outbreak of the emergency. *convocation*, n.

■ **convoluted** ADJ. coiled around; involved; intricate. His argument was so *convoluted* that few of us could follow it intelligently.

copious ADJ. plentiful. She had *copious* reasons for rejecting the proposal.

coquette N. flirt. Because she refused to give him an answer to his proposal of marriage, he called her a *coquette*. also v.

cordial ADJ. gracious; heartfelt. Our hosts greeted us at the airport with a *cordial* welcome and a hearty hug.

cordón N. extended line of men or fortifications to prevent access or egress. The police *cordón* was so tight that the criminals could not leave the area. also v.

cornice N. projecting molding on building (usually above columns). Because the stones forming the *cornice* had been loosened by the storms, the police closed the building until repairs could be made.

cornucopia N. horn overflowing with fruit and grain; symbol of abundance. The encyclopedia salesman claimed the new edition was a veritable *cornucopia* of information, an inexhaustible source of knowledge for the entire family.

corollary N. consequence; accompaniment. Brotherly love is a complex emotion, with sibling rivalry its natural *corollary*.

corporeal ADJ. bodily; material. The doctor had no patience with spiritual matters: his job was to attend to his patients' *corporeal* problems, not to minister to their souls.

corpulent ADJ. very fat. The *corpulent* man resolved to reduce. *corpulence*, N.

correlation N. mutual relationship. He sought to determine the *correlation* that existed between ability in algebra and ability to interpret reading exercises. *correlate*, v., N.

corroborate v. confirm; support. Though Huck was quite willing to *corroborate* Tom's story, Aunt Polly knew better than to believe either of them.

corrode v. destroy by chemical action. The girders supporting the bridge *corroded* so gradually that no one suspected any danger until the bridge suddenly collapsed. *corrosion*, N.

corrosive ADJ. eating away by chemicals or disease. Stainless steel is able to withstand the effects of *corrosive* chemicals.

corrugated ADJ. wrinkled; ridged. She wished she could smooth away the wrinkles from his *corrugated* brow.

cosmic ADJ. pertaining to the universe; vast. *Cosmic* rays derive their name from the fact that they bombard the earth's atmosphere from outer space. *cosmos*, N.

coterie N. group that meets socially; select circle. After his book had been published, he was invited to join the literary *coterie* that lunched daily at the hotel.

countenance v. approve; tolerate. Miss Manners refused to *countenance* such rude behavior on their part.

countenance N. face. When José saw his newborn daughter, a proud smile spread across his *countenance*.

countermand v. cancel; revoke. The general *countermanded* the orders issued in his absence.

counterpart N. a thing that completes another; things very much alike. Night and day are *counterparts*.

coup N. highly successful action or sudden attack. As the news of his *coup* spread throughout Wall Street, his fellow brokers dropped by to congratulate him.

couple V. join; unite. The Flying Karamazovs *couple* expert juggling and amateur joking in their nightclub act.

courier N. messenger. The publisher sent a special *courier* to pick up the manuscript.

covenant N. agreement. We must comply with the terms of the *covenant*.

covert ADJ. secret; hidden; implied. Investigations of the Central Intelligence Agency and other secret service networks reveal that such *covert* operations can get out of control.

covetous ADJ. avaricious; eagerly desirous of. The child was *covetous* by nature and wanted to take the toys belonging to his classmates. *covet*, V.

cow V. terrorize; intimidate. The little boy was so *cowed* by the hulking bully that he gave up his lunch money without a word of protest.

cower V. shrink quivering, as from fear. The frightened child *cowered* in the corner of the room.

coy ADJ. shy; modest; coquettish. Reluctant to commit herself so early in the game, Kay was *coy* in her answers to Ken's offer.

cozen V. cheat; hoodwink; swindle. He was the kind of individual who would *cozen* his friends in a cheap card game but remain eminently ethical in all his business dealings.

crabbed ADJ. sour; peevish. The children avoided the *crabbed* old man because he scolded them when they made noise.

crass ADJ. very unrefined; grossly insensible. The film critic deplored the *crass* commercialism of movie-makers who abandon artistic standards in order to make a quick buck.

■ **craven** ADJ. cowardly. Lillian's *craven* refusal to join the protest was criticized by her comrades, who had expected her to be brave enough to stand up for her beliefs.

credence N. belief. Do not place any *credence* in his promises.

credo N. creed. I believe we may best describe her *credo* by saying that it approximates the Golden Rule.

credulity N. belief on slight evidence; gullibility; naivete. Con artists take advantage of the *credulity* of inexperienced investors to swindle them out of their savings. *credulous*, ADJ.

creed N. system of religious or ethical belief. Any loyal American's *creed* must emphasize love of democracy.

crescendo N. increase in the volume or intensity, as in a musical passage; climax. The overture suddenly changed from a quiet pastoral theme to a *crescendo* featuring blaring trumpets and clashing cymbals.

crestfallen ADJ. dejected; dispirited. We were surprised at his reaction to the failure of his project; instead of being *crestfallen*, he was busily engaged in planning new activities.

crevice N. crack; fissure. The mountain climbers found footholds in the tiny *crevices* in the mountainside.

cringe V. shrink back, as if in fear. The dog *cringed*, expecting a blow.

criteria N. standards used in judging. What *criteria* did you use when you selected this essay as the prize winner? *crit*-*erion*, SING.

crone N. hag. The toothless *crone* frightened us when she smiled.

crotchety ADJ. eccentric; whimsical. Although he was reputed to be a *crotchety* old gentleman, I found his ideas substantially sound and sensible.

crux N. essential or main point. This is the *crux* of the entire problem: everything centers on its being resolved. *crucial*, ADJ.

crypt N. secret recess or vault usually used for burial. Until recently only bodies of rulers and leading statesmen were interred in this *crypt*.

cryptic ADJ. mysterious; hidden; secret. Thoroughly baffled by Holmes's *cryptic* remarks, Watson wondered whether Holmes was intentionally concealing his thoughts about the crime.

cubicle N. small chamber used for sleeping. After her many hours of intensive study in the library, she retired to her *cubicle*.

cuisine N. style of cooking. French *cuisine* is noted for its use of sauces and wines.

culinary ADJ. relating to cooking. Many chefs attribute their *culinary* skill to the wise use of spices.

cull V. pick out; reject. Every month the farmer *culls* the nonlaying hens from his flock and sells them to the local butcher. also N.

culmination N. attainment of highest point. His inauguration as President of the United States marked the *culmination* of his political career.

culpable ADJ. deserving blame. Corrupt politicians who condone the activities of the gamblers are equally *culpable*.

culvert N. artificial channel for water. If we build a *culvert* under the road at this point, we will reduce the possibility of the road's being flooded during the rainy season.

cumbersome ADJ. heavy; hard to manage. She was burdened down with *cumbersome* parcels.

cumulative ADJ. growing by addition. Vocabulary-building is a *cumulative* process: as you go through your flash cards, you will add new words to your vocabulary, one by one.

cupidity N. greed. The defeated people could not satisfy the *cupidity* of the conquerors, who demanded excessive tribute.

curator *n.* superintendent; manager. The members of the board of trustees of the museum expected the new *curator* to plan events and exhibitions that would make the museum more popular.

curmudgeon *n.* churlish, miserly individual. Although many regarded him as a *curmudgeon*, a few of us were aware of the many kindnesses and acts of charity that he secretly performed.

cursive *adj.* flowing, running. In normal writing we run our letters together in *cursive* form; in printing, we separate the letters.

cursory *adj.* casual; hastily done. Because a *cursory* examination of the ruins indicates the possibility of arson, we believe the insurance agency should undertake a more extensive investigation of the fire's cause.

curtail *v.* shorten; reduce. When Elton asked Cher for a date, she said she was really sorry she couldn't go out with him, but her dad had ordered her to *curtail* her social life.

cynical *adj.* skeptical or distrustful of human motives. *Cynical* from birth, Sidney was suspicious whenever anyone gave him a gift "with no strings attached." *cynic*, *n.* cynicism, *n.*

cynosure *n.* object of general attention. As soon as the movie star entered the room, she became the *cynosure* of all eyes.

dabble *v.* work at in a nonserious fashion; splash around. The amateur painter *dabbled* at art, but seldom produced a finished piece. The children *dabbled* their hands in the bird bath, splashing one another gleefully.

dais *n.* raised platform for guests of honor. When she approached the *dais*, she was greeted by cheers from the people who had come to honor her.

dally *v.* trifle with; procrastinate. Laertes told Ophelia that Hamlet could only *dally* with her affections.

dank *adj.* damp. The walls of the dungeon were *dank* and slimy.

dapper *adj.* neat and trim. In "The Odd Couple," Tony Randall played Felix Unger, an excessively *dapper* soul who could not stand to have a hair out of place.

dappled *adj.* spotted. The sunlight filtering through the screens created a *dappled* effect on the wall.

daub *v.* smear (as with paint). From the way he *daubed* his paint on the canvas, I could tell he knew nothing of oils. also *n.*

■ daunt *v.* intimidate; frighten. "Boast all you like of your prowess. Mere words cannot *daunt* me," the hero answered the villain.

dauntless *adj.* bold. Despite the dangerous nature of the undertaking, the *dauntless* soldier volunteered for the assignment.

dawdle *v.* loiter; waste time. We have to meet a deadline: don't *dawdle*; just get down to work.

deadlock *n.* standstill; stalemate. Because negotiations had reached a *deadlock*, some of the delegates had begun to mutter about breaking off the talks. also *v.*

deadpan *adj.* wooden; impassive. We wanted to see how long he could maintain his *deadpan* expression.

dearth *n.* scarcity. The *dearth* of skilled labor compelled the employers to open trade schools.

debacle *n.* sudden downfall; complete disaster. In the *Airplane* movies, every flight turns into a *debacle*, with passengers and crew members collapsing, engines falling apart, and carry-on baggage popping out of the overhead bins.

debase *v.* reduce in quality or value; lower in esteem; degrade. In *The King and I*, Anna refuses to kneel down and prostrate herself before the king; she feels that to do so would *debase* her position, and she will not submit to such *debasement*.

debauch *v.* corrupt; seduce from virtue. Did Socrates' teachings lead the young men of Athens to be virtuous citizens, or did they *debauch* the young men, causing them to question the customs of their fathers? Clearly, Socrates' philosophical talks were nothing like the wild *debauchery* of the toga parties in *Animal House*.

debilitate *v.* weaken; enfeeble. Michael's severe bout of the flu *debilitated* him so much that he was too tired to go to work for a week.

debonair *adj.* friendly; aiming to please. The *debonair* youth was liked by all who met him, because of his cheerful and obliging manner.

debris *n.* rubble. A full year after the earthquake in Mexico City, workers were still carting away the *debris*.

debunk *v.* expose as false, exaggerated, worthless, etc.; ridicule. Pointing out that he consistently had voted against strengthening antipollution legislation, reporters *debunked* the candidate's claim that he was a fervent environmentalist.

debutante *n.* young woman making formal entrance into society. As a *debutante*, she was often mentioned in the society columns of the newspapers.

decadence *n.* decay. The moral *decadence* of the people was reflected in the lewd literature of the period.

decant *v.* pour off gently. Be sure to *decant* this wine before serving it.

decapitate *v.* behead. They did not hang Lady Jane Grey; they *decapitated* her. "Off with her head!" cried the Duchess, eager to *decapitate* poor Alice.

decelerate *v.* slow down. Seeing the emergency blinkers in the road ahead, he *decelerated* quickly.

deciduous ADJ. falling off, as of leaves. The oak is a *deciduous* tree.

decimate V. kill, usually one out of ten. We do more to *decimate* our population in automobile accidents than we do in war.

decipher V. decode. I could not *decipher* the doctor's handwriting.

declivity N. downward slope. The children loved to ski down the *declivity*.

décolleté ADJ. having a low-cut neckline. Fashion decrees that evening gowns be *décolleté* this season; bare shoulders are again the vogue.

decomposition N. decay. Despite the body's advanced state of *decomposition*, the police were able to identify the murdered man.

■ **decorum** N. propriety; orderliness and good taste in manners. Even the best-mannered students have trouble behaving with *decorum* on the last day of school. decorous, ADJ.

decoy N. lure or bait. The wild ducks were not fooled by the *decoy*. also v.

decrepitude N. state of collapse caused by illness or old age. I was unprepared for the state of *decrepitude* in which I had found my old friend; he seemed to have aged twenty years in six months.

decry V. express strong disapproval of; disparage. The founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman, strongly *decrys* the lack of financial and moral support for children in America today.

deducible ADJ. derived by reasoning. If we accept your premise, your conclusions are easily *deducible*.

deface V. mar; disfigure. If you *deface* a library book, you will have to pay a hefty fine.

defame V. harm someone's reputation; malign; slander. If you try to *defame* my good name, my lawyers will see you in court. If rival candidates persist in *defaming* one another, the voters may conclude that all politicians are crooks. defamation, N.

■ **default** N. failure to act. When the visiting team failed to show up for the big game, they lost the game by *default*. When Jack failed to make the payments on his Jaguar, the dealership took back the car because he had *defaulted* on his debt.

defeatist ADJ. resigned to defeat; accepting defeat as a natural outcome. If you maintain your *defeatist* attitude, you will never succeed. also N.

defection N. desertion. The children, who had made him an idol, were hurt most by his *defection* from our cause.

defer V. delay till later; exempt temporarily. In wartime, some young men immediately volunteer to serve; others *defer* making plans until they hear from their draft boards. During the Vietnam War, many young men, hoping to be *deferred*, requested student *deferments*.

defer V. give in respectfully; submit. When it comes to making decisions about purchasing software, we must *defer* to Michael, our computer guru; he has the final word. Michael, however, can *defer* these questions to no one; only he can decide.

■ **deference** N. courteous regard for another's wish. In *deference* to the minister's request, please do not take photographs during the wedding service.

defiance N. refusal to yield; resistance. When John reached the "terrible two's," he responded to every parental request with howls of *defiance*. defy, v. defiant, ADJ.

defile V. pollute; profane. The hoodlums *defiled* the church with their scurrilous writing.

definitive ADJ. most reliable or complete. Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln* may be regarded as the *definitive* work on the life of the Great Emancipator.

deflect V. turn aside. His life was saved when his cigarette case *deflected* the bullet.

defoliate V. destroy leaves. In Vietnam the army made extensive use of chemical agents to *defoliate* the woodlands.

defray V. provide for the payment of. Her employer offered to *defray* the costs of her postgraduate education.

defrock V. to strip a priest or minister of church authority. We knew the minister had violated church regulations, but we had not realized his offense was serious enough to cause him to be *defrocked*.

deft ADJ. neat; skillful. The *deft* waiter uncorked the champagne without spilling a drop.

defunct ADJ. dead; no longer in use or existence. The lawyers sought to examine the books of the *defunct* corporation.

degenerate V. become worse; deteriorate. As the fight dragged on, the champion's style *degenerated* until he could barely keep on his feet.

degradation N. humiliation; debasement; degeneration. Some secretaries object to fetching the boss a cup of coffee because they resent the *degradation* of being made to perform such lowly tasks. *degrade*, v.

dehydrate V. remove water from; dry out. Running under a hot sun quickly *dehydrates* the body; joggers avoid *dehydration* by carrying water bottles and drinking from them frequently.

deify V. turn into a god; idolize. Admire the rock star all you want; just don't *deify* him.

deign V. condescend; stoop. The celebrated fashion designer would not *deign* to speak to a mere seamstress; his overburdened assistant had to convey the master's wishes to the lowly workers assembling his great designs.

delete V. erase; strike out. If you *delete* this paragraph, the composition will have more appeal.

deleterious ADJ. harmful. If you believe that smoking is *deleterious* to your health (and the Surgeon General surely does), then quit!

deliberate V. consider; ponder. Offered the new job, she asked for time to *deliberate* before she made her decision.

■ **delineate** V. portray; depict; sketch. Using only a few descriptive phrases, Austen *delineates* the character of Mr. Collins so well that we can predict his every move. *delineation*, n.

delirium N. mental disorder marked by confusion. In his *delirium*, the drunkard saw pink panthers and talking pigs. Perhaps he wasn't *delirious*: he might just have wandered into a movie house.

delta N. flat plain of mud or sand between branches of a river. His dissertation discussed the effect of intermittent flooding on the fertility of the Nile *delta*.

delude V. deceive. The mistress *deludes* herself into believing that her lover will leave his wife and marry her.

deluge N. flood; rush. When we advertised the position, we received a *deluge* of applications. also v.

delusion N. false belief; hallucination. Don suffers from *delusions* of grandeur: he thinks he's a world-famous author when he's published just one paperback book.

delusive ADJ. deceptive; raising vain hopes. Do not raise your hopes on the basis of his *delusive* promises.

delve V. dig; investigate. *Delving* into old books and manuscripts is part of a researcher's job.

demagogue N. person who appeals to people's prejudice; false leader. He was accused of being a *demagogue* because he made promises that aroused futile hopes in his listeners.

demean V. degrade; humiliate. Standing on his dignity, he refused to *demean* himself by replying to the offensive letter. If you truly believed in the dignity of labor, you would not think it would *demean* you to work as a janitor.

demeanor N. behavior; bearing. His sober *demeanor* quieted the noisy revelers.

demented ADJ. insane. Doctor Demento was a radio personality who liked to act as if he were truly *demented*. If you're *demented*, your mental state is out of whack; in other words, you're wacky.

demise N. death. Upon the *demise* of the dictator, a bitter dispute about succession to power developed.

demographic ADJ. related to population balance. In conducting a survey, one should take into account *demographic* trends in the region. *demography*, n.

demolition N. destruction. One of the major aims of the air force was the complete *demolition* of all means of transportation by the bombing of rail lines and terminals. *demolish*, v.

demoniac ADJ. fiendish. The Spanish Inquisition devised many *demoniac* means of torture. *demon*, n.

demotic ADJ. pertaining to the people. He lamented the passing of aristocratic society and maintained that a *demotic* society would lower the nation's standards.

demur V. object (because of doubts, scruples); hesitate. When offered a post on the board of directors, David *demurred*: he had scruples about taking on the job because he was unsure he could handle it in addition to his other responsibilities.

demure ADJ. grave; serious; coy. She was *demure* and reserved, a nice modest girl whom any young man would be proud to take home to his mother.

■ **denigrate** V. blacken. All attempts to *denigrate* the character of our late President have failed; the people still love him and cherish his memory.

denizen N. inhabitant or resident; regular visitor. In *The Untouchables*, Eliot Ness fights Al Capone and the other *denizens* of Chicago's underworld. Ness's fight against corruption was the talk of all the *denizens* of the local bars.

denotation N. meaning; distinguishing by name. A dictionary will always give us the *denotation* of a word; frequently, it will also give us its connotation.

denouement N. outcome; final development of the plot of a play or other literary work. The play was childishly written; the *denouement* was obvious to sophisticated theatergoers as early as the middle of the first act.

denounce v. condemn; criticize. The reform candidate *denounced* the corrupt city officers for having betrayed the public's trust. denunciation, n.

depict v. portray. In this sensational exposé, the author *depicts* Beatle John Lennon as a drug-crazed neurotic. Do you question the accuracy of this *depiction* of Lennon?

deplete v. reduce; exhaust. We must wait until we *deplete* our present inventory before we order replacements.

deplore v. regret. Although I *deplore* the vulgarity of your language, I defend your right to express yourself freely.

deploy v. spread out [troops] in an extended though shallow battle line. The general ordered the battalion to *deploy* in order to meet the enemy offensive.

depose v. dethrone; remove from office. The army attempted to *depose* the king and set up a military government.

deposition n. testimony under oath. She made her *deposition* in the judge's chamber.

depravity n. extreme corruption; wickedness. The *depravity* of Caligula's behavior eventually sickened even those who had willingly participated in his earlier, comparatively innocent orgies. deprave, v.

deprecate v. express disapproval of; protest against; belittle. A firm believer in old-fashioned courtesy, Miss Post *deprecated* the modern tendency to address new acquaintances by their first names. deprecatory, ADJ.

depreciate v. lessen in value. If you neglect this property, it will *depreciate*.

depredation n. plundering. After the *depredations* of the invaders, the people were penniless.

deranged ADJ. insane. He had to be institutionalized because he was *deranged*.

derelict ADJ. abandoned; negligent. The *derelict* craft was a menace to navigation. Whoever abandoned it in the middle of the harbor was *derelict* in living up to his responsibilities as a boat owner. also n.

■ **deride** v. ridicule; make fun of. The critics *derided* his pretentious dialogue and refused to consider his play seriously.

■ **derision** n. ridicule: They greeted her proposal with *derision* and refused to consider it seriously. derisive, ADJ.

■ **derivative** ADJ. unoriginal; obtained from another source. Although her early poetry was clearly *derivative* in nature, the critics thought she had promise and eventually would find her own voice.

dermatologist n. one who studies the skin and its diseases. I advise you to consult a *dermatologist* about your acne.

Words from D+ to Z will be added in the syllabus for the practical examination in the sixth semester